

History of Daudputra Rulers of Bahawalpur State Ancestral History of Daudputras

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The Daudputras of Bahawalpur State and the Kalhoras of Sind claimed Abbasside* descent and called themselves Abbasia.¹ The Abbasside Caliphs of Baghdad commanded great respect in the eyes of the Muslim rulers of Delhi. During the Sultanate period, it was a common practice to get a royal Khillat and Farman from Baghdad in order to legalise their government in India.

After the fall of Baghdad in 1258, the Abbassides ran away to different places to save their lives and honour. During the same period, Egypt was being ruled by the 'Sultan Baibers, al-Malik az-Zahir'. 'Baibers appreciated the necessity of reviving the Caliphate, and he invited to Cairo, Ahmad (Abul Kasim), as scion of the house of Abbas who had escaped the massacre of his family'. 'On the arrival of the young prince in the environs of Cairo, the Sultan went forth to meet him with the Kazis and officers of State. After his descent had been formally proved before the Chief Kazi, he was acknowledged as Caliph under the title of al-Mustansir billah'.² The Sultan and all his subordinate officers took oath of allegiance. This occurred on the '13th of Rajab 659 A.H. (12 May, 1261), and the new Caliph's name was impressed on the coinage and recited in the Khutba'.³ Having been formally installed the Caliph of the Faithful, he proceeded to invest the Sultan with the robe and diploma so essential in the eyes of the orthodox for legitimate authority.

*Descendants of Hazrat Abbas (uncle of Prophet Muhammad—peace be upon him).

Thus was revived at Cairo the Abbasside Caliphate under the auspices of the warrior Sultan. Henceforth it was a purely spiritual office.

Sultan Ahmad II, a descendant of Abul-Kasim Ahmad al-Mustansir billah, reached Sind via Kich Mikran between 1366-70⁴ with the hope to establish his government in the territory of Sind with the help of his family influence in the area. He was welcomed by Rai Dhorang, the ruler of *Kot Kanchi** who gave the hand of his daughter to Sultan Ahmad II.⁵ This way, he settled down in Sind, where he founded a town which is not traceable. Sultan Ahmad II left three sons from the daughter of Rai Dhorang, the eldest Abul Nasr succeeded Rai Dhorang.⁶ His maternal uncle Jag Rai challenged his succession but the matter was settled with the good offices of Umar IV bin Doda, the ruler of Umar Kot. Ultimately, Abul Nasr was married with the daughter of Jag Rai who gave birth to a son named Abdul Kahir.⁷ He succeeded his father as the chief of the area. After the death of Abdul Kahir, his son Sikandar became the chief of the territory. After Sikander's death, his son Fatehullah Khan faced opposition from Rai Dallu, the ruler of Brahmanabad, Aror and Sone Miani. It resulted his expulsion from his territory.⁸ Fatehullah Khan crossed the Indus and captured the territory, situated in the west, from the Gujjars and founded a town there named *Kahira Bela*.†⁹ He was succeeded by his son Bahauallah Khan as the chief of Kahira Bela.

Muhammad Cheeni Khan (Amir Muhammad Channi Khan), son of Bahauallah Khan, was the person who introduced his family in Sind by dint of his sheer ability.¹⁰ A new era started with his succession as the chief of the Daudputras. He was a man of great qualities. He established his family in Sind and left good name in the history. Amir Muhammad Channi Khan joined the Mughal service during the reign of Akbar. When his son Prince Murad visited Multan, Amir Muhammad Channi Khan paid him allegiance and presented several valuable presents. When the Prince learnt the noble origin of family, he conferred on him the title of

*A place in Sind which is not traceable.

†His ruins were located 3½ miles south west of village Jan. See: Haig, *The Indus Delta Country*, p. 111.

