

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS OF MAHARAJA DULEEP SINGH (1838-1893 A.D.)

1838, September 6,
(23rd *Bhadon*, 1895 BK)

Birth of Prince Duleep Singh, son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, and Queen Jind Kaur, at Lahore (now in Pakistan)

1839, June 27,

Death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, who ruled over Punjab (Sikh Empire) for forty years from 1799 to 1839 A.D.

Prince Kharak Singh, the elder son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, succeeds his father.

October 8,

Maharaja Kharak Singh is deposed after reigning for 3 months and 11 days. He is succeeded by his son, Prince Naunihal Singh who becomes a Maharaja (De-facto Ruler) of the Sikh Empire.

1840, November 5,

Maharaja Kharak Singh is poisoned to death. Maharaja Naunihal Singh, meets a fatal accident on November 5, 1840, while returning after the cremation of his father.

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November 6,

Maharaja Naunihal Singh dies under mysterious circumstances in the early hours of November 6, 1840 under the captivity of Raja Dhian Singh, Prime Minister, and is suspected to have been killed. He remains a sovereign of the Sikh Kingdom for a period of one year and 27 days.

November 9,

Maharaja Sher Singh second son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, holds the reins of Government for 23 days from November 9 to December 2, 1840.

December 2,

Rani Chand Kaur, widow of Maharaja Kharak Singh, is proclaimed Malika Mukaddas (Queen Empress) on December 2, 1840. She is deposed on January 18, 1841 after having ruled over the country for one month and 16 days. She is killed on June 9, 1842.

1841, January 18,

Accession of Maharaja Sher Singh (Coronation on January 20, 1841).

1843, September 15,

Maharaja Sher Singh is put to death by Sandhanwalia Sardars Ajit Singh and Lehna Singh on September 15, 1843, alongwith his son Prince Partap Singh, and Raja Dhian Singh. Maharaja Sher Singh reigned for two years, seven months and twenty seven days.

September 15,

Prince Duleep Singh, the youngest son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, ascends the throne of his father at the

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age of five, on September 15. 1843 (Coronation on September 18.1843).

September 16,

Murder of Sandhanwalia Sardars Ajit Singh and Lehna Singh by the Khalsa Army at the instigation of Raja Hira Singh, son of Raja Dhian Singh.

1844, May 7,

Prince Kashmira Singh, son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Bhai Bir Singh of Naurangabad and Sardar Attar Singh Sandhanwalia, are put to death by the Lahore Army at the instigation of Raja Hira Singh, Prime Minister of Maharaja Duleep Singh.

December 21,

Raja Hira Singh Prime Minister, and Pandit Jalla are put to death by the Khalsa Army at the instigation of Sardars Sham Singh Attariwala, Mewa Singh Majithia and Jawahar Singh, brother of Queen Jind Kaur.....

1845, May 14,

Sardar Jawahar Singh, brother of Queen Jind Kaur becomes the Prime Minister.

August 30,

Prince Peshaura Singh, son of Maharaja Ranjit Singh is slain at Attock (now in Pakistan) by Fateh Khan Tiwana and Sardar Chattar Singh Attariwala.

September 21,

Sardar Jawahar Singh, Prime Minister, is condemned by the Khalsa Army for instigating the murder of

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Prince Peshaura Singh at Attock and shot dead in the presence of Queen Jind Kaur and infant Maharaja Duleep Singh.

November 8,

Missar Lal Singh takes over as the Prime Minister and Missar Tej Singh as the commander-in-Chief of the Khalsa Army.

December 13,

Lord Henry Hardinge, the Governor General, issues a Proclamation of War on the Sikhs and declares all Sikh possessions on the left of the river Sutlej to be annexed to the British dominions.

1845-1846 THE FIRST ANGLO-SIKH WAR

The Sikhs fight the following battles with the British:

1. Battle of Mudki — December 18, 1845
2. Battle of Ferozeshahr— December 21, 1845
3. Battle of Buddowal — January 21, 1846
4. Battle of Aliwal — January 28, 1846
5. Battle of Sabraon — February 10, 1846

Sardar Sham Singh Attariwala falls heroically in the foremost ranks in the battle of Sabraon.

