

The Truth about Taylor Hall's "Jaghi"

Source:

Home away from home. 150 years of Indian Presence in Jamaica. 1845-1995

By Laxmi & Ajai Mansingh. Pg 97.

Indian Settlements

The Indo-Jamaicans spread across the island during the depression of the 1930s and 1940s. Later the expansion of the bauxite industry in the 1950s and the draining of rice swamps in the 1950s and 1960s, forced many to abandon agriculture for jobs in the manufacturing sector. Many Indians headed for Kingston and settled in Cockburn pen on land made available by the United Fruit Company (UFC). Escalating land prices in the co operate area during the 1940s and 1950s, encouraged land owners like Dhanuk Dhari Tiwari to sell their properties. The original group of Indians on Tiwari and adjacent properties, scattered to Bachan Maragh Pen, Payne Land, Granton Pen (Owned by Ramkumar Maragh), Cockburn Pen, Varma Land Tinson Pen, Chisolm Avenue, Waltham Park Road, Wellside Lane and the two, and along the Spanish town road.

*During the Second World War, Indian settlement at Mana Bowl in St. Andrew was uprooted for the construction of a camp for refugees from Gibraltar. In 1948, when the University College of the West Indies was housed in the barracks of the cam, all the Indians had to vacate the premises. Many moved to nearby August Town and Papine, while others went to Whitehall and western Kingston. The **Jaghi** family refused to move without an assurance that the grave of the founder of their clan (Henery Jaghi's Grandfather) would be maintained. The tombstone with the engraving 'Ram Ram' still stands prominently beside **Taylor Hall**.*

Today there is hardly any Indian settlement or concentration, although there are many “neighborhoods” where a large number of Indo-Jamaicans reside.