

(1) Number of pages 12
(2) Date of repair 26-12-86
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. B.P. No.	14/69	Press. Mis.
Dated	28-7-1881.	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives 1-10,006-19-4-79.

No. 550.

Archaeological office
Ootacamund,
July. 14th. 1881.

From

R. Sewell Esqr
Madras Civil Service
on special duty,

To

R. F. Whisholm Esqr
Consulting Architect
to Govt.

Sir,

you lately forwarded me the accompanying papers, and requested me to furnish you with my opinion on the matter of the Chandra-giri palace, its date and history. I regret that up to the present I have been unable to find out anything very definite as to its origin. And as it seems to me that some time must elapse and considerable investigation take place before we are able to assign to it any specific date, I think it best to reply without delay to your reference.

2. In G. O. No. 328. of 8th March 1879, Govt. have traced its history briefly, and I may be permitted to make the following remarks on their summary.

3. (1) and (2). The date assigned by Dr. Walker, in his 'Statistical Report of the Circar of Warangul' (published in volume XV. of the Madras Journal of Literature and Science, page 209.) to the final Subversion by the Mahammadans of the Dynasty of which Pratapa Rudra was the last sovereign is as

A.D. 1341. It appears from the correspondence that Colonel Wilks has noted the date ~~as~~ 1323. I am not prepared to say which is right, and it will be a point of interest left for future decision.

(3) It is hardly fair to say that a "migration was made" from Warangal to Vijayanagar as that would imply that the Vijayanagar Dynasty were lineal descendants of the Warangal Sovereigns; and this is almost certainly not the case. The utmost connection ever claimed, even by the Vijayanagar family themselves, is that the original Vijayanagar chiefs were officers or dependents, possibly adventurers in the pay of, or subordinate to, the Warangal family.

It is almost certain that Narasimha (Narsingh) died in 1508 (not 1495). He was not really one of the greatest kings; and in all probability, it was a pure mistake on the part of the European travellers ever to suppose so. Narasimha appears to have been a usurper. His younger son Krishna Deva Râya (1508-1530) may with justice be called the greatest Sovereign of the Race. Narasimha's reign was not, so far as we can at present tell, very long, — only 18 years.

Authorities differ as to the dates of the erection of the different buildings at Chandragiri. It is possible that Narasimha built the Fort there. But the Vellore tradition is very clear as to the origin of the forts there. It narrates that Krishna Deva Râya captured the principal fort there from an adventurer.

adventurer of the Reddi caste, who had built it 25 years previously. This king's reign commencing in 1508 A.D. the date of the Vellore Fort, could not be earlier than A.D. 1483, if the tradition is accurate. The 2 small forts overlooking Vellore are said by the same tradition to have been built by 2 humble dependents of Krishna Deva Rāya's on the latter's gift; while the strong hill forts near are of Mahatta workmanship, owing their origin to Shahji. ¹⁴⁶⁹₃

I believe that the correct date of the great battle in which the mahamadanans finally drove the Hindu Sovereignty from their capital at Vijayanagar, is A.D. 1565.

(4). For "Penugonda" read "Pennakonda". It is certain that Pennakonda was for a time the capital of the declining Vijayanagar Sovereignty, and that Chandragiri was their last residence. It is equally certain that the kings held a nominal court there up to the close of the 17th century, or even later. Indeed I have copper-plate grants in which their sovereignty is recognized in the following years A.D. 1662, 1663, 1669 (Confirmed by a stone inscription), 1678, 1716, 1727, 1728, 1732,

1733, 1739, 1792, 1793. The later grants are those by the Madara Nayakkas and their dependents, who always seem to have been legitimists in name.

Now as to the dates of the Chandragiri buildings I can only at present state that the Fort is attributed to Narasimha (A.D. 1490-1508), and that the mahal is said by the Vellore tradition to have been built

Oh! a year later.

x no - keep
was it
Chandragiri.

Prasanna!
a...
...
...
...
Seringapatam

built by Achyuta Deva Raya
{1534? to 1542}. Chandragiri was an
important place, and in 1534 gave its
name to a large District. If Achyuta's
style of building is exemplified by the
mahal, it is reasonable to suppose
that the lower (stone) part of the Palace
was older than that; and it is possible
that it was built as early as Narasimha's
reign, or even earlier. As to the upper
(brick) portion, it may have been erected
at any time subsequent; but probably
was not later than A.D. 1570, by which
time it would be reasonable to suppose
that the Sovereigns, driven out 5 years
previously from vijayanagar, would
have completed their new residence.
But it might have been a shooting
- box or summer residence at any
time previous to that i.e. from the
middle of the 14th century. $\frac{1469}{4}$

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
your most obt. servt.
R. Sewell.
on special duty.

No. 553.

Archaeological office,
Cotacamund,
14th July 1881.

From

CURRENT No. 1469

R. Sewell Esqr. 1469
m.c.s.
on special duty.

To

The Chief Secretary to
Govt, Fort St George.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward
for the information of Govt, copy
of a letter No. 550 addressed to
R. F. Schisholm Esq. Consulting
Architect to Govt, as it has
reference to a matter remarked
on by Govt, in their order No.
328. dated 8th March 1879.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obt^d Serv^t

R. Sewell

on special duty.

Sub: 1469-51

0120401

1469
6

1881. Archaeology.

circulated to
the Sec. of the
Cabinet

10/7/77

Presented to the
to find to the

Presented to the
does not materially

Presented to the
materially

Presented to the
materially

Presented to the
materially

Lodged 1/11

From
R. Sewell Esqr
M.C.S.
on special duty

To
The Chief Secretary
to Govt.
Fort St George.

No. 553. Genl

Dated 14th July 1881

Recd. 18

No. 1469
CURRENT NO.

Subject:

Forwarding copy of
letter to R. F. Whisholme
Consulting Architect
to Govt, having refer-
ence to G.O. No. 328
dated 8th March 1879

With respect to the