

THE LATE MR. & MRS. BEJAI MANSINGH



1983
I.S. MANSING
11137 E

94 [A research project into the circumstances
surrounding the arrival of my great
grandfather and subsequently my grandfather
(Bejai Mansingh) into South Africa.]

[BY

94
101
I. S. MANSINGH] (11137E)

Submitted in part fulfilment of the
requirements for HISTORY III in the
Department of History.

DURBAN

MAY 1983

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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To Mrs H. Mesthrie and Professor Bhana for their guidance. This will always be appreciated.

Many thanks are due to Ramphal Singh Mansingh (son of the late Bejai Mansingh), Mrs Sarupsingh Mansingh (sister-in-law of the late Bejai Mansingh), Mr R.S. Jagesar and Mr R.P. Moodley, for sacrificing many hours of their time in providing me first hand information and eye witness accounts of various experiences of the late Bejai Mansingh.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Mr S. S. Singh for so patiently giving me information about our local history.

My special thanks to Mrs Ponnen who typed the final manuscript with great speed, accuracy and patience.

I S MANSINGH

MAY 1983

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1. INTRODUCTION: Sugar was first made in Natal by Edmund Morewood of Compensation in 1851. By 1858 powerful sugar mills had been erected, and exportation had commenced, to England. For the cultivation, reaping and manufacture of sugar a certain type of labour is necessary. The number of labourers adequate to cultivate and reap an acre of sugar is comparatively large. Of these a high proportion must be semi-skilled. In fact, without a large and reliable labour supply sugar planting was a barren occupation. These essentials were conspicuously absent in the labour which the Natal farmers were able to engage in the 1850's. They could not expect a nation of warriors and hunters to become effective farm labourers overnight.

The importation of foreign labourers into Natal was the only solution. Since the planters of Natal had come from Mauritius where they had realised the value of Indian labourers on the sugar estates there, negotiations began with the government of India in 1855. After protracted correspondence the Government of India agreed to allow Indians to come to Natal as indentured labourers. The "Truro" arrived on November 16, 1860.

Some had left India because there was an economic depression there at that time. There was a great deal of

unemployment. Others had left because of the promise of instant wealth in Natal. Unkept promises were made by some of the recruiting officers in India. Yet another reason for their coming was the seeking of adventure by some of the younger labourers.

2. PLACE OF ORIGIN IN INDIA: Bejai Mansingh's father, the late Mansing, came from India to Natal as an Indentured labourer. The late Mansing was born in the district of Muthra of the village Sersoun in 1859. His father's name was Bhoopal. His caste was Chuttry, the second highest caste in India, which meant a soldier or a fighter. ①

3. DATES OF ARRIVAL TO SOUTHERN AFRICA: Mansing and his wife arrived in South Africa on 1 September 1881. He was 22 years old. He had a scar below the right side of his chest. Perhaps, this scar was a means of identifying indentured labourers because Whites had difficulty in remembering or sounding Indian names originally. ②

4. NAME OF SHIP AND PORT OF ENTRY: Bejai's parents arrived in Canada II which docked at Durban. His father was 5'5½" tall. ③ Mrs Mansing was approximately 16 years old, who had long dishevelled pitchy hair and well-formed figure. Her arms and ankles were covered with bangles. (Appendix A).

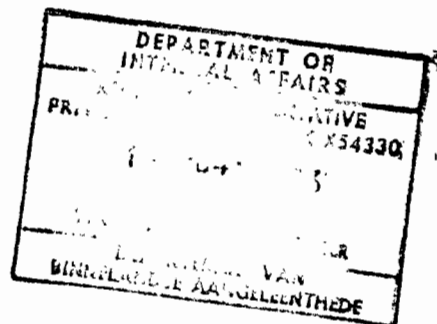
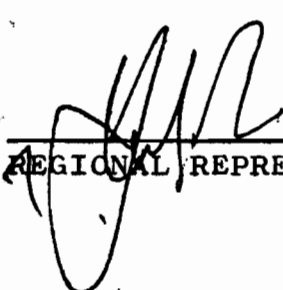
1. Copy of ship's list of Indian Immigrant.
2. ibid
3. ibid

