

Women of Mewar

1. Rani Pushpavati

Rani Pushpavati was a Parmar Princess from Chandravati, who was married to Raja Shiladitya of Vadnagar (Gujarat). According to Nainsi ri Khyat, Pushpavati was praying at Ambaji Temple, when Vadnagar was destroyed and the king was killed. As a devout wife, she herself wanted to commit Sati; but due to her pregnancy she was not allowed to do so. After giving birth to a son, Guha / Guhil she handed him over to a Brahmin priest and committed sati. Later, Guhil (r. 566-586 CE) founded his capital near Nagda in present Mewar, this is according to the stone inscription of Shakti Kumar at Atpur dated 977 CE.



2. Yashomati (661-688 CE)

Yashomati was a great Rajput lady who offers the noblest example of wisdom, goodness, and virtue. According to Kundeshwar temple inscription at Nagda, dated Vikram Samvat 718, Guhil ruler Rawal Aprajeet (661-688 CE), appointed Maharaj Varah Singh as his general. His wife Yashomati constructed a temple in 661 CE, which was dedicated to Shree Kaitabhripu (Krishna). This epigraph goes a long way to portray the revelation of the women's freedom, a very dignified role, social position in the society and economic freedom in ancient Mewar.



Rani Bichitra Kunwar handing over her son Bappa Rawal to the Brahmin family for safety.

3. Rani Bichitra Kunwar

Rani Bichitra Kunwar was a Chauhan Princess of Samar, who was married to Rawal Mahendra II. According to Chittor-Udaipur Paatnama, the kingdom was attacked and Rani Bichitra Kunwar escaped to Ujjain during her early pregnancy. After the attackers went back, Rani Bichitra Kunwar bravely returned to Nagdriha (Nagda) and Bappa Rawal was born a few weeks later. She handed over her son to a Brahmin named Raghurajji. Bappa Rawal grew in the Brahmin household and used to look after the cows. After some years, he met Maharishi Harit Rashi who blessed him to take control of the kingdom of Mewar under the lordship of Shree Parameshwaraji Maharaj Shree Eklingnathji and built a temple at the site.



Image Courtesy- Amar Chitra Katha

4. Baiji Lal Allan Devi

Allan Devi was daughter of Rawal Vijay Singh and Parmar Rani Shyamal Devi from Malwa. The Guhil Princess Allan devi married to Chedi ruler Raja Gayakarna Dev of Kalchuri. After the demise of Raja Gayakaran Dev, she constructed Shiva temple during the reign of her son Narasimhadeva in the Kalchuri year 907 (1155 CE) and engraved one inscription. This stone inscription dated Kalchuri Samvat 907 found at Bheraghat (Near Jabalpur) gave the details of Rawal Hanspal, Rawal Vair Singh and Rawal Vijai Singh.



Bheraghat Shiv Temple

15. प्रसिद्धमिह गोभिलपुत्रगोतमराजनिष्ठ कृपतिः किल हंसपालः ।
शौर्यावसञ्चितानिरगोत्सैन्धुसंघनमोक्तवाखिलमिलद्रिपुत्रकवान् ॥^{११} —[17]
तस्याभवत्तनुभवः प्र-
16. जमत्समस्तमामन्त्रगण्डरगिरीमणिरञ्जिताङ्गः ।
श्रीवैरिसिंहवसुधाधिपतिर्जिह्वहर्षद्विधिर्न परमश्रीजनस्य चोद्वे ॥ —[18].
स वैरिसिन्धोप्यनयद्रिपूणा कुलानि गर्भोरगुहाष्ट-

Part of Bheraghat Stone inscription describing Guhil geneology
Image Courtesy: Epigraphica Indica, Volume II

5. Rani Jayatalladevi (1252 - 1273 CE) Rawal Tej Singh's Queen

Jayatalladevi, Rawal Tej Singh's Queen got constructed the temple of Shyam Parshawnath at Chittor. She was the primary queen and the mother of the next ruler of Mewar, Rawal Samar Singh. The stone inscription of Chittorgarh gate dated Vikram samvat 1235 describes the queen as the mother of Rawal Samar Singh. Jayatalladevi was a very prominent figure in the court as she plays a key role in constructions and court of the Mewar dynasty during the time period of both of her husband and the son.



Rawal Samar Singh (Medpath) inscription of Vikram samvat 1335
Image Courtesy: Rajasthan State Government Museum, Udaipur

6. Rani Padmini (1302 CE - 1303 CE)

Rani Padmini was married to Rawal Ratan Singh. Many historic chronicles like Nainsi ki Khyat, Jayasi's Padmawat, Tarikh i-Farishta and Rajaprasasti, ascribe the attack on Chittor to Allauddin's infatuation for Queen Padmini. These kinds of brutalities of Allauddin can also be witnessed through the capture of Rani Kamla devi of Gujarat, who was forced to live in his harem after the defeat of her husband Rai Karan Baghel. However, Khilji may have also attacked Mewar with political and economic motives.

According to the records by Amir Khusrav, the Sultan started from Delhi on January 28, 1303 and pitched his imperial pavilion between Bedach and Gambhiri rivers and waited. Then, Khilji proposed a truce to Rawal Ratan Singh and met him in Chittor Fort. Khilji tricked the Rawal and captured him thus taking him to his Camp. The Rajputs had no clue about this treachery. In this chaos, Rani Padmini smartly took the initiative and sent Gora and Badal with other Rajput warriors posing as women in royal palanquins. Khilji did not let his army to check the

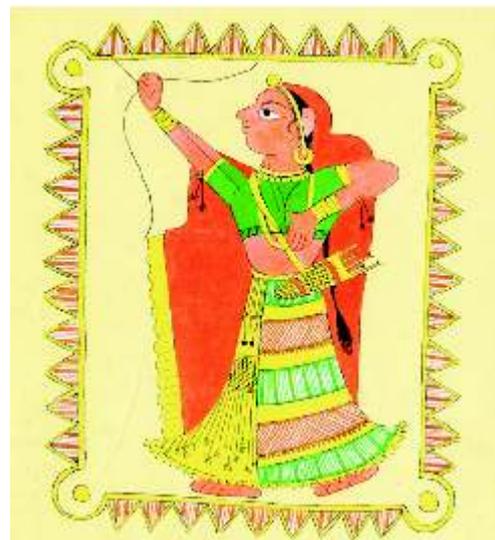
palanquins presuming them all to be women. Gora-Badal saved Rawal by laying their own lives. This led to a brutal attack by Khilji. The Mewar army came out of the fort and fought with valor and the brave women of Mewar led by Rani Padmini sacrificed themselves, by jumping into holy flames of Jauhar to protect their dignity.



7. Viddhyutlata (1302-1303 CE)

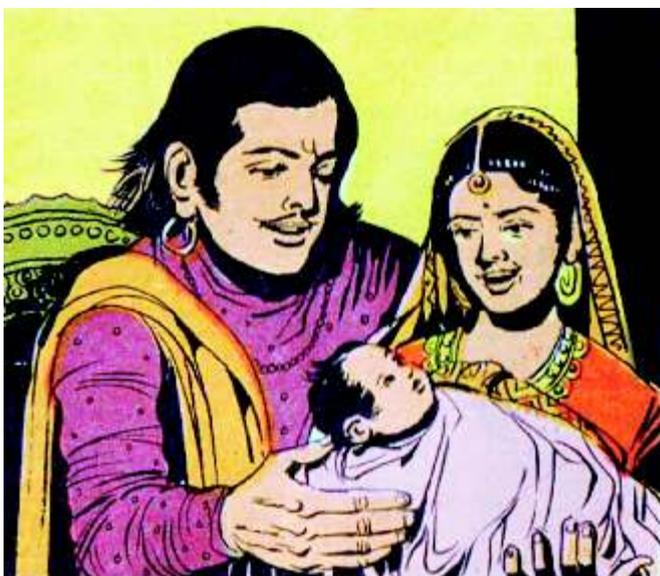
We know about the queens, princesses and noble women who laid their lives irrespective of the society's notion of woman hood, but in today's post MMCF is highlighting a tale of bravery and sacrifice which is neither heard nor sung.

During the attack of Alludin Khilji on Chittor not only the queens and noble women of Mewar sacrificed their lives, but so did the local women folk. Viddhyutlata was the daughter of a soldier in Rawal Ratan Singh's army and was engaged to a soldier Samar Singh. Death seemed inevitable to Samar Singh, so he requested Viddhyutlata to elope with him. However, she did not agree and requested him to wait till the war was over. Restless Samar Singh was still adamant to leave the battlefield and was trying to negotiate with Khilji's soldiers to escape. When Viddhyutlata learned about this, she went to meet him. Samar Singh tried to manipulate her but determined Viddhyutlata killed him with a dagger and killed herself with the same dagger saving the motherland from treachery.



8. Rajmata Chandani Devi (14th century CE)

Chandani Devi was a brave woman who married Ari Singh, elder son of Rana Lakshman Singh of Sisoda. While hunting a wild boar, Ari Singh saw Chandani Devi guarding the fields of her father. The injured wild boar entered the fields, but Chandani did not let the riders enter as she felt that this would ruin the crop and killed the boar with one skillful shot herself. Later the hunting party led by Ari Singh rested in the nearby fields. Ari Singh was flattered by Chandani's bravery and decided to marry her. Ari Singh married her by seeking permission from her father and was blessed with a boy named Hammir. In 1303, during the attack of Allaudin Khilji, Rana Lakshman Singh was martyred with his twelve sons along with Ari Singh. The surviving son Ajay Singh took refuge in Kelwara and tracked down Hammir. After testing Hammir, Ajay Singh placed the rightful heir on the throne of Mewar and he took the title of Maharana. Rajmata Chandani devi guided her son along the period of his childhood even after losing her husband and later on when he became the Maharana.



9. Barbadi Devi (14th Century)

After ascending the throne of Mewar, Maharana Hammir I still had to face a lot of hardships as the whole land of Mewar was desolated by Khiljis and the Chittorgarh fort was in possession of Sonagara Chauhans. Once traveling to Dwarakapuri, Maharana Hammir met a Charani (woman of Bardic tribe), who was highly respected in that nearby area. Learning about Maharana's distress she gave him a sword and asked him to return to village Kelwara. She told Hammir that my son Baru will come one day with 500 Kathiawadi horses and with that Maharana should mount his soldiers and regain Chittorgarh. Imagine a woman horse trader who had authority of 'loaning' 500 horses on 'deferred payment basis' way back in early 1300s CE.

After regaining Chittorgarh fort, Maharana Hammir invited Barbadi Devi to live in Chittor. After her death, Maharana Hammir in her memory built the Annapurna Mata temple in Chittorgarh.



Maharana Hammir I leaving to conquer Chittorgarh.

