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1983

N. GOVENDER

8309

ACKNOWLEDGES

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- v) Roshni Govender thanks for assistance and time in typing this project.

FORWARD:

This research project certainly produced a great deal of challenge and stimulation. For the first time I was drawn into taking an in depth look at and make a critical evaluation of my past history.

Many difficulties and problems were encountered among which were availability of information and the heavy dependance of Oral evidence. Others were difficult to converse in the vernicular.

In this project I have attempted to show that the social problems of India were to a large degree responsible for immigration of many to Natal. When they arrived in Natal, they were treated as aliens and they were again plunged in social insecurity. Amid all these factors against him the Indian immigrant was on the forward march socially and economically.

- 1.1 The coming of the Indians to South Africa in 1860 was the result of protracted wrangling between Natal's colonial government and the government of India. He was a pawn in the game of colonial economics." The self interest of the European brought the Indian to South Africa"(1) wrote J Hofmeyer.

Local black labour was not available. Leonard Thomson observes that " so far as things can be said to be inevitable, the importation of foreign labour to Natal was the inevitable sequel to the adoption of a dual policy. Since Natal was treated both as Natal State and as European Colony, the natives were self sufficient and the colonists had to look elsewhere for labour. (2)

However Mabel Palmer states that when both the Indian and British Governments reluctantly consented after much pressure from Natal to emigration of Indian to the colony, their idea was that they could be promoting a permanent emigration, a means of lessening the pressure of India's teeming millions on her over worked soil. (3)

At a meeting held in Durban October 10, 1851, to discuss the acute labour problem in Natal, it was resolved that, "The introduction of the coolies would be the salvation of the colony" (4) This was the general attitude of the colonists in Natal at that time.

The majority of Indians who came to Natal from 1860 onwards were indentured labourers .

In 1860, 1527 in ships arrived. In 51 years from 1860 to 1911, 152, 184 came. (5)

The rest were passengers Indians from Mauritius and India. These were British subjects and consisted of Muslim and Gugerati Hundus. On 1887 the Wragge Commission estimated their number to be about 1 000. The 1891 Natal Census Report indicates that they then numbered 6000. Many of the free Indians returned to Natal as passenger Indians. (6)

The indumentured labour group were chiefly Indian peasants who thought they would be better off only than the Pariah or Sudra in the caste ridden society of India in the middle of the last century. Some among these were beguiled into coming with false promises of over night wealth.

The number of labourer class and the free Indian group remained small This is seen when their numbers are compared with the total population of Indians and the annual numbers of Indian indentured immigrants during the period. 1860 to 1911. (TABLE 1 and 2)

TABLE 1

NATAL INDIAN POPULATION TOTALS : 1866 - 1911

YEAR	INDIAN POP TOTAL
1866	5041
1874	6787
1880	18877
1885	29357
1891	41142
1904	100918
1911	133419

TABLE 2

INDIAN IMMIGRATION OF INDENTURED LABOURERS
1860 - 1911

YEAR	IMMIGRANT INDENTURED TOTAL IN NATAL
1866	6445
1874	10755
1880	23918
1885	234762
1891	47761
1904	109549
1911	152187

(7)

- 1.2 The Coming of immigrants gave the local sugar industry the anticipated muscle(8) Sugar exports valued £ 2009 and £3860 in 1857 and 1858 respectively. Within three years after their arrival this arose to £26 000. The fourth year saw a phenomenal jump to almost £100 000.(9) A G Choonoo figures as slightly lower but the sharp increases are still evident. (Table 3 indicates this sharp increase)

TABLE 3

NATAL SUGAR PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS

YEAR	ACRES REAPED	SHORT TONS SUGAR PROD.	EXPORT	VALUE	AVE. PRICE PER TON
1860	-	1669	1218	32005	263
1862	8958	2624	845	21178	251
1864	10718	7823	4158	94208	227
1866	12706	7603	3253	66161	203
1868	7231	10275	4663	90387	194
1870	5845	8504	5328	111023	208
1872	6265	9663	7096	153855	217
1874	6992	11392	6833	159078	233
1876	11715	14126	7574	135201	178

(10)

A R Saunders testified before the Wragge Commission that "the revenue increased four fold within a few years, the progress gave encouragement to everyone from the Berg to the sea." (11)

Sir Siegfried Hullett speaking in the Natal Parliament on July 14, 1908 put the matter thus

"As you will know, and as few others in this assembly may know, it was absolutely necessary to save the colony from ruin - nothing more or less. The industries of this colony and were fostered and helped by the National labour of the country only to a certain point. But the productive capacity of the country was such that it soon outstripped the available labour and the industries were on the point of absolute extinction until the voice of the legislature demanded that we should do what other colonies similarly had done, apply to India for relief. From that day began the material prosperity of Natal; and if it had not been for that commencement Natal could not be today in the position it holds as the premier producing country in South Africa (ie. in agriculture matters) (12)

