

SECTION II.—HISTORY AND ARCHÆOLOGY.

A. HISTORY.

Legendary
Period.

Omitting the legends that the Kadaba tank was constructed by the orders of Rāma, when encamped in the neighbourhood; that the emperor Nriga was cured of leprosy by bathing in the Nāgini, the stream that forms the Kunigal tank; and that Salivāhana was born at Hale Tanduga near Turuvekere; the place in this district claiming the highest antiquity is the village of Sampige in Gubbi taluk. It is said to be the site of Champaka-nagara, the capital of Sudhanva, son of a king named Hamsa Dhvaja. There was a Haihaya prince of this name, of whom the following account is given (*Central Provinces Gazetteer*, Int. 1):—"Tradition asserts that at the end of the Satyayuga a monarch named Sudhyumna presided over the destinies of the East. Of his descendants, one son, Nila Dhvaja, got the throne of Mahishmati; a second, Hamsa Dhvaja, became monarch of Chandrapur; and the third received the kingdom of Ratnapur." In later times, the village of Kaidāla near Tumkur is said to have been a large city named Kridapura, and the birth-place of the famous sculptor and architect Jakanāchāri (see Volume II Chapter V). The legend regarding Devarayadurga and its capture from a robber chief, named Andhaka or Lingaka, by Sumati, son of Hēmachandra, king of Karnātika, and the subsequent foundation of a city by Sumati near Nela-mangala have already been related in connection with the Bangalore District.

Gangas.

The Tumkur country was from an early period in the possession of the Gangas, and an inscription of the tenth century spells the name as *Tummeguru*, which may mean the country of the *tumme* or *tumbe*, a common fragrant herb (*leucas indica*). Among other records of the Gangas, a grant by Nava Kāma, distinguished as *sishta-priyah*, beloved by the good, (679-713), was obtained at Hebbur, and inscriptions of Srīpurusha

(726-777) occur at Midagesi, and of Satyavākya Nolambakulāntaka (963-974) at Kibbanhalli. The last of these was probably Mārasimha, who died in 974 A.D.

The Nolambas or Nonambas, who were of Pallava descent, Nolambas. have left many memorials throughout the east of the District. They had a capital city at Penjeru or Henjeru, in Tamil called Pperuncheru, which Mr. Rice has identified with Hemavati, situated on the northern border of Sira taluk, in Madak-sira. Its name occurs in a number of professedly very ancient inscriptions (see *E. C. III, Mysore I*, Introd., p. 2), as well as in certain legends, and the existing remains show that it must have been a place of considerable importance. The Nolambas had their stronghold at Nidugal, which is only a few miles to the east, in Pavagada taluk. In the ninth century they were in matrimonial alliance with the Gangas, Nolambādhirāja having married Jayabbe, younger sister of the Ganga king Nītimārga. He also assigned to each of his other queens certain villages in the Sira country. His son was Mahēndra, who is said to have uprooted the Chōlas and all other rivals. Mahēndra's son Ayyapa Dēva or Nanniga seems to have fought with the Gangas. He had two sons, the second of whom Dilīpa or Iravi Nolamba has two inscriptions to his credit, dated in 943 and 948 A. D. The latter of these mentions Lakulīsa as having been re-born in the person of Muninātha Chilluka, in whose favour a grant is made. Chālukya supremacy followed in or about 980 A.D., but it was largely nominal during much of the period. The Nonaba raiyats, who are more numerous in this District than anywhere else, are representatives of the subjects of the old Nonamba kīngdom, the Nonambavādī Thirty-two Thousand, of which a further account will be found under Chitaldrug District.

The Hoysalas, whose inscriptions are numerous, Hoysalas. succeeded the Gangas, and there are no regular Chōla remains in this District. But the Hoysalas subdued Irungola, a chief whose

capital was at Henjeru and his stronghold at Nidugal, and the line of kings to which he belonged had the title "Lords of Oreiyur," the ancient Chōla capital, now called Warriore, at Trichinopoly, and styled themselves Chōla kings. They profess to be descended from Karikala Chōla, through a king called Mangi or Kal Mangi. His successors were Bobbi, or Bichi, Gōvinda, Irungola (I), Malli Dēva or Bhōga, Brahma or Barma whose wife was Bachala Dēvi, and their son Irungola (II), called Irungola-Dēva Chōla-mahārāya. A representative of the line, named Vīra Bomma, who had a minister Baichēya or Chaichēya, seems to have been still in power at Nidugal in the thirteenth century.

