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Chinese Names Study


by

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History:

- Family names or surnames and given names contain information - history, language and social attitudes*
- Chinese family name comes first in most Asian countries – Han Chinese name tradition
- Cantonese-sounding surnames dominated North America and Australia for more than a century
- Wade-Giles romanized spelling is replaced by Mandarin-sounding names due to immigration from the People's Republic of China post 1980s

* Origin of Chinese Surnames < <http://chailibrary.com/?p=605> , accessed 29oct2011 >



- Surname/Family name



- Given name/Birth name



- Milk name, Generation name, Style name, Scholar name, Married name, ...

Chinese Naming Culture

- Most Chinese names have 3 characters while some have only two
- Some Chinese share same character in the first part or last part of their given name to indicate they belong to the same branch or same family
- Traditionally Chinese women retain their maiden name but not their given name
- The pronunciation of Chinese names varies according to different dialects used in the region
- Chinese surname comes first and follows by a given name

Each county (district) contains a number of areas (towns), each area (town) includes numerous Heungs (rural districts), each Heung (rural district) consists Many sub-Heungs (market towns), Each sub-Heung (market town) includes many villages/alleys (hamlets/blocks), each village/alley (hamlet/block) lives people of same name – CLAN



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Roots Village Database

Search 4 Counties :

- Chungshan 中山
- Hoiping 開平
- Sunwui 新會
- Taishan 台山

< <http://www.c-c-c.org/villagedb/search.cgi> , accessed 29oct2011 >

- Also search for villages with surnames

Search results

#	County	Area	Heung	Village
1	台山 / Toishan	1	永康鄉 / Wing Hong Heung (3 subheungs)	陳屋 / Chan Uk (陳,張 / Chan, Cheung)
2	"	"	"	長沙坑 / Cheung Sar Hang (陳 / Chan)
3	"	"	"	龍賀 / Lung Hor (陳 / Chan)
4	"	"	"	龍賀新 / Lung Hor Sun (陳 / Chan)
5	"	"	"	山頂 / Shan Ting (譚,陳 / Hom, Chan)
6	"	"	"	水蛇坑 / Sui Sher Hang (陳 / Chan)
7	"	"	西南鄉 / Sai Nam Heung (3 subheungs)	朝龍 / Chiu Lung (陳 / Chan)

County [台山](#)
[Toishan](#)

Area [1](#)

Heung

永康鄉
Wing Hong Heung

Market(s)

台山城, 大塘
Toishan City, Tai Tong

Map Location

FQ 8558

Contains 3 Subheungs:

1. [纏禾田鄉 / Chin Wo Tin Heung](#)
[aka 纏溪鄉 / Chin Kai Heung](#) (34 villages)
2. [江背鄉 / Kong Pui Heung](#)
[aka 十三堡 / Sup Sam Bo](#) (29 villages)
3. [橫湖鄉 / Wang Wu Heung](#) (18 villages)

Subheung

江背鄉, 十三堡

Kong Pui Heung, Sup Sam Bo

Contains 29 Villages:

1. 陳屋 / Chan Uk (陳, 張 / Chan, Cheung)
2. 長沙坑 / Cheung Sar Hang (陳 / Chan)
3. 低崗堡 / Dai Kong Bo (岑 / Shum)
4. 李屋 / Lee Uk (伍, 李 / Ng, Lee)
5. 老駱 / Lo Lok (駱 / Lok)
6. 龍賀 / Lung Hor (陳 / Chan)
7. 龍賀新 / Lung Hor Sun (陳 / Chan)

County	<u>台山</u> <u>Toishan</u>		
Area	<u>1</u>		
Heung	<u>永康鄉</u> <u>Wing Hong Heung</u>		
Subheung	<u>江背鄉, 十三堡</u> <u>Kong Pui Heung, Sup Sam Bo</u>		
Village	陳屋 Chan Uk	Surname(s)	陳, 張 Chan, Cheung

- And search for villages whose name in Chinese characters, Cantonese romanization and Pinyin, and selections such as "starts with", "contains in the text", and "ends with"

Differences in Spelling and Writing

- Example: Sun Wui is the Cantonese romanization, while Xinhui is the PinYin romanization - both are romanization of the same Chinese characters.
- The Chinese characters can also differ because approximately one third of the "traditional" Chinese characters have been simplified, these comprise the "simplified" Chinese character set. So one needs to be very careful when checking and matching Chinese characters.