1.3 While the Indian was making his contribution to the economic prosperity of Natal, at an early stage in his history here, his socio economic deprivation became only too obvious. The return of the first group of labourers to India on the expiration of their ten years contract brought the plight of the Indian labourer into the open. By the end of 1870 almost all the free in terms of law 14 of 1859 (14)

The government of India on May 10, 1872 having heard the reports of the returning labourers responded, "We regret to have to say that the correspondence now furnished leads to fear that proper measures have not, in colony of Natal been taken for the protection of emigrants during their residence therein" (15) Some employers took the laws into their own hands by flogging and fining workers.

1.4 After a short period of renewed resistance from the Indian Government against allowing more labourers to come to Natal, this emigration was allowed again from 1874 onwards. But this more agreeable period was short lived. Insecurity within this community was experienced once more in the next decade. when there arose the so called. "Indian menace claim"

With the resumption of immigration in 1874, there was a sharpe increase in the Indian population in Natal, 5933 at the end of 1872 climbed to 129 828 by the end of June 1886.⁽¹⁶⁾ The size of the Indian population vis-avis the white population in Natal was becoming dangerously equal for the comfort of the labourers. One cannot help believing that now (ie. around 1885) saw the conceiving of Anti-Asiatic feelings in Natal

- 1.5 The Wragge Commission reported that in Pietermaritzburg there were 1671 Indian by 1885. Some owned freehold properties worth £7000 and 110 had hawkers licences. In Durban there were 3867 Indians with free hold property ownership by some of these, totalling £33 000 in value. ⁽¹⁷⁾ Some of these "free" Indians started small shops, others entered household services, market gardening , commercial and industrial labour.

TABLE 4 OCCUPATION STRUCTURE OF THE INDIAN PQPULATION OF NATAL 1904

CATEGORY	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
Professional	354	28	382	
Domestic	3703	17770	21473	
Commercial	4010	147	5058	
Agriculture	20354	6078	32436	
Industrial	12277	60	12337	
Indefinite	44	5	49	
Dependent	15683	13280	28963	
Unspecfied	168	52	220	(18)

1.6 The 'Passenger' Indian made up a small social elite were the so-called 'Arabs' (a misnomer) who were mainly Muslim and Gujarati Hindu traders and business men who paid their own way. These were free British subjects and had international connection that the free Indians aspiring to enter commerce did not have. The effects of the 'passenger' Indian trader or the commercial ambitions of the rest of the 'free' Indian community was a negative one as early as 1885. In 1880, 30 of the 37 retail stores were owned by free Indians, yet in 1885, 40 of the 66 retail stores were owned by passenger Indians. (19)

1.7 The success of these 'passenger' Indian class though a minority, is classed under the broad heading of "Indian progress" thus distorting the picture of the real plight of the bulk of the population; 98.4% of the labour force was still involved in unskilled occupation in 1891 and 89% in 1904. The numbers involved in agriculture and industrial labour tabulated in table 6 confirms the Free Indians filled the gap between "the upper limit of the natives ability and the lower limits of the European condensation." (20)

Obviously then, it was the minority 'passenger' Indian group that set itself in rivaling to white business (21)

A J Arkin makes the point that in the initial years the "Indian community----- was not regarded as a homogenous entity" (22) The economic social and legal position of indentured, ex-indentured workers and passenger Indians were carefully separated by the authorities of the day" he adds. However he goes on to point out that as "these barriers rapidly withered in subsequent years, Indians were treated as a single community. Here lies the major problem. The 'barriers' were still there well into the next century. The 'free' Indian population were in the meanwhile moving onto tenpoint plots or to the city. Because of this there was reaction to the Indian community at large. The Wragge Commission listed many objections levelled against the Indians. (23)

The widespread hostility to Indians at large resulted in calls for cessation of further Indian immigration and even for their expatriation. This imported labour was compared to the utilitarian worth. The numbers of European and Indians were almost equal in 1885 but Indians soon exceeded Europeans. This made for some whites the call for repatriation more urgent.

- 1.8 Indian immigration introduced an annual case of £3. Every Indian immigrant who did not renew his indenture or return to India was liable to pay this tax. Further more, in spite of Mahatma Gandhi's petition which was signed by 9000 Indians the Disfranchisement Law was passed unanimously BY THE Natal government.

In the new anti-Asiatic mood in Natal of 1880 & 1890's the original condition on which Indians were invited to the country appear to have been forgotten by the powers that reigned.

Law 14 of 1859 laid down that the "Coolies" were to serve for three years and were then to work subsequently as free labourers. At the end of ten years they were entitled to claim a return passage to India, if they wished. Indians, once they were free from their indenture, were to come under the ordinary laws of the colony., and were not to be subject to any discriminations not imposed on the rest of the population of Natal.

