

## **MAHARAJA DULEEP SINGH** **(THE KING IN EXILE)**

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“This story about one of the first freedom fighters of India is a tragic tale in the history of Imperialism.”

– Dr. Mulk Raj Anand

### **FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS OF MAHARAJA DULEEP SINGH**

#### *a) Father*

Maharaja Ranjit Singh, son of Sardar Mahan Singh, Ruler of the Sukarchakia Misal (Principality), with its Capital at Gujranwala (now in Pakistan).

#### *b) Mother*

Queen Jind Kaur (or Queen Jindan), daughter of Sardar Manna Singh Aulakh, Village Chahrwala, District Gujranwala (now in Pakistan)

#### **c) MARRIAGE(S) : FIRST WIFE (BAMBA MULLER)**

Miss Bamba Muller was a daughter of Ludwig Muller, a German Merchant and Sofia, an Abyssinian lady of Egyptian nationality. Maharaja Duleep Singh married her at Alexandria in Egypt at the British Consulate on June 7, 1864.

She bore him six children (three sons and three daughters), namely:

#### *Sons*

##### **1. Victor Albert Jay Duleep Singh (1866-1918)**

Prince Victor was born on July 10, 1866, at their residence Elveden, where Maharaja Duleep Singh and his family lived until 1886; held a Commission in the

First Royal Dragoons; married Lady Anne Coventry, daughter of Earl of Coventry in 1892, and died on June 7, 1918. The couple had no issue.

He was the God Son of Queen Victoria (1837-1901).

2. **Prince Fredrick Victor Duleep Singh (1868-1926)**

The prince was born on January 23, 1868; educated at Eton, Cambridge; took a **tripos** in History and did also his M.A. He too held a Commission and saw service in France during the First World War (1914-1918); interested in Archaeology. Fredrick was resident of Blo Norton for twenty years until his death on August 15, 1926. He was buried in the Churchyard there. Elveden was also the birth place of the Prince, which was purchased by Maharaja Duleep Singh in 1863. He never married.

3. **Prince Edward Alexander Duleep Singh (1879-1893)**

Prince Edward was the youngest son of Maharaja Duleep Singh and was born in their Elveden House on August 20, 1879. When 13 years old, the Prince fell seriously ill and developed Pleuro - pneumonia on his return from his preparatory school at Cobham and breathed his last at the end of April, 1893, at Folkestone. He was buried in the small church of Elveden where his mother Maharani Bamba lay buried

*Daughters*

4. **Princess Bamba Sofia Jindan Duleep Singh (1869-1957)**

The Princess was born in Elveden house on September 29, 1869; married Colonel Sutherland, the well-known physician and Principal of King Edward-Medical College at Lahore (now in Pakistan). She passed away at her-residence 104, A Block, Model Town, Lahore, on March 10, 1957. They had no issue. She was the last living member of Maharaja Duleep

Singh's family. Before her death, Princess Bamba Sutherland bequeathed her collections (inherited his father's collection of paintings and objects of art) to her trusted attendant Karim Bakhsh Sapra, who, a few years later, sold it to the Government of Pakistan. 87 paintings and other objects of art, etc., are now displayed in the Havali of Queen Jindan in the Lahore Fort near Gurdwara Dehra Sahib which was converted into an art gallery.

5. Princess Catherine Hilda Duleep Singh (1871-?)  
She was born on October 27, 1871, in Elveden house. However, nothing is known about her death. Died issueless.
6. Princess Sophia Alexandra Duleep Singh (1876-1948)  
The Princess was born on August 8, 1876, in Elveden House. She passed away on August 22, 1948, at Faraday House, Hampton Court, England, without issue.

