

# Chen Genealogy and Lineage

1

CHEN SURNAME  
HUANG VILLAGE CHIN FAMILY TREE

[HTTP://SITES.FITNYC.EDU/USERS/GENE\\_CHIN/TREE/](http://SITES.FITNYC.EDU/USERS/GENE_CHIN/TREE/)

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潢村陳家族譜

# Chen (Oracle Bone Script and Bronze Writing)

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Oracle Bone Script (Chinese: 甲骨文; GPS: gāp-gūt-mūn/ pinyin: jiāgǔwén) – earliest form of known Chinese writing (2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC).



Bronze writing (Chinese: 金文; GPS: gīm-mūn/; pinyin: jīnwén), mainly in the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC.

GPS: **G**ene's **P**honetic **S**ystem – used in Hoisanva sites  
[http://sites.fitnyc.edu/users/gene\\_chin/hoisanva-sites/](http://sites.fitnyc.edu/users/gene_chin/hoisanva-sites/)

# More Bronze Writing

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Bronze (金文編裏的字) Characters

						
B19756	B19757	B19758	B19759	B19760	B19761	B19762
						
B19763	B19764	B19765	B19766	B19767	B19768	B19769

# Chen (Seal Script)

4



Seal Script (Traditional Chinese: 篆書; Simplified Chinese: 篆书; GPS: xùn-sī; pinyin: *zhuànshū*), standardized during the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC) by the First Emperor.



A red seal carved with Chen in it.

# More Seal Script

5

Seal (說文解字裏的篆體字)



LST Seal (六書通裏的篆體字) Characters

𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇
L31262	L31263	L31264	L31265	L31266	L31267	L31268
𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇
L31269	L31270	L31271	L31272	L31273	L04837	L04838
𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇
L04839	L04840	L04841	L04842	L04843	L04844	L04845
𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇	𦨇
L04846	L04847	L04848	L04849	L04850	L04851	L04852
𦨇						
L04853						

# Chen (Clerical Script and Cursive)

6

Clerical Script (Traditional Chinese: 隸書; Simplified Chinese: 隶书; GPS: lài-sī; pinyin: *lìshū*) dominant style during the Han Dynasty (206 BC–220 AD.

A large, bold character '陳' (Chen) in Clerical Script, rendered in black ink on a light beige background.

Cursive Script (Traditional Chinese: 草書; Simplified Chinese: 草书; GPS: tāo-sī; pinyin: *cǎoshū*) started c. 200 BC.

A large, fluid character '陳' (Chen) in Cursive Script, rendered in black ink on a light beige background.

# Chen 陳 (Regular Script– Trad. and Simp.)

7

陳

Regular Script or Standard Script (楷书[楷書]  
GPS: gäi-sii; pinyin: *kǎishū*); 繁体字[繁體字]  
GPS: fān-hāi-dù; pinyin: *fántǐzì*; Traditional  
Chinese characters, started ca. 200 AD.

陳

Regular Script or Standard Script (楷书[楷書]  
GPS: gäi-sii; pinyin: *kǎishū*); 简体字[簡體字]  
GPS: gān-hāi-dù; pinyin: *jiǎntǐzì* Simplified  
Chinese characters, officially started in 1956.