It was this condition which the white population of Natal found still it so difficult to accept, "accustomed and they are to deal with African population, segregated in living space and in occupation, subject to quite a different code of laws, and until lately accepting their inferior status without too much protest, Natalians cannot understand why they should be expected to treat Indians as equals to themselves before the law." (24.)

In 1860 such questions and difficulties were of secondary importance what was of primary importance was the need for labour "What Natal wanted then was a cheap and docile labour and she was prepared to agree to any condition which secured that one desideratum," (25)

1.9 The first shiploads carried those who, although they initially worked the sugar cane fields "were no so much field labourers as mechanics, households servants, domestics, gardeners and trades people⁽²⁶⁾ Among them also were barbers, carpenters, accountants and grooms. This explains why as soon as their indentured period was over they branched out into market gardening became shop assistants, homekeepers, handy men, hotel workers, factory workers and employees of Durban Co-operation (See table 4)⁽²⁷⁾

The first ship load from Madras that arrived November 16, 1860 included only 12% Muslims, 10% Rajputs a few traders and 5% Rajputs. This means that the vast majority were Hindus of the 'Sudra' group (ie. the lower classes of Indian social stratification. Gandhi these the Harijans - "children of which was an attempt to remove the social stigma attached to being 'Sudra'.

- 12
1. J H Hofmeyer cited in B Parichai "The Emergence of the Question of the South African as an International Issue, 1860 - 1961 , P48 (1971 Cape Town)
 2. Thompson, Leonard, op cit. Chapter VI, Page 8.
 3. Palmer , M. The History of the Indians in Natal . Natal Regional Survey (Cape Town) , 1957) 4.
 4. Resolution cited in Ferguson - Davie op cit. 3.
 5. Choonoo A G Indentured Indian Immigrants into Natal , with particular ref. to its role in the development of the Natal Sugar Industry 1860 - 1911 (Unpublished M A thesis, University of Natal 1967)

6. Report of the Indian Immigration Commission , (Clayton) 1909 P 6
7. A G Choonoo , op cit.
8. M Palmer op cit 21
9. Feruguson op cit 13
10. Choonoo A G op cit 51
11. Wragge Commission Report 99
- 12.
13. Feruguson Davie op cit 58
14. Palmer op cit 31 - 32
15. Ferguson Davie op cit 15
16. Wragge commission report P 37
17. Ibid , 145
18. Colony of Natal Census , 1904
19. Wragge Commission Report 1887 P 75
20. Thompson op cit 53
21. Wragge Commission 74, 75 , 169
22. A J Arkin op cit 8
23. A J Arkin op cit 51, 51
24. M Palmer, Economic and Political Background op cit P5
25. Ibid
26. Thompson op cit P20 - 22
27. Ferguson Davie op cit 14.

CANDIDATE

- 1 Mr Gaddam Penchal Reddy
 Date of Birth: 5/5/1883 Date of arrival: 12/1/1905
 Caste: Kapu Ship: S.S. Umlazi
- 2 Mr G.P. Reddy resided in Gundavolu, Rapur, Neelore, A.P. State about 500Km from Madras. This was a farming community where his family owned about 20 acres of land on which they conducted flourishing cultivation of crops such as tobacco and various types of vegetables for commercial purposes.
- 3 Mr Reddy left India with neither his parents blessings nor their knowledge. Three previous attempts to depart from India were foiled by his parents. He forwards two reasons for leaving India. Firstly, he says it was for adventure and the second the rigid practice of the caste system and his intolerance to it. Obviously, then a idea emmerges why he and most Indian immigrants who came to Natal was to escape the nasty, repressive pressures of the Indian society through the practice of the caste system.
- 4 He left India from the Port of Madras on the 12 December 1905 and arrived in Durban after 21 days at sea on the 12 January 1906. On the ship Mr Reddy says the conditions were "all right". Meals were served on time in huge dining rooms. On board there were no beds for the Indian immigrants, they had to sleep on the floor. Medical treatment was available on board. Very few people required this attention says Mr Reddy as it was ensured that the immigrants were physically well and fit.
- 5 When Mr Reddy arrived in Durban in January 1906 he was sent to the plantation in Mount Edgecombe, which were owned by Mr William Campbell. He signed a full time contract ('germit') for five years. This estate was divided into a number of districts or 'kotrees' eg. William kotree, Martin kotree, Cooper kotree, 'G' kotree to which Mr Reddy was attached.
- 6 LIFE ON 'G' KOTREE:
 He came under the strict and direct control of a Mr Parsee Govender and a Mr Murugan Govender who were the sidars or heads of the kotree. These were five difficult years of hard work says Mr Reddy.
 He recalls with some amusement in his low voice, the mode of choosing a marriage partner. Males were very strictly forbidden to talk to females. When a young man was interested in a young lady with a view of marrying, a respected elder had to be first approached. The young man had to have a number of questions based on his caste, "you see", says Mr Reddy "I did not dodge the 'rigid' practice of caste".
- 7 Towards the end of his indentured period Mr Reddy at the age of 27 married Nagama who was the daughter of Mr Menga Ramiah. When his first indentured period expired Mr Reddy moved over to Rossborough where he worked as a baas boy for an engineer. During this time Mr Reddy lost his wife during child birth when their daughter was born.