B.M.25

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRSCOPY OF SHIP'S LIST OF INDIAN IMMIGRANT

Serial Number	:	<u>374</u>
Colonial Number	:	<u>28685</u>
Date of Arrival	:	<u>01. 9. 1881</u>
Name of Ship	:	<u>CANADA II</u>
Place of Registration	:	<u>-</u>
Date of Registration	:	<u>-</u>
Number in Register	:	<u>-</u>
Name	:	<u>MAN SING</u>
Father's Name	:	<u>BHOOPAL</u>
Age	:	<u>22 YRS</u>
Sex	:	<u>MALE</u>
Caste	:	<u>CHUTTERY</u>
District	:	<u>MUTHRA</u>
Thanna/Taluq	:	<u>MUTHRA</u>
Village	:	<u>SERSOUN</u>
Height	:	<u>5'5"</u>
Bodily Marks	:	<u>SCAR BELOW RIGHT SIDE CHEST</u>
Name of Next-of-Kin	:	<u>WIFE ACCOMPANIED</u>
Relations Accompanied	:	<u>-</u>
Small Pox/Vaccinated	:	<u>VACCINATED</u>
Remarks	:	<u>-</u>

Certified a true copy.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

5. FIRST PLACE OF SETTLEMENT: After completion of indentureship, Bejai's father became a herbalist who moved from place to place selling medicines mainly to the Afrikaaner community. He had a wagon and it is not too clear whether this wagon was drawn by horses or buffaloes. In it he had a tent with all the families belongings. The number of days spent at a particular place was dictated by the demands of the local inhabitants for medicines, biltongs etc. As a result of this nomadic tendency, we find that Mansing's children were born at different places. Bejai was his third son who was born in Richmond, Natal in December 1883. (4) His youngest brother, Sarupsingh (nicknamed Boetie by the Afrikaaners), was born in Ixopo. The others were born near the Orange Free State. Bejai's parents, brothers and sisters were very fluent in Afrikaans. When there was a family reunion of Bejai's brothers and sisters in the early 1940's, they only conversed in Afrikaans. Bejai, as a little boy, moved about with his parents and when they died he settled in Durban. (Appendix A)