# Chen Tuteng (totem, coat-of-arms)

8



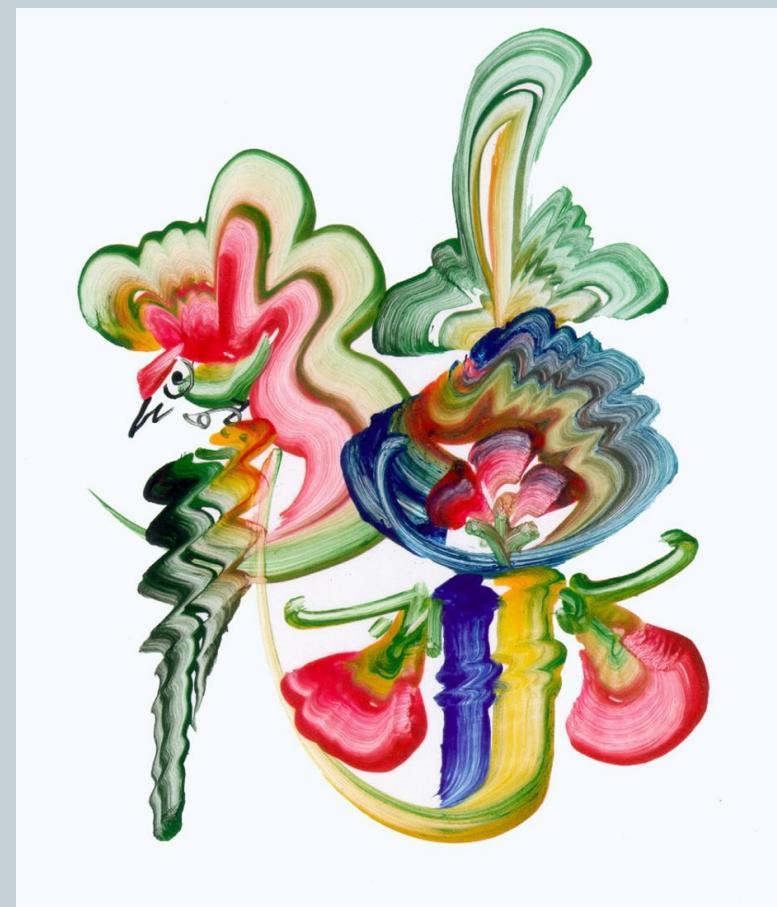
Traditional Chinese: 圖騰;  
Simplified Chinese: 图腾;  
GPS: hū-hāng; pinyin:  
*túténg*; English: totem;  
coat-of-arms.

The Chen 陳 Tuteng is a memorial to ancient ancestral astronomers who calibrated the sun to create the Chinese calendar. The triangular part in the middle bottom represents a mountain. The middle top portion with three branches represents a “magical” tree with the sun in the middle. The four pointers on the left and right sides are calibrations. As the character evolved, the mountain part and the right side were dropped, leaving us with the left side, stylized from oracle bone script\* to seal script\* to 阜 standard script, and further simplified to 𩚔 and the middle top to tree 木 with the sun 日 through it or east 東.

\* 𩚔

# Chen (Dragon and Phoenix style)

9



Dragon and Phoenix style of writing. These characters were painted by Zhao Zeming (趙澤明), Chinese artist.

# Romanizations of 陳

10

Not only are there different looking characters, but Romanization of 陳 has many different spellings:

**Chen** (Mandarin)

**Chan** (Cantonese)

**Chin** (Hoisanova, Japanese)

**Chinn** (Hoisanova)

**Chun** (Cantonese, Hoisanova)

**Tan** (Hokkien, Teochew)

**Trần** (Vietnam)

**Zen** (Wu)

**Ding** (Gan)

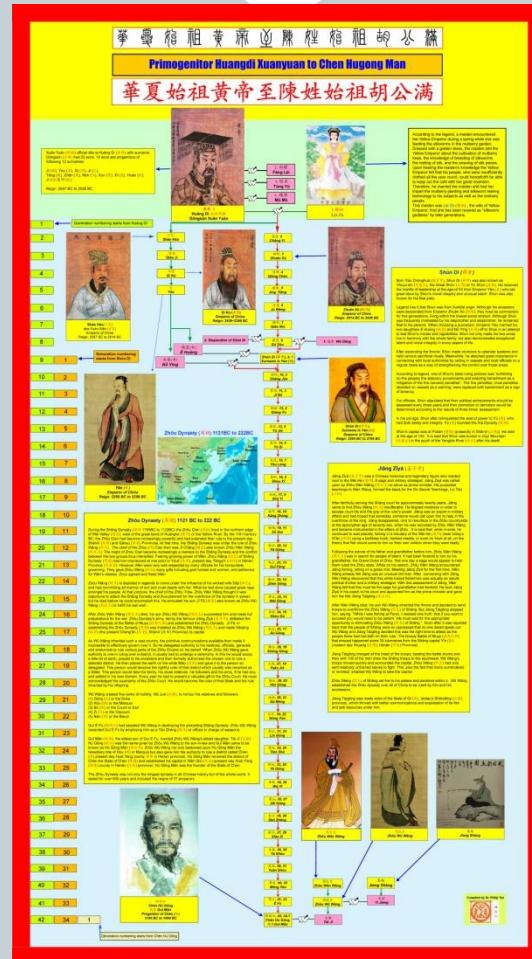
**Jin** (Korean)

