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History III

TOPIC

The origins of my grandfather
Mr. Sanjeevy.

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Acknowledgements

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK PROFESSOR BHANA WHO SO
KINDLY OBTAINED INFORMATION FROM THE ARCHIVES
FOR MY PROJECT.

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

Serial Number	:	<u>336</u>
Colonial Number	:	<u>124528</u>
Date of Arrival	:	<u>01-08-1906</u>
Name of Ship	:	<u>PONGOLA</u>
Place of Registration	:	<u>MADRAS</u>
Date of Registration	:	<u>—</u>
Number in Register	:	<u>—</u>
Name	:	<u>SANTEEVY</u>
Father's Name	:	<u>GURUVADU</u>
Age	:	<u>9 1/2 YEARS</u>
Sex	:	<u>MALE</u>
Caste	:	<u>BHOLUY</u>
District	:	<u>N. ARCOT</u>
Thanna/Taluq	:	<u>WALLAJAH</u>
Village	:	<u>PULIYENKANNU</u>
Height	:	<u>—</u>
Bodily Marks	:	<u>—</u>
Name of Next-of-Kin	:	<u>—</u>
Relations Accompanied	:	<u>—</u>
Small Pox/Vaccinated	:	<u>VACCINATED</u>
Remarks	:	<u>—</u>
	:	<u>—</u>

Certified a true copy.



[Signature]
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

INTRODUCTION

For more than ten years before the Indians came to Natal, there had been a strong desire to get unskilled labour. The colony had suffered from a lack of reliable labourers to help in the cultivation of the land.

To the idea of introducing Indians from India there was certain amount of opposition. Two people who did oppose this was the Reverend W. Holden who felt that the Indians were a wicked lot of people. The other person was Dr. Charles Johnstone. He favoured Kaffir labour. However an attempt was made to gain Kaffir labour but they proved to be unsatisfactory because they were not accustomed to working for the Whites. Various other attempt were made to acquire labour but they proved unfruitful.

The demand for labour from the East which was most important was made in Durban in 1855. Sir George Grey wrote to India to enquire as to whether Natal could have some indentured labourers from India. (4) The answer was a refusal to allow Natal to have any indentured labourers. Some of the reasons put forward was that the wages was low and that the conditions were generally unsatisfactory. (5)

After/...

(1) C. J. Ferguson - Davie ; The Early History of Indians in Natal , pp. 4-5.

After further correspondence had been engaged, the Indian government agreed to the immigration of Indians on a limited base. Various laws were thereafter passed regarding the Indian labour. ^{Law} ~~How~~ 14 of 1859 states that after the expiration of the first five years, he would have to serve under a contract of service then he will be given a certificate of discharge and he shall no longer be obliged to enter into any further contract of service, but he shall be at liberty to hire or dispose of his ~~s~~ervices or to change his residence in the same manner as any other labourer.

In short, they may move about with the same freedom as other sections of the community. ⁽⁺⁾ Section 6 says that every Indian shall be entitled to a free passage back ~~et~~ to India if they have resided 10 years in the colony, ~~and during the 10 years he shall have~~ Section 25 which says that if an Indian wants to commute his right to a free passage for the value in land to the cost of such a passage, then the lieutenant Governor would grant him a piece of land to that value.

The first batch came from Madras and Calcutta in the ship called the ~~R~~ ^T Truro. They landed in Durban in about the middle of November 1860. They numbered 341 in all. There were 197 men, 89 women and 55 children. (1)

(1) C. J. Ferguson - *Dowie*, The Early History of Indians in Natal : pp. 5-12.

PLACE OF ORIGIN IN INDIA

In tracing the origin of my grandfather, I discovered, through ~~information~~^{or} information obtained at the Department of Internal Affairs, that he had lived in the village of ^{PULIYENKANNU} Luliyenkannee. This village is situated in the district of North Arcot in Madras. I also discovered that he ad belonged to the Dholuy caste.

