

Appendix 1: Colonial Documents: Of Indentureship & Slavery Pooran Bridgelal

Pooran Bridgelal is currently a 3rd year student at the University of Toronto. He lives in Toronto with his wife Judy and his son Levi. He is a collector of rare books and maps on the West Indies.

“As a Trinidadian living here in Toronto, one can become lost in urban life. I decided to submit this information in the hope of memory. Our forefathers and foremothers were forced and cajoled to journey to the West Indies. Even though they were uprooted from their lives, they made new ones. I am of the firm belief that in order to know where you are going, you need to understand where you came from. This brief account of the history of our peoples is only a drop in the ocean waiting to be told by us.”

*The raw information submitted here is from Pooran’s personal collection.

On the 26th June 1851 the ship “Zenobia” sailed from British Guiana to India with 305 East Indian immigrants. There were 148 males, 33 females, 28 children and 1 infant; a total of 210 individuals for the region Bengal. There were also 65 males, 21 females, 8 children and 1 infant; a total of 95 individuals for the region Madras. On the 9th November 1851 the ship “Zenobia” reached Madras. Upon reaching Madras it stayed there for a period of 11 days and then embarked for Calcutta arriving on 23rd December 1851.

In a report given by the Emigration Agent T. Caird he stated that the “Coolies” were not given a good supply of water and provisions. The “Coolies” complained due to the lack of water, they had to use salt water together with fresh water for cooking their rice. The surgeon who was sent on board the Zenobia never offered any assistance to them. They had to rely upon the goodwill of the third officer of the ship who helped them whenever he saw fit. Scurvy broke out on the ship and led to deaths, see Table 1.

Questions put forward to the Emigrants on board the ship Zenobia, by A. Rogers, the Assistant Protector:

Q: How have you been treated on board?

A: We have been well treated on the ship.

Q: Have you had enough khana and water?

A: Plenty of both.

Q: When sick were you carefully attended to?

A: Yes, but we did not trust the doctor, we preferred medicine given by the captain.

Q: Have you read the Benaglee papers I gave you on coming on board, warning you not to take cash with you to your homes, and that there are a number of thieves about Calcutta and upon the roads. The government will give you hoondies on the collectors of your zillahs for any amount, from 10 rupees to as many thousands; you should take these, and then you are safe.

A: Most of them said they wanted to take hoondies.

Q: I will get them for you free of all charge. On landing, you should all go to the derah from whence you embarked; you will get free quarters there, and your property will be safe. In the bazaars you are sure to be robbed, and perhaps murdered. I will send peons to take you to the derah safely.

A: Most of the people agreed to go to the depot.

Q: How were you treated in Demerara?

A: We were treated well.

Q: What wages could you earn?

A: From 6 to 14 annas per day. Sirdars got more.

Q: Was you work harder than here?

A: The work was very hard. People here do not understand how to work.

Q: Were you paid by the month or week?

A: We generally work sicca, but Sirdars got more.

Q: Were you paid regularly?

A: Yes, always in hand.

Q: Were provisions high?

A: Yes, very high; a bag of rice sometimes six dollars; now is cheaper.

Q: Had you good houses?

A: Yes, very much better than here.

Q: How did you like the climate?

A: It is very good, sometimes plenty rain.

Q: Were you beaten or ill-used?

A: No, no one can beat us in Demerara.

Q: Did you suffer cold on the passage back?

A: Some who had no clothes did, but the rest did not.

Q: Had you medical attendance on Demerara?

A: Yes, and hospitals where we might go to and not pay anything.

Q: What sickness did you suffer from?

A: Like this country, only more sort, the chego, which is very bad.

Q: Were active cleanly men attacked by the chego?

A: Not so much, but everyone gets it.

Q: When any dies who takes their money and property?

A: The magistrate generally takes all.

Q: Most of you have brought dollars. I will send an honest poddar to the derah to exchange them for rupees; if you go to the bazaar to change them you will be cheated. Most of you speak English. Were there schools for you at Demerara?

A: We all speak a little English; two men read and write it. There is a very good school in George Town for our children, made by the sahibs.