Lord Hugh Gough, the British Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, describes the battle of SABRAON as the Waterloo of India.

The bard Shah Mohammad describes the result of the First Anglo-Sikh War in the following words:

“O Shah Mohammad, without Ranjit Singh was our plight,

We won the battles but lost the fight.”

Both Lal Singh, the Prime Minister, and Tej Singh, the Commander-in-Chief, joined the British; betrayed the Lahore Darbar and turn their back in the Anglo-

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Sikh War, resulting in the victory of the British.

Among those who fall fighting in the battle of Mudki included Quartermaster-General Sir Robert Sale, Sir John McGaskill and Brig Boulton.

1846, February 18,

Raja Gulab Singh Dogra and Prime Minister Lal Singh take infant Maharaja Duleep Singh to the British camp at village Lulliani in the Lahore district for his submission to Sir Henry (Viscount) Hardinge, the Governor General of the British East India Company.

February 20,

Sir Henry Hardinge enters Lahore with the British army and occupies the capital of the Punjab.

1846, March 9,

Maharaja Duleep Singh (Age -7 years 6 months and 3 days), signs the peace treaty with the British (Henry Hardinge).

March 16,

Kashmir and the Hill States from the Beas to Indus of the Kingdom of Lahore sold to Raja Gulab Singh Dogra for Rupees seventy five *Lakhs* by the British. Both the parties (British and Raja Gulab Singh) sign the treaty in this regard at Amritsar on March 16, 1846. Gulab Singh also becomes a Maharaja of this State.

December 3,

Raja Lal Singh opposes the transfer of Kashmir to Raja Gulab Singh Dogra. He is tried by the British,

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found guilty and exiled from Punjab to live in peaceful obscurity in Dehra Dun and Mussoorie till his death in 1867 AD.

December 16,

Anglo-Sikh treaty of Bharowal is signed on December 16, 1846 (ratified on December 26, 1846 at Bharowal by the Governor General, H. Hardinge). It provides the British-controlled regency till Maharaja Duleep Singh attains the majority on September 4, 1854, or till such period as the Governor General and the Lahore Durbar think necessary. Henry Lawrence becomes the Resident of Lahore. Maharani Jind Kaur (Queen mother) is deprived of all powers and is pensioned off with annuity of Rupees one and half Lacs.

1847, August 7,

Maharaja Duleep Singh refuses to apply *tilak* on Tej Singh's forehead. This offends the British. Sir Henry Lawrence holds the Queen mother Jind Kaur responsible for this lapse and suggests her exile. The Governor General approves his suggestion.

August 20

Maharani Jind Kaur is separated from his little son Duleep Singh. She is removed from Lahore and detained as a prisoner in the fort of Seikhupura (now in Pakistan), where she arrives in the early hours of Friday, August 20, 1847

1848, January 12,

Earl (Marques) Dalhousie takes over charge from Sir Henry (Viscount) Hardinge, as Governor General of

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India.

January 18,

Sir Henry Lawrence, the British Resident at Lahore, proceeds on sick leave, Both Sir Henry (Viscount) Hardinge and Sir Henry Lawrence sail for England.

March 9,

Frederick Currie is appointed as British Resident at Lahore in place of Sir Henry Lawrence. He joins his duty at Lahore on March 9, 1848.

April 20,

Murder of two British officers Vans Agnew and W.A. Anderson by the excited soldiers of Dewan Mool Raj, the Sikh Governor of Multan. They arrive at Multan along with General Kahan Singh to relieve Dewan Mool Raj from his charge of Governorship on April 18, 1848.

May 15,

Queen Jind Kaur is shifted from Sheikhpura (now in Pakistan) to Banaras (U.P.)

1848, September,

Dewan Mool Raj Chopra, Sikh Governor of Multan, declares War against the British. Raja Sher Singh, son of Sardar Chattar Singh, joins the Khalsa Army of Governor Mool Raj to fight the British. Bhai Maharaj Singh also joins them.

