

# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

## THE MYSTERY OF THE ROSE: THE RETURN OF THE PRINCE



ADC to Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India    ADC to Maharaja Bhupindra of Patiala

The inspiration and historical background for the novel, *The Mystery of the Rose: The Return of the Prince*, came from the life and times of my great-grandfather Captain Ram Singh, who served as the aide-de-camp (ADC) of Lord Curzon, the British Viceroy of India. He commanded a contingent of 100 Sikh soldiers to England in 1902; to participate in the coronation of King Edward VII. He had the distinct honor of being a royal guest for 22 days in London and was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE). The proceedings of the event are recorded in the Victoria & Albert Museum in England.

His contributions to India included bringing fame to the Indian army by fighting meritoriously in the Sudan Campaigns of 1884-85 and 1897-98 on the North-West Frontier of India in the 15th Sikh Battalion. He was awarded the title of Sardar Bahadur, meaning Brave Heart, for his bravery and was awarded 125 acres of land. Following his retirement as ADC of Lord Curzon in 1908, he was appointed as the aide-de-camp for His Highness, Maharaja Bhupindra of the Patiala State. He joined the Alkali Agitations of the 1920s to fight for the freedom of India and relinquished the title of OBE. He was jailed with fellow freedom fighters from 1923 to 1926. He displayed enormous courage in standing up for the cause of recovering the *Keys of the Golden Temple treasury* from the British in 1920, following the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar, Punjab in 1919.