



## Hidden Gems: Exploring the Richness of Records Series at the Assam State Archive

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**Abstract:** This paper endeavors to unveil the wealth of historical treasures preserved within the Assam State Archive (ASA), delving into the diverse and intricate tapestry of records series that chronicle the region's past. The study aims to shed light on the less-explored corridors of archival holdings. The Assam State Archive stands as a custodian of multifaceted records series encompassing administrative documents, manuscripts, colonial-era correspondences, and indigenous materials. It embarks on a journey to unravel these hidden gems, meticulously examining their historical, cultural, and social significance. Through comprehensive archival analysis, the research seeks to highlight the unique narratives embedded in each records series, offering insights into Assam's evolution over the years. By exploring these hidden gems, the study aspires to contribute not only to the understanding of Assam's history but also to the broader discourse on archival methodologies and the preservation of cultural heritage. The article underscores the importance of recognizing and documenting these records series, ensuring their accessibility for future generations, and ultimately enriching our collective understanding of the historical embroidery woven within the Assam State Archive.

**Keywords:** Assam State Archive, Colonial-era Correspondences, Cultural Heritage, Historical Treasures.

## INTRODUCTION

The inception of the archival system in India can be traced back to the influence of England during the East India Company era. In 1847, James Hume, a judge in Calcutta, proposed the establishment of a central record office. Subsequently, a committee was formed to devise strategies for record-keeping, and their recommendation included the creation of a general record room to cater to all departments. The momentum continued, and in 1899, George Forest was appointed to assess the records. Based on his recommendations, a central record office was inaugurated in Calcutta, later relocating to Delhi in 1911. Presently, the National Archives in Delhi, situated at the intersection of Janpath and Rajpath in New Delhi, stands as the primary repository. Additionally, individual states maintain Provincial Archives as part of the broader archival infrastructure in the country.

The establishment of the Indian Historical Record Commission in 1919 represented a pivotal moment in the initiation of archival endeavors. In 1942, during its 10th session convened in Mysore, the commission underscored the imperative need for establishing an Archives in the State of Assam. This session placed significant emphasis on the systematic management, preservation, and utilization of non-current Public Records of the Government of Assam. Additionally, there was a keen focus on providing essential facilities to genuine research scholars and the public to facilitate their engagement with historical records. Responding to this call, a dedicated building was erected in Shillong to enhance the preservation of records. In 1949, Shri P.C. Sarma, a qualified and trained individual, was appointed as the Keeper of Records. The concerted efforts of scholars such as S.K. Bhuyan, H.K. Borpujari,

and others played a pivotal role in the dynamic development and promotion of archives in Assam. Further strides in archival development occurred during the 44th session of the Indian Historical Record Commission in Bikaner in 1976. Dr. P.C. Choudhury, then a professor at Dibrugarh University, advocated for the establishment of a full-fledged Archives office in Assam. Supported by Dr. Bisheswar Prasad, the Director General of National Archives of India, New Delhi, a resolution was passed to create an Archives Department in Assam.

Following the shift of the capital from Shillong to Dispur in 1972, the "State Archives Organization" Assam was established in 20th March 1980. Sri Abdul Hye Choudhury assumed the role of the first Director of Archives, Assam. Over time, the organization evolved, gaining Directorate status in 1996 as the "Directorate of Archives" Assam, as per Government notifications. Operating under a qualified head as the "Director of Archives," the organization has since been actively contributing to the dissemination of various historical and administrative sources. Today, the "State Archives Assam" stands as a recognizable symbol in the North Eastern Region and the nation at large, serving as a valuable resource for the exploration of diverse topics in the human past.

## II. Objectives

- To systematically examine and catalog the diverse records series within the Assam State Archive.
- To analyze the historical, cultural, and social significance embedded in these records.
- To contribute to the broader discourse on archival methodologies and the preservation of cultural heritage

### III. Methodology

The research employs a comprehensive archival analysis, involving the systematic review and categorization of records series. It includes a qualitative examination of the narratives encapsulated within each series, drawing connections to Assam's historical evolution.

