



Chinese Jiapu: The Key Record for Chinese Ancestral Research

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Chinese Names – The most important name first, family name. Given names may be characteristics that the family hopes the child will possess. In male names, one of the given names may be a generational name.

Chinese Dates – Largest to smallest, year, month, date, hour.

- Year 年 nián
- Month 月 yuè
- Date 日 rì
- Hour 時 shí

Example: 一九八五年 十月 二十四日 (1985 October 24)

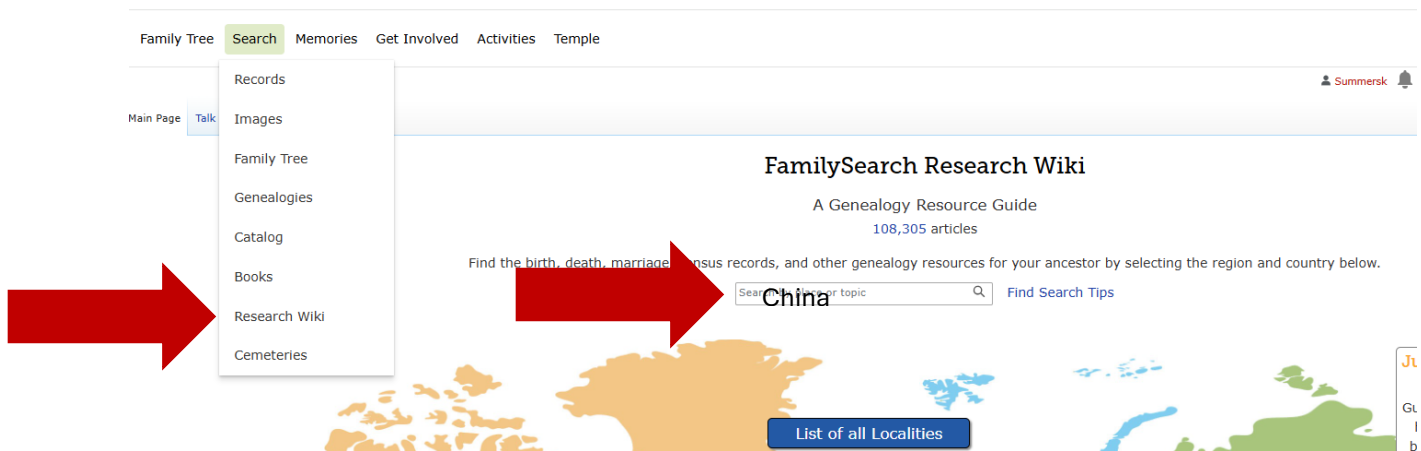
Historic dates used the Sexagenary cycle which combines a character from the 10 Heavenly Stems and a character from the 12 Earthly Branches to signify a year in the 60 year cycle. Earthly Branches are used to denote a 2-hour time period in the day.

Chinese Places – Largest to smallest, country, province, county, municipality, city, village or hamlet.

- Country 國 国 guó
- Province 省 shěng 州 zhōu
- County 县 xiàn
- Municipality 城 chéng
- City 市 shì
- Village or hamlet 村 cūn

FamilySearch Resources:

- FamilySearch Research Wiki > China



- Chinese Research Chinese Genealogy 101



Topics covered in Chinese Genealogy 101: Chinese Genealogy Clan Books, What can I learn from a name?, Generation Poems, interviewing Family Members, Ancestral Villages, Ancestral Halls, Gravestones, First Ancestors, Chinese Lunar Dates, Village Finder, Calendar Converter, Surname Finder, Language Resources.

What is a Jiapu - A Chinese family record book that documents a family's ancestry. It documents the origins of the surname, the migration patterns of the clan, the family lineage, the ancestral biography, the story of the locality.

A Chinese Jiapu was created from a long scroll of paper. The paper was then folded into accordion pages and bound on one side to create a book. The book is read from Right to left and top to bottom.

Cover & Title Page – Family Name, Location of Clan, Year Revised.

Contents of a Jiapu – Preface/introduction, First Ancestor biography, migration, family rules, portraits of ancestors, maps, record of merits, honors, achievements, generation poem, genealogical charts and generational biographies, and more.