A year later Mr Reddy married Butchma a Mr Vankiah Naidoo's daughter. He lived with his father-in-law in Clairwood and worked in a Jewish Cemetary. A year later when the first baby of the second marriage was born, he had a surprise visit by the famous Pastor J.F. Rowlands. "I was shocked" Mr Reddy recalls, "we were never made to feel important and loved and here was a total stranger with flowers at my mud hut". This statement has a direct bearing on the line of focus directed in this project. "The love and the thoughtfulness of this white stranger who became my great friend later led me follow Christianity" says Mr Reddy.

While he worked at the Jewish Cemetary he received generous 'tips'. With this meagre wage and the tips Mr Reddy began to invest in properties and a few years later he had a building site for each of his sons.

W I L L I A M C A M P B E L L

William Campbell was a Scotsman who landed in Natal from the "Conquering Hero" in June 1850. At the age of 14 he was the breadwinner of his family and became a railwayman. Within 15 years he was the manager of the line between Glasgow and Paisley but he left with his family to Natal. He was allotted 70 acres of land at Richmond but instead settled in Durban.

He bid for, and won, the contract to build the north pier at Durban, which still stands today.

With his eyes never on the land, however, William evidently saw a future in sugar. In 1857, he bought land on the Umhloti and planned to become his own cane - planter and miller. By 1861 he crushed his cane with his own steam mill.

William Campbell's hobby before coming to Natal was lecturing and preaching. He was a enthusiastic social reformer. He insisted that the government should foster a working spirit - among the native population ... 222,223.

MARSHALL CAMPBELL:

Marshall Campbell became manager of Cornibia Sugar Estate. Campbell was made Director of Natal Central Sugar Co. Eventually he and David Don purchased the Natal Central Sugar Co. from the Oriental Bank Corporation Ltd. and, in 1895, Marshall Campbell floated in London. The Natal Estates Ltd.

Under its progressive management, Natal Estates Ltd, in time acquired most of the neighbouring estates.

The guiding genius of Natal Estates Ltd., from its inception was Marshall Campbell, son of William John Campbell. At the age of 17, he went to work under his brother at the Muelder Neuk mill. It was there that Marshall came to grips with the down - to - earth daily problems of sugar planters and millers, a training that fitted him thoroughly for his responsibility in building up Natal Estates 252,253.

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4

BESKRYWING VAN HOUER
DESCRIPTION OF BEARER
SIGNALEMENT DU TITULAIRE

Beroep
Occupation
Profession

RETIRED

Plek van geboorte
Place of birth
Lieu de naissance

INDIA

Datum van geboorte
Date of birth
Date de naissance

1883

Woonplek
Residence
Domicile

SOUTH AFRICA

Geslag
Sex
Sexe

☒ Manlik
Male
Masculin

☐ Vroulik
Female
Féminin

Lengte
Height
Taille

5 voet 2 duim
feet inches

Kleur van oë
Colour of eyes
Couleur des yeux

BROWN

Kleur van hare
Colour of hair
Couleur des cheveux

GRAY

Persoonsnommer
Identity-number
Le numéro de la carte d'identité

800/481010-9

5

LANDE WAARVOOR HIERDIE PASPOORT GELDIG IS
(behoudens die visum- of ander toelatingsvereisten van elke land)
COUNTRIES FOR WHICH THIS PASSPORT IS VALID
(subject to the visa or other entry requirements of each country)
PAYS POUR LESQUELS CE PASSEPORT EST VALABLE
(Sous réserve des formalités de visa ou autres conditions
d'entrée requises par chaque pays)

THIS PASSPORT IS VALID FOR TRAVEL TO THE
FOLLOWING COUNTRIES IN TRANSIT ONLY
MALAWI, KENYA, UGANDA, SUDAN, UNITED
ARAB EMIRATES, CONGO REPUBLIC
(LEOPOLDVILLE), REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
(BRAZZAVILLE), ANGOLA, NIGERIA, ZAMBIA,
ZIMBABWE, BOTSWANA, LESOTHO, SWAZILAND,
MOZAMBIQUE, MADAGASCAR, REUNION,
MAURITIA, SAUDI ARABIA, YEMEN, ADEN,
JORDAN, LEBANON, SYRIA, IRAN,
PAKISTAN, INDIA, CEYLON

