APPENDICES
[Excerpts of the conversation with some members of old immigrant families of Moirabari Mauza in presence of Dr. Mrinal Nath]

Part: I

Date: 21.07.13  Time: 11.30 A.M.

Name: Unus Ali Choudhuri.
Age: 68 years, retired in 2003 as Tax Collector of Moirabari Gram Panchayat.

My father’s name was Haji Mahar Ali Choudhuri. He was the son of Sahar Ali Choudhuri who came from Mymensingh in about 1924-25. My father was born at Moirabari; he was the second amongst 9 brothers and sisters. He had 3 wives and 9 sons. I was one of them.

I heard that my grandfather along with his family came to Chaparmukh by rail from Mymensingh and then walked to Moirabari. Then there was huge waste land in Nowgong and he occupied about 500 bighas of land here. Maximum land was cleared off jungle and some brought from the local people. At that time the price of land was about Rs.700 to Rs.800 per bigha. I heard that when my grandfather went to pay land revenue to the British officer, he was given the title of Chaudhuri (The Choudhuri family is now scattered in the entire mauza). We possessed the area once Sewali Kavi Ratna Kanta Borkotaki had his mauzadari office. He had a big family and cultivated the fields by own and engaging kamla. Main crops grown in our fields were jute and sali variety of rice. There were godowns of Marwaris at Moirabari bazar where jute was sold.

Part-II

Date: 21.07.13  Time: 12.30 P.M.

Name: Md. Nurul Islam Mukhtar.
Age: 72 years, retired teacher of Moirabari High School in 2002.

I was born in Moirabari. My father is late Haji Angsar Ali Mukhtar who died in 1988. My grandfather was late Jalaluddin Ahmed. I come to know that he came from
Danyabari, 7 miles North West of Mymensingh. Probably my grandfather arrived Nowgong after the establishment of Nowgong Court. As there was no rail connection between Nowgong and Mymensingh, grandfather came in boat and arrived at Dhing ghat. I heard that he first came to Goalpara district, but as there was no easily available land, he then proceeded to Kharupetia in Darrang district and then to Dhing ghat. (When asked how his grandfather knew Nowgong, he replied that the British Captain of the boat had taken him from Goalpara via Kharupetia and dropped him at Dhing ghat.) On arriving, Nurul Islam continued, Jalauddin Ahmed saw the entire area was covered by jungle and began to occupy it after clearing it. The Marwari traders of Nij Dhing had at first given shelter to my grandfather. As per my knowledge, my grandfather had 500 bighas of land. The local people, mostly ethnic tribes had also sold their lands. By that time, there was no Assamese Muslims in Dhing area. In my childhood, I saw that my father had cultivated our fields through Kamlas. Jute was the main crop, but the two varieties of rice, Ahu and Sali were also cultivated in our fields. Rice was rarely sold; jute was sold to the Marwari godowns at Moirabari.