

GAZETTEER OF INDIA



GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

# KANARA

Editor  
**James M. Campbell**

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K Á N A R A .

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THE names of contributors are given in the body of the book. Special acknowledgments are due to Mr. R. E. Candy, C.S., Collector, Mr. J. Monteath, C. S., Colonel W. Peyton, and Mr. P. F. DeSouza, Assistant Master in the Kárwár High School. Much valuable help has also been received from Mr. A. R. Macdonald, C.S., formerly Collector of Kánara. The Collector Mr. Candy desires that mention should be made of the industry and intelligence shown by Mr. P. F. Fernandez of his office in collecting and compiling materials for the Gazetteer. The Portuguese section of the History Chapter owes much to information supplied by Dr. DaCunha of Bombay.

JAMES M. CAMPBELL.

*Bombay, November 1883.*

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## Letter of Appreciation

In further recognition of the distinguished labours of Sir James Macnabb Campbell, K.C.I.E., and of the services rendered by those who have assisted him in his work. His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to order that the following extract from Government Resolution No.2885, dated the 11th August 1884, be republished and printed immediately after the title page of volume I, part-I, of the Gazetteer, and published in every issue.

His Excellency the Governor in Council has from time to time expressed his entire approval of the volumes of the Gazetteer already published, and now learns with much satisfaction that the remaining Statistical Accounts have been completed in the same elaborate manner. The task now brought to a close by Mr Campbell has been very arduous. It has been the subject of his untiring industry for more than ten years, in the earlier part of which period, however, he was occasionally employed on additional duties, including the preparation of a large number of articles for the Imperial Gazetteer. When the work was begun, it was not anticipated that so much time would be required for its completion, because it was contemplated that it would be carried out on so extensive a scale. Its magnitude may be estimated by the fact that the Statistical Accounts, exclusive of the general chapters yet to be reprinted, embrace twenty-seven volumes containing on an average 500 pages each. Mr. Campbell could not have sustained the unflagging zeal displayed by him for so long a period without an intense interest in the subjects dealt with. The result is well worthy of the labour, expended, and is a proof of the rare fitness of Mr. Campbell on the ground both of literary ability and of power of steady application for the important duty assigned to him. The work is a record of historical and statistical facts and of information regarding the country and the people as complete perhaps as ever was produced on behalf of any Government, and cannot fail to be of the utmost utility in the future administration of the Presidency.

“2. The thanks of Government have already been conveyed to the various contributors, and it is only necessary now to add that they share, according to the importance of their contributions, in the credit which attaches to the general excellence of the work”.

The whole series of volumes is now complete and His Excellency in council congratulates Sir James M. Campbell and all associated with him in this successful and memorable achievement.

Bombay Castle  
14th February 1902

H.O.Quin,  
Secretary to Government  
General Department

## Preface

The earliest record of an attempt to arrange for the preparation of statistical account of the different districts of the Bombay Presidency was in 1843. In 1843 Government called on the Revenue Commissioner to obtain from the Collectors as part of their next Annual Report fullest available information regarding their districts.<sup>1</sup> The information was specially to include their own and their assistant's observations on the state of the cross and other roads, not under the superintendence of a separate department, on the passes and ferries throughout the country on the street in the principal towns, and on this extension and improvement of internal communications. As from Collectors alone could any knowledge of the state of the district be obtained, the Collectors were desired to include in their Annual Reports observations on every point from which a knowledge of the actual condition of the country could be gathered with the exception of matters purely judicial which were to be supplied by the Judicial Branch of the Administration. Government remarked that, as Collectors and their Assistants during a large portion of the year moved about the district in constant and intimate communication with all classes they possessed advantages which no other public officers enjoyed of acquiring a full knowledge of the condition of the country, the causes of progress or retrogradation, the good measures which require to be fostered and extended, the evil measures which call for abandonment, the defects in existing institutions which require to be remedied, and the nature of the remedies to be applied. Collectors also, it was observed, have an opportunity of judging of the effect of British rule on the condition and character of the people, on their caste prejudices and on their superstitious observances. They can trace any alterations for the better or worse in dwellings, clothing and diet, and can observe the use of improved implements of husbandry or other crafts, the habits of locomotion, the state of education particularly among the higher classes whose decaying means and energy under our most levelling systems compared with that of preceding governments will attract their attention. Finally they can learn how far existing village institutions are effectual to their end, and may be available for self-government and in the management of local taxation for local purposes.