From Turuvekere, the king Nārasimha I appears to have obtained his wife Lōkamma or Lōkāmbika, whose name is perpetuated in that of the neighbouring village of Lōkammanhalli, granted by her as an endowment to a temple. It is in his reign that we first meet with the singular name Ānebid-dasari or Anebidajari, meaning "the steep where the elephant fell," as that of the *nād* or district which included the Dēvarāyadurga hills and the central and southern parts of the Tumkur taluk. It must have been in use, however, before that, and continued in use during the Vijayanagar period. The steep itself seems to have been on Dēvarāyadurga at a spot called Ānegondi. Kumāra Chikka Kōtaya Nāyaka was ruling at this place in 1269 A.D. When, after the death of Sōmēsvara, a partition was made of the Hoysala dominions between his two sons, the share which, along with the Tamil districts, fell to Rāmanātha did not extend west of the Dēvarāyadurga hills, and a line from Urudigere to Hebbur, with one from there east to Lakkur in Malur taluk (Kolar District), would pretty well define the western and southern limits of his territory in the Mysore country.

Chālukyās.

The later of the Henjeru Chōla inscriptions and the earliest of the Hoysala inscriptions in the District acknowledge the supremacy of the Chālukyās, and the records of this line are met with throughout the western taluks Tiptur and

Chiknayakanhalli. Under them, the Hoysalas Vinayāditya and Vishnuvardhana (at the beginning of his reign) are represented as ruling over the Gangavādi Ninety-six Thousand, and Nārasimha as ruling over both that and the Nonambavādi Thirty-two Thousand.

The Vijayanagar empire arose in the fourteenth century and many traces exist of the rule of its kings throughout the district. Inscriptions of the time of Bukka and of Sadāsiva Rāya, Sri-Ranga Rāya and Vēnkatapati have been found in the District. It was under this sovereignty that several feudatory States arose of local interest. The *Nidugal* chiefs were descended from Harati Tippa Rāja or Tippa Nāyaka, whose possessions were in the north-east of the Chitaldrug District, under which an account of him will be found. Pavugada 54, dated in 1487 A.D., traces the genealogy of this chief. It describes him as ruling from Nidugal hill-fort and as becoming the master of many other hill-forts. One of his titles was *Kathāri-Rāya*. He built a temple and made a tank in the name of his wife Lakshmi-Dēvi. At his death, he divided his territory among his seven sons. But on the invasion of the country by the Bijāpur army, the descendants of these were driven out of their estates, and Thimmanna Nāyak, who had lost Doddēri, retired to the hill of Nidugal, which he fortified. There the family long remained, paying to Sira a tribute of 3,000 *pagodas*. On the capture of Sira by Haidar Ali in 1761, the Nidugal chief, also called Timmanna Nāyak, submitted to the conqueror, who imposed on him a tribute of 7,000 *pagodas* and the supply of 300 men. Subsequently, while accompanying Tipu Sultān in the expedition against Mangalore, he fell ill, and when at the point of death, was compelled to sign a letter relinquishing his territory and ordering his son Hottanna Nāyak to deliver it up to the governor of Chitaldrug. Possession was at once taken, and Hottanna Nāyak and his brother were sent as prisoners to Chitaldrug and thence to Seringapatam, where they were put to death when the British army ascended the Ghāts. That of

Vijayanagar
Empire:
Local Chiefs.