### IV. Assam State Archive as a Custodian of History

The Assam State Archive stands as a venerable custodian of history, safeguarding a treasure trove of documents that weave together the intricate tapestry of Assam's past. Established with the foresight of preserving the historical legacy of the region, the archive has played a pivotal role in collecting, archiving, and protecting a diverse range of materials that span administrative records, manuscripts, correspondences, and indigenous artifacts. As the custodian of this invaluable repository, the Assam State Archive serves as a living testament to the rich cultural heritage, administrative evolution, and societal changes that have shaped the identity of Assam over the years.

This archival institution shoulders the responsibility of not only preserving tangible remnants of the past but also ensuring their accessibility for present and future generations. The meticulous curation and organization of records within the Assam State Archive reflect a commitment to maintaining the integrity and authenticity of historical narratives. Scholars, researchers, and the general public find in this archive a trove of resources that offer insights into the socio-political, economic, and cultural nuances of Assam's history.

The Assam State Archive's role as a custodian extends beyond mere preservation; it actively contributes to the dissemination of historical knowledge. By making these records available to the public, the archive becomes a dynamic space for exploration and discovery, fostering a deep appreciation for the multifaceted history of Assam. The custodianship of the Assam State Archive is a vital link between the past and the present, ensuring that the rich history of the region remains alive, relevant, and accessible to all who seek to understand and appreciate Assam's enduring legacy.

### V. Unraveling Hidden Narratives:

In the realm of historical research, the concept of unraveling hidden narratives is a call to action, urging historians, scholars, and researchers to meticulously sift through archives, manuscripts, and records to unveil stories that have been marginalized or overshadowed by more prominent events. This process requires a discerning eye and a commitment to inclusivity, as it seeks to amplify voices that have been historically muted or neglected. The act of unraveling hidden narratives is not only an academic pursuit but also a profound acknowledgment of the complexity and richness of history. It acknowledges that within the folds of time lie myriad stories, waiting to be teased out and woven into the broader tapestry of human experience. This approach to historical exploration encourages a nuanced understanding of the past, recognizing that the true narrative of any society is a mosaic

composed of diverse, interconnected threads. This approach to historical exploration is driven by a commitment to inclusivity, a recognition of the complexity of history, and an acknowledgment that the full story of any society involves a multiplicity of perspectives. Scholars and researchers engaged in unraveling hidden narratives aim to provide a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the past by bringing to light stories that have been obscured or marginalized.

### Archival Treasures: Compilation of Records Series Safeguarded at the Assam State Archive

**A) HISTORICAL ARCHIVES (OLD RECORDS):** The category of 'historical archives' within the institution pertains to records dating from 1823 to 1874, encompassing the correspondence exchanged between the Agent to the Governor General of India. These historical archives delve into the initiation of the province's modern administration, detailing aspects such as the topography, border delineation, flora and fauna, mineral resources, political and administrative context, trade routes, commercial prospects, and the overarching political significance of the region as an integral part of the British Empire in India.

- I. Letter received from Government of Bengla-1823-1874.
- II. Letter issued to Government of Bengal - 1834-1874.
- III. Letter received from Board of Revenue for the lower provinces-1829-1960.
- IV. Letter issued to Board of Revenue-1836-1960.
- V. Letter received from district Officers 1836-1865.
- VI. Letter Issued to District Officers-1936-1865.
- VII. Letter Received from Miscellaneous Quarter 1830-1866.
- VIII. Letter Issued to Miscellaneous Quarter-1836-1868.

### (B) Transferred files from Bengal:

- I. Bengal Government files - 1788-1874.
- II. Dacca Commissioner's files - 1867-1874.
- III. Cooch Behar Commissioner's files - 1867-1874.
- IV. Board of Revenue, Govt. of Bengal files - 1774-1824.

These records, which dealt with subjects pertaining to Assam, were transferred from Bengal with the creation of Chief Commissionership.

### C) PROCEEDINGS:

- I. Proceeding of the Chief Commissioner of Assam - 1874-1905.
- II. Proceeding of Eastern Bengal and Assam Government - 1905-1911.
- III. Proceeding of the Assam Commissioner - 1928-1947.
- IV. Proceeding of the Government of Assam - 1912-1938.

### (D) OTHER RECORDS:

- I. Chief Commissioner of Assam's files - 1874-1909.
- II. Governor Secretariat file 1942-1945.
- III. Secretariat (Confidential) file 1878-1950.
- IV. Political History of Assam's (PHA) files 1826-1947.