The question of preparing District Statistical Manuals was not again raised till 1870. In October 1867 the Secretary of State, desired the Bombay Government to take steps for the compilation of a Gazetteer of the Presidency on the model of the Gazetteer prepared during that year for the Central Provinces. The Bombay Government requested the two Revenue Commissioners and the Director of Public Instruction to submit a scheme for carrying into effect the orders of the Secretary of State. In

1. Secretary's letter 4223 to the Revenue Commissioner dated 30th December 1843 Revenue Volumes 1854 of 1843.

reply the officers consulted remarked that the work to be done for the Bombay Presidency would be of a multifarious character. The committee observed that a third form of special knowledge would be required to write accounts of Parsis Khoja's and other castes and tribes; that in short the undertaking would be one of much wider scope and greater difficulty than the preparation of the Gazetteer of the Central Provinces. Much thought would be required before the general plan could be laid down, and after the plan was fixed all sorts of questions as to arrangement and treatment of particular parts would be sure to arise. In the Committee's opinion local revenue officers could not as a rule find time to devote to work of this description without neglecting their ordinary duties; but they could correct and amplify such information as a special officer could compile from the published and unpublished records of the Government.

In January 1868 the Bombay Government decided that the general supervision and direction of the work should be placed in the hands of a committee consisting of the Revenue Commissioners, the Director of Public Instruction, and the Commissioner of Customs, and that an Editor should be appointed with a small copying establishment to act under the directions of the Committee. The Editor was to give his entire time to the work and was expected to finish it in about a year. He was to collect and arrange in alphabetical order all recorded information regarding the towns and other places of interest in each Collectorate, and to send printed on half margin each draft when completed the local officers for verification, additions, and alterations. When the drafts were returned and corrected by the Editor, they were to be laid before the Committee. To enable the Editor to meet such expenses as a fair remuneration for articles contributed by qualified persons, and also to pay for the printing of the work with small accompanying maps, an amount not exceeding Rs. 12,000 was sanctioned for the total expense of the Gazetteer including the payment of the Editor. At the outset it was decided to place a portion of the sum sanctioned not exceeding Rs. 2000, at the disposal of the Commissioner in Sindh to secure the preparation of articles referring to Sindh. The Committee was requested to meet at Poona in June 1868 and to report to Government on the best mode of preparing and editing the Gazetteer and supervising its publication.

In August 1868 the Bombay Gazetteer Committee composed of Messrs. A.F. Bellasis Revenue Commissioner N.D. Chairman, Mr. W.H. Havelock Revenue Commissioner S.D. and Sir Alexander Grant, Director of Public Instruction, submitted a report. The Collectors and Political Officers were in the meanwhile requested to ascertain what records in their possession were likely to be useful for the preparation of a Gazetteer and



what papers in the possession of others and likely to be useful for the purpose were obtainable within their charge. Collectors and Political Officers were requested to send their replies to the Director of Public Instruction who would collect them on behalf of the Committee.

These proposals were sanctioned on the 11th September 1868. Adhering as far as possible to the arrangement followed in the Gazetteer of the Central Provinces, which had met with the approval of the Secretary of State, Mr. Crowe, drew out the following list of subjects..... **Omitted** In 1869 the draft articles prepared by Mr. Crowe were submitted to Mr. (now Sir) W. Hunter of the Bengal civil Service who expressed his satisfaction at the progress made. The Committee adopted certain suggestions made by Sir W. Hunter for the work and for obtaining fuller district figures from the marine, irrigation, cotton and survey offices. In March 1870 a further extension of one year was accorded. The Bombay Government directed that each Collector should choose one of his Assistants to correspond with the Editor and obtain for him all possible information from local records. All Heads of Offices were also desired to exert themselves zealously in aiding the prosecution of the work. In 1871 Mr. Crowe's draft article on the Dharwar District was sent to Mr. Hunter for opinion who in addition to detailed criticism on various points made the following general remarks.