4. Brandaw, D: South African Indian who's who and Commercial Directory, (1939) Page 342

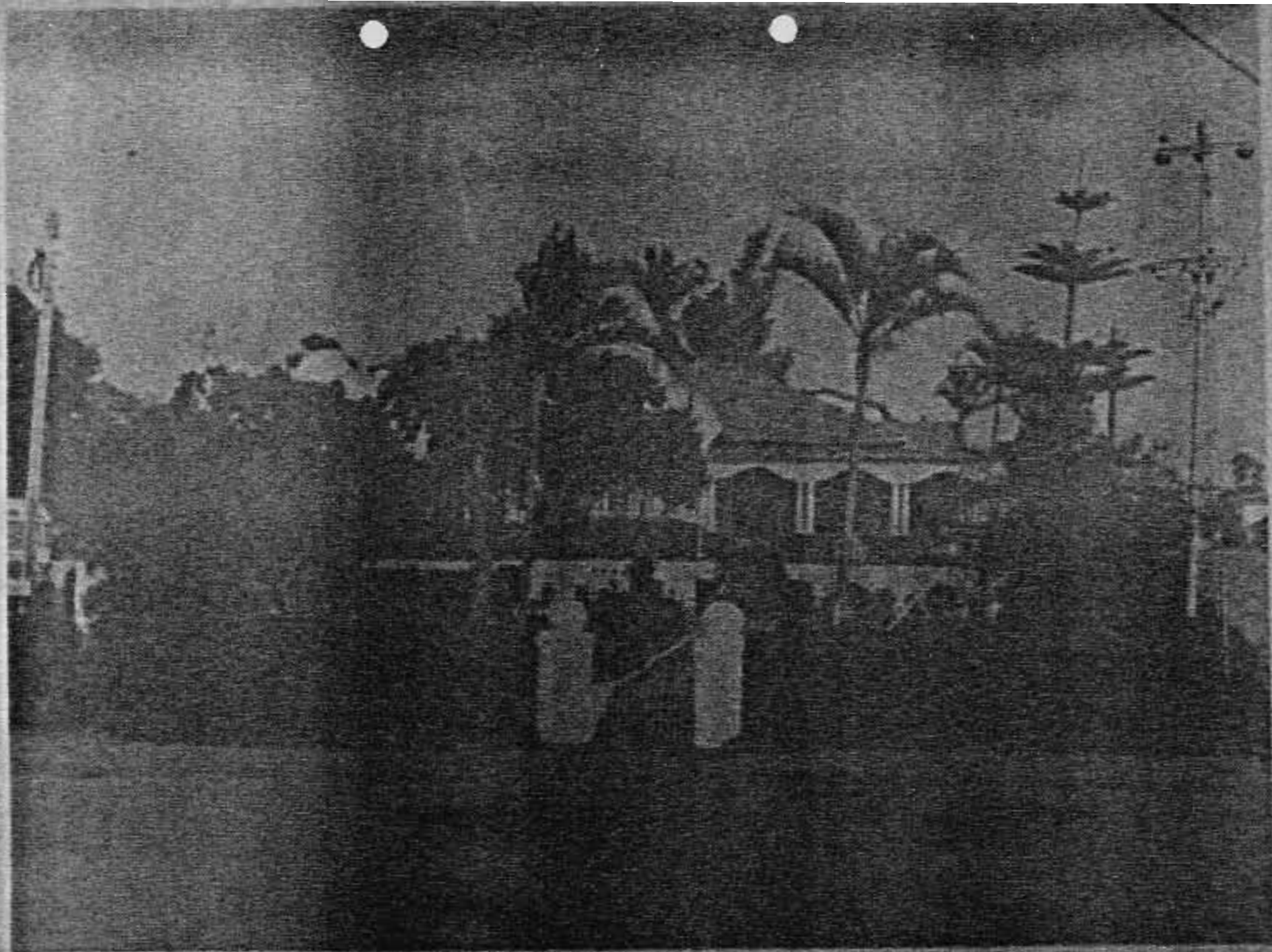
6. FIRST OCCUPATION: Bejai first worked in the printing industry for 25 years as a book binder at Josai Jones in central Durban. While with the printing industry he married the daughter of the late Salik Singh of Durban. His in-laws owned a dwelling at the corner of Old Dutch Road and Warwick Avenue and he and his young wife lived here for a short while. Two sons and two daughters were born. (Appendix B)

7. SUBSEQUENT PLACES OF SETTLEMENT AND OCCUPATIONS

While still working for the printing press, Bejai, his wife and four children moved out of Warwick Avenue and occupied a wood and iron building in Brickfield Road, called Manning. Three sons were born at this residence. Bejai then moved to Clare Road in Clare Estate. (It was originally owned by Ralph Clarence who lived there in the 1850's, cultivated sugar and gave the place its name). In 1919 he started his own business as a general dealer. The shop was situated in Clare Road (near the present bridge) and served all races. In 1920 he bought a property at the corner of Spencer and Clare Roads. In 1921 he built a wood and iron building on this site. While still living in this house, in 1923, he with the help of some labourers, built a huge seven bedroom brick building. He named the house "Mainpuri Bungalow" after

his father's village in Northern India. It is interesting to note that Bejai had very little knowledge about building but with sheer dedication and hardwork he learned the skill of building, including plumbing, electrical work and joinery. This house still stands at the same spot and it became a half-way house for people of all walks of life. Today it is a family house. (Appendix B)

8. MARRIAGE, BIRTH OF CHILDREN: Bejai married the daughter of the late Salik Singh of Durban. From this marriage seven sons and three daughters were born. (5) Three children were born in Warwick Avenue, three at Brickfield Road and the rest were born in Clare Estate. Bejai's eldest son, Sanjith, was married on 1 October 1935 to Mynee, second daughter of the late Gopaulsingh of Isipingo. At the age of 17 (1924) he helped his father in the transport business by driving one of the two buses. He ran this business till 1958. Sanjith was the vice-President of the Clare Estate Football Club. He received his early schooling at the Depot Road Government Indian School (1915 - 1920). Bejai's eldest daughter, Poonmathie, married Mr S.P. Singh, the retired school Principal of S.R.S. Pallie and Premie also joined their father in the transport business. Roopie, Bejai's 4th son, was an outstanding soccer player. He hurt his spine in a 5-a-side soccer match. He went