Holavanhalli or Korampur, in the east, was founded by Baire Gauda or Vira Gauda, one of the band of refugees that settled in the fifteenth century at Āvati, Dēvanahalli taluk and whose history is so prominent in connection with the Bangalore and Kolar Districts. The newly acquired territory of Holavanhalli does not seem to have been long enjoyed by this family, when it was conquered by the chief of Magadi, who gave it to his own brother Ankana Gauda. The Baire Gauda then ruling, with his eldest son Dodda Baiche Gauda, repaired to the Mussalman court at Sira, where he was not only well received but was invested with an important command. Meanwhile, the younger son, Sanna Baiche Gauda, apparently preferring his own people, sought protection from the chief of Dod-Ballapur, who, after a time, sending a force, reduced Holavanhalli. Sanna Baiche Gauda was placed in the Government and Ankana Gauda with his family was imprisoned at Hulikal. But within two years the Sira army attacked Dod-Ballapur and captured it. Baire Gauda fell in the siege, and in recognition of his services the eldest son, Dodda Baiche Gauda, was invested with the Government of Holavanhalli, with an increase of territory. Subsequent members of the family fortified Koratagere, subdued the neighbouring *hōblis* belonging to Dēvarayadurga, Mākālidurga and Channarāyadurga, and waged war successfully with the chief of Madhugiri. The successes of the Mysore army soon reduced those possessions, which were finally annexed by Haidar Ali. *Maddagiri* 31 of 1656, 45 of 1680 and 30 of 1726 give the succession of these chiefs. The *Maddagiri* line of chiefs arose in a similar manner, and extended their possessions over the north of the district, fortifying Madhugiri, Channarāyadurga and other points. In 1678 the joint rulers, Rāma Gauda and Timma Gauda, on the capture of their capital by Dēva Rāja, the Dalavāyi of Mysore, were taken prisoners and conveyed to Seringapatam. They were afterwards released and granted Midagesi as an estate. The *Hāgalvādi* chiefs appear to have had their origin from a *talāri* of Yerrakatta, afterwards known as Sāl Nāyak, who, on the overthrow

of the Vijayanagar Government, became the leader of a band of free-booters, and succeeded in capturing Kandikere and Shettikere. He afterwards assisted the Penukonda army with a force on condition of being confirmed in his conquests, and when that army was defeated, escaped to his own country with such plunder as he could secure, including, it is said, twelve elephants. Chiknāyakanhalli, the seat of Government, had been founded and named after his brother, when Honnavalli, Turuvekere and Nonavinkere were added to their possessions. It was on the completion of these enterprises that he is said to have taken the name of Sāl Nāyak, from the idea that his conquests extended in a *sālu* or line. From Chiknāyakanhalli 38 of 1669, it may be inferred that the chiefs of this line received their estate from the Vijayanagar king Vēnkatapati-Rāya. The succession mentioned is Sāli-Nāyaka, his son Sangappa-Nāyaka, his son Chenna-Basavappa-Nāyaka and his son Mudiappa-Nāyaka. The Chiknāyakanhalli country changed hands several times, being held alternately by the Muhammadans and the Mahrattas, until reduced by the Mysore army in the time of Chikka-Dēva-Rāja. At *Hebbur* a small zamindāri was formed under Hale Gauda and Timma Gauda which, being seized for a time by Kempe Gauda of Magadi who owned the southern parts of the District, and then by the Hāgalvādi chief, was finally united to Mysore.

The overthrow of the Vijayanagar empire on the field of Tālikota in 1565 opened the way for many invaders. The Bijāpur army under Ran-dulha Khān overran all the north of the District in 1638, and Sira, with Dodballapur, Bangalore, Hoskote and Kolar, forming what was called Karnātic Bijāpur, was placed under the Government of Shāhji (*see* Bangalore District). As memorials of Bijāpur rule over the district may be mentioned the Persian inscription (Sira 66 (b) dated in 1651 A. D.) on the tomb of Malik Rihan, Subedār of Sira. It says that he came there in 1637 "to increase the beauty of the country." He is described "as

Bijāpur.

a lord of riches and power ” and his characteristics “ those of a friend of God.” He died in 1651. His tomb is mentioned below.

Mughals.

On the capture of Golkonda and Bijāpur by Aurangzīb in 1687, and the conquest of their territories by the Mughal army, Sīra was made the capital of the new province—consisting of the seven parganas of Basavapatna, Būdihal, Sīra, Penukonda, Dodballapur, Hoskote, and Kolar—placed under Khāsim Khān as Subadār or Faujdār of the Karnātic. This officer applied himself with energy and success to the task of regulating and improving the District. In 1698, he was killed at Doddēri, and the distinguished general Zulfikar Khān succeeded. Sheikh Farid, one of the rulers, built the big mosque at Sīra in 1696 (*Sīra* 66 [a]). Another Governor named Rustam Jang is said to have built the fort and *petta*, and by his wise administration of affairs to have obtained the title of *Bahadur* and the name of Kaifiyat Khān. In 1720, we have Nawāb Dusa Kulikhān as Subedār. In 1742, Nawāb Dilāwar Sahib was Subedār and he apparently put down certain disturbances (see 13). In 1757, Sīra was taken by the Mahrāttas, and restored two years after on the conclusion of peace with Mysore. In 1761, it was taken by Haidar, in alliance with Basālat Jang, who had conferred upon him the title of Nawāb of Sira. In 1766, it fell again into the hands of the Mahrāttas by the defection of Haidar’s brother, and in 1774 was reconquered by Tīpu. The Mahrāttas once more occupied it for a short time in 1791 on marching to join the army of Lord Cornwallis.