November 18,

Lord Hume Gough enters Punjab with his army of fifteen thousand men to fight the Sikhs.

1848-1849

THE SECOND ANGLO-SIKH WAR (1848-1849)

The following battles are fought between the Sikhs and the British:

1. Ram Nagar — November 22, 1848
2. Sadullapur — December 3, 1848
3. Chillianwala — January 13, 1849
4. Gujrat — February 21, 1849

The British win the war.

1849, January 22,

Fall of Multan: Dewan Mool Raj, Governor of Multan, surrenders. He is arrested; taken to Lahore as a prisoner; and is sentenced to life imprisonment after his trial by the Military court and he dies on August 11, 1851.

March 11,

Sikh General Sher Singh and Chatter Singh surrender their arms before Major General Gilbert near Rawalpindi (now in Pakistan) after the victory of the British in the Second Anglo-Sikh War.

March 29,

Lord Dalhousie, Governor General, proclaims annexation of the Punjab into the British dominions. Maharaja Duleep Singh (Age – 10 years, 6 months and 23 days) :-

- a) is deprived of his Crown, Kingdom, Fortune and deposed;
- b) Surrenders the most dazzling and peerless gem “Koh-i-Noor” (Mountain of Light) to the Queen of England under the terms of the Treaty of Lahore

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dated March 29, 1849.

April 6,

Dr. Sir John Spencer Login is appointed by the British as the guardian of Maharaja Duleep Singh.

April 6,

Queen Jind Kaur is shifted from Banaras to the Fort of Chunar, district Mirzapur (U.P.), where she arrives on April 6, 1849.

April 18,

Queen Jind Kaur manages to escape from the fort of Chunar to Nepal on April 18, 1849, reaching Kathmandu (Nepal) on April 29, 1849. Queen mother remains in Nepal for about 13 years under the care of Nepal Government within the knowledge of the British Government. Maharaja Duleep Singh, still at Lahore, does not know anything about the whereabouts of his mother.

1849, December 21,

Maharaja Duleep Singh, the deposed last king of the Punjab (aged 11 years, 3 months and 15 days) is sent into exile to reside at Fatehgarh, District Farrukhabad (U.P.). His cavalcade passes through the following places:-

December 21 (Friday) Leaves Lahore for Fatehgarh at 9 a.m.

December 26 Kahna Kachha, Lulliani,
Ferozepore

December 27 Mudki

December 28 Bagha Purana (Bhai Maharaj

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	Singh is arrested on this day at
	Adampur)
December 31	Badhni
January 1, 1850	Bassian
January 2, 1850	Lohat Baddi
January 3, 1850	Malerkotla
January 5, 1850	Amargarh
January 6, 1850	Khote
January 7, 1850	Patiala
January 8, 1850	Ghanaur
January 11, 1850	Ambala
January 16, 1850	Molana
January 17, 1850	Mustfabad
January 18, 1850	Buria
January 19, 1850	Chilkana
January 21, 1850	Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar
January 26, 1850	Meerut
February 19, 1850	Fatehgarh (UP)

December 28,

Bhai Maharaj Singh succeeds Bhai Bir Singh as religious leader of the Sikhs of Naurangabad. He fights against the British in the battle of Multan and the Second Anglo-Sikh War (1848-49), and after the defeat of the Sikhs at Gujrat resolves to fight alone. His plan to remove the deposed Maharaja Duleep Singh from the Lahore Fort fails to click. He is arrested at Adampur along with his 21 followers by the Deputy Commissioner **Jullundhur** (Mr. Vansittart) on December 28, 1849 (on this day, Maharaja Duleep Singh halts at Bagha Purana on his way to Fatehgarh). After his capture, Bhai Maharaj Singh is sent to Singapore in 1850 as a State prisoner where he dies on July 8, 1856 and his *sevadar* (attendant) Khurrack Singh soon

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after in the Outram Road Prison at Singapore.