MAINPURI BUNGALOW

GA, P-
7

for an unsuccessful spine operation and became cripple. Bejai did everything in his power to help his son. He flew him to Johannesburg for a second operation. But this was also a failure. Roopie spent the remaining 20 years of his life on a wheel chair. (Appendix B)

His fifth son, Sunder, married the youngest daughter of the late Majles Singh of Richmond, Natal in 1941. Sunder ran his own travelling business for a while, before joining his father's transport business. In the early 1950's Sunder became Secretary of the Sydenham Transport Co. and Secretary of the Sydenham Overport Bus Operators' Association. In 1970 he was the secretary of the powerful Durban Indian Bus Owners' Association. In the field of Education he was one of the founder members of the Clare Estate Indian Educational Board. At the time of death (10.5.74) he served as a Chairman of the Clare Estate Hindu Cemetery & Crematorium Committee. ⑥ He also played a prominent role in the fight to retain Indian buses to Chatsworth. The long drawn out battle against the South African Railways ended finally in victory for the busowners. ⑦

9. TRANSPORT: In 1919 a gentleman by the name of Sidhoo, operated the first bus in Riverside, Durban. He converted an army truck into a bus by simply fixing benches at the back.

6. The Graphic - 18.5.74

7. The Leader - 18.5.74

18.5.74

THREE PROMINENT DURBAN MEN DIE SUDDENLY

"Leader" Reporter

TWO prominent people died in Durban last week.

Well known Beatrice Street personality and former sportsman, Mr. P. T. Pather died suddenly at the age of 69. Mr. Sunder Mansingh, Durban transport operator and secretary of the powerful Durban Indian Bus Owners Association died at his Clare Estate home after a long illness only a few days after he had been re-elected secretary of the Association.

Mr. Pather whose four daughters have achieved a distinction and a family record in the academic field, was a noted sportsman in his days. He was a vice captain of the old Moonlighters football club

between 1926-29 and was selected to play against the All Indian side that toured South Africa in 1928. He also played cricket for Clairwood United.

His eldest daughter, Mrs. Tholsie Naidoo, a newspaper columnist in Durban many years ago is now settled in London where she is teaching. Her husband, Mr. Jackie Naidoo is head of an English language centre for Immigrant children. Mrs. Gowri Pillay is a lecturer in English at the University College of Durban-Westville and is married to Dr. K. C. Pillay. Third daughter, Krishnadevi Pather is a

lecturer at the M. L. Sultan Technical College and the fourth is Dr. Pooni Pather who is married to Dr. C. Naidoo.

CHAIRMAN OF CREMATORIUM

Mr. Mansingh who turned 53 two months ago was also chairman of the Clare Estate Crematorium and Cemetery Committee.

President Mr. B. S. Bangtoo said this week the death of Mr. Mansingh was a tremendous blow to the Association.

Mr. Mansingh played a prominent role in the fight to retain Indian buses to Chatsworth. The long drawn out battle against the S.A. Railways ended finally in victory for the bus owners.



Mr. S. Mansingh

3.2

DEATH OF TOP DURBAN BUS OFFICIAL

18/5/1974

Graphic Reporter

THE DEATH occurred last week of Mr **Sundersingh Mansingh**, one of the leading figures in the local transport world. He was 53.

At the time of his death, Mr Mansingh was secretary of the powerful Durban Indian Bus Owners' Association and also served as a member on the Industrial Council.

Mr Mansingh entered the transport field in the forties, when he took over the family transport business after the death of his late father. Over the years he has held several positions, including that of

secretary of the Sydenham Transport Company, secretary of the Sydenham-Overport Bus Operators' Association.

In the field of education he was one of the founder members of the Clare Estate Indian Educational Board and also played a major role in the building of the Clareville and P.P. Chetty Family State Aided Indian Schools.

