

Chart no-22/1 KOWLEEKAR FAMILY CHART

HISTORY OF KOWLEEKER FAMILY

(As compiled by Shri D. Sama Row Kowleekar
Vanasankari Vilas, East Main Street Pudukkottah State)

Almost every Mahratta Family takes a peculiar pleasure in recording the family geneology and the various glorious achievements commorative of the members of the family from time to time. Such a presevation of records is considered a great honour. Not only that, it serves as a source of inspiration to the generations that follow the great good ancestors and builds greatly the moral side of their development as well. Every member of the family naturally feels it his duty preserve intact the name and fame which the family has inherited from such noble forefathers.

This I believe is a suffecient apology for indulging in recording a brief sketch of my own family history from out of the materials collected by me, by my late uncle Mr. A. Vencat Row and the late Mr. T. A. Gopinatha Row(Superintendant of Archeology, Travancore State) and from the State History and Inam records; which materials might or might not be available for the generations to come. For it all depends upon the hands of time.

To say a few words about the religion and the sect to which this family belongs, it might be noted, that its members are Maharatta Brahmins of the Madhwa sect following the Apasthamba Suthra and hailing out of the Viswamithra Gothra, with Goddess Vanashankari of Badami as their tutelary Goddess and Srewe Vencatesa of Tirupathi as their family deity. "*Kowleekar*" is the distinguishing title of the Family.

A short account of how they came to worship Goddess Vanashankari will also illustrate the original home of the ancestors of the Family. Koneri Row a distinguished Maharatta Brahmin of Bijapoor was one of the principal Civil Officers of the Nawab of Bijapoor in the 17th century. While passing through the jungles og Bijapoor one day he espied a huge stone figure of some Goddess. Koneri Row then desired to erect a temple for the Goddess. As the work was being carried on, he luckily came across a buried treasure in those excavations dug for laying the foundation. From that time onwards Koneri Row was known as "*Kuda Panam Koneri Row*". He was much pleased to have found it and with the treasure thus got, he richly endowed the Goddess, whom he named VANASANKARI. He naturally worshipped the Goddess on a grand scale and every year he held a sort of festival on the full moon day(poornima) in the month of Pushya when a large number of Brahmins (Dampathees) paira were fed sumptuously and clothed adequately and endowed it with lands. The present members of the family celebrate that festival even now though in a less imposing manner.

The late Mr. T. A. Gopinatha Row, M.A., (Author of Hindu Iconography and Superintendant of the Archeological Department of Travancore State) and a member of the family gives some description of this Goddess Vanashankari's temple at Badhami in one of his letters to his cousin Mr. Sama Row written in the year 15th June 1913. Extracts for this letter is appended.

"Banashankari as the name indicates is in an uninhabited place between Badhami and Tolachagad, of which Badhami is a Railway Station, on the Gadg Hotgi Line of the now notorious M.& S.M Railway. Though situated, as I said far away from human habitation, the Temple is surrounded on all sides with excellent water and groves of plantains etc. It is as could be seen from the photo a pretty big temple- as big as your Brihadamba's Temple. I personally believe that is not very old may be 150 or 200 years old."

Thus it is clear that the original home of the family was at Bijapoor and Kudapanam Koneri Row was the great ancestor. The next scene which witnessed the deeds of the family is at Arcot.

Koneri Row's son Narasimha Punth Kowleekar came south and took service as a Military Officer under the Nawab of Arcot, In his time he spread the Family's influence into Mysore through matrimonial alliance. His sons Renga Row and Vencat Row both of them remaining in the service of the Nawab of Arcot, the former as Sherestadar in the Army and the later as a Cavalry Officer. Now we proceed to the early years of the 18th Century when we find the Nawab of Arcot's strong determination to rout the robber bands infesting the Rameswaram Roads He appointed aforesaid Pattalam N. Renga Row(Kowleekar) and Pattalam N. Vencat Row (Kowleekar) as Risaldars of Military operations on the Road to Rameswaram to maintain peace and order. They took with them large Armies of the Nawab. Renga Row's theatre of operations and activities happened to be in the Sivaganga territory where he became famous. He soon retired from service and settled at Palvangudy. The chief male member of this branch of the family is S. Shama Row aged 50 now residing at Pudukkottah leaving his ancestral home at Palavangudy.

