



Government of Bengal

# History of the Birbhum Zilla School

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## HISTORY OF THE BIRBHUM ZILLA SCHOOL.

The Birbhum Zilla School was established on the 9th December 1851, under the auspices of the Bengal Council of Education,\* and was managed by a Local Committee of which Mr. James, the District Judge, was Secretary. It met for three years in a rented house when it was removed to its present premises. During the Sontal Insurrection of 1856 it was closed for a few months. A uniform tuition fee of one rupee a month was introduced as soon as it became apparent that the people were willing to pay for an English education.

In 1854 the teaching staff consisted of—

Mr. M. Gregory, Head Master. Pay Rs. 150. Appointed on 2nd August 1854.

Babu Womesh Chandra Ghosh, 2nd Master. Pay Rs. 60. Appointed on 7th November 1851.

Babu Gurudas Chatterji, 3rd Master. Pay Rs. 30. Appointed on 4th May 1854.

Babu Krishnalal Roy, 4th Master. Pay Rs. 25. Appointed on 13th February 1855.

The number of pay pupils at that time was 135.

Mr. Gregory's zeal and efficiency received special commendation from Mr. Malet, Secretary to the Local Committee, and Babu Womesh Chandra Ghosh also received recognition of his good work,

The popularity and success of the school continued under Babu Joggesbur Ghosh, and were maintained under Babu Nobin Chandra Das, until in 1864 Mr. H. L. Harrison, officiating Inspector of Schools, South-West Division, declared it to be the best of the schools in his Division. By 1870 the institution had fallen upon evil times, and its new Head Master, Babu Shib Chandra Shome, found that its very existence was being threatened owing to a rival school which had been opened by the Baptist Missionary, the Rev. Mr. Allan.† Shib Babu, however, restored the school to its former status and stability, and he attained deserved popularity. It was during his incumbency that Satyendra Prasanna Sinha—in later years better known as Lord Sinha of Raipur—and Rasamoy Mitra, Rai Bahadur, were pupils of the school, whose designation was in 1878 altered to the Birbhum Zilla School. Shib Babu was ably supported by his Assistant, Babu Pitambar De, who gained recognition as a scholar and poet.

\*In 1842 the General Committee of Public Instruction was disbanded, and replaced by the Council of Education, which assumed control of all the schools in the Province excepting those in which purely vernacular education was being imparted. By the Educational Despatch of 1854, the functions of the Council of Education were vested in the Department of Public Instruction presided over by the Director of Public Instruction. H. A. S.

†Mr. W. Adam in his Reports (1835-1838) states that in 1838 there was at Suri, the headquarters of Birbhum district, a school built and conducted by the Rev. James Williamson of the Baptist Mission, and that in it English was being taught. H. A. S.

In 1882 Babu Ambica Charan Mukerji came to be Head Master, and held office till 1898, when he was transferred to be Superintendent of the Hindu Hostel, Calcutta. His portrait is in the school hall tells of the affection and esteem in which he was held by pupils and the general public.

Ambica Babu was followed by Babu Ashok Kumar Sen and Loke Nath Chakravarti in close succession. During Loke Nath Babu's incumbency the school secured two scholarships of the First Grade, one of the Second, and three of the Third, at the Entrance Examinations of 1900 and 1901—which caused Babu Karmud Bandhu Bose, Assistant Inspector of Schools, Burdwan Division, then to observe: "This school never, and I doubt if any school ever, won so many scholarships in one year."

Babu Satkari Ghosh was Head Master from 1901 to 1904. Babu Abinash Chandra Sen succeeded him, and continued at the school till he retired in 1917. He improved the institution in many directions. On his retirement there was a rapid change of Head Masters—

Babu Haripada Mukerji—1917.

Babu Sarat Chandra Mitra—1918.

Babu Adya Nath Roy—1918.

Babu Basanta Kumar Mitra—1918 to 1920.

Babu Ashutosh Dutt—1920.

Babu Haripada Mukherji—1920 to 1928.

With Haripada Babu the school entered upon a prosperous career. He was instrumental in opening a Common Room, in forming a Scout Troop, in reviving the Moslem Hostel, and in acquiring and filling up an insanitary tank. Lord Lytton visited the school in 1923, and entered an appreciative note in the Visitors' Book.

The present Head Master of the school is Babu Banwarilal Ray, who is assisted by a staff of 12 teachers, of whom 7 are English teachers, 4 teachers of Oriental Classics and 1 Drill and Drawing Master. The number of boys on the rolls is 295, of whom 251 are Hindus, and 44 Muhammadans.