CANCELLED

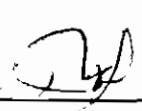


B.M.25

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

Serial Number	:	<u>139</u>
Colonial Number	:	<u>117594</u>
Date of Arrival	:	<u>12-01-1906</u>
Name of Ship	:	<u>S.S. UMLA21</u>
Place of Registration	:	<u>—</u>
Date of Registration	:	<u>—</u>
Number in Register	:	<u>—</u>
Name	:	<u>GADDAM PENCHAL REDDY</u>
Father's Name	:	<u>G.PAPI REDDY</u>
Age	:	<u>22 YEARS.</u>
Sex	:	<u>MALE</u>
Caste	:	<u>KAPU</u>
District	:	<u>NELLORE</u>
Thanna/Taluq	:	<u>RAPUR</u>
Village	:	<u>SETHURAJU PALLI</u>
Height	:	<u>5'3"</u>
Bodily Marks	:	<u>SCAR ON SPINE</u>
Name of Next-of-Kin	:	<u>—</u>
Relations Accompanied	:	<u>—</u>
Small Pox/Vaccinated	:	<u>VACCINATED.</u>
Remarks	:	<u>—</u>

Certified a true copy.


 REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE


G.P.-S.3146-1950-1-10-200.

1970/3
1967).

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

CERTIFICATE OF DISCHARGE



OFFICE
PROTECTOR OF INDIAN IMMIGRANTS
DURBAN, NATAL,

14th January 1957

I hereby certify that

Saddam Panchappa Reddy

Indian Immigrant No.

117594

only completed h. 22

term of indenture on the

1st May 1951

In terms of Indian Immigration

Act No. 41 of 1895.

and is released from his obligation

service in this Province under indenture.

DESCRIPTION.

Father's Name

S. Pappi Reddy

Age

73 yrs (1956)

Height

5 feet 3"

Bodily Marks

Scar on forehead

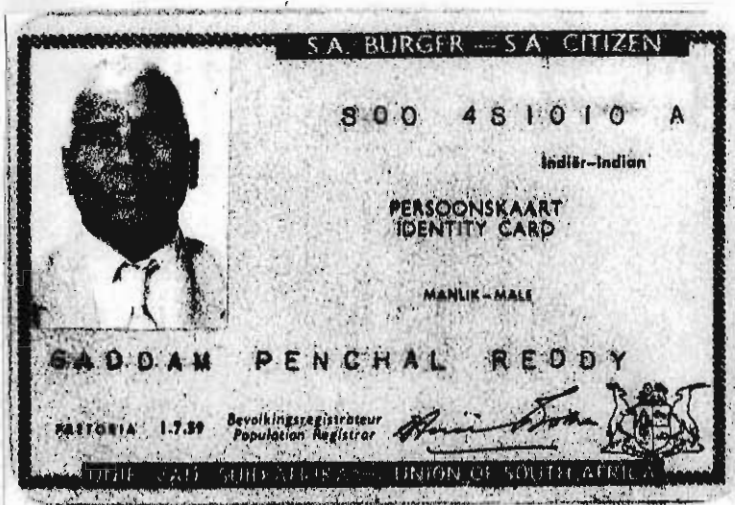
Reddy
Protector of Indian Immigrants, Natal.

Left Thumb Print.



Right Thumb Print.





5

2

Portret van houer
Photograph of bearer
Photographie du titulaire



Handtekening van houer
Signature of bearer



BELANGRIK - Wanneer die houder van hierdie paspoort sy burgerskap verloor of anderszins onwettig is, moet hy dit aan die oorspronklike voorwaardes en inligting vir Reisigers op bladsy 38.

IMPORTANT - Whenever the holder of this passport loses his South African citizenship or acquires a passport of another country, the validity of this passport expires and must be surrendered - see Conditions of Issue and Information for Travellers on page 40.

Suid-Afrikaanse
reval die geldig-
wys op die 38.