**Chern** (Zhejiang)

**Chang** (Peru)

# Scroll 1: Huangdi to Chen Hugong

11



~2600 BC

Zhuān Xū (顓頊) 2514 BC to 2436 BC

Shùn Dì (舜帝) 2255 BC to 2195 BC

~1000 BC

# Huangdi (Yellow Emperor)

12



黃帝 Võng Äi *Huángdì* Huangdi (Yellow Emperor), official title of 公孫軒轅 Güns Xün Hëin Yõn *Gōngsūn Xuānyuán*, had 25 sons. Fourteen sons are progenitors of the following 12 surnames: 姬 Kï Jï, 西 Yiû Yõu, 祁 Kï Qí, 己 Gï Jï, 謄 Häng Téng, 箕 Jïm Zhēn, 任 Ngïm Rèn, 荀 Xün Xún, 僖 Hï Xï, 環 Vän Huán, 姒 Gït Jï and 依 Yï Yï. He was the progenitor of all Han Chinese. He was also called 有熊 GPS: Yiû-Hüng; pinyin: *Yóuxióng*. He reigned from 2698 BC to 2598 BC. His reign is credited with the introduction of wooden houses, carts, boats, the bow and arrow, and writing.

# Yellow Emperor's Mausoleum

13



The Yellow Emperor's Mausoleum is located in Huangling District, Shaanxi.  
陕西省黄陵县黄帝陵

# Youxiong Tribe (Huangdi) and Other Tribes

14

Map of Ancient Chinese Tribal Unions



By SY - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=60794173>



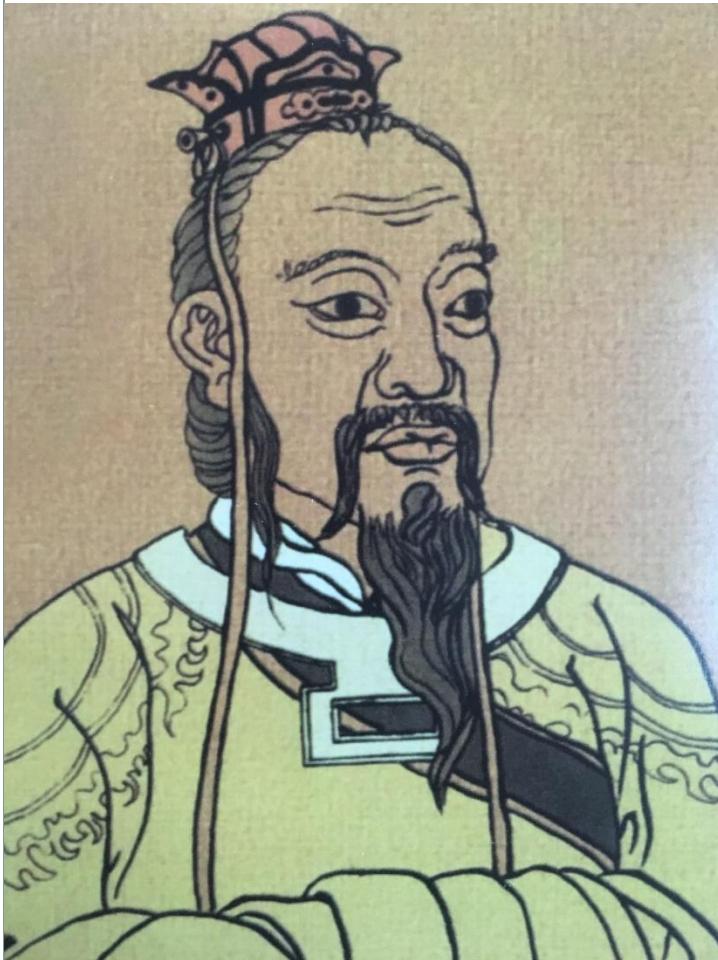
Huangdi defeated Yandi (炎帝 Yèm-äi Yándì) at the Battle of Banquan (阪泉 Bān-tūn Bǎnquán) and he defeated



Chiyou (蚩尤 Chī-Yiū Chīyóu) at the Battle of Zhuolu (涿鹿 Dēk-Lùk Zhuōlù).

