

The History of MCKK

The Malay College Kuala Kangsar is a premier residential school in Malaysia. It is an all-boys and all-Malay school located in Kuala Kangsar, Perak. As it was founded to educate the Malay elite, comprising children of royal birth and the sons of Malay nobility, few of its early students were from commoner families.

On Saturday, 11th December 1909, the Big School was officially opened by the Sultan of Perak, and the auspicious date also marked the change in the name of the school from the Malay Residential School of Kuala Kangsar to the Malay College of Kuala Kangsar. The college celebrated its centennial anniversary in 2005.

MCKK has been the school for many prominent Malaysians such as kings, sultans, prime ministers as well as senior officials in the government and leading figures in the private sector as well as respected leaders in community. Currently, selected Malay boys aged from 12 to 19 from all around Malaysia are being educated there. The most recognizable feature of the school is the Big School, a building with Greco-Roman architecture, designed by Brigadier General Arthur Benison Hubback. It was gazetted as a national heritage building in March, 2009.

The school also excels in sports and extra-curricular activities with strong focus on leadership. It became a powerhouse in rugby during the sixties and still has one of the best rugby teams in the nation. On the 26th June 2011, MCKK created history as the first cohort of the boys registered themselves for a challenging two-year International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. This idea which was mooted by HRH Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah, was realised through the hard work and determination of MCKK Board of Governors and the teachers of MCKK.

CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) is a vital part of the programme. As the name suggests, CAS encourages students to be creative, and brings their ideas into action and connects with the society around them. Kuala Kangsar Heritage Trail Map is one of the CAS activities conducted by the students.

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Kuala Kangsar Municipality

The Team:

Iqbal Aziz
Harinn Hizhairie
Mus'ab Manan
Burhan Yusof
Afzal Kassim
Harrieth Redza
Farezuhan Ruzlan
Raja Wahiduzzaman
Ahmad Adnan
Mohd Wafiuddin
Zulhilmi Azmi
Halim Hassan
Putera Hafiz
Khairil Fiqri
Najmuddin Morad
Khidhir Waquiuddin
Hilmy Hakim
Fauzi Mohamad

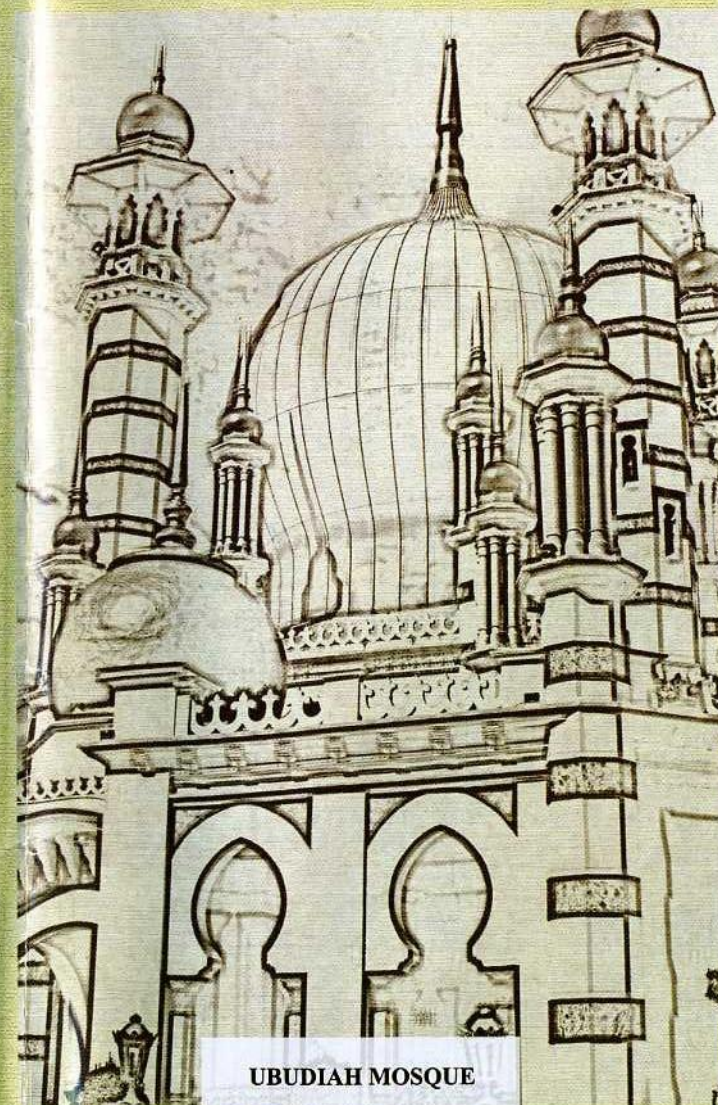
with Special Thanks to
Mr. Peter Bucher
Dr. Adib Vincent Tung