1850 April 6,

The most dazzling and wonder gem 'Koh-i-Noor' is sent to England by Earl (Marquess) of Dalhousie, Governor General of India, escorted by two British officers (Captain Ramsay and Lt. Col. Mechenson). War Ship HMS Medea, carrying this diamond, leaves the shores of India on April 6, 1850, reaching London (Portsmouth) on June 29, 1850.

July 3,

This peerless gem 'Koh-i-Noor' is presented to Queen Victoria (1837-1901) in a ceremony held at Buckingham Palace on the afternoon of July 3, 1850, by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the East India Company.

1853, March 8

Maharaja Duleep Singh (aged 14 years, 6 months and 2 days) becomes a Christian at Fatehgarh, U.P.

1854, April 19

Maharaja Duleep Singh leaves for England from Calcutta, reaching there in May, 1854.

July 1

Her Majesty Queen Victoria gives the Maharaja a special audience at Buckingham Palace, regards him with sympathy and takes him very favourably.

September 4

The minority of Maharaja ends, but Lord Dalhousie decides to extend the period by two years.

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1856, December,

The Maharaja, along with Dr. Login, Lady Login and Ronald Laslie Meville, his friend, visit Italy where he is honoured by the Pope.

December

Nehmish Gorch returns to India with a letter from the Maharaja to his mother Queen Jind Kaur residing at Kathmandu in exile.

1857, February 19,

Maharaja Duleep Singh is relieved of all residential restrictions by the British Government.

May 10,

The Mutiny breaks out at Meerut (U.P.) and spreads to other parts of the country. Maharaja's complete property at Fatehgarh is looted and destroyed by the Mutineers.

December 29,

Maharaja Duleep Singh is allowed by the British Government to assume the management of his own affairs.

1858, November 1,

The rule of the Government of East India Company ends on August 2, 1858. Proclamation in this regard by the Queen is issued on November 1, 1858. Viscount (Earl) Canning becomes the first Governor General and Viceroy of India.

1859

Maharaja Duleep Singh declines to marry Princess Gouramma of Coorg as proposed by Her Majesty

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Queen Victoria.

1861, January,

Maharaja Duleep Singh arrives in India in January 1861; stays at Calcutta in the Spencers' hotel, where his mother Queen Jind Kaur meets him after a period of about thirteen years, staying in Nepal in exile.

Sikh soldiers returning from the Chinese War hold a big demonstration before Spencers' Hotel expressing their affection and loyalty to their deposed King of Sikh Kingdom of Punjab. Lord Canning, Governor General, requests the Maharaja to return to England as a favour to the British Government. His Highness returns to England along with his mother Maharani Jind Kaur, reaching there in July 1861.

1863, August 1,

Queen mother Jind Kaur dies at Abingdon House, **Kensington**, in London on August 1, 1863

October 18,

Dr. Sir, John Spencer Login passes away at Felixtowe in the 54th year of his age.

1864, February 16,

The Maharaja visits India and cremates the body of his mother (Maharani Jind Kaur) at Nasik (Maharashtra State). He is not permitted to visit Punjab for the said purpose by the Government of India.

June 7,

Maharaja Duleep Singh marries Miss Bamba Muller, daughter of Ludwig Muller, a German Merchant and Sofia, an Abyssinian Lady of Egyptian Nationality, at Alexandria, Egypt.

September 29

His Highness takes over the possession of Elveden Estate with 22,000 acres of land and makes their permanent residence and lives there with his family in the extravagant style of Victorian English nobility.

1877, January 1,

Queen Victoria becomes Empress of India.

1880, February,

Maharaja prefers claim of his private estates in India.

1886, January 26,

His Highness Maharaja Duleep Singh meets Sir Owen Burne and also the Secretary of State for India (February 8, 1886) in order to discuss with them the pending issues and his plan to reside in Punjab / India with his family. But the Government of India refuses to permit him to reside anywhere in Northern India.

March 25,

Before leaving for India, Maharaja Duleep Singh issues an appeal to his countrymen expressing his desire to re-join Sikh faith and refusal of the British Government to permit him to visit Punjab. The full text of the 'address' appears in the *Evening Standard*, London, on March 25, 1886, which offends the British Government.