# Emperor Shun (Shundi)

15



Shundi was a 9<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of Huangdi. Yaodi, his predecessor, not only gave him two daughters to be his wives but also later his throne since he always treated people with respect and kindness. People followed him for his natural leadership skills and compassionate nature.



# Shundi Mausoleum

16



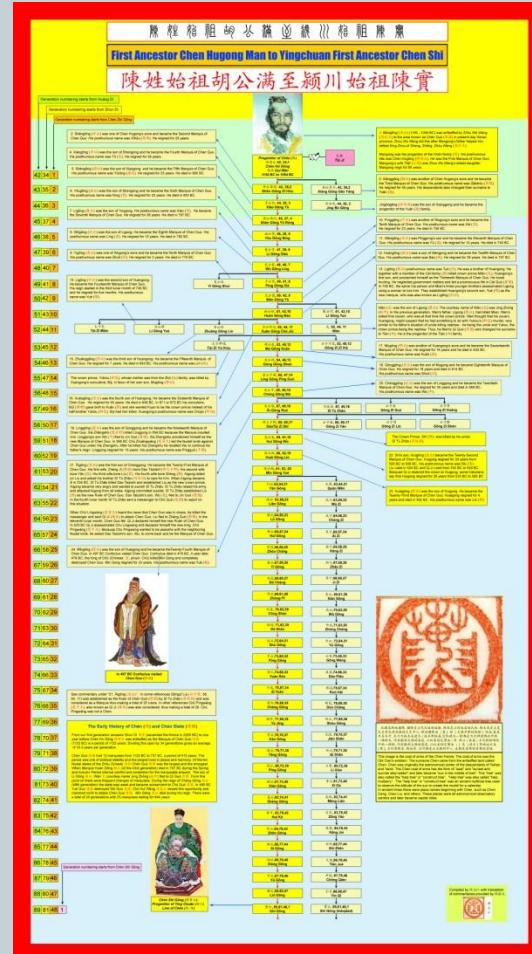
Shundi Mausoleum is located in Ningyuan District, Hunan Province (湖南省宁远县).



Yao's two princesses, Ehuang (Chinese: 娥皇; pinyin: É Huáng; Fairy Radiance) and Nuying (Chinese: 女英; pinyin: Nǚ Yīng; Maiden Bloom) were given to Shun for wives.

