

GAZETTEER OF INDIA



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

# BELLARY



**John Kelsall**

(Bellary Manual)

**W. Francis**

(Bellary Gazetteer)

# MANUAL

OF THE

## BELLARY DISTRICT,

COMPILED UNDER THE ORDERS OF GOVERNMENT,

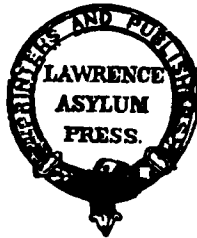
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BY

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MADRAS CIVIL SERVICE,

ACTING SUB-COLLECTOR, NORTH ARCOT.



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## PREFACE.

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THIS MANUAL of the Bellary District has been compiled under the Orders of Government, dated September 9th, 1869, No. 2,646. It is one of a series of Manuals to be prepared for each district of the Presidency, and of which those of Madura and Vizagapatam have already been published.

The spelling throughout is according to the authorized form as directed by the Board of Revenue, but no alteration has been made in the case of words which have become stereotyped, as Bellary (Ballari), Cuddapah (Kadapa), &c. I noticed when too late that the name of Sir T. MUNRO had been systematically spelt "MONRO" which is incorrect, though my recollection is that the name is so spelt on his tombstone in the Gooty cemetery. In the same way Hindipúr should throughout the book be altered to Hindupúr. It is named after HINDU RAO, father of the celebrated MORARI RAO.

I desire to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have assisted me in preparing this MANUAL, especially Mr. MASTER and Mr. GIBSON—Collector and Head Assistant Collector of the district—without whose ready assistance I should have found even greater difficulty than was actually experienced in compiling the MANUAL at so great a distance from the district as Vizagapatam: also the

Rev. T. FOULKES who put within my reach the materials for the sketch of the early history and who was good enough to look over and correct the proofs of that portion of the MSS. I am also indebted to Mr. MACARTNEY, the Rev. E. LEWIS and the Rev. P. DOYLE, for the Chapters they have contributed on the history of Sandúr and on the Protestant and Catholic Missions.

Some of the subjects—notably the “Flora” and “Fauna” in Part I—have not been treated as fully as I could have wished, but the time at my disposal was limited, and I have not been so fortunate as to meet with any one whose knowledge of Botany and Natural History might have supplemented my own deficiencies.

VELLORE, }  
*June 24th, 1872.* }

JOHN KELSALL.



## CHIEF EDITOR'S NOTE

A series of manuals and gazetteers giving an exhaustive report of each of the districts of erstwhile Madras Presidency including Bellary District was prepared in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The main object of preparing these reports was to give a detailed account of the history, physical features, social, economic and cultural conditions of the people of the respective regions. Keeping in view the purpose and method of gazetteer writing, the authors and compilers of the gazetteers have fully justified the time taken in the preparation of these useful and informative documents.

The manual of the Bellary district as compiled by John Kelsall of the Madras Civil Service was printed by Wm. Thomas in the Lawrence Asylum press, Mount Road, Madras in the year 1872. This was replaced by the Bellary District Gazetteer in the year 1904, Edited by W. Francis. In accordance with the policy of the Central Government for publication of new gazetteers for all the districts in India, the revised edition of the Bellary district gazetteer was brought out in the year 1972.

The erstwhile Bellary District was part of the then Kishkinda region. It was ruled by the Shatavahanas, the Kadambas and the Chalukyas. In-fact, Hampi which is part of the Bellary District was the capital of the then Vijayanagar empire. In 1800, the Nizam agreed to cede to the British all the territories acquired by him under the two treaties of 1792 and 1799 in return for a subsidiary force to be stationed in his dominions and thus the district of Bellary, Anantapur, Caddapah and part of Karnool known as ceded districts passed into the hands of the British.

After Independence in 1947, the province of Sandur was included in the erstwhile district of Bellary District. With the formation of the state of Andhra Pradesh in the year 1953, the district of Bellary was transferred to the then state of Mysore. This means that the district of Bellary was a part of Karnataka State three years before the formation of *Vishala Karnataka*.

