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Conclusion
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CONCLUSION

Thomas Munro’s first career was started by his services to the English East India Company. He took part in the two wars between the English East India Company and Mysore and Marathas.

Munro was pre-eminently the soldier-statesman; his military qualities were recognized by so great a master of the art of war as the Duke of Willington, his administrative qualities were even greater. His most distinguishing characteristic perhaps was his modesty and unassuming nature for twenty eight years without break, during his first spell of service he had worked in silence, adopting as his motto the noble lines of the blind patriot bard of England.

He served as the principal collector of Ceded District of Cuddapah Kurnool and Bellary on 24th October 1800. From 1800 to 1807 he worked as the principal collector of the Ceded Districts which were acquired by the East India Company from the Nizam of Hyderabad. Four sub-collector functioned under him. The introduction of Ryotwari system was a remarkable achievement of Thomas Munro.

The ryotwari system which was evolved by him not only withstood the task of time but also triumphed over the permanent settlement of Cornwallis. Munro developed this system and won the approbation of his superiors.

Thomas Munro was elevated to the position of Judicial Commissioner, the powerful rank in the Company’s administration through his quality. He was much consulted by the government and the court of directors on the various administrative questions which came under discussion in connection with the passing of the country’s Charter Act of 1813. The Madras judicature was modified by transferring police and general magisterial responsibilities from the judges of the district courts collectors and by greatly enlarging the role of Indians in the judication of minor cases.

His patience was at last rewarded and he was given a command as Brigadier of the division of the army to reduce the southern Maratha country. The confidence and
good will of the people which he had won during the short period of his civil administration was to stand him in good stead.

Because of the intimate contact that he established with common folk, he realized the necessity of learning the vernacular language to involve them in the administration of the country and therefore he insisted upon the British officials to acquire knowledge of the language of the place where they had to function.

Administering the largest Madras Presidency was a tough job. But Thomas Munro responded to all the challenges by his capacity both as commander and administrator. His contributions to the people of South India were historical.

Efficiency has no bounds. The ruler was invested with authority and power but the true contributions belong to an individual. Thomas Munro proved himself as one of the best individuals in the history of the colonial south India. It was a difficult but impossible to conduct business honestly in the parliament, but Thomas Munro was an exception by illustrating himself as the gentle parliamentarian.

The statue of Munro on horseback sans stirrup and saddle, their absence being a mystery till date, was sculpted by Francis Chantrey and has stood since then, looking over the city with his “delight in those things that in general have no effect but on youthful imagination.” Those near Tirupati would vouch for the latter for it was generally believed that Munro had a vision of the bangaru toranam, a golden garland made by Hanuman for Venkateswara was visible to only the purest of souls.

Of all the Governors of Madras Presidency Sir Thomas Munro alone shines almost like the North Star. A brilliant product of Glasgow University, a gentleman of rare qualities, a skillful soldier, an astute administrator, Munro “ranks among the greatest of the Company’s servants”. He served the English East India Company with steadfast loyalty and truthfulness more than four decades. He began his career as a soldier at Chennai in 1780. By dint of hard work he elevated himself to the position of the Governor of Madras.

Thus a British governor had been made an Indian father by people who loved and respected him not as a master, not as a ruler but as a father who protected them and loved them. Therefore Munro is not an ‘Unsung hero’ but a deified Governor.