# Scroll 2: Chen Hugong to Chen Shi

17



~1000 BC

State of Chen 1046-478 BC

~150 AD

# Duke Hu of Chen

18

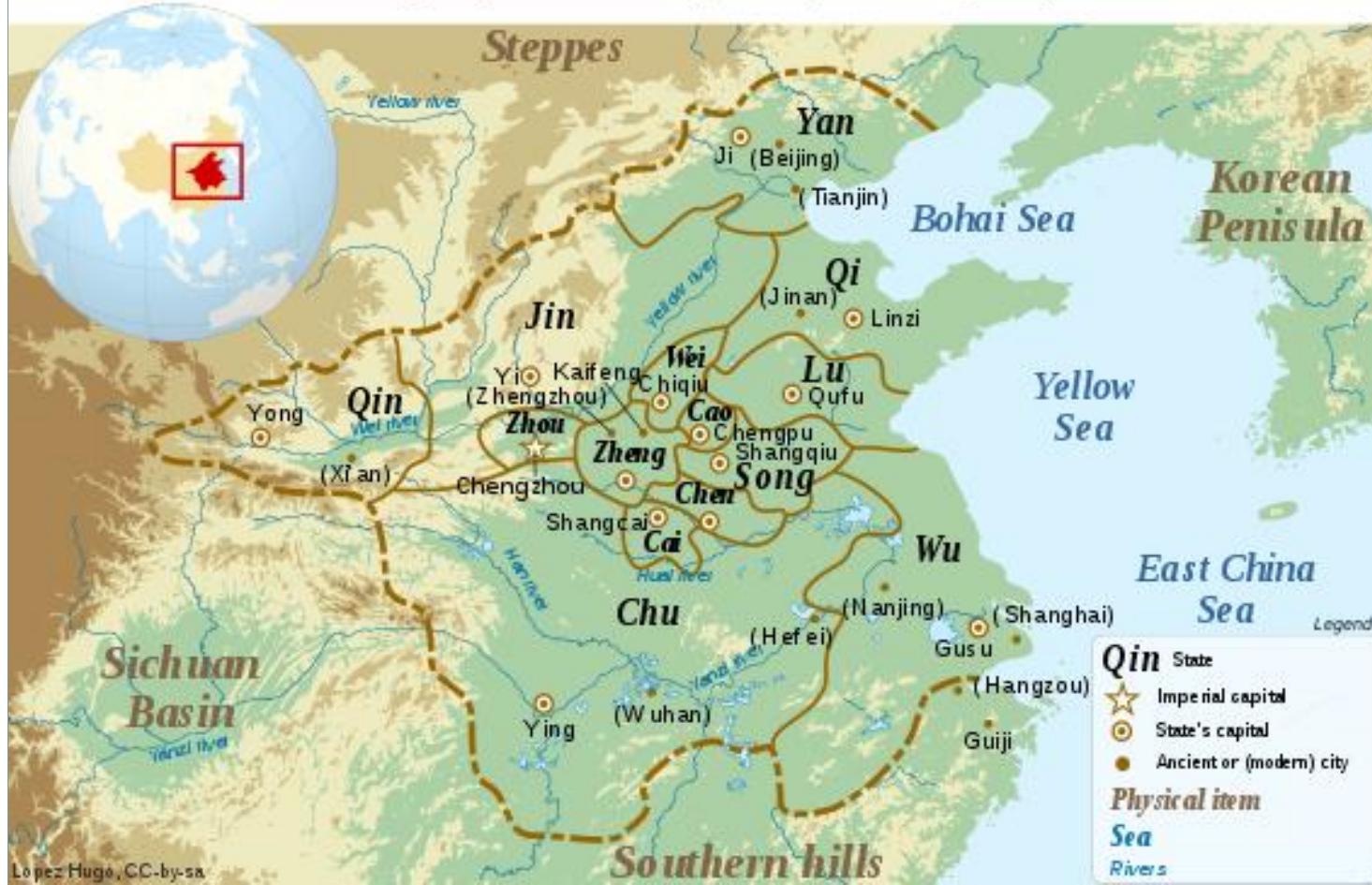
陳胡公 (Reign 1046/45 BC – ?) was a 42<sup>nd</sup> generation descendant of Huangdi. Because of his meritorious deeds in helping his father-in-law King Wu of Zhou, he was enfeoffed with the State of Chen 陳國, established in modern Henan Province in 1046/45 BC. Duke Hu is considered to be the founding ancestor of the surname Chen.



# The State of Chen

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*Chinese plain in the late Spring and Autumn period (5th century BC)*



After 24 Dukes of the State of Chen ruled for 20 generations from 1046/45 BC, it was finally destroyed by the King of Chu in 478 BC (about 568 years).

# Duke Hu of Chen Mausoleum Park

20

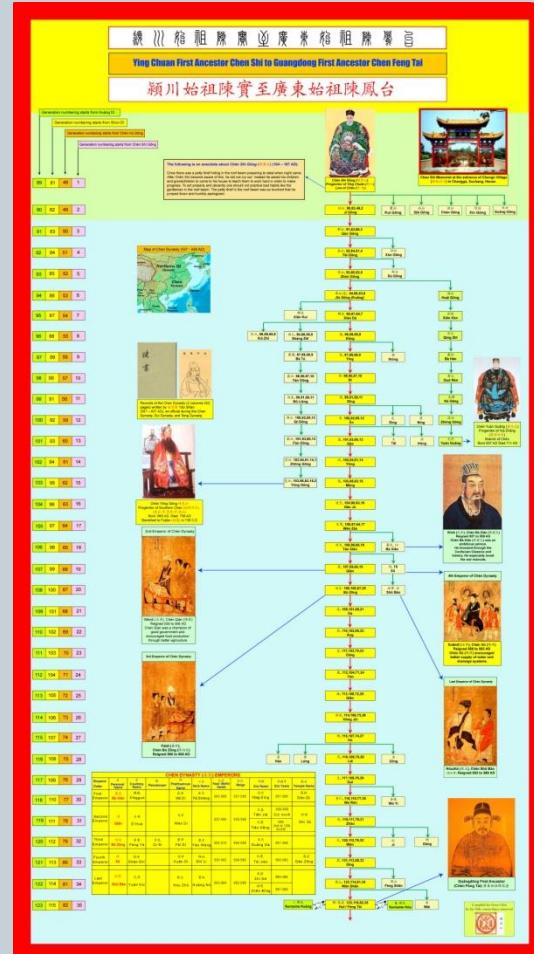


Duke Hu of Chen Mausoleum Park: map and entrance in 河南省淮阳县 Huaiyang District, Henan Province celebrating the 3100 anniversary. By my calculations Hugong was born in 1069 BC (生于商纣王七年十月十五日) and died 1036 BC (周成王九年正月十五日, 勿满去世.) Not quite 3100 years, but close enough.



