Acknowledgements

My interest in the History and Culture of Assam started many years ago when I came to Guwahati after marriage, to live with my husband, Late Apurba Sinha, who hailed from Assam and his family. The people and the place totally charmed me. My husband, being an architect, was himself, very interested in people and culture. He described to me the detailed history of all the places we visited. It was then that I had decided to write about the people of Assam. I acknowledge with gratitude my husband for giving me a background experiential knowledge of the people of Assam and their Culture.

When my father-in-law Late Shri S. C. Sinha, who was Chief Minister of Assam in the 70’s, became aware of my intention to write about the history of Assam, he offered me the use of his own library. He personally purchased many important books for me. An able statesman, a thinker, a political leader and a Gandhian to the core, my father-in-law Late Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha was greatly loved by the people of Assam. He accompanied me on field trips and introduced me to well-known Vaishnavite philosophers and historians of repute. He was a man of great public stature. When we visited the Sattras, the Sattradhikars and all the monks received him with love, respect and joyful hospitality. By his side, I got the opportunity to study the ancient living Culture of the Vaishnavite Sattras closely and directly. I not only acknowledge my indebtedness for the support and help of such a saintly personage for my thesis, I also believe I have got this privilege and good fortune because, sometime, I must have done good deeds. Fate has snatched away both of them before the completion of this work.

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In the District Library at Guwahati, I found the District Gazetteers and the Copy of Reports prepared by A.J. Moffat Mills in 1854 A.D. regarding condition of Assam and the copies of petitions made by Anandoram Dhekial Phukan and Moniram Deewan to the British. I acknowledge the Library’s support for my study.

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