**Table 1.1: Comprehensive Overview of Records Series at the Assam State Archive (1890-1987)**

Name of the Department	Year	Documents Archived
General Department	1890-1905	Records, Public Service, Issue, Recording, Medical and sanitation. Public Instruction, Local Self Government, Public Works, General, Registration, Miscellaneous
Political and Judicial Department	1890-1905	Foreign, Jails, Police, Law and Legislation, Registration, Municipalities, Military, Miscellaneous
Revenue Department	1890-1905	Forests, Emigration, Revenue, Finance and Commerce, Survey, Agriculture, Miscellaneous
Accounts and Statistics Department	1890-1905	Accounts Provincial, Budget, Returns, Financial and Municipal
General Department	1905-1912	Public Service, Education Public Works, Medical, Miscellaneous
Appointment and Political Department	1905-1912	Appointment, Political, Assam Rifle, Passport, Military
Revenue Department	1905-1912	Forest, Emigration
Finance and Municipal Department	1908-1912	Financial, Forest, Separate Revenue, Municipal, District and Local Board, Immigration, Sanitation, Miscellaneous
Appointment and Political Department	1912-1921	Appointment, Political, Education and Passport
Judicial and General Department	1912-1921	Judicial, Legislative, Jails, General, General Miscellaneous, Police
General Miscellaneous (Education, Census)		Registration, Military
Finance Department	1912-1921	Finance, Local Self Government, Public Works, Municipal, Miscellaneous, Medical, Sanitation, Separate Revenue
Revenue Department	1912-1921	Revenue, Revenue Miscellaneous, Immigration, Agriculture
Appointment and Political Department	1921-1938	Appointment, Political, Assam Rifle, Passport, Military
Judicial and General Department	1921-1938	Justice, Police, jails, Explosive, Excise, Newspaper, Printing Press
Revenue Department	1921-1938	Revenue, Forest, Ward Estate, Mines and Minerals, fisheries, Books and Maps.
Finance Department	1921-1938	Accounts, Budget, Local Audit, Income tax, Stamp, Salt, Custom
Local Self Government and Industries Department	1921-1927	Municipalities, Local Boards, Agriculture, Veterinary, Industries, Cooperative, Trade and Statistics
Local Self Government and Industries Department	1921-1938	Municipalities, Local Boards, Agriculture, Veterinary, Industries, Cooperative Society
Appointment and Political Department	1912-1937	Appointment, Political, Assam Rifle, Passport, Military
Revenue Department	1921-1927	Revenue, Forest, Ward Estate, Mines and Minerals, fisheries, Books and Maps.
Education and Sanitation Department	1921-1927	Education, Medical, Sanitation, Lunatic, Registration, Ethnography, Census, Ecclesiastical, Gazetteer.
Transfer Department	1927-1937	Education, Medical, Local Self Government, Excise, Agriculture, Industries
Finance and Revenue Department	1927-1937	Finance, Revenue, Income Tax, Stamp, Budget, Accounts
Home Department	1937-1960	Police, Public Service, Explosive, Publicity, Pilgrimage
Judicial and General Department	1937-1960	Judicial, Forest, Justice, Law
Finance Department	1937-1960	Local Fund, Finance, Excise, Budget, Audit, Sale Tax, Agriculture, Income Tax
Appointment Department	1937-1947	Supply, Appointment
Revenue Department	1937-1960	General Revenue, Fisheries, Mines and Minerals, Excise and Registration, Ward's Estate Land Revenue
Local Self Government	1937-1947	Municipal Boards, Local Board. Panchayat, Ponds, Sanitation
Legislative Department	1937-1960	Legislative, Legislative Council, Legal Remembrance, Administration General, Official Trustee
P.W. D	1942-1960	Establishment and Communication, Accounts and Buildings, Records and Recording, Issue. General Defense,

Supply Department	1943-1960	Textile, Supply, Food Grain
General Administration Department	1947-1960	Industry Department, Judicial Department, Labor Department.
Planning and Development Department	1947-1960	Power Department, Secretariat Administrative Department, Chief Minister Secretariat, Sericulture Department, Transport Department
Heads of Department	1971-1987	Registrar of Firms and Societies