#### Endowments.

1. **Beni Madhab Fund.**—In January 1898, Srimati Kadambini Devi, widow of Babu Beni Madhav Chatterjee of Parulia, in the Sadar Subdivision, bequeathed a sum of Rs. 4,000 in Government 3½ per cent. securities, so that the interest amounting to Rs. 117 a year might meet the school fees of poor boys by preference deserving Brahmins.

2. **The Malet Fund.**—This Trust was created by public subscriptions to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Malet, at one time Judge at Suri and Secretary to the Local Committee of the Council of Education from 1856 to 1864. It is administered by the District Magistrate, and consists of two 3½ per cent. Government Promissory Notes for Rs. 1,500. It was established in 1864 mainly through the exertions of

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Rai Durgapati ~~Ramesh~~ Bahadur, Sheristadar of the Court of the District Judge. A sum of Rs. 4 a month is earmarked for the fees of needy pupils.

3. **Parada Kinkar Mukherji Scholarship Fund.**—Rai Parada Kinkar Mukherji Bahadur, retired District and Sessions Judge, in 1923 made over 5 per cent. Government Promissory Notes of the face value of Rs. 3,000 for the creation of an informal trust fund for the encouragement of pupils at the Birbhum Zilla School. The fund is administered by the ~~Chairman~~ of the School committee. The accruing interest amounting in a year to Rs. 150 is applied to the award of a scholarship of ~~Rs. 20~~ a month, tenable for one year, to the most deserving pupil of the first three classes of the school. From the balance two silver medals, one called by the name of the donor's father the late ~~Rajon~~ Dakshina ~~Ranjan~~ Mukherji, and the other by that of his ~~mother~~, the late Menmohini Debi. The former is awarded to the candidate who stands highest among the successful boys of the school in Bengali at the Matriculation Examination, and the other for good conduct.

4. **Sarnamoyee Dinanath Fund.**—Rai Sahib Jogesh Chandra Mukherji, late Auditor, East Indian Railway, gave in July 1927 a sum of Rs. 1,000 for the creation of an informal Trust Fund designated the Sarnamoyee Dinanath Fund for the institution of two scholarships. One of ~~these~~ the Dinanath, is given to a boy, preferably a Brahmin, of the Seventh "A" Class; and the other, the Sarnamoyee, to a boy in either the Sixth or Fifth Class.

5. **The Shubhan Mohon Sinha and Hara Sundari Medal Fund.**—The corpus of this Fund, viz., Rs. 1,000 invested in 3½ per cent. Government stock was donated in 1902 by the Sinha family of Raipur in Birbhum district. From it a medal is awarded to the boy of the school who stands highest at the Matriculation Examination of each year. The District Magistrate is Trustee of the Fund.

### Distinguished Old Boys.

- Satyendra Prasanna Sinha, the late Lord Sinha of Raipur (1877).
- Narendra Prasanna Sinha, late Lieut.-Col., I.M.S. (1873).
- Rasamoy Mitra, Rai Bahadur, late Head Master, Hindu School, Calcutta (1877).
- Ram Saday Mukherji, late Superintendent of Police.
- Hemanta Kumar Baha, late Post-Master General (1889).
- Surat Kumar Baha, Rai Bahadur, Excise Commissioner (1891).
- The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Nalini Ranjan Chatterji, Kt., late Offg. Chief Justice, High Court, Calcutta (1880).
- Chandra Bhusan Sen, late Contrroller of Treasuries, Calcutta (1878).
- Parada Kinkar Mukherji, Rai Bahadur, retired District and Sessions Judge (1896).
- Lala Damodar Prasad, Rai Bahadur, retired District and Sessions Judge (1888).

Jogesh Chandra Mukherji, Rai Sahib, retired Auditor, East Indian Railway (1879).

Khetra Nath Banerjee, late Judge, Small Cases Court, Calcutta (1888).

Kalikananda Mukherji, Rai Bahadur, Government Pleader, Suri (1881).

Surendra Nath Sinha, Rai Bahadur, Personal Assistant to Director of Public Instruction, (1881).

Lala Digambar Lal, late Registrar, High Court (1887).

Charu Chandra Sinha, Legal Adviser, East Indian Railway (1890).

Adya Nath Roy, Rai Sahib, late Head Master, Hare School, Calcutta (1892).

Karunamoy Roy, Superintendent of Police (1902).

Bhujagendra Bhusan Mustafi, Sub-Judge, Hooghly (1883).

Gopi Bhusan Sen, late Professor, Hooghly College (1883).

BANWARILAL RAY,  
*Head Master,*  
*Birbhum Zilla School.*

*The 17th February 1922.*



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Photo-copy of the History of the 'Birbhum Zilla School' is re-printed, as it is found, for commemoration and preservation of the Golden-past of the School.

The 7th September,  
2001

Durgapada Barman  
WBSES  
Headmaster—Birbhum Zilla School