NAME: VICTOR SUMADRAJI

REGISTRATION NO.: 15047

FACULTY: EDUCATION

DATE: 23:05:1983

# H I S T O R Y  111

## R E S E A R C H  P R O J E C T

RESEARCH INTO THE ROOTS OF MY FAMILY, AND DISCUSSION OF THE INDIAN INDENTURE LABOUR SYSTEM. (1860 - 1911).

## A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

MY THANKS GO TO THE FOLLOWI G PEOPLE FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE:-

1. MY GRANDPARENTS
2. STAF OF TH DOCUE TATION CENTRE AT T E UNIVERSITY OF DURBAN WESTVLLE.

TABLE OF CONTENTS


SECTION A: NATAL BEFORE THE INDIANS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1: | INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| 2: | IDEA OF INDENTURE | 1 |
| 3: | CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THEY CAME | 2 |
| 4.1: | IMMIGRANT ADMINISTRATION IN THE COLONY | 5 |
| 4.2: | IMMIGRANT ADMINISTRATION IN INDIA | 5 |

SECTION B:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1: | THE INDIANS ARRIVE | 6 |
| 2: | REASONS FOR LEAVING INDIA | 6 |
| 3: | NATAL AFTER THE INDIANS | 9 |

SECTION C: MY SUBJECT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1: | INITIAL PROBLEMS | 9 |
| 2: | EARLY LIFE IN INDIA | 11 |
| 3:1: | EARLY LIFE IN NATAL | 12 |
| 3.2: | COAL MINING IN NATAL | 12 |
| 3.3: | ELANDSLAAGTE COLLORIES LIMITED | 12 |

SECTION D: MRS. RAYADI 13

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1: | EARLY HISTORY | 15 |

SECTION E:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1: | LIFE AFTER THE COAL FIELDS | 16 |
| 2: | REYNOLD BROTHERS LIMITED | 16 |

SOURCE LIST 21

## TABLE OF ILLUSTRATIONS


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Fig. 1: | REYNOLD SAUNDERS | 3 |
| Fig. 2: | SERVICE CONTRACT | 3 |
| Fig. 3: | DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE | 4 |
| Fig. 4: | TRURO AT PORT NATAL | 7 |
| Fig.5 5: | DAILY NEWS ARTICLE | 8 |
| Fig. 6: | MERCURY ADVERTISEMENT | 8 |
| Fig. 7: | INDENTURE NUMBER ON BIRTH CERTIFICATE | 10 |
| Fig. 8: | ELANDSLAAGTE REGISTER | 14 |
| Fig. 9: | 1913 VOLKSRUST MARCH | 17 |
| Fig. 10: | ESPERANZA MILL | 19 |
| Fig. 11: | SEZELA MILL | 19 |

SECTION "A"

## N A T A L  B E F O R E  T H E  I N D I A N S

### 1. INTRODUCTION:

In the middle of the 19th century a small group of white English speaking immigrants were struggling to make a living in the newly independant colony of Natal.

A few of the more enterprizing concentrated on the cultivation of sugar cane. But it became clear that while the climate and soil was right the sucess of such a venture depended on an adequate and contineous supply of cheap and reliable labour. The zulus in Natal had been confined to reserves by Shepstones Policy. They were mainly a cattle loving community, preferring to work their own farms rather than supply the Colonists with the necessary labour to develop farms and industry. "This eventually compelled farmers, landowners and planters to address an urgent Petition to the Legislative Council, praying for the immediate introduction of labourers from India." [1]

### 2. IDEA OF INDENTURED LABOUR.

Slavery had been abolished but an alternate systen called "Indenturing" had been developed.
"Through this system a man was bound to a "master" for a definite period of time and his low wage was fixed in advance." [2] Indenturing Indians had proven itself successful in Naurituis, and the West Indies.

---

1. T H O M P S O N: Indian Immigration into Natal 1860 - 1872. p. 26

2. R. S. N O B A T H: Indians in South Africa, Daily News, November 1966

A natalian Mr James Reynold Saunders (see fig. 1) first suggested through the press that Indians be brought to Natal. Thus laws 14 and 15 of 1859 were passed by the Natal Government. Law 14 provided for the importation of immigrants at the public expense, and for the regulation and governing of such immigrants. Law 15 enabled private individuals to introduce labourers at their own risk.

3. CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THEY CAME.

Provisions were made for the drawing up of contracts between immigrants and their employers (see fig.2). Immigrants agreed to complete five years of "Industrial Service" at wages not less that 10 shillings per month. Section 9 of law 14 stated. "ON THE EXPIRATION OF THE FIRST 5 YEARS AFTER HIS INTRODUCTION TO THE COLONY, EVERY INDIAN IMMIGRANT WHO SHALL HAVE SO SERVED UNDER THE CONTRACT OF SERVICE AS AFORESAID ...
SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE COMPLETED AN INDUSTRIAL RESIDENCE OF FIVE YEARS, AND SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A CERTIFICATE OF DISCHARGE (SEE FIG.3) AND IT SHALL NO LONGER BE OBLIGATORY ON ANY SUCH INDIAN IMMIGRANT TO ENTER ANY FURTHER CONTRACT."

