The term local history refers to those narratives that relate not to macro-historical units such as nation-states or provinces but to smaller and local units such as districts, subdivisions, country-towns and even villages. In Bengal, from the mid-nineteenth down to the mid-twentieth century, such sub-regional historical annals were produced in considerable quantity. However, this genre of historiography did not receive proper attention from later-day researchers. Works regarding West Bengal districts remain specially neglected. The historical tradition of a district like Barddhaman remains virtually undiscussed. This research venture has tried to analyze local history as a separate branch of Bengali history-writing, distinct from subaltern history or folklore studies. The study of local history is necessary for various purposes. In this thesis we have sometimes used the expression *nano-history* to denote histories of small units. Sometimes to substantiate an opinion in the main body of the thesis we have given quotations from Bengali texts in the foot notes. There English translations of the Bengali texts are not given as the relevant sentences in the main body of the thesis fully bring out the meaning of the Bengali quotes. This thesis would have remained undone without the support and guidance of the following personalities:

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SOMSHANKAR RAY
Assistant Professor (History)