Useful Contacts In Kuala Kangsar

Tourist Information Centre (TIC)	05-7777717
Kuala Kangsar Municipal	05-7761010
Police Department	05-7762222
Hospital	05-7763333
Fire Brigade	05-7764444



KUALA KANGSAR ROYAL TOWN HERITAGE TRAIL



UBUDIAH MOSQUE

PERAK, MALAYSIA

KUALA KANGSAR'S CRAFTS, THE LIVING HERITAGE...



Keris (Malay daggers)

The keris, which symbolizes an instrument of authority, is indeed a legacy of the Malay royalty and nobility in Perak. It was used as a weapon for the ancient Malay warriors. The keris is famous for its distinctive wavy blade (*luk*). However, there are also types of keris whose blades are straight or tapering narrower towards the tip. The first step in keris making is to identify the types of metals to be used for the blade. Often, 3 types of steel, *tawar*, *baja* and *melela*, are chosen, and the steel is arranged in layers with *baja* being sandwiched in between. One of the most famous keris makers is Abdul Mazin bin Abdul Jamil from Kampung Padang Changkat, Kuala Kangsar, who still makes keris using the traditional blacksmithing method of forging the metal, burning, hammering, bending and shaping.



Labu Sayong (the water pitcher)

The Labu Sayong is a clay pitcher used especially by Malay village folks in Sayong – in the district of Kuala Kangsar - to store water. This pitcher is an elegant labu (gourd)-shaped. It is said that water kept inside this pitcher will become cold and help to prevent illness and stomach disorder. To make this pitcher, the best type of clay is first selected. Any impurity has to be filtered out. The clay is then mixed with sodium and hand-shaped into a pitcher. It is then carved with designs and motifs resembling flowers, spices and leaves before being heated in a small furnace. In the olden days, often this pitcher is painted black but nowadays it either maintains its natural clay colour or is beautifully coloured to be used as a decoration.



Tekat (velvet gold embroideries)

The *tekat* is a form of needlework using silk gold threads sewn onto an embroider velvet. It is a type of embroidery that uses gold threads, although in recent years, silver threads are also used. This needlework is also known as 'raised spine embroidery'. In Perak, the art is believed to have originated in the royal court where the cushions for the throne, bed and settee are decorated with such embroideries. Accordingly, there are 8 kinds of *tekat*, namely, *tekat timbul*, *keringkam*, *bertindih*, *gubah*, *gem*, *manik*, *labuci* and *gelang*. In 1980, Puan Azizah from Kampung Padang Changkat, Kuala Kangsar represented the country and won an international craft competition. Today, *tekat* is widely used in wedding ceremonies to decorate the wedding attire, shoes and cushions for the nuptial dais and the bed.



Batik Canting (hand-drawn Batik)

Batik Canting or hand-drawn *batik* derived its name from the traditional pen-like waxing implement called '*canting*', used to design the pattern for the *batik* cloth. To perform this craft, the first step is to stretch tautly a piece of white cloth on a cloth-stretcher. Wax is applied freehand using the *canting* to make line-drawings. The different waxed sections are coloured by hand using brushes as opposed to immersion dyeing. The usual types of motifs and designs are floral or geometrical in nature. While men dominate the production of hand-printed *batik*, women seem to excel in both the waxing and dyeing of hand-drawn *batik*. Hand-drawn *batik* is often used as material for men's formal-wear shirts.