The Karnataka Gazetteer Department established in 1958 with the object of bringing out the district gazetteers has completed the publication of gazetteers of all districts, but for the newly forms ones, the information about which is already found in the volumes

published on the undivided districts. The department has also undertaken the task of reprinting the most valuable and brittle gazetteers of yore, brought out by eminent personalities like James Campbell, B.L. Rice, C. Hayavadana Rao and others. The department has also completed the task of digitising all the volumes into a set of nine C.D.s. The C.D's are available for sale in the department. The department has successfully launched all the gazetteers on government website <http://kannadasiri.kar.nic.in>. In pursuance of this, the present edition is brought out as a reprint of the Bellary District Manual published in the year 1872 by John Kelsall along with the Gazetteer Edited by William Francis in 1904 and supplements published in 1904 and 1915.

The Department has brought out reprints of eight gazetteers belonging to the 19<sup>th</sup> century which are of very rare value. The intention behind reprint of old gazetteers in their original format using the latest technological tools is to keep the posterity posted of the stupendous scholarly and academic errands carried out by eminent officers of yore not withstanding the innumerable hazards they faced beginning with the collection of relevant data till the printing stage. In order to maintain the logical sequence, selected contemporary photographs have been included which are not found in the original. I hope this reprinted volume will be well received.

I wish to express by deep sense of the gratitude to Mr. K.K. Mishra, IAS, Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka and the Chairman of Gazetteer Advisory Committee for his valuable guidance in the activities of the department. I express my heartfelt thanks to Smt. Usha Ganesh, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government, Kannada and Culture Department for her valuable guidance in all our ventures. The timely help rendered by Dr. K. Paddayya, Director, Deccan Institute of Advance Studies in Archaeology, Pune, in lending the rare volume of the Bellary District compiled by Mr. John Kelsall is always remembered. I gratefully acknowledge the Departments of Information and State Archaeology for providing valuable photographs. I place on record the services of Sri. S.A. Jagannath, Senior Editor and Dr. A. Lakshminarasimhan, Investigator who have efficiently supervised the work of printing. I thank M/s Parishree Printers for executing the work meticulously.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS.

## PART I.

### CHAPTER I.—GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

The Boundaries—The Rivers—Mountains and Hills—Aspect of the Country—The Area—Number of Taluqs—Of Villages and Hamlets—Language.....	1—6
---	-----

### CHAPTER II.—DESCRIPTIVE NOTICES OF THE TALUQS.

Bellary—Hospett—Kudlighi—Harpanhalli—Hadagalli—Raidrúg—Alúr—Adoni—Gooty—Tádpatri—Anantapúr—Dharmavaram—Pennakonda—Hindipúr—Madaksira.....	7—70
---	------

### CHAPTER III.—CLIMATE AND RAINFALL.

Climate—Rainfall—Direction of Wind—Range of Thermometer—The Seasons—Unusual Storms—Famines—Table of the Seasons since 1800.....	70—80
---	-------

### CHAPTER IV.—ETHNOLOGY AND POPULATION.

The Hindu Castes—Brahmins—Sudras—Fariahs—Mahommedans and Christians .....	81—85
PART 2.—Population—Birth and Death Statistics.....	86

### CHAPTER V.—PREVALENT DISEASES.

Cholera—Small-pox—Fever—Ophthalmia—Dysentery—Hepatitis—Guinea worm—Skin Diseases.....	87—90
---	-------

### CHAPTER VI.—PART 1.—GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY .....

PART 2.—Metallic and Mineral Products.....	90—95
	95—97

### CHAPTER VII.—THE FAUNA OF THE DISTRICT.....

### CHAPTER VIII.—THE FLORA OF THE DISTRICT .....

## PART II.

### CHAPTER I.—THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT.

Section 1.—The five ancient divisions of the country—Sketch of the history of Kernata of Telingana—Of Maharashtra.....	101—104
Section 2.—The first Mussalman invasion—Invasion of Maharashtra—Of Kernata—Of Telingana—Establishment of the Bahmini dynasty—Its History—Establishment of subordinate kingdoms—Foundation of the city of Vijayanagar—The Tungabadra the boundary between the Hindu and Mussalman kingdoms.....	104—105



