

Introduction

My name is Thao Thong aged 18, I have been studying English at Dong Dok for four years, and knew English only a little. I was in fourth year class during the year 1971-72. Mostly I spent my vacations in hard working, and earned a little money for the coming year. I was interested in making Hmoob or Meo history sometime ago, and had discussed with my cousin Vuthao. Lasted we could not do it more than our thoughts because of lacking transportation and things to supply. I have met Mr. Bill sage at once, and was introduced by my cousin Vuthao who had known him sofar, so I knew him quite well. We told him that we'd like to collect some Hmoob history information, after our comuexsation he was quite interested in making this. Since then, we were advised by him how to collect the information in the way of making a good story, and find out the result of the fact to the readers.

Eventhough he had advised us he could help us eventhing that we needed, such as transportation to where we want to go and capital. The making of Hmoob story had carried out since the end of April 1971, but not very much was done. At the end of June, this was the beginning of our holidays, so Vuthao left me this work and I tried to set myself on until it will be finished. First, I went to Phakhet thirty-five kilometers sauth from Long Cheng somebody told me if I wanted to collect Hmoob history information I must go to Phaket to find his grand-parent Yeng Seng Chang Yang, he was 83 years old. He was really a very good originator of telling a story and myth history, mostly the elders were not going out, so it was a big problem for me and I set up a question to ask myself. How can I meet those elders? Spent a night to think about my question, and tried to find the answer.

Sudently, my emagination fired, I must ask all the people on the way where I meet them. Where is your grand-father? What is his name? And how old is he? The following day I asked all of the people whom I have met them these questions. After finding these elders' names and places where they lived. I began my next trip to Nam Pha Nuei, to Muong Cha, to Pakhao, to Phouchea and to the place where was safe. First, asked them where Hmoob came from and how long have they settded down in Laos. After that asked for more questions that were necessary because they were old and very busy for having long conversation.

To the honor of the readers, I would reduce some parts of the story and showed it. The word Meo was a partcular word called by Lao citizenships, if you called them Meo they usually felt unhappy. If you called them Hmoob they felt happy, the Hmoob had a long story in the past many hundreds years ago. Most of the elders who

were being alive and known or remembered the things which were happened for six or seven hundreds years ago. They could tell you the things which had happened in that time but could not tell the year and the date. Mostly they did not remember very well sometimes told you as myth history if you asked them a question where did Hmoob come from? The answer would be from "Tuam Tshoj" or China. Hmoob had lived in SHENSI, HUPEH and along the north western part of KIANGSI, long before the rising power of Genghis Khan who build the power of the Mongol. Kublai Khan the son of Genghis Khan founded the Mongol Dynasty and so he built the power of all tribes to help him held the Mongol Dynasty.

At the end of fourteenth century the Mongol Dynasty began to weaken and finally the Chinese took control. During the Ming Dynasty more military had carried out to subjugate all the tribes in these three provinces. The end of Ming Dynasty half of the tribes were spread to the western and southern parts from Shensi, HUPEH AND KIANGSI. In the beginning of the Manchu ~~xxx~~ dynasty half of the tribes had settled down in SZECHWAN, KWEICHOW, HUNAN AND YUNNAN. During the eighteenth century, Manchu had sent more military operation to work in this area and pushed the tribes southward to Northern part of Vietnam. A group from SHENSI was cut down and so they moved northward along the Rivers to Tibet. Some groups have been involved against the Vietnamese so they were pushed upward by the Vietnamese and pushed southward by the Manchu Chinese from the north between Vietnam and China frontier. After that the Hmoob have fled away across the mountain chains which separated Laos and Vietnam into Laos territory. First entered into Laos in middle of nineteenth century into Luang Prabang Province. The rest moved along the mountain chains which between Laos and North Vietnam into Sam Neua and then Xieng Khouang.

Chapter One.

THE HMOOB HAD ORGANIZED AFTER KUBLAI KHAN FOUNDED THE MONGOL DYNASTY.