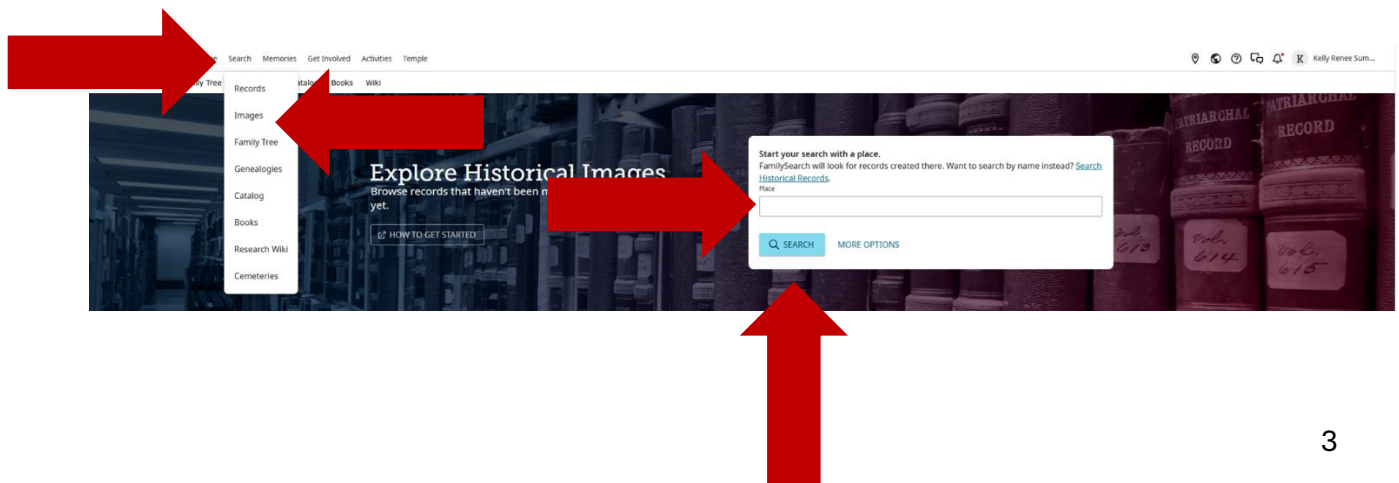
Different Styles of Jiapu:

- Su Style 蘇式 (Hanging Pearl) – Has Connecting Lines, Generations Hang Vertically
- Ou Yang Style 歐陽式 – Horizontal, 5 generations per page, Right to Left
- Imperial Style 牒記式 – Vertical, Generations at the top, Right to Left
- Pagoda Style 宝塔式 – Vertical Descendant Chart with Lines, no biographical info.
- Document Style 牒記式 - Paragraph form