SOCIAL- ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

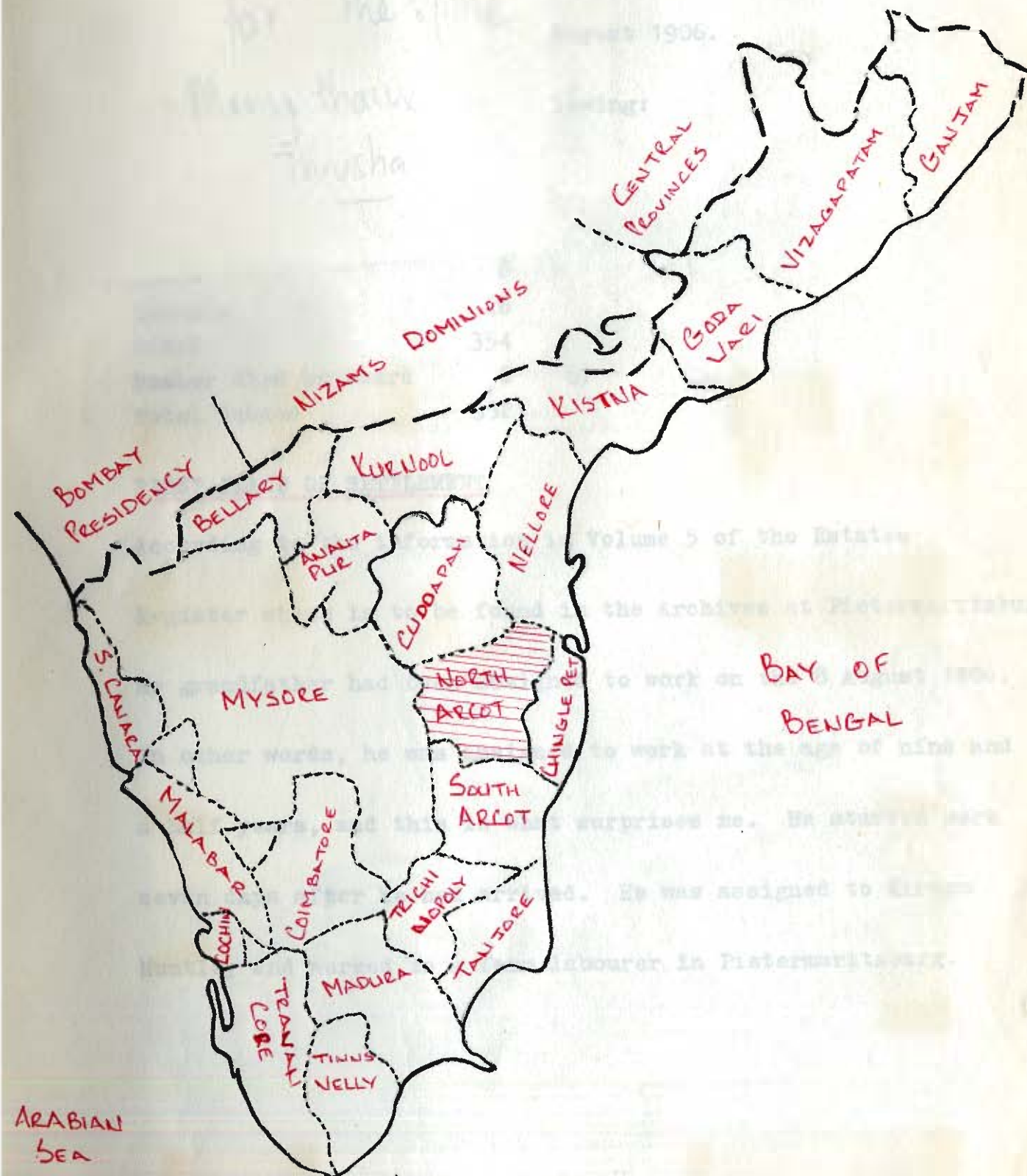
With regards to his social economic background, I was told that he was not an extreme case, in that, he was not extremely wealthy or extremely poor, but that he had belonged to the average social-economic group.

REASONS FOR LEAVING ORIGINAL COUNTRY

According to the information received at the Department of Internal Affairs, he was only nine and a half years when he had arrived in Natal and that no relatives of his had accompanied him. In the light of this information, one wonders why a boy of this age, did in fact come. However through interviews, I discovered that he had been accompanied by close friends of the family. So I would say, that a boy of this age could have only come for the sake of ^{py} pure adventure and curiosity.

PRESIDENCY BOUNDARY

DISTRICT BOUNDARY



DATES OF DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL TO SOUTHERN AFRICA.

He came to South Africa on board the Pongola 57.

The ship left the Port of Madras on the 10 July 1906,
and arrived in Natal on the 1 August 1906.