Long before 12th century the Hmoob had lived sparsely through the area which now call the provices of Hupeh, Shensi and Northern part of KIANGSI.1.They made their living in harvesting and planting seeds in low area or along the river valleys with peacefully. (2) Each village would be found in a far distance away from the nextvillage about twenty or thirty miles. (3) The way from this village to that village was very bad thragh rocky mountains or down the hills and up to the mountains. If one man wanted to go and visite his relatives, he would spend two or three days to go on foot or on riding borse. (4) During the way where his family needed to go, he was robbed or even killed before he would reach the point. (5) Sometimes he was killed by the fiece animals (6) on his way back home. Most of the people did not have much communication or known what had happened in the next village, and there were no schools for teaching the youths. Another problem was that, the Hmoob had no letter for their youngs to study, so important things were passed to the youths by remembering. It depended on how much his idea would remember the charns that his father passed them to him everthing which had remembered. Urgent news had carried on from one place to the other place by the passers who were expected to go to that village, and it reached there very late. (7)

The Hmoob frequently did not cause any trouble with the neighbors tribes who were made their living by drifting agriculture. Especially the Chinese who were made their trading, communication and education in the Eastern part. They usually did not want to go very deeply inside the country and the Chinese had made their trading route through this part to the west once, but the did not interested in exploring the country. Anyway the Hmoob could make things that they needed in the families, such as making clothes, papers that used for worship spirit, and their own agriculture tools and so on. (9) Unti the rising power of genghis Khan, but not very much had changed their customs and traditional. The Mongol had fought with all of the tribes who were settled down is the countryside that was more than a thousand miles from the Seashore. Ordinavilly all or the trides were very weak so they did not get much punishment from the Mongol, but the resistance of the Chinese were hold on bravely against the Mongol. Novody could stop the Mongols army military if he wanted to congver. (10) At last, the Chinese lost its strong hold in everywhere. Genghis Kha punished all of the Chinese

through out the country to pay tribute.

After Kublai Khan founded the Mongol Dynasty in 1260 A.D. he thought all of the Mongol were hated by the Chinese and known that when his Dynasty began to weak the Chinese would take control again. So, Kublai Khan kept his men or women away from the Chinese not to let them had a contact with the Chinese whose made their easy living in towns. Another way, it was very important problem for him that would cause lots of trouble, the Mongol had had hard living before if let them tasted the easy way of living they would be weak and soon no more Mongol Dynasty at all. Problem seemed to be happen, so Kublai Khan set up a new constitutional for aiding the tribes. The organization had carried out first it was very difficult because all of the tribes were frightened but it was very difficult because all of the tribes were frightened but it was easy after they had found a few cunning boys. The boys were taught and advised the way of organization.

Since 1265 A.D. more weapons had supplied to the tribes to make the Mongol more powerful and communications began through each tribe to the next tribe. Con= scription had passed out and more teen agers were being listed in military. The Hmoob in SHENSI HUPEH and northern part of Kiangsi had contact communication and developement through the provinces from north to south. People had seen many different things when they were away and coming back with good news such as jewelry and fine sild cloth from the east. Marketing were being developed much more to the people who were needed to use. Transpotations were begun b y carts and on horse to the eastern part. At the same time the head of the Mongol Dynasty had sent messages to the provinces of SHENSI, HUPEH AND KIANGSI in the year 1267 AD.

One day it was a fine and beautiful day people were going through and coming from the busy market there. The noisy people in the market were like birds in the morning that the sun had not risen yet. Just as the people were shopping a group of Mongol calvary were on their way passed quickly and stopped in the middle of the town. An urgent message was read to the listeners and tr translated by the youg Hmoob who had been advising long before to work on this program. The message said that " to the honor of the Hmoob tribe and all of Mongol we expect you Hmoob will follow us what I had told you in this message" The position seat that he should get was a "Keeb Toom" means that twon protector and developer. During the night the elders were called in a large room and discussed who would be the best leader of all and

tried to find out the skeleton (21) of the new leader which he put it in the cupboard. Something were happened in Hupeh and northern part of Kiangsi, just about two months verything was succeeded.

At the end of the year 1267, SENG SUE Ly was chosen in SHENSI province, Wang Chia Yee Thao was chosen in Hupeh and Mia Leng Sang was chosen in northern part of Kiangsi. (22) The fame of these three leaders were swiftly risen through everywhere even sounded to the Chinese who were indhalsited in the east along the seashore. The three leaderships intended to play a great sense of war with the Chinese because the Mongol had strognly support them. Now, Kublaikhan seems to be more powerful than the other, because he had a lot of tribes which he had helped them to build their power. The three heads decided to celebrate their position seats the same time as they celebrated Hmoob new year festival. The three following days such as the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of every year in the new year should be holidays, the villagers or all of people had a free time so they could go far distance and visited their cousins or asking questions. Amonth before the new year will be celebrated, people worked quickly in their field and prepared to collect wood for making fire. During this time the weather was cold children and elders needed warnth, but young teen agers needed new blanket. Old women were making papers for sticking on the doors land on the tools which they used for faming. Boys collecting wood for fire and girls milling rice for eating during the three days, if they did not prepare enough things to use for these three days they will be poor. Suppose that they have planted a lot of seed but it is destroyed by insects or will animals.