Mr Mansingh served also as a Committee Member and later as chairman of the Clare Estate Hindu Cemetery and Crematorium Committee. He was a member of the Clare Estate Ratepayers' Association.

He is survived by his wife, a son and three daughters.

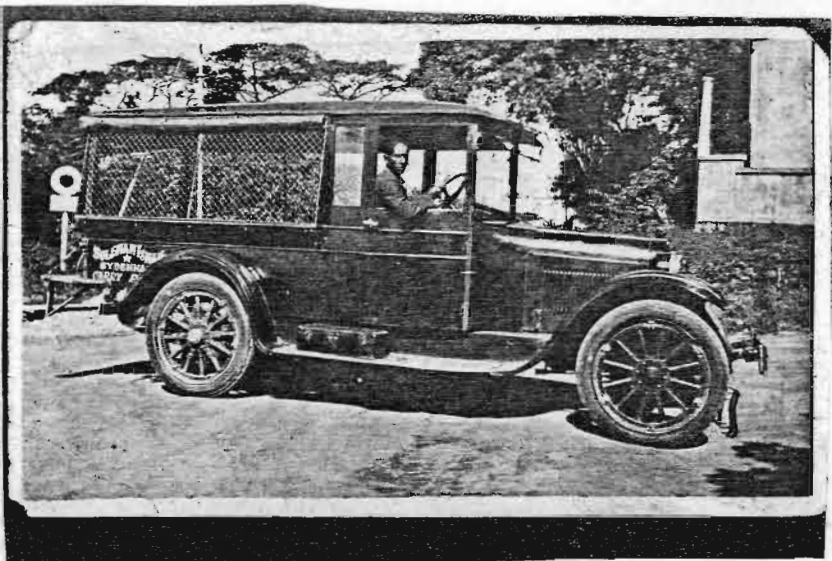
Six years later, Bejai began his own transport business with two 12 seater Dodge buses. These buses operated from Clare Estate to Victoria Street. He drove one bus and his eldest son Sanjith, drove the other, at the age of 17. In those days there were no permits or certificates and these buses could operate in any area. The busfare in 1924 was two penny for a single journey into the city. In 1930 the Local Transportation Board was set up in Durban and Indian bus operators had to apply for permits. These permits demarcated the bus routes. (Appendix B) In 1926 Bejai became the Chairman of the Indian Bus owners Association. ⑧ In 1947 he purchased a third bus. He owned three buses which could carry 40 passengers. The buses had sails on either side to prevent rain from getting in. These sails could be rolled up and clipped. (Appendix B)

It is interesting to note that in 1924 Bejai employed a little Pondo boy to assist in his shop. He was nicknamed "Charlie" and he worked for my grandfather for 50 years. He became a family member. Charlies dedication, sincerity and honesty was worthy of tremendous praise. When Bejai closed the shop in 1927, Charlie worked as a conductor and finally maintained all the buses in the yard. Charlie died in 1974 of a heart attack at Bizana.

Today there are 5 buses operating from Clare Estate to Warwick Avenue. The business trades as "Elite Auto Service". The business is being run from Mainpuri Bungalow.

8. Bramdaw, D: South African Indian who's who and Commercial Directory. (1939) Page 342

A 12 SEATER DODGE BUS





ELITE BUS SERVICE TODAY

by my uncle, Ramphal Singh Mansingh, the only surviving son of my grandfather. (Appendix B)

10. 1949 RIOTS: In January 1949 riots broke out between Indians and Africans in Durban. Many Indian buses, business houses and homes were destroyed. Although the Africans did not attack Indians in Clare Estate, it was strongly rumoured that there was to be an attack by the Zulus on the Indians of Clare Estate. This caused 200 men, women and children to be housed at Mainpuri Bungalow for 3 weeks. Bejai provided meals for these people at his own cost. Bus seats were used as beds in the garage, basement, passage and verandahs of Mainpuri Bungalow. Bejai, with the assistance of his sons and Charlie, converted the house into a fort. The buses were parked away from the house at Mr Johnston's residence in Wandsbeck Road, Clare Estate. Although there was no major attack on Indians of Clare Estate, there were, nevertheless, a group of Africans who tried to threaten Indians housed at Mainpuri. They were successfully driven off. (Appendix B)

11. COMMUNITY WORK: (i) Educational needs: From the 1940's the Indian population in Clare Estate grew rapidly. The Clare Estate School near Kennedy Road was the only school that served the educational needs of the Indian children of Clare Estate. Accommodation was a serious problem. Many boys and girls stayed at home when in reality they should have

been in school. Many began schooling at the late age of 10.

