

HOW TO FIND YOUR 5,000 YEAR OLD CHINESE FAMILY ROOTS© (in 6 not-so-easy steps)

1) Find out how your family name is written in Chinese: Locating your Father's surname as written in Chinese characters and its current pinyin equivalent Mandarin phonetic pronunciation opens up the Internet for research. The phonetic transliteration of your surname into Western alphabet is irrelevant: our Western name is Lee, Liu, Chong, Wachong and other variations. In my case the Chinese character is easy to remember: two hungry mouths joined by chopsticks, and the Mandarin pinyin equivalent in internet is "Lü" with diacritics. With the pinyin spelling you can research that family's ancestry in Internet.



2) Location: find out if there is a state, region or city with the same name. Our surname originated from the ancient State of Lü, located West of Nanyang, in Henan. The name of our first ancestor was Lü Shang (11th century BC), he founded the State of Qi, and was the first person known to have the surname. Lü is the 22nd surname listed in the Song Dynasty classic text *Hundred Family Surnames*. Our family's original name was Jiang, and after enfeoffment, took LÜ as their surname. The rulers of the four states of Qi, Xu, Shen and Lü all had the surname Jiang (姜), thereby claiming a common ancestry. **Lü** (simplified Chinese: 吕; traditional Chinese: 呂; pinyin: *Lǚ*) was a Zhou dynasty vassal state in present-day central China in the early years of the Spring and Autumn period (722-481 BC). Chinese written history and family records and may be traced back to the 11th century BC according to some scholars.

3) Ethnic origin: Ask your Chinese relatives what sub-language your parents spoke at home, since this identifies them as belonging to a particular ethnic group : in our case, the Hakka people of Han origin in Southern Canton/Guangdong. The Chinese characters for *Hakka* (客家) literally mean "guest families"~The Hakkas originated from the lands bordering the Yellow River (i.e., the modern northern Chinese provinces of Shanxi, Henan, and Hubei). In a series of migrations over centuries after the fall of the Ming Dynasty in 1633, the Hakkas moved and settled in south China, and later many migrated overseas to various countries throughout the world. The worldwide population of Hakkas is about 80 million. Sun Yat Sen, Deng Xiaoping, Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek and Lee Kuan Yew (Singapore) are among ethnic Hakkas.

4) Family Record Book : every Chinese family keeps a Family Record Book, which might be located by contacting the Family Clan Temple in your parent's place of origin in China: In it they record the names, Generational Names, number of children and location of their descendants. During the Cultural Revolution, some families burnt their records. The families are organized into Clans by surname and often keep a Family Temple in every town which serves as a Birthplace Registry. They can track down which may have been your ancestral branch, and those who

migrated out of China around 1850. In 2010 we luckily received a copy of the Lú Family Record Book written in Chinese from a relative in Canton. It contains the names of 106 Generations of our family, starting in the 9th Century b.c. to 2000 a.d. The information in this Family Record Book (which I call "The Lee Family Chronicles") may be checked and related to Chinese history, as recorded among the China's earliest written records, such as the ancient writings of Sima Qian: Classical "Records of the Grand Historian", others like the "Spring and Autumn Annals", as well as the "Bamboo Annals". They are among the oldest written records of Chinese tribal, feudal and dynastic origin back to the 11th century b.c. By looking up the Name and Surname of one person who is recorded in our Family Record Book as part of Generation No. 12, I located Mr. Lü Xiaobai. The rest of his history as "Duke Huan of Qi" is easily traced because today the Internet provides his name, original Family name, current surname, generational name and the names and dates of his father, siblings and children of the male line in both Chinese and English. Chinese have several names and titles over their lifetime which spices up the search.

5) **Generational Name**: Every Chinese male has a generational name through which the Chinese keep track of their genetic and blood family members. The name is decided several centuries in advance. In our case sometime around 1733, our Lú Ancestor of Generation No. 90 arrived to the town of Tung Muy in Heshan, Canton. As a sign of faith in the future, there he selected the names of the following 16 generations, starting with Generation 90, and ending with Generation 106. His tomb marks the place where he settled with 5 children after being pursued from his birthplace in the North to the South of Canton. He was a Ming Dynasty loyalist who was being chased by the army of the Qing Dynasty and his flight was joined by thousands of other Chinese. The list he chose has 2 sets of 8 names each for a total of 16 generations. All male children of each generation are christened with their generational name, so that the entire Clan knows how they are related to everybody else with the same surname for centuries. Each male memorizes their particular Generational List (which I call "The Family Poem").

6) **Recovering the Family Poem** was the longest part of my search, because like many Overseas Chinese who are not born in China, I don't speak or read Chinese and it required endless conversations with ageing relatives in faulty Spanish and pidgin Chinese. It required interviewing family members over a 45 year period, but eventually gave birth to the reconstruction of the written names of our last 16 generations. By luck, in 2012 we discovered that our Family Poem was an exact match of the names written in page 39 of the Lee Family Chronicles. This match between our "Family Poem" and the "Lee Family Chronicles" ties us to that specific Lú Family's records. The book registers the history, names and dates of a total of 106 Lee Generations over the span of 3,000 years. We were able to trace the rest of the Lú Clan's for another foggy 2,000 years, reaching a total of 5,000 years of recorded history.