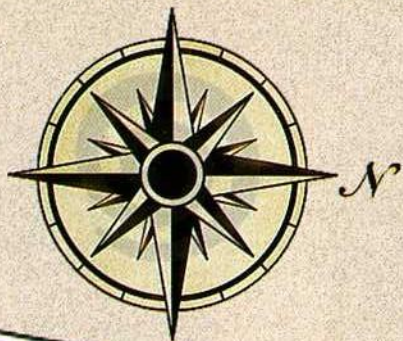
Silver and Pewter-wares

Silver and pewter-wares have strong affiliation with the Perak royal household. Pewter is a malleable metal alloy, which is 85-99% tin with the remainder consisting of copper, antimony, bismuth and lead. It is said that goblets, dishes, punch bowls, serving platters, cake stands, fruit bowls and party platters in the Perak palace were at one time made of pewter. With the introduction of the art of making silverware from Kelantan, silver products have since replaced pewter-wares in the palace. Presently, Mariwasa Silverware has a factory that designs and produces silverwares for royal families throughout Malaysia. The company also produces medals, regalia, jewellery, coins and medallions. Mariwasa emphasizes on superior craftsmanship to ensure perfection in the items it produces.



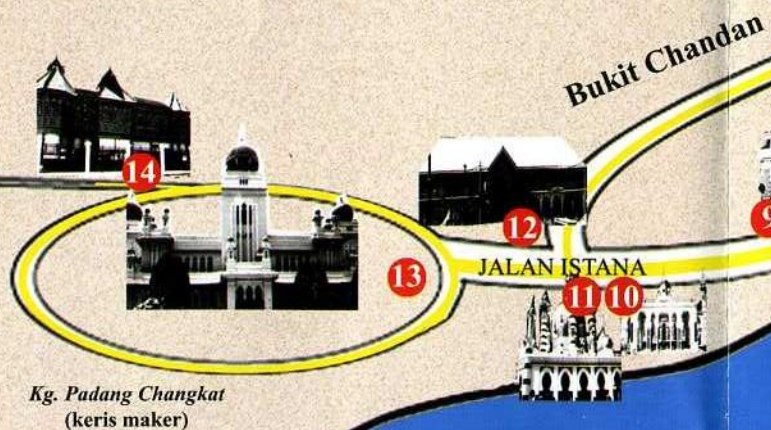
Anyaman Mengkuang (weaving of Screwpine leaves)

Mengkuang or Screwpine is a thick-stemmed, 5-metre high treelet that thrives well on rocky or sandy shores. Its grayish-blue spine-edged leaves are cut into strips and used in the weaving of mats and multi-purpose baskets. The art of *mengkuang* weaving is a skill which is traditionally inherited from father to son. Currently, it is a cottage industry in Perak especially for the folks of Kampung Jenalik Hilir. One of the popular techniques of *mengkuang* weaving is called 'Anyaman Gila' which is seemingly an uncoordinated weaving style to create tastefully designed items such as baskets and screens. This type of weaving, which is part of Malay traditional heritage, has becoming increasingly popular as decorative items highly sought after by both local and foreign tourists.



KUALA KANGSAR HERITAGE TRAIL MAP

Travel Duration: Approx 2 hours 30 minutes
Trail distance: 8.5 km



Kg. Padang Changkat
(keris maker)

Bukit Chandan

JALAN ISTANA

To Masjid
Kampung Dal

JALAN BENDAHARA

T.I.C.

Laman Budaya
(Cultural Park)

Sungai Perak (Perak river)

Kompleks Persisiran Sayong
(Sayong Crafts Complex)

Checkpoint GPS Coordinates

1 MCKK: 4°46'28.90"N, 100°56'14.40"E

9 SAS Gallery: 4°45'57.80"N, 100°56'52.89"E

T.I.C. Tourist Information Centre: 4°46'17.84"N, 100°56'32.21"E

Kampung Sayong
(Cottage Industries)

JALAN TAPING

JALAN IDRIS

JALAN TUN RAZAK

JALAN RAJA CHULAN

JALAN DAENG SELILI

Lembah Sungai
(River Valley)

Sultan Abdul Jalil Bridge

To Victoria Bridge

Selamat Datang (Welcome) to Kuala Kangsar, the Royal Town

The Malay College Kuala Kangsar (MCKK)



1

The Malay College Kuala Kangsar (MCKK), established in 1905, was the first residential school in the country. It was built on a piece of land which was 12 hectares in area donated by Sultan Idris Murshidul 'Adzam Shah. It was to provide education for the Malay elite and princes of Malay royal families. The main school building was of the Greco-Roman design. Being a premier school, it is often dubbed as the Eton of the east.