March 30,

In reply to his communication from Sir Owen Burns, Maharaja Duleep Singh informs him that his appeal to his countrymen dated March 25 is perfectly genuine, and hence he declines to repudiate it.

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March 31,

Maharaja Duleep Singh leaves for India along with his wife Maharani Bamba and their six children (three sons and three daughters). The party also includes Aroor Singh (an Indian servant), a European nurse and an *ayah*.

April 21,

The Maharaja is arrested at Aden. Brigadier General A.S.T. Hogg, British Resident at Aden, informs His Highness that he is not permitted by the Government of India to proceed further.

May 6,

Maharani Bamba returns to London along with her six children. His Highness remains at Aden to fight his case with the Government of India.

May 24,

Mr. Hanbury raises the question of the detention of the Maharaja and his family at Aden in the House of Commons.

May 25,

Maharaja Duleep Singh rejoins Sikh faith at Aden. The British Resident at Aden informs Mr. H.M. Durand, Secretary to Government of India, as well as the Viceroy of India (at Simla) telegraphically regarding His Highness' re-admission into Sikhism (Sikh faith) after a religious ceremony in the morning of May 25, 1886.

May 30,

The Viceroy of India permits the Maharaja to go back to Europe unconditionally.

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June 3,

Maharaja Duleep Singh returns to Europe by French Mail Steamer for Marscille, (never to return to India – his motherland during his lifetime), and comes to Paris from Aden, on June 23, 1886.

July 6,

His Highness writes to Duke of Grafton, his friend, regarding his intention to transfer his allegiance to Russia who informs Queen Victoria accordingly.

On July 6, 1886, Queen Victoria writes to His Highness to abandon his wild ideas and plans which may lead him to disastrous consequences.

1886, July,

Maharaja Duleep Singh calls on His Excellency Monsieur de Kotezbue, the Russian Charge d' affairs at Paris (France) and urges his strong desire to visit Russia. He also requests the diplomat for issue of a passport. The Russian Ambassador informs the Maharaja that his visit to Russia for political motive is not desired. He also rejects the request of His Highness for issue of a passport. The Diplomat sends a detailed report to the Minister of External Affairs at Moscow about his conversation with the Maharaja, informing the Imperial Government that the Maharaja makes overtures to Russia but not in sincerity.

1887, March 21,

Maharaja Duleep Singh, along with an English lady Ada Vesril Douglas Wetherill and his personal attendant Aroor Singh, and having no legal documents to enter Russia, leaves Paris for Russia by train on the invitation of Mikhail Nikiforobic Kathoff,

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the Editor of the *Moscow Gazette*. However, General Bogdonvitch, a friend of Mr. Kathoff, helps the Maharaja and his party to cross the Russian border.

March 31,

The Maharaja arrives in Moscow and his arrival in Moscow comes as a surprise to the External Minister (Monieur de Giers) and even to Russian Emperor Alexander III (1881-1894).

April,

The Deputy Home Minister of Russia sends a report to the External Minister informing him of the presence of Maharaja Duleep Singh and his party in Moscow and of his crossing the Russian border illegally and without the required documents.

Sir Robert Morier, the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg, instructs his Vice-Counsel in Moscow (A. Weber) to strictly watch the movements of His Highness in Moscow. The Moscow Russian police also organizes surveillance over Maharaja Duleep Singh and his party.

May 10,

Maharaja Duleep Singh writes a long letter on May 10, 1887, to Russian Emperor Alexander III praying for Russian aid for an expedition to liberate India with the help of Indian Princes and the people of India for a safe shelter for him in Russia and for an audience with the Tsar. But the Emperor does not cherish hostile intentions towards England, either in Asia or in Europe. He thus does not take the Maharaja seriously and has no intention to use him for any combination.