GUYANA:

Table 1: Deceased Bengal emigrants occurring on the ship "Zenobia," upon leaving Guyana to India

Names	Father's Name	Age	Caste	Zillah	Village
Beehurry	Kalmurry	30	Tatara	Sahebgunge	Serampore
Sam Sing	Luttoo	40	Bhuria	-	Lohardauga
Chumun	Bourbul	30	Cahar	Sahebgungo	Ackepore
Luchmum Sing	Aadun Sing	38	Rajpoot	Arrah	Domrow
Salar Bocus	Huster	70	Mussul man	Arrah	Doodkotaw
Popee	Bhoja	70	Dhooby	Farrackubad	Seewnee
Mouaka	Dookhoo	23	Bhoonij	Ranchee	Gurabur
Dewkee	Gookhool	34	Bildar	Sahebgungo	Hutsa
Assoo	Foyzoo	70	Mussul man	Poorcollo	Capista
Mua Dhun	Gobin	50	Khayra	Midanpore	Gooree
Goulab	Gundhur ab	48	Coorme e	Patna	Mohameedpor e
Chutrun Dary	Ganga Pursad	-	Rajpoot	Lucknow	Gourapore
Moniar	Terah	65	Dooand	Patna	Nowda
Sacker Sing	Ballyo	23	Sohur	Bansoorah	Koralee
Bisso Nath	Moadub	72	Gunjoe	Hasareebagh	Mundo
Narain	Lall Sing	48	Rupoot	Nagpore	Ramdick

*Zillah is a District

Table 2: The “tally” of those onboard the ship “**Candahar**” which arrived at the Port of Georgetown, Guyana on the 27th April 1848, 106 days from Madras

Emigrants	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Infants		Total
					M	F	
Embarked on Jan 1848	217	66	16	17	3	1	320
Died on voyage	11	5	2	2	-	1	21
Born on voyage	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Arrived in port	206	61	14	15	3	-	299
For hospital	19	10	1	1	2	-	33
For immediate distribution	187	51	13	14	1	-	266

There had been a great deal of sickness during the voyage, and the people when they arrived in port, were suffering severely from scurvy, of which three diseased persons died in the harbour; 21 deaths had occurred on the voyage and in port; 33 were sent to the hospital; the remainder were distributed to five estates on the East Coast.

Figure 1: General Remarks on Surgeon's Diary and Journal Regarding the Candahar.

“The surgeon on board reports the loss of his daily medical journal immediately previous to coming to anchor in Demerara. After a delay of six days I have been furnished with his weekly abstract and diary. Up to the arrival of the ship at St. Helena there had only been four deaths; but after that, scurvy broke out and the mortality became very considerable. The appearance of this disease on board may be attributed to the decomposition of two-thirds of the onions very soon after leaving Madras, the unfavourable weather in the latter part of the voyage, and partly, and also, to the great length of the voyage, 106 days, being the longest passage of any of the Cooly ships hitherto to this colony.

The great majority of people arrive more or less tainted with scurvy. The worst cases have been sent to the colonial-hospital; all the others were ordered a mess of fresh meat and vegetables.

Provisions all good, and in abundance, except the fish, none of which remains. Water good. Vessel in every way well adapted for emigrants.”

John M. Johnstone, Health Officer.

Table 3: Death List onboard the Candahar

Name	Age		Disease	Days Sick	Date of death
	M	F			
Parasaramu	25		Dysentery	12	25 January
Chintooma	3 1/2		Scorfula	22	18 February
Madaramacum	3		Dysentery	13	28 February
Raymon	28		Rupture of aorta	1 1/2 hour	7 March
Nutchemuta	25		Dysentery	2	16 th March, jumped overboard
Carumuna	16		-	1	30 March
Mikey	28		-	1	30 March
Unknown	-	9mths	Inanition	-	4 April
Riape	28	-	Scurvy	-	7 April
Jandrum	15	-	-	-	7 April
Murutama	-	40	Dysentery	15	11 April
Bassona	28	-	Hydrothorax	13	13 April
Carrupi	-	9mths.	Inanition	-	15 April
Carmuche	-	23	Scurvy	11	19 April
Rangusuani	45	-	-	-	21 April
Mootomay	22	-	Aneurism	6 hours	22 April
Maradie	-	25	Mortification	-	25 April
Ramsuany	30	-	Scurvy	2	28 April
Paranei	-	22	-	15	28 April
Aurie	-	18	-	22	28 April
Doorasawnie		9mths.	Inanition	-	30 April

Mother`s Name	Sex	Date of Birth	Result
Arrii	Male	20 March	Child died same day
Valiei	Male	23 April	Child still-born.