To overcome this problem of school accommodation, the Clare Estate Indian Educational Board was constituted in August 1949. Mr R.P.Moodley was and still is the President of this board. The late Sunder Mansingh was the treasurer. The board held several meetings in the garage at Mainpuri Bungalow. (Appendix C)

Bejai was a patron of the Board and donated the sum of five hundred and five pounds in 1950 for the erection of the Clareville School. ⑨ The Board purchased the school site in Tagore Road which was $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres in extent, from Mr Johnson and Mrs Babic. The building operations commenced in August 1951 and the school started in August 1952 with a roll of 245 pupils. This accomplishment was mainly due to the splendid response from the public, particularly of the residents of Clare Estate. (Appendix C)

There was a particular pathos in the passing of Bejai on 10 October 1951. He died 6 months before the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the Clareville Government Aided Indian School on 27 April 1952. ⑩ His eldest son, the late Sanjith Mansingh, laid the stone stating that he was performing the ceremony with mixed feeling as this task was really that of his late father. ⑪

9. The Leader - 16.5.1952
10. Invitation to the laying of the Foundation Stone of the Clareville School.
11. The Leader - 16.5.1952

Proposed Clareville Indian School Foundation Stone laid

THE foundation stone of the proposed Clareville Government-Aided Indian School, Tagore Place, Clare Estate, was laid on Sunday by Mr. Sunjith Mansingh amidst a large gathering of donors and well-wishers.

THE function was presided over by Mr. R. P. Mahara, a patron of the Clare Estate Indian Educational Board. In his address he eulogised the splendid humanitarian services of the Mansingh family, especially the late Mr. and Mrs. Bejai Mansingh, in the field of education, social welfare and sports.

Mr. Mahara also paid tribute to the Educational Board, which within

Other speakers were, Messrs. O. Anandol, the principal of Clare Estate Govt. Indian School; S. P. Singh, the principal of Overport Govt. Aided Indian School; Kanabaran Pillay and Pundit Palsiram, who spoke in the vernacular.

All the speakers congratulated the Board for its achievements and the part the Mansingh family was playing. They hoped and prayed that the

PRIME MINISTER PLAYS SNOWBALLS

From Our Own Correspondent

GANTOK (Sikkim).—Prime Minister Nehru, in a holiday mood, while visiting the snow-bound Gangtok-Nathula Road in the tiny protected state of Sikkim, stopped to play snowballs with his daughter, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who was accompanying him.

The Prime Minister was riding a sure-footed pony as he travelled along the Gangtok-Nathula road, the main trade route between India and Tibet.



FOUNDATION STONE LAID: Mr. R. P. Meedley, the President of the Clare Estate Indian Education Board, is seen garlanding Mr. Sunjith Mansingh, who laid the Foundation Stone of the Clareville Government-Aided Indian School, in memory of his late parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bejai Mansingh. On the right of Mr. Sunjith Mansingh is Mrs. Sunjith Mansingh.

a short time had purchased the school site, paid for it and commenced the erection of the school.

Continuing, he mentioned that the proposed school would accommodate 75 pupils and was expected to open at the beginning of the third term.

The late Mr. Bejai Mansingh was a patron of the Board and had donated \$95 towards the building fund.

In laying the Foundation Stone for and on behalf of his brothers, Mr. Sunjith Mansingh, said that he was performing the ceremony with mixed feelings as this task was really that of his late father.

Continuing, he said that this school, when completed would serve a much felt want in the district and fervently prayed that this institution would one day produce men and women who would emulate the fine example set by members of the school Board of serving their community in such a noble and self-sacrificing manner.

