

Chung-ching 忠敬.

Mu Sheng fell heir to the career of his father and elder brother. Military skills were not his strong point; his battles in most cases brought no victories. The court, considering the great distance and the fact that he was a hereditary general, excused him. Furthermore, the people of Yunnan, in awe of Mu Ying's and his sons' prestige, served him as seriously as if at court. When written orders were issued, a local chieftain solemnly observing the rules of deportment, would go outside the city wall to receive them, perform ablutions before opening them, and say: "This is a venerated edict." Mu Sheng, long in command of the garrison, established 360 tracts of personal farmland and possessed great wealth; he was accomplished at attending highly ranked courtiers, leaving an endless trail of bribes, for which he was notorious both at court and in the provinces. Mu Sheng's son, Mu Pin 斌 whose tzu was Wen-hui 文輝, inheriting the dukedom when young, resided in the capital and let [his uncle], Mu Ang, serve as garrison commander in his stead.

Mu Ang [d. 1445], whose tzu was Ching-kao 景高, was at first made Assistant Commander of the Prefectural Military Left Guard 府軍左衛指揮僉事.²¹¹ Later, when Ch'eng-tsu was about to send Mu Sheng southward on an expedition, he then promoted Mu Ang to head the Yunnan Regional Commission as Vice Commissioner of the Regional Military Commission; Mu Ang was

successively promoted until he reached the position of Command
 of the Right. ²¹² In Cheng-t'ung 4, ²¹³ he was given the seal of
 general to lead an expedition against Lu-ch'uan, and went to
 Chin-ch'ih. Fearful of the enemy's great strength, he delayed
 taking an offensive action for a long time. When Chang Jung
²¹⁴ 張榮 pressed forward all the way to Mang-pu 芒部
 and was defeated, Mu Ang failed to rescue him, and withdrew his
 troops; as a result, he was demoted two degrees in rank. Sub-
 sequently, Ssu-jen-fa led a raiding attack [on Lu-ch'uan].
 Mu Ang met and repulsed him; he also captured and beheaded the
 rebels at Shih-tsung 師宗. ²¹⁵ In Cheng-t'ung 6 [1441], when
 Wang Chi ²¹⁶ 王冀, the Minister of War, and Chiang Kuei
²¹⁷ 蔣貴, the Earl of Ting-hsi 定西伯, set out with a great
 army against Ssu-jen-fa, Mu Ang was in charge of moving the
 provisions for their army. When the enemy was defeated, Mu
 Ang was restored to his post, and was ordered to lead troops to
 capture Ssu-jen-fa, but in that he failed. ²¹⁸ In Cheng-t'ung
 10, Mu Ang died. He was awarded the title of Earl of Ting-pien
 定邊伯, granted the posthumous honorific, Wu-hsiang 武襄.
²¹⁹
 When Mu Pin [1397 - 1450] first arrived at the garrison
 command in Yunnan, his coming coincided with the capture of
 Ssu-jen-fa by the Ava-Burmese who were sending him to the
 capital; when the prisoner's son, Ssu-chi-fa ²²⁰ 思機發, led
 raiding attacks, Mu Pin repulsed his forces. Ssu-chi-fa
 again occupied Meng-yang ²²¹ 孟養. In Cheng-t'ung 13, the

emperor again dispatched a great army, sending Wang Chi and others in pursuit of Ssu-chi-fa, with Mu Pin in the rear guard,²²² overseeing provisions to insure adequate supplies. When he died, he was granted the title of Grand Tutor **太傅**²²³ and the posthumous honorific, Jung-k'ang **榮康**.

At the beginning of the Ching-t'ai reign [1450] when Mu Ang's son, Mu Tsung **瑒**²²⁴ was still young, the emperor ordered Mu Ang's grandson, Mu Lin **璘**²²⁵ holding the rank and title of Commander-in-chief of a Chief Military Commission **都督同知**, to assume command of the garrison in Yunnan as surrogate for Mu Tsung. Mu Lin, whose tzu was T'ing-chang **廷章**, was by nature learned and refined; the people of Yunnan [at first] made light of him. Afterwards, however, it was found that his commands were rigorously maintained and inviolable. He died at the beginning of the T'ien-shun reign [1457].²²⁶ Because Mu Tsung was still young, Mu Lin's younger brother, Mu Tsan **瑑**, Vice Battalion Commander of the Embroidered Uniform Guard **錦衣副千戶**, was selected to hold the rank of Assistant Commissioner of a Chief Military Commission **都督僉事**²²⁷, to proceed to Yunnan and serve in place of Mu Tsung. Living there for seven years, he continuously sought to level the stockades of the Chan-lu **雲祿** region, and the native cheiftains who were militarily active; he brought Ssu-pu-fa **思卜發**²²⁸ to terms, and forced the restoration of lands encroached upon by various aborigines. His achievements

were great, but he was sullied by bribes.