3

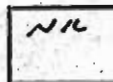
REDDY

VAN VAN HOUER/SURNAME OF BEARER
NOM DU TITULAIRE

GADDAM PENCHAL

VOORNAME/FIRST NAMES/PRENOMS

VERGESEL VAN
ACCOMPANIED BY
ACCOMPAGNE DE



KINDERS.
CHILDREN
ENFANTS

Nasionaliteit * Nationality
Nationalité

SUID-AFRIKAANSE BURGER
SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZEN
CITOYEN SUD-AFRICAIN

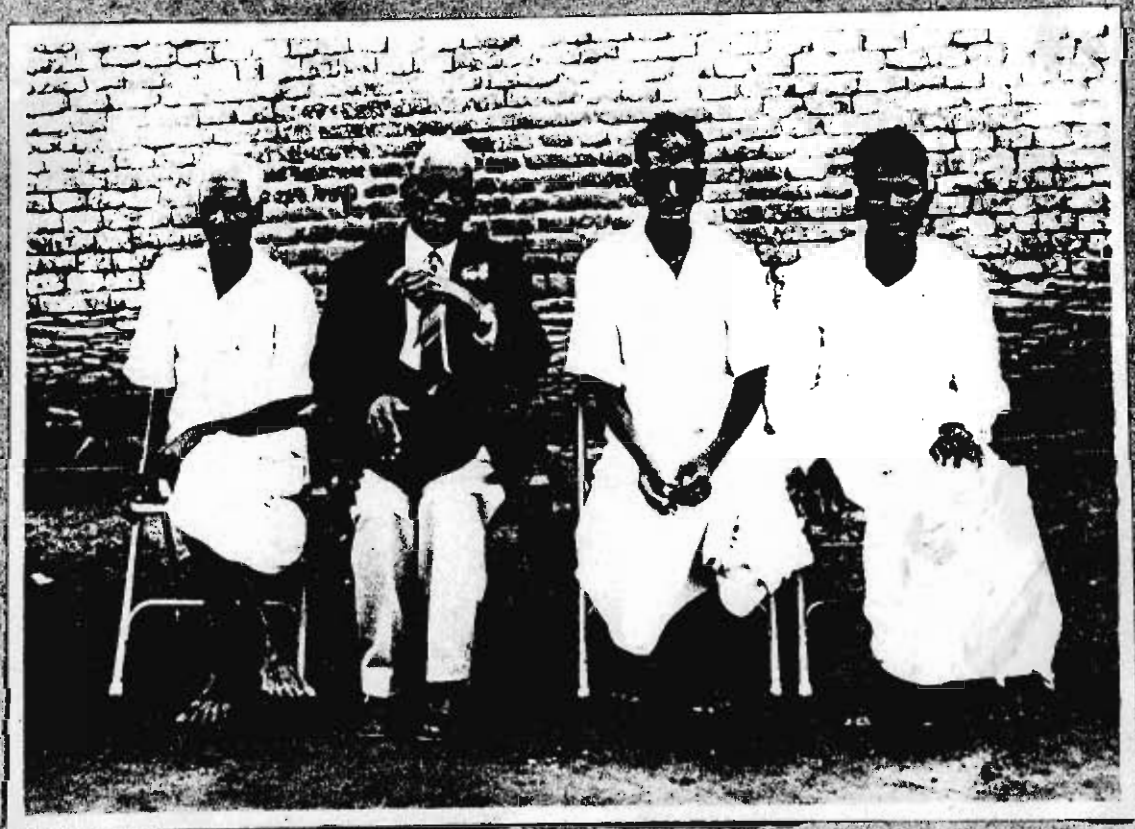
KINDERS * CHILDREN * ENFANTS

Naam
Name
Nom

Datum van geboorte
Date of birth
Date de naissance

Geslag
Sex
Sexe

6



(only
Brother)