Panjhazari Mansab and directed that the revenue of the *ilaga* (territory) from *Ubaura* to *Lahori Bandar* should be collected by him on behalf of the Mughal Emperor. He was also granted a large *Jagir* and settled in *Siwistan* (Sehwan) where he founded a town named *Jhankara Bajara*.**11 He left several sons but two of them played important role in the history. Before his death, he nominated Amirzada Muhammad Mehdi Khan as his successor who became the ancestor of the Kalhoras of Sind and conferred spiritual leadership on his second son Amir Muhammad Daud Khan who was ancestor of the Daudputra rulers of Bahawalpur State. Amirzada Muhammad Mehdi Khan died soon leaving one son Ibrahim known as Kalhora Khan. His death invited dispute over the succession between Kalhora Khan and his uncle Muhammad Daud Khan. It divided the family which ultimately weakened the political position of the Abbassides in Sind. 'Ultimately Amir Daud Khan was forced by circumstances to withdraw his claim, and abandoning the throne to Kalhora he went with his followers to *Wadera Jhangi Khan*, the owner of *Shahr Wanji*, where he founded villages and took to agriculture.¹²

Thus the Abbassides were divided into two groups. The descendants of Kalhora Khan, known as the Kalhoras, ruled over Sind and the descendants of Daud Khan known as the Daudputras, ruled over Bahawalpur State.

Daud Khan left a vast country and was succeeded in turn by Mahmud Khan, Muhammad Khan I and Amir Daud Khan II whose son Chandar Khan's successor Amir Salih Muhammad was well-intentioned ruler and was recognised as the chief of Daudputras. He was succeeded by Haibat Khan and the latter by Amir Bhakkar Khan I. The Daudputras were interested in agriculture. Bahadur Khan I son of Amir Bhakkar Khan I finding the ancestral territory insufficient, decided to leave *Wanji* and went to the town of *Munwah* and for the next four generations remained there. 'Bahadur Khan I was succeeded by Bhakkar Khan II and the latter by Muhammad Khan II in the headship of the family.'¹³ On the death of Muhammad Khan II, his son Arab Khan did not take interest in the worldly

**Situating ten miles west of Sehwan.

affairs. He was a pious man. He appointed his younger brother Firoz Khan as the chief of his tribe. Since then the chieftainship had been held by his descendants. Firoz Khan was not interested in agriculture. He left *Mawah* and migrated to *Tarai* where he established himself as a powerful chief of the territory.¹⁴ His son and successor 'Bahadur Khan II abandoned *Tarai* and settled in *Bakkar*, acquiring a large area on the banks of the Indus from *Mirza Khan*, who held *Sind* under the Emperor *Alamgir*, as an *inam* (gift). 'He founded the town of *Shikarpur*, still a flourishing town in *Sind*, and in its territory the canal and dam of *Punnun Khan*, built by and named after a nephew of *Bahadur Khan*, are still known by that name'.¹⁵

Soon *Nasir Muhammad Khan Kalhora* became jealous of *Bahadur Khan II* and attacked his territory. *Bahadur Khan* was supported by *Mirza Khan*, the *Mughal Governor of Sind* but they were defeated by the *Kalhoras*. Ultimately *Prince Muhammad Muizz-ud-Din*, the *Mughal Governor of Multan*, came to their rescue and the *Kalhoras* were defeated. *Nasir Muhammad Khan Kalhora* was made prisoner and was sent to *Delhi* to the *Mughal Court*. *Bahadur Khan II* was succeeded by his son *Muhammad Mubarak Khan I* in 1702. In the meantime, *Mirza Khan* died and the people revolted against his tyrant son and successor *Bakhtiyar Khan* who took refuge with *Muhammad Mubarak Khan I*. But *Bakhtiyar Khan* instigated *Syed Arzan Shah*, chief of the territory of *Miran Shah* against *Muhammad Mubarak Khan I*. The circumstances compelled *Muhammad Mubarak Khan I* to seek the help of the *Mughal Governor of Multan*. He, therefore, went to *Multan* to *Prince Muizz-ud-Din* for help against *Bakhtiyar Khan*. In the meantime, *Ghazi Khan Mirrani*, *Governor of Dera Ghazi Khan*, 'raised the standard of revolt and would certainly have defeated *Prince Muhammad Muizz-ud-Din* had not the *Amir* with his men* reached the field in time. With their help the *Prince* defeated the rebels'.¹⁶ These services won the favour of the *Prince* and he accompanied *Amir Muhammad Mubarak Khan I* to *Shikarpur* where *Bakhtiyar Khan* was defeated and killed. 'The *Prince* entered *Shikarpur* in great pomp, and after bestowing rewards on *Muhammad Mubarak*

*300 picked Abbasi soldiers.