In the spring of Ch'eng-hua 3 [1467], Mu Tsung went for the first time to assume the garrison command; and Mu Tsan, with the rank of Assistant Regional Commander 副總兵, was transferred to garrison command at Chin-ch'ih. Mu Tsung, whose tzu was T'ing-fang 廷芳, was accomplished in the interpretation of the classics and adept at poetry and prose; he would not stoop to accept ceremonial offerings of the barbarians. The chieftain of the Hsün-tien 尋甸 murdered his elder brother's son, and requested confirmation as chieftain. ²²⁹ Mu Tsung captured him and put him to death. A local chieftain in Kuang-hsi prefecture was tyrannical, and his underlings revolted. Mu Tsung requested permission to shift from tribal chieftainship to appointed civil government; that greatly ²³⁰ benefited the people. He set out to pacify, one by one, Ma-lung 馬龍, Li-chiang 麗江, Chien-ch'uan 劍川, Shun-ning 順寧, Lo-hsiung 羅雄, all aboriginal groups in revolt; he captured the rebels of Ch'iao-tien 橋甸 and Nan-wo 南窩. ²³¹ When he died, ²³² he was granted the title of Grand Preceptor 太師, and the posthumous honorific, Wu-hsi 武僖. Since Mu Tsung had no son, the family title passed to Mu Tsan's grandson, Mu K'un 崑.

Mu K'un [1482 - 1519], whose tzu was Yüan-chung 元中, ²³³ at first inherited the rank of Assistant Commander of the Embroidered Guard. ²³⁴ Mu Tsung had raised him as a son, and

when it was decided at court that Mu K'un, as Marquis of Hsi-p'ing and Mu Tsan's grandson, ought to inherit the title of marquis [rather than duke], the hereditary officials in Yunnan disputed the decision by saying that the people of Yunnan knew [and respected] the title Duke of Ch'ien, but neither knew [nor respected] the title Marquis of Hsi-p'ing; and, they feared to make him only a marquis would mean he would be regarded lightly. Hsiao-tsung concurred with this, and ordered Mu K'un to succeed to the dukedom, commissioning him with the seal of office as had been customary.²³⁵ In Hung-chih 12 [1499], Mu K'un pacified the aboriginal tribes at Kuei-shan 龜山 and Chu-ch'ien 竹箐,²³⁶ and then suppressed the bandits at P'u-an 普安,²³⁷ bringing further increase of his annual stipend.²³⁸ In Cheng-te 2 [1507], a man of Shih-tsung, named A-pen 阿本, rebelled. Mu K'un and Wu Wen-tu 吳文度, the Censor-in-chief 都御史, led troops by three different routes into the area. One column went via Shih-tsung, another via Lo-hsiung, and the third via Mi-le 彌勒 while yet another contingent was dispatched to lie in ambush at P'an-chiang 盤江. They cut the bandits off from their bases, and won a decisive victory over them. In Cheng-te 7 [1512], the local chieftain 長官司 of Annam district, Na-tai 那代, disputing the succession, killed a local chieftain; again, Mu K'un, with Ku Yüan 顧源, a Censor-in-chief, set out to capture him. As a result, Mu K'un was further promoted to

for formal appointment after the bandits were defeated. They massed together and fought most energetically, the rebels sustaining a great defeat. Feng Ch'ao-wen, cut off at the P'u-tu ^{普渡}₂₄₇ River, fled, but was pursued and beheaded at Tung-ch'uan. An Ch'üan returned to Hsün-tien where he set up several stockades, but government troops attacked and destroyed them, capturing An Ch'üan at Mang-pu. Altogether, Mu Shao-hsün took more than 1000 rebels captive, in addition to an untold number of captives who were beheaded. This was in Chia-ching ²⁴⁸ 7. When his victories were announced at court, he was promoted to Tutor to the Heir Apparent, and his annual stipend increased. But at this time, forces in Lao-chua ^{老撾} [Laos], Mu-pang, Meng-yang, Burma and Meng-mi ^{孟密}₂₄₉ were engaged in murderous feuds with each other, and Shih-tsung, Na-lou ^{納樓}₂₅₀, Ssu-t'o ^{思陀}₂₅₁ and Pa-chai ^{八寨} were all in disorder; these conditions had long prevailed. When Mu Shao-hsün sent envoys everywhere among the aboriginal groups to spread the word about what happened at Wu-ting and Hsün-tien, they all surrendered in terror and offered to return the territories they had encroached on; moreover, both Mu-pang and Meng-yang offered local produce as tribute seeking remission of their crimes. Throughout the south, all was settled. Mu Shao-hsün had both daring and tactical skill; whenever he took the field, he achieved ²⁵² victories. When he died, he was granted the title of