Chart-22/1

Kowleekar Family Chart

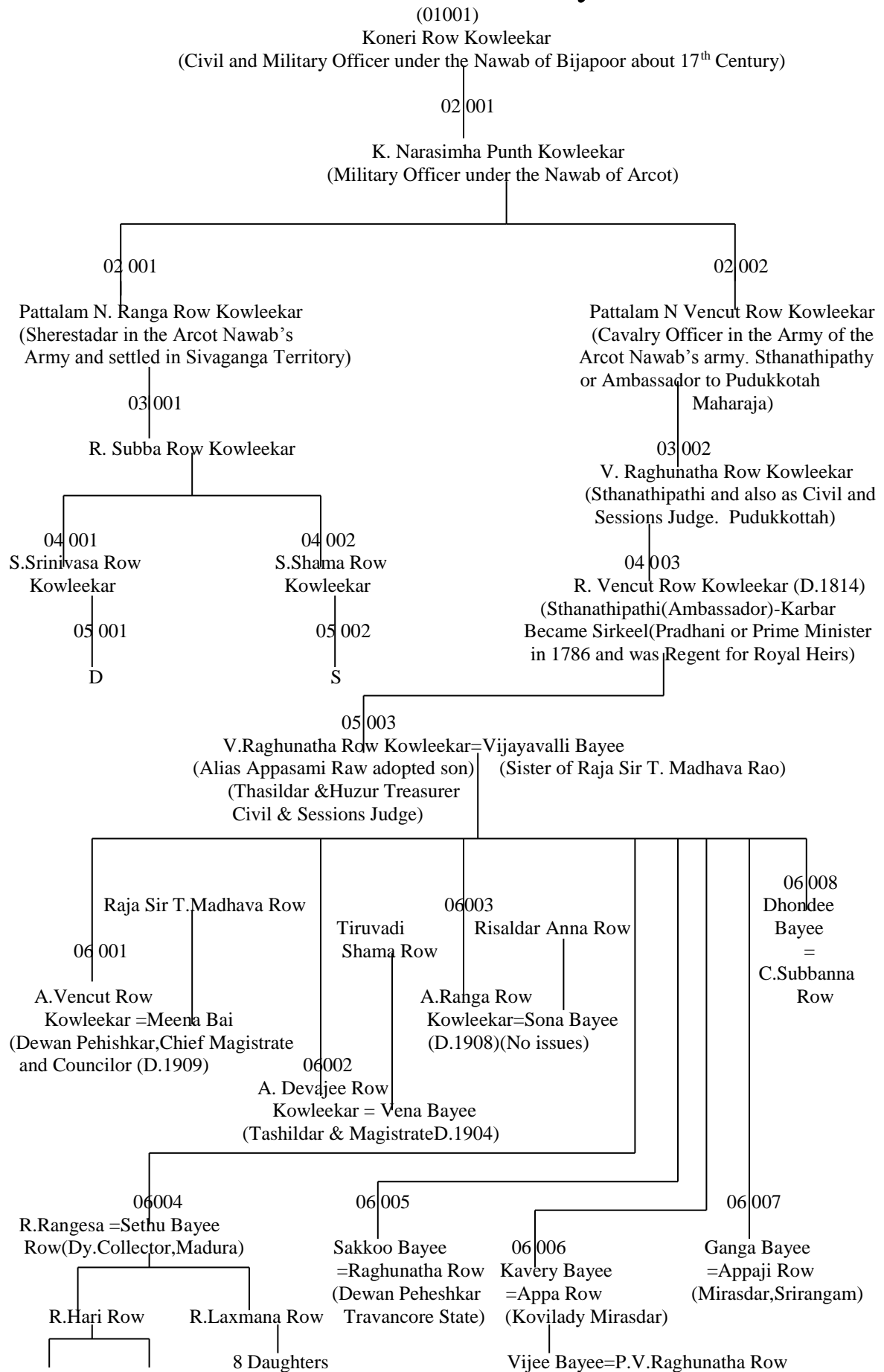


Chart-22/3 (Continuation from