The present study on the Great Revolt of 1857 is specially based on the secret letters of Major F.W. Pinkaney who was posted in Jhansi during the time of the above revolt. Pinkaney has apprised the secretary North West Provinces of the current happening which were taking place at the time of the revolt. These letters are in fact secret despatches whose sole intention was to inform the Government about the development. Therefore, no one can doubt on the accuracy and correctness of the informations supplied by Pinkaney. Of course some work has been done on the nature & circumstances of the revolt of 1857 but those works have not given sufficient space to the Pinkaney’s narratives. Pinkaney died on 31st July 1862 and thus he had seen personally the day to day happenings. He has vividly narrated the role of Rani of Jhansi, native’s participation in their bid for liberation.

No doubt S.N. Sinha’s account 'The Revolt of 1857 in Bundelkhand' Joyce Lebra’s 'The Rani of Jhansi', M.S. Rennick’s 'A New Light upon the History of Rani Laxmi Bai of Jhansi' had traced the causes and course of the events in a vivid manner but none of them have referred the secret narratives of Maj Pinkaney in details. To me it appears that no account of the revolt is complete without going through the valuable secret correspondence of Pinkaney. Of course some of these letters can be seen in Archives as well as in National Library, Calcutta but the numbers of these letters are small. I have collected the total 450 letters which starts from letter 19 to 679. These letters throw everyday information of the situation prevailing those days. Thus the main source of our thesis entitled "The Revolt of 1857 in Bundelkhand in Light of the Report of Major F.W. Pinkaney" is the secret correspondence of Major F.W. Pinkaney as well as the memories of suppression and happenings which are preserved in traditions of Bundeli and Marathi have helped me to compare the information of Pinkaney. Thus the plan of the present thesis is entirely based on the above secret documents which I hope could supplement the existing knowledge of the regional history of Bundelkhand.

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KALPANA TYAGI
H.No. 384/A, C.P. Mission,
Civil Lines, Jhansi (U.P.)
Mobile : 9415113625