5

The District and Land Office

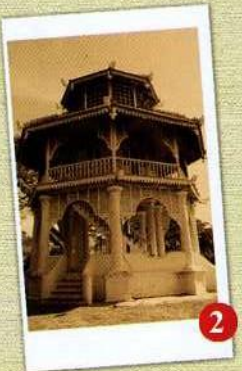
The old District and Land Office was built in the late 19th century and houses the office of the District Officer of Kuala Kangsar. It had also served as the office of the District Qadhi and the Muslim religious department in the 1980s. A new building was built attached to the old building and was officiated by the present 34th Ruler of the State, HRH Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah on 15 December 1987.



9

Iskandar Polo Pavilion

Built in around 1920, the Pavilion is located at one corner of the Kuala Kangsar public field. It was built very near to the Iskandar Polo Club building which was destroyed by a fire in the 1950's. It was at one time used by members of the Perak royalty and the British Resident to watch soccer, polo, rugby and military ceremonies from the highest level of the pavilion. It has a fusion of the old traditional Malay and Chinese heritage.



2



6

Idris Club

The Idris Club was built in 1903 and served as a sport, recreational and social centre for its members. The design of the club house was based on traditional Malay architecture. The club was founded by Sultan Idris Murshidul 'Adzam Shah (1887-1916), the 28th Ruler of Perak. During the early years, membership of this club was confined to government officers and Malay dignitaries.

Post office

This Post Office was built in the 1930s. It was the site of the 1st telephone line installed by the British during the Perak War 1875. Apart from selling postage stamps, it also provided telegram services, application for public utilities from the government, billings and paying pensions to former Malay military staff. Like other buildings built during the British residency era, its design was influenced by Neo-British architecture. This post office is indeed one of the oldest in Malaysia.



7

Ridzwaniah Mosque

The original mosque was built in 1915 on a piece of land belonged to the Sultan Idris Shah I Foundation. The original architecture of the mosque consists of an octagon prayer room and a dome at the centre. Due to increasing congregation, the mosque building underwent several major expansions. In 1980, the old building was demolished and rebuilt with a new building. It is presumably the largest (in term of capacity) mosque in this town.



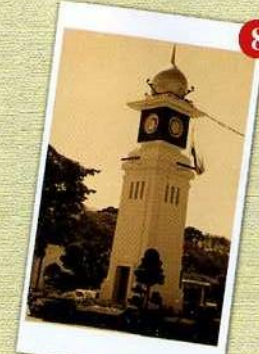
3

The Oldest Rubber Tree

This rubber tree is one of the earliest generations from the first 11 seeds introduced into the country from Brazil in 1877. This tree is believed to be one of the oldest rubber trees in Malaysia. It was transplanted at the present site in the compound of the District Land Office after the World War II. Rubber trees were later commercially cultivated and by mid-20th century, rubber became the biggest contributor to the country's economy.



4



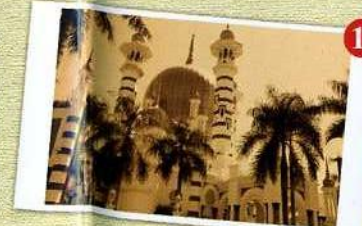
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Clock Tower

The clock tower was constructed in the centre of a small roundabout in the town. It was erected in 1939 with funds contributed by both the government and the public. It was built to commemorate the coronation of King George VI of the United Kingdom and the British Empire on 12 May 1937.



10



11

Sultan Azlan Shah Gallery (SAS Gallery)

This was once a palace known as 'Istana Hulu' as it was located on the upper banks of the Perak River. Built in 1903, it was later renamed 'Istana Kota' after the erection of high concrete walls around the palatial compound. In the 1960s, it was used as a school. The building was restored to its former glory and converted into the SAS Gallery in 2003 to display the history of the illustrious life of the current Sultan Azlan Shah. There was another palace known as the Istana Hilir built on the lower bank of the river quite near to the Istana Hulu. Both the palaces were built during the reign of Sultan Idris Murshidul 'Adzam Shah and both were very similar in structures. The palaces were identified by their locations, i.e. the one on the upper bank was known as Istana Hulu and the one on the lower bank known as Istana Hilir. Istana Hilir was demolished in 1950's to make way for a housing scheme.

Royal Mausoleum (Makam Diraja)

The Perak Royal Mausoleum is a building containing the tombs of three of the Sultans and their principal consorts i.e. Sultan Idris Murshidul 'Adzam Shah I (1887-1916), the 28th Ruler, Sultan Abdul Jalil (1916 - 1918) the 29th Ruler and Sultan Iskandar Shah (1918 - 1938) the 30th Sultan. It has an amalgam and epitome of Moghul Islamic architecture with a central onion-shaped dome and four slender corner minarets, and has some resemblances of the Taj Mahal in India.

