Chapter - VIII

Conclusion
CONCLUSION

The people of Bundelkhand has been freedom minded since the dawn of civilization. The hilly nature and climatic condition of the region helped them to be hardy they behaved as the champion of maintaining the purity of Indian culture. Never did the people of Bundelkhand submit permanently to any foreign yoke and never did their tenacious spirit of freedom die out, even when by force of uncontrollable circumstances, they had to remain tie down to outside authority during the ancient & medeval periods.

Though dormant, it was remained alive & often asserted itself. This noble trait in the character of the people has persisted through out the whole range of history. A striking example of this trait is Chatrasal Bundela. His bid of independence against the Mughal authority was initiated by Beer Singh & Jujhar Singh & kept up by Champat Rai, Chattrasal’s father. This spirit of freedom of the people of Bundelkhand persisted through out the history.

The Rani of Jhansi kept up this spirit and fought against the foreign rule in the very same manner.

People’s Co-operation to the Rani of Jhansi

The brave Rani who was the guiding force and the chief leader of the great revolt of 1857 received the co-operation of the people of Bundelkhand whole heartedly. It is evident from the fact that when the
adjoining native states of Datia and Orchha had been attacking Jhansi in support of the British, the people strongly opposed the joint venture of Datia and Orchha. The inhabitants of Jhansi attacked the forces of the Rani of Tehree and captured the fort of Orchha. Never was such and unprecedented enthusiasm of people which was witnessed at that juncture.

Major F.W. Pinkaney who was Superintendent of Jhansi informed the Secretary that the rebels from Jhansi fort of Mauranipur had taken the fort of Barwasagar and now besieging the fort of Orchha belonging to the Tehri Rani.

**Pitched Battle against the British**

The people of Jhansi and the Roshilla soldiers who had been so inspired by the Rani Laxmi Bai that they fought pitched battle against the British to defend the honour and prestige of Rani. The Rohillas were in abundance in Jhansi force & they had been assigned the task of defending all gates of Jhansi fort. The local people who had been adamant to fight the British army tooth & kneel actively supported the Rohillas. When Hugh Rose managed the Rohillas fought pitched battle against the enemy with the support of the inhabitants of the town. Hugh Rose kept up a heavy fire on Jhansi fort and managed to enter the city on 03rd April 1858. Soon after the British solders marched towards the Rani’s palace Major Pinkaney in his letter to described the brave resistance of the native and the Rohillas in these words . “The Rohillas put up a brave resistance against the British soldiers & they fought pitched battle against the enemy”. In spite of the fact that their leader (Rani of Jhansi) had left Jhansi, Rohillas did not lose heart and with the
co-operation of local people continued the brave resistance. The people of Jhansi naturally bore the brunt of enemy's attack with great courage.

Jhansi was badly looted & the most natives whose resisted were killed. This ferocious attack of British force is still being remembered by the people as Jhansi 'Gale Ke Fansi' No doubt the people who were over enthusiastic in overthrowing the foreign rule rendered every sacrifice for the honour & prestige of their beloved queen, Rani Laxmi Bai.

People's Participation Increased after the fall of Kalpi

Moreover another example of the active participation of the people of Bundelkhand in the revolt of 1857 was the development which took place with the fall of Kalpi fort. In fact the revolutionaries collected at Kalpi to put a combined resistance against the British forces after through consultation the troops were paraded in the presence of Rani & Tantia Topee. The Rao Sahib, after addressing the troops, ordered Tantia to lead them against the advancing British army.

Thus the revolutionaries made a very pronounced attack on the right side on 22nd May 1858. Pinkaney reported the happening as follows³ "At about 1 p.m. the enemies were completely driven out & they suffered heavy loss particularly in the ravines between the Goolawli rivers". Inspite of the reverses at Kalpi the native and the soldiers of the revolutionary leaders did not lose courage. Soon after they divided to scatter in the ravines so that they could have harassed the foreign forces by adopting the Goriella Warfare. The areas adjoining to Jamuna was surrounded by ravines it suited most for the Goriella warfare. Thus the new strategy was adopted.
KALPI (JALAUN) FORT (MANTRANA STHAL) IN COURTESY-ARCHEOLOGICAL DEPTT., JHANSI
However, the British also changed its war tactics and used camel corps for suppressing them. The camel could have entered into the ravines & the camel corps could have produced the desired results.

