

The following presentation was given at the inaugural Vaisakhi Meet and Greet in 2012 held at Gurdwara Nanaksar by Ranjeet Singh Shahi.

It depicts a brief portrait of Sikh settlement and involvement with the city of Southampton and the county of Hampshire.

Please note that R S Shahi holds the copyright for the map depicting Sikh residences from 1973-75 on page 17 of this presentation

The Sikhs in Southampton:

Our City, Our History

Ranjeet Singh Shahi

Overview

1. The First Sikh
2. Queen Victoria's Durbar
3. The Sikhs of Netley
4. The First World War
5. The Rebel
6. The 1950s – 1980s
7. The Sikhs of Southampton

1. The First Sikh



- May 1854 – Maharaja Duleep Singh arrives in Southampton.

2. Queen Victoria's Durbar



- 1891 – The ‘Durbar Room’ is commissioned.
- Queen Victoria wanted a ‘flavour of India’
- Lockwood Kipling sends a talented student of his to design this room.



2. Queen Victoria's Durbar



- Ram Singh
- Spends two years working in Britain designing, making and building.

2. Queen Victoria's Durbar



- Also designed:
Khalsa College, Amritsar
Chiefs College, Lahore
Lahore Museum
College of Agriculture,
Lyallpur

3. The Sikhs of Netley

Ram Singh	do	M	33	/	31 st Madras Infantry
Bishan do	do	S	27	/	Bugler, 45 th Bengal Infantry
Dacoda do	do	M	30	/	Sepoy, 14 th - do -
Tatha do	do	S	30	/	do do do

- 1901 Census
- 4 Sikhs listed
 - 45th Bengal Infantry (Rattray's Sikhs)
 - 31st Madras Infantry
 - 14th Bengal Infantry (Ferozepore)

3. The Sikhs of Netley



- 1894 – Southampton becomes HQ for the Indian Troop Service (Ships), receiving wounded from Sudan, North West Frontier¹



1. Hoare. P. (2001). **Spike Island: The Memory of a Military Hospital**. London: Fourth Estate p156

4. The First World War



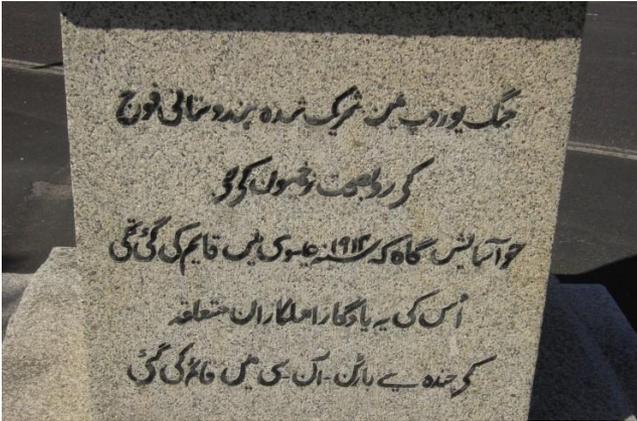
- 1914 – Indian Soldiers training camp set up in Ashurst and Brockenhurst
- 1915 – Indian hospital set up in Barton-on-Sea

4. The First World War



105M93/1/35 - Sikh Soldiers at New Milton train station

4. The First World War



- Memorials to Indian soldiers set up at Barton-on-Sea and Patcham, Brighton



5. The Rebel



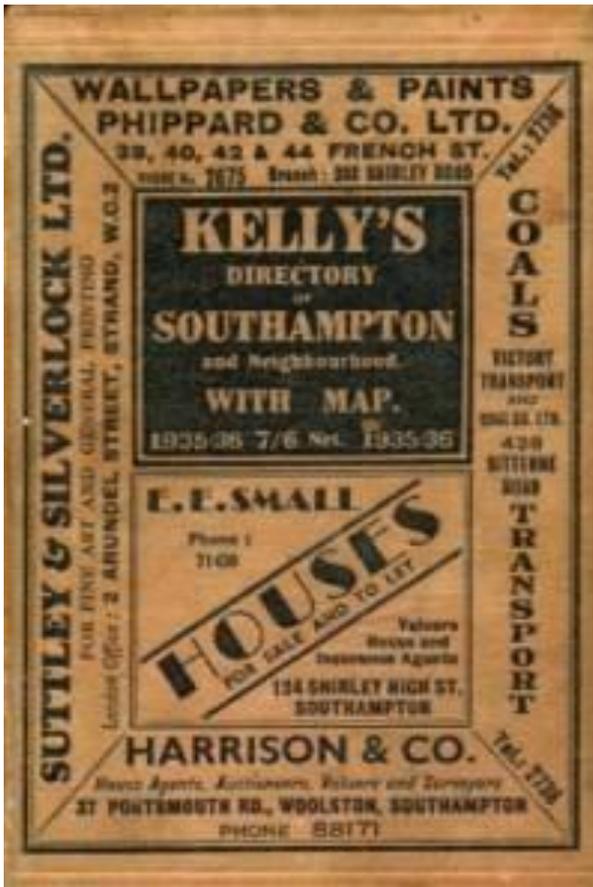
5. The Rebel



- July 1939 – 12 Manchester St, working at Lindsay Parkinson and Co, as a carpenter.¹
- Less than a year later, March 13th 1940, Udham Singh, kills former Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab

1. Daily Mirror (1940).Assassin Shoots Peers, Knights in London. March 14th 1940

6. 1940s – 1980s



- A 'Ron Singh' appears in 1939 Kelly's Directory living at 86 Graham Road
- Sikhs arrive in great numbers in 1950s and 60s
- 'Kabul Singh' appears in 1951 Kelly's Directory living at 82 Princes Street

6. 1940's – 1980's



- First Gurdwara (Sikh place of worship) established formally at No. 8 Clovelly Rd in 1966

6. 1940's – 1980's



6. 1940's – 1980's



- Schools – Non English Speaking Pupils
- 1977
Mount Pleasant First (90%)
Mount Pleasant Middle (90%)

6. 1940s – 1980s



- Recruitment drives in India talk of a Commonwealth of Nations
- 1970s racism spearheaded by National Front leads to clashes in Southall (1979). Affects 2nd Generation, leading to questioning of identity.



7. Sikhs of Southampton



- 2799 in Southampton (581 in Eastleigh, 271 in Test Valley)
- Forming 1.3% of total pop
- 32% live in Bevois Ward where they form 9% of the Wards population

THANK YOU