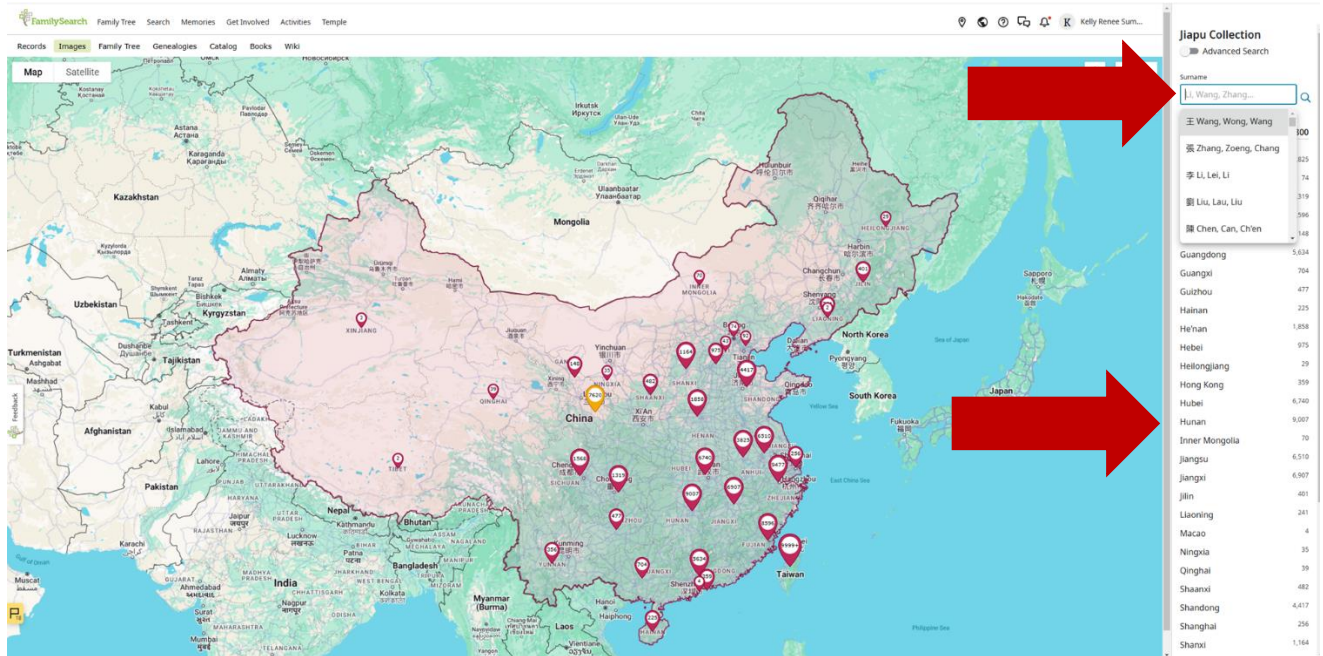
To search for a Jiapu you will need to pieces of information:

- Family Name Character
- Ancestral Village Name

Jiapu Search - FamilySearch.org > Search > Images > China



- Use the Chinese Family Name Character. To search by name, you can insert the Chinese character or type the name out.
- Then drill down by place, country, province, county, city, village.



Key Words:

Born/birth 生 (sheng)

Die/end 卒 (zú)

Marry a woman 娶 (qǔ) 配 (pèi)

Maiden name 氏 (shì)

Son 子 (zǐ), Daughter 女 (nǚ)

Eldest 長 (zhǎng)

Honorable/sir 公 (gong)

Country 國 or 国 guó

Province 省 shěng 州 zhōu

County 县 xiàn

Municipality 城 chéng

City 市 shì

Village or hamlet 村 cūn

Year 年 (nián)

Month 月 (yuè)

Date 日(rì)

Hour 時 (shí)

Numbers:

1 一

2 二

3 三

4 四

5 五

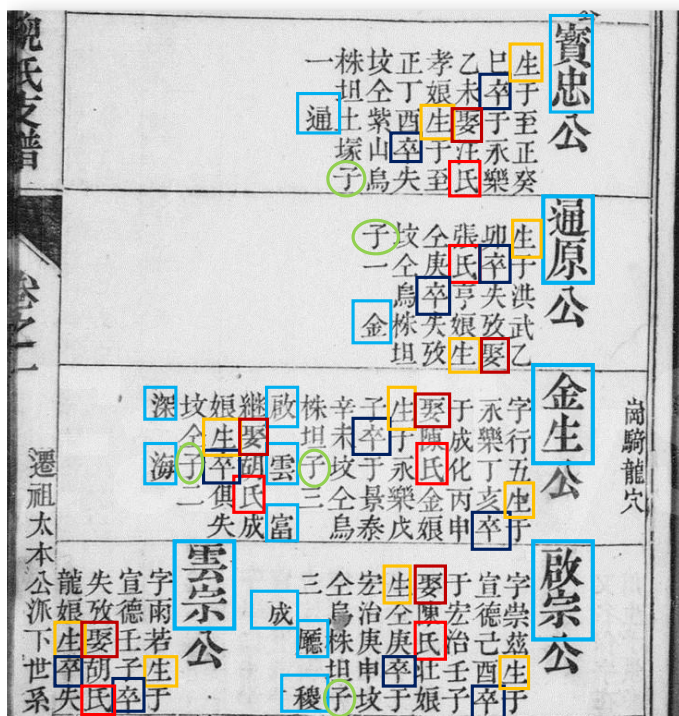
6 六

7 七

8 八

9 九

10 十



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