No doubt the revolutionaries put up brave resistance but their meagre resources started to tell upon them. Even then they did not give up their effort of liberating the region from the colonial power.

**Revolutionary leader - Burjor Singh**

Burjor Singh was a Parmar Thakur of Belawa (Ameeta) of district Jalaun who actively participated in the great revolt of 1857 and he still remembered by the people as a great terror who did not leave any stone unturn to put an end to the British empire in this region. This Parmar Deewan resisted the British troops chiefly in Jalaun, Kalpi, Koonch and the areas adjoining to the Hamirpur district. The British Officers were greatly perturbed because of the Guriella tactics of warfare which Burjor had adopted.

No doubt Major Hugh Rose sent Major Orr to attack on Burjor which took place of Belawa on May 31, 1858 in which 150 followers of Burjors party were killed. However, his activities spread with great rapidity with the departure of Hugh Rose’s force to Gwalior from Kalpi, Burjor took opportunity of this changed situation & recaptured Koonch which was held by the chief of Gursarai on behalf of the British. He was also assisted by Daulat Singh who was also revolutionary leader of that area.

Besides recapturing Koonch Burjor also proceeded towards Jalaun so that the area which had been under the British control could have been
REVOLUTIONARY LEADER
DEEWAN BURJOR SINGH, PARMAR
THAKUR OF BELAWA (AMEETA)
taken. No doubt Major Pinkaney had directed the chief of Gurusarai to protect Jalaun from Burjor’s party but in vain. As the chief of Gursarai proved helpless to counter the revolutionary activities of the above rebellious leaders. So much was the influence of Burjor in district Jalaun and adjoining areas that the chief who had been supporting the British to prove helpless.

In reality the people in general were dominated by the feelings of patriotism. Moreover, they had great affection towards the Rani and as soon as the Rani of Jhansi was killed in Gwalior the people of Bundelkhand started revolting against the British empire with full determination. They had the sole intention of uprooting British from this region at any cost because it would have been the great condolence to the departed soul of Rani Laxmi Bai.

Pinkaney in his above letter had mentioned the great disorder which followed upon the martyrdom of Rani Laxmi Bai. He writes that the Jalaun district is in great disorder & the people in some parts “particularly round Kalpi have shown a feelings against us”.

The revolutionary activities which sprang up with great rapidity after the death of great Rani were not confined only to Jalaun district. Infact they had covered the entire region of Bundelkhand also. The district of Jhansi which was quiet for some time became disturbed again & especially the inhabitants between Koonch & Jhansi had become open rebellions. In Moth pargana Dabey Singh & Baldev Singh were very active. They were resorting the same ways which had been adopted by Burjor Singh and therefore, the above revolutionary leaders had common goal of uprooting the rule of British.
Dabey Singh plundered Moth on 23rd May in which the town was looted. They had burnt down the tehsils & thanas and forced the Govt. officers to quit the area. Under these circumstances Hugh Rose who was busy in Gwalior directed his subordinates to put down the rebellious activities, but Burjor of Belawa did not bother and continued his activities with great vigour. The British tried to divide the rebellious leaders & therefore, they managed to win over the three influential Thakurs of Behat, Ameta & Baroda who had been previously Burjor’s ally but their friendship did not last long. The above influential Thakurs committed treachery because of some allurement but they had no base with the result they had to cut very sorry figure & thus lost their influence on the people of the area.

Burjor Singh had a glorious history & he fought against the British for much longer period. This period is the most important because after martyrdom of Rani of Jhansi there was no commanding personality who could have led the revolution with great rapidity and tact. It was also the time when Moropant Tambe, the Rani’s father was no more who could have guided the destiny of the revolution. Under these circumstances there was vacuum in leadership & Burjor Singh appeared on the scene at the right moment & proved himself the real son of the soil by opposing the British.