# Scroll 3: Chen Shi to Chen Fengtai

21

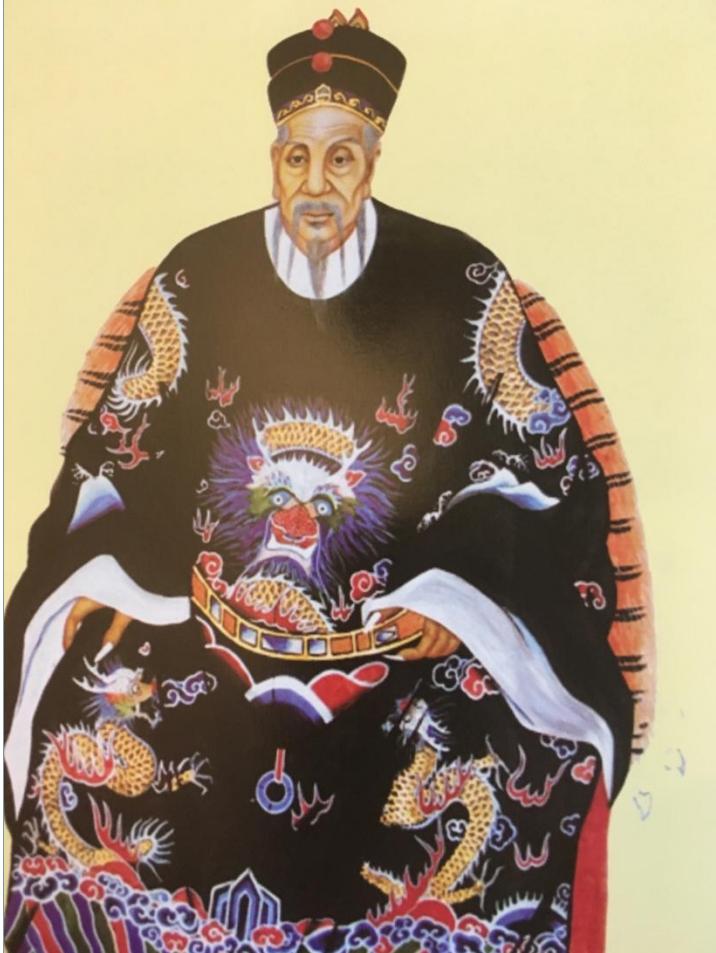


~1150 AD

# Chen Shi (陳寔: 104-187)

22

Chen Shi was an 89<sup>th</sup> generation descendant from Huangdi. He was the primogenitor of surname Chen (陳) of Yingchuan (潁川). He was a person of rightfulness, unprejudiced and generous and was held in high repute among the common people. When he died, a crowd of 30,000 attended his funereal.



Chen Shi discoursing with his followers.

# Old Map of Ying Chuan Prefecture in Henan

23



# An Anecdote About Chen Shí

24



Once there was a petty thief hiding in the roof beam preparing to steal when night came. After Chén Shí became aware of this, he did not cry out. Instead he asked his children and grandchildren to come to his house to teach them to work hard in order to make progress. To act properly and decently one should not practice bad habits like the **gentleman in the roof beam** (梁上君子). The petty thief in the roof beam was so touched that he jumped down and humbly apologized.

# Chen Shi's Tomb

25



# Chen Dynasty

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陳書 Chén Shū History of Chen Dynasty (two volumes) is one of 24 official history books of China.

# Emperor Wu of Chen (557 – 559)

27



Emperor Wu was not a direct ancestor to people of Huang Village.

