

Acknowledgements

I owe my deep sense of gratitude to my guide and supervisor Dr. Sebastian Joseph, HOD and Research Guide, P G Department and Research Centre in History, U C College Aluva, for giving me proper guidance through valuable suggestions and constructive criticism. I express my sincere thanks to him for the inestimable and unstinting support and co-operation he extended to me throughout the period of my research. His Academic vigor, enthusiasm, encouragement and relentless help have played a vital role in the successful and timely completion of my work.

With open heart, I extend my deepest gratitude and thanks to the N S S management for providing me leave for three years under FDP for completing my research and also to all the Principals of N S S College, Pandalam during my FDP period. I am also thankful to all the teaching and non-teaching staff of N S S College Pandalam for their support extended to me all through my research period.

With heartfelt gratitude, I remember the support extended by the Management of U C College Aluva. I thank the college for permitting me to carry out this study, first as a part time and later as a full time research. I place on record my special gratitude to all the principals of the college during my research period for their incessant support in carrying out the study. I am extremely grateful to all the teaching and non-teaching fraternity of the college, especially the History Department, for their support and cooperation throughout my research.

I thank University Grants Commission for granting me leave for three years for completing my research under the faculty Development Programme.

I feel greatly indebted to all the staff of the State Archives, Trivandrum, especially, Director, J. Reji Kumar, Archivist Parvathy R, Assistant archivists, Shajimon and Shibu Narayanan, and staff like Shelin, Bijeesh, Asha, Ajayan, Ajeesh etc. I also express my sincere gratitude to T.C. Mathew of Deepika, Kottayam for his help extended to me by providing copies of old newspapers.

Let me recollect the endless support extended to me by the staff of Central Archives Thiruvananthapuram, Regional Archives Ernakulam, Archives of Malayala Manorama News Paper, Kottayam, Archives of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra , Forest Library Vazhuthakad, Libraries of Kerala Forest Research Institute Peechi, Centre for Development Studies Trivandrum, Central Library Trivandrum, University Library, Library of Kerala Legislative Assembly, Sree Moolam Library Peermade, Panchayath Library at Kuttykkanam and KTDC Library Thekkady. I express my thanks to the staff of Village Offices at Kumili and Peermade.

With open heart I extend my deepest gratitude to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest K. J. Varghese IFS for the valuable advice and suggestion extended to me. I thank all the Divisional Forest Officers and the staff of the Divisional Forest offices, of Trivandrum, Konni, Malayattur, Ayyappancovil, Ranni, Kothamangalam, Kumily, Kottayam, Wild Life Divisions of Thekkady and Peermade. I also extend my sincere gratitude to the Range Officers and the staff of Range Offices at Erumeli and Placherry. I convey my special thanks to Shri Mohanan, Surveyor DFO Malayattur and Shri Pradeep Watcher, DFO Malayattur for relentlessly helping in searching of documents.

I express my deep gratitude to Shri C. K. Karunakaran, Dr. Michael Tharakan, Dr. David Saj Mathew, Dr. Anil Kumar, Dr. C J Varghese, and Dr. Thomas Philip for the academic support they provided to me. I also thank Dr. E.S. Jeevanand for preparing the statistical analysis of data and thereby enriching the thesis. With great respect and affection I place on record my

gratitude to all those who had triggered their memory and thereby enriching my work like Haji A. M. Sulthan (Kumili), P. H. M. Salim (Kumili), Mushtaq Ahmed (Kambam), Eapen sir (Chotti), Appan Chetan (Azhuthamunni), N. Viswanathan (Murikkady Swami), Leelamma Chechi (Viswanathapuram), and M.N. Muhammed Kasim (Kanjirappally). I extend my gratitude to all those who helped me for arranging the personal interviews like Sunil Peermede, Jaffar Iqqa (Kumili), Thankappan sir (Kumili), Suresh Kumili, Sabu Chettan (Azhuthamunni), Justin Azhuthamunni, Suhain Kanjirappally etc.

I express my sincere thanks to Dr. M. Amruth, scientist, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, for his valuable advice and suggestions extended to me. I also remember his endless support accorded to me by providing certain materials useful for the study.

With great admiration and love let me cherish the help and support rendered by Jijo Jayaraj for persistently helping me all the way through my research. I also thank Jiya Tharian, Vishnu, Nileena and Thara for their support provided to me. I thank Minitex DTP centre for the neat execution of the work.

It is no exaggeration to mention that this work could not have been completed without the enthusiasm and encouragement accorded to me by my beloved husband, V.K. Satheesh and my esteemed parents V.K. Purushothaman Pillai and P. M. Retnamma. I also express my sincere and deep sense of gratitude to my in-laws, siblings, relatives and friends who helped me in many ways and means. I am also thankful to my son Unni and daughter Gouri who had to forego many a number of affectionate moments on account of my research.

LEKHA PILLAI