With regards to permanent settlement of Indians immigrants in the country, section 6 of law 14 provided as follows:-
"EVERY INDIAN IMMIGRANT SHALL BE ENTITLED TO A FREE PASSAGE BACK TO INDIA, WHO SHALL HAVE RESIDED TEN YEARS IN THE COLONY, AND DURING THE TEN YEARS SHALL HAVE COMPLETED AN INDUSTRIAL RESIDENCE OF FIVE YEARS."
This was further expanded on in section 28, "WHEN ANY INDIAN IMMIGRANT SHALL BE DESIROUS TO COMMUTE HIS RIGHTS TO A FREE PASSAGE FOR THE VALUE IN LAND TO THE AMOUNT OF

FIG: 1

FIG: 2

# (MAN'S)
# CONTRACT OF SERVICE WITH INDIAN IMMIGRANTS

*Be it Remembered,*

That on this day of in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and and Indian Immigrant, No.. appeared before me Protector of Immigrants, and in my presence signed (or made his mark) to the following Contract of Service:

The said agrees to hire the services of the said Indian Immigrant, and the said Indian Immigrant agrees to render the said his services in the capacity of General Labourer for Five Years, commencing on the day of in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and And it is further agreed between the said Parties that the said Indian Immigrant shall be employed as above for six days in each week, save as in such Law is mentioned, and that the hours of labour shall not be more than nine hours daily, between sunrise and sunset with a break of at least an hour for rest.

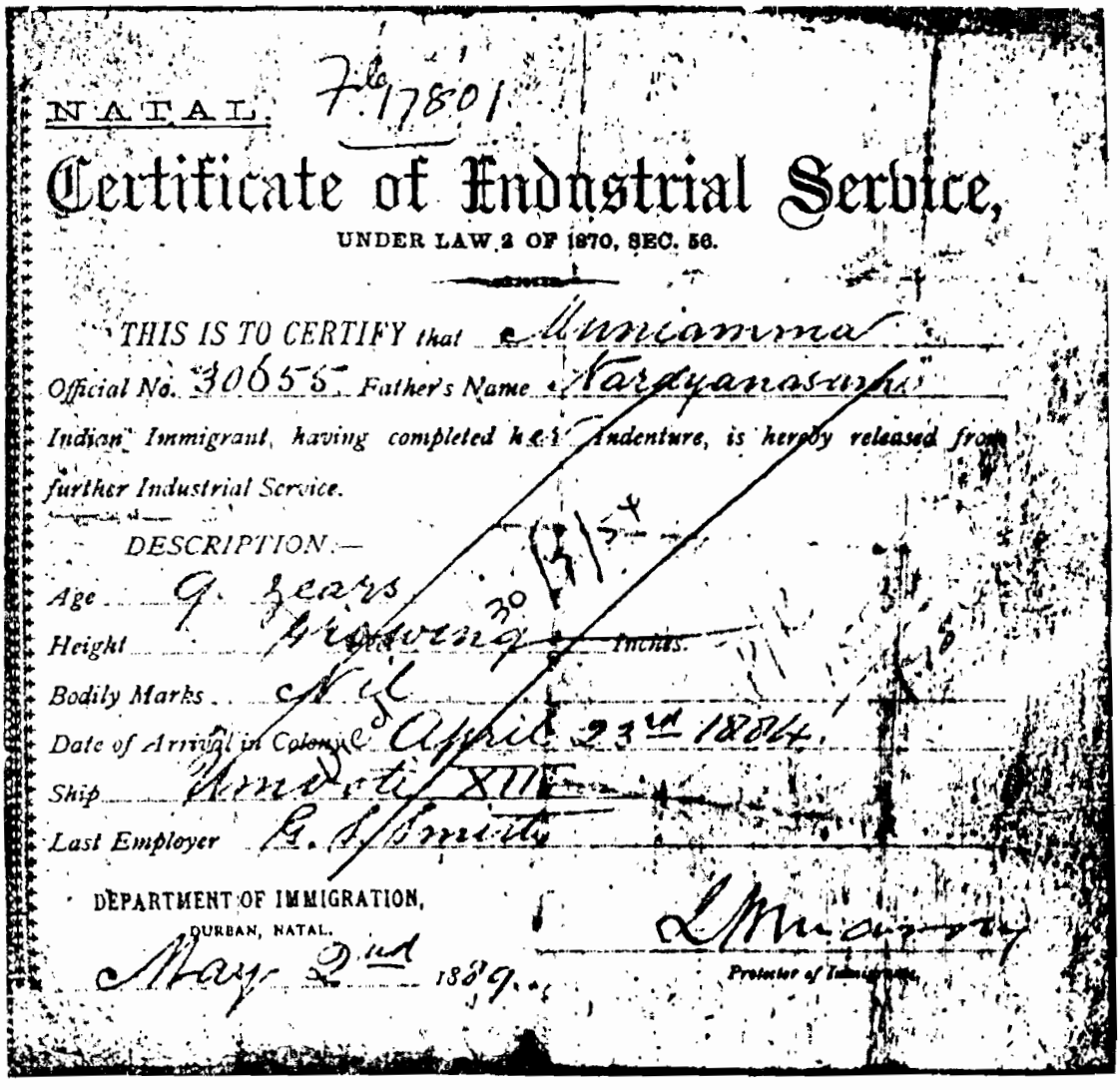
And it is further agreed between the said Parties that the said shall pay to the said Indian Immigrant as such servant as aforesaid wages at and after the rate of TEN SHILLINGS for the first year, ELEVEN SHILLINGS for the second year, TWELVE SHILLINGS for the third year, THIRTEEN SHILLINGS for the fourth year, FOURTEEN SHILLINGS for the fifth year, for the remuneration of the services of the said Indian Immigrant, and that such wages shall be paid on the first day of each month.

