

# The Role of the Pan-ch'iao Lin Pen-yuan Clan in the Development of Northern Taiwan Mountain Areas in the Ch'ing Period

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## Abstract

This article explores the role played by an influential family, the Pan-ch'iao Lin Pen-yuan clan, in the development of northern Taiwan mountain areas during the Ch'ing period.

Chinese migrants penetrated into Taiwan mountain areas on an expanding scale during the first half of the eighteenth century. Influential families played an important role in the frontier opening venture. Some succeeded while others failed.

The frontier policies in the Ch'ing period can be divided into three stages. In the first stage, the Ch'ing government maintained a rigid boundary between the Han and aboriginal people, restricting the Han people to one side of the boundary and the aborigines to the other. This was known as "hua-chieh feng-shan" (demarcation and territorial segregation) policy. During this period, Lin P'ing-hou, the founder of the Pan-ch'iao Lin Pen-yuan clan in Taiwan, started to invest in the mountain area after his retirement from an official post in Kuang-hsi province. Around 1828-29 he moved his family from Hsin-chuang (in Taipei county) to Ta-ko-k'an (Ta-hsi of T'ao-yuan county) with an eye to reclaiming the wasteland in the mountain area. His two sons, Kuo-hua and Kuo-fang, carried on the venture after his death in 1844. However hard their efforts had been, the reclamation work made only little progress and they were even forced to move back to the lowland area at Pan-ch'iao (in Taipei county). The reasons for the setback are various. The lack of official