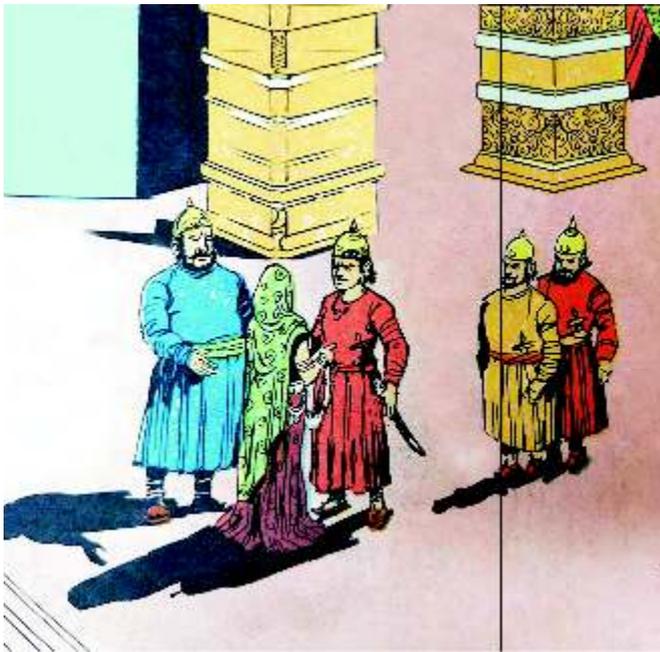
Image Courtesy: Illustration in Veer Hammir, Amar Chitra Katha



Annapurna Mata temple, Chittorgarh

10. Maharani Sonegari Ji (14th Century)

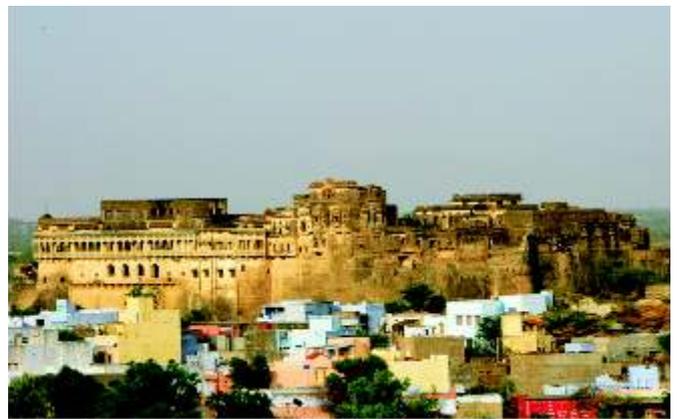
The Kingdom of Mewar was destroyed by Khiljis and the Chittorgarh fort remained in the custody of Rao Maldev Sonegara Chauhan, even after the coronation of Maharana Hammir I. Cunning Rao Maldev suggested the marriage of his daughter to Maharana Hammir, so that he would be saved from any attacks by Maharana Hammir or his descendents. Maharana accepted the proposal on the advice of Barbadi Devi. Along with many Jagirs gifted to Maharana Hammir I, by Rao Maldev as part of marriage alimony, his queen advised him to seek the services of Mehta Mojiram, learned men at the Court of Rao Maldev. As a devoted wife, Maharani helped the Maharana to recapture Chittorgarh from her father. After regaining Chittorgarh, Maharana appointed the Maharani as his chief advisor at court. Rao Maldev with Sultan Mohammad Tughlaq of Delhi attacked Mewar and were brutally defeated by the Maharana. The Chauhans retreated and served the Maharana on the advice of Maharani Sonegari and the Sultan after imprisonment of three months, gave the Jagirs of Ranthambore, Ajmer and Shivpur along with 50 lakh rupees and 100 elephants in lieu of his freedom. Thus, Maharani played a key role in the administration of Mewar and helped the Maharana to regain and consolidate his kingdom.



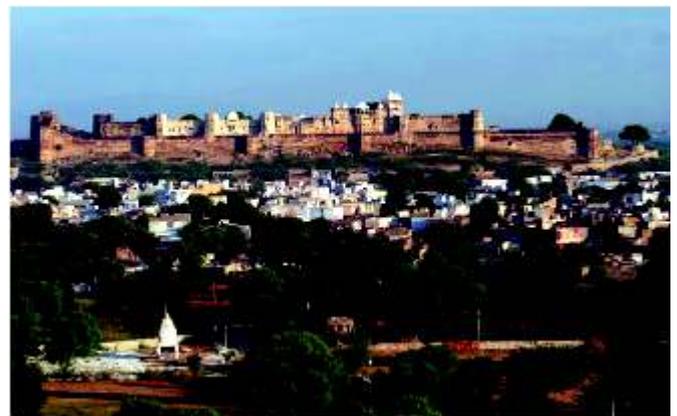
Maharana Hammir's marriage in the presence of Rao Maldev
Image Courtesy: Illustration Veer Hammeer by Amar Chitra Katha

11. Rajmata Solankini (14th Century)

During the reign of Maharana Lakha (1382-1421 CE), Maharana's mother Solankini Rani went on a pilgrimage to Dwarka. During the journey, Kaba robbers attacked the security forces of Mewar on the way; then Sinh Dodiya, a descendant of Rao Jaskaran of Shardulgarh, took his sons Kalu and Dhaval to the hideouts of Kaba robbers and offered help the Rajmata of Mewar. The Kabas were defeated and the Rajmata was escorted to Shardulgarh for time being. Rajmata supervised the treatment of soldiers injured in the fight and made cordial relations with the Dodiya. After taking Rajmata to Dwarka, the Dodiya sons left her safely to the border of Mewar. Returning to Chittor, Rajmata informed the Maharana about this incident and asked her son to honor her saviors. Accordingly, in 1387 CE Maharana summoned Dhaval Dodiya to his kingdom and made him his feudatory by giving him a Jagir of five Lakhs including Ratangarh, Nandarai and Masuda. Dhaval Dodiya also accompanied Rajmata Solankini to Gaya. During the reign of Maharana Jagat Singh II the present Jagir of Sardargarh was bestowed upon Dodiya Family, which was renewed by Maharana Bhim Singh. Maharana Swarup Singh nominated the Dodiya family in Batisa category of Mewar nobility, which was further promoted to first category, Sola ka Umrao by Maharana Sajjan Singh. Rajmatas's far-sightedness not only built new alliances in Gujarat which were fruitful in the upcoming centuries but also created relations which are still honored by the both the families.



Fort Masuda



Fort Sardargarh

12. Rathore Rani Hansa Bai

Rathore Rani Hansa Bai was the daughter of Rao Chunda Rathore of Mandore. She was supposed to marry Kunwar Chunda, the first son of Maharana Lakha but was married to Maharana himself. She gave birth to Mokal and after the death of Maharana Lakha became Rajmata. Maharana was a minor thus she handled the affairs of the kingdom with assistance of Rao Chunda and Rao Ranmal Rathore of Mandore (her brother).

Maharana Mokal died due to a conspiracy and Kumbha became the new ruler. He too initially ruled under the guidance of his grandmother. Rao Jodha after leaving from Mewar was trying to regain Mandore but failed. In this situation, he requested his aunt Rajmata Hansa Bai for help. Rajmata asked Maharana Kumbha to help Rao Jodha. With the help of Mewar; in 1459 CE, Rao Jodha founded the city of Jodhpur and the kingdom of Marwar. Thus, Rajmata Hansa Bai not only looked after the kingdom of Mewar for consecutive generations but also played a key role in the establishment of kingdom of Marwar.



Chunda abdicating the throne of Mewar



Maharana Lakha marrying Hansa Bai

13. Lal Kunwar Bai (popularly known as Lala Mewari)

The daughter of Maharana Mokal (r.1421-1433 CE). She was married to Achaldas Khinchi of Gagron, son of Raja Bhoj. Achaldas was a brave warrior and always remained at war front. Rani Lal Kunwar Bai headed the court affairs administratively in the absence of her husband. In 1423 CE, Sultan Hoshang Shah of Mandu attacked Gagron fort and surrounded the fort from all sides. Instead of surrendering, Achaldas chose the path of dying while fighting with self-respect and attained martyrdom. This war lasted for about a fortnight from 13 to 27 September 1423 CE. In which native women along with Rani Lal Kunwar Bai of Mewar and Rani Uma Sankhla from Marwar committed Jauhar. It was the first Jauhar of Gagron.



14. Maharani Sobhagya Devi

After the demise of Maharana Mokal (r.1421-33 CE), who was killed in a conspiracy. After becoming the Rajmata, she acted as the guardian of her son Maharana Kumbha (r. 1433-68 CE), as he sat on the throne of Mewar at the young age of 16. She handled the administration and court affairs in Mewar. She understood the influence of Rathores of Mandore in Mewar and advised Maharana Kumbha to bring back his uncle Rao Chunda from Salumber to Chittorgarh. Bharmali, the maid who acted on Rajmata Sobhagya Devi's orders was the key handler in the assassination of Rao Ranmal Rathore of Mandore.



Maharana Kumbha meeting Rao Chunda



Rajmata Sobhagya Devi meeting Bharmali

15. Bharmali (15th Century)

She was a maid of Rajmata Sobhagya Devi (mother of Maharana Kumbha). She was also an affectionate of Rao Ranmal Rathore of Mandore. He was noteworthy for having twice served as regent of the kingdom of Mewar under two different rulers. After having been displaced as heir to Marwar in favour of a younger brother, Ranmal joined the court of his brother-in-law, Maharana Lakha of Mewar (r. 1382-1421 CE). There, he amassed significant influence eventually becoming regent to his minor nephew Mokal with Rajmata Hansa Devi following the death of Maharana Lakha in 1421. In 1428 CE, Ranmal returned to Marwar to claim his ancestral throne, left vacant by the death of his father and brothers. When Maharana Mokal was assassinated in a conspiracy, five years later, Rao Ranmal once again took on the governance of Mewar, now in the name of Maharana Mokal's young son Kumbha with Rajmata Sobhagya Devi.

During both his regencies of Mewar, as well as his rule of his own kingdom, Rao Ranmal had launched numerous successful military campaigns against neighbouring states, which included the kingdoms of Gujarat, Bundi and Malwa. However, he was greatly resented by the nobles of Mewar due to the considerable Rathore influence he brought to the Sisodia kingdom. When a Mewar Prince Raghavdev was murdered on his orders, a coup was launched against him in 1438 CE, culminating in his assassination. Bharmali was the key handler in this assassination which was on the order of Rajmata Sobhagya Devi fearing breach in the security of Mewar as she wanted to remain loyal to her motherland. Bharmali intoxicated and assassinated Rao Ranmal, after which his son Rao Jodha founded the kingdom of Jodhpur. The relations were later smoothed by Rajmata Hansa Devi and Rajmata Sobhagya Devi between Maharana Kumbha and Rao Jodha.



16. Baiji Lal Rama Bai

According to Ramanath Kund / Mandir Inscription found at Zawar, Udaipur Maharana Kumbha's daughter Rama Bai constructed the Ramaswami temple and Ram Kund at Zawar. According to this inscription Maharana Kumbha taught music to her which itself is of great significance and an example of continuing musical tradition in Mewar. She was a great musician and a player of 'Vallki Veena' a music instrument.