Khan I and other Abbasis granted them Shikarpur, Bakhtiyarpur and Khanpur in *Jagir* and also entrusted to them the superintendence of the fort and district of Bhakkar'.¹⁷ It increased his political influence in Sind.

The Kalhoras became jealous of his political influence which resulted in a war.¹⁸ With the help of the Mughal army, Amir Muhammad Mubarak Khan I defeated Yar Muhammad Khan, the Kalhora chief, who ran away to the Cholistan. Now the Kalhora chief sent valuable presents to the Mughal Court at Delhi along with the tribute and thus obtained the title of Khuda Yar Khan. He was also appointed a mansabdar of the Empire and received charge of the province of Sibi with the southern part of Bhakkar. Khuda Yar Khan was succeeded by his son Mian Nur Muhammad Khan as the chief of Kalhoras in 1719 at Sibi. He could not tolerate the political influence of Muhammad Mubarak Khan I, the Daudputra chief in the territory of Shikarpur, therefore, he besieged Shikarpur in 1725. During the siege, in August 1726, Muhammad Mubarak Khan I died and was succeeded by his son Sadiq Muhammad Khan I who decided to leave Shikarpur and went to Khanpur. But the Kalhoras pursued him there and forced him to cross the Indus. The Daudputras got protection in *Bet Dabli* (Dera Ghazi Khan), a fertile island in the Indus. But the Kalhoras pursued them there. This way after being defeated, the Daudputras under the guidance of their able chief Sadiq Muhammad Khan I left Sind and started new career in the area of influence of Mukhdum Bukhari and Mukhdum Gilani of Uch leaving *Bet Dabli*, in 1727-28.¹⁹

RULERS OF BAHAWALPUR STATE

Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan I

Sadiq Muhammad Khan I was the founding father of Bahawalpur State. He reached Multan and 'received (in 1141 A. H.) the *ilaga* (territory) of *Chaudhari* in *Jagir* from Nawab Hayatullah Khan,* Subedar of Multan. In this *ilaga* he effected many improvements and laid the foundations of *Allahabad*,** three miles from the town

*Shah Nawaz Khan son of Khan Bahadur Zakariya Khan, the Mughal Viceroy of Lahore.

**Now a wealthy and populous town.

of Chaudhari.²⁰ On the order of Shah Nawaz Khan, Sadiq Muhammad Khan I defeated Farid Khan Lakhwera who had plundered the surrounding country. The Mughal Governor awarded him a *Sanad* and gave him the government of the *Shahr Farid* territory in 1145 A.H. The next year he also wrested the fort of Derawar from Rawal Akhi Singh.²¹ This way, a new era started.

When Nadir Shah marched on India, Sadiq Muhammad Khan I met him in Dera Ismail Khan and paid him allegiance. He also instigated him against the Kalhoras. Before leaving for his home journey, Nadir Shah gave him the title of Nawab and appointed him the Governor of Shikarpur, Larkana and Siwistan. Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan I left his eldest son Muhammad Bahawal Khan as in-charge of his territory of Chaudhari, Shahr Farid and Derawar.* After taking charge of Shikarpur, Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan I appointed Shaikh Sadiq as his Wazir at Shikarpur. Shaikh Sadiq became very influential and maintained a direct liaison with Nadir Shah. Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan became jealous of him and got him killed in 1745. Nadir Shah despatched a force which compelled him to appear before him in Iran. On his arrival at his court, Nadir Shah forgave him. But the Kalhoras instigated the neighbouring chiefs and on his return from Iran, he faced a strong opposition. The united army besieged Shikarpur and Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan was killed during the siege. Shikarpur was captured and the Daudputras ran away to the Cholistan.