**Table 1.2: Overview of Assam State Archive Collections (1823-1976)**

Gazettes	Year	Holdings of Maps (1823-1950)
• Assam Gazettes	1874-1905	The political. Revenue, Historical, Geographical, Cadastral, Boundary, Survey of India, Forest and Revenue etc.
• Assam Gazettes	1913-1934	
• Eastern Bengal and Assam Gazettes	1905-1912	
• Calcutta Gazettes	1843-1958	
• India Gazettes	1845-1970	
<b>Reports</b> Administrative reports of all departments, Journals and proceedings of the Asiatic Society of Bengal		<b>Archival Art Gallery</b>
• Imperial Gazetteer	1881 onwards	Various Kinds of Photographs such as Freedom Fighters, Lt. Generals, Chief Minister, Prime Minister, Scholars, World War I and II
• District Gazetteer	1891-1976	
• Census Reports	1871 Onwards	

The Assam State Archive (ASA) pompously safeguards an array of rare documents that form a unique mosaic of historical significance. Among these treasures are documents that trace the roots of administrative, political, and social developments in Assam. The rare manuscripts and records encapsulate pivotal moments, providing a glimpse into the evolution of governance, legislative affairs, and societal changes over the years.

#### **I. Significant historical correspondence and events in assam: 19th and 20th century perspectives**

1. Letter issued to A.R. Young Esq. Secretary to the Govt. of Bangal, dated 29th November, 1857 forward few Manirams' letter intercepted from Raja Kandarpaswar Singh [1].
2. Letter from Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Bangal, dated 24th Sept. 1830, to David Scott. Esq. Agent to the Governor-General, N.E. Frontier regarding sentences changed with rebellion in Upper Assam. of persons [2].
3. Letter dated 24th December, 1857, from A.R. Young, Esq. Secretary to the Govt. of Bangal, to the Agent to the Governor-General, N.E. Frontier intimating that steamer will leave Calcutta for Assam with one hundred sea men in the custody of whom Maniram Dutta will be sent for his trial in Assam [3].
4. Letter (dated 27th April) from Benry Hopkinson, Agent Governor General and Commissioner of Assam, to the Secretary to the Govt. of Bangal: - On the Rebellious Attitude of the Khasis [4].
5. Letter (Dated 23rd Sept. 1858) from F. Jenkins, Agent, Governor to the Secretary to the Govt. of Bangal, Fortwilliam, on the release of Raja Singh from the Alipur Jail [5]
6. Rani Guidiliu -The Naga Revolutionary woman of Manipur state during the time of the India's freedom Movement [6].
7. "An Woman Conference at Naduar and Goalpara" Abstract from sunday, 27 Bohag 1853, 10th May, 1931, 3rd edition [7].

8. The Reaction in Assam on the Arrest of Mahatma Gandhi During the year-1932 [8].
9. Contribution of Movement in India. Assam's Journalism to the Freedom [9]
10. Activities of Indian National Army on the Assam Boarder [10]
11. The Delegates of Assam to the Indian National Congress Committee from 1886 onwards [11]
12. Confidential report by the S.P. Kamrup for the week ending 6th September, 1941 of Kamrup District [12]
13. Bulatin No. 4, by the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee for the "SANTISENA" [13]
14. A list of persons who had taken prominent part in the Sibsagar Conspiracy to overthrow the British Government and instal Kandarpeswar Singha as the Raja of Assam [14].

#### **II. National martyr [15]**

1. Hang order on Maniram Dutta by Holroyd and other persona who were Punished in 1858)
2. Few photograph of Martyrs in Assam during the time of freedom struggle.
3. Copy of the death sentence order of Piyali Baruah.

#### **III. First day of the freedom**

1. Letter dated Shillong the 30th July, 1947 from Sir Harold Dennehy, Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam to all the D. S's etc. advising to make arrangements for celebrating the transfer of power on August 15th. 1947.[16]
2. Few local newspapers published on 15th August, 1947.

#### **IV. Social movements in assam: peasant uprisings, student protests, and labor struggles**

##### **a. PEASANT MOVEMENT**

1. Letter from Jt. Secretary to the Govt. of Bangal, dated Fort William the 16th April, 1869 to the Commissioner, Assam on the unlawful assembly of ryots in the Borpeta Sub-Division

and conduct of the police regarding mutiny of ryots at Gobindapur, Bajali [17].

2. Proceedings of the Home Department for the month of September, 1894 on the Rangia, Lachima and Patharughat ryots. Nos. 220 to 344 [18].