Ramaswami Temple



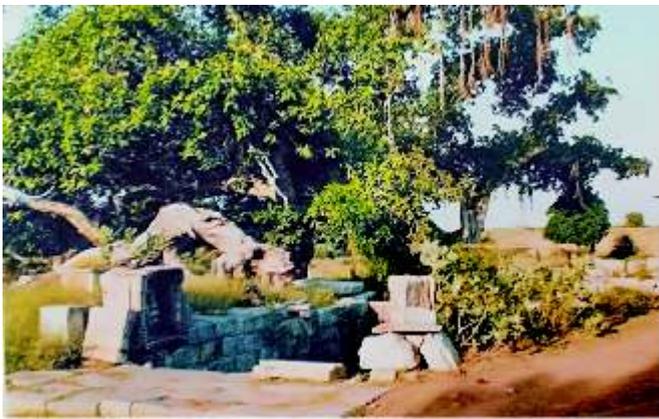
Ramkunda



Ramabai Stone Inscription

17. Maharani Shringar Devi

Maharani Shringar Devi, daughter of Rao Jodha, the founder of Jodhpur was married to Maharana Raimal (r. 1473 - 1509 CE). She constructed a step-well at Gosundi (near Chittorgarh) in Vikram Samvat 1561 Vaishak Shukla Tritiya. The stone inscription engraved outside the step well give the genealogical detail of both the families of Mewar and Marwar.



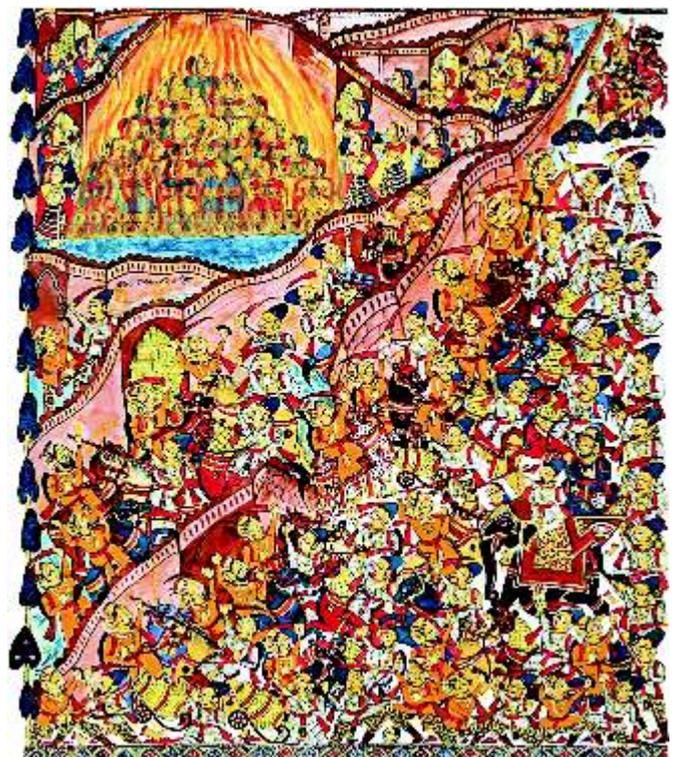
18. Charani Devi (15th Century)

One day the three Princes Prithviraj, Jaimal and Sangram Singh (sons of Maharana Raimal (r. 1473-1509) were sitting together and discussing succession and showed their Almanac to an astrologer who declared Sangram Singh to be the next Maharana. To sort this issue, they reached the temple of Devi in Bhimal village as per the instructions of their uncle Sangram Dev. Charani Devi, the priestess there also declared Sangram to be the next Maharana. This enraged the eldest Kunwar Prithviraj and he tried to kill Sangram Singh due to which his one eye got damaged; Sangram Singh escaped from there on a horse with the help of the Charani Devi.



19. Rajmata Karnavati (16th Century)

Karnavati (Karnavati), was the daughter of Rao Narbadji Hada of Bundi. After the death of Maharana Sangram Singh I, his eldest son Ratan Singh sat on the throne of Mewar. Within four years of his rule Maharana Ratan Singh II was assassinated, hence, the chieftains of Mewar called Rajmata Karnavati, Kanwar Vikramaditya and Kanwar Udai Singh from Ranthambore (Jagir given by Maharana Sangram Singh I), to Chittorgarh and crowned Kanwar Vikramaditya as Maharana. Due to the incompetence of Maharana Vikramaditya; chaos spread in Mewar. In 1532 CE, the ruler of Gujarat, Bahadur Shah attacked Chittorgarh and Rajmata Karnavati successfully made the army of Gujarat to retreat, however in view of the weak position of Mewar, Bahadur Shah again attacked in 1535 CE. Due to the prior apprehension, Rajmata sent Maharana Vikramaditya and Kanwar Udai Singh to Bundi and prepared the army for war to protect Mewar. The Mewar heroes laid down their lives in the war wearing saffron clothes. On the other hand, Rajmata Karnavati and other Rajput women, had no choice but to sacrifice themselves in the flame of Jauhar to protect their chastity.



20. Bhaktimati Meera Bai (16th Century)

Meera Bai was born on Ashwin Shukla Poornima, Vikram Samvat 1561 (1504 CE). She was the grand-daughter of Rao Dudaji of Kudki, Merta. Her uncle Viramdev and father Ratan Singh died defending Maharana Sangram Singh I against Babur in 1527 CE and her brother Jaimal died defending Chittorgarh in 1568 CE against Akbar. She inherited bravery and sacrifice from both sides. She was married to Kanwar Bhojraj, eldest son of Maharana Sangram Singh I, he died in a battle in 1521 CE. Her husband encouraged her selfless devotion to Shree Krishna. In later years, she shifted to Vrindavan and Mathura. According to the bardic tales, in her last days she was in Dwarka where she immersed herself in a temple of Shree Krishna and left this world. However, her Bhajans have survived and are sung all around the world celebrating her devotion to Shree Krishna. Meera Bai's contribution in Bhakti Movement is unmatched. When other Rajput women stayed in Parda and only got involved in Sati and Jauhar, Meera Bai immersed herself in selfless devotion and showed the path of 'Ekashrya' which means devotion only towards one god. Despite facing numerous difficulties in society and at home, Meera Bai remained strong enough to fight the discrimination in society.



21. Maharani Jawahar Bai (16th Century)

She was the wife of Maharana Vikramaditya (r. 1531-1536). In 1535, when Bahadur Shah of Gujrat attacked Mewar, Rajmata Karnawati took over the command of Mewar army. During the battle, Rajmata predicted loss while anticipating another Jauhar. However, her daughter-in-law Jawahar bai decided not to surrender. She took command of Mewar Army from Rajmata Karnawati and called in Bagh Singh (a confidant of Maharana Sangram Singh I) after taking advice of Rajmata Karnawati. He was earlier banished from court by the Maharana. She served as an army general and took other women with her who were martyred in battlefield along with Maharani Jawahar bai.



22. Pannadhai (16th century)

Pannadhai, the epitome of valour and devotion, was taking care of Kanwar Udai Singh since he was staying at Ranthambore. She was a very trusted helper of Rajmata Karnavati, thus at the time of Jauhar in 1535, the responsibility of protecting Kanwar Udai Singh was also entrusted to Pannadhai. After the invasion of Bahadur Shah, the ruler of Gujarat, the Rajput army organized and re-captured Fort Chittorgarh and handed it over to Maharana Vikramaditya by calling him back from Bundi. Taking advantage of this political chaos and discontent of the chieftains, Banveer (illegitimate son of Kanwar Prithviraj, brother of Maharana Sangram Singh I) killed Maharana Vikramaditya and acquired the throne of Mewar. After the assassination of Maharana, if Banveer wanted to establish his rule in Mewar; he had to kill Kanwar Udai Singh too. Pannadhai was well aware of these activities and possible changes in the palace, so when intoxicated Banveer came to kill Kanwar Udai Singh, Pannadhai put her sleeping son Chandan in the place of Kanwar Udai Singh. Banveer killed her son Chandan in front of Pannadhai, not knowing who it was. Pannadhai, along with her trusted companions, took Kanwar Udai Singh to a safe palace. This sacrifice of Pannadhai, to protect the descendants of Mewar kingdom became immortal in the history of Mewar. After leaving Chittorgarh with Pannadhai, Kanwar Udai Singh, reached Kumbhalgarh via Devlia and Dungarpur. Maharana Udai Singh later established contact with the chieftains of Mewar with the support of Asha Devpura, the fort in-charge of Kumbhalgarh, and the chieftains dissatisfied with Banveer came to Kumbhalgarh and coronated Udai Singh as Maharana. Words can never encapsulate the intense dilemma, immense trauma and enormous personal sacrifice of Panna Dhai. Her prodigious and fierce loyalty extended far beyond any call of duty. The House of Mewar will always be indebted to Panna Dhai. Her unparalleled sacrifice has immortalized her in the annals of history and she shall be forever revered.



23. Mother of Shri Asha Devpura (16th Century)

When Panna Dhai reached Devliya (now Pratapgarh) after desperately leaving Chittorgarh; she requested Rawat Rai Singh of Devliya to support Maharana Udai Singh II and give him refuge but he refused fearing Banveer and sent Panna Dhai and the Maharana to Dungarpur. Here, Rawal Askaran of Dungarpur too gave some maintenance money to Panna Dhai and she left for Kumbhalgarh disappointed. The Governor of the Kumbhalgarh Fort was Shri Asha Devpura at that time. When he met Panna Dhai he too was very skeptical but his mother made him remember that how he was appointed by Maharana Sangram Singh I and it was his duty to protect the throne of Mewar. She then asked his son Asha Devpura to pay his respects and support Maharana Udai Singh II against Banveer and again the throne of Mewar was protected by a mother.



24. Jharna Bai (16th Century)

According to oral history Maharana Pratap's (maternal) grandmother Jharna Bai got Jharna ki Bavdi and Sarai near Debari gate constructed in Udaipur for public welfare. There are also remains of temple construction near the step well.



25. Maharani Jaiwanta Bai (16th century)

Maharani Jaiwanta Bai, daughter of Akheraj Sonagara of Pali was married to Maharana Udai Singh II. When she was married to Maharana Udai Singh, the Mewar kingdom was in great chaos because of Banveer. The political marriage helped Maharana to gain regain Chittorgarh. Jaiwanta Bai was well trained by her father and was politically very smart. She gave birth to Kanwar Pratap in Vikram Samvat 1597 at Kumbhalgarh. She acted as a great teacher to Pratap. From very early age, she involved Pratap in the state affairs. When most children were busy playing, Pratap was getting trained in military warfare and strategies under the guidance of Jaiwanta Bai. Kanwar Pratap was later sent to live in the foothills of Fort Chittorgarh by his father Maharana Udai Singh so Maharani Jaiwanta Bai accompanied him. She inspired him to connect with the local inhabitants of Mewar thus Pratap was successful in establishing good relations with the civilians and Bhils which later helped Pratap in his various battles against the Mughals. Ultimately, it was Maharani Jaiwanta Bai who was responsible for the successful reigns of both Maharana Udai Singh II and Maharana Pratap I. In 1554 CE, Maharani Jaiwanta Bai Sonagari built Badla Wali Sarai and Panghat Baori.