Ubudiah Mosque

The Ubudiah Mosque was built at the command of Sultan Idris Murshidul 'Adzam Shah in 1913. The word 'Ubudiah' means 'devotion to the Almighty God'. The marble stones used for the construction were imported from Italy. The mosque has an influence of Moorish architecture in its design. The construction was delayed due to the World War I (1914-1919) and was finally completed in 1917.



12

Idrisiah Islamic School (Madrasah Idrisiah)

This school was built sometime in the late 1917. It was established at Sultan Idris Shah's request to increase awareness toward Islam. The school was intended to provide the education for the poor and orphan. Ahmad Badawi, father of Malaysia's 5th Prime Minister, Tun Abdullah was once the headmaster of the school.



13

Iskandariah Palace (Istana Iskandariah)

This palace is an official palace for the reigning Sultan. The construction was finished in 1933 and named after the Sultan then, Sultan Iskandar Shah (1918-1938). The design of the palace is based on Indian-Islamic design, 'Saracenic' such as 'pointed arch' and onion shapes dome. In 1984, the palace was renovated and refurbished, but still retain the original design.



14

Istana Kenangan (Memorial Palace)

Istana Kenangan was built in 1926 under the command of Sultan Iskandar Shah. Its construction included 60 poles of about 42 meters long and other wooden materials. This building was built without any nails. Sultan Iskandar Shah occupied the palace from 1931, until he moved to Istana Iskandariah in 1933. Now, Istana Kenangan is used as a museum.



15

Sir Hugh Low's Residency (King's Pavilion)

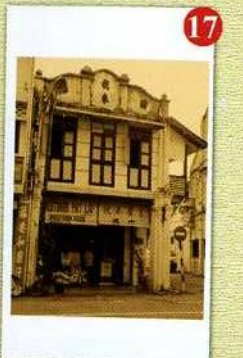
In 1878, The British took over Che' Midah's property on the hill and built a new house for Sir Hugh Low, a British Resident. Che' Midah was a well known local lady at the time with landed property. This building was used by the resident until 1905. After WWII, the building was loaned to MCKK to be used as boardings and classrooms for younger boys. The building was returned in 1963 when MCKK got a new building. Today, the residency building still remains as the main building of Raja Perempuan Kelsom Secondary School or previously known as Government English Girl's School (1954). It is also the only girl's school in Kuala Kangsar.



16

Kedai Tinggi

Kwong Luen Hong is well known as KedaiTinggi among the Kuala Kangsar residents, was built in 1946. Originally the shop was established to sell sports equipments. After a fire accident, the new building was built higher than the other storey to prevent the spread of fire to the next storey.



17

Yat Lai Restaurant

This building follows the design constructed by District Councils, originally the same as the old one, British design. The owner of the shop has been renting the building from Double Lion Club since 1945. They produced the first *pau* in 1945 and become popular more than the coffee. One of the Sultans who was then studying at the MCKK even promoted the restaurant by eating there instead of the take-away *pau*.



18

Tsung Wah Primary School

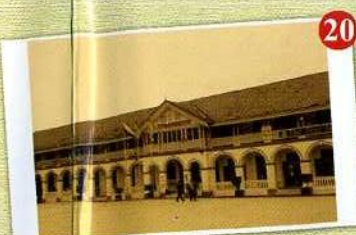
This Chinese school was established in 1911 to provide education for local Chinese students. It was located in Jalan Datok before being brought into Jalan Kangsar. This school was closed during the reign of Japanese Army (1941-1945) and reopened on 4th October 1945 after the Japanese surrendered.



19

Anglican Church Kuala Kangsar

This church was the first outstation church in Perak, assisted by a Clergy from Taiping, the first capital of Perak. In the early days the congregation comprised Senior Government officers and teachers at the Malay College who worshiped there. The Sultan of Perak, who resided in Kuala Kangsar then, was sympathetic to the historical church, thus consecrated it in 1908.



20

Clifford School

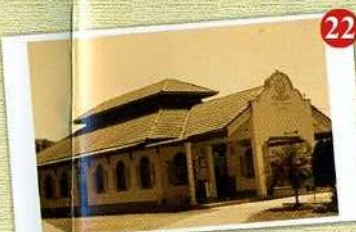
Clifford School is one of the oldest schools in Malaysia, it was built in December 1897. The first principal of Clifford School was Mr James Percival Charles Hogan. Hence the school was earlier better known as Hogan School. In 1940s, the school held the Senior Cambridge examination and no Malays from that school failed that examination.