3. A brief account of the Revolution of the people of the Borpeta Sub-Division:- On the issue of increasing land Revenue [19]

#### **b. STUDENTS MOVEMENT**

1. A govt. confidential list of students taking active part in the political agitation in Assam during the year 1932-33 [20].
2. Students and Freedom Movement in Assam [21].

#### **c. LABOUR MOVEMENT**

1. A map of Assam showing COOLIE ROUTES to Assam from different parts of India [22].
2. Annual report on the relation between the management and Labourers during the year 1893 [23].
3. Report by the Assam Labour Enquiry Committee [24].
4. Report on the relation between the Planters and the labourers [25].

### **V. Governors of assam: portraits and biographical information**

1. Photographs of H.E. Sir Nicholas Dodd Beatson Bell, 1st Governor of Assam.
2. Photographs of H.E. Sir William Sinclair Maris, 2nd Governor of Assam.
3. Photographs of H.E. J.H. Keer, 3rd Governor of Assam.
4. Photographs of H.E. William James Reid, 4th Governor of Assam.
5. Biodata of H.E. Sir William Sinclair-Maris (2nd Governor of Assam) 03.03.1921 to 10.10.1922 (History of Services 1st July, 1921)
6. Biodata of H.E. Sir Egbert Laurie Lucas Hammond. (28.06.1927 to 10.05.1932) (History of Services 1st July, 1928)
7. Biodata of H.E. Sir Michael Keane. (11.10.1935 to 03.03.1937) (History of Services 1st July, 1933)

### **VI. Educational initiatives and advocacy in assam: correspondence and reports (1846-1928)**

1. Letter from W. Cesnew dated 16th May, 1863, to the Secretary to the Governor of Bangal regarding the establishment of schools by the missionaries [26]
2. Letter dated 28th June, 1854, from C.H. Hesselmeyer, Missionary of the Tezpur Mission to Licutt. G.J.J. Vincent. Principal Asstt. Commissioner, Zillah Durrung, requests the Govt. to sanction fifty rupees per month for maintaining five schools for the Cacharee tribal population [27].
3. Report on the progress of primary and female education in Assam during the year 1916-1926, compiled by the Education, Health and Land Department, Govt. of India, 1928. It also exhibited a graph showing the progress in number of schools in recognized institution in same the different provinces (including Assam) during the period [28].
4. Letter from the Govt. of India to his Majesty Secretary of states for India, regarding the necessity of a college in Assam with a proposal forwarded by the Chief Commissioner of Assam for the establishment of a second-grade college at Gauhati and a telegraphic sanction there on [29].
5. Letter dated 14th March, 1846, from G. Bushby Baq. Secretary to the Govt. of India to F.I. Halliday Esq. Secretary to the Govt. of Bangal, informing Govt. sanction of monthly stipend of Rs. 50/- for two Assamese youth for medical education at Calcutta [30].

6. A memorandum dated 20th June, 1884, by C.A. Elliot, Chief Commissioner of Assam, his views on the recommendation of the Education Commission as well as the prospects of education especially the promotion of Schools" in the province [31].
7. Letter from the Agent to the Governor-General, N.E. Frontier to the Secretary to the Govt. of Bangal proposing to establish three schools in different parts of Darrang District [32].
8. Letter issued by the Secretary to the Commissioner of Assam, to the Inspector of Schools, Assam informing him Chief Commissioner's approval of the upgradation of Jorhat Middle School to a Govt. Entrance Class School [33].
9. Extract from the proceeding of the Chief Commissioner of Assam, in the General Department No. 8308-11 G, dated Shillong the 31st October, 1899, a resolution for the establishment of the Barry White Medical School at Dibrugarh (Present Assam Medical College) [34].
10. A letter dated Guahati, the 28th March, 1899 from M.C. Barua, Esq. to the Personal Assistant to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, proposing to establish a Calcutta for Assamese students [35].
11. Speech delivered (dated Guahati, 3rd Nov. Chief Commissioner for the establishment class Govt. College at Gauhati. 1899 by the of a second [36].