26. Maharani Sahajkunwar Solanki (16th Century)

Maharani Sahajkunwar Solanki was the second wife of Maharana Udai Singh II. She was the daughter of Rao Prithviraj and grand-daughter of Rao Sursen Solanki of Toda. She got the Sarai, the stepwell, the Shiva temple and Shree Prahladrai temple built near Lake Udai Sagar. She gave birth to Kanwar Shakti Singh, from whom the Shaktawat line of Sisodia lineage emerged.

His descendents were also rewarded the Jagirs of Bhinder, Bansi, Heeta, Kalwal, Kargeti, Ghatiyawali, Chitakheda, Karanpura, Nawanagar, Dhanwad, Bawal, Pipliya, Binota, Bhilada, Fattakhedi, Gangani, Sonaheda and Paladi. She also gave birth to Kanwar Viramdev, who became the Jagirdar of Hameergarh attaining the title of Rawat. His descendents were also rewarded the Jagirs of Kherabad, Mahua and Sanwad.



27. Maharani Dheer Kunwar (16th century)

Maharani Dheer Kunwar was a wife of Maharana Udai Singh II (r. 1536-72 CE). She was the daughter of Lunkaran and grand-daughter of Rawal Jaitsi Singh of Jaisalmer. She built a stepwell, a temple and an Inn outside village of Debari. Due to her political ambitions, she wanted her son Jagmal to become the next Maharana. She indulged in court affairs and had great influence on Maharana Udai Singh II. She gave birth to five sons; Kanwar Jagamal ji, Sagar ji, Agar ji, Siya ji and Pachyan ji along with a daughter Bajjilal Kika Bai.



28. Maharani Veer Kunwar (16th century)

Maharani Veer Kunwar was wife of Maharana Udai Singh II (r. 1536-72 CE). She was the daughter of Jetra Singh Jhala from Kherwa, Marwar. Her elder sister, Swarup Devi was married to Rao Maldev Rathore of Jodhpur. Swarup Devi while sending gifts to her younger sister, mistakenly sent the idol of Shree Nagnecha Mataji in her marriage and later Maharana Udai Singh II very respectfully established the idol of Shree Nagnecha Mataji (Kuldevi of Rathores) in the temple of Shree Bayan Mataji at Fort Chittorgarh and is worshiped till today. Jhali Rani built a perennial stepwell near Padan Pol at Fort Chittorgarh for public welfare which is still present and supplies water in the Fort. It is also known as 'Jhali ki Bavdi'. She gave birth to three sons; Kanwar Rai Singh, Shardul Singh and Rudra Singh.



29. Baijilal Kika Bai (16th Century)

Kika Bai was the daughter of Maharana Udai Singh II and Bhatiyani Rani Dheer Kunwar from Jaisalmer. When Maharana Udai Singh II established his capital in Udaipur and were settled in the Zenana Rawla presently called Kothar in The City Palace of Udaipur; his daughter Baijilal Kika Bai along with her mother Rani Dheer Kunwar established the Bhatyani Bazar in Udaipur. Now, it is known as Bhatyani Chohatta. Maharana also got artisans and craftsmen settled in Udaipur and to promote their products and sale, this market was established by Baijilal Kika Bai.



30. Karmadevi, Karmavati and Kamladevi (16th Century)

When the armies of Akbar attacked Chittorgah in 1568 CE, Rao Jaimal of Badnore and Rao Fatta of Kelwa defended the fort under Maharana Udai Singh II. During the attack, Fatta was a minor, still his mother Karmadevi ordered him to fight in the battle. She then herself participated in the battle along with her daughter Karmavati and daughter-in-law Kamladevi. Anticipating the attack from Suraj Pol, a great military strategist Karmadevi protected the fort from the rear side with her daughter and daughter-in-law only and were martyred in the battle. After the fall of the fort from both the sides, rest of the ladies alive on the fort committed Jaubar



31. Maharani Ajab De

Maharani Ajab De Panwar was the daughter Rao Mamrakh of Bijoliya. She was the wife of Maharana Pratap Singh I. Mewar was struggling during this period and Maharani became a source of courage and dedication for Maharana Pratap. She, also among others advised Maharana Pratap to settle in forest areas and defend Mewar from the armies of Akbar. Pratap never felt disappointed during his freedom struggle because of her presence and she even trained her son Kanwar Amar Singh to follow the same principles. She prominently maintained her position as the Maharani and managed the state affairs in the absence of Maharana Pratap I during wartime.



32. Ajab Kunwari Bai (16th Century)

According to the Shreenath ji Praktya Varta by Goswami Shri Hariray Mahaprabhuji; when Shree Vitthalnathji visited village Sinhad in Mewar in the journey to Dwaraka, Maharana Udai Singh II came to pay homage to him. Along with the Maharana, his wife and daughter-in-law Ajab Kunwari also came. According to the Pushtimargiya literature, Ajab Kunwari Bai accepted Pushtimarg and became a devotee of Vitthalnathji. She was so immersed in the devotion of Shreenath ji Prabhu that even Shreenath ji Prabhu also reciprocated her divine gestures. It is mentioned that she used to play Chausar (a board game played with dice) very frequently with Shreenath ji Prabhu. One day Shreenath ji Prabhu lost the game to Ajab Kunwari Bai. In lieu of losing; Shreenathji Prabhu asked for a wish, and she asked Shreenath ji Prabhu to settle in Mewar for which she waited her entire life. Shreenath ji Prabhu accepted her wish and reached Mewar in 1670 CE. The Pushtimargiya literature of Vallabh Sampradaya recognizes Ajab Kunwari Bai as an epitome of devotion, Shreenath ji Prabhu settled in Mewar because of her.





33. Rani Kiran Devi (16th Century)

Rani Kiran Devi was the daughter of Kanwar Shakti Singh of Mewar (second son of Maharana Udai Singh II). She was married to Maharaj Prithviraj Rathore of Bikaner. During the stay of Maharaj Prithviraj at Akbar's court, Rani Kiran Devi too was staying with him. Every year Akbar used to organise a fair called Navroj in which a ladies market called Meena Bazar was organised. Rani Kiran Devi too had to participate in the Meena Bazar. When Akbar saw Rani Kiran Devi at Meena bazar, she was unknowingly called to the imperial Zenana. At the Zenana, Akbar tried to exploit her and in retaliation she attacked Akbar with a dagger and threw him on the floor. Akbar begged for his life and promised her that from now onwards he will no longer organise the Navroj fair.



Image Courtesy - Book Kalyan (Nari Visheshank)

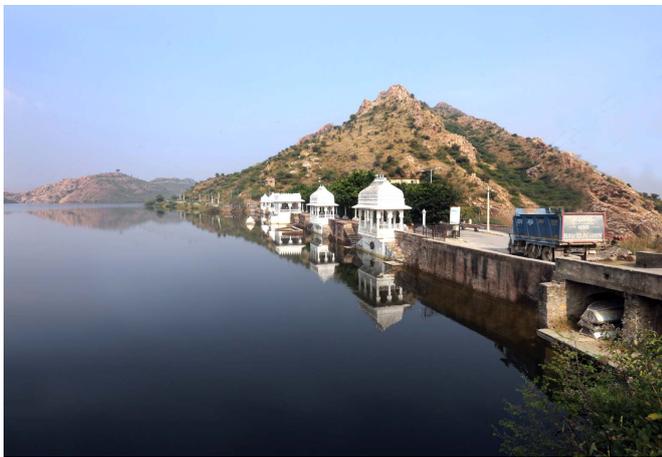
34. Maharani Jeevat Kunwar (17th Century)

Maharanai Jeevat Kunwar was the wife of Maharana Karan Singh (r. 1620 -1628 CE). She was the daughter of Jaswant Singh Rathore of Mahecha. When Maharana Karan Singh died; Rajmata Jeevat Kunwar (Jambuwati) went for pilgrimage to Dwarika and did the Tuladan against silver. Later on, she went to Mathura, Gokul, Jattipura, Prayag and Kashi along with her grandson Kanwar Raj Singh and maternal granddaughter Nand Kunwar Bai. At that time, Maharana Jagat Singh I got constructed the Rana Mahal and Rana Ghat at Kashi. Rajmata along with Nand Kunwar Bai did Tuladan against silver and Kanwar Raj Singh also did Tuladan against gold. By holding the position of Rajmata, she was very powerful in the kingdom holding important position in the court of her son Maharana Jagat Singh I.



35. Maharani Janna De (17th century)

Maharani Janna De also known as 'Karmeti Bai' was the daughter of Rathore Raj Singh of Mertia who were allies of the Mewar rulers. She was the first wife of Maharana Jagat Singh I (r. 1628-52 CE). She played a vital role in administration during the rule of Maharana Jagat Singh I and her son Maharana Raj Singh I. When Kaka Vallabhji on behalf of Goswami Tilkayat Mahrajshree Dauji I approached Maharana Raj Singh I for the arrival of Pushtimargiya sect of Shreenathji Prabhu from Jattipura and establishment of the temple in Mewar; a bit hesitant Maharana Raj Singh I sought advice from his mother only. Rajmata Janna De motivated Maharana to ensure the arrangement and security for the arrival of Shreenath ji Prabhu and the Tilkayat family in Mewar. Maharana Raj Singh I built the lake Janna Sagar in 1669 (Badi Talab at Udaipur) in honour of his mother Janna De.



36. Maharani Ramras De

Maharani Ramras De was the wife of Maharana Raj Singh I (r. 1652-1680 CE). She was the daughter of Panwar Jhujar Singh of Ajmer. She constructed a step well called 'Trimukhi Bawri' near Jharna ki Sarai at Debari in 1676 CE. The Trimukhi Bawri is also known Jaya Bawri. An inscription was also engraved at the Bawri by Maharani Ramras De, which was composed by Ranchod Bhatt.



37. Maharani Charumati (17th Century)

Maharani Charumati was the wife of Maharana Raj Singh I (r. 1652-1680 CE). She was the daughter of Raja Roop Singh of Kishangarh. After the demise of Raja Roop Singh, his son Maan Singh set on the throne. In 1660 CE, Aurangzeb sent a marriage proposal to Charumati and his brother accepted this proposal. Fearless Charumati sent a marriage proposal to Maharana Raj Singh I, as she was being forced to marry Aurangzeb. Maharana Raj Singh respecting a request of the princess; reached Kishangarh and married her, which outraged Aurangzeb. In 1675 CE, Maharani Charumati got built a step well at Rajnagar (district Rajsamand).



Image Courtesy- The Mewar Phad



Image Courtesy- The Mewar Phad

38. Maharani Sardar Kunwar

Maharani Sardar Kunwar was the wife of Maharana Raj Singh I (r. 1652 - 1680 CE). She was the daughter of Rao Indrabhan Panwar of Bijolian. She sat with Maharana in the consecration ceremony of Lake Rajsamudra (Rajsamand). After the ceremony, when the Maharana conducted gold Tuladaan, she did the Tuladaan against silver. She was the mother of the heir apparent Kanwar Jai Singh and later held the position of Rajmata in the court of Mewar.



