The establishment of the North Eastern Hill University created a keen desire among the Khasi teachers to earn a research degree. So I chose the topic "Anglo-Khasi Relations 1765-1947 - Political and Constitutional" and Professor V. Venkata Rao minutely went through my synopsis before my Registration in the University of Gauhati.

This work is based on original records, official and unofficial, mostly unpublished. But published records have also helped in supplementing the original unpublished records. It is also based on Khasi private papers and interviews with old Khasi folks who have experienced British rule. A select Bibliography can be found at the end of this thesis.

A short introduction is undoubtedly necessary. This thesis attempts to classify, analyse and Synthesise the Anglo-Khasi Relations, though not in complete detail, as this would tend to make the work unwieldy. It critically examines the relationship from the British point of view as well as from the point of view of a Khasi, who has a deep love for her people, her society, her polity, her land and one who has an understanding of the feelings and sentiments of a Khasi in his struggle against the British.

The thesis traces the evolution of Khasi political thought, the traditional social and political ideals of the Khasis. It analyses the causes of the sub-national struggle of the Khasis against the British. It unearthed the reasons why the British substituted the policy of negotiation by an aggressive policy of expansion and conquest. It digs out the
factors which were responsible for the acceptance of Sanads by the Sylems and the Farwanas by the other classes of rulers. It discusses many important changes which the British Government had brought about in the administrative, judicial and constitutional set-ups. It traces the great debate which took place from 1919 to 1935, whether the Khasi States or the whole of Khasi and Jaintia Hills should be included within the Reformed Constitution. It also discusses the debate from 1941 about the possibility of forming the North Eastern Hill Province. And last of all, it attempts to study the great controversy on the eve of India's Independence as to the manner in which the Khasi States were to accede to the Indian Union.

Perhaps, I may fail in my duty if I do not express my gratitude to all my friends and well-wishers, particularly to Mr. L.G. Shullai and Mr. Kynpham Singh Sawian who have helped in supplying materials to me.

Let me also not forget my three little children who are a source of constant inspiration and a "living witness" to my domestic tragedy during which time I have to complete my thesis.

Once again, I say 'KHUBLEI' to Prof. V. Venkata Rao and all my well-wishers.

Shillong, the 1st September, 1979.

HELEN GIRI