Chart-22/1) Kowleekar Family Chart

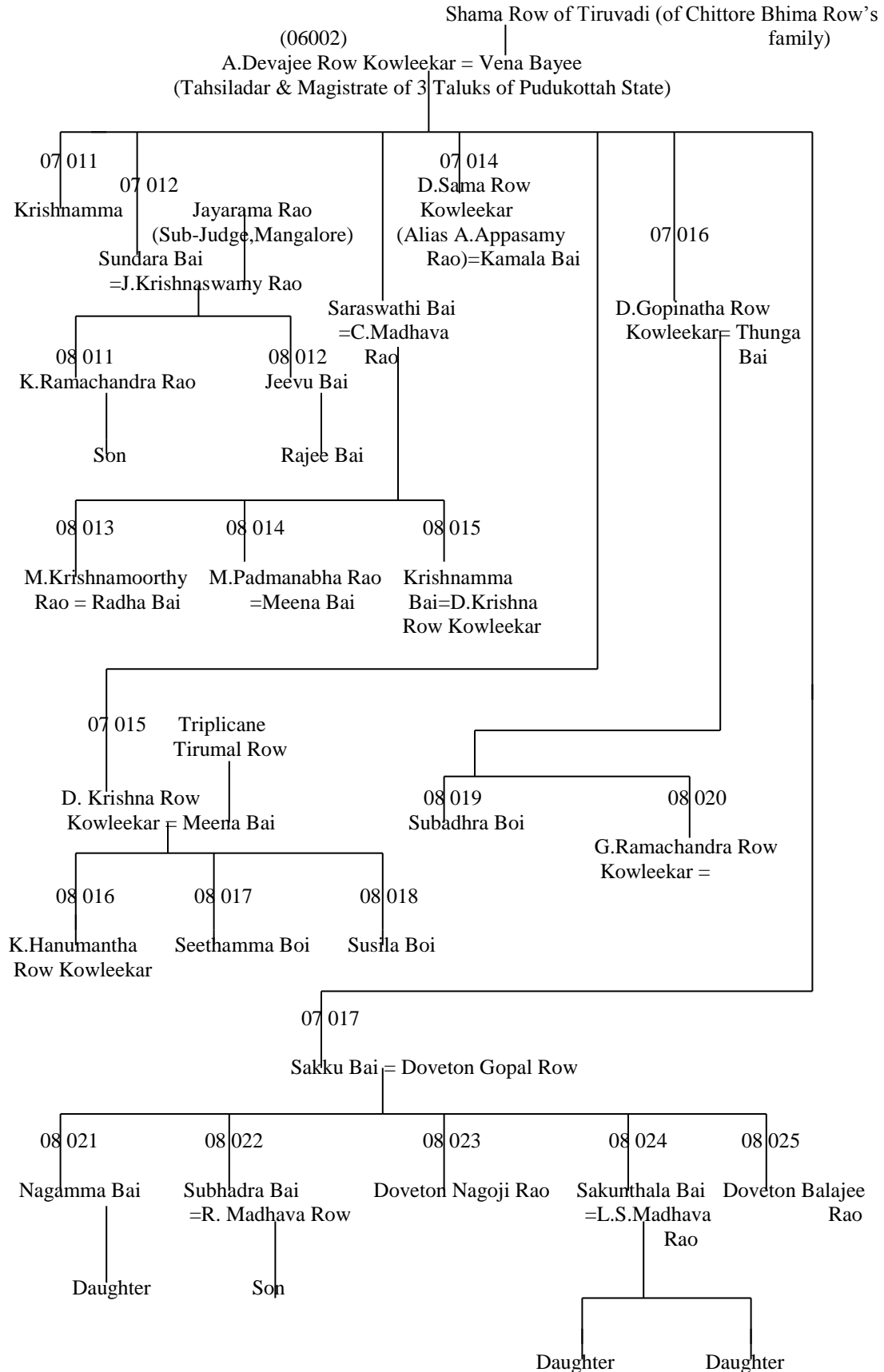


Chart-22/4(Continued from Chart-22/1)

