

Glossary

Bari: Compound of a house; garden.

Bura Sahib: The head administrator in a tea estate in Assam.

Dhols: *Dhol* in Assamese is a drum but in the tea manufacturing process it is a piece of machinery which is shaped like the *dhol*; rolling drum.

Dooars: Alluvial floodplains in Northeastern India.

joldi chalau: Hurry.

Kachari: Court. Kachari or Cachari is also an indigenous tribe in Assam.

Khels: During Ahom rule, khels were groups of people that consisted of paiks. These khels were organized into larger groups called Gots.

Korno Siga: Literally means a person whose ear lobe is cut or mutilated.

Mohurrir: A Clerk in an Assam tea garden.

Paik: Paik or pyke was the corvee labour system during Ahom rule in Assam. The term was used to refer to the common subject during that time. Manilal Bose, in *Social History of Assam* writes: "The entire adult population, however, was divided into "Khels" and all members of the different "Khels" which varied from 1000 to 5000 were organized into "Gots" of four to three members each. One of the four or three members of each "Got" was in the service of the State by rotation. The "Pykes" enjoyed certain amount of revenue-free land holding and did not pay revenue for that. But each "Pyke" served for some time in his "Khel" and during his absence, the other members of the "Khel" looked after his holding." (42)

Pergunnahs: Administrative unit in British India which consisted of several mouzas.

Poorahs: Pura is a unit of land measurement in Assam which is equal to four bighas.

Sarders or sirder: A term used to refer to the leader of a tribe or group. In the tea gardens of Assam, a *sardar* is the leader of the labourers.

Teklas: A person of menial position.

maro the path: Hand rolling of the withered tea leaves.