Rebellious Leaders of Hamirpur Districts

It has been noted earlier that while Burjor Singh was active in Jalaun, Kalpi, Koonch & the areas connecting Itawa border, the other leaders had been busy at the same time in fighting against the British forces in
Hamirpur district. Desput a Bundela Chief of Jaitpur had been playing a vital role against the British rule in the district of Hamirpur. Meanwhile northern revolutionary leader Zalim Singh had also become active. It becomes evident, from the letter No. 644, dated 10\textsuperscript{th} Dec. of Pinkaney that both the leader had become violent by the end of Nov. 1858. Probably it is because of putting heavy pressure on the British that they had resorted to such a violent action.

Pinkaney informs that “On the 26\textsuperscript{th} November a party of rebels under Desput belonging to Zalim Singh’s band seized of carried of nine government chaprasies as they were proclaiming the amnesty and collecting revenue in the villages of Seawan only, 6 miles from Brigadier Munrey’s Camp. The next day one of the chaprasi came into camp with the information that the other had been hacked to pieces with swords.” It shows that the revolutionaries had been determined to fight to finish the British rule.

The other revolutionary leaders who were also active in this district were Chattur Singh & Bakht Singh. Both of them were also commanding the support & cooperation of the local people. When Captain Hillary was busy on attacking Burjor of 4\textsuperscript{th} December the same day Brigadier Munrey sent a detachment of the 12\textsuperscript{th} lancers along with 2 guns & a few of the 3\textsuperscript{rd} Bengal Cavalry under Col. Oakes to Kasheepoora & Lachoora. This force was sent on the request of Freeling who had information that the rebels under Chattur & Bakht Singh\textsuperscript{6} had been active in those areas. On reaching at the spot the British officers found that both the rebels leaders had taken shelter in jungly hill where it was not possible to attack by cavalry. Subsequently, Col. Oakes therefore sent back to camp for the help of at least 100 of the Madras 3\textsuperscript{rd} European Regiment. The force which was
requisitioned arrived on the 5\textsuperscript{th} December but by that time most of the rebels had fled off. About 60 of the rebels had been killed in that action.

**Goolab Singh & Isree Bajpai were Captured**

Besides Desput, Zalim Singh, Chattur Singh, Bakht Singh & Om Rao Khangar the other noted rebel leaders of district Hamirpur were Goolab Singh & Isree Bajpai\textsuperscript{7}. Goolab Singh was the brother of the prominent leader Bakht Singh. However, Freeling who himself was leading the British force in southern parganas of Hamirpur proceeded to India in the Alipoora Jagir on 5\textsuperscript{th} December at day break. He had information that Goolab Singh & Isree Bajpai had been hiding out in these areas. Freeling attacked them & captured the above chiefs.

The revolutionary activities in Bundelkhand were about to end by the middle of December 1858. Most of the leaders either fled to unknown direction\textsuperscript{8} or kept quiet. Certainly the district of Hamirpur remained disturbed much longer. However the revolutionary activities were also declining in this part. Jalaun had become quiet by that time\textsuperscript{9}. Meanwhile Bakht Singh sent information to the Deputy Commissioner that he was ready to surrender provided half of the Alipur Jagir was restored to him. In reply he was communicated that “if free from European blood life was safe if he came in & that any claims he had should be considered”. It is evident from Pinkaney’s report that the rebel was still plundering in Jaitpur & Mahoba Parganas. No doubt Brigadier Munrey made an attempt on him on 10\textsuperscript{th} December but he failed. However the rest of the district.

Chattur Singh subsequently withdrew from the scene of activity with the result the district of Hamirpur settled into its normal state\textsuperscript{10}. 