Image Courtesy: The consecration ceremony of Lake Rajsamand

39. Sunder Baiji (17th Century)

During the reign of Maharana Raj Singh I (r. 1652 - 1680 CE), Sunder Baiji constructed the Sunder Bavdi (step-well) near Pahada village, Udaipur in 1660 CE. During the consecration ceremony of step-well Maharana granted the land, near Bhuwana village, to the incharges Govindram Vyas and Blabhadra Vyas. Maharana named the place as Sunderwas village, near Pahada Village, to acknowledge Sunder Baiji. Later mother of Govindram Vyas constructed the step well and a lodge on land rewarded to them for public use.



40. Hada Rani Sahal Kunwar

The brave and beautiful, Hada Rani Sahal Kunwar, wife of Rawat Ratan Singh Chundawat from Salumber, forms a unique milestone in the history of Mewar during the reign of Maharana Raj Singh I (r.1652-1680 CE). Kishangarh Princess Charumati sent marriage proposal to Maharana Raj Singh I, as she was being forced to marry Aurangzeb.

All the chieftains were called by Maharana Raj Singh I to be present in Udaipur to fight the battle against Aurangzeb. Rawat Ratan Singh Chundawat was at his home with his newly wedded wife. Considering the urgency and importance of the battle he asked his wife to give him a memoir of hers before he left for the battle field. Hada Rani held herself responsible for the weak mental state of her husband. The brave Rani immediately cut off her head and sent it to her husband with an attendant so as not be a distraction for him.



Image courtesy: The Mewar Phad

41. Ganga Bai (17th century)

Ganga Bai was a great devotee of Shreenath ji and traveled to Mewar from Jattipura along with Shreenath ji at the age of 105 years. When Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb attacked the Hindu temples all over the country, the idol of Shreenath ji was relocated at the new temple in Nathdwara, Mewar during the reign of Maharana Raj Singh I (r. 1652-80 CE). Ganga Bai traveled with the whole entourage in the journey. According to the Shreenath ji Ki Prakatya Varta and 252 Vaishnavan ki Varta, Shreenath ji openly shared and spoke to Ganga Bai, and she would convey the message of Shreenath ji to others. She also played a great role during the construction of the Shreenath ji temple at Nathdwara in the guidance of Shree Goswami Dauji Maharaj and Goswami Govind ji Maharaj. She herself used to write and sing Kirtans for Shreenath ji which encouraged Haveli Sangeet and Pushtimargiya Sewa culture in Mewar. According to the 252 Vaishnavan ki Varta, she went into Leela (Samadhi) at the age of 108 years at Nathdwara.



The entourage of Shreenath ji Prabhu received by Maharana Raj Singh I

Courtesy: Chitralaya, Ambamata; Om Prakash Bijoliya

42. Bhagwat Kunwar (17th Century)

Panwar Rani Bhagwat Kunwar was the wife of Maharana Jai Singh (r. 1680-98 CE). She was the daughter of Raja Roop Singh and grand daughter of Jhujhar Singh Panwar. When Maharana Jai Singh constructed the Lake Jaisamudra (Jaisamand) in Vikram Samvat 1748 (1691 CE), she inspired the Maharana to construct the palace on the hill above Jaisamudra called 'Jaimandir'.



Inscription at Shree Baijnath Mahadev temple at Sisarma village published in Book Veer Vinod

43. Baijilal Chandra Kunwar Bai

Baijilal Chandra Kunwar Bai was the daughter of Maharana Amar Singh II (r. 1698-1710 CE) and Chauhan Rani Har Kunwar. She was married to Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II of Jaipur and with her inspiration he constructed the Sisodiya Rani ka Bagh and palace at Jaipur in 1728 CE. After the death of Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, she diplomatically retained the good relations between Jaipur and Udaipur. She also played a vital role in the accession of Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh I of Jaipur with the help of Mewar.



44. Rajmata Dev Kunwar

Chauhan Rani Dev Kunwar was the wife of Maharana Amar Singh II (r. 1698-1710 CE). She was the daughter of Rao Sabal Singh and grand daughter of Ramchandra Chauhan of Bedla. She was the mother of Kanwar Sangram Singh and Baijilal Chandra Kunwar. As Rajmata, she held important position in court and was his political adviser. During the reign of Maharana Sangram Singh II (r. 1710-1734 CE), she got constructed a beautiful temple called Shree Baijnath Mahadev temple at Sisarma village. The completion ceremony of the temple was organized on Magh Shukla 14 Vikram Samvat 1772 (1715 CE). She did Tuladan against silver on this auspicious occasion.

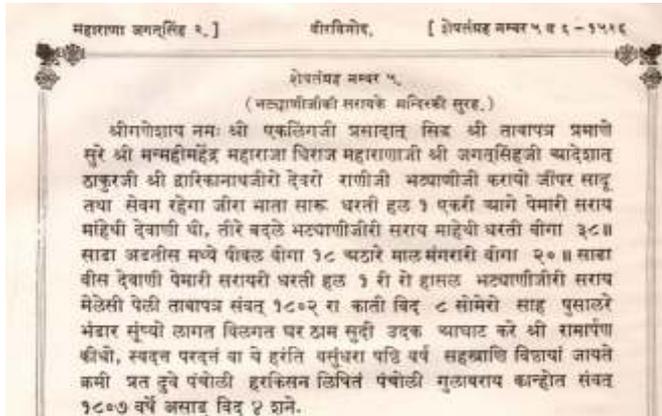
शेषतमह नंबर २.

सीसारमा गांवके वैष्णवाथ महादेवजीके मन्दिरकी प्रशस्ति.

श्रीगणेशाय नमः ॥ श्रीमदेकलिंगो विजयतु ॥ अथ प्रशस्तिप्रारंभः ॥ हरिः ऊँम् ॥ शिवं सांबमहं बंदे विद्याविभवसिद्धये ॥ जगज्जनिकरं शंभुं सुरासुरसमर्षितं ॥ १ ॥ गुंजङ्ग-मङ्गमरराजिविराजितास्यं स्तवेरमानमहं नितरं नमामि ॥ यत्पादपंकजपरागपवि-त्रतापाः प्रत्यहं राशय इह प्रशमं प्रयांति ॥ २ ॥ शारदा वसतुशारदाडिज स्वानना मम मुखांबुजे सदा ॥ यत्कृपायुतकटाक्षमाग्यतो भाग्यतोपमयमेति मानवः ॥ ३ ॥ स भूया-देकलिंगेशो जगतां भूतये विभुः ॥ यस्य प्रसादात्कूर्बेति राज्यं राणा भुवः स्थितं ॥ ४ ॥ यदेकलिंगं समभूत्पृथिव्यां तेनैकलिंगेत्यभिधाभ्यधायि ॥ चतुर्दशी माघभवाहि कृष्णा तस्यां समभूत्तिरभूच्चिवस्य ॥ ५ ॥ तदा मुनीनां प्रवरस्तपस्वी हारीतनामा शिव-भक्त आसीत् ॥ सपकलिंगं विधिवत्सर्पा विधेरतोपीठ शिवेष्टं निष्टः ॥ ६ ॥ बापाभिधो रावल उन्नतेच्छो हारीतमेनं गुरुमन्वमंस्त ॥ विद्याप्रसादोदयबुद्धिदृक्पे यथा मरुता-निव यागधीशं ॥ ७ ॥ तस्योपदेशेन समभ्रसिद्धेर्बापान्पस्याय बभूव सिद्धिः ॥ आराध-नानुष्ठिमतोस्य शंभोः स्तदेकलिंगस्य विभोः प्रसादात् ॥ ८ ॥ सूर्यान्वयोसाविवतिग्म-रस्मिः प्रतापसंशोपितकर्दमारिः ॥ समुद्रस्तस्वीयमुखांबुजश्री दूरीभवद्वुष्टखलां-घकारः ॥ ९ ॥ अयामवव्राणपदं वितन्वन् राहृप्पराणः पृथितः पृथिव्यां ॥ तदा-दितदंशमवानरेंद्रा राणेति शब्दं प्रहितं भजति ॥ १० ॥ रणस्थिरत्नानुता नृपाणां दिनाधिनाथान्वयसंभवानां ॥ चतुर्दिगंतप्रथितं हि राणपदं हि तत्साधकताम-वाप्तं ॥ ११ ॥ राहृप्पराणांरपाल आसीदनुर्भूतां मुस्यतरः पृथिव्यां ॥ जितारि-वर्गः परमप्रधानः सुश्राव कीर्तिन्नरवन्नरेंद्रः ॥ १२ ॥ दिनकरस्तु ततोप्यभवत्सुतो दिनकर पृतिभाह् नरपालतः ॥ अवनिमंडलभूपतिमंडलीमुकुटरजविराजितयत्कजः ॥ १३ ॥ यशकर्णं इहाभवत्ततो यशसेवाति समुन्वलां भुवं ॥ बुभुजे युगदीर्घं बाहूम्रिज

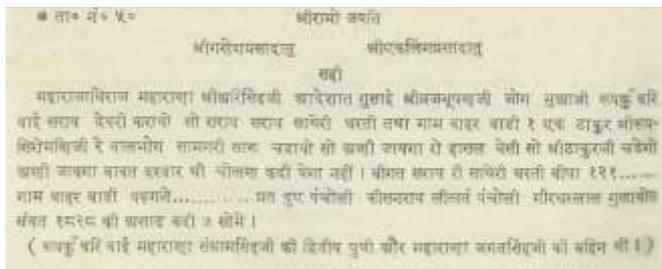
45. Maharani Bakhat Kunwar

Maharani Bakhat Kunwar was the wife of Maharana Jagat Singh II (r. 1734 - 1751 CE). She was the daughter of Bhati Sujan Singh. She was a great devotee of Shree Dwarkadhishji and got her Vaishnav Diksha from 108 Tritiya Ghar Peethadhishwar Shree Girdharji Maharaj of Kankroli. Under the guidance of Shree Girdharji Maharaj, a temple of Shree Dwarkadhishji was constructed by her in Vikram Samvat 1802 (1745 CE) at Ashok Nagar, Udaipur.



46. Baijilal Roop Kunwar

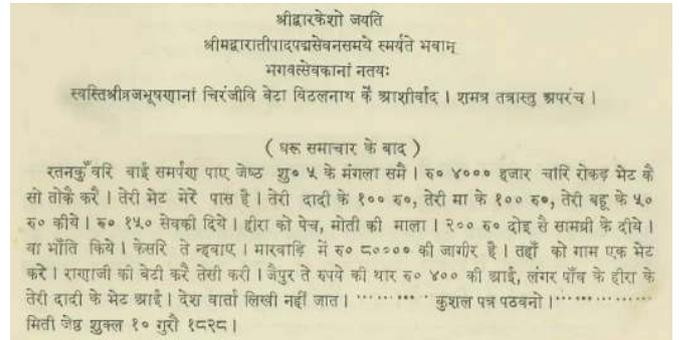
Baijilal Roop Kunwar was the daughter of Maharana Sangram Singh II (r. 1710-1734 CE) and Rathore Rani Krishna Kunwar. She was a great devotee of Shree Dwarkadhishji and got her Vaishnav Diksha from 108 Tritiya Ghar Peethadhishwar Shree Brajbhushan Lalji Maharaj of Kankroli. Under the guidance of Shree Brajbhushan Lalji Maharaj and patronage by Maharana Ari Singh II (r. 1761 - 1733 CE) a temple of Shree Roop Shiromaniji was constructed by her in Vikram Samvat 1828 (1771 CE) in Udaipur near Telion ki Sarai. She also constructed lodge for the travellers and devotees.