### **VII. Historical correspondence and official communications: insights into assam's governance and infrastructure development (1774-1921)**

1. Letter dated Gauhati, the 20th Nov. 1867, from Henry epkinson Agent G.G. and Commissioner of Assam to the secretary to the Govt. of Bangal, "Regarding architectural structures and works of art and their preservation" [37].
2. Letter dated Guwahati, the 17th Aug. 1867, from H. Hopkinson, Agent G.G. and Commissioner of Assam to Mayor R.W.B. Fanshawe, Post master General of Bangal, Fort William, "Regarding the postal arrangement in Assam." [38].
3. Board of Revenue Papers/ 1774. No. 1. Letter, dated Fort William, the 20th July 1774, "Regarding the abolition of the Practice of sale or purchase of persons as slaves in Assam." **(The oldest record preserved in the Assam State Archives)**
4. **Establishment of Road Communication in Assam:** Letter dated Fort William, the 10th Sept. 1862, from Brigadier General St. G.D. Showers to the Adjutant General of the Army Head regarding Quarters the need of establishment of road Communication between Assam valley to other districts of the Empire with the basic intention of safeguarding the frontier at the same time emphasizing the need for a military Trunk Road for regular, certain, and fast communication for the troops.
5. **Two Main Lines of Road Communication in Assam:** Letter dated Fort William, the 29th Feb. 1864, from Lieut. Colonel J.P. Beadle to the Superintendent of works in Assam intimating the Government of India's approval and sanctioning of the two main lines of Road Communication in the province of Assam.
6. **Extension of Railway Communication to Assam:** Letter dated, the 22nd January, 1868, from Henry Hopkinson to the Offg. Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Bangal, P.W. Department Railway Branch, discussing various aspects of the extension of Railway communication between the Residency and the Province of Assam [39].
7. **Cherra Punji and Therriaghat Tramway:** Letter dated Fort William, the 31st January, 1883, from Colonel F.S. Stanton to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, P.W.D. approving the



- project for the proposed tramways between Cherra Punji and Therriaghat [40].
8. Therriaghat Companyganj Tramway: Letter dated Simla, the 11<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1884, from the Secretary to the Govt. of India, P.W. Department, to the Chief commissioner of Assam sanctioning an amount of Rs. 1,07,266/- for the construction of tramway on a gauge of 2.5 feet between Therriaghat and Companyganj on the south side of the Khasi Hills the beginning of Railway Communication in S.W. Assam. (Presently in Bangla Desh) [41].
  9. Tezpur - Balipara steam Tramway Company, Ltd., Order 1894: Notification No.33, dated the 1st June, 1895, by the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam, P.W. Deptt. authorising the Tezpur Balipara steam Tramway Company, Limited to construct a Tramway between Tezpur and Balipara in the District of Darrang.
  10. History of Railway Constructed and in progress: Details of the contracts (26th May, 1880) between the Secretary of State and the Assam Railway and Trading Company for the maintenance and construction of "Dibru Sadiya Railway system - The first such system in Upper Assam".
  11. Details of the Feasibility of steam Communication between Goalundo and Assam.: A note from Henry Hopkinson to the Govt. of Bangal urging the introduction of steam navigation in Assam Government's initiation, also suggesting a weekly service between Calcutta and Dibrugarh with floating stations along the river Brahmaputra [42]
  12. Letter dated 5th May, 1861, from Henry Hopkinson Agent Governor General to the Secretary to the Govt. of Bangal, Fort William, "Regarding the practicability between Gauhati and Shillong." of road [43].
  13. Letter dated N.E. Hopkinson, Agent Frontier, to the 11th Nov. Governor General 1861, Frontier, to the Govt. of India, Fort William from office, N.E. submitting an account of the Political relation of the British Govt. with Native States and Tribes on the frontier of Assam [44].
  14. Notification, dated Calcutta, the 6th Feb. 1874, by the Government of India, Home Department, declaring Assam into a Chief Commissionership and appointed Keatinge as the Chief Commissioner of Assam Lt. Col. R.H [45].
  15. Gazette notification, dated the 17th Dec. 1920, by the Govt. of India. constituting Assam into a Governor's Province under section 3 of the Govt. of India Act. 1919 and appointed Hon'ble Sir Nicholas Dodd Beatson Bell, as the first Governor of the Province of Assam with effect from the 3rd January 1921 [46].
  16. Letter dated 10th June 1873, from H. Hopkinson, Agent Governor General and Commissioner of Assam, to the Secretary to Govt. of Bangal, Political Deptt. commenting on the Khamptis and Singphos [47].
  17. Letter dated Fort William, 7th March, 1828, from A. Stirling, Depy. Secy, to Govt. to Devid Scott, Esqr., Agent to the Governor General on the North East Frontier, regarding the establishment of certain courts in Assam for the Administration of civil and criminals' justice [48].
  18. Letter dated 19th June, 1873, from Henry Hopkinson, Governor General and Commissioner of Assam to the Govt. of Bangal, regarding the archaeological ruins in Assam, in reply to Govt. circular [49].
  19. Letter dated Fort William, 27th March, 1846, from F. Jenkins, Commissioner of Assam, to A. Turnbull, Esq. under Secy. to the Govt. of Bangal, regarding the construction of the Gauhati Church as per Govt. instruction in the Ecclesiastical Department [50].

