

Rajinder Singh Gill

Interviewer- this is Rishi Singh and I am going to interview Rajinder Singh Gill for the Sikh heritage project and he'll be telling us about his family and his experience of growing up in Abbotsford/Aldergrove region. Rajinder Singh Gill ji tusi apni family barahy dusho kidda tuhada Canada dhey naal naal jurhaya.

Rajinder- meray baba ji dhey chacha ji da naah siga Jivan Singh. Oh KGM jihaaj ch' aya siga. Judho oho ship ithey ihna ney nae lughan ditha, oh vapus murhda siga, vapus murhda murhda oh judho itho morh thah theh, murkhay oho ohs ship cho uthar ke, hor ship, ik othay kharah siga, oh odhay vich chargaya. Oh otho San Francisco chulaya gaya. San Francisco tho vich, othay thoray cherh reha, ohnu ik oh hee naah siga ke mae Vancouver jahna, mae Vancouver jahna. Oh othay patha ni San Francisco kihni k' dihn reha, jah maheena reha, mae ni ami kuch kae ni sukdha jio mainu ihna gulah da patha ni. Otho murkhay oho train farh ke Calgary dhey nehray judho idhar nu aohnda siga, theh oh Calgary judh nehray ohnda si dubaya dhey vich jehray apne guard check hunday ah, oh judho aie check karda karda oh ohnay dekh laye bazuragh nae vae hun oh ticketah check karn alah aohnda, theh ukhaya jehiya meech ke fer ehay pahy gaya. Ehnu ohna nae hulaya, parh eh bholaya ni ga. Bholaya ni theh, eh nae dekhaya ke naal thah hun guddi holee hogee theh ohnay, ticket ah valay neh akheya ke eh sutha peya ve mae gah valay nu check karke theh fer mae vapus murh ke aohna ah. Odho nu, judho ehnu thorhee jehi guddi holee hoye ah, eh naalay avda bisthara theh naalay aap, guddi cho maree shaal theh uthar gaya. Odho magara, eh ni patha kihnay dihn vich, ik dho jah choh (4) dihn ch, mae ahmi kehva, murkhay ehay Calgary ah ke paohnch gaya. Theh, odho magaro eh Golden kum kardey rehay. Golden apna marhana gurudwara hunda si. Theh odho bahd dhey vich ehlay fer, meray baba ji nu magaya, meray babay da naah siga Dharam Singh Gill. Oh 1928 dhey vich ithey aya. Fer mera baba thorah jeya edhay naal rehnda reya, odho murkhay meray babay neh fer ehnu keha ke chacha hun tu des jah, theh apa nu bundaya di lorh ah. Theh tu viah karaya. Fer oho vapus chalaya gaya, odhay odhoo bahd dho jewakh theh ik larkhi hoye. Theh murkhay fer oh 32' dhey vich back Canada ah geya. Theh mera baba avda 28' tho ah ke, ithey jindagi jiodha reya. Yubo ala kum karda reya, kithey America pujh geya, kio ke unlegal sigay, fer ehna nu holee holee Dr. Pandheya hunda siga, ohnay ihna nu free karaya.

Interviewer- Doctor?

Rajinder- Dr. Pandheya. Oh vakeel hunda si.

Interviewer- acha, teek ah.

Rajinder- theh odho ohna velaya da mera baba dus da hunda si peh usi dhaey thihn soh (250-300) munda hunday sigay, jehra unlegal, chorh sigay. Ohna nu ihna ney free karay.

Interviewer- theh fer tuhaday dada ji da viah kudh hoya?

Rajinder- viah odhay da odho othay 1928 dhey vich hee hogaya si, des. Theh meray daddy da, judho idhar ah gaya, meehna dho meehnay bahd dhey vich, janam hoye, theh fer mera baba, 1957 back gaya, judho back gaya, odho mae vi born hoye siga, mera brother vi born hoye siga, mera 1950 da janum ah, meray brother da 1953 da janum ah. Judho mera baba eh 1957 ch' back gaya, ohnay same time hee apna puth dekhaya, same time avdi noah dekhi, same time hee dhonay pothay dekhay. Fer odho murkhay, chalo fer eh meray babay ney, meray daddy nu 1959 ch' magaya. Theh..

Interviewer- oh judh aye ithey thah, theh pichay pindh da di naah dusaya si?

Rajinder- pindh sada dhoodhike ah ji.

Interviewer- teek ah ji. Theh othay pichey jameenah kidda rukheeya.

Rajinder- pichey sadi zameen hulhay vee hagee ah, theh odho mera pardada jeodhey sigay, meray pardaday di death 1969 dhey vich hoye ah. usi odho uhnee uhneeya sala dhey sigay.

Interviewer- fer tuhaday father sahib ithey ah gae?