47. Baijilal Ratan Kunwar

Baijilal Ratan Kunwar was the daughter of Maharana Jagat Singh II (r. 1734-1751 CE) & Rathore Rani Amrat Kunwar of Chhapan. She was a married to Maharaja Vijay Singh of Jodhpur (r. 1752-1793 CE). She was a great devotee of Shree Dwarkadhishji and got her Vaishnav Diksha from 108 Tritiya Ghar Peethadhishwar Shree Braj bhushan Lalji Maharaj of Kankroli on Jyesta Shukla 5, Vikram Samvat 1828. She gifted a Jagir of Rs. 5000/- from Jodhpur from her personal account to the Dwarkadhishji temple.

At that time, all the Rajputana kingdoms were suffering from Maratha raids. Maharani Ratan Kunwar became the diplomatic key between the kingdoms of Jodhpur and Udaipur. She influenced the court of Jodhpur kingdom through Pushtimarg Sampraday. When Maharaja Vijay Singh of Jodhpur also accepted Pushtimarg, he banned alcohol in the kingdom.



48. Rajmata Bakht Kunwar

Jhali Rani Bakht Kunwar was the wife of Maharana Pratap Singh II (r. 1751- 1753 CE). She was the daughter of Raj Karan Singh of Gogunda. After the death of Maharana his 10 years old son Kanwar Raj Singh sat on the throne of Mewar. Rajmata Bakht Kunwar became his guardian and acted as a guiding force for the Maharana. Unfortunately Maharana Raj Singh II died at the young age of 18 and then she took the decision of Maharana Ari Singh's accession to the throne of Mewar, (second son of Maharana Jagat Singh II and uncle of Maharana Raj Singh II). During the reign of Maharana Ari Singh II she constructed a Shiva temple, lodge and Rajrajeshwar (step-well) at Debari near Udaipur.



49. Maharani Jhali Sardar Kunwar

Maharani Sardar Kunwar was the wife of Maharana Ari Singh II (r. 1761-1773 CE). She was the daughter of Raj Kaan Singh and grand-daughter of Raj Ajay Singh of Gogunda. After the demise of Maharana Ari Singh; his elder son Kanwar Hameer Singh set on the throne of Mewar as a minor. Rajmata Sardar Kunwar ruled on his behalf. Under the guidance of Rajmata, Maharaj Bagh Singh of Bagore and Maharaj Arjun Singh of Shivrati looked after the affairs of the kingdom. As there were regular Maratha raids and due to the poor economic situation of Mewar, Rajmata tried to curb these problems through marital alliances of her sons - Kanwar Hameer Singh and Kanwar Bheem Singh. In 1778 CE, due to early demise of the young Maharana Hameer Singh, his younger brother Kanwar Bheem Singh sat on the throne of Mewar at the age of 9. She remained a political adviser and the guardian of Maharana Bheem Singh till she died. She got constructed the cenotaph of Maharana Ari Singh II during the reign of his son Maharana Hameer Singh II.



50. Baijilal Chand Kunwar

Baijilal Chand Kunwar was the daughter of Maharana Ari Singh II (r. 1761- 1773 CE) and Jhali Maharani Sardar Kunwar of Gogunda. She was married to Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh of Jaipur (r. 1778- 1803 CE). After the demise of Rajmata Sardar Kunwar she guided the young Maharana Bheem Singh in state affairs. Maharana also issued silver coin named 'Chandori' in her honor. She died in 1824 CE at Udaipur. Maharana Jawan Singh (r. 1828-1838 CE) constructed her cenotaph at Mahasatyaji, Udaipur.



51. Rampyari Dhai (18th Century)

Rampyari Dhai was the daughter of Ramaji Gurjar and Rukma Bai. She was a close confidant of Rajmata Sardar Kunwar, mother of Maharana Bheem Singh (r.1778-1828 CE). As a guardian Rajmata looked after the state affairs and Rampyari Dhai would pass on the instructions to the court members. Rampyari Dhai gained excessive political power during the early reign of Maharana Bheem Singh. During this period she got constructed the temple of Ramnarayan along with a stepwell, garden, palace and lodge in Udaipur in Vikram Samvat 1847. The temple was designed by Gajdhar Chaturbhuj. Shree Mahant Dhyandasji of Ramanuj Sect was appointed as the priest of the temple.

१- उदयपुरमें रामप्यारीकी बाड़ीके मन्दिरकी प्रशस्ति.

श्री गणेशायनमः अथभापाप्रशास्तजयालप्यत. श्रागणपतपाय प्रणाम कार संस्कृतको लेसार ॥ भापाप्रसस्ति अथ लिखे सबहीको अधिकार ॥ १ ॥ अथ मापा ॥ सिद्धश्रीमहाराजाधिराजमहिमहेन्द्रसूर्यवंशावतंस श्रीजगतसिंहजी सुत श्रीदीवाणजी श्रीअरिसिंहजी सुत श्री ५ श्रीसकलगुणिजनप्रतिपालकअनेकगुणनिधानक्षत्रीधर्म-धुरंधरश्रीएकलिंगेश्व (र) चरणशरणाशुमातंग पंचानन अर्थिजनकल्पद्रुम ॥ श्रीकृष्णैकभक्तिपरायणदाक्षणात्यमालजित्प्रभृतिमुभट मौलिमाणिक्यनीराजितपद-पद्म । शास्त्रशस्त्रविचारचतुर । महाराजाधिराजमहाराणाजी श्री १०८ श्री भीमसिंहजी विजयराज्ये ॥ संवत् १८४७ वर्षे जेष्ठमासे शुक्र पक्षे १३ तिथी चन्द्र वामरे श्री उदयपुरनगरे मारुपुरामध्ये श्रीरामनारायणजीरो देवरो, बावड़ी, बाड़ी, श्री दरवार लायक महल, धर्मशाला, और पण जायगा बडारण रामप्यारी करापितं श्री दीवाणजी श्रीश्रीभीमसिंहजीरो माता श्री ५ श्री सरदारकुंवर-बाई झालारी बेटी धर्ममूरत श्री बाईजीराजरी कृपा मुनजररी पात्र पूर्वोक्तभक्ति-संबंधिश्रीदीवाणजीरा अंतःपुरमें बडो अधिकार लीया जात गूजर रामाजीरी बेटी बाई रुक्मारी कुक्षे जाई धर्ममूर्त दयासागर वाचाअविचल बाई रामप्यारीरे धर्मपुत्र मयारामजी सुत रतनजी जात आदगोड श्रीदरवारमें पढ्यारो अधि-कार पाया धर्मपुत्री चंदणा जात सनावड जमाई किसनजी बाई रामप्यारी श्री-रामनारायणजीरो देवारो सारी जायगारो महोछव कीदो जदी श्रीदीवाणजी, श्रीबाईजीराज, तथा राण्या तथा नानीवायां, रावला मायली डावड्यां, चाकर बाबर, तथा भीडररो ठाकुर, देलवाडारो ठाकुर, कानोडरो ठाकुर, सहा शिवदास जी, सनीदामजी, जेचंदजी गांधी, अगरजी, मोजीरामजी मेहता, किसोर-दासजी, कोटारो साय, सेररा चोवड्या, सारा भलामनप, आदमी, लुगायां सुदी आवे दिन १२ सुदी रह्या, बडो उच्चव हुवो, ब्राह्मण अनेक जीम्प्यां, ययायोग्य दक्षणा दीधी, श्री दरवार सारो साथ घणा पुशी हुवा, श्री दरवाररी, श्री बाईजीराजरी घणी नछरावल कीधी, श्री दिवाणजी रामनारायणजीरे भेट गाम वरनोकडो प्रमाणे कुभलमेररे चढ़ायो, बाड़ी १ रमवागरी श्री बाईजीराज चढ़ाई, राण्यां आप आपरा गाम माह धरती चढ़ाई, श्री रामनारायणजीरे पूजा सारु, श्री रामानुजसंप्रदाय श्री महंत ध्यानदामजी सुत पूर्णदामजी सुत मोती-दासजी अणाहे मेल्या, भटमेवाड़ा शिवलालहे कथा वांचवा मेल्या, चत्रभुज गजधरहे कडा दीधा, गोड ब्राह्मण चतुर्भुजहे अणी काम बावत गहणो सिर-पाव देवाणो, और साराहे राजी कीधा, बाईहे राजी वेने श्री जी तथा बाई-जीराज हुकम कीधो सो ओजू कोहो सो करां, जदी बाई रामप्यारी घोडा, सरपाव, गेणो साराहे जुदा जुदा नजर करे हाथ जोडे अरज कीदी, सो मोने मोटी कीधी, इवे अरज या हं सो, कसारांरी ओलमें मारा घर हे, सो सारो साथ ले श्री प्रथीनाथ सनाथ केजे. आ अरज मुणे श्री दिवाणजी, श्री बाईजीराज साराहे लेने उठे पधार्या, आखो दिन रह्या नजरारणो फेर अठारो लेने पाछा महलां पधार्या. इसी तरह अठे उच्चव घणो हुवो, सारो साथ तालेवर सूं ले गरीब सुदी जीमण बीच, कायदा बीच, घणा कुशी हुवेने घरे सदाया, जायगांरी चाकरी में महतो फतो, बेटो दोलो, गूजर सवो, जाट नंगो, छडीदार जेकिसन.

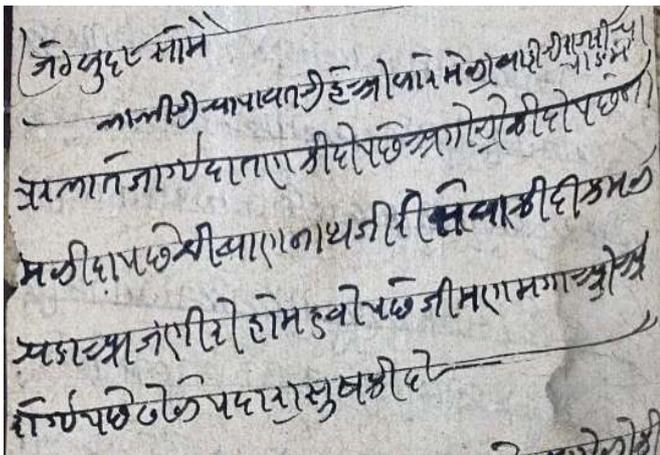
55. Shri Devika Betiji

She was the daughter of Pradhanpithadhishwar Tilkayat Maharaj Shri 108 Girdharji of Shreenathji temple, Nathdwara. During the reign of Maharana Bheem Singh, the Holkars and Scindias attacked Mewar and asked for maintenance from the Tilkayat Maharajshri of the Shreenathji Temple of Nathdwara. After the discussion regarding this matter between the Maharana and Maharajshri, it was decided to shift Shreenathji from Nathdwara to Udaipur and later Ghasiyar. Devika Betiji assisted her father. She was a great devotee of Shreenathji and also wrote many Dhol Pad Kirtan in Gujrati, Braj and Hindi.