159
Rebellious Activities of Mansaram

If the district of Hamirpur was being commanded by the rebel leader like Chattur Singh, Jawahar Singh, Mansaram, Bakhat Singh, Roop Singh, Om Rao Khangar & Desput the territory adjoining Jhansi was under the influence of Mansaram who had emerged as the leader of the rebels martyrdom of Rani of Jhansi. Mansaram mainly concentrated in Karrera, Pichore & Datia state. Pinkaney informs that “in the South – East of the Jhansi district the rebels under Mansaram had taken the fort of Mayapur and this morning an express arrived from the tehsil of Pichore (34 miles South-West of this) that one cavalry of the recels had placed prickles round the fort and that is expected to attack the adjoining territory next day”. Thus, Pichore and the adjoining areas had identified Itself as the leader of the people.

Mansaram continued his struggle against the British it is further supported by the narrative\(^{12}\) of Pinkaney that “the parganas of Moth and Bhandar are quiet but Mansaram and Jawahar Singh have reappeared near Karrera. Col. Liddell has been written to send a small party in that direction.” On 24\(^{th}\) Sept. 1858\(^{13}\) he informed again that “Some rebels under Mansaram had assembled to the North – East of Kurrera but on the advance of a detachment from Jhansi they dispersed.”

It is worthy to mention here that these rebellious leaders had been getting support secretly from the native states and from the Jagirdar of Baroni. They got support from Jagirdar’s of Baroni who holds some villages in the South -West of Datia.” The Datia state had been directed to put control the activities of above Jagirdars.\(^{14}\)
Om Rao Khangar’s Activities in Jaitpur and Mahoba

The period after the declined of Rani of Jhansi had witnessed the rise of many rebellious leaders in their respective areas. Om Rao Khangar was one of them who had organized his followers and started plundering in Jaitpur and Mahoba parganas. These leaders had been fighting the British on the pattern of Guerrilla warfare. They knew it that they were not in position to fight the enemies openly because of their meager resources.

On 10th Dec. 1858\textsuperscript{15} Brigadier Munrey made an attempt to surprise Om Rao Khangar and Desput but he failed. It appears that they fought the enemy with great vigour & courage. No doubt they had limited resources even then their heroic deeds which of course were the expression of people’s desired to get rid of the British rule. They will be remembered in history for their sacrifices.

Indirect Support on Native States and its People to the Rebels

Most of the native states had been helping the British in order to safeguard their interests. As far as their attitude towards the revolutionaries it is quite clear that they had full sympathy with the revolutionary chiefs. It is because of the fact that the most of them had been related to the rulers and ruled of Bundelkhand. It has been noticed that Burjor Singh, the rebellious chief of Jalaun had a large number of sympathizer in the state of Sangthar. It is because of this sympathy that the inhabitants of Dafia state had been
helping the rebellious chief by sending volunteers along with arms & ammunitions. The native rulers too had been helping them indirectly because they knew it well as soon as the British established law & order they would start dealing with them arbitrarily.

Captain Ternan, Deputy Commissioner informed in his weekly report dated 24th Nov. that the rebels forming their band were chiefly men of Samthar and Datia states from which they received arms and supplies etc. The nephew of Seonda Quilledars (Datia) who was active in rebel party were killed in fighting the British troops on 12th November. On Oct.10, the British had imposed a fine on the state of Datia for its active help to the rebels. It is because of this suspicion that the British Officers turned down the suggestion of enrolling the local people in the police for the suppression of the revolt.

It is worthy to mention here that Burjor Singh of Belawa had been getting support from the inhabitants of Nuddygaon. Capt Turner who was deployed to suppress the Burjor’s activities reported that “I bring to your notice the protection and ready assistance always given by the Nuddygaon people to rebels of this district. Were it not indeed for such assistance Burjor Singh and his gang must have been destroyed long ago”. In this context Capt. Ashburner who was deputed to maintain law and order in Jhansi in neighbourhood of Mhow-Mohoni confirmed the same view regarding the assistance given by both Nuddygaon and Samthar people to rebellious leaders.

