

The Very Beginning

(written with great honor by cousin Basilio Chen 鄭/郑华树)

The Roots

Chang Kee traces his family roots as the 87th descendant of Duke Huan of Zheng (鄭桓公), thus posthumously, Dr. Holt Cheng is referred to in the ancient family genealogical tradition Duke Holt Cheng, descendant of the royal family Zhou (周) from the Western Zhou Dynasty.

The roots and family history of Chang Kee starts over 2,800 years ago in the Zhou Dynasty (周朝) when King Xuan (周宣王, 841 BC - 781 BC), the eleventh King of the Zhou Dynasty, made his younger brother Ji You (姬友, 806 BC-771 BC) the Duke of Zheng, establishing what would be the last bastion of Western Zhou (西周朝) and at the same time establishing the first person to adopt the surname Zheng (also Romanized as Cheng in Wades-Giles Dictionary of Pronunciation). The surname Zheng (鄭) which means "serious" or "solemn", is also unique in that is the only few surname that also has a City-State name associated it, Zhengzhou city (鄭國 or 鄭州 in modern times).

Thus, the State of Zheng (鄭國) was officially established by the first Zheng (鄭,) Duke Huan of Zheng (鄭桓公), in 806 BC as a city-state in the middle of ancient China, modern Henan Province. Its ruling house had the surname Ji (姬), making them a branch of the Zhou royal house, and were given the rank of bo (伯, 爵), corresponding roughly to an earl. Later, this branch adopted officially the surname Zheng (鄭) and thus Ji You (or Earl Ji You, as it would refer to in royal title) was known posthumously as Duke Huan of Zheng (鄭桓公) becoming the first person to adopt the family surname of Zheng (鄭), Chang Kee's family name in Chinese.

The Royal Descendants of Zheng

The state of Zheng (鄭國) was one of the strongest at the beginning of the Spring and Autumn Period. Zheng was the first Zhou state to annex another state, Xi, in 712 BC. Throughout the Spring and Autumn Period (春秋時代), Zheng was one of the wealthiest states, relying on its central location for inter-state commerce and having the largest number of merchants of any state. Zheng often used its wealth to bribe itself out of difficult situations.

After King Xuan (周宣王) passed away, Duke Huan of Zheng (鄭桓公) later served as prime minister to [King You of Zhou](#). Starting a long history of succession, his son, Duke Wu of Zheng (鄭武公 also Earl Ji Juetu 姬掘突), succeeded him after he was killed during a barbarian invasion. The son Duke Wu of Zheng (鄭武公) helped suppress the invasion for King Ping of Zhou and reestablished the Zheng Dukedom.

The grandson of Duke Huan of Zheng (鄭桓公, the first Zheng/Zheng in history) was Duke Zhuang (鄭莊公) who became factually the first hegemon (ba 霸) of the Spring and Autumn (春秋) era, when the Zheng State (鄭國) located among others grew powerful because of their territorial resources.

The Zheng Dukedom was later conquered by the Han Dukedom in 375 BC and the family has borne the name of the Dukedom ever since.

Table 1 depicts the lineage of Zheng rulers until the end of the Dukedom in 375 BC.

Rulers of Zheng 鄭	
Capital: Xinzheng 新鄭 (modern Xinzheng/Henan)	
Zheng Huangong 鄭桓公 (Ji You 姬友; an uncle of King Zhou Xuanwang)	806-771
Zheng Wugong 鄭武公 (Ji Juetu 姬掘突)	770-744
Zheng Zhuangong 鄭莊公 (Ji Wusheng 姬寤生)	743-701
Zheng Ligong 鄭厲公 (Ji Tu 姬突)	700-697
Zheng Zhaogong 鄭昭公	696-695
Ziwei, Ruler of Zheng 鄭子亶	694
The Infant Ruler of Zheng 鄭子嬰 (Ji Wei 姬嬰)	693-680
Ji Yi, Viscount of Zheng 鄭子(姬)儀	679-673
Zheng Ligong 鄭厲公 (again)	679-673
Zheng Wengong 鄭文公 (Ji Jie 姬捷)	672-628
Zheng Mugong 鄭穆公 (Ji Lan 姬蘭)	627-606
Zheng Lingong 鄭靈公 (Ji Yi 姬夷)	605
Zheng Xiangong 鄭襄公 (Ji Jian 姬堅)	604-587
Zheng Daogong 鄭悼公 (Ji Fei 姬[水+費])	586-585
Zheng Chengong 鄭成公 (Ji Hun 姬論)	584-571
Zheng Xigong 鄭釐公 (or Xigong 僖公; Ji Kunwan 姬髡頑)	570-566
Zheng Jiangong 鄭簡公 (Ji Jia 姬嘉)	565-530
Zheng Dingong 鄭定公 (Ji Ding 姬定)	529-514
Zheng Xiangong 鄭獻公 (Ji Chai 姬蠆)	513-501
Zheng Shengong 鄭聲公 (Ji Sheng 姬勝)	500-463
Zheng Aigong 鄭哀公 (Ji Yi 姬易)	462-424
Zheng Yougong 鄭幽公 (Ji Yi 姬已)	423
Zheng Xugong 鄭繻公 (Ji Tai 姬駘)	422-396
Zheng Kangong 鄭康公 (Ji Yi 姬乙)	395-375
375 Zheng Dukedom destroyed by the Han Dynasty	

The Saga Continues

Historical records shows that in the Jin Dynasty (晉朝, 265–420 CE), Duke Zheng Houchao (鄭侯昭公), direct descendant of Duke Huan of Zheng (鄭桓公) son of King Xuan (周宣王) of the Western Zhou Dynasty (周朝), established his family, by imperial edict, to Putian (莆田) prefecture-level city in eastern Fujian (福建) province for the purposes of educating and developing this region,. From this southern ancestral branch, a subsequent edict during the Song Dynasty (宋朝) (960–1279 CE), Duke Zheng Jusou (鄭菊叟 or because he was the 10th son of the family, also called Xingshi 鄭行十公, 1022CE-1093CE) establish in the year 1044 CE in the Xiangshan County (香山縣, which means "Fragrant Mountain") which is just 26 km or 16 miles north of Macau. Duke Zheng Xingshi governed the establishment and development of Xiangshan County, now modern Zhongsan City (中山縣).

The Xiangshan County (香山縣) became the birth place to Dr. Sun Yat Sen (孫中山), the Father and Founder of modern China. Dr. Sun Yat Sen was born November 12, 1866 in the village of Cuiheng (翠亨村), Xiangshan county (香山縣) in the Guangzhou prefecture (廣州府) of Guangdong province(廣東省).

After Dr. Sun Yat Sen passed away in 1925 the County's name of Xiangshan county (香山縣) was changed to Zhongshan County (中山縣) in memory of Dr. Sun Yat Sen or Sun Zhongsan. Modern Zhongsan City (中山市) a prefecture-level city in the south of the Pearl River Delta in Guangdong province in southern China, near Hong Kong, Zhenshen and Macau.

After Duke Zheng Xingshi (鄭行十公) established in Zhongsan County, he lived in SanXiang Town (三乡镇). Many offsprings of Duke Zheng Xingshi assisted in the affairs of the County and region. In 1044 CE, a 14th generation of Duke Zheng Xingshi officially moved the family branch to the Wushi Village. This became the official Wushi Village branch of the family, where later Chang Kee was to be born and establishing Duke Chang Kee as the 87th Descendant of Duke Huan of Zheng (鄭桓公).