श्रीकृष्ण ज्यु की बाँसुरी बजत सुन सनन,
उतत घोर घननन नम गजाइहे ।
श्रीयमुना जी के तीर बहे त्रिविधि समीर,
बलमद्र जु के बीर ने आछी छब दिखलाइहे ।
मोर मुकुट लटक अलग मलक लट झुक रही,
कुंडल की झलक फलक कपोलन झलकाइहे ।
वनमाला तिलक भाल केशर की दीए आर,
कमल पत्र गाल देख कमलिनी लजाइहे ।

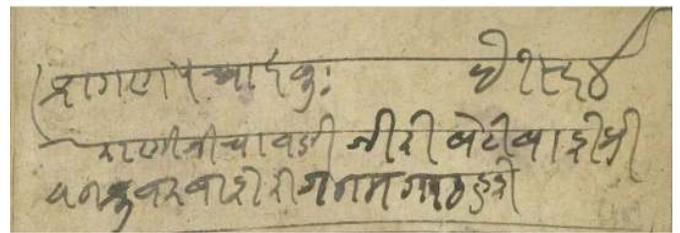
56. Baijiraj Champawat ji

She was the daughter-in-law of Maharana Bheem Singh (r. 1778-1828 CE) and wife of Kanwar Amar Singh, his eldest son. During the reign of Maharana Bheem Singh, Kanwar Amar Singh died in 1818. After the demise of Maharana Bheem Singh, Kanwar Jawan Singh, younger son of Maharana Bheem Singh, set on the throne of Mewar where he considered her as his mother and in 1833 gave her the honorary title of Baijiraj which was continued even in the reign of Maharana Sardar Singh (r. 1838-1842 CE). As Baijiraj, she was his political adviser and held a prominent position in the Mewar court. After the demise of Maharana Jawan Singh (r. 1828 - 1838 CE), she played a key role in the adoption of Kanwar Sardar Singh as the next ruler of Mewar.



57. Baijilal Krishna Kunwar

Baijilal Krishna Kunwar was the daughter of Maharana Bheem Singh (r. 1778- 1828 CE) and Chawadi Maharani Gulab Kunwar. She was betrothed to Maharaja Bheem Singh of Jodhpur in 1798 CE however, he died before the his wedding could take place. So, she was then betrothed to Maharaja Jagat Singh of Jaipur in 1803. Thakur Sawai Singh of Pokhran wanted his grand-daughter to marry Maharaja Jagat Singh of Jaipur and the match was approved by Maharaja Man Singh of Jodhpur but then Thakur Sawai Singh informed Jodhpur Maharaja about the engagement of Baijilal Krishna Kunwar to Maharaja of Jaipur. This enraged Maharaja Maan Singh as he himself wanted to marry Krishna Kunwar. Thus, he left Jodhpur to attack Udaipur. Maharaja Jagat Singh who was supposed to marry Krishna Kunwar too left Jaipur with Bikaner Maharaj Surat Singh and Nawab Amir Khan, a feudatory of Daulat Rao Scindia, in turn to attack the army of Jodhpur. In the end, both Jaipur and Jodhpur forces fought near Parbatsar on the boundary of Jodhpur and Jaipur in 1807 CE. Jaipur won the battle and Maharaja Maan Singh of Jodhpur returned back to Jodhpur but Thakur Sawai Singh advised Jaipur Maharaja to attack Jodhpur so that the Udaipur marriage could be cancelled. In between this chaos, Nawab Amir Khan joined the Jodhpur forces and advised Maharaja Maan Singh to get Krishna Kunwar killed to end this feud. After convincing the Maharaja for the same he left for Udaipur and told Ajit Singh Chundawat who was the representative of Udaipur at Jodhpur court to eliminate Krishna Kunwar. When Ajit Singh Chundawat related this to Maharana Bheem Singh, this news also reached Krishna Kunwar and for the sake of the kingdom and her parents she took poison herself to end this unnecessary feud.



On Falgun Shukla 5-6 Vikram Samvat 1864, Birthday of Baijilal Kisan Kunwar daughter of Rani Saheba Chawadiji is celebrated.

Image Courtesy: MMRI Maharana Bheem Singh - Haqiqat Bahida BH 678

58. Maharani Sardar Kunwar Baghela

Maharani Sardar Kunwar Baghela was the daughter of Raja Jai Singh Das from Ramgarh and was the wife of Maharana Jawan Singh (r.1828- 1838 CE). She was the senior most queen of the Maharana and got constructed Shree Mahadev temple at Khalsapura in Varanasi. When Maharana Jawan Singh visited Varanasi in 1833 CE, he did the consecration ceremony of the temple. Maharani Sardar Kunwar Baghela died on 30th July 1832 and in her memory Maharana Jawan Singh constructed the temple named Shree Jawan Suraj Bihari temple outside the Palace where in the temple Maharana also installed their statues in remembrance.



59. Bhatiyani Maharani

Maharani Bhatiyani was the wife of Maharana Sardar Singh (r.1838-1842 CE) from Muroli. She got constructed Shree Sardar Swarup Bihari temple on the west bank of lake Pichola. On 21st April 1839 CE, Maharana Sardar Singh laid the foundation stone of the temple. It was completed after the demise of Maharana Sardar Singh by Maharana Swarup Singh (r.1842-1861 CE). So, it is known as 'Maji ka Mandir' and the ghat along with it is called 'Maji ka Ghat'.



60. Goswami Maji Maharaj Shri Padmavati Bahuji

She was the wife of Tiritiya Gruh Peethadhishwar Goswami Shri Purishottamji Maharaj. After the demise of Maharaj Shri in Vikram Samvat 1903 but without an issue, she had to take over the working of Shree Dwarkadhishji temple of Kankroli. Firstly, she wrote to Maharana Swarup Singh regarding the affairs of the Jagir-Kankroli and Maharana appointed Mehta Sher Singh to help Maji Maharaj. She worked as the custodian of the Gaadi for many years. Later, she adopted Yashodanandanlalji from Mathura and he took the title of Tiritiya Gruh Peethadhishwar Goswami Shri Girdharji Maharaj.

कांकरोली का इतिहास

सर्वप्रथम माजी महाराज ने अपनी पुत्री भीमजकुंवरि बेटीजी के साथ सं० १६०६ के वैशाख में देवगढ़-रावणजीतसिंहजी के आमंत्रण पर देवगढ़ की यात्रा की, जहाँ इनका राजकीय सम्मान किया गया। देवगढ़-रावणजीतसिंहजी ने दो कोस आगे आकर स्वागत किया, और शहर के दरवाजे से महल तक स्वयं चमर जुलाते हुए, नंगे पैर साथ में चलकर उन्हें मुकाम पर पधराया। ठिकाने की ओर से सब प्रकार के साधन उपस्थित किये गये।

यहाँ कुछ दिन निवास हो जाने के अनन्तर एक दिन माजी महाराज को महलों में पधरावनी हुई, जहाँ भेंट में १४५७ चढ़ाये गये, और माजी चम्पावतजी का वनबाया हुआ नया मन्दिर कांकरोली-ठिकाने को भेंट किया गया। यहाँ के ठाकुरजी की पृष्ठिमागीय पद्धति से प्रतिष्ठा की गई और साम्प्रदायिक सेवा-प्रणाली प्रचलित हुई।

देवगढ़ से लौटते समय मार्ग में आमेठ-रावण पृथ्वीसिंहजी ने अपने महलों में स्त्कार के साथ पधरावनी की और भेंट चढ़ाई।

सं० १६०६ आश्विन वदी १ को माजी महाराज भीमिचरलालजी महाराज को लेकर उदयपुर पधारे, जहाँ महाराणा सरूपसिंहजी ने उनका राजकीय परम्परागत सम्मान किया, और ठिकाना का कर्त्तव्य करने के लिये पचीस हजार रुपया चांदौडी भेंट किया। सं० १६१३ आषाढ़ शु० ६ को वे पुनः उदयपुर पधारे और वहाँ से भावण शु० ४ को वापिस कांकरोली आए। इस यात्रा में महाराणा ने पुनः भेंट आदि चढ़ाकर इनका सम्मान किया।

सं० १६१० ज्येष्ठ शु० ६ को रावत सवाई महासिंहजी ने अपने ठिकाने की जमीन में से ८ बीघा जमीन भेंट कर प्रतिवर्ष उसका ह्रासिल कांकरोली पहुँचाते रहने का ताम्रपत्र किया। यह रावतजी इस घर के सेवक थे, और यह जमीन उन्होंने भागवत तथा तुलसीजी के विवाह के अर्थ भेंट की थी।

सं० १६१४ पीप वदी १० शुक्रवार को माजी महाराज गिरिचरलालजी को लेकर गुजरात की यात्रा और प्रदेश करने गए, और वहाँ इस घर की वैष्णव-सृष्टि से सेवाार्थ द्रव्य प्राप्त किया। यह यात्रा प्रायः एक वर्ष में समाप्त हुई, और यह सब सं० १६१५ कार्तिक वदी अमावस्या को कांकरोली आए।

सं० १६१६ में माजी महाराज ने ८४ कोस ब्रजमंडल की यात्रा की, और यथास्थान इन्होंने श्रीप्रभु के विविध मनोरथ कर वैष्णव-सृष्टि को आनंदित किया। इस यात्रा में कई हजार वैष्णव वाशी साथ थे, जिनका समस्त प्रबंध और रक्षा माजी महाराज की ओर से किया गया था।

सं० १६२८ आश्विन कृ० ११ शुक्रवार के दिन पुनः माजी महाराज ने ब्रजयात्रा कांकरोली से प्रस्थान किया, और मथुरा जाकर दूसरी बार सपरिकर ८४ कोस ब्रजमंडल की सविधि यात्रा सम्पूर्ण की।

इसी वर्ष पीप शु० ६ शुक्र के दिन वैष्णवों के आग्रह से यह मन्दसोर प्रदेश करने गये। जहाँ वैष्णवों ने बड़े उत्साह और श्रद्धा से इनका स्वागत किया, तथा सेवाार्थ द्रव्य भेंट किया।

सं० १६२६ मार्गशीर्ष कृ० ११ मंगलवार को माजी महाराज अलवर पधारे, तब वहाँ साहब रूपकुंवरि तथा राजाजी शिवदानसिंहजी वारा में पेशवाई के लिये आये, और लवाठमा के संग-संग नगर में पधर लें जाकर दरबार के मन्दिर में उनका मुकाम कराया। चार-पाँच दिन निवास और आतिथ्य हो जाने के अनन्तर अलवर-नरेश ने राजकीय सम्मान के साथ बड़े हर्ष से मार्गशीर्ष कृ० ३० के दिन माजी महाराज की बनाना महल में पधरावनी कराई, और ८२४ रु० भेंट किये। माजी महाराज के व्यक्तित्व का यहाँ अचूक प्रभाव पड़ा, जिससे मार्गशीर्ष शु० ७ के दिन माजी महाराज से वहाँ रूपकुंवरि ने अन्न-संबंध-दीक्षा ली और गुरु-पक्षिणा में १००० सालाना अपनी जगौर से भेंट किया। मार्ग शु० ८ को माजी महाराज की विदाई हुई, तिसमें महाराजा आदि की ओर से ६८७ भेंट हुए।

61. Ejan Kunwar

In 1857 CE during the reign of Maharana Swarup Singh (r. 1842-1861 CE), Ejan Kunwar constructed the Ejan Swarup Bihari Temple (Govardhan Nathji temple) at Govardhan Vilas, Udaipur. She was also a political and court advisor to the Maharana. Her influence was so much, that the Maharana constructed the Palace at Govardhan Vilas and Govardhan Sagar lake. When Maharana died in 1861, Ejan Kunwar committed Sati, which was the last Sati in Mewar as Maharana had already abolished Sati Pratha.