If new year day will be beginning tomorrow, this evening most of the people formally consit in a large area before the sun will set. They used a special kind of tree, a long grassbird (23) and a cock. People walking around this model tree back and forth three times, after finished it they killed the cock and camy these things to throw them away to the west. It means that the grass plait and the model tree has carried their sins away to the west, and they will live happily ever after. In the evening they killed pigs, chicken for Baci (24) all of the members in that family. The next day boys and girls get dressing with new clothes and going for their enjoyable. Children below thirteen years old play a game called "TUJ LUB" (25) elders let bull fight. Young teen agers show their sweet heart, Old women look after their girls from ron after their boy friends and listen how they use song for making their contact. The traditional believing still carry on ever since and most of the people will pass it to the youths.

CHAPTER TWO

AFTER THE DEAD OF THE THREE LEADERSHIPS

In the year 1288 AD. Mua Leng Sang was dead in his pain, wounded by a young who was part of the radical in the other clan. All of the people in northern part of KIANGSI seemed willingly of his dead nobody wanted to go to his funeral procession except his Mua clan only. The village was very calm gusts continued blowing from every directions and birds sounded gently and quietly out in the countryside. Other different clans stayed quietly in their homes. The mourners finished their traditional at the burial and coming back with sadness. Next morning the deads relative most prepare a model meal and took it to the cemetery when reached must said I have taken your breakfast, and put it on here will you come up and have your breakfast. After finished this must turned home without looking at the cemetery or turning your head from side to side. This should be done in three following days after the dead had buried. Some clans were being doing like this for thirteen days it depends on different clan of the people.

Mua Leng Sang had died more than two months then the Lo and Yang clans decided taken up Mua Leng Sang's position seat. The clans who did not like were fled away and lived in their field. Until the year 1295 AD things seemed to be OK Seng Su Ly marched down with his army to Northern part of KIANGSI and tried to find new person to run the work. Finally he had found a new one whom he was the same clan as Seng Su Ly he was Ly Nang Leng. Ly Nang Leng was set up since 1297 to be "keeb toom" and he was a good leader for forty six years in KIANGSI. After Seng Su Ly finished his work there in the middle year of 1297, he went back home with half of his army across the rocky mountain and river between the provinces back during the long hot day trip. The next morning they prepared things on their trip again just then they were attacked by a secret guerrilla unit. Seng Su Ly was shot by the enemy's first arrow and his military unit had separated.

In 1309 AD Wang Gnia Yee Thao was dead in his old age in HUPEH People were cried of sorrow a lot of cattle were killed for preparing food to the strangers. Musicians were called they played drum flute kane and many kinds of music instruments. When the dead's relatives heard about his death they had come and cried along the way to the deads house in Hmoob they called "Nyav" means cried of sorrow.

After the funeral procession of Wang Gnia Yee Thao, most of the people decided to put. Now Shua Thao to be keeb Toom repaced his father, in the same year after that a month. He did not refused to get it if all the people pleased him to be, and for the uirtuc of his father.

At the end of these three leaderships position, they got involued with the Chinese who were made secret guerrila fight. Halt of the people were frightened and began to move to the west in the year 1255 A.D. (34) The Mongol, now they are busy of making war because they are enjoying the way of easy life, and so the Mongol Dynasty declined as quickly as it was. The rest of the tribes had got nothing for support so they were afraid of the Chinese. Eventhough the tribes were lack of supply, the Chinese had sent more detectives through the Villages and towns and robbed the villagers. (35) First, the villagers prevented their possession belonging and stood bravely fight with the secret guerrila unit of the Chinese until 1367. The Hmoob fought with all of the Chinese who were making their way through the villages ever they were thieves or civilian. In the biginning of the year 1367, the Mongol Dynasty seemed to be taken by the Chinese because more Chinese military were worked out through the tribes' villages and towns.

Chapter Three

AFTER THE FALL OF MONGOL DYNASTY.

The Mongol Dynasty was throuned out and no more Mongol military unit or even Mongol cavalry. The Mongol subjects shald be out of the country or will be killed and harged under the Chinese authority. Ming organized a huge army and divided to march in three directions from the east. The purpose of his huge avmy was to go to the western part for subjugation the tribes whom were having their permanent there before, if it not necessary they would not push the tribe westward. Another reason, especially for the Hmoob tribe, the would punish for them killing the Chinese civilian during the Mongol Dynasty. (39) The northern army led by one of Ming's emperor was reached there 1370. A.D. The Hmoob govenors and his..... were severely punished by the Ming's military power because they had carried their small military against the Chinese, this made the Emperor merciless. The emperor seized the Governors' headquater and caught them, but he was too late they were far away out of the country. The Chinese military set up a camp there and sent out military operation to work out of the country and had a rest in the camp. Another way they had not enough thing to supply excepted weapons; so they needed food, they must taken from the villagers.

