

Chanan Singh BA



Chanan Singh was the younger son of Puran Singh and Partap Kaur and was born in Paldi, Punjab, India in 1918. He attended Khalsa High School, Baddon and passed the matriculation examination of the Punjab University in 1934 in the first division. After passing the Intermediate Art Faculty Examination of the University of the Punjab in 1936, he taught languages for a year at S.A.S Khalsa Middle School in Paldi.

Following receipt of his Book Keeping Certificate from the London Chamber of Commerce in 1938, he emigrated to Kenya and for three years he provided accounting services to Hazara Singh, a prominent businessman in Nairobi, Kenya. When the second world war broke out in East Africa, he returned to the Punjab and registered at D.A.V. College, Jalandhar to complete his studies.

He passed his BA exam in April 1943 in upper second division, majoring in English and Persian. He was the first son of Paldi to successfully complete his degree. From May 1943 to August 1948, he was employed in the Military Accounts Department with Dogra Regiment, Jalandhar, Cantt.

He then decided to leave the military and return to Nairobi as a teacher in English, Punjabi and Urdu at the well known Duke of Gloucester School. He was very dedicated to teaching and was most popular with the students. His former students included doctors, engineers, teachers and lawyers one of whom was Justice Mota Singh, QC of London.

He was a member of the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Trust, Urdu Society and E.A.Sikh Association. He took keen interest in writing articles in English and Urdu which were published in well known magazines at the time. He also contributed to the Letters to the Editor of the East African Standard. Some of these articles and the letters are posted on this site for the readers to peruse.

He died in 1964 following a massive heart attack, leaving behind his widow, Savitri Devi, and three sons. Savitri Devi died in 2006.