



## Heritage of Haryana (Jhajjar, Rohtak, Panipat)

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### Abstract

The state of Haryana was carved out of Punjab state on 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 1966. Every nook and corner of the present Haryana has its glorious past and is richly laden land of Heritage. The now surviving historical Heritage in present Haryana region is the creation of all such ruling chieftains. Most of such existing historical structures are of great architectural importance and narrate the past glory of this region. Some of those are protected monuments of archaeological departments, while some are still lying in abandoned state. I explained the hidden and ignored structures, which are of great historical importance. The work after completion, will surely upgrade the status of Haryana State globally.

**Keywords:** *Heritage, Historical, Tombs, monuments.*

### Heritage of Haryana

1. Jhajjar
2. Rohtak
3. Panipat

### Jhajjar

Jhajjar is a town situated in the outskirts of imperial capital of Delhi. It is said to be founded by a Jhajhu jat about one thousand years ago. It had been a fief of royal Delhi rulers since medieval periods. A group of centuries old tombs existed at Jhajjar narrate about its past glory. As per available authentic historical sources, the Mughal Emperor Jahangir granted the area of nearby village Sikanderpur to his loyal Kalal official as Jageer. The Kalas established themselves at Jhajjar as petty chieftains and their successors ruled there for about one hundred years i.e. till 1718. Though

as per descriptions about available inscriptions, Jhajjar had been an old ruling Pargana during the regime of Akbar as well. All the existing elegant mausoleums and tombs were erected during the era of Mughal Dynasty, in the east of Jhajjar town. Local people though call those monuments as Makbaras of Nawabs, due to lack of proper knowledge, because the rules of Jhajjar were titled as Nawabs during the British era which started from 1804 onwards. Jhajjar had a long chain of administrators/rulers before the commencement of Nawab's period i.e. only for 53 years (1804 to 1857). But it is also a fact that Jhajjar could attain a great fame, developed as a biggest.

Princely state of Haryana, during the rule of Nawabs. The ancestors of Jhajjar Nawabs were natives of Afghanistan, who migrated to India in 18<sup>th</sup> century and got appointments with Delhi emperors. The first Nawab Nizamat Ali Khan did good service with the British in occupying Delhi in 1803. Consequently he succeeded in receiving Jhajjar as a Riyasat for ever, on some terms and conditions imposed. The success Nawabs constituted a big army of about 5000 soldiers independently and became enough powerful, even to assist the British authorities as and when needed. They were granted a vast territory including Jhajjar, Badli, Bawal, Kanti, Narnaul, Kanaund and the whole surrounding area of Jhajjar. All the three Nawabs of Jhajjar remained faithful allies of British, except the fourth. The fourth Nawab was Abdur Rehman Khan, who could not serve the British like his predecessors during the shaking storm of 1857. He helped the freedom fighters instead, under

Newly crowned king of India, Bahadurshah Zafer. Prior to the Nawab's period. Various prominent outsiders held the charge of Jhajjar Pargana. Among them worth mentioning briefly, was a native of Ireland, named George Thomas.

He held Jhajjar for about eight years (1794-1801) and established himself so firmly and rather independently that the surrounding chiefs of Punjab used to trail/tramble by his name. he built a new fort five miles west of Jhajjar and named it after his own name Georgegarh. Now it is known as Jhajjar and has grown of full village around that fort the history of Jhajjar state is given in Twarikh-i-Jhajjar, an old book written in Persian, by Ghulam Nabi and published at Lahore.

A brief account about the rules of Jhajjar since last 400 years, which I collected from many sources is being given as under (Twarikh-i-Jhajjar).