**Baxian** (霸先 Bä Xēin Bàxiān) was the First Emperor of the Chen Dynasty (November 16, 557 AD to February 10, 559 AD). He was born in 503 AD and died in 559 AD. He reigned from 557 through 559 AD. He was an ambitious person. He browsed through the Confucian Classics and history. He especially loved the war manuals.

He first distinguished himself as a Liang dynasty general during the campaign against the rebel general Hou Jing, and he was progressively promoted. In 555, he seized power after a coup against his superior, General Wang Sengbian, and in 557 he forced Emperor Jing to yield the throne to him, establishing the Chen dynasty. He died in 559, and as his only surviving son Chen Chang was held by Northern Zhou as a hostage, he was succeeded by his nephew Chen Qian (Emperor Wen).

# Emperor Wen of Chen (559 – 566)

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Emperor Wen of Chen (陳文帝) (522–566), personal name Chen Qian (陳蒨), was the second emperor of the Chinese Chen Dynasty. After Emperor Wu's death in 559, the officials supported him to be emperor. At the time he took the throne, Chen had been devastated by war during the preceding Liang Dynasty, and many provinces nominally loyal to him were under control of relatively independent warlords. During his reign, he consolidated the state against warlords, and he also seized territory belonging to claimants to the Liang throne, Xiao Zhuang and Emperor Xuan of Western Liang, greatly expanding Chen's territory and strength.

Huang Village people are direct descendants from Emperor Wen.

# Emperor Fei of Chen (566 – 568)

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Emperor Fei of Chen (陳廢帝) (554 – 570, died at 15 or 16), personal name Chen Bozong (陳伯宗), also known by his post-removal title of Prince of Linhai (臨海王), was the third emperor of the Chen Dynasty. He was the son and heir of Emperor Wen, but after he came to the throne in 566 at age 12, the imperial administration fell into infighting almost immediately. The victor, Emperor Fei's uncle Chen Xu, deposed Emperor Fei in winter 568 and took the throne himself.

(He probably did not have a beard at that young age. He was a direct ancestor to people of Huang Village.)

# Emperor Xuan of Chen (569 – 582)

30



Emperor Xuan was not a direct ancestor to people of Huang Village.

Emperor Xuan of Chen (陳宣帝) (530–582), personal name Chen Xu (陳頊), was the fourth emperor of the Chen dynasty. He seized the throne from his nephew, Emperor Fei, in 569 and subsequently ruled the state for 13 years. He was considered to be a capable and diligent ruler, who at one point militarily expanded at the expense of Northern Qi. After Northern Qi fell to Northern Zhou in 577, however, Chen was cornered, and soon lost the gains it had previously made against Northern Qi. Emperor Xuan died in 582, leaving the state in the hands of his incompetent son Chen Shubao, and by 589, Chen would be destroyed by Northern Zhou's successor state, the Sui dynasty.

# Chen Shubao (582 – 589)

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Chen Shubao (陳叔寶 Chén Shúbǎo, 553–604), also known as the Final Lord of Chen (陳後主; Chén Hòuzhǔ), was the fifth and last emperor of the Chen Dynasty.

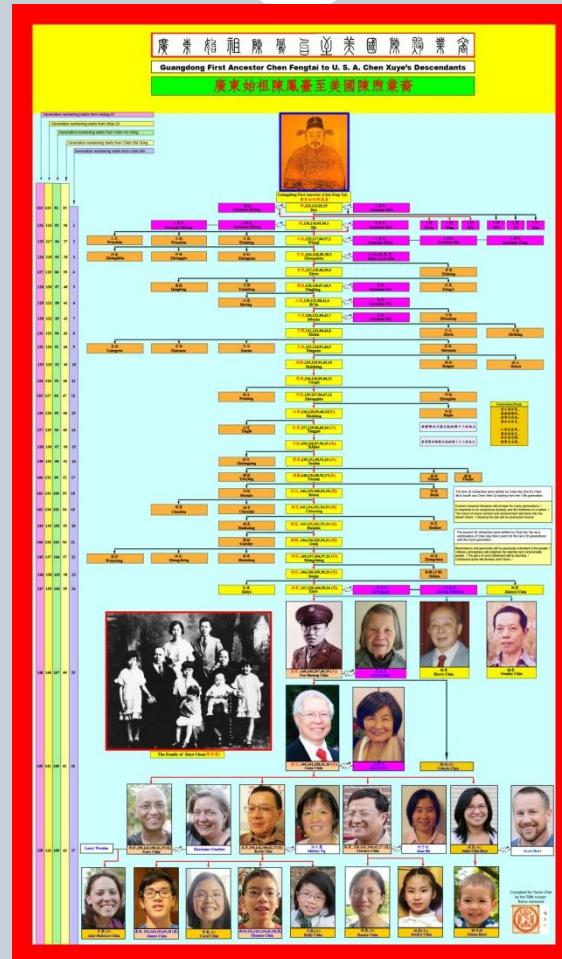
At the time of his ascension, Chen was already facing military pressure by the Sui on multiple fronts, and, according to 陳書 Chen Shu (one of 24 official history books), Chen Shubao was an incompetent ruler who was more interested in literature and women than in the affairs of the state.

