

Grand Preceptor, and the posthumous honorific, Min-ching

敏靖.

His son Ch'ao-fu 朝輔 succeeded to the title. When Liu Ch'ü 劉渠, a Censor-in-chief, demanded a bribe, Mu Ch'ao-fu gave it, but in consequence he submitted a memorial which said: "My family for generations has governed this region by inheritance from generation to generation. Now an official would set in disarray our dynasty's institutions. We frontier officials occupy our posts, usually not kept informed, and are no longer received at court in accordance with the former precedents. Separated from you by great distance, isolated amidst perils, impeded in all I do, lacking adequate means to keep order among aborigine tribes. I beseech you to promulgate an order to all officials that everything is to be as it was of old." Wan Yü-k'ai 萬虞愷,²⁵³ a Supervising Censor 給事中, impeached Mu Ch'ao-fu and, at the same time, included Liu Ch'u in his charges. The emperor, however, dismissed Liu Ch'u and ordered Mu Ch'ao-fu to continue in office as his family had in the past.²⁵⁴ When he died, he was named a Grand Preceptor, and granted the posthumous honorific, Kung-hsi 恭僖.

When Mu Ch'ao-fu died, his two sons, Mu Yung 高忠 and Mu Kung 高章 were both young. An imperial edict ordered the precedent established by Mu Tsung and Mu Lin should apply, directing Mu Yung to assume the title of duke, with half the

regular emolument, and conferred on Mu Ch'ao-fu's younger brother, Mu Ch'ao-pi ^{朝弼}, the rank of Assistant Commander-in-chief of a Chief Military Council, with the seal of office of the military command in surrogate [for Mu Yung, until he reaches his majority]. After three years, Mu Yung died; Mu Kung was to succeed him, but Mu Ch'ao-pi was embittered about it. At this time, Mu Ch'ao-pi's father's principal consort, née Li ^李, requested that she be allowed to protect Mu Kung by living in the capital, awaiting his maturity when he would return to assume the garrison command. The emperor granted her request. But Mu Kung died before they reached the capital, so Mu Ch'ao-pi gained the succession. ²⁵⁵ In Chia-ching 30, ²⁵⁶ Na Chien ^{那鑑}, ²⁵⁷ an aboriginal chieftain ²⁵⁸ in Yüan-chiang ^{元江}, rebelled. The emperor directed Mu Ch'ao-pi and Shih Chien ^{石簡}, ²⁵⁹ the Censor-in-chief, to set out against Na Chien. They split into five forces and besieged the city [of Yüan-chiang]. When the city was about to fall, an outbreak of malaria forced their withdrawal. The emperor dismissed Shih Chien, and armies were sent out again under other generals. In fear of the consequences, Na Chien took poison and died, thus terminating the uprising. In Chia-ching 44, ²⁶⁰ Mu Ch'ao-pi campaigned against and captured the aboriginal rebel leaders, A-fang ^{阿方}, ²⁶¹ and Li Hsiang-yang ^{李向陽}. At the beginning of the Lung-ch'ing reign [1567], Mu Ch'ao-pi pacified Feng Chi-tsu ^{鳳繼祖}.

the rebellious chieftain of Wu-ting, and destroyed more than thirty bandit dens. By nature arrogant, Mu Ch'ao-pi did not treat either his mother or his elder brother's widow in accord with the dictates of propriety; he seized his elder brother's fields and residences, and hid the criminal Chiang Hsü 蔣旭 and others, and he used tallies intended only for moving troops on campaign to send emissaries to collect intelligence for him on what was happening in the capital. Therefore, Mu Ch'ao-pi was dismissed, and his son, Mu Ch'ang-tso 昌祚²⁶² was ordered to succeed to the title, along with one half the regular emolument. Mu Ch'ao-pi became morose, and all the more unrestrained in his conduct. When he went to Nanking to bury his mother, the Censor-in-chief requested that he be detained. The emperor ordered that Mu Ch'ao-pi be allowed to return to Yunnan but that he was not to participate in its affairs. Mu Ch'ao-pi, in a rage, wanted to kill Mu Ch'ang-tso. The Governor 巡撫 and Surveillance Commissioner 按察使 jointly submitted reports on the situation and brought to light his illegal acts, such as killing men [without authorization] and being in communication with barbarians. He was seized, ordered imprisoned, and a death sentence pronounced. His achievements being taken into consideration, he was con-
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fined to Nanking where he died.