Rajinder- hunji. 59' dhey vich meray father sahib hunee agay. Fer oho thareht dhey vich back chaleyae gay, thereht dhey vich back jah ke othay usi ghar ghur paya vudeya, dho chubaray ghar sara kush vudeya paya. Odho bahd dhey vich, chaohnt dhey vich, meray daddhy hunee mainu ithey layaey. Theh, odho bahd mae solha suthara (16-17) saal da hoe ke, avda mae mill ch' kum kard lagpaya. Theh, odho bahd, pehla vi sadi attachment si gurudwaray dhey naal sigee, saday bazuragha di, theh mae 19chaohnt tho lae ke, mae koi kushi aye koi gahmi aye, jehay jeya time vi aya, mae gurudwaray jahna hee jahna, ihss parahney heritage alay gurudwara Abbotsford.

Interviewer- tusi, apnay baba ji dhey friends dhey baray kuch duso gae, kidda ohna dha life time pass hundi si, time.

Rajinder- meray baba ji ney life bohat sohni, zindhagi kutti ah. ohna dhey friend sigay ah Paul Singh Dhaliwal, ah tusi mention vi kitha. Hor ithey saray parahany bazuragh meray baba ji dhey yaar mithar sigay mae kulhay kulhay kidha kidha naah lavah?

Interviewer- hunji

Rajinder- theh, saray meray baba ji naal bohat bohat pyar karday hunday sigay, oh sub naal kush rehnday sigay. Mundaya cho mundaya varga siga, burhaya cho burhaya varga siga, ehee jeya odhay naal marji ghaala kar, saraya kush dil bunda siga. Saray parahney parvar ohnu jahndey ah.

Interviewer- theh oh jah ke gurudwaray sewa karday si, abbotford?

Rajinder- sewa vi karda siga, theh sara kush hee, jeh munday kuriya neh ah ke otho jehiya ghaala suniya parahneya, theh oh vi bus sunaohn bejandha siga. Theh hor maharaj di sewa, chorh karda hunda si. Hor sewa karda hunda si. Dhoofh theh jidha. Baba Nand seyo, ik parahna bazuragh hunda siga, oh theh pehla sada baba kuttay, Mohawk mill hundi si, New Westminster dhey vich. Othay Pritam seyo theh Nand seyo, dhonay bhai sigay sukhay, mera baba theh ik bunda hor siga, odha mainu hun naah ni chaithay, ehcharay jahnay othay ik ship theh kum karday hunday sigay. Kise goray dhey. Theh oh gora thora jeha lunghe markey thurh dha hunda siga. Theh oh idha lunghe lunghe thurhaya aohnda, othay pani dhey, othay ship tho otho ah taydha vaja odhay. Oh pani ch' jah digaya. Oh judho pani ch' jah digaya, theh Nand Singh da prah, jehra Pritam seyo si, oh meray babay dhey naal kum karda siga, meray babay ney odho odhi paahg dhey hag marheya, theh paahg lah ke theh, ohnu ik larh farhah thah, theh oh goray nu, goray nu bahr kudleya. Bahr kudh ke, oh goray ney odho hee, ihna nu kehtha theh aji tho murkhay, mae kehnda hunda si ke hard hat leya karo, aey leya karo, kehnda hun jio marji, mae ithey rukhnay thah kehnda paahg alay bunday rukhnay ah. theh oh goray nu ihna ney bahr kudaya. Oh goray da mainu naah ni chaithay, mae ami tuhanu kehna ni mungda.

Interviewer- that's interesting

Rajinder- hunji, hor.

Interviewer- theh fer, tuhadi family da tuhani koi yaad hoyayga ke pehla kehra function hoya Abbotsford gurudwara naal?

Rajinder- mainu avi life ch' thah mae eh chaithay ah, parh hun jehray meray odhu pelhay bazuragh velay thah mae judho dekhaya kuch ni mae ki keh sukdha.

Interviewer- tuhada viah vi othay hoya?

Rajinder- hunji viah uthay hoya.

Interviewer- hunji, uhs dhey barhay duso. Kidda organize hunda si viah, ohs time.

Khana kithey hunda, langer...

Rajinder- khana ji sada ohs velay...

Interviewer- gurudwara sahib budda si ihna?

Rajinder- gurudwara idda budda siga.

Interviewer- hunji

Rajinder- oh thah picho kottleya dhah thiya.

Interviewer- hunji

Rajinder- kottleya hor pichay sigeeya apa dhey time naal oh dhah thiya. Jehra bhai Nand seyo siga, Langhroah, ohnay, kush meray viah da ohnay rashun bhunaya, bakhee oh Mukhtiar seyo odhar dhey ghar oh ah, Basant Kaur burhee, ohnay langer pani bhunaya. Minder Gill hunah diya wife hunee, Gurdial Kaur hunee meri chachiya lug diya. Ohna ney odho, odho koi ah catering ala theh hor koi program nahi si hunda. Thahee burhiya kuriya kuttiya hoe ke, viah da, laddoo pani jehray bhunohnay hunday si, bhunah, khana peehna bhunohdhey si.

