

Ahmad Hussain Rizvi

This story is being narrated by the grandson of the couple of witnessed partition. He said that he used to listen to these stories every night from his grandparents before sleeping

Grandmother name: Syeda Masooma Begum

Grandfather name: Syed Salim Hussain Rizvi

My grandmother's father was in the police, hence he had news that partition was to take place, but it wasn't confirmed for the general public. He was posted to Lahore, though he didn't inform his family as to why he was posted there. He got the news through radio that partition is going to take place and the people who want to migrate can migrate through trains etc. There were 4 trains that were scheduled thus the rest of the people used to go by road or on foot and by that time my grandmother received her father's letter asking her to migrate. He mentioned the location of the city where they had to meet. But the reason my grandmother's family wasn't migrating was because my grandmother's maternal grandfather was a landlord so he was gone to visit his areas so when they got to know about the partition they all migrated but they couldn't carry much of these stuff, except only a few basic items. Their jewelry was all placed into a trunk and handed over to the police, which she never received back. Mainly our family was scattered since a few were close but mostly were gone in different areas due to work so they all were waiting for them. They received information about some, some got killed and some still remain unknown as to where they are and even years after partition everyone waited for them to return but they never came. They all sat in the train from Amritsar to Lahore. When the train stopped in Lahore, it was a moment of fear and all the doors were looked. When the doors opened, they all were scared as to if it was the police outside or the Sikhs. Then when her father, Syed Hamid Hussain, started naming them, they all felt relieved and safe and then they came out of the train. They the police men took them to Okara, where her father was posted.

They migrated from Samana. They went to Amritsar on a bullock cart. Then they got the train from Amritsar to Lahore and from there they went to Okara.

Ammonia was very common. There was no proper system and it was very cold with the proper medication so ammonia fever was very common at that time and it was deadly.

Well, they came to zero when they migrated. Before that they were well-off. They were landlords and palaces inside Samana, Mahola- Patailiya, they had 7 palaces in a row. They were all recognized by their names such as Barri Hawali, choti hawali. When they came to Pakistan, in Okara, they didn't even get ¼ of their property. Though he was a government worker but at that time the government didn't have enough finances. So they had to face a lot of struggle and poverty. Like my grandfather came to Pakistan in 1950 from Aligarh College, he was in the police too but surviving was hard for them hence he started his pharmaceutical business which he continued until a few years from his death but overall everyone had to do any small or big work to earn his living.