G.C.R. Reddy, 2. G.P. Reddy (S. Africa) 3. G. Pichi Reddy,

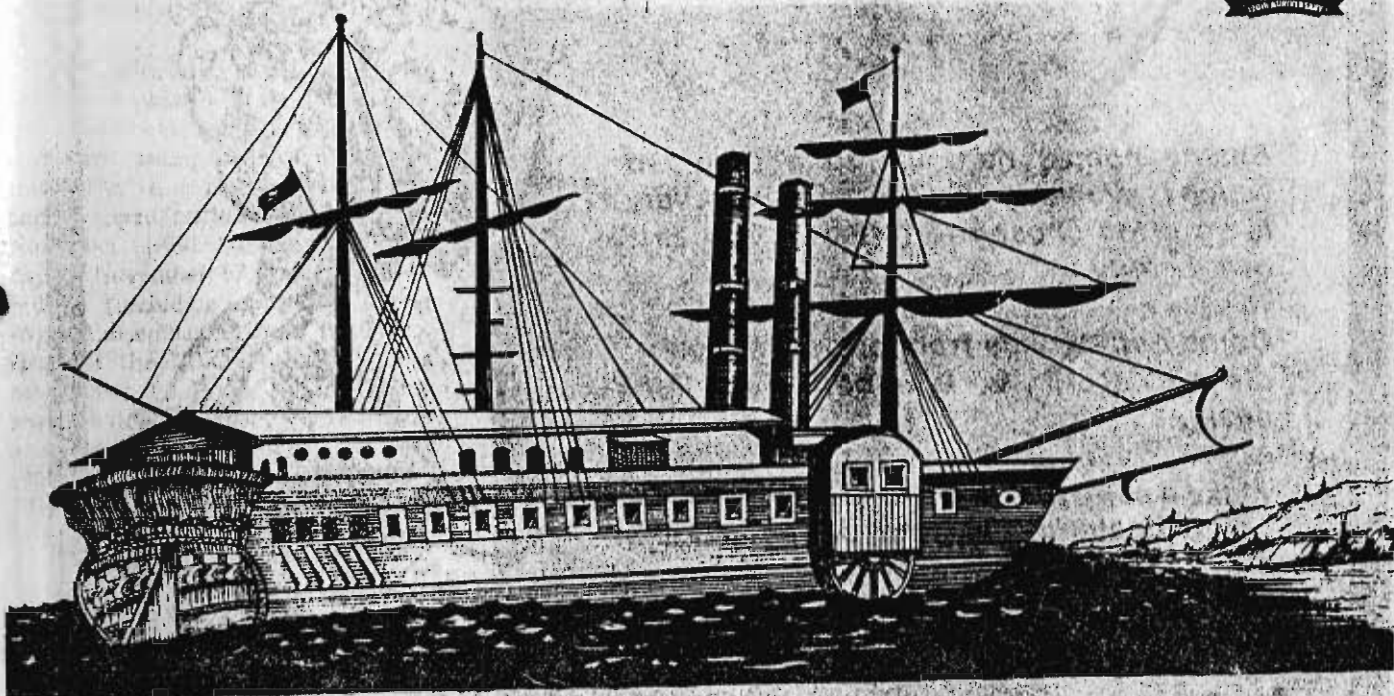
4. Della Reddy.

HARANATH
STUDIO
NELLORE

Appearing below, in alphabetical order, are some of the many ships which carried Indian immigrant labourers from India to Natal:-

The number of labourers immigrants brought into the Colony totalled 152 184.

Atlanta	Copenhagen	John Allen	Northern Monarch	Suffolk	UMLAZI — last ship, arrived July 21, 1911.
Belvedere	Courland	John Dave	Philosopher	Taif	
Blenheim	Cyrene	Jumna	Plassey	Umfuli	Warora York
Canada	Dumphaile Castle	Laurel	Pongola	Umhloti	
Carnatic	Foyle	Lord George	Quathlamba	Umkuzi	
Castleton	Gainsborough	Bentinck	Red Riding Hood	Umona	
Chupra	Glenroy	Mars	St. Kilda	Umtata	
Coldstream	Huzard	Merchant Man	Soaphia Joakim	Umvoti	
Congella	Jason	Naderi	Sophia	Umzinto	





1. Narasimha, 2. Narasimha Reddy, 3. K. Subba Reddy
 4. G.P. Reddy (S. Africa) 5. K. Krishana Reddy (Teacher)
 6. K. Reddy Reddy.

NATH
 STUDIO



Pool of Bethesda.

April 27, 1855.

Original Correspondence.

Imported Labour.

To the Editor of the Natal Mercury.

Longati, 27th April, 1855.

Sir—

As I think a review of the history of the Coolie and Chinese migration to Mauritius may at the present moment prove of value, I propose setting on paper as briefly as I can, those points and features in its history which require to be known before a practicable scheme can be put forward for the convenience of Government. Ignorance of some of these matters would be sure to occasion a loss of valuable time, waste of energies, and much disappointment hereafter;—it would lead to the formation of plans, which, even if approved of by the Local Government, might be sure of being rejected in England (unless indeed our colonial authorities are well acquainted with the views entertained at home on these matters). However hard and unjust these views may be, we shall like other colonies be obliged to bend to them.

1. I think it will be shown that the present law, (which enforces a three years' contract between master and servant, with, however, the privilege of being entered into out of India, and of being renewed in this colony) is the one most likely to have approved of in England. The same law exists in Mauritius, and such as it is we should do well not to waste time in looking for better, but set to work and make as much of it as we can.

2. That although the necessary renewal of the contract in the colony may appear a serious risk to the importer of labour, it will in practice prove absolutely null—I would not permit one percent to ensure it.

3. That immigrants may be had if we are disposed to pay them what they can get elsewhere. But that it is perfectly useless to look for men to be sent via Mauritius at 10s. without rations. In Mauritius they get 10s. together with rations, hospital attendance, &c., in all equal for the best contract to about 20s. a month—they will not cost much less here. Those who talk about importing labour, must make up their mind if these terms would suit them—I have no objection in saying they will for my purposes.

Somewhere between the years 1835 or 1838 more than 25,000 Indians were introduced into Mauritius by the planters. Their former state was at that time going through the transition to state to freedom under the name of apprentices, and it was deemed advisable to import a fresh labour, as a stop-gap against the time the blacks should become quite emancipated.