The Daudputras left Sind for ever and started establishing themselves on the left bank of river Sutlej. Soon they succeeded in establishing an independent State on the left bank of Sutlej known as Bahawalpur State. In 1748, when Maharaja Kaura Mal was Governor of Multan under Mir Muinul Mulk, the Mughal Viceroy of Lahore, Janesar Khan, Governor of Dera Ghazi Khan, revolted. Nawab Bahawal Khan I assisted the Mughal army which defeated Janesar Khan and received a large territory in the south of Multan known as Adam Wahan on the annual lease for only four thousand rupees.²² He dug many canals, specially the *Bahawal Wah (Canal)* played an important role in the prosperity of the people.

*Situated in Bahawalpur State.

'During his reign in 1748, Bahawalpur was founded and several other towns built including Qaimpur, Hasilpur, Taranda Ali Murad Khan, Shahbazpur and Muhammadpur Lamma. The Nawab also cut a canal, from the Ghara to Paharhala, now called the Khanwah or Nangni. The Qutbwha was also dug by one son of the founder of Ahmadpur East and the Wahi Qadir Dinna Khan by another. Muhammad Bahawal Khan I died on the 7th of Rajab 1163 A. H. (1749)'.²³

Nawab Bahawal Khan I was the real founder of Abbasi dynasty which ruled over Bahawalpur State for about two hundred years. Bahawalpur State was such a vast country that its length from north-east to south-west was about 300 miles and its breadth was 40 miles. He established his rule and did a lot for the welfare of his people. He had cordial relations with the Mughal Governors of Dera Ghazi Khan, Multan and the Hindu rulers of Bikaner and Jaisalmer. He was issueless, therefore, he was succeeded by his younger brother Muhammad Mubarak Khan in 1749.

Nawab Muhammad Mubarak Khan II

Soon after his accession, he with the help of Maruf Khan of Khairpur Tamiwali, Qaim Khan Arbani of Qaimpur and Hasil Khan of Hasilpur wrested Marot from Jaisalmer. He also invaded the territory lying in the north and west of river Sutlej and the Panjnad. He conquered *Madwala* and *Shihni* (Muzaffargarh District) from the Nahr and the *Bet Doma* from Mukhdum Shaikh Raju of Sietpur in 1164 A.H. He also conquered the territories of Lodhran, Mailsi, Dunyapur and Khror (Multan District). The Afghan Subedar of Multan became jealous of him and instigated the Afghan King against him. Sardar Jahan Khan was despatched by Ahmad Shah Abdali against the Nawab of Bahawalpur on the request of Nawab Ali Muhammad Khan, the Afghan Governor of Multan. The Bahawalpuri army defeated the Afghan force near Khairpur Tamiwali and pursued it to Lal Sohanra. Ultimately peace was made and the Afghan army went back.

During his period he extended his area of political influence and did a lot for the welfare of his people. He dug many canals

and provided facilities to the agriculturists on the right bank of river Sutlej. It attracted a large number of population and people started migrating to his country. He also died childless on the 3rd of Rabi-ul-Awwal 1186 A.H. (1772).

Nawab Muhammad Bahawal Khan II

The late Nawab was succeeded by his nephew Prince Jaffar Khan son of Prince Fateh Khan with the title of Muhammad Bahawal Khan II. He was born on the same day when the news of death of Mian Nur Muhammad Kalhora, the deadly enemy of the Daudputras, reached Bahawalpur. His birth was considered a good omen. He maintained good relations with the Afghan Governors of Multan. But during the early period of Nawab Muzaffar Khan, Governor of Multan, due to misunderstanding, the Multani army under Abdul Karim Khan Babar marched on Bahawalpur but was defeated by the Bahawalpuri army on the right bank of the river Ghara in which the Afghan commander was killed. The Multani army ran away and was pursued upto Shujaabad. Ultimately peace was concluded. But the Afghan Governor availed the opportunity when Timur Shah, the Afghan king marched on India in 1780. He instigated him against the Nawab of Bahawalpur. On hearing the news of the Shah's approach, Nawab Muhammad Bahawal Khan II along with his family and treasure ran away to his stronghold of Derawar, situated in the heart of the water-less desert.²⁴ Timur Shah despatched his general Sardar Madad Khan who besieged Derawar and dug three wells at different places which provided sufficient water. The Daudputras resisted with great valour. In the meantime, the magazine in the Fort caught fire and the Fort of Derawar was captured.²⁵ It disheartened Nawab Bahawal Khan who requested for peace by sending his son Mubarak Khan to Timur Shah at Bahawalpur. He paid the Afghan King the arrears of the tribute and acknowledged his overlordship with the promise to remain loyal in future and 'agreed to supply troops to his overlord in case of a fight between him and the Sikhs'.²⁶ Timur Shah accepted his submission and retired to Kabul. Before leaving for Kabul, Timur Shah appointed Shah Muhammad Khan Badozai as the officer in charge of the Derawar Fort.²⁷ On the retirement of the Afghan King, the Nawab

