Breaking Up the House
New Household Heads in Rural Liaoning, 1792–1909
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Introduction
In contrast to Europe, large families containing several conjugal units and spanning multiple generations were regarded as typical in Chinese society until the 1930s (Tsui, 1989). If he was not a successor, a man could only become a household head if he established a new household through family division. In this research, we will examine what kind of man, coming from what kind of family structure, was more likely to establish himself as the head of a new household. We use a subset of the China Multi-Generational Panel Dataset of Liaoning 1792–1909 (CMGPD-LN). The population in CMGPD-LN was composed of unfree agriculture laborers under the eight banner system, managed by the Imperial Household Agency as serfs of the Imperial Family (J. Lee and C. Campbell 1998). Although they are simply composed of unfree agriculture laborers under the eight banner system, managed by the Imperial House-

Household Categories
Lue and Campbell have identified the following 4 complex household types (Lee & Campbell 1998):

- Extended: