

Translator's Note: below is adapted from General Liu Chien-hsu's autobiography, to serve as the sources for Liu Chien-hsu's Genealogy being published here.

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III. THE LIU GENEALOGY¹

I do not have a stemma of the Liu clan at hand, but, according to the elders, our ancestors were descendants of the royal family, who migrated from Jiangsu (江蘇)² to Jiangxi (江西)³, one of the grandsons being Yuanwang (元旺公). By the end of the Yuan Dynasty (元朝)⁴, they again migrated from Jiangxi (江西) to Chaling (茶陵)⁵ of Hunan (湖南)⁶, cultivating farms and raising kids. Among them a distinguished son was Paifeng (沛豐), whose grandson was Huaizhou (淮洲公), who migrated to Qing An Pu (清安鋪)⁷ of Liling (澧陵) at the start of the Ming Dynasty (明朝)⁸, making a living in farming. Of his six sons, the eldest son Ting Shi (廷仕) was my ancestor. As years went by, the family grew. A temple, the Liu Clan Temple, was built in Lu Xia Shan Square (路下山廣場) in honor of Huaizhou (淮洲公). It was a magnificent grand building, and had smaller temples built in the center of Qing An Pu (清安鋪) and other locations. Income from the estate of the Temple was good, and ancestor worship and anniversaries were observed. In 1905 (Guangxu 1st year), the Temple constructed and funded Liu clan's Lanyi (蘭誼) junior and senior primary schools (see footnote **Error! Bookmark not defined.**), whose quality of education became legendary. Since the birth of my great-grandfather Heting (和亭公), 162 years (as of 1975) have passed. Below is the family tree of my direct ancestors of three generations—me, and my direct descendants of two generations—six generations in all.

1st generation	Great-grandfather: Heting (和亭公) Great grandmother: Yu (余氏)
2nd generation	Grandfather: Xianyun (獻雲公) Grandmother: Zhang (張氏)
3rd generation	Father: Fuying (輔瑛公) Mother: Chen Xian (陳顯氏)
4th generation	(me) Chien-hsu (Jianxu 建緒) 1st wife (deceased): Huang Huazhen (黃華珍氏) 2nd wife: Chang Swai Ching (Zhang Cuiqing, 張萃青氏)
5th generation	Eldest son: Kai (奇凱) daughter-in-law: Alice (阿立士)

¹ The first two paragraphs citing a passage from Volume 71 of an ancient classic work, [New Book of Tang](#); [PDF](#) (新唐書), has been omitted until the translator finds the official English version of it, if any.

² Jiangsu (江蘇): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jiangsu>; [PDF](#)

³ Jiangxi (江西): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jiangxi>; [PDF](#)

⁴ Yuan Dynasty (元朝): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yuan_dynasty; [PDF](#)

⁵ Chaling (茶陵), (Chinese text) <http://baike.baidu.com/view/899254.htm>; [PDF](#)

⁶ Hunan (湖南): <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hunan>; [PDF](#)

⁷ Qing An Pu (清安鋪) (Chinese entry only): <http://www.lxdaj.gov.cn/read.php?Pid=2769>; [PDF](#)

⁸ Ming Dynasty (明朝): http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ming_dynasty; [PDF](#)

	Second son: Lee (奇立)	
	Daughter-in-law: Dalaya ⁹ (達拉雅)	
	Third son: Hsu (曙)	
	Daughter-in-law:	
	Fourth son: Ziming (子明)	
	Daughter-in-law: Elizabeth (綺麗紗伯)	
	Eldest daughter: Shuzheng (淑徵)	
	Son-in-law: Xu Zhenl (徐振旅)	
	Second daughter: Youzheng (友徵)	
	Son-in-law: Zhang Kaimao (張開茅)	
	Third daughter: Su (素)	
	Son-in-law: Wang Jihui (王繼輝)	
6th generation ¹⁰	Sons' side	Eldest grandson: Qixing (啟興)
		Eldest granddaughter: Meng Yi (孟儀)
		Second granddaughter: Ji Qiong (季瓊)
	Daughters' side	Eldest grandson: Zhang Xiaoming (張曉明)
		Second grandson: Wang Nianpu (王念蒲)
		Third grandson: Liang Hua (亮華)
		Eldest granddaughter: Xu Jiarui (徐家瑞)
		Grandson-in-law: Zhang Daixun (張戴勳)
		Second granddaughter: Zhang Xiaorong (張曉榕)
		Third granddaughter: Zhang Xiaolu (張曉璐)
		Fourth granddaughter: Zhang Xiaoning (張曉寧)
		Fifth granddaughter: Louise (樂易色)

My great grandfather Heting (和亭公, pseudonym 舉鉦, 賢良, 方正, 舉) was born in 1813. He was honest and frugal, and believed in Buddhism so much that he nicknamed himself “Monk of Honesty” (誠一居士¹¹). A farmer as he was, he could read and write, and was knowledgeable in Buddhist scriptures. He was married to Yu (余氏), who gave birth to a son and two daughters. The son was my grandfather Xianyun (獻雲公). The eldest daughter was married to Jiang (江) family of the same village, at Pan Jia He (潘家河), but did not have children. The second daughter was married to Wen (文) family, also of the same village, at Mo Jia Zui (莫家嘴). They had two sons, Qi Guang (起廣) and Qi Feng (起豐), both being farmers. Qi Feng (起豐) had quite a lot of children, but their whereabouts were unknown. My great grandfather Heting (和亭公) died in 1893, of illness, at age 80. In his will, he asked that my grandfather Xianyun (獻雲公)

⁹ Dalaya: for all western names, the translator is making no attempt to authenticate the spelling, unless General Liu's family members find it necessary to send me the corrections.

¹⁰ There are, of course, new additions to the family since 1975, and 7th generation are lining up strong. As a translation, let's leave it as it was, as of 1975

¹¹ 居士 literally means “someone staying at home”, and was a term many intellectuals liked to refer to themselves, who believed in Buddhism, but most likely were not real monks: <http://baike.baidu.com/view/34163.htm>; PDF

and my father Fuying (輔瑛公) should see that his great grandson Huixian (恢先)¹² should learn to read well and prosper so as to end the sorry predicament in the Liu family that for three successive generations only one son was born to a generation, and no one had learned to read well. My great grandfather's dying wish would have a great impact on my life. My great grandmother died before I was born, and she was buried together with my great grandfather in the north of Liling (澧陵), on the burial site for the Liu clan at Li Jia Chong (李家冲), Qing An Jing (清安境)

My grandfather Xianyun (獻雲公, pseudonym 佐曜, 佐, 輔建, 奇勛) was squarely built. He dropped school at middle age to come back to farming. Plain, straight-minded and kind-hearted, he took delight in helping the poor and the miserable, and was well respected by the villagers, who addressed him as Junior Master Liu (劉二公). His wife Zhang (張氏) was a woman of virtue, and managed the household well. She gave birth to a son and a daughter. That son was my father Fuying (輔瑛公). That daughter was married to a scholar Huang Qinshan (黃欽山) and had two sons and three daughters. The two sons were Xi He (錫河) and Xi Tao (錫滔), while the three daughters were Tian (田), Hua (華), and Man (滿). All of them were married, but whereabouts unknown. My grandfather passed away in 1898, of illness, at age 60. He was buried on the burial site for the Liu clan at Xue Gong Tang (雪公塘), San Bei Chong (三背冲) in the same village.

My father was Huang Ru (璜如公), pseudonym Fuying (輔瑛公). He was tall and heavy, smart and quick to learn. He had registered two times for the imperial examination, but both times prevented by illness to sit for the examination. His self-esteem, however, did not prevent him from losing sight, and he dedicated his life to teaching and helping bringing up other young people. He was learned in Chinese medicine and was credited for curing a lot of people. His wife Chen Xian (陳顯氏) was the eldest daughter of Chen Weizhen (陳維珍公), of Banshanpu (板杉鋪), same village, who lived to be 96 years old.. Chen Xian (陳顯氏) was 18 when she married my father. She gave birth first to Yaojia (耀家) my eldest sister, then to Junxian (浚先) my eldest brother, next to Yushan (玉珊) my second sister, next me Huixian (恢先), finally Shouxian (守先) my third brother. My father died of illness in 1899 at the age of 36. He was buried in Liu clan's burial site at Ban Tang Chong (澁塘冲). My mother died of illness in 1916, at age 54, and was buried in Liu clan's burial site at Qing An Pu (清安鋪), Huangjiali (黃甲里).

I am Liu Huixian (恢先), pseudonym Chien-hsu, or Jianxu (建緒), born in 1892 (twenty years before the founding of Republic of China) in north of Liling (澧陵), Changsha (長沙府), Hunan (湖南) Province. Liling (澧陵) was in a remote, hilly region, with no roads, little farming land but a lot of people—poverty-stricken, backward-laden people.

In 1908, upon his graduation from primary school, my third brother Shouxian (守先) voluntarily came home to help his eldest brother Junxian (浚先) on the farm. Only then did our family manage to make both ends meet. In this year, my eldest sister was married to a young peasant Geng Zaichuan (耿在川) of Bengshan (崩山), same village. My eldest brother Junxian (浚先) was married to cousin Huang Tian (黃田). In 1909, my second sister Yushan (玉珊) was married

¹²Huixian (恢先) and Chien-hsu or Jianxu (建緒) were one and the same. At the time, most people had a name at birth, then another or more when he grew up or attended school.

to a young peasant Peng Daoren (彭道仁), of Zhe Tang Ping (蔗塘坪), same village. During the winter vacation of 1910, arranged by my mother, I came home to wed Huang Huazhen (黃華珍), the second daughter of Huang Wenxiu (黃文秀), of the same village. Under my mother, all family members respected and cared for each other, and lived in harmony and happiness. In 1912 (ROC 1st), also arranged by mother, my third brother Shouxian (守先) was married to cousin Chen Yuan (陳圓).

I married my current wife on April 12, 1928 in Changsha (長沙). She was Chang Swai Ching (Zhang Cuiqing, 張萃青氏), the third daughter of Zhang Xumei (張緒梅公), of my village. She gave birth to four sons and three daughters. In 1934, my eldest brother Junxian (浚先) decided that it was time to break the large family into smaller ones so that parents could better supervise their children. My eldest brother Junxian (浚先) stayed in the west wing of our family home, Liu Ti Temple (劉體公祠), while my third brother Shouxian (守先) took residence in the east wing. Both made a living in farming. I and my family lived in Kang Zhuang (康莊), Hua Long Chi (化龍池) in Changsha (長沙).

My family joined me in 1941 when I left army to serve as committee member and chairman of Fujian Provincial Government, and was stationed in the war-time provincial capital of Yong'an (永安)¹³. In 1948, I resigned from all posts and retired with my family to Hunan (湘, 湖南), with the hope to rest and recuperate.

¹³ Yong'an (永安): <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/654950/Yongan>; PDF