And lastly, the said doth hereby bind and oblige himself to give, grant and provide, to and for the said Indian Immigrant, and for such family as may be alloted, good and comfortable lodging, wholesome and suitable food, and proper medical attendance and medicines, during the period for which this present Contract is made, and otherwise to observe and fulfill all the conditions and obligations of the Coolie Laws of the Colony so far as the same are applicable to this Contract and Agreement

His mark.

The preceding Agreement was signed by the above-named Parties in my presence, on the day and year above written, voluntarily, the same being, as far as I am able to judge, fully understood by them respectively.

Protector of Immigrants.



NATAL. File 17801

# Certificate of Industrial Service,

UNDER LAW 2 OF 1870, SEC. 56.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that Municamma

Official No. 30655 Father's Name Narayanasamy

Indian Immigrant, having completed her Indenture, is hereby released from further Industrial Service.

DESCRIPTION:—

Age 9 years

Height 4 feet 3 inches.

Bodily Marks Nil

Date of Arrival in Colony April 23rd 1884.

Ship Arundati XIII

Last Employer G. A. Smith

DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION,
DURBAN, NATAL.

May 2nd 1889.

Protector of Immigrants.

FIG: 3

THE COST OF SUCH PASSAGE, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR SHALL SEE FIT TO GRANT SUCH IMMIGRANTS CROWN LAND OF THE COLONY." 3

It was also provided that during the term of contract the employer was to provide, food, lodging, clothing and medical attention for his Labourer. It was also specifically stipulate that 25 - 50 women per 100 men be recruited..

4.1 IMMIGRANT ADMINISTRATION IN THE COLONY

In 1859 a "Coolie Immigration agent" was appointed. He was in charge of financial affairs and to register and assign all immigrants to the service of employers. In 1872 the "Coolie Agent" was mow referred to as "The Protector of Indian Immigrants". He was granted some judical power concerning immigrants. Furthermore he had to keep a register of all marriagesin the colony, and had to twice a year visit estates employing Indians free or indentured. Law 25 of 1891, imposed on the protector the duty of administering estates of deceased Indians. In 1872 a deputy Protector and in 1891 an assistant Protector were appointed to assist the Protector.

4.2 IMMIGRATION AGENCY IN INDIA

Mr W.M. Collins, the Post master General was sent from Natal as agent for the Natal Goverment. Part ofhis task was to Establish a permenant Natal Agency preferable at Madras. This he did by appointing a Mr Burton, who was also the agent for Maritius. Collins returned to Natal in February 1861 and Burton was succeeded in June 1865 by Mr Gohan.

---

3. Y. S. C H I N S A M Y: The Indians in the Sugar Industry, in Fiat Lux, 1 , p.99

The agency closed down in 1869. When immigration was resumed in 1874 the Natal Government was represented by Mr Frith, the immigration agent in Culcutta for British Guiana. The agency was maintained till 1911 when immigration closed.

SECTION "B"

THE INDIANS ARRIVE:

After all formalities had been completed Mr Collins Chartered a ship at Calcutta, THE BELVEDERE, and another at Madras the TRURO, to carry the first labourers to Natal. the BELVEDERE left Calcutta on 4 October 1860, 9 days before the TRURO set sail, but because it had to cover an extra 1200 miles the TRURO dropped anchor in Durban first, on 16 November 1860 (see fig. 4).

On 17 November 341 Indians disembarked. Under the Title "The Coolies Here" the "Natal Mercury" published an article. (see fig. 5). A few days later the newspaper also published an advertisment for Indian labour. (see fig. 6).