1. The Kalal rulers ruled from 1620 to 1718. A.D. Emperor Jahangir granted Sikanderpur village near Jhajjar to the Kalals first of all. The Kalals commenced their ruling career by establishing them at Jhajjar and Kol Kalal area.
2. Aliddin – 1718 to 1720. Delhi emperor Farukhsiar granted Jhajjar as Jageer to his Wazir named Aliddin.
3. Mir Murtza Khan Irani – 1749 to 1754 Due to Political disturbances and fueds between Wazir Safdarjang and Imad ul Mulk at Delhi.
4. Akil Khan Afgan 1720-1745.
5. Under Farukh Nagar Nawabs 1754 to 1762 Then Imad ul MULK became royal Wazir at Delhi, he got Jhajjar as a traditional fief.
6. Under Bharatpur Rajas – 1762 to 1773 Bharatpur Maharaja Surajmal invaded Farukhnagar and most of the adjoining area to Delhi.
7. Under General Samroa a French native (1774 to 1778).
8. Begum Samroa (1778 to 1785).
9. Mirza Najaf Quali Khan (1785 to 1789).
10. Mirza Ismail Beg (1789 to 1791).
11. Shahib Singh Manza Singh Sikhs (1791 to 1792).
12. George Thomas an Irish native (1794 to 1801).

## Historical – Heritage of Jhajjar

The oldest one is a Kali Masjid, build by Daud Khan son of Malik Asharag Afghan in 799H or 1397 AD. The second oldest is Bazarwali Masque built by some Nawab Rami Khan. During the regime of Akbar the great, the third mosque known as Shah Bura Masjid was built by Muhammad Ibrahim in 1569 A.D. The fourth mosque, Shait khan wali Masjid started by Rustam Khan, son of Muhammad Khan which was completed in 1625. All the above had inscriptions, where the name of its builder and year was inscribed. (Inscription of Haryana p. 61-68).

## Tombs Complex of Jhajjar

The tombs were twelve in numbers, but now only seven are surviving, while the remains of others five tombs are only stone walls of their platforms. Each tomb is built of Khankar stones and erected on raised platforms. The most elegant is the mausoleum of Hasan Shahid, began in 1625. Hassan was killed in a battle and the daughter of kot Kalal built that thomb. That lady was unmarried and popularly known as Bhua. The pucca masonary tank was built by Rai Darghal on present Sampls Road in 1036 H.e.i. about 1625A.D. (Rohtak Distt. Gazett, p. 44).

The memorial shaped building is said to be built by some wealthy merchant of Jhajjar. It was built for providing safe shelter, drinking water, with an attached well and garden, to take rest and halting purpose of the travelers. Anothers such ancient Baoli is existing at Luhari village.

## Rohtak

Rohtak is situated in the middle of Haryana state and on the old imperial route of Delhi-Hissar\_Agroha Multan, known as Shahi Suleman Road. The oldest city of Rohtak was inhabited on the ancient mounds nof Khokhra Kot, existing in the north of present city. It could not be revealed exactly that when was Khokhra Kot abandoned. Here were built some mosques which bear inscriptions dated 1309AD, 1324AD, 1527AD, 1538AD, 1558AD and 1556AD.

One arrived of the British in Delhi in 1803 Rohtak was granted to Dujana Nawab. But that Nawab too showed his helplessness in

keeping the trabulent area of Rohtak and surrendered in 1809, after the loss of his son as well as of his one relative. That Nawab's eldest son was killed by the jats of Bhiwani, while his son-in-law was killed by the jats of Bhor village during the collection of revenue.

That was absolutely new system of British administration on Rohtak, which went on till 1858. A British officer named Gen. GC Mundy, had a chance to pass through Rohtak in 1828 during accompanying the trip of Governor General from Himalayas to Calcutta. He remarked about the antiquity of Rohtak thus "The ancient and consequently ruinous town of Rohtak. The wide circuit of its dilapidated fortifications and still elegant domes of many time-worn tanks tell melancholy tales of goneby grandeur.

### **Fort of Rohtak**

A centuries old fort was situated at Rohtak, in present Quila Mohlla. That fort was built by shekhs of Yaman under Kazi Sultan Muhammad Surkh during Ghori Dynasty kings. The then emperor Delhi Mahmud Tughlaq posted two brothers named Malik Idrees and Mubariz Khan at that fort in 1400A.D. The fort of Rohtak was besieged by Sayad Khizer Khan in 1410 which could only succeed after a long siege of six months.

### **British Cemetery**

There are some tomb stones, having dated inscriptions in the graveyard near mini secretariat building of Rohtak. Previously it was said to be surrounded by a garden, but now only a narrow strip of land is left far this cemetery.