These immigrants were bound to their masters under the then existing law, (their contract, which were signed in India, were for four or five years, and always included a return passage at the end of this time free of the fares of the men, and for a month's rations, and for the expenses of their hospital attendance, nothing for the expense of their return passage, and 27s. a year, and their return about 4s.).

This system was a null activity, when the E. I. C. Company, in 1845, sent on by a certain party, and was not only the former slaves, but of the Government, as was the Act of Parliament, in 1845, from their employers, that was about

only sport, in the from which a limited number of Coolies were to be permitted to ship for Mauritius. For some years the extreme number allowed, and that in face of such evidence of demand as was shown by the large number introduced the year before.

The system was again changed; private parties were not allowed to have anything to do in the selection of the men till Government had led them in the Coolie depot of Port Louis;—there they were to be only after landed, were they allowed to select their masters.

This system continued till about 1850. I will not attempt to say if I would, point out the errors of this system, but it was not in the least looking for a master, but planters, who were by supposing loss of all their late coolies, might be seen bidding against each other in the favour of these (but a few months before) starving Indians. Some firm in arm with a dirty Sudder or more impudent and brazen Coolie who suddenly or falsely pretending to have influence over twenty or thirty others. Scarcely a ship arrived, but presents of all sorts, bags full of rupees and gold watches too, were freely given to some of these fellows (as bid for their good-will) who could probably immediately go and keep some from another party and then sell them both. Every five year were humiliations committed to, in the vain hope of staying off the agon threatening ruin, and at any rate meeting engagements as well as possible. Memorials, petitions, and were unavailing—the general ruin of 1847 itself was now in hanging about exchange. But this crisis was more than ruinous to us, with ruin in the large London firms—Barclay's, Grouse, Ross, & Lewis, &c.—and fortunately for the colony, some interests being affected, relief at last came, but very slowly.

At last, as I before said, in about 1850, a change took place. The master and servant ordinance of this colony, (which was a mere law there), engagements began to be for three years, provided such as were not entered into in Europe should be renewed in the colony.

The law as here, as, and has been of the of consequence granted to others, longer, and I do our time in seeking for more, and it is, in practice it has proved an immense boon as compared to the old system, and has proved sufficient, and so it proved worked it ought to go to rest.

Government in Mauritius (as before) introduced the immigrant out of taxes and duties levied for immigration purposes; the chief portion of which was raised by a stamp duty on each contract—I think it was £4 a head, rather more than half the cost of his introduction.

In Mauritius, the demand for labour is so certain, that I do not think Government ever feel anxious, before sending for Coolies, to see whether masters; better might be interested in the plantations, whether masters would be anxious to take on a large number of wages, and what the rate paid to Kattras would probably be requisite to obtain some guarantee from them to do so.

My belief is, that for our sugar growing interests they are indispensable, and that the business of Natal will make them worth as much as to Mauritius.

I trust my observations on the system, and view of immigration into Mauritius, will be mistaken.

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MOHSAMY

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ROSEMARY - Dr / KING EDWARD

JENNIFER - Dr

SARAH - CLERK

BALARAM

1. IVAN - CLERK
2. GILBERT - CLERK
3. LESLEY - WHARE CONT.
4. EUGINE - SUPERVISOR
5. GERALD - ACCOUNTANT
6. BRENDA - CREDIT CONTROLLER

RAM

1. PATRICIA - TEACHER
2. SELVIE - TEACHER
3. SAM - ARCHITECT

NAGAIKA

1. NAOMI - MEDICAL SISTER.
2. SHEILA - HOUSEWIFE
3. MATTHEW - TEACHER

JOHN

1. COLLIN - HIGH SCH.
2. LIONEL - SCH.
3. JOE - SCHOOL.

CONCLUSION

One of the reasons for leaving India was the intolerance to the practice of the caste system. Being of the working class he must have been at the receiving end and life had little to offer in the way of security, stability and progress but a lot in the way of suffering, hard labour and low social stigma. Arrival in Natal proved to be no different. They again subjected to racial discrimination, social instability and insecurity.

Many of the labourers, soon as they completed their indenture began to acquire property which instilled in them a sense of security and social mobility. Many especially from the lower social classes began to adopt Christianity which gave them a sense of acceptance. Being labourers during the week became church workers like elders, deacons in their local church. This new surrogate society gave them social security and stability.

Mr Reddy became a christian when a strange white pastor brought a bunch of flowers at the birth of his first son. He moved into a different social structure which offered him more than his previous one. In all the photographs of Mr Reddy what is noticeable is a badge. To him it is not just a badge but a membership of the Bethesdaland Organization, which gave him a security, stability and pride.

Amid social mobility, it is obvious that our forefathers strived for and achieved much economic, commercial and professional progress as photograph (7) indicates. To reinforce my view I have provided a family tree of Mr Reddy (item 12).

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