“My own conception of the work is that, in return for a couple of days reading, the Account should give a new Collector a comprehensive, and at the same time, a distinct idea of the District which he has been sent to administer. Mere reading can never supersede practical experience in the district administration. But a succinct and well conceived district account is capable of antedating the acquisition of such personal experience by many months and of both facilitating and systematising a Collector's personal enquiries. The Compiler does not seem to have caught the points on which a Collector would naturally consult the Account. In order that the Editor should understand these points it is necessary that he should have had practical acquaintance with district administration and that he should himself have experienced the difficulties which beset an officer on his taking charge of a District or Sub-Division. The individual points will differ according to the character of the country. For example in deltaic districts the important question is the control of rivers; in dry districts it is the subject of water - supply. But in all cases a District Account besides dealing with the local specialities should furnish a historical narration of its revenue and expenditure since it passed under the British rule, of the sums which we have taken from it in taxes, and of the amount which we have returned to it, in the protection of property and person and the other

charges of civil government”.

Sir William Hunter laid much stress on the necessity of stating the authority on the strength of which any statement is made and of the propriety of avoiding anything like libels on persons or classes. In 1871 Sir. W. Hunter was appointed Director General of Statistics to the Government of India. In this capacity he was to be a central guiding authority whose duty it was to see that each of Provincial Gazetteers contained the materials requisite for the comparative statistics of the Empire. As some of the Bombay District Accounts were incomplete and as it was thought advisable to embody in the District Accounts the results of general Census of 1872 it was decided, in October 1871, that pending the completion of the census returns Mr. Crowe was appointed Assistant Collector at Sholapur and the Gazetteer records were left in a room in the Poona Collector’s Office. In September 1872 the whole of the Gazetteer records including thirty one articles on British Districts and Native States, were stolen by two youths who had been serving in the Collector’s Office as peons. These youths finding the Gazetteer office room unoccupied stole the papers piece by piece for the sake of the trifling amount they fetched as wasted paper. Search resulted in the recovery in an imperfect state of seven of the thirty one drafts. The youths were convicted and sentenced to a year’s imprisonment in the Poona Reformatory.

In 1873 Mr. Francis Chapman the then Chief Secretary to Government took the preparation of the Gazetteer under his personal control. And in June 1873 Mr. James M Campbell, C.S, was appointed Compiler. An important change introduced by Mr. Chapman was to separate from the preparation of the series of the District Manuals certain general subjects and to arrange for the preparation of accounts of those general subjects by specially qualified contributors.....Omitted

**Bombay Customs House 29th May 1896**

**James Macnabb Campbell**

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True Extract taken from the Preface to Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Volume I, Part I - History of Gujarat; Bombay: Govt Central Press, 1896.

## Chief Editor's Note

The discerning readers of Gazetteers are probably aware that the first attempts in compiling Gazetteers, for a defined geographical area like a district or a region were initiated by the East India Company for several districts comprised in the then British India. These were indeed a treasure trove of information, and were the most comprehensive single source of knowledge about the past and contemporary conditions of a district or a region. These Gazetteers dealt with a myriad variety of features, which unfolded the panorama of the variegated life of the people, and the areas they inhabited. The various chapters contained therein, dealt with various of subjects along with illustrations, general appendices, a select bibliography, alphabetical indexes and maps.

Eversince the establishment of a separate Gazetteer department in the State of Mysore in 1958, the Karnakaka Gazetteer Department (as it is presently called) has published separate Gazetteers for all the 20 districts incorporated under it, after the states re-organisation, except the seven newly constituted districts of Haveri, Gadag, Chamarajnagar, Bagalkot, Koppal, Davangere and Udupi. The department has plans to publish separate Gazetteers for these districts in a phased manner.

While the Gazetteer department has plans afoot to bring out revised editions of one or two districts formed after unification, every year, the department has also found it essential to undertake the reprinting of the old and valuable Gazetteers, with a view to make available such source material, monumental in nature, as they were the first dedicated attempts to record the several details of the districts, very useful for purposes of research as well as for the general reading. Under this plan, the department has already reprinted the old Bijapur Gazetteer compiled by James Macnabb Campbell (1884) in the year 2001, which has received tremendous response from the public.

In the same series, the department has undertaken this venture of reprinting and publishing the old Kanara Gazetteer which was edited by James Macnabb Campbell in the year 1883. The department is indeed very happy to place in the hands of the readers, this most useful volume, as it depicts the details of variegated life of the people, and a variety of other subjects in graphic details, as they existed in the late 19th century.