The territory between Dhasan and Betwa was much disturbed because Desput was in open revolt. He had been carrying out his rebellious activities with the support of 7000 to 8000 followers. Ashburner writes that
“if these rebellious chief could not be suppressed then it is because of the sympathies and co-operation of local people which the rebels have been getting frequently.” Maj Pinkaney also referred\(^{16}\) that “the friendly Thakur’s or troops furnished by native states, who are not to be depended upon for fighting, have in many instances proved treacherous or cowards and who will probably make terms with the rebels should any difficulty occur-like those a Mauranipur and surrender the Government swords as the prices of their safety”.\(^{17}\)

It indicates the British suspicion towards the attitude and behaviour of the native rulers to whom the foreign rule did not believe.

**Suppressive Measures and its Impact**

The British had adopted well planned strategy in suppressing the revolt in this part of central India. Major Hugh Rose the seasoned General was assigned the task. Moreover, the British Officers posted in Jhansi and the other districts of Bundelkhand had been planning to divide the revolutionary leaders. The native states were no doubt with the foreign rule. Every effort was made by the British soldiers to crush the revolt with great ferocity it followed blood shed and plunder. The town of Jhansi was looted openly. Similar measure had also been adopted in other districts of Bundelkhand so that the people could not dare in future to challenge the British rule.

The suppression continued for much longer. However, with the establishment of law and order the British decided to give punishment to the people of Bundelkhand for their rebellious activities.
The foreign rule made a policy to keep the people of Bundelkhand backward from socio-economic points of view so that they would not be in position to resist the British rule in future. It was the reason that high duties were imposed on local manufactures\(^\text{18}\). No effort was made to provide the channel of irrigation to the people who mostly depended on cultivation. The revenue settlements made in the districts of Bundelkhand were too high. With the result the people could not pay the Government demand easily. Under these circumstances they were forced to borrow loan from the money lending communities against their landed property. The interests accrued so heavily that their landed property passed to the money lenders.

The socio – economic backwardness resulted into law and order situation. The crimes like Dacoity became frequent. The gang of Dacoits first organized in Lalitpur but soon after they increased number. The Bundelas who had glorious tradition of bravery and independence were the most affected victims. The British tried to gain their sympathy by enrolling them in the army which was started as Bundela Regiment but these Thakurs did not co-operate this idea. The reason was that the people of Bundelkhand who had opposed the British were in no mood to serve in the British Regiment.

**Hatred Against the British**

The memory of suppression lingered for a long time. With the result the people developed a feeling of hatred against the British Raj. The tomb of Major Pinkaney who died as commissioner of Jhansi in 1862 his still regarded as Dog’s Tomb. It was Maj Pinkaney who was the main figure in suppressing the great revolt in Bundelkhand. It is the fine example of the feeling of hatred against the British.
MAJOR F.W. PINKANEY’S TOMB KNOWN AS DOG’S TOMB (IN FRONT OF ALLAHABAD BANK CHAURAHA) JHANSI
MEMORIAL OF BRITISH SOLDIERS KILLED IN THE BATTLE OF BETWA, KNOWN AS DOGS TOMB (NEAR BAKHSHI'S BUNGLOW LALITPUR ROAD) JHANSI
The another example of hatred is the memorial of British soldiers killed in the Battle of Betwa built on Lalitpur Road (Parade Ground). It is also regarded as Dog’s Tomb.

It is undisputable fact that the whole region of Bundelkhand had remained backward in socio-economic sphere during the British rule but even then it’s the brave people always preserved the spirit of freedom. Although this feeling remained dormant after 1858 at with the formation of the Indian National Congress and arrival of Mahatma Gandhi on the scene of the National Movement it revived in the heart of the people. With the result they became active which brought about the Independence of country in 1947.

References :

1. Letter No. 22 vide appendix No. 2

2. Letter No. 122 vide appendix No. 6

3. Letter No. 196 vide appendix No. 10

4. I bid.

5. Letter No. 644 vide appendix No. 35

6. I bid.

7. I bid.
8. Letter No. 679 vide appendix No. 36

9. I bid., Para 9


11. Letter No. 115 vide appendix No. 20

12. Letter No. 282 vide appendix No. 25

13. Letter No. 426 vide appendix No. 26

14. I bid.

15. Letter No. 679 vide appendix No. 36

16. Letter No. 302 vide appendix No. 16

17. I bid.