My father was Generation 98 in the Record Book. His Generational Name was "Ching" which means "brilliant or meaningful" while my brother and I belong to generation No. 99 with the Generational Name "Sun" which means "purity or innocence". I therefore can track all family members of my Generation, whether siblings or cousins, who carry the same surname "Lú", and the same generational name, "Sun". This opens up the ancestry of the entire Lú Clan and gives access to our Family's history through all the written records of China's history. Bon chance!

GENERATIONAL NAMES SELECTED BY OUR ANCESTOR OF GENERATION 90 AROUND 1733 OF THE MOST RECENT 16 GENERATIONS (1733 TO 2015 AD) OF OUR LEE FAMILY

Handwritten notes:
 Total: 2 pages
 See details in Annex "A"
 According to the Chronicles of 100 Generations of the Lee Family
 Lee Family of Hoc San, Canton - China
 16 Generation Poem
 Gen. N° 90 The fifth son, Mr. TING WONG, Circa 1733 AD
 Mr. Ting Wong, Generation N° 90, has 5 children. N° 91, who moves to the USA Circa 1780 AD
 More than 200 years ago, the Council of Elders of the Lee Clan got together and selected the second set of 8 names that would be given to the males in each generation of the Lee Family. The first 8 names were chosen around 1638 (assuming 20 years per generation). We thank Manuel Lee (Yao Hung) for having located the book where Uncle Antonio wrote the Lee Family 16 Generation names. We also thank Alfredo Lee for remembering a crucial part of the poem, and our friend Francis Shue Mo for the translation. Please keep this poem for future generations...we almost lost it!

	Canonesc	Spanish	English	Canonesc	Spanish	English	Estilos
<i>MAN ARIN</i>	Estilos	(1) Ting	Patio	Hearth	9) Sun	Pureza - Purity	Gen # 99
	Mano Escrita Imp. Escrita	Sala			CRUPUR 10	Inocencia - Innocence	Mano Escrita Imp. Escrita
	庭庭				Alfredo Lee, Jose Lao Lee, Fo Yin, Tin Soon, Manuel Lee, Luis Wachong Ho, Agronomo Herman Wachong, ALFREDO LEE HERERA, Eberts Wachong, JOSE ANTONIO K O CHIM, OMAR LEE	王榮 劉律崇 呂次仁 呂水本 呂有佳	純純
	Generation N° 91	(2) Ching	Claridad	Clarity	10) Hee (jih) Hih	Brillante	Brilliant
	清清	Limpio			Alfredo Lee, Ricardo Chong, Angelita Lai, Yensi Wachong, Yarad Lao, Gerardo y Ana Lee, Luis y David Wachong Fu, Gabriel Wachong, Andres Du YIU WAT LEE	呂偉濤 呂錫雄	熙熙
	Generation N° 92	(3) Wen	Elegancia	Elegance	11) Yung	Eternidad	Eternity
<i>WEN N° 93</i>	文文	MAU			CHI PAN, WILIAM, Molly, Steve y Michael Fung, Natalie Shang, Karla Chong	呂志鵬 呂偉康	永永
<i>N° 94</i>	鳳鳳	(4) Fung	Ave Fenix	Phoenix	12) Ching	Celebrar	Celebrate
<i>N° 95</i>	思思	(5) See (Shi) Pensa - miento	Thought		13) Yee (Yi)	Ajedrez	Chess
<i>N° 96</i>	兆兆	(6) Chao Siu 10,000 millones	10,000 millions		14) Shih	Mundo	World
<i>N° 97</i>	嘉嘉	(7) KA (4 hermanos) (4 brothers)	Bondad Bueno Kind Good		15) Kang	Salud	Health
<i>KA N° 97</i>	嘉嘉	a) Ka SEN c) Ka SUN b) Ka TON			16) Ning	Tranquilidad	Tranquility
	Generation N° 95	(8) Ching	Brillante	Brilliant	16) Ning	Tranquilidad	Tranquility
	徵徵	Luis Wachong Lee, Jose Luis Wachong, Papa de Alfredo Lee, Antonio			Lee Kam Ching		
	Generation N° 100	(9) Yee	100 Millones		呂錫雄 (呂金水)		
	奕奕	(10) Shih	Mundo Generaciones		呂錫徵 (呂新有)		
	Generation N° 101	(11) Kang	Salud	Health	呂錫康 (呂錫康)		
	康康	(12) Ning	Tranquilidad	Tranquility	Lee Yie Ching		
	Generation N° 102	(13) Ching	Brillante	Brilliant	Lee Kam Ching		
	寧寧	(14) Ning	Tranquilidad	Tranquility	Lee Kam Ching		

Additional handwritten notes on the left:
 MAN ARIN
 WEN N° 93
 N° 94
 N° 95
 N° 96
 KA N° 97
 Instructions
 M. BOND
 T. V. O.
 P. R. S.
 OTATIVO