The readers would note that prior to re-organization of States (1956) under the British rule the districts of Dharwad, Bijapur, Belgaum and North Kanara were under the Bombay Presidency. After the fall of Tipu Sultan in 1799, the British formed the Kanara district comprising the regions in the

former Kasargod Taluk (now in Kerala), the present Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts (excluding the regions under Kodagu or Coorg State of those days) and the present Uttara Kannada district. This was put under a single Collectorate and Sir Thomas Munro was appointed the first Collector in 1799. Later in November 1800, the district came to be divided into two divisions, and there were separate Collectors for Northern and Southern divisions. Honnavar was the Headquarters of the Northern Division. The present Uttara Kannada along with the Kundapur taluk of Dakshina Kannada was in the Northern division. In 1817 the Kanara district came to have a common Collector as both the Northern and Southern Divisions came to be merged into one single administrative unit.

The events of a series of struggle sparking out of the Sepoy Mutiny that broke out in 1857, were not only severe but continued to pester till 1859 in parts of Supa, Karwar, Yellapur and Haliyal taluks of Uttara Kannada. This struggle was organised and led by a tribal Siddhi leader Siddhi Bastian and Phadnis brothers between 1857 and 1859. The British government successfully suppressed the struggle and later on decided to bifurcate the Kanara district into North Kanara and South Canara districts in 1862. The British Secretary of State in India promulgated an ordinance separating North Kanara district and retaining it under the Bombay Presidency and the newly created South Canara district was placed under the Madras Presidency.

As early as 1843 an attempt was made to arrange for the preparation of Statistical Accounts of the different districts of the Bombay Presidency. However in October 1867, the Secretary of State in India desired the Bombay Government to take concrete steps for the compilation of a Gazetteer of the Presidency on the model of the Gazetteers prepared during that year for the Central provinces. The Government of Bombay under the orders of the Secretary of State in 1868 appointed the Bombay Gazetteer Committee to supervise and direct the preparation of the Gazetteer. After a few organizational experiments the responsibility of compilation of Gazetteer was finally entrusted to Mr. James M Campbell, of the Bombay Civil Service, who commenced the compilation work in 1874 and completed the series in 1884. These Gazetteers were thus intended to give a complete picture of the district to men who were entirely strangers to India and its people, but who, as members of the ruling race carried on their shoulders the responsibility of administering the several regions. Thus the Gazetteer of North Kanara came to be edited by James M Campbell in two parts in 1884.

The Outstanding contribution made by James M Campbell in editing these Gazetteers in all its details has been extolled by Mr. H.N. Quinn, the then Secretary of State in India. Now, in 2003 this department is bringing out a reprint of the two parts of North Kanara Gazetteers, being merged into one single volume and scanned with modern computer technology called Vyasa a software tool developed by Mahabharatha Somshodhana Pratishthana, Bangalore. I thank them for their quality input. I hope that this volume (reprint) will receive favourable response from the readers.

It is my fervent duty to place on record, our gratitude to Smt. Rani Satish, Hon'ble Minister for Kannada and Culture whose constant encouragement has enabled us to undertake the ventures of this nature. Similarly our gratitude is also due to Sri. B.S. Patil, I.A.S., Chief Secretary to Government of Karnataka, who is also the Chairman of Gazetteer Advisory Committee, whose inspiration and encouragement has kept the department on its toes to undertake such laudable endeavours. I also express my gratitude to Sri. C.S. Kedar, I.A.S., Secretary to Government, Kannada and Culture Department, who has evinced a great interest and involvement in introducing innovative schemes in the department, like the reprinting of old Gazetteers and ushering in e-governance in the department, in addition to its regular functions.

I take this opportunity to thank the Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Survey of India, Bangalore, who readily came forward to spare beautiful photographs of early times which have greatly enriched the value of this volume. I am grateful to the Director Information and Publicity and Commissioner, Tourism Department for providing excellent Photographs used in this volume. I find it essential to place on record the untiring efforts put in by the editorial and office staff of the department who have whole heartedly striven hard to bring out this volume in a short span of time. Special thanks go to Sri. S.A Jagannath, Senior Editor (incharge) and Dr. A. Lakshminarasimhan, Investigator who have overseen the printing of this volume. M/S. Vinayaka Printers have done an excellent job in printing this volume in the most presentable form. I profusely thank them.

**T.A. Parthasarathy** K.A.S  
Chief Editor  
Karnataka Gazetteer

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