forcibly took the Derawar Fort.²⁸ Shah Muhammad Khan ran away and appealed to Nawab Muzaffar Khan for help but the Nawab showed no response. It created better understanding between the Afghan Governor of Multan and the Nawab of Bahawalpur. They maintained cordial relations till the fall of Multan in 1818.

During the same period, Mukhdum Hamid Ganj Bakhsh Gilani of Uch, intrigued with the Kalhoras against Nawab Bahawal Khan and disturbed the peace of his territories and caused the area of Ahmadpur East to be plundered by dacoits. But the timely action of the Nawab defeated them and the Mukhdum was taken a prisoner.

In 1217 A.H., the Nawab with the permission of Shah Mahmud, the Afghan King 'opened a mint at Bahawalpur and struck gold, silver and copper coins'.²⁹ It was inscribed on the obverse *Humayun Shah Mahmud* and on the reverse *Dar-us-Surur-Bahawalpur*.³⁰ Prior to this the State had no mint.

In 1804, receiving the complaints against the Nawab about his policy of aggrandisement, Shah Shuja-ul-Mulk, the Afghan King, despatched a strong army under Ahmad Khan Nurzai to Bahawalpur but during his active campaign, the Afghan general was recalled because of disturbances in Afghanistan. After his retreat, the Nawab paid attention towards the complainants and subdued them. They all submitted to his overlordship in 1806, including Mukhdum Hamid Ganj Bakhsh of Uch, Fazle Ali Khan Halani, Islam Khan Kehrani and Haji Khan Mundhani.

In 1808 Mr. Mountstuart Elphinstone passed through his state and the Nawab concluded a treaty with the British Government.

During his reign, Bahawalpur, due to prosperity and safety, became the second home of the Multani Pathans. The Sikhs had already started devastating the territory of Multan, the noble families of Multan started shifting to Bahawalpur. It increased the prestige of the Daudputras. Nawab Muhammad Bahawal Khan II died on the 1st of Rajab 1224 A.H. (1809) at the age of 57 after a prosperous rule of 37 years. He was succeeded by his second son Sadiq Muhammad Khan.

Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan II

In the beginning of his reign, the Mazari and the Bozdar Baluch tribes of Dera Ghazi Khan invaded his territory on the west bank of the Indus but his timely action restored his prestige.

The late Nawab Bahawalpur had left seven sons, therefore, certain Daudputras including the royal Princes and Islam Khan Kehrani, Fazle Ali Halani with the active support of Mir Sohrab of Khairpur and Mir Ghulam Ali of Hyderabad created disturbance in Bahawalpur. Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan despatched a strong army under his commanders Fateh Muhammad Ghori, Ahmad Khan Tarin and Muhammad Yakoob to suppress their revolt. After several battles, the Nawab succeeded in restoring peace in his territory. But in 1811, his general Fateh Muhammad Ghori went against his master and deputed Sanjar Khan to kill the Nawab when he was coming back from his hunting trip. The moment, the Nawab reached Ahmadpur East, Sanjar Khan fired at him but it was good fortune for the Nawab that Sanjar Khan missed his target. The Nawab hurriedly reached Derawar in the midnight and despatched his army against the conspirators.³¹ Fateh Muhammad Ghori along with others ran away to Shujaabad where they received protection as well as help from Nawab Sarfaraz Khan son of Nawab Muzaffar Khan, Subedar of Multan. The Daudputras defeated the insurgents near Shujaabad³² in the territory of Nawab Muzaffar Khan who was away to Mecca for pilgrimage. On his return to Multan, Nawab Muzaffar Khan showed his annoyance to his son for mishandling the situation. He sent his envoy to Nawab of Bahawalpur to offer his regrets.³³