Kowleekar Family Chart

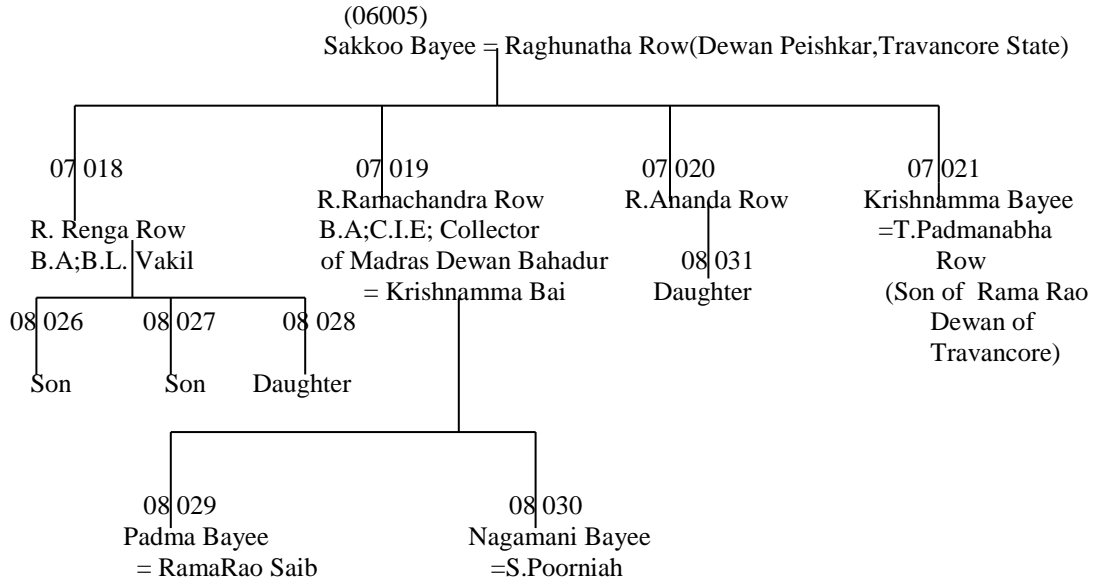


Chart-22/5(Continuation fro Chart-22/1)

Kowleekar Family Chart

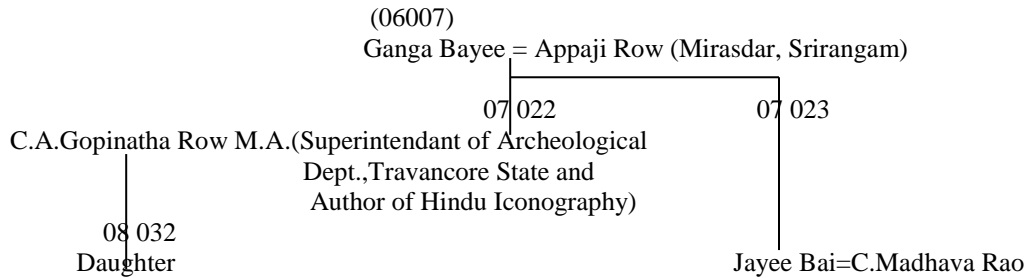


Chart-22/6(Continuation from Chart-22/1)

Kowleekar Family Chart

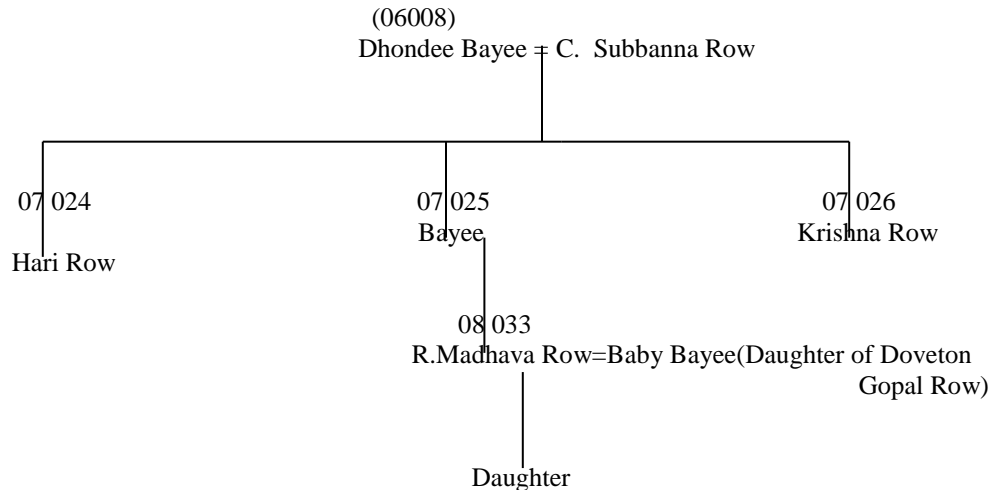


Chart-22/7 (Continuation from Chart-22/3)

Kowleekar Family Chart