Table 4: List of slave population of the District of Demarary and Essequibo, of the colony of British Guiana, from the year 1817 to 1832

Year Registered	Males African	Creole	Females African	Creole	TOTAL
31 st May 1817	27, 725	17,046	15,499	17,893	77,163
31 st May 1820	24, 658	18,569	14,471	19,678	77,376
31 st May 1823	21,767	19,457	13,005	20,748	74,977
31 st May 1826	18,898	19,860	11,592	21,032	71,382
31 st May 1829	16,384	20,757	10,343	21,983	69,467
31 st May 1832	13,519	20,830	9,052	22,116	65,517

BARBADOS:

Table 5: Return of slaves escheated to the Crown in the island of Barbados, from Jan 1st 1808

Date	Name of Slave	Sex	Vessel	Imported From
3/01/1830	Jane Edant	Female	Amelia	Trinidad
3/01/1830	Rosannah	Female	Amelia	Trinidad
3/01/1830	Sophia La Grenade	Female	Amelia	Trinidad
3/01/1830	Peter	Male	Pegasus	Bermuda
4/03/1830	Lindo	Male	Industry	Barbados
5/06/1830	John	Male	Perseverance	Antigua
5/08/1830	Bashey	Male	Eliza Pratt	Barbados
6/03/1830	Maria	Female	Caroline	Tobago
6/19/1830	James	Male	Concord	Trinidad
7/01/1830	Quamina	Male	James & Margaret	St. Christopher
7/01/1830	Celia	Female	James & Margaret	St. Christopher

7/01/1830	Betsy	Female	James & Margaret	St. Christopher
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GRENADA:

Table 6: An account of slaves “imported” and “exported” into and from the Port of St. George, Grenada, from 1st January 1825 – 5th July 1830

Date	Name of Slave	Sex	Vessel	Imported From
Mar/01/1830	Jane Edant	Female	Amelia	Trinidad
Mar/01/1830	Rosannah	Female	Amelia	Trinidad
Mar/01/1830	Sophia La Grenade	Female	Amelia	Trinidad
Mar/01/1830	Peter	Male	Pegasus	Bermuda
April/03/1830	Lindo	Male	Industry	Barbados
May/06/1830	John	Male	Perseverance	Antigua
May/08/1830	Bashey	Male	Eliza Pratt	Barbados
June/03/1830	Maria	Female	Caroline	Tobago
June/19/1830	James	Male	Concord	Trinidad
July/01/1830	Quamina	Male	James & Margaret	St. Christopher
July/01/1830	Celia	Female	James & Margaret	St. Christopher
July/01/1830	Betsy	Female	James & Margaret	St. Christopher

“Imported”

Date	Name of Slave	Sex	Vessel	Exported to
Feb/13/1830	Malvina	Female	Amelia	Trinidad
Feb/16/1830	Timothy	Male	Sir John Thomas Duckworth	Trinidad
Feb/16/1830	Alick	Male	Sir John Thomas Duckworth	Trinidad
Feb/18/1830	Lindo	Male	Isabella	St. Christopher
Feb/23/1830	Bob	Male	Robert	Barbados
Feb/23/1830	Desir	Male	Robert	Barbados
Mar/04/1830	Peter	Male	Pigwidgeon	St. Vincent
May/29/1830	Bashey	Male	Lady of the Isle	St. Vincent
June/18/1830	Clara	Female	Flora	St. Vincent
July/15/1830	Bob	Male	Lady Adventurer	St. Lucia

Table 7: "Exported"