21

First Hospital

This square hospital building is located at the corner of Clifford School field. It was built in the 1890s to provide a proper healthcare system for the locals. As one of the oldest buildings in Kuala Kangsar, it still remains in a good condition. Later in 1930, the building was given to Clifford School.



22

Gurdwara Temple

Gurdwara Sahib was built by several Sikhs in 1908. Initially, it was a single storey wooden structure with an attap roof. It was renovated several times and the roof was changed to asbestos sheets. The new Gurdwara Temple was completed in 1954.



23

Palace of the Raja Bendahara (Istana Raja Bendahara)

Located halfway between the MCKK and the Kuala Kangsar Railway Station, this was the official palace of the Raja Bendahara. It is a two-storey mansion with a mixture of Palladian neo-colonial architecture. This palace was the residence of the last Raja Bendahara Abdul Rashid ibni Sultan Idris Murshidul 'Adzam Shah I until his death in 1953 and still used by the family of late Raja Bendahara Abdul Rashid until the early 1990s.

The Perak Royal Household

BRIEF HISTORY OF PERAK SULTANATE

There were several versions as to the origin of the name of the state "Perak". Some historians believed it was derived from Tun Perak who was the Bendahara (Prime Minister) of Malacca (Melaka). Some said it came from the "glimmer of fish in the water" that sparkled like silver (Perak). Some claimed that it came from the glittering of tin ores found in abundance in various parts of the state which was mistaken for silver ores. Pre-historical artefacts and skeletal remains found in Kota Tampan near Lenggong indicated that the Palaeolithic Age existed here.

After the fall of Malacca to the Portuguese in 1511, Sultan Mahmud Shah, the last Ruler of Malacca, fled to Kampar in Sumatra with his family. Perak as a populated region was already in existence, but was without a Ruler. In 1528, several chieftains with vast territorial powers led by Tun Saban, the son of Tun Perak, sailed to Kampar and extended invitation to Sultan Mahmud Shah to appoint one of his sons to become the Sultan of Perak. The people of Perak believed that a Sultan who was a descendant from the Sultanate of Malacca would be a person with sovereignty (daulat). The Sultan consented to send his eldest son, Raja Mudzafar Shah, to be the Ruler of Perak. Raja Mudzafar Shah travelled to Perak by boat taking along with him the royal regalia of the Malacca Sultanate to be enthroned as the new Sultan of Perak. Among these regalia were the royal sword called Cura Si Manja Kini and a keris which belonged to Hang Tuah known as Taming Sari. In short, it can be said that the present Perak Sultanate is the continuation of the Malacca Sultanate.

Perak was not without disputes as to the succession to the throne. On the death of Sultan Ali Al-Mukammal Inayat Shah, the 24th Ruler of Perak, in 1871, the then Raja Muda Abdullah failed to attend the funeral. Perak tradition required that the new Ruler should be proclaimed before the burial of a deceased Sultan. As Raja Abdullah, the Raja Muda, was not present at the burial ceremony, the Raja Bendahara (Raja Ismail) was then proclaimed Ruler as the 25th Sultan so that the deceased Sultan could be buried. Raja Abdullah later claimed that Raja Ismail was meant to be only a caretaker Ruler but Sultan Ismail thought differently and refused to surrender the state regalia to Raja Abdullah. Unsatisfied with that appointment, Raja Abdullah wrote a letter to the Governor of the Straits Settlements, Sir Andrew Clarke, beseeching Perak to be placed under British protection and to proclaim him as the rightful Ruler of the State.

In 1874, Sir Andrew Clarke convened a meeting on Pulau Pangkor where the Pangkor Treaty was duly signed. Raja Abdullah was installed as the new Sultan while Sultan Ismail was forced to abdicate and was restyled as Sultan Muda. A British Resident was also appointed to advise the new Sultan on the administration of the State with the exception of matters pertaining to the Muslim religion and the Malay customs.

The first British Resident J.W.W. Birch was assassinated. There was a brief war between the British and the Malays. Sultan Abdullah was implicated in the murder and was exiled to the Seychelles. Raja Yusuf was then appointed as the Regent but was later installed as the Sultan of Perak in 1887. Upon the death of Sultan Yusuf Sharifuddin Mudzafar Shah, Raja Muda Idris Shah was elevated to the position of the Ruler of Perak with the style of Sultan Idris Murshidul 'Adzam Shah.