## CONTENTS.

<i>Section 3.</i> —Foundation of the city of Vijayanagar by Bukka and Harihara—Lists of the kings—The first dynasty—The dynasty changed—Krishna Raja—Description of the city by Italian travellers—Rama Raja—Battle of Telikota—Capture of the Capital—Subsequent history of the family.....	106—116
<i>Section 4.</i> —From 1560 to 1670—Provinces retained by the conquerors—Rise of the Poligars in the districts south of the Tungabadra—Rise of the Mahrattas—First invasion of the Carnatic—Capture of the Cuddapah districts—Aurungzebe, Viceroy of the Dekhan.....	116—119
<i>Section 5.</i> —Political changes in the Carnatic—Second invasion of the Carnatic—Capture of Gingi, Vellore and Bellary—The district round Bellary confirmed to Sivaji by Sultan Adil Shah—Death of Sivaji—Aurungzebe invades the Dekhan, captures Hyderabad and Bijapur—Capture of Adoni, Gooty and other places in the Hyderabad Carnatic—The Nizam-ool-moolk—Condition of the country—The districts south of the Tungabadra part of the kingdom of the Nizam subject to a payment of "chout" to the Mahrattas.....	120—123
<i>Section 6.</i> —Conquest of the country by Hyder Ali—Sketch of the early history of Mysore—Rise of Hyder Ali—Invited by Bassalut Jung he over-runs the districts of Kodikonda and Madaksira and those round Gooty—Captures Raidrúg, Harpanhalli and Chitteldrug—Defeated by the Mahrattas and compelled to restore much of the recently acquired country—First Mysore war—Hyder captures Cuddapah but fails to take Gooty and Bellary—Makes a treaty with the Mahrattas—Captures Bellary and Gooty and extends his kingdom to the Kistna—His conduct to the Poligars—His right to the Raichore Doab recognized by the Mahrattas—Second Mysore war—Death of Hyder .....	123—129
<i>Section 7.</i> —Capture of Adoni, Harpanhalli and Raidrúg by Tippu—The third Mysore war—Capture of Seringapatam by Lord Cornwallis—Partition treaty of 1792.....	129—133
<i>Section 8.</i> —The fourth Mysore war—Partition treaty of 1799—Treaty of 1800 with the Nizam who cedes the districts acquired by him in 1792 and 1799—Treatment of the Poligars—Colonel Munro appointed Collector—Concluding remarks—Events subsequent to 1800.....	133—138

## CHAPTER II.—THE REVENUE HISTORY.

The revenue under the Vijayanagar Rajas—Under the Sultans of Bijapur and Golconda—Under Aurungzebe—Under the Mahrattas—Under Hyder Ali and Tippu Sultan—Causes of the decline of revenue—The Jaghire of Adoni—Colonel Munro's estimate of what the revenue should be.....	138—144
<i>Section 2.</i> —Sketch of the condition of the district—Colonel Munro the first Collector—Official divisions of the district—The ryotwari settlement introduced—The survey—System of	

## CONTENTS.

assessment—Inam lands—Village Service Inams—Munro's scale—Account of the survey and settlement—The season and cultivation from 1800-1804—The famine, the great storm—Instructions to introduce the system of leases—The opinion of the Collector asked—Colonel Munro's objections—His summary of the advantages and disadvantages of the two systems—Abstract of his proposed settlement—His second plan—Objection of the Governor to the renting system—Minutes by Mr. Thackeray and Mr. Hodgson—Instructions to Collectors on the subject—Colonel Munro resigns—Re-distribution of the districts—Introduction of the triennial lease—Unfavorable reports of the Collectors—Their objections combated by the Board—The villages leased out for ten years .....	14
<i>Section 3.</i> —Introduction of the decennial lease—The system pursued by the Collector—The first year—The second—The third—The fourth—Orders from the Court of Directors to return to a ryotwari settlement—The fifth, sixth and seventh years—Mr. Thackeray's proposal for a settlement—Mr. Campbell appointed Collector—Mr. Thackeray's settlement approved—General reduction of rates ordered—Not attended to by Mr. Campbell who submits another plan—His plan condemned—Mr. Robertson, Collector—Collections under the decennial lease system.....	16
<i>Section 4.</i> —Rules for the settlement of Fasli 1234—Inam Taffrik Rules—Extension of cultivation on cowle tenure—Planting of topes—Partial revision of assessment—The continual fall of grain prices—Death of Mr. Robertson—Fall of prices continues—Remarks on the results of the general reduction of assessments—Mr. Mellor recommends a further reduction—Remarks of the Board and Government. ....	17
<i>Section 5.</i> —Mr. Pelly, Collector—Abolition of Dittum—The Board refuse to abolish "Appanam"—General reduction of assessment carried out by Mr. Pelly—The Panchapalliem taluq transferred to Kurnool—The Yadiki taluq broken up—Abolition of Appanam—The Inam Commission .....	18