During the weak rule of the successors of Timur Shah, the Nawab of Bahawalpur maintained his independence. He had stopped paying tribute since the days of Shah Shuja-ul-Mulk. But Maharaja Ranjit Singh had started collecting 'Nazrana'. During the siege of Multan by the Sikhs in 1818, Nawab of Bahawalpur remained a spectator. He could only console the Pathan refugees from Multan. After the fall of Multan in 1819, the Maharaja got back the territory on the south of Multan which was with the Nawab of Bahawalpur on lease since 1751.

He died on 9th of Ramzan 1241 A.H. (1825) leaving a state

consisting of 300 miles in length and 50 miles in breadth. On his death, his eldest son Rahim Yar Khan succeeded with the title of Nawab Muhammad Bahawal Khan III, and ascended the throne at Derawar.³⁴

Nawab Muhammad Bahawal Khan III

He maintained cordial relations with Maharaja Ranjit Singh as well as with the British Government. During his reign, the British Government waged a war against the Sikhs. An English army invaded Multan. He remained loyal to the British Government and sent a contingent in their support. He had already agreed to the appointment of a British Resident at the Court. The Daudputra rulers of Bahawalpur State remained loyal to the British Government till they left India. On the death of the Nawab on 5th Muharram 1269 A.H. (1852), his son Sa'adat Yar Khan succeeded with the title of Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan III. He imprisoned his brothers and other loyal servants which resulted in a conspiracy of the Daudputras against the Nawab. Ultimately they succeeded and his younger brother Haji Khan ascended the throne at Derawar with the title of Fateh Khan (1853) and Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan III was made prisoner.

Nawab Fateh Muhammad Khan

During his reign, the war of independence broke out, he remained loyal to the British Government. The British Resident had already instructed the late Nawab to reduce his army,* therefore, the strength of the army was reduced to 3,743 men with 23 guns³⁵ during the reign of Nawab Fateh Khan.

The Nawab died on 22nd Safar 1275 (1858) and was succeeded by his son Rahim Yar Khan with the title of Nawab Muhammad Bahawal Khan IV. The British Resident became very powerful and almost all the state affairs were decided after his consultation. During his reign the palace intrigue was at its height and the Nawab died soon after having his meal** on 7th Ziqad 1282 (25th March

*The total strength of the army during the reign of Nawab Bahawal Khan I, was ten thousand.

**It is said that he was poisoned.

1866).³⁶ He left a minor son aged four and a half. He was proclaimed the ruler, with the title of Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV. The British Resident was appointed to superintend the state affairs. Soon Prince Jaffar Khan revolted but it was suppressed with the help of a British contingent.

Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan IV assumed the powers in 1879. He took keen interest in extra-curricular activities and was fond of sports. He was also fond of new buildings, therefore, he constructed Sadiqgarh palace at Dera Nawab Sahib, Nur Mahal palace at Bahawalpur and several other buildings. He also patronised art and literature. He ruled with the assistance of his Council for over 19 years. He died on 15th February 1899 and was succeeded by his son with the title of Nawab Muhammad Bahawal Khan V at the age of 15. The old council was made responsible for the administration, Colonel Grey again returning to the State as superintendent on behalf of the Punjab Government. On 12th November 1903 the Nawab was made responsible and invested with the powers of a ruling Chief by the Viceroy. He took keen interest in the affairs of his State and constructed a hospital in Bahawalpur as a memorial of Queen Victoria. He died in 1907 and was succeeded by his son with the title of Nawab Sadiq Muhammad Khan V. He was only 7 years old when he ascended the throne, therefore, a council of regency was formed to look after the state affairs till in 1924, he assumed the office of chiefhood by the order of the Viceroy. He supported Quaid-i-Azam during the Pakistan movement and announced the annexation of his state with Pakistan in 1947.

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