On board the ship were the following:

Men	213	
Women	86	
Boys	21	
Girls	8	
Infants	26	
Total	354	
Number died on board	2	(1)
Total landed	352	

FIRST PLACE OF SETTLEMENT

According to the information in Volume 5 of the Estates

Register which is to be found in the Archives at Pietermaritzburg,

my grandfather had been assigned to work on the 8 August 1906.

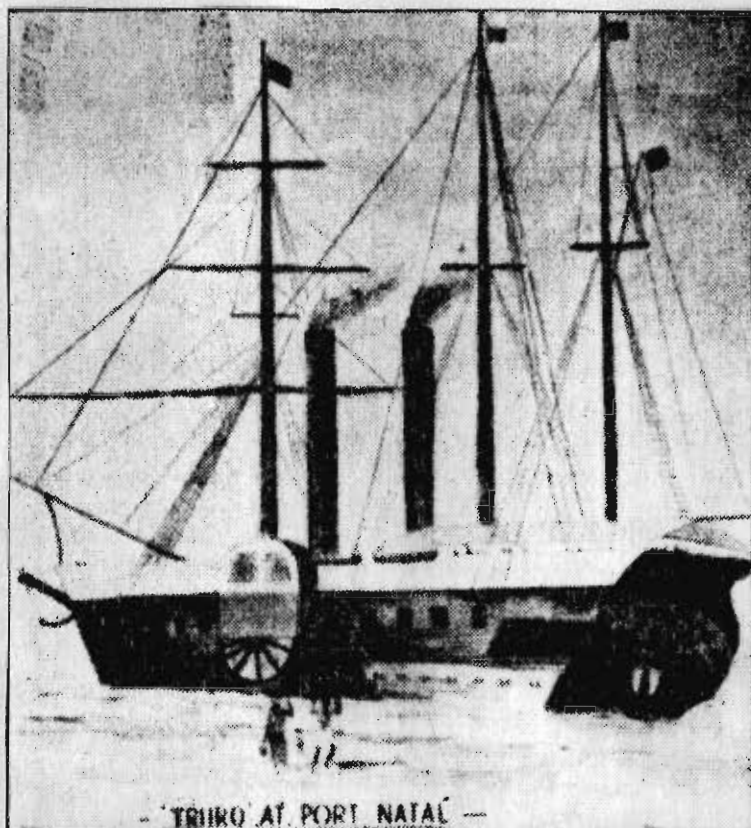
In other words, he was assigned to work at the age of nine and

a half years, and this is what surprises me. He started work

seven days after he had arrived. He was assigned to Kirton

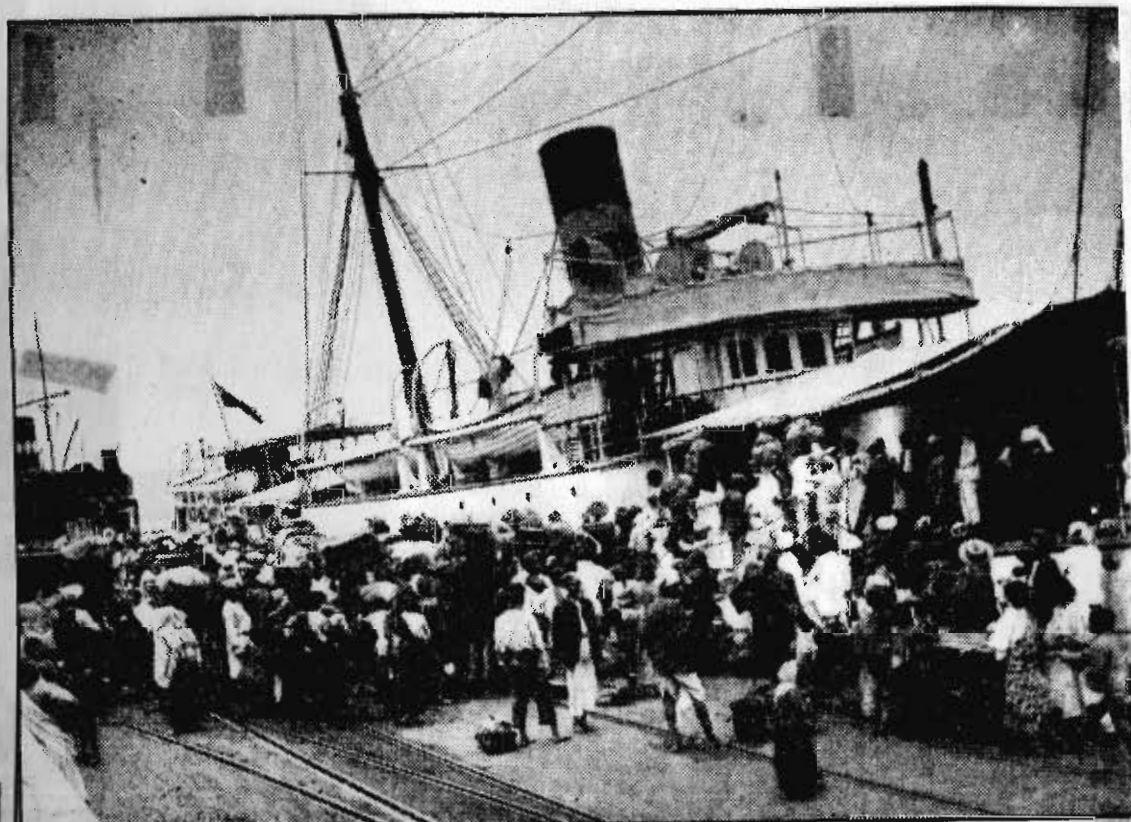
Huntley and worked as a farm labourer in Pietermaritzburg.