Shubao was not a direct ancestor to people of Huang Village.

In 589, Sui forces captured his capital, Jiankang (建康; Jiànkāng), and captured him, ending Chen rule and unifying China after nearly three centuries of division that had started with the conquests of Emperor Hui of Jin. He was taken to the Sui capital Chang'an, where he was treated kindly by Emperor Wen of Sui until his death in 604, during the reign of Emperor Wen's son, Emperor Yang.

# Scroll 4: Chen Fengtai to present

32



# Chen Fengtai & His Seven Sons

33



Chen Fengtai's Tomb



陳鳳臺 Chén Fèngtái



Chen Mo Memorial



謐 Mó

宣 Xuān

英 Yīng

閨 Rùn

愻 Kǎi

圖 Tú

仁 Rén

Sons #1, #2, #3, #5 are from his first wife, 鄭氏, née Kuàng; sons #4, #6 and #7 are from his second wife, 侯氏 née Hóu.

# Chen Fengtai

34



Chen Fengtai (1149-1227) was an imperial counselor. His job was terminated when he could not negotiate peace with barbaric tribes. He and his family took refuge through Zhujixiang and south into the Pearl River Delta region.

From there descendants of Chen Fengtai eventually populated most of the southern part of Guangdong Province and Chen Fengtai was thereafter designated as the forefather of the Chen Clan of Guangdong Province (廣東省陳氏始祖).

## Popular Sayings Associated with Chen Fengtai and His Seven Sons

一門五進士 Yīmén-wǔ-jìnshì One house with Five Jinshi.

七子流芳 Qīzǐliúfāng Seven Sons Leave a Good Reputation for Posterity.

# Four Sons from First Wife Kuang

35

鄺氏 Kuàng's sons were all 進士 Jìnshì, successful candidates in the highest imperial examinations

- #1: 陳謨 Chén Mó was given the post of **Assistant Minister of the Justice Board**. (He had to decline the offer since his family had to flee with his father whose job was terminated. He settled in Taishan).
- #2: 陳宣 Chén Xuān lived in the village of 造寢 Dào Èin Zàodiàn in the district of 東莞 Üng Gōn Dōngwǎn.
- #3: 陳英 Chén Yīng was a Senior Official in Charge of Broad Publicity and Discussion.
- #5: 陳愷 Chén Kǎi moved to 汶村 Mūn Tǔn Wèncūn in the district of 海宴 Hōi Yēn Hǎiyàn.

# Three Sons from Second Wife Hou

36

侯氏 Hóu's sons were all 县生 **Xiángshēng**,  
successful candidates in the county level  
imperial examinations

- #4: 陳閔 Chén Rùn moved to 潮州府 Chēl Jiü Fū  
*Cháozhōu Fǔ*, 潮陽縣 Chēl Yēng Yǒn Cháoyáng Xiàn, 洛  
陽村 Lōk Yēng Tǔn *Luòyángcūn*
- #6: 陳圖 Chén Tú moved to 古岡 Gū Gōng *Gǔgāng*, 深涌滙  
灣 Shīm Chōng Chān Wān *Shēnyǒngchānwān*, 潮連大岳  
Chēl Lēin Āi Ngòk *Cháoliándàyuè*.
- #7: 陳仁 Chén Rén moved to 清遠城 Tēin Yōn Sēng  
*Qīngyuǎn Chéng*.

# Why Chin & Family

37



Duluth,  
Minnesota  
1931

# Huang Village Chin Family Tree

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- Any questions?