### CHAPTER III.—REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

The charges of the Collector and Division Officers—Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars and their establishments—Village Officers, their duties and their remuneration—Statement of Inam lands held by them and estimate of their fees—Method of collecting Land Revenue—The District Hukamnama.....	186
--	-----

### CHAPTER IV.—LAND REVENUE.

Area of the district—Circar and Inam—Zemindari and Ryotwari land—Number of Villages and their tenure—Number of putthahs—Average holdings and rent-roll—Rates of assessment—Irrigated land, tanks, channels, wells—Land Revenue, Miscellaneous—Value of land when sold privately, for arrears of Revenue or by Civil Court.—Leases.—Mortgages.....	200
---	-----

CHAPTER V.—IMPERIAL REVENUE DERIVED FROM SOURCES OTHER THAN LAND REVENUE.	
Abkari—Salt—Stamps—Income-tax.....	205—211
CHAPTER VI.—LOCAL FUNDS.	
District Road Fund—Jungle Conservancy Fund—Pound Fund— Public Bungalow Fund—Choultry and Lungerkhana Fund— Process Service Fund—Village Service Fund.....	211—217
CHAPTER VII.—COURTS OF CIVIL JUSTICE. ....	
	217—220
CHAPTER VIII.—COURTS OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE.	
Village Magistrates—Sub-Magistrates—Division Magistrates— The Magistrate of the District—The Court of Session.....	221, 222
CHAPTER IX.—POLICE ADMINISTRATION.	
The old system—Introduction of Act XXIV of 1859—The sanc- tioned strength and distribution of the force.....	222—225
PART II.—The Village Police—Colonel Munro's report on them —Report on their condition by various Magistrates .....	225, 226
CHAPTER X.—JAILS.	
The Zillah Jail—Subsidiary Jails.....	227
CHAPTER XI.—THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.	
The Range Officers—The Military Buildings—The Cutcherries— The Public Bungalows—Irrigation Works—The Tungabadra Anicuts and Channels—The principal Tanks—The projects of Bukkacherla, Ruddam, Hindipúr and Bomanahalli—Other minor works—Proposed works of the Irrigation Company...	228—241
CHAPTER XII.—THE SANDUR JAGHIRE.....	
	241—259

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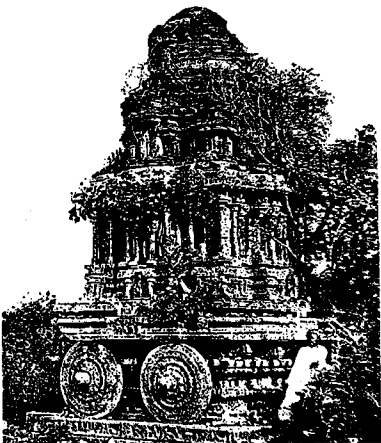
## PART III.

CHAPTER I.—SYSTEMS OF AGRICULTURE.	
<i>Dry crops</i> —Preparation of the ground, cholum, cotton, indigo, wheat, flax.— <i>Wet crops</i> —Paddy, sugar-cane.— <i>Garden crops</i> — Cocoanut, plantains, nut-trees, betel vines, tobacco.—Manures. Fallows.— <i>Rotation of crops</i> —Cultivation statistics, cattle and sheep.....	260—270
CHAPTER II.—TRADES AND MANUFACTURES.	
Cotton goods—Preparation of the cotton ; tape ; carpets ; rope. Woollen goods—Cumbliies, carpets, felt. Stamping of chintzes. —Dyes, oils, sugar and jaggery.—Paper.—Tanning—Glass- bangles—Ropes and fibres—Iron foundries—Pottery .....	270—279

