

One woman's legacy

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Roquaiya Hanim (1864 - 1904)
 Turkish woman of reputed beauty who along with her sister Sitiyah Hanim, was taken to Johor by Sultan Abu Bakar. She married Sultan's brother, Ungku Abdul Majid, and had two children, while sister married the Sultan. After her husband's death, she married Abdullah Syed Mohsin al-Attas and had one child, before divorcing him. Her final marriage was to Datuk Ja'far Onn, with whom she had seven children.



m. Datuk Ja'afar Haji Mohamed (1838-1919)

He first worked as a clerk in the office of Temenggong Ibrahim at Telok Belanga in Singapore before becoming the State Secretary. It was during this time that the establishment of the Johor government was set up and that led to his appointment as Menteri Besar by Sultan Abu Bakar with the title Datuk Bentara in 1873. He married five times, Roquaiya Hanim was his fourth wife.

m. Ungku Abdul Majid Ibni Temenggong Daeng Ibrahim (1845 - 1889)



Ungku Abdul Hamid (1888 - ?)
 m. Hamidah Abdullah

Ungku Abdul Aziz (1887 - 1951)
 The sixth Menteri Besar of Johor had four wives and six children



Prof Syed Hussein al-Attas (1928 - 2007)
 m. Nan Buitendik and Zaharah Abdullah

A well-known social scientist whose work focused on Malay society, culture and politics, he was also a Vice Chancellor of University Malaya and helped found the Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia (Gerakan). He wrote several books such as *The Sociology of Corruption* (1968), *Modernization and Social Change in Asia* (1972), *Intellectuals in Developing Societies* (1977) and the most famous one, *The Myth of the Lazy Native: A Study of the Image of the Malays, Filipinos and Javanese from the 16th to 20th Century and Its Function in the Ideology of Colonial Capitalism* (Frank Cass, 1977). He had four children.

Syed Ali m. Sharifah Raguan Syed Abdullah Al Idrus

Syed Zedal-Attas

Prof Dr Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas (1931 -)
 m. Latifah Abdullah (Moira Maureen O'Shea)



He wrote several authoritative works on various aspects of Islamic thought and civilization, particularly on Sufism, cosmology, metaphysics, philosophy and the Malay language and literature. Among the works published include *Rangkaian Ruba'iyat* and the classic work, *Some Aspects of Sufism as Understood and Practised Among the Malays*, in 1963. His two-volume doctoral thesis on *The Mysticism of Hamzah Fansuri*, is considered the most important and comprehensive work to date on one of the greatest and perhaps the most controversial Sufi scholars in the Malay world and it earned him a Ph.D in 1965.

In 1987, he founded and became the director of the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (Istac). He is also remembered for designing the Umno flag.

Aisha (1892 - 1969)
Kamariah (1894 - 1959)

Datuk Onn (1896 - 1962)
 m. Rafeah Abdullah (died 1920) had four children;
m. Halimah Hussin (1899 - 1988)
 First married to Datuk Onn's younger brother, Mohamed, and had two children. After his death, she married Datuk Onn and had seven children with him.



The seventh Menteri Besar of Johor, he founded UMNO and became its first President. When he was a member of the *Majlis Mesyuarat Negeri Johor*, he set up the *Sultan Ibrahim Scholarship* and the issuance of free air fares to perform the pilgrimage in Mecca for Islamic officers serving the Johor government. He was exiled to Singapore in 1927 for criticising the Sultan of Johor, and there he began a career in journalism. He was the editor of an independent Malay daily, *Warta Ahad*, and nine years later returned to Johor. He left his post of Menteri Besar to concentrate on being the President of Umno and moved to Kuala Lumpur. However his suggestion that Umno be opened to other races in Malaya in order to resolve the racial issue in politics was opposed by the Malays and he resigned as President in 1951. Besides being the founder of Umno, he was also responsible for the social economic welfare of the Malays by setting up Rural Industrial Development Authority (Rida). Although he failed to win in the General Election in 1955 to become the first Prime Minister of Malaya, he had played an important role in paving the way for Malaya to achieve independence on August 31, 1957. He had seven children with Datin Halimah Hussin. His son Tun Hussein Onn is the country's third Prime Minister.

Azizah (1897 - 1975)
 m. Syed Mohammed Syed Omar Aslagoff

Syed Omar
Sharifah Azah (1928 -)
 m. Prof DiRaja Ungku Abdul Aziz
 Well known for her work for promoting Malay culture.

Tan Sri Dr Ungku Zeti Akhtar Aziz
Kalsom
 m. Lt Jen (E/B) Datuk Wan Ismail

Ahmad (1900 - 1939)
Yahya (1904 - 1949)

Mohamed (1898 - 1919)
 m. Halimah Hussin
 (after his death, she married Datuk Onn)
Abid (1917 - 1945)
 m. Normah
Zainal Abidin (1919 - 1995)

Ismail
 m. Aishah Abdullah
Abrizah
 m. Abu Bakar Yusoff

Datuk Mohamed
 m. Datin Marina Kamaliah Tan Sri Haji Anwar

Radziwill
Hafez
Datin Mastisa Hani
 m. Datuk Mokhzani
Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad



Azizah Ja'afar, grandmother of Bank Negara governor, Tan Sri Dr Ungku Zeti.

Note: Due to space constraints, not all branches of the family tree can be shown.
 Sources: *Sejarah Melayu: History of the Malay Peninsula*
Reflections of Pre-Independence Malaya by Mohamed Abid
Sejarah Malaysia (sejarahmalaysia.pnm.my)

Selected photos courtesy of Lt Jen (Rtd) Datuk Ja'afar Onn

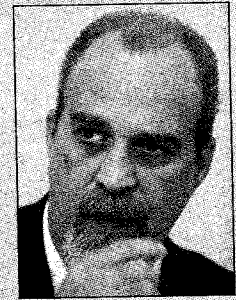
Tan Sri Dr Ungku Zeti Akhtar Aziz (1948 -)
 m. Datuk Dr Tawfiq Ayman

She was the first woman among four assistant governors appointed to Bank Negara in 1995. During the economic crisis in 1988, she was appointed acting governor of Bank Negara. She held the post of deputy governor for two years before being appointed governor of Bank Negara Malaysia on May 1, 2000.



Sharifah Faizah

Prof Dr Syed Ali Tawfik (1965 -)
 A well known Islamic scholar who is the current director-general of Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (Ikim). He co-wrote "Abdullah Ahmad Badawi: Revivalist of an Intellectual Tradition, with Datuk Ng Tieh Chuan.



Sharifah Shifa (1966 -)
 First general editor for Istac's publications. Wrote "Istac Illuminated: A Pictorial Tour of the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization".



Datin Roquaiya Hanim
 m. Datuk Ghazi Ishak

Puan Sri Dr Suraya Hani
 m. Tan Sri Yahya Awang

Roziah Hanis
 m. Harun Halim Rasip

Dr Rozita Halina

Datuk Haris Onn
 m. Datin Shazlin Zain



Datuk Seri Hishamuddin (1961 -)
 m. Datin Seri Tengku Marsilla Tengku Abdullah
 Current Education Minister and head of Umno Youth.



Roquaiya Hanim, whose descendents went on to make names for themselves in the area of politics, academia and finance.