Mu Ch'ang-tso at first held the garrison command with the rank and titles of Assistant Commissioner-in-chief and Regional

Commander 都督李總兵官. Only after a long time²⁶⁴
 did he then inherit the title of duke. In Wan-li 1,
 Lo Ssu 羅思²⁶⁵, an aboriginal chieftain, and others, re-
 belled in Yao-an 姚安²⁶⁶, murdering the Prefect. Mu
 Ch'ang-tso and Tsou Ying-lung 鄒應龍²⁶⁷ a Censor-in-chief,
 raised aboriginal and Chinese troops and took to the field,
 captured Hsiang-ning 向寧, Cha-mo 鮚摩, and more than ten
 military outposts, overran the rebels' dens, completely over-
 powering Lo Ssu and other rebels. In Wan-li 11,²⁶⁸ Yüeh Feng
 岳鳳, the Lung-ch'uan 隴川²⁶⁹ bandit, rebelled and
 accepted Burmese sovereignty; leading his troops, he seized²⁷⁰
 the territory of the neighboring chieftainships. Mu
 Ch'ang-tso, basing himself at Erh Lake, sent his generals
 Teng Tzu-lung 滕子龍²⁷¹, Liu T'ing 劉廷²⁷² and others
 to execute Han Ch'ien 罕虔, the rebel chieftain of Mu-pang;
 because of the summer malaria, they withdrew their troops.
 The next year, they again attacked Han Ch'ien's old base,
 entering via three routes simultaneously, capturing [his
 successor], the chieftain Han Chao 罕招, and others. They
 also broke through the Burmese forces at Meng-lien 猛臉.
 Yüeh Feng²⁷³ surrendered. In announcing rewards for merit,
 the court elevated Mu Ch'ang-tso to the honorific title and
 rank of Grand Guardian of the Heir Apparent 太子太保 with
 all previous benefits and emoluments. Subsequently he also
 suppressed in turn the aborigines of Lo-hsiung 羅雄 and various

other rebel groups, and again was rewarded, with silver and currency. Burmese forces attacked Meng-kuang ^{猛廣}, and Mu Ch'ang-tso ^{沐昌祚} assembled his forces at Yung-ch'ang ^{永昌} [known earlier as Chin-ch'ih]. The Burmese fled but were pursued and attacked as far as the Na-mo ^{那莫} River; and there, malaria broke out and Mu Ch'ang-tso returned [to ²⁷⁴ Yunnan]. In Wan-li 21, when the Burmese again made forays into the area, Mu Ch'ang-tso pursued them. In successive battles, he was totally victorious; consequently, he lingered on in Burma; but with strife among the various aborigine groups at that time, he then returned home.

The Mu family was long in Yunnan. Their status and authority steadily increased, and they were honored as if Princes of the Blood. Once, when Mu Ch'ang-tso was traveling, Yang Yin-ch'iu ^{楊寅秋}, an Assistant Military Commissioner ^{僉事}, failed to give way on the road, so Mu Ch'ang-tso had his carriage driver flogged. Yang Yin-ch'iu reported this to the court, whereupon an edict was issued severely ²⁷⁵ rebuking Mu. Subsequently, he fell ill, and his son, Mu Jui ^睿 ²⁷⁶ was directed to assume the garrison command in his place. A-k'o ^{阿克}, the chieftain of the Wu-ting, rebelled, attacking the capital city, forcing the surrender ²⁷⁷ of the prefectural seals of office, with which he fled. ²⁷⁸ Mu Jui was captured and thrown into prison; so Mu Ch'ang-tso again assumed the management of the garrison

command. Upon his death, ²⁷⁹ his grandson, Mu Ch'i-yüan
 啟元, assumed the title. With his death, his son,
 T'ien-po 天波, assumed the title. Some ten or more years
 later, when the aboriginal cheiftain of Sha-ting 沙定
 subprefecture rebelled, Mu T'ien-po fled to Yung-ch'ang.
 With the disturbances ended, he again returned to the pro-
 vincial capital [Kunming]. When the Prince of Yung-ming
 永明王, Chu Yu-lang 朱由榔, ²⁸⁰ came to Yunnan, Mu
 T'ien-po resumed office as before. Later, he followed
 the prince in his flight to Burma. The Burmese wanted to
 rob them; he displayed brave defiance, and was killed.
 Previously, in the Sha-ting rebellion, Mu T'ien-po's
 mother, née Ch'en 陳, ²⁸¹ and his wife, née Chiao 焦, died
 of self-immolation. Later, when Mu T'ien-po fled to
 Burma, his concubine, née Hsia 夏, ²⁸² unable to follow him,
 hanged herself. Only after some tens of days was her
 body recovered and prepared for burial; the entire body
 was still sound, leading everyone to think that it had
 responded to the forces of her chaste virtue. ²⁸³