Three fourth of the villagers were felt unhappy so they moved separately to a higher and higher place from reaching of the Chinese soldiers. First they moved their farms to a high places and making a small huts which were enough for living after that tried to escape from the hell city to their farms. Everyday they go to work in the farm they bring things which will be needed with them and come back home to bring more in the flowing day.

This seemed the people did not resist the Chinese but just tried to get rid of as far as possible. The Chinese secret guerrilla unit still reached them and threaten for telling them where were the rebellion hide. Men were punished into death or worked in prison like sla es and women were separately apart from their husbands to work in a far distance. The Hmoob raticals were moving south westward from "PHOU CEEB TSHEEY" in the middle east of SHENSI which now they call Puch'eng in China 1375 AD. Western spread of the Hmoob from SHENSI was only a mall group each clan had about theiry fo forty families. In the SZECHWAN province the weather was good it had got little rain thourh the season so the regufees could plant seeds. Most of the people disobeyed orders and so each clan had its own chief whom would find them the way of living and should not led them into war against the Chinese or even against the neighbor tribes. They moved west and westward along the Yangtze River by the oppression of the Chinese and the cause of their drifting agricuture. They moved more than two centurien and finally reached the bending Yangtze River to the north west it took them more than sic hundreds kilometers from the middle east of SHENSI.

The Hmoob people earned their living mostly among the tropical jungle villages were founded two or three kilometers on a high place. Their farms were made a along the hillside or closed to the top of mountains on a very steep side some parts were on slope side. The fact that they made their farms on a steep or on slope mountain because it was the way when clearing the farm much wind w would help when put fire on after it was dried enough. Wind rushed up to the tope of mountianes and made the fire more stronger so weeds would not grow up after they planted the seeds. 1596 this Hmoob groupd reached the bending Yantze and Mekong Rivers until they reached TIBET. In the begining of 18th century the western part of Mekong River in Tibet the Hmoob trive had settled down sparsely but not very much until 1779 AD More people crossed the rivers from eastern to western parts because more trouble had been happening so better way they should move away to the western part.

* In the western part, it was quiet and peacefully, so they had brought their freedom back once again and set up new committees to run the work. This involved with the head political idea in the central government of Tibetan. (42) Tibet had sent military operation to invade their town called "NROOG ZOOV" means green forest in the mountain chain western of Salween River and little bit below Pasu. After that they had no permanent place for settlement again, they must moved downward along these river and reached Burma in the beginning of 19th century. (43)

In the beginning of the year 1371.A.D.. a military unit led by another Chinese emperor arrived in a small town settled by Hmoob in "Naj cab" in a low valley south west of Wuanyen Chinese' town. (44) Most of the people were frightened and some fled away a few day before the Chinese army would take place. The rest tried to hide in a safe place or find their shelters on high place from catching of the Chinese army. No matter, if they were civilian or the opposers they must go to prison or even killed. The Hmoob in northern part of KIANGSI were unable to hold the pressure of the Chinese or leved under the oppression of them. Women elders and children had to make their way to go to a safe place, and men the warriors looked after. In that time their weapons were very badly for holding the Mings Military, mostly they used swords and bows to prevent them or during the fight in a battle.

Chapter Four.

THE WESTERN SPREAD FROM HUPEH.

During the military operation of the Ming 1370-1450.A.D. (45) most of the tribe were not getting much punishment as the Hmoob tribe, or even get lost from their leader who could find another way for them to go. First the leader and his relatives had moved or fled away before the reaching of Chinese' army and crassed the Yaogtze River to the south then they earned their living in the southwestern of HUPEH. The rest moved slowly, such as making their farms away from the village this year and next year to a new land, or made farms around the village. First step, they made their farms by the side of their village, to clear the forest and made the village more larger and it was the easy way for then to work in the farm or easy to harvest after theseeds had ripen. Ine next following year they made their farms father and farther until no more and would be good for making farm. Then, the whole villagers had discussed together, and tried to find another place that would be suit for farming. After had found new place they must prepare anidd thing for worship spirit there and slept in that place one night if they had bad dream they must not settle anymore. Suppose that in the dream you had seen some people asking you to leave or making war with the objectives, if it really happened in your dream you should not done to settle down.