Interviewer- hor kehray family dhey tuhaday function, buchaya da.

Rajinder- buchaya da ji, hunji, meray thihn juwakha dhey ithey viah hoyae ah. theh, hor judho ehay jumay ah, mae thah odho theh ehna dhey har velay, kushiya dhey vekay, velay har velay ithey jahnda ah.

Interviewer- hun asi hun eh sunaya vi haga, hun vekh vi rehay ah ke tuhaday khol, tusi kafee cheezah tuhaday khol hagee ah. history diya. Especially saday lokha, Indo-Canadian history diya photograph, tusi eh cheeza sambh deyo, ihna vich tuhanu ruchi hagee ah ihna cheeza?

Rajinder- hunji, mera thah pehlay dihno pyar ah.

Interviewer- ke tusi ki chaoho gae, kidda eh cheezah hor vudeya...?

Rajinder- peh jehray vi kithey, phaen bhai koi eh cheeza hagee ah, eh ik museum ch' lugh jahn. Thah yaad girhi ah, thah aohn aleeya generations nu patha lagda rehnda. Jive sadi vi hun ithey shai-vi (6th) generation hogee ah, saday juwakh hun theh meray theyh haraahn hoe johnday ah ke tu ihna kuch sambhi rukhaya.

Interviewer- tusi kidda chaohgay ke Khalsa Darbar Society, Diwan Society, da gurudwara jehra hagah, future generation jahn gey? How should the future generation associate themselves, how can we do something associate them?

Rajinder- edhay ch' museum bhunah chaheeda, parahnay bazuragha diya picture ah, hor koi yaad girha, jehriya koi hagee ah, lughniya chaheediya. Aohn valley, saray nu patha lugh sukhay.

Interviewer- tusi ik mention huneeh kardhey si, ki gadhri babaya da vi kafee support bhunaya, gurudwara sahib.

Rajinder- hunji jehray parahney gadhri babay sigay ithey, oho odhar pehla thah gurudwara hunda si Saakh Singh dhey vich, California ch', theh secondly eh gurudwara siga, Sarhundh dhey kholay apne US dhey Sarhundh dhey kholay, theh edhay theh saday baba ji hunee dus dhey sigay, kio ke oh thah aap ehay nishani dekh ke key vareeh odharo aohnday hunday sigay. Ithey ik bijali da pole hunda siga, kumbah, theh oh othay luga

hunda siga, hund thah oh vadeya gaya, theh odhay othay ik laal light jughdee hundi sigee. Theh oh judhdee hundi si key varee khuthara, theh oh ouh bujheoh hundi si, theh jeh oh jughdi hundi si, thah bunda gah pichah dekh ke, theh nae oh nishani dekh ke, peh ithay gurudwara ah, theh odhi seith naal jungle ah dhey vich di, jah jitho vi ihna nu raah milda siga, ohmay eh thuray ondhey hunday si. Eh ithey paohnch jahnday sigay.

Interviewer- theh ihna dhey baray tusi duso ke jehray gadhri baba ji hagay si?

Rajinder- ehay ji ithey nae si, eh India ch'...India dee ghadhri party ch' rehay, ithey nae. ithey nae. India di history mae, jeh tusi karnee hoye, thah mae odhay, odhee interview mae puri dey sukhda.

Interviewer- ihna dhey baray kujh dusoh gae jehray tuhaday baba ji nu lakhey aye si ithey? Ihna dhey hor ki...

Rajinder- ihna dhey baray jihna k siga mainu, oh dus ditha ah, secondly mae eh dus sukhda ah, peh judho apnay second world war rukhaye lugi sigee, unthale-chalee-kuthalee velay, ohs velay apnay gurudwara second avenue da jehra gurudwara hunda siga, uthay kioh bunda karh ditha siga, theh fer Narinder Singh Gill siga, Churh Chuk da, oh mainu ni patha ve odho secretary hunda si, theh jeh pradhan hunda siga, executive member siga, oho ehay meray pradada ji nu, naal lageya court dhey vich, theh court dhey vich lajah ke theh judge dhye moorhay judh paish hoye, ohnu keha ke saday gurudwaray nu kioh kuhla duhla milna chaheedha, ke saday bazuragh vi bohat khanday ah, usi weekend theh degg vi bhunaohnay ah, theh sanu kioh di lorh ah. theh oh kenda vi edha koi proof, proof odha ehee si peh ehay bazuragh, baba Jivan seyo nu naal lakey gaya siga, theh kehnda peh ah sada ik bazrugah ah, vey ehay kioh, pehla thah ihnu tu kwah ke dekhna thah dekhlayay, kihna kahnda. Fer ohna ney ki kitha othay court de vich judho, edhay ahl ishara kithey ke tu khajay, theh eh kehnda hae, theh ohna ney kioh dey pot tho paper layah, theh ehnu judh ditha, eh udhi dundhiy budh ke khah gaya theh ik ungle hor karhee karthee, kehnda veh ik hor leya. Theh fer judge ney likh thah peh ha ihna nu kuhla duhla kioh milna chaheeda. Fer second avenue alay gurudwaray di time di ghaal mae karda, peh odho di ghaal ah.