20. Letter dated the 4th March, 1852, from the Under Secretary to the Govt. of Bangal to the Agent to the Governor General, orth East Frontier, regarding protection of Gold Washers against the Abors [51]

## VI. Interpretation and Recommendation.

The historical evolution of archival systems in India, particularly in Assam, is a fascinating journey marked by the influence of the East India Company and subsequent initiatives for systematic record-keeping. The establishment of the Indian Historical Record Commission in 1919 and the subsequent creation of the Assam State Archive in 1980 highlight the commitment to preserving the rich historical legacy of the region. The archival treasures housed in the Assam State Archive, as detailed in the provided records series and collections, offer a comprehensive glimpse into Assam's past. From historical archives dating back to 1823 to the meticulous categorization of proceedings, records, and correspondence, the Assam State Archive serves as a custodian of diverse materials, including manuscripts, correspondences, and indigenous artifacts. The significance of the Assam State Archive extends beyond preservation; it actively contributes to historical knowledge dissemination. By making these records accessible to scholars, researchers, and the public, the archive fosters exploration into the socio-political, economic, and cultural nuances of Assam's history. The practice of unraveling hidden narratives, as discussed, adds a layer of depth to historical exploration. The inclusion of marginalized voices and stories provides a more nuanced understanding of Assam's past, acknowledging the complexity and richness of history. The document provides insights into historical events, social movements, and governance in Assam. Notable highlights include correspondence related to the freedom movement, portraits and biographical information about governors, educational initiatives, and details about infrastructure development.

### Recommendations

- **Digitization and Accessibility:** Consideration should be given to digitizing the archival materials to enhance accessibility, especially for researchers and scholars who may not have physical access to the archive. This can also aid in the preservation of delicate documents.
- **Public Outreach:** Implement initiatives for public outreach and education to create awareness about the Assam State Archive. Workshops, seminars, and exhibitions could be organized to engage the public and highlight the significance of historical preservation.
- **Collaboration and Research Grants:** Encourage collaboration with academic institutions and offer research grants to scholars interested in exploring the archives. This can foster a deeper understanding of Assam's history and attract scholarly contributions.
- **Preservation Measures:** Ensure the implementation of state-of-the-art preservation measures to safeguard the integrity of the archival materials. This includes climate-controlled storage, restoration efforts for delicate documents, and regular assessments of the archive's physical condition.
- **Inclusive Archiving:** Continue the commitment to inclusivity in archival practices by actively seeking and preserving narratives that might have been historically marginalized. This ensures a more comprehensive representation of Assam's diverse history.

## VII. Conclusion:

The Assam State Archive houses a comprehensive collection of records providing insight into the administrative, political, and social history of the region from the late 19th to the late 20th century. Organized by department, these records cover diverse subjects such as public service, education, revenue, finance, judiciary, and local self-government. Offering a detailed account of policies, activities, and challenges, they trace the evolution of governance and societal development. From the establishment of the Indian Historical Record Commission in 1919 to modernization efforts in the late 20th century, these records document significant shifts in administrative practices, legislation, and the economy. The inclusivity of various departments reflects the interconnected nature of governance, providing a valuable resource for researchers, policymakers, and historians. The Assam State Archive plays a vital role in preserving the region's cultural and administrative heritage, facilitating research, maintaining institutional memory, and fostering historical awareness among the public.

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4. ASA, Letter issued to the Govt. Vol. No.31 (1865)
5. ASA, Letter issued 1857-58 (Dec.). to the Govt. Vol. No.22, July
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