SPIRIT OF CHARITY

Mr. R. Gopalsingh, of Lalnovo, speaking on behalf of the Mansingh family, mentioned his long and intimate association with the late Mr. and Mrs. Bejai Mansingh. He stated earnestly that the sons would carry on the fine spirit of charity that the late family possessed.

community would do their utmost to assist the Board financially.

In moving a vote of thanks, the secretary of the Board, Mr. U. J. Misra, thanked the Mansingh family; the speakers for their kind remarks; those present for having responded to the Board's invitation and all donors for their generous support.

Leader: 16/5/52.

*The Officials and Members
of the
Clare Estate Indian Educational Board
cordially invite*

*You and Your Family
on the occasion of the laying of the
Foundation Stone
of the*

*Clareville Govt. Aided Indian School
Tagore Place, Clare Estate*

*by Sanjith Mansingh Esq.
on Sunday, 27th April, 1952
at 2-30 p.m.*

*R. S. V. P.
P. O. BOX 2250,
DURBAN.*

INVITATION.

3-7

27

(ii) Vernacular: Bejai did everything in his power to promote the Hindu culture. In 1944, arrangements were made to conduct Hindi classes at Mainpuri Bungalow. The basement was converted into a classroom to accommodate 250 pupils. Hindi classes were held daily from 2 to 4 pm. Mr R S Jagesar (presently Principal of Springfield Model School) conducted these classes entirely on a voluntary basis. The main objective was to get pupils to read and write Hindi. Senior pupils who mastered reading, assisted in teaching the beginners. (Appendix D)

(iii) Sports: Bejai was vice-President of the Pirates Football club which played soccer at Curries Foundain. (12) His buses were used for providing free transport of the club's supporters. (Appendix B)

12. CONCLUSION: Decendants of the original Mansingh are today living in various parts of the republic. They owe their present position to that indentured labourer and his good wife who arrived here on the ship "Canada II" on September 1, 1881. Sebsequent generations have dēversified into different occupations. It is the proud record of the family that members are today teachers, principals, doctors, inspectors of education, successful businessmen etc. The determination shown by the Mansingh family is typical of the spirit of perseverance shown by the Indian in South Africa.

12. Bramdaw, D: South African Indian who's who and Commercial Directory. (1939) Page 342

APPENDIX A

Transcript of interview with Mrs Sarupsingh Mansingh,
only surviving sister-in-law of the late Bejai Mansingh.

The interview took place in Hindi and Mrs Sarupsingh's son was the interpreter.

1 Do you know anything about the late Mr & Mrs Mansingh
who arrived in South Africa in 1881? Yes

2 What do you know about the late Mrs Mansingh?

She was very young and lovely. She was 16 years old, had beautiful long black hair. She also had a lot of bangles on her body - arms and ankles.

3 How do you know this? It was a long time ago.

My husband's eldest brother, David Mansingh, got this description from his father, the late Mansingh. But David always remembered his mother's long hair and bangles. David passed this information to his younger brother, who is my husband.

4 According to Who's who, Bejai Mansingh was born in
Richmond. Is this correct?

Well, Yes - near Richmond.

5. Did your father-in-law live in Richmond?

No. He had no house.

6 Where did he and his family live?

Bejai's father Mansingh, ie my father-in-law, was a herbalist. He sold medicines, biltongs and many little things from a wagon. On this wagon he had a tent and other belongings. He and his family moved from place to place. Therefore his children were born at different places.

7 Where was your husband born?

Near Ixopo - perhaps on the road side.

8 Why was your husband called Boetie?

Well, his father Mansingh, dealt mainly with the Afrikaaner community. They were very close with this community because my father-in-law conducted business with them.

My husband was nicknamed "Boetie" by the Afrikaaners, meaning "small brother".

Bejai Mansingh, his brothers and sisters all spoke Afrikaans fluently. They all moved from place to place with their Dad, the late Mansingh.

APPENDIX B

Transcript of interview with Ramphal Singh Mansingh,
only surviving son of the late Bejai Mansingh.