It has some 180 years old historic tombstones, like that of DC Moore and others. This centuries old cemetery is quite in a deserted condition now and a thick thorny plantation has covered the very attractive tomb stones there. It needs to be restored in a better way, with adequate guards.

### **All Centers Church**

Rohtak being the oldest District of Haryana, the British officers used to reside here since 1810A.D. Those British constructed a Church at Rohtak, which was completed on 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep. 1867. It was named as All Center Church. Its central hall was built by Maj.

Feindala in the memory of his daughter Athel Nora, while the contribution for woodwork was given by JF Bruster and RF Kalenal.

### **Asthal Bohar Manastery (Rohtak)**

An ancient Monastery of Kanfhara Jogis sect is existing on Delhi Rohtak Road. Being situated near the village Bohar. It is popularly known as Asthal Bhor Monastery. Though it had been a place of meditation by Sadhus since long back, the present Monastery was founded by Baba Mast Nath in 1731 A.D. The place where Chaurangi Nathji meditated for twelve years by establishing a continuous fire is known as Dhuni. The Monastery runs many charity institutions like Medical and Engineering colleges, Eye Hospital etc. at a larger scale. It has an high spiritual regard and honoured status among the public of Haryana.

### **Antiquities of Meham**

Meham is a sub division of Rohtak District, situated 25kms. away on Rohtak-Hissar Road. The town of Meham was Muslim dominated since ancient times. So it had a lot of Mohommadan Heritage, still existing in scattered locations. During Mughal era, it was granted to Shahbaz Khan by Emperor Akber. It flourished to the maximum extent during that era. While in the reign of Aurangzeb Meham was plundered by the Rajputs under the leadership of Durga Das (Ibid. p. 25,43).

It had been a Pargana of Hissar Sarkar. Towards the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century, Meham was held by some others Chieftains like George. Thomas and Jind Rajas, but only for short Span.

### **Tombs of Meham**

- (i) Two tombs, one is most elegant and the other one is smaller under a pital tree, are behind the famous Baoli. Situated amidst the cultivating fields, both are badly treated.
- (ii) Two small tombs are existing on the raised mound, along the northern wall of Meham stadium. An unsuccessful attempt of alteration is made with both of those old tombs.
- (iii) Two tombs are situated in the campus of a private school

named SKG. The daring school owner has not only defaced them but also enclosed them in between the classrooms. That area is known as Khangah and a mosque was also there. As per some information's collected through search engines, the tomb's at Khangah belong to two person Hazrat Shah Muhammad Ramzan Mahami.

- (iv) Two Tombs are struggling against their encroachers in the east of Meham on Rohtak road. Both are across a water channel, situated on either side of the main road.
- (v) Four tombs are situated along the Meham Kheri link road of which, dome of one has now been fallen and merely four masonry supports are standing. The other one is half dismantled, cutting an exact cross section of its dome. Though the third is in satisfactory state but again the fourth situated on other side of that road, is converted in to a tubewell room by an encroacher.
- (vi) The last two are situated an opposite side of stadium. One is said of Dhuley Shah and is moderate shaped tomb. Though it is now crumbling but its dome is very attractive. It is quite along Hissar road. It had been converted into a Gurudwara by the emigrants, after partition of India in 1947.

### **Baoli of Meham**

The Baoli of Meham was built by Saidu Kalal, a mace bearer to emperor Shah Jahan in 1658-59 A.D. It is a water drawing and storing system in abundance, Known as Baouli. It is a combined structure of a broad well, with slanting flight of wider steps approaching gradually to the octagonal chamber.

General Mundy too remarked about this Baoli in 1828 and about others monuments of Meham as "The most remarkable relique of Mohomdam

magnificence is a stufendous Baolee. It is monument of public utility, worthy the munificnee of a Romam Empire.

The said Baoli was also a hiding place for the thieves and robbers. That is why locally it is still known as "Jani Chor ki Bali" Now it is a protected monument under ASI department.