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER III.—CIVIL DISPENSARIES.	
Gooty, Hospett, Adoni, Anantapur, Bellary.....	279—
CHAPTER IV.—SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION.	
The Provincial School—Anglo-vernacular Schools—Grant-in-aid and Rate Schools—Pial Schools.....	281—
CHAPTER V.—MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONS.....	
CHAPTER VI.—POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS. ....	283
CHAPTER VII.—DOMESTIC AND SOCIAL HABITS.	
The dress of the natives, their food, their houses, general appear- ance and condition.....	285
CHAPTER VIII.—COINAGE, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.	
Old Coins—Land measures, grain measures, liquid measures, measures of weight.....	286—
CHAPTER IX.—ANCIENT TEMPLES AND BUILDINGS.	
Hampi, Tadpatri, Lepakshi, Penna Hoblam, Jama Musjid at Adoni—Fairs and festivals—Inscriptions at Hampi, Kurgódu, Kenchengódu, Túnbul and Gooty—Osseous mounds supposed to be funeral piles .....	290—
CHAPTER X.—OPERATIONS OF THE LONDON MISSION SOCIETY.....	296—
CHAPTER XI.—OPERATIONS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION.....	300—





# APPENDICES.

## APPENDIX A. ....303—311

No. 1. Showing Land Revenue and Moturpha from 1210-1242 .....	304
" 2. Revenue from all sources from Fasli 1240-1279 .....	305,306
" 3. Land Revenue, for a series of years, Taluqwar .....	307
" 4. Abkari, for a series of years, Taluqwar .....	308
" 5. Stamp, for a series of years, Taluqwar .....	309
" 6. Salt, for a series of years, Taluqwar .....	310
" 7. Income Tax, for a series of years, Taluqwar .....	311

## APPENDIX B. ....313—322

No. 1. Cultivation Statistics for a series of years .....	315
" 2. Sources of Irrigation. ....	316
" 3. Grain Prices since 1800 .....	317,318
" 4. Cotton, Indigo and Sugar-cane cultivation .....	319
" 5. Agricultural Statistics, Classification of Land, &c. ....	320
" 6. Percentage of Inam Cultivation, (Taluqwar) .....	321
" 7. Statement explaining Mr. Pelly's revision of the Settlement in 1856 .....	322

## APPENDIX C. ....323—349

No. 1. Police Statistics for the year 1864 .....	324
" 2. Do. do. 1865 .....	325
" 3. Do. do. 1866 .....	326
" 4. Do. do. 1867 .....	327
" 5. Do. do. 1868 .....	328
" 6. Do. do. 1869 .....	329
" 7. Do. do. 1870 .....	330
" 8. Do. do. 1871 .....	331
" 9. Statement of the sanctioned strength and cost of the Police for a series of years .....	332
" 10. Statement of the different castes in the Police .....	333
" 11. Statistics of the District and Subsidiary Jails .....	334
" 12. Operations of the Criminal Courts .....	335—338
Operations of the Civil Court for 1870.	
a. Number and nature of Suits .....	339—343
b. Value of Suits .....	344
c. General result of trials .....	345
d. Business of Appellate Courts, (Civil) .....	346
e. Appeals in Criminal Cases .....	347



CONTENTS.

APPENDIX D.....	349—
No. 1. Statement showing the average heat at various periods of the year.....	
„ 2. Rainfall, month by month for a series of years.....	
„ 3. Taluqwar statement of rainfall.....	
„ 4. Villages in the district and their population.....	
„ 5. Taluqwar statement of villages classified.....	
„ 6. Detailed statement of population in 1866.....	
„ 7. Taluqwar totals of the census of 1871.....	
„ 8. Detailed statement of population in Bellary Municipality in November 1871.....	
„ 9. Abstract of Births and Deaths.....	
„ 10. Statement of accidental deaths and fires and suicides.....	
APPENDIX E .....	361—
No. 1. Statement showing expenditure on Public Works in the last six years.....	
„ 2. Statement showing receipts and expenditure of Municipal Commission.....	
„ 3. Statement of the number and classification of schools.....	
„ 4. Munro's Scale .....	365
„ 5. Statement of the establishment sanctioned for each Taluq...	
APPENDIX F.	
Notes and suggestions by various gentlemen.....	369—
APPENDIX G.	
Indices of the names of Towns, &c., transliterated, vide Government Order of August 12, 1869, No. 1,131 .....	379—
INDEX .....	



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