- 1 I would be very grateful if you could tell me as much
as you can remember about your late father, Bejai Mansingh.
 Well, I know he was born in Richmond. He came to Durban -
 I don't know when, He was a book binder for a printing
 Press - Josai Jones, for 25 years. While with the printing
 press he lived with his in-laws at Warwick Avenue and
 Old Dutch Road. Three children were born here.
 Then he moved to a wood and iron building in Brickfield
 Road, called Manning. Three children were born here. While
 still with the printing press he bought a property in
 Clare Estate in 1928, not in 1921. In the same year he built
 a wood and iron house. In 1923 my father and some labourers
 built a large seven bedroom brick house at the corner of
 Clare and Spencer Roads. From this house my eldest sister,
 Poonmathie, married Mr S P Singh, retired principal of
 S R S School. While my father had a shop, he went into
 the bus business in 1924. Father and my big brother
 Sanjith, drove the buses. There were two buses. These were
 Dodge buses - 12 seaters. I still have a photograph of this
 bus. The fare was 2 penny from Clare Estate into town. The
 first bus was run by Sidhoo in 1918 - used an army truck -
 made benches at the back. I think father got the idea from
 there. There were no permits in those days - like today.
 Buses could run anywhere. Father then bought a third bus in

1947 - 40 carrier. He had to apply for permits from the local Transport Board in 1933. The bus fare in the 1940's was a tickey. Charlie, a Pondo, worked as a conductor. He first worked in my father's shop and then became a conductor in the bus - later he worked in the yard maintaining the buses. He worked for my father for 50 years. He helped to defend the house in the 1949 riots.

2 What about the 1949 Riots?

My father housed and fed 200 men, women and children from Clare Estate. My father, brothers and Charlie fortified the house. No one really attacked us. The buses were parked at at Wandersbeck Road at Mr Johnstone's house.

3 When did your father die?

He died of a heart attack on 10 October 1951. My big brother ran the buses till 1958. He married on 1 October 1935 to Mynee - late Gopaulsingh's daughter from Isipingo. My big brother schooled at Depot Road Govt. Indian School 1915 - 1920. My big brother died in 1958 of a heart attack. Thereafter my brother Sunder and I ran the bus, but Sunder first ran his own travelling business. Later he joined the family business. Sunder married in Richmond to the youngest daughter of
He was fully involved in the administration of transport. He died on 10 May 1974 of a heart attack. From 1974 onwards I ran and am still running the transport business.

4. Do you remember your brother Roopie?

Very well. He was only a few years older than myself. He was an outstanding soccer player. At a very young age, say 15, he played soccer for the A side. At a 5-a-side match he hurt his spine. He went for an unsuccessful operation. My father even flew him to Johannesburg but he came back as a cripple. He lived the rest of his life on a wheel chair.

APPENDIX CTranscript of interview with Mr R P Moodley, Chairman
of the Clare Estate Indian Educational Board.1. What role did the late Bejai Mansingh play in
helping the Board to achieve its objectives?

To begin with, there was only one school to serve the educational needs of our children in Clare Estate. This was the old Clare Estate School, near Kennedy Road. Children were forced to remain at home because of the accommodation problem. To overcome this problem, the Board was formed in August 1949 at your grandfather's residence. I became the Chairman. Your late dad, Sunder Mansingh, was the treasurer. The late Bejai Mansingh became a patron of the Board and he donated five hundred and five pounds in 1950 for the building of the Clareville School. The Board bought the school site in Tagore Road which was $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres from Mr Johnson and Mrs Babic. The building began in August 1951 and the school started in August 1952 with a roll of 245 pupils.

APPENDIX D

Transcript of interview with Mr R S Jagesar,
Hindi School teacher at Mainpuri Bungalow in
the early 1940's.

1. Mr Jagesar, I was given to understand that you
were a Hindi school teacher at my grandfather's
house. Is this true? YES

2. Could you tell me something about it?

In the early 1940's I taught Hindi to 250 pupils in the basement and garage of your grandfather's house. These classes ran in the afternoon from 2 to 4. Your grandfather's main objective was to keep our culture going. I sincerely taught pupils to read and understand Hindi. There was no charge. Senior pupils who mastered reading, assisted me with the beginners. Hindi classes were held from Monday to Friday.

Reference

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