1887, May,

The Maharaja sends Aroor Singh as his Ambassador to India with letters to Wajid Ali Shah, the ex-ruler of Oudh and the native Indian Princes seeking their help for the liberation of India and to raise funds for His Highness. Aroor Singh leaves Moscow for India in May 1887; lands at Madras and arrives at Calcutta on August 2, 1887, and after his arrest by the British Government on August 5, 1887 at Calcutta, he is sent to Chunnar prison on September 9, 1887, and later on released from there on December 5, 1890.

August

Mikhail Nikiforovich Kathoff, Editor of the *Moscow Gazette* and the only dependable and sincere friend of the Maharaja in Russia, falls seriously ill in July, 1887, and passes away in early August, 1887. In his letter dated August 2, 1887, to Count Cheremetoff, His Highness expresses his great grief at the untimely death of Count M. Katkoff.

August 18,

Sardar Thakar Singh Sandhanwalia, son of Sardar Lehna Singh Sandhanwalia, and a close relative (cousin) of Maharaja Duleep Singh, dies at French Pondicherry on August 18, 1887.

September 16,

In his letter dated September 16, 1887, Lord Cross writes to Lord Dufferin, the Governor General of India, that “the death of Katkoff and his (Maharaja’s) Pondicherry friend are weighty incidents”.

September 18,

Maharaja Duleep Singh's beloved wife, Maharani Bamba, passes away in London on September 18, 1887. She dies of collapse suddenly in the morning with renal complications following chill. Queen Victoria and Prince of Wales send a message of condolence to Maharaja Duleep Singh.

1888,

Prince Dolgoruky, Governor General of Moscow, meets Maharaja Duleep Singh and conveys to him his Government's inability to consider his proposals regarding the liberation of India with Russia's help, to get Russian citizenship and an audience with Emperor Alexander III. The Governor General also suggests His Highness to shift from Moscow to Kieff.

May,

Maharaja Duleep Singh, along with Ada Vesperil and newly born girl (later named 'Paulina Alexandra'), move to Kieff, making their residence temporarily at Blyarsk, near Kieff.

November 3,

After failure of his mission to Russia, His Highness returns to Paris on November 3, 1888, and settles there. He remains in Russia for about 20 months.

1889, May 21,

The Maharaja marries an English girl, Ada Douglas Wetherill, who remains with him during his Russian tour for about twenty months (March 21, 1886, to November 3, 1888). She gives birth to two daughters (Paulina Alexandra Duleep Singh and Ada Irene Helen

Benyl Duleep Singh).

1890, July,

Maharaja Duleep Singh, about 52 years, gets a severe attack of paralysis in July 1890 and remains bedridden for three years at Paris (France).

Prince Victor Albert Jay Duleep Singh, his elder son, meets his ailing father and requests His Highness to accept his responsibilities towards his family and live with them in London, and also write to Queen Victoria for a pardon. The Maharaja allows Victor to proceed further in the matter.

July 22,

Lord Leven (Ronald Leslie-Melville) meets His Highness (his ailing old friend) in his Hotel at Paris and on return to London consults Duke of Grafton (friend of the Maharaja) on the issue of pardon.

July 27,

His Highness writes to Lord Cross for Her Majesty's pardon.

August 1,

Lord Cross conveys Her Majesty Queen Victoria's pardon to Maharaja Duleep Singh.

1893, April 24,

His Highness goes to Folkestone on April 24, 1893, to see his dying son Prince Edward Alexander Duleep Singh in spite of his own shattered health. The Prince later dies in the last week of April, 1893.

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October 22,

Maharaja Duleep Singh, the last sovereign of the Sikh Kingdom of Punjab, passes away on October 22, 1893, in his hotel room in Paris, far away from his motherland (India).

October 29

The funeral takes place in the little church near their house Elveden and is attended by the dignitaries from France and England. Lord Camoys represents Her Majesty the Queen; Sir Own Burns himself attends; Lord Kimberley sends his representative and Prince of Wales sends a wreath, besides other friends of the late Maharaja.

Plate on the Coffin lid at Elveden reads:

Duleep Singh Maharaja of Lahore, GHCSI.

Born 4th September ,1838. Died 22nd October. 1893.

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