(1) Report of the Protector of Immigrants.



— 'TRURO' AT PORT NATAL —

The first ship arrives: The s.s. Truro anchored off the South Beach, Durban, on November 16, 1860, bringing indentured Indian labourers to Natal.



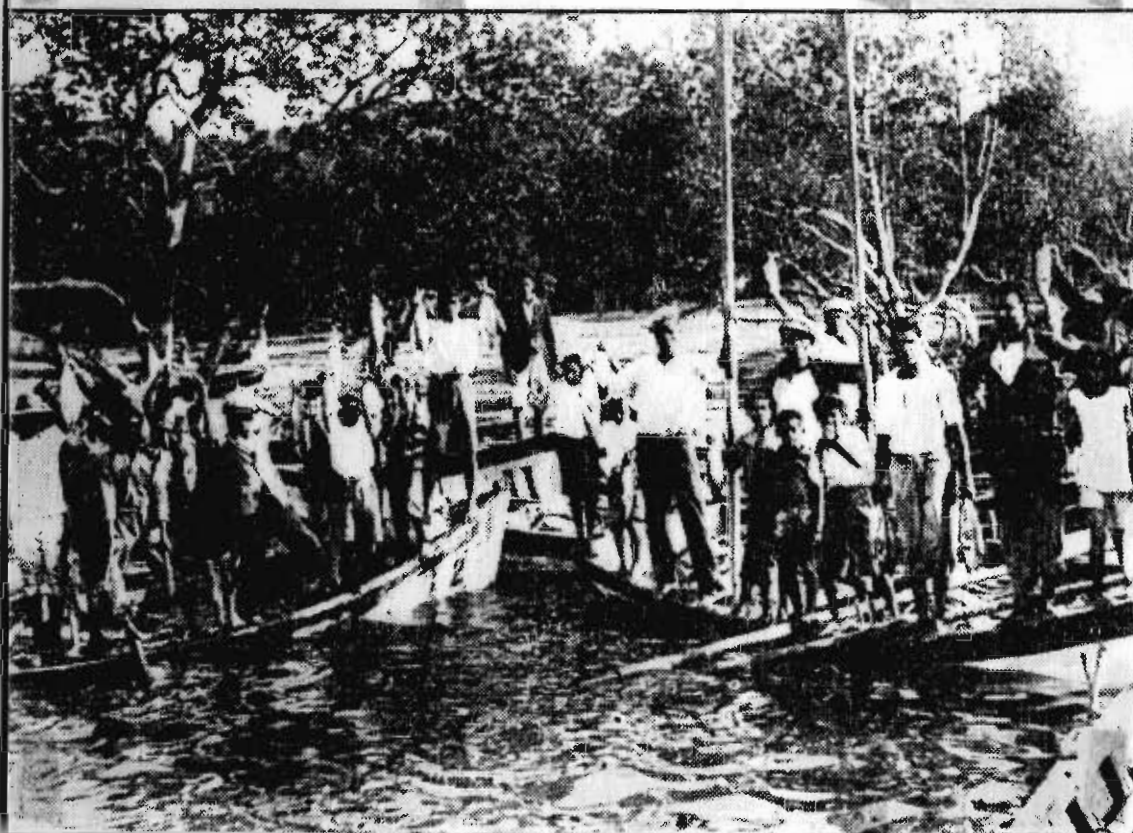
After 10 years of service, some Indians, taking advantage of the free passage, returned home where they lodged complaints of poor conditions and enslavement in the Natal cane fields.