THE ROYAL FAMILY PHOTO



He was succeeded by two of his sons, Sultan Abdul Jalil Karamatullah Shah (1916-1918), the 29th Ruler, and Sultan Iskandar Shah (1918-1938), the 30th Sultan. In 1938, Sultan Abdul Aziz Almustasim Billah Shah was installed and ruled for 10 years.

It was during his reign that the Second World War broke out and the State was under Japanese occupation. At the end of the war in 1945, the British introduced new administration systems which included the unpopular Malayan Union. The people of Malaya combined their efforts to seek independence from the British. In 1948, Sultan Abdul Aziz passed away and was succeeded by Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah. The British granted Malaya independence in 1957. On Sultan Yussuf's demise, Sultan Idris Iskandar Al-Mutawakkil Shah became the 33rd Ruler. He died on 1 February 1984 and Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah was subsequently proclaimed the 34th Sultan.

SULTAN AZLAN SHAH

His Royal Highness Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah was born on 19 April 1928 in Batu Gajah, Perak. He is the son of the 32nd Ruler, Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah (1948-1963) and Toh Puan Besar Khadijah binti Ahmad. He received his early education at the Government English School (now called the Sultan Yussuf Secondary School) in Batu Gajah and continued his higher studies at the Malay College Kuala Kangsar before pursuing his tertiary education in law at the University of Nottingham. In 1953, he obtained a Bachelor of Law degree and was admitted to the English Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn on 23 November 1954.

On his return to Perak, he served as the Assistant State Secretary before joining the Judicial and Legal Service of the Country. Among the positions he had held included First Class Magistrate, Sessions Court President, Federal Counsel, Deputy Public Prosecutor, Legal Adviser of Pahang, Legal Adviser of Johor, Registrar of the High Court of Malaya and Chief Registrar of the Federal Court of Malaysia. In 1965, at the young age of 37 years, he became the youngest judge to be appointed in the Commonwealth. He was made a Federal Court Judge in 1973, Chief Justice (now Chief Judge) of Malaya in 1979 and Lord President (now Chief Justice) of the Federal Court of Malaysia in 1982.

His ascension to the Perak throne began when he was made the Raja Kecil Bongsu in 1962 by his father and was elevated to the rank of Raja Kecil Tengah at the demise of his father a year later. In January 1978, he became the Raja Kecil Sulung and held the post for seven months before being elevated to the rank of Raja Kecil Besar in August. He was made the Raja Muda (Crown Prince) by his uncle, Sultan Idris Al-Mutawakkil Alallahi Shah on 1 July 1983. Seven months later, on 3 February 1984 he ascended the throne on the death of Sultan Idris Shah.

Sultan Azlan Shah married Tuanku Bainun binti Mohd Ali who was proclaimed the Raja Permaisuri of Perak on 19 February 1988 in a historic ceremony. Sultan Azlan Shah served as the 9th Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King) of Malaysia from 26 April 1989 to 25 April 1994. His son, Raja Muda Nazrin Shah, was appointed Regent during his tenure as the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

His enthusiasm for sports especially hockey began at school. Currently, he is the President of Malaysian Hockey Federation, President of the Asian Hockey and Vice-President of the International Hockey Federation.

SOME OF THE IMPORTANT STATE REGALIA



KERIS TAMING SARI

A keris belonged to the legendary Hang Tuah. It is believed to possess some supernatural ability to rotate in the air to pursue its target. It is regarded as an important item of the royal regalia of the State.



CURA SI MANJA KINI

This sword was said to be the weapon used to slay a dragon called Saktimuna that caused havoc in Sumatra. It was among the regalia given to Raja Mudzafar Shah by his father, Sultan Mahmud, when he was sent to become the first Sultan of Perak.



TANJAK DI RAJA

The royal headgear worn by the Sultan of Perak is styled as "Ayam Patah Kepak". In Perak, the folding of headgears worn by the royalty and the nobility is carried out by the Royal Court attendants. One of the sixteen minor chiefs known as Toh Seri Wangsa, Abdul Rahim bin Mohamed, who resides in Taman Chandan Puteri in Kuala Kangsar, is a willing hand if called upon to fold a headgear.