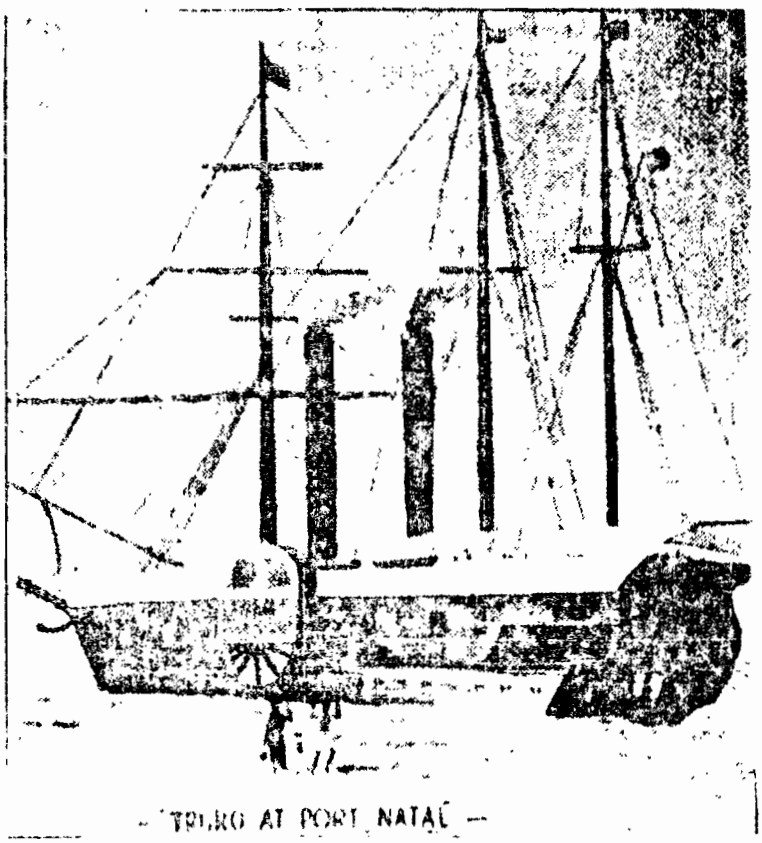
B.2. REASONS FOR LEAVING INDIA

Many reason have been advanced as to why the Indians left India to come to Natal. One of the Strongest theories put foreward statesthat many Indians come because they wanted to escape the Caste system in India. "The majority of these Indians hoped for a better life and greater prosperity in the new country." [4]

One cannot discard the reasons given to us by our grandparents, reasons one cannot find in text books. Stories of how the recruting officers lied and misled Indians to believe such fabricated stories like gold could be found on chilli trees, or picked up like shells on the sea shore of Natal.

---

4. R. S. NOBATH: Indians in South Africa, Daily News, November 1966.



– TRURO AT PORT NATAL –

FIG: 4

"Friday afternoon last, November 16, a large barque, Truro, made the anchorage and signalled the fact of her having a large number of Coolies aboard. The past week will long be memorable amongst Anglo-Natalians. At last, after the discussions of years and the extinction of hopes innumerable, the planters' pet project has been realised.

"Considerable apprehension was at once experienced as to the sanitary condition of the vessel. Thanks to the baseless figments so industriously circulated by certain agitators, Coolies have been connected with cholera and other epidemic evils. But happily on Saturday morning every fear was set at rest by the favourable report of Dr. Holland, the Health Officer, who boarded the Truro at daylight, and saw that she was healthy in every respect.

"A very remarkable scene was the landing of the first batch of Indian indentured labourers and one well worth remembrance and record. Most of the spectators who were present had been led to expect a lot of dried up, vapid, and sleepy-looking anatomies. They were agreeably disappointed. As the swarthy hordes came pouring out of the boat's hold, laughing, jabbering and staring about them with a very well-satisfied expression of self-complacency on their faces, they hardly realised the idea one had formed regarding them and their faculties.

"They were a queer, comical, foreign looking, very oriental-like crowd. The men with their huge muslin turbans, bare scraggy shin bones, and coloured garments; the women with their flashing eyes, long dishevelled pitchy hair with their half-covered, well formed figures, and their keen inquisitive glances; the children with their meagre, intelligent, cute and humorous countenances

FIG: 5

mounted on bodies of unscionable fragility, were all evidently beings of a different race and kind to any we have yet seen in Africa or England. Master Coolie seemed to make himself perfectly at home, and was not in the least disconcerted by the novelty of his situation. He looked about him in considerable animation and very generally remarked that Natal was colder than Madras.