The following is a professed list of the Subedārs of Sira under the Mughal Government, as given in the Mackenzie MSS. :—

Khāsim Khān	..	..	.. 1686
Atish Khān	..	..	.. 1694
Kurad Mañur Khān	..	..	.. 1697
Dhakta Manur Khān	..	..	.. 1704
Pudad Ullā Khān	..	..	.. 1706

Davud Khān	1707
Sadat Ulla Khān	1709
Amin Khān	1711
Ghalib Khān	1713
Darga Khuli Khān	1714
Abid Khān	1715
Mulahavar Khān	1716
Darga Khuli Khān	1720
Abdul Rasūl Khān	1721
Tayar Mahomad Khān	1772
Dilavar Khān	1724-56

The foregoing accounts have, in order to present a continuous narrative of the history of each chieftdom, necessarily anticipated to some extent the steps by which the various parts of the District were brought under the rule of the Mysore Rājas. But it was Chikka-Dēva-Rāja who, at the end of the 17th Century, effected the conquest of all the territory which was not appropriated by the Bijāpur Government established at Sira. Thus Ketasamudra, Kandikere, Handalagere, Gulur, Tumkur and Honnavalli, are enumerated among his conquests, after which he seized Jadakanadurga and changed its name to Chikkadēvarāyadurga now Dēvarāyadurga. *Tumkur* 45 dated in 1699 mentions this change of name. Chikka-Dēva's connection with the district is mentioned in an earlier inscription (*Kunigal* 7) dated in 1674. Madhugiri, Midagesi, Bijjavara and Channarāyadurga were also subdued in his reign. The remainder of the district fell to Mysore on the conquest of Sira by Haidar Ali in 1761.

At the beginning of the present century, the district was embraced in the Madhugiri Faujdāri. After the British assumption in 1832, the Tumkur District was formed, and with that of Chitaldrug constituted the Chitaldrug Division. At the reorganization of 1863, this Division was broken up, and Tumkur became one of the districts of the new Nundydrug Division. In 1882, it was extended so as to include Chitaldrug as a Sub-Division. In 1886, Chitaldrug was restored as a District, but Pavagada taluk remained as part of Tumkur District.

B. ARCHÆOLOGY.

The inscriptions found in the District will be found included in *E.C. XII, Tumkur District* and in the *Mysore Archæological Reports*.

The most important specimens of architecture in the district are the Muhammadan buildings remaining at Sīra. Of those now standing, the Jurna Masjid (dated 1696) and the tomb of Malik Rihan (dated 1651) are the chief. The walls of the latter are of rustic stone-work, stones of all sizes and shapes being fitted together. But there is no doubt that Haidar Ali, who received the title of Nawab of Sīra in 1761, was much impressed with the Mughal architecture of the place. The palaces erected by him and by Tīpu Sultān at Seringapatam and Bangalore were copied from one at Sīra erected by the Mughal Governor Dilāvar Khān. The Bangalore fort was in like manner built on the model of the fort at Sīra, and the Lāl-Bāgh in Bangalore was probably suggested by the Khān-Bāgh at Sīra. The fortifications on the Madhugiri hill are formidable erections, of the time of Haidar Ali. Buchanan, writing in 1800, says—"The view of Madhugiri, on approaching it from the east, is much finer than that of any hill-fort I have seen. But for picturesqueness of situation nothing can exceed that of the Narasimha temple on Dēvarāyadurga, which was built in the time of Chikka-Dēva-Rāja (1672-1704). The group of rocky pinnacles, on a ledge of which it stands, reminds one of some scene on the Rhine. The building itself is not in any way remarkable."

SECTION III—ECONOMIC.

GENERAL AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS.

Soil.

Except in the Taluks of Madhugiri, Chiknayakanhalli and the eastern and northern parts of Sīra and Koratagere, respectively, the soil is described as generally hard and poor requiring much labour and manure to render it productive.