62. Thakurani Bahuji Nandkunwar Bai

Thakurani Bahuji Nandkunwar Bai was the wife of Kanwar Shardul Singh of Bagore. She was the daughter of Maharaj Sagat Singh of Bikaner. Maharana Swarup Singh adopted her son Kanwar Shambhu Singh. In 1861 CE, after the demise of Maharana Swarup Singh, Kanwar Shambhu Singh sat on the throne of Mewar. During his reign Maji Saheba got a beautiful temple constructed, called Shree Gokul Chandramaji near Badi Pol at Udaipur. The completion ceremony of the temple was organized on Vaishakh Shukla 7, Vikram Samvat 1930.



63. Maharani Abhay Kunwar Mertani

Ghanerao wife of Maharana Swarup Singh (r. 1842-1861 CE). In 1861, after the demise of Maharana Swarup Singh Kanwar Shambhu Singh set on the throne of Mewar. During the reign of Maharana Shambhu Singh, in 1871 CE Maaji Saheba Abhay Kunwar constructed the Shree Vishnu temple and stepwell near Kothariji ki Haveli in the old city market, Udaipur.



64. Maharani Gulab Kunwar Bai Rathore

Maharani Gulab Kunwar Bai Rathore from Baganer was the wife of Maharana Swarup Singh (r. 1842-1861 CE). In 1855 CE, she constructed a step-well at Gulab Bagh. She also constructed Shree Gulab Swarup Bihari temple near Badi Pol at Udaipur. On 18th February 1856 CE, the consecrations ceremony was organized along with a feast by the Maharani herself. After the demise of Maharana Swarup Singh, Maharana Shambhu Singh gave her the title of 'Baijiraj' and she was the political adviser to him. On 20th July 1863 CE, she died and Maharana Shambhu Singh gave her the honour of a Rajmata at her cremation.



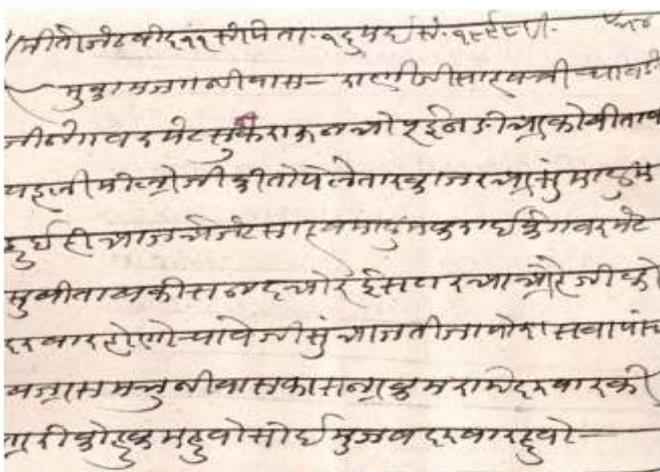
65. Maharani Jawahir Kunwar Rathore

Maharani Jawahir Kunwar Rathore from Kishangarh was the wife of Maharana Sajjan Singh (r. 1874-1884 CE). In 1884 CE, after the demise of Maharana Sajjan Singh, Kanwar Fateh Singh set on the throne of Mewar. In 1897 CE, Maaji Sahiba Rathore ji constructed the Shree Madanmohan temple at Ganerao Ghati near Jagdish Chowk, Udaipur.



66. Maharani Bakhtawar Kunwar Chawda

Maharani Chawadiji from Barsoda was the wife of Maharana Fateh Singh (r. 1884-1930 CE). Maharani Chawadiji was aware for women's health and worked a lot for it. She promoted hospitals in Mewar, specifically, to provide post natal care for young mothers. On 16th May 1898 CE British Government gave her the title 'Crown of India' for the contribution to family healthcare. She was the mother to Kanwar Bhupal Singh, Baijilal Omkar Kunwar married to Maharaja Madan Singh of Kishangarh and Baijilal Kishor Kunwar married to Maharaja Sardar Singh of Jodhpur.



Hakikat Bahida of Maharana Fateh Singh

मीती जेट बीद ११ सोमे ता. १६ मई १८९८

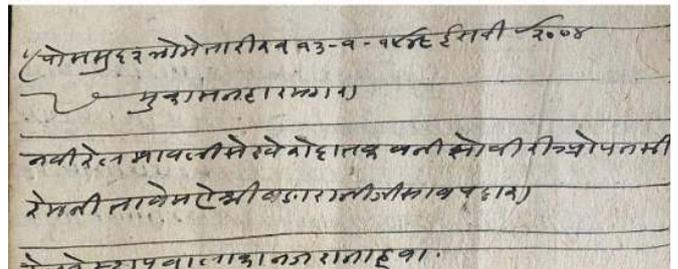
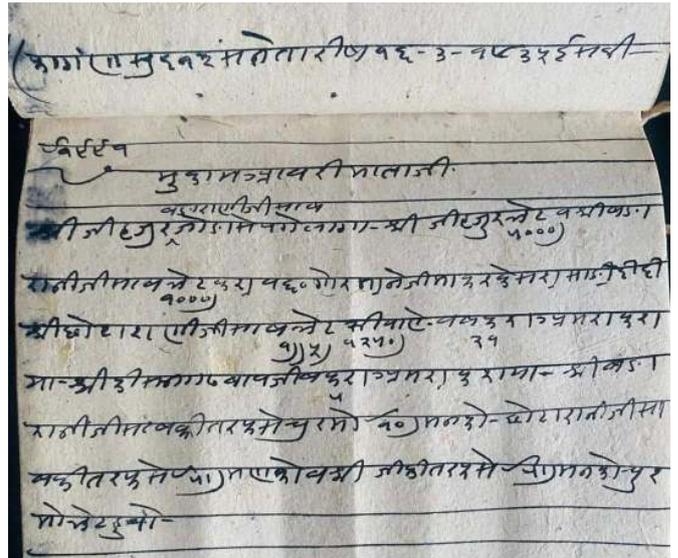
मुकाम जगनीवास

राणीजी साहब श्री चावड़ी जी ने गवरमेट सु कराऊन आफ इन्डिया को खीताब पहली मौल्यो जी की तो पेले तार का जरया सु मालम हुई ही आज अजेंट साहब मालुम कराई के गवरमेट सु खीताब की सनद ओर ईसटार आयो हे जीको दरबार होणो चावे जी सु आज तीजा पोर सब पांच बजया समधुनीवास कासनवा कमरा मे दरबार की तयारी को हुकम हुनो सो ई मुजब दरबार हुवे

Image - Hakikat Bahida of Maharana Fateh Singh

67. Maharani Birad Kunwar

Wife of Maharana Bhupal Singh (r. 1930-1955 CE) and daughter of Thakur Kesari Singh of Achrol. She held a prominent position in the Mewar court. She followed all the traditional values, and with that participated in social gatherings; like inaugurating the Railway line from Mavli to Kheroda in 1948. Religiously too, she was a great devotee and visited all most every temple of Mewar and made grants to temples. Most important grants were to Shree Eklingnathji temple, Shree Asawra mataji temple, Shreenathji temple, Shree Vitthalnathji temple and Shree Dwarkadhishji temple.



68. Maharani Gulab Kunwar

Maharani Gulab Kunwar was the wife of Maharana Bhupal Singh (r. 1930-1955 CE) and daughter of Thakur Shiv Nath Singh of Khudala. She followed all the traditional values, participated in social gatherings, visits the Chetak and Ashoka Cinema Hall. Religiously too, she was a great devotee of Shree Krishna and visited all most every temple of Mewar and made grants to temples. Most important grants were to Shree Eklingnathji temple, Shree Asawra Mataji temple. She decorated the Brij Vilas in the Zenana part of the Palace and lived there as the Maharani of Mewar until her death in 1972. A trust was established 'Rajmata Gulab Kunwarji Charitable Trust' for the welfare of women by Maharana Bhagwat Singh Mewar in 1973.



69. Maharani Sushila Kumari Mewar of Udaipur

Maharani Sushila Kumari was the wife of Maharana Bhagwat Singh Mewar of Udaipur (r. 1955-1984 CE). She was the granddaughter of Maharaja Ganga Singh and daughter of Maharaja Sardul Singh of Bikaner. She was born in 1923 and married to Maharaj Kumar Bhagwat Singh on 29th February 1940. She was known as an avid reader, very articulate and knowledgeable lady. She had her personal library and book collection. Maharani Sushila Kumari had a great knowledge of Hindustani classical music. She used to play harmonium, tabla and sitar instruments. She was also expert in driving, riding and shooting. She meticulously documented and collected most of the items, presently displayed in the textile gallery in the City Palace Museum. She died on 5th November 1999.



70. Smt. Vijayraj Kumari Mewar of Udaipur

Smt. Vijayraj Kumari Mewar of Udaipur, married to Shriji Arvind Singh Mewar of Udaipur, has been a pillar of strength and support, encouraging various philanthropic activities emanating from The City Palace, Udaipur. Smt. Vijayraj Kumari Mewar of Udaipur had been associated with the development of the Maharana Mewar Public School in the 1980s. She spent productive years helping the school professionalize its outlook and educational commitment to the people of Udaipur. Education and the ensuing benefits for society, is a subject that is close to her heart. Hailing from the Royal Family of Kutch, Smt. Vijayraj Kumari Mewar of Udaipur is the younger daughter of Maharao Fateh Sinhji of Kutch. Educated in Ooty, in a Franciscan convent, she realized the importance of education and discipline at a very early age. In the 1960s, she had the opportunity of travelling overseas and being witness to vast social and economic changes being brought about in Europe and America. Her belief in Indian values and spirituality was further strengthened through these travels. Having settled down in Udaipur, she continued her quest for personal growth and spiritual upliftment. She has been associated with the public and private charitable trusts that are maintaining the ancient temples of Mewar, including the Shree Eklingji Trust and Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation. She is a very religious person and visited many temples in and around Udaipur. She has always lent her gracious support to the ongoing developmental activities of these trusts. Her gracious presence, during the royal festivals, is a source of motivation and encouragement. In her personal capacity, she has been a devout member of the famous Bihar School of Yoga and has made significant contributions for the perpetuation of the School and the teachings of its learned Gurus.

For her children - Smt. Vijayraj Kumari Mewar of Udaipur has ensured a liberal education, a deeply spiritual outlook towards life, and the strength to uphold the responsibilities that come with their unique status as family-members of the House of Mewar.





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