"There has seldom been such a crowd at the Point as there was on Saturday (the day on which the immigrants actually landed in Durban). The boats seemed to disgorge an endless stream of living cargo. The major portion of this lot are, we understand, not so much field labourers, as mechanics, household servants, domestics, gardeners and tradespeople. There are barbers, carpenters, accountants and grooms amongst them. Among the women we find ayahs, nurses and maids. It seems to be rather a heterogenous assortment comprising a few of all calling, than a supply of labourers for the plantations."

## Coolie Immigration

Soon after the arrival of the indentured Indian labourers from India, this advertisement appeared in the columns of the "Natal Mercury"—

All persons desirous of possessing coolie servants are requested to apply to the Immigration Agent, Durban, stating the description of servants required, and the name of agent for selection.

The Immigration Agent cannot take upon himself the selections of any servants, nor can he forward any to their destinations.

Selections will take place in his presence at the coolie barracks, when the master or his agent must be prepared at the time to enter into the contract of service required by law to pay the amount of passage money and etc. and to take away the servant.

All servants remaining in barracks after the allotment will be kept at the expense of their master.

E. Tatham,
Coolie Immigrant Agent.

Immigration Office,
Durban.
November 27, 1860.

FIG: 6

Also the economic and political conditions in India gave impetus to the success of the immigration. One need only to ask immigrants why they came and the answer would be "for a better life."

3. NATAL AFTER THE INDIANS

The Natal settlers investments yielded dividends. Sugar Production encreased from 1,173 tons in 1859 to 6,985 tons in 1864 and to 9173 tons in 1868. "There were permenant docile workers for the fields and skilled hands for the mills." [5]

But promises were not kept and hopes were shattered. Treatment on some estates were harsh and living conditions unhealthy, and when their service contract were completed their rights as free citizens were restricted. The offer of crown land was withdrawn in 1891. This led the Protector to state in his 1907 report "Ido not know any estate on which the horse stable is not better than the coolie huts" [6]

SECTION "C"

M Y  S U B J E C T.

1. INITIAL PROBLEMS

My greatest problem was determining my subjects (ie. My Fathers' Grand-father) right name.
My subjects children and grand children were registered under such names as, Sumadraji, Rajoo, Raju, and Raidoo. After retrieving 2 documents (see fig. 7) I was able to determine the correct name and by using the indenture number gain more information from the micro - films at the university of Durban Westville. I discovered that my subjects correct name was RAYADI GURAVADU.

5. R.S. NOBATH: Indians in South Africa, Daily News, Nov. 1966.
6. CENTENARY OF INDIANS IN NATAL 1860 - 1960. p. 132

60/9/2396.

G.P.-S.6595704—1959-60—100-50. Revenue/Inkomste 200.

**DUPLICATE.—DUPLIKAAT.**

Date of Original Pass 5 : 9 : 40. Birth Registration No. 5 : 9 : 40.
Datum van gorspronklike pas Geboorte-registrasieno.

**UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.—UNIE VAN SUID-AFRIKA.**

**PASS TO INDIANS.—PAS VIR INDIERS.** W42871

**Born in the Province of Natal.**
**In die Provinsie Natal gebore.**
(SEC. 97, LAW No. 25 OF 1891.)
(ARTIKEL 97, WET No. 25 VAN 1891.)

A 35365

This is to Certify that J SUNDARAM.
Hierby word gesertifiseer dat dit

Colonial Born, is at liberty to dispose of HIS. Services, te verhuur
in die Kolonie gebore, vrystaan om

Father's Name RAYADI GURAWADU. No. 11739.
Naam van Vader

Mother's Name CHELLI BAMMA. No. 133606.
Naam van Moeder

Sex MALE. Age 41 YRS (16 : 5 : 40). Height 5' 5"
Geslag Ouderdom Lengte

Marks MOLE ON NOSE.
Merke

Office Date Stamp.—Kantoordatumstempel.

6211/40

Protector of Indian Immigrants.
Beskermer van Indiese Immigrante.

Fig. 7

## 2. EARLY LIFE IN INDIA

By the time my subject was born the Indian Indenture system had been firmly entrenched in Natal. I was unable to find any documents that accurately states my subjects date of birth, but by using his age when he arrived and the year in which he arrived I calculated that he was born in 1881. My interviewee stated that his father was born in Raimandrun in the district of Kotipali. This could not be varified.

My subjects father MR. R. CHANDRIGADU owned a rice farm on which my subject worked as a water crane presser, that is, someone who irrgaters rice fields. His family was of the Pari a Caste and staunch Hindus. The ships register states that he came from the village of KISTNA in the district of NELADRIPURAN. So presumable this is were his father owned the farm, my subject married in India and later fathered a child. Unfortunatly neither the name of the child nor morther could be traced. The mother also died at child birth.

The exact reasons for my subjects coming to Natal is unclear. My first interviewee MR. FRANK RAIDOO stated that he came because he wanted a better life. My second interviewee mr. Sumadraji stated that after my subject's wife had died he began to have problems with his family and to avoid a major quarrel he left India, leaving his child, a daughter, behind.