### **Panipat**

Panipat is the most ancient part in Haryana that existed from the times of great battle Mahabhartta i.e. for 5000 years. Hence three famous historical battles were fought in 1526, in 1556 and in 1761 here at Panipat. The manely known of them was an Ansari family, who held Panipat since later Mughals era. Khawaza Abdul Razak Ansari was at the post of chief countier of Delhi during Emperor Alamgir. Panipat was assigned to him as Jageer, whose sons added a trememdous glory to the city of Panipat. Razak's one son named Dilerdil Khan became viceroy of Kabul. His second son Zakaria Khan was appointed as Governor of Lahore. His third son Lat Fullah Khan Sadik remained in-charge of Rod Fort Delhi during Nadir Shahs invasion in 1739. he too held the reputed post of Wazir at Delhi, during the regin of Emperor Muthammad Shah, while the fourth son of Ansari, Shakrula Sher Khan was appointed as Subedar of Thatta. (Karnal Distt. Gazetter p. 173).

Marathas assigned Panipat to Baks Shaym Rao, Begam Samru and to George Thomas for a shorter span, during their supremacy at Delhi throne around the end of 18<sup>th</sup> century. On arrival of the British in Delhi, they allotted Panipat to Nawab Baqar Ali Khan in exchange of their Jageer at Bihar around 1805. His successors were Nawab Amanulla Khan, Nawab Fazal Ahmad Khan and Nawab Nasir Ahmad Khan. During portion of India in 1947, most of their family members migrated to Pakistan. The historic city of Panipat had great antiquity. There was an old fort in Panipat, whose few traces are still visible. During the stormy days of revolt of 1857, the freedom fighters of this area were said to be assembled in that fort. An old Indian gun of 8 feet length was fitted in that fort of Panipat which too was thrown over the forts rampoart and broken by the British (ibid p. 305,306).

## **Ibrahim Lodhis Tomb**

The first Mughal conqueror Babar defeated the then Indian Emperor Ibrahim Lodhi in the 1<sup>st</sup> battle of Panipat in 1526. the Lodhi king was slain in the battle field of Panipat on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1526 and a new rule of Mughals Dynasty started in India since then. An open memorial was erected for Ibrahim Lodhi by the Distt. administration in 1866. It is quite simple over a raised masonry platform and not so magnificent. As per Distt. Karnal Gazetteer. "It was one of Sher Shah Suris dying regrets that he has never fulfilled his intension of erecting a tomb to the fallen Lodhi Manorch" (Ibid. p. 34-36).

## **Babers-Kabuli Bagh Mosque (Panipat)**

The first Mughal invader and founder of Mughal dynast in India emperor Baber constructed a mosque and garden for rejoicing his victory. He named Kabuli Bagh, after the name of one of his queens, Kabuli Bagrum. During his short reign of five years (1526-30), he too built two other mosques at Ayodha and Sambhal in India. Babar's son Emperor Humayun added a masonry platform to this structure after his victory over Salim Shah and named that Chabutra Fateh Mubarak.

The Kabuli Bagh Mosque at Panipat is credited to be the first structure of Mughal kings in India. The mosque too has an inscription dating 934- Hijri or 1527 A.D. It is now a protected monument under ASI department.

## **Bab-I Faiz Gate (Panipat)**

The historical city of Panipat had an enclosing wall all around the city. And there were fifteen entering gateway in that defensive wall. Salar Ganjgate in North, Shah Wilayat in South and Madhoganj in the East were some of those gateways.

But now none of those old gateways exist Lutfalla Khan, the son of highly reputed. Ansari family and the then Delhi Wazir also constructed another elegant Gateway in 1737 at Panipat. This gateway is known as Bab-i-

Faiz Gate which consists of high arched openings on its both ends.

## **Dargah-Kalander Sahib**

There is about seven hundreded years old Dargah of a very celebrated saint, Bu Ali Shah Kalander at Salar Faquir-ud-din. The saint is said to be meditated constantly in river Yamnua which flown in the vicinity of Panipat at the time. After his demise, his followers Khizer Khan and Shadi Khan, the sons of then Emperor Ala-Udd-din Khalzi had erected his tomb here.

During the British regime, a certain annual amount was granted for the up keeping of this shrine. But after detecting some suspicious activities from the shrine complex in 1857, its Annual grant was reduced to half (Ibid, p.57, 305).

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