Interviewer- ihna da naah di si?

Rajinder- Jivan Singh.

Interviewer- theh ik ghaal duso tusi, sixth generation hagee oh, generation hagee ah tuhadi family di, tuhadi family ch kise nah kise thaah ke komagata maru dhey naal vi jurh di ah...

Rajinder- jurh di ah

Interviewer- hunji, theh tuhadi family vich eh incident, jerha burha important incident hoye, ihhs Vancouver dhey Sikhs ley, eh kidda yaad kitha jahnda? Do your children and grandchildren know about it? That Komagata Maru happened?

Rajinder- balaya bundaya nu ni patha, par jihna nu haga, ohna nu haga.

Interviewer- theh tuhadi family ch', future generation thah hagay ah parhay likhay hagay ah saray, university graduates, do they also like to associate themselves with Abbotsford old heritage gurudwara?

Rajinder- gurudwara euh thah ohna da, kio ke mae thah everyday jahnda...

Interviewer- acha ji?

Rajinder- hunji. kithey pavay saal ch' meray tho ik udha dihn pavey miss hoe gaya thah nae mae ji thah, muthlab mae 1980 tho lae ke, everyday jahnda. Theh saday juwakh ah,

eh weekend jahndey ah. kum kar they jahnday judho ihna da time lagda, odho mutha tekhdinhdey ah. theh odha eh jahnday ah.

Interviewer- tusi kujh hor kehna chaondhey oh? I can come back to you again also.

Rajinder- jeh tusi kujh puchana mugdey ah, tusi dus dho kehra saahb naal puchana mungdhey ah, mae, mainu jihni hagee ah mae tuhanu. Nae tusi jidha marji.

Interviewer- usi dubarha vi tuhanu tukleef karah gae.

Rajinder- koina deh deyo

Interviewer- Karen do you wish to ask anything? Jag? So thank you and I would like to also..... Rajinder Singh Gill, sharing his...Rajinder Singh Gill sharing his views and some more anecdotes. Hunji?

Rajinder- hunji, ehay baba jehra Jivan Singh Gill ah sada, bazuragh, edhi jadho death hogee sigee, eh odho, bahd dhey vich, New Westminster edhay jehray phul sigay othay, bohat chirh paya rehay. Theh mera baba jahn lugah ik bunday nu keh gaya, veh hun path tho bahd tu eyoh kari peh edhay phul jah parvah kardi. Oh bunda da chaitha pulh gaya, jah parvah karn da, meray baba ji neh sochiya peh ehnay jah pravah karh dithee. Oh kithey nah theh oho, bohat chirh oho, othay pey rehay. Odho murkhay ghaala baatha chuldiya chuldiya ah jive apa hun story diya ghaala karday rehnday ah, theh Komagata Maru ey jahaaj si peh chacha ey murh gaya si, ey hogaya si, jeo hogaya si, ghaal karday karday fer mae eh jehra Baba Mukhtiar Singh Gill ah, ihna da vudda paotha baba Jivan Singh da, mae ohnu puchaya, oh kehnda ke vi mae theh bhai thah keh gae si ve palahnay bunday nu phul pah di, vey, ohnay pah theh honay ah. mae ohnu keya ke baba tu marah jeya thah sure thah karke dekh ke ohnay phul pah vi dithey ke nahi ke patha lae ke ah. oh kehnda ke hun oh thah marh gaya, veh apa ke. Theh fer eh ney holee holee hospital tho date puchee vey eh mariya si oh theh. Fer oh cemetery alayah khol gae, oh kehnday ve aha, jah 51 jah 52, mainu sure nae ah ehee, kehnda peh eh odho dhey phul ithey saday paey ah. hae? Theh eh ehs naah dhey bunday dhey ah. eh kehnda peh eh thah mera daddy ah. huna? Fer mae thah baba Mukhtiar Singh, Baba Jivan seyo da jehra larka vudda. Usi fer oho phul 1998 dhey vich, oho jah pravah kithey, sheyaliyah saala bahd. Jah pravah kithey.

Interviewer- kithey?

Rajinder- fer usi deryah ch' pah keh aye.

Interviewer- you know about this tradition, ke you have to do jah pravah? Thank you.