I could not accept the fact that my subjects family owned rice fields. Firstly they were of the poorest caste, the Parias and secondly if my subject was as weathy as my interviewee suggests, why did he not come as a passanger Indian. My attempts to varify this information proved fruitless.

My subject was recruited from Madras and set sail on 7 March 1905 for Natal on board the Congella 44. On board were 255 men and boys and 98 women and girls. Thus a total of 353people set sail. They were brought under contract of messrs King and sons.

3.1 EARLY LIFE IN NATAL

Of the 353 passangers on board the Congella 44 , only 352 disembarked, one Indian returned to India. The Congella dropped anchor in Port Natal on the 26 March 1905. My subject was 24 years when he arrived, and stood 5 feet 2 inches. The records state that he had a linear scar on his abdomen. His indenture number was 111789.

3.2 COAL MINING IN NATAL.

"Coal was originally discovered in Natal in the 1840's, but it cost twice as much to transport it 40 miles to Durban as to ship it 7000 miles to Britain". [7]
Only the construction of a Railway line 50 years later permitted the development of theindustry, but as a result of the Zulu unrest and the attractiveness of employment for the blacks on the gold fields, Coal Mining became increaisingly dependant on the Indentured Indian worker. In 1897 the first 342 men volunteered for service in the Coal mines. The number remained constant at about 350 men, till 1906 when demand increased to over 1000 men.

3.3 ELANDSLAAGTE COLLIERIES LIMITED

"Elanslaagte was situated on the main line of Railways, 16 Miles beyond Ladysmith and 3614 feet above sea level. It was a mining camp of some importance but the name is generally associated with General Francis' cavalry victory of October 21st 1899, one of the earliest British successes of the Boer War". [8]

---

7. A.J. ARKINS: The Contribution of the Indians to the South African Economy 1860 - 1970, p. 341
8. The Natal Directary: 1910, p. 609

On 4 April 1905, 9 days after my subject had arrived in Durban, he was contracted to work for the Elandslaagte Collories Limited (see fig. 8). This company was formed in 1877 by Mr C.G. Smith and Mr FrankReynold. The capital out lay of the company was £160 000 and the coal bearing lands had an area of 6000 acres. There were 2 shafts fully equiped on the property and a large amount of development had been done. The coal output was ± 500 tons per dien and of excellent quality being largly used for bunkering and railway purpose, as it was a good steam raiser. Amongst the principle consumers of elandslaagte coal were Messrs Rennie & sons and most of the regular steamers trading to Natal. " the Company was in a very flourshin condition and paid dividends at the rate of 12 ½ percent per annum." [9]. My subject was employed here for 5 years as a digger.
It was here that my subject again married, but he "divorced" his wife a few years later because she was barren. The wifes name could not be traced.

SECTION "D"

MRS RAYADI

Indenturing was also extended to dock yards and domestic employment. Women and children were also brought along, this being specifically required by the Indian government. The majority of women who came, were not married or were either young widows. For women and men South Africa was not temporary but a permenant home.

---

9. Twenty Century Impressions of Natal: p. 54

# Elandslaagte Collieries

| No. | Names. | Sex. | Ages. | Ship. | When Assigned. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| III. 132 | Kingsy | G | 9 | Umlazi 25 | 8 Mch. 190 |
| III. 133 | Kurumba | F | 28 | | |
| III. 134 | Cheero | G. | 9½ | | |
| III. 135 | Kanagasie | G | 7 | | |
| III. 136 | Kotty | G | 5 | | |
| III. 179 | Mary | F | 16 | | |
| III. 180 | Kodie Marian | F | 35 | | |
| III. 347 | Thas Poulose | M | 29 | | |
| III. 348 | Marian | F | 24 | | |
| III. 349 | John | B | 1½ | | |
| III. 788 | Pothuraju Subbadu | M | 29 | Conella 44 | 4 Mch. 190 |
| III. 789 | Rayidi Guravadu | M | 21 | | |
| III. 790 | Kimmageddda Venkadu | M | 21 | | |
| III. 792 | Budurty Gangadu | M | 28 | | |
| III. 802 | Sooda Latchanna | M | 29 | | |
| III. 803. | Kollapu Pemmadu | M | 35 | | |
| III. 804 | Pamu Muthyalu | M | 24 | | |
| III. 862 | Karapu Chinnandora | M | 21 | | |
| III. 863 | Kodavilly Samyadu | M | 24 | | |
| III. 864 | Tekoori Appigadu | M | 21 | | |
| III. 865 | Mallarapu Venkanna | M | 22 | | |
| III. 885 | Venkma Mathiah | M | 32 | | |
| III. 886. | Kundrapapu Atchigadu | M | 23 | | |
| III. 887 | Yamagura Naoadu | M | 23 | | |

FIG: 8

SECTION "D"

## E A R L Y  H I S T O R Y

Miss Chelli Bamma was born in 1884. Her fathers' name being P. Muralingam. She was of the Paria Caste and lived in the Village of GODAVERI in the district of KAINALIAPET. No other information about her could be uncovered. She set sail for Natal on the 3rd August 1907 from the port of Madras, on board the S.S. Umfuli VII. The ship docked in Port Natal on 26 August 1907. Miss Bamma was 23 years when she arrived standing at 5feet 1 inch, and her indenture number was 133606.
According to the ships register Miss Bamma arrived with a child, a girl. Her name was Gojammah and her age was 3 months, her father's name was Chinina Moonigady but there was no record to suggest that he also came.
I was unable to trace MissBamma's employer but my interviewees seem to feel that she stayed in Stanger. This could not be verified. No further evidence is known about the mother or child, but I do know, that when she married my subject she had no child with her. Towards the end of 1907 and early 1908, Stanger wasexperiencing a dysentry epidemic. Over 30 - 60 children died within 6 months and I can only assume that the child was one of its victims.
Nothing further is known about Miss Bamma until she married my subject, in what I calculated to be around 1912, because only after 5 years of her contract could she have gone to Dundee were she met my subject.
My subject, completed his term of contract with Elandslaagte Colliemes in 1910. According to my interviewee his father then worked for the Dundee Coal Mines. No evidence to support this could be found.

The archives does not have recordsof transfer documents, and the transfer correspondence between employer and protector, that they do have, yields no information.
It was here at Dundee that My subject met and "married" his wife, Miss Chelli Bamma. My attempts to trace Miss Bammas movements to Dundee were fruitless.
In 1913 they had their first child, a daughter named Atchema.
Meanwhile the Gandhi Passive Resistancemovement was gaining momentum. In 1913 the strikes spread to the northern Natal mines andthus effected the Dundee Mines. My subject and his wife were both involved in the march from Northern Natal to Volksrust (see fig.9)

SECTION "E" 1.

L I F E A F T E R C O A L F I E L D S

It was after the strikes, around 1914, that my subject absconded, after only completing 4 of his 5 year contract. Any attempts to varify and support my interviewee statement was useless. No records of labourers obscounding were available and the protectors report only mentioned the total number of labourers that absconded in that year. My subject reason for absconding, according to my interviewee, was because of harrasment by black mine police. My subject then travelled to Pietermaritzburg, from wherehe boarded a train to Isipingo and then travelled by ox - cart to Sezela.

2. REY OLD BROTHER LIMITED

"Reynold Bros in its formative years were no exception to prevailing practise, amongst the larger sugar enterprizes, of absorbing in their growth as opportunity offered the smaller estates adjoining the main Area." [10]

---

10. O S B O N D: The Vallant Harvest, p. 132

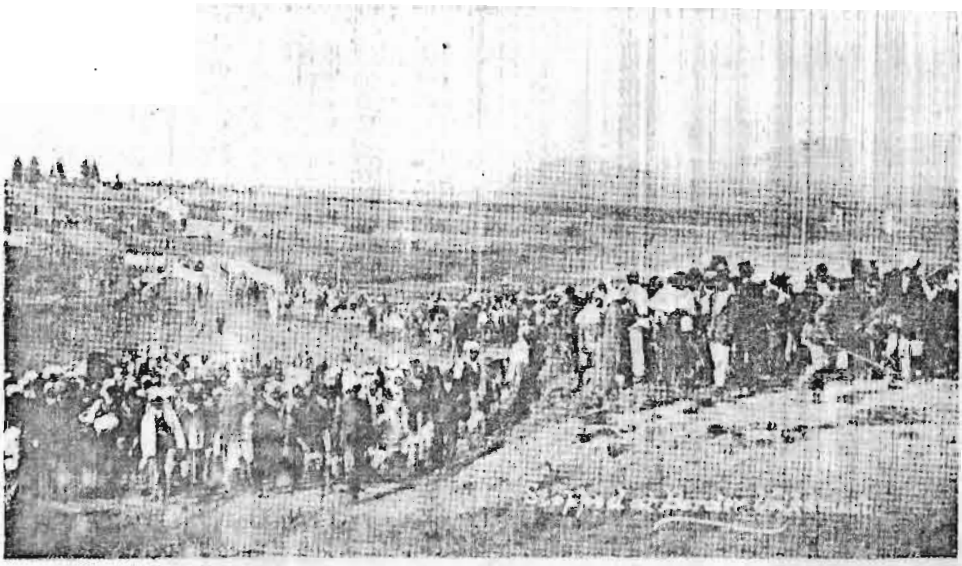


FIG: 9

This is what I suspect happened to the wood coat Estate owned by a Mr P.P. Naicker. According to my interviewee his father first worked for Mr Naicker, then Reynold Bros., but I could find no records of Mr Naicker or WoodCoat Estate in either the protectors or Estates records. I then phoned the Heullets sugar Information centre, but they could find not record either.

The genesis of the ReynoldBros. company was in the person of Thomas and Lewis Reynold. Though both Brothers worked seperatly, it is suspected that this was part of a pre-concieved plan to build up their "Sugar Empire!" After Lewis death the company came under the title of T. Reynold and sons. His sons constructed a new mill at Espranza in 1882. (see fig. 10).

They survived the post war slump and later constructed train lines to speed up cane transportation.

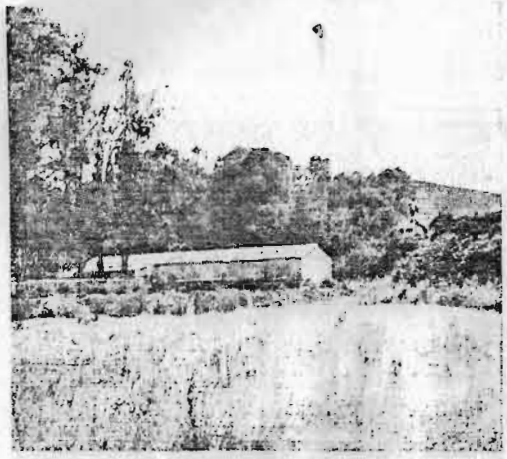
The original company of Reynold Brother which had been in existence for some 15 years, was incoperated in a new company in 1907.

A few years later the 11 000 acres free - hold property of Bazley Bros. was acquired and in 1915 a new and up to date mill was erected at Sezela. (see fig. 11).

My subject worked for Reynold Bros, for approximatly 4 to 5 years. It was here that my grandfather, MR SUNADRAJI, was born the 16th May 1919.

My subject then moved to an Indian farm, owned by Mr Naicker, he worked for Mr Naicker till 1924 when his second son Mr Frank was born. Mr Naicker then moved to Sawoti to a farm called Glenroy Induduto farm. Again I reiterate that no records of Mr Naicker, his farm, or his movements could be found.

In about 1926 my subject leased 40 acres of land for farming in Sawoti. He cultivated mealies, tabacco and beans.



*Old Esperanza.*

Original photograph supplied by Gordon Peddie, Esq.

*The new Esperanza mill was made up of machinery from Old Esperanza, Equeefa and the Umzinto mill. This picture of Esperanza was made about the turn of the century.*

FIG: 10

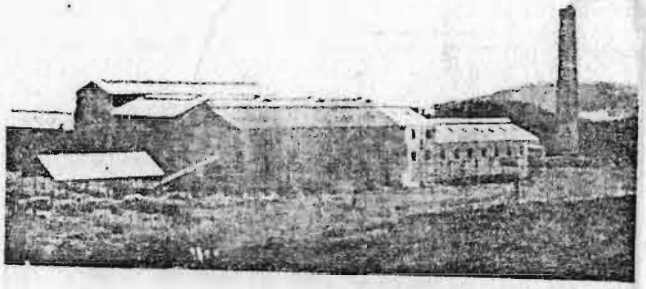


FIG: 11

During this time, my interviewee says, that his father may have been active as an Hindu priest, but records of the Sawoti Hindu temple, does not support this, because no evidence of his activities could be found.

My subject lived for 6 years on his farm, till he died in 1932 of heart ailment, being only 51 years of age. He left behind a wife and 3 children, a girl and 2 boys.

# S O U R C E  L I S T


1. ARKIN.A.J: The contribution of the Indians to the South African Economy 1860 - 1970, I.S.E.R, 1981.

2. Cavalier Publications, Durban, 1981.

3. CHINSAMY.V.S: The Indians in the Sugar Industry, in Fiat Lux, Vol 1. No4, September 1966.

4. Indian Annual Settlers Issue, Indian Academy of South Africa, Durban, 1979.

5. Indian Centenary Commeration Brochure (1860 - 1960), Indian Centenary Committee, Pietermaritzburg, 1960.

6. Natal Directory, 48th issue, 1910.

7. NOBATH.R.S: Indians in South Africa, in The Daily News, November 1966.

8. OSBORN.R.F: Valiant Harvest, The founding of the South African Industry 1848 - 1926, South African Sugar Industry, Durban, 1964.

9. Protectors Report, Vol 1, 1907.

10. RAIDOO.F: Interview, Umkomaas, 27 April 1983.

11. SUMADRAJI. R: Interview, Umkomaas, 27 April 1983.

12. TAVENER.R: Coal in Natal, University of Natal Press, Pietermaritzburg, 1973.

13. THOMPSON: Indian Immigrants into Natal. 1860 - 1872. Cape Town, Unisa Press, 1938.