**SECOND WIFE (ADA DOUGLAS WETHERILL).**

Miss Ada Douglas Wetherill, the young English lady, was the daughter of late B. D. Wetherill and Sarah, his wife, both of Hampshire, England. Maharaja Duleep Singh married her in the mayor's office at Paris (France) on May 21, 1889. Ada was born in 1869 and breathed her last on August 6, 1930. The couple had two daughters namely:

- (i) **Paulina** Alexandra Duleep Singh (1887-?)  
She was born, out of wedlock, at Moscow, on December 26, 1887 (Recognized in the marriage certificate of her parents as their daughter). She was married to Lieutenant J.S. Terry. Died issueless.
- (ii) Ada Irene Helen Benyl Duleep Singh (1889-1926)  
She was born on October 25, 1889; married M. Villement and died issueless in October, 1926, after having committed suicide.

### **DESCENDANTS OF MAHARAJA DULEEP SINGH**

Dr. Ganda Singh writes that most of the above information was originally received by him from Her Highness Princess Bamba Sutherland, the eldest daughter of Maharaja Duleep Singh on March 3, 1942, at her residence, the Gulzar, 16 Jail Road, Lahore. Later on, she shifted to 104 A, Model Town, Lahore, where she died on March 10, 1957.

So far as the record shows, there are no direct descendants of Maharaja Duleep Singh, writes Michael Alexander and Sushila Anand (*Queen Victoria's Maharajah Duleep Singh*, Page 301). Prince Victor died without issue in 1918; Fredrick died unmarried; Bamba Sutherland died in Lahore, without issue, in 1957; of Catherine and Sophia neither had children and as for the children of the second marriage: Paulina and Ada had also died childless.

### **CONTEMPORARIES OF MAHARAJA DULEEP SINGH**

#### *A. Mughal Emperor at Delhi*

Abdul al-Zafar Muhammad Sirajuddin Bahadur Shah II  
(1837-1858).

Deposed and deported to Rangoon. 1858 A.D.

Died in Exile at Rangoon. 1862 A.D.

#### *B. English Sovereign*

Queen Victoria:

- a. Birth May 24, 1819, at Kensington Palace, London. She was daughter of Edward, Duke of Kent, the fourth son of George III (1760-1820).
- b: Accession June 20, 1837, after the death of William IV (1830-1837).
- c. Marriage February 10, 1840. She married Prince Albert Saxe Coburg (Prince Consort).

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Her husband was regarded in his days as a paragon of virtues. He passed away on December 14, 1861, and the Queen became a widow at the age of 42.

- d. Empress of India    January 1, 1877.
- e. Death                    January 22, 1901, at Osborne.

*C. British Prime Ministers* *A.D.*

- 1. Sir Robert Peel (Torry)                    1841-1846
- 2. Lord John Russell (Whig)                1846-1852
- 3. Earl of Derby (Torry)                    1852, February 28
- 4. Earl of Aberdeen (Peelite)               1852, December 28
- 5. Viscount Palmerston (Lib)               1855, February 10
- 6. Earl of Derby (Cons)                    1858, February 25
- 7. Viscount Palmerston (Lib)               1858, June 18

*D. British Governors General under the East India Company's Rule.*

- 1. Baron (Earl of Ellenborough)            1842-1844
- 2. William Wilberforce Bird  
(1844, June 15 to 1844, July 23)
- 3. Sir Henry (Viscount) Hardinge  
(1844, July 23 to 1848, January 12)
- 4. Earl (Marquess) of Dalhousie  
(1848, January 12 to 1856, March 6)

*E. Russian Emperor*

Tsar Alexander III                            (1881 - 1894)

*F. Famous Poets*

*Urdu*

Mirza Asadullah Khan Beg popularly known as Mirza Ghalib or Mirza Nosha

Birth : December 27, 1797

Death : February 15, 1869

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*Punjabi*

1. Shah Muhammad (1782-1862)
2. Qadir Yar Mian About (1805-1850)
3. Ahmad Yar (1768-1845)  
(near contemporary)

Bard Shah Muhammad wrote national songs.

Death            Maharaja Duleep Singh breathed his  
last on October 22, 1893 in the  
Grand Hotel in Paris, France

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