Indentured Indians are shown working in the cane fields. Instead of the stipulated nine hours, they were made to work eleven.

They were married in Georgetown. During this time, he had been

Indentured labourers on becoming free, began market gardening, hawking or fishing. Indians are born fishermen and took to this occupation with great enthusiasm.



SUBSEQUENT PLACES OF SETTLEMENTS AND OCCUPATIONS

After his contract had expired in Pietermaritzburg, he moved to Greytown. In Greytown he worked as a farmhand on the Umvozana for Mr. C.M.G. Horton. He spent most of his life on this farm. However he eventually moved to Seven Oaks. He thereafter moved to Gillets where he worked for a man who lived in Hillcrest. He lived here until his death.

MARRIAGE, BIRTH OF CHILDREN

Sanjeevy married Saraswathy on the 17 January 1941.

They were married in Greytown. During this time, he had been working on the Umvozana. It was on this farm that all his children had been born. There were six children in all, four boys and two girls. When the youngest child was six months old,/...



To Whom it may concern

re: Indian Immigrants Marriage
Sanjeevy - Sarswathy

Indian Immigrant ^FSANJEEVY (male)
married. SARSWATHY, (Female)
Colonial Born, No: $\frac{107631}{135828}$, on
the 22nd day of February 1929,
before the Magistrate, at The
Magistrate's Office, Greytown.
Official Numbers of
Contracting Parties: - $\frac{124528}{124}$
29.

Witness

(1) Asst. Secy.

Jascha Kuyke.
Res. Office.
Greytown

old, Saraswathy passed away. It was after this incident that he had moved away to Seven Oaks.

With regard to religion, he was a Tamilian and followed the Hindu Religion. Through the interviews, I learnt that he had not been involved in any political activities.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion I would like to say that if Natal had refrained from encouraging Indian labour, it would have been less prosperous than in fact it is. It was only later on with the steady flow of Indians into the colony that the Whites began to fear the formation of a permanent Indian communitiy in Natal.⁽¹⁾ The authorities should have been more alive to the situation and taken steps to/...

(1) Mabel Palmer ; History of Indians in Natal . p.29

to educate the imigrants so that they would
be able to fit in with the general lines
of Natal life. However attention was
only paid on attaining a supply of cheap
and docile labour.⁽¹⁾

(1) Mabel Palmer, History of Indians in Natal, p. 29

TRANSCRIPT OF THE INTERVIEW WITH MY UNCLE

QUESTION: Could you tell me everything that you know about your father after he arrived in Natal?

ANSWER: Well, he lived in Maritzburg for a while, I don't know who he worked for there or even where he worked. But after that he moved to Greytown, where he worked for C.M.G. Herton on the Umvozana. He worked as a farm labourer. He was about 20 years old at this time. While working on the farm all of us were born, there were six children altogether, when the youngest was six months my mother had passed away.

QUESTION: Do you remember where you moved to after that?

ANSWER: After my mother passed away, my father moved to Seven Oaks and then later to Gillett's. He worked on the farm of a man who lived in Hillcrest.

QUESTION: Did any of his relatives accompany him?

ANSWER: No he had come with some very close friends of the family. His parents, brothers, sisters and other close relatives had all ~~remained~~ remained in India. That's the reason why our family here is so small, It's only my father, his six children and great grand children.

QUESTION: Which religion did he follow?

ANSWER: He was a Tamilian and he followed the Hindu Religion?

SOURCE LIST

- (1) Ferguson - Davie C.F. The Early History of Indians in Natal
- (2) Palmer Mabel, History of Indians in Natal ;
Oxford University Press, London/New York (1957)
- (3) Pather S. Centenary of Indians ; 1860-1960 ,
Durban, Cavalier 1961
- (4) Report of the Protector of Immigrants.
- (5)