Glossary

Ahu  Broadcast summer rice
Ali  (Usually understood as) the high embanked roads built by the Ahom administration with paik labor
Amín  Land survey assistant of the district revenue officials
Annu  Monetary unit (in a non-decimal system, 16 annas form coinage equivalent of 1 Rupee)
Arkāthi  Professional recruiter who “collected” coolies from villages and delivered them to large “deposits” (from which planters or their agents used to purchase the batches)
Bakijāi  A notice of demand calling on the defaulter to pay his revenue, failing which his moveable property was liable to be confiscated and sold
Baqtulī  Inundated land
Barkardazes  Armed retainers
Basti  Homestead and garden land
Batta  Commission
Bhadrak  (Usually Bengali Hindu upper-caste western-educated) “gentlemen”
Bhoksā  Subordinate
Brick tea  Tea “made from the refuse leaves, after the finer sorts of tea for European use have been manufactured.” (T. T. Cooper, The Mishree Hills)
Charg  Village-settlement
Chamasi  Peon
Chauki  (Police or customs) outposts
Coolie  An “unskilled” laborer (early usage was confined to the porters, but increasingly the term became attached to the tea garden workers)
Dagchitha  Mauzadar’s field register, which showed the number borne by each field, its boundaries, dimensions, the ryot’s name, the area of the field, its class of soil, and the crop grown on it. Annually written by Mandals, Mauzadar’s assistants.
Dao  A broad-headed hatchet, with a heavy blade (usually edged on one side)
Farman  Mughal imperial order
Gaonbarā  Village headman
Gaum  Elder branch (and its chief) of a Singpho kin. (Vaur denotes second branch; La third; Thoo fourth; Tang fifth. E.g., Ningru-la is the chief from the third branch of the ruling Singpho lineage of the village of Ningru.) Subsequently the British began to use GAUM to signify “chief” from other communities too.
Ghit  River station
Goñi  A storehouse which also functioned as a shop
Hat  Marketplace
Ijana  Lease
Jamalbumi  MAUZADAR’s revenue roll, which is a record of the fields constituting each ryot’s holding, their area, soil-class, and assessment. Annually written by Mandals, Mauzadar’s assistants.
Jotedar  Term usually employed in the context of northern Bengal and Goalpara, to
indicate holder of a "jote" or holding of "reclaimed land", who exercised a sub-proprietary right in that land

*Jannu/Jamu* Estimated amount of land revenue

*Khas* Assessed land under direct management

*Khat* Hereditary, rent-free estate of the Tungkhungia notables, usually cleared by their attached PAIKS

*Khedda* Elephant chasing, trapping and capture

*Kotak i* Interpreter (usually for the hill languages)

*Malal/Mehal* Technically fiscal unit, but often used with a territorial implication

*Marjut* A madder plant and/or the dye prepared thereof

*Maund* Unit of weight, usually equivalent to 80 pounds or 36.29 kilograms. (1 maund = 40 SEERS)

*Maunza* Revenue circle, fiscal charge of a MAUZADAR

*Maunzadar* Assessing officer and revenue farmer of a MAUZA

*Meetingu* Literally, the lord of the Meetei. Title for the suzerains at Kangla (more familiar to the readers of the nineteenth century documents as Manipur Maharaja).

*Md* Gathering, meeting

*Mofassil* Provincial small town

*Mukarrir* Clerk

*Naik* A group leader of SEPOYS, subordinate to a Havaldar

*Namghar* Prayer house.

*Nisfkhiraj* An estate (including both cultivated land and "waste") which paid a lump revenue assessment (originally calculated at half the current revenue rates on the cultivates area of the year of the assessment), and enjoyed the privilege of a ten-year settlement, under which the estate-holder (nisfkhirajdar) was at liberty to bring his "waste land" into cultivation without any increase of assessment during the term.

*Panji* Stakes of pointed bamboos (often hardened in fire) stuck on ground (used in stockades)

*Parbatiyai* Of the hills

*Paragama* Unit of revenue administration

*Peshkash* Fixed amount paid by a tributary ruler to the (usually Mughal) emperor

*Phaid* Ancestry

*Paranic* Relating to the Purīnas

*Rupit* Literally, transplanted. Usually land in which SÁLI is grown.

*Rtooturi* The State's direct and revisable settlement of arable land with individual cultivators without the legal provisions for any intermediate tenure

*Sadar/ Sudder* Headquarter (in a district)

*Sali* Late-maturing (and usually transplanted) rice

*Sanam* Initiation into a religious network; literally, refuge.

*Scherzly* Irregulars used for police duties

*Seer* Unit of weight, usually equivalent to 2 pounds or 907 grams. (40 seers = 1 MAUND)

*Sepoy* Non-European soldier in British army

*Sheristadar* Revenue official
Siem/Syien Chief (of a Khasi group)
Sirdar/ Sardar Overseer in a particular coolie team ("chillan") in an Assam tea garden,
Smrita subordinate to "mohurrirs" and the "burra mohurrir"
Śrijat Relating to the Smritis
Śrijat Literally "Mr."; broadly used to signify a member of the educated middle-
class of Assam proper since the early twentieth century.
Święgodeo Title of the Ahom monarchs. Literally, Lord of the Heaven (Cf. the Burmese
term sa'brm and the Shan term sadJpa, ‘lord of the sky', nominally applied to
the rulers of the predominantly non-Tai-speaking principalities and kingdoms
in northwest Burma).
Tār Old unit of land measurement in the Kamrup area: a bamboo pole 12 feet
long (Old Assamese measurement: 7 hāt 1 bigat and 4 angudi make 1 tār)
Teeta Roots of a plant from which, when brewed and steeped in hot water, a yellow
sap of an intense non-aromatic bitter could be derived that was widely used
(particularly in the Mishmi Hills) as febrifuge and dye. William Griffith
named it Coptis teeta.
Tenai Thana Police station
Zamindar Landlord (whose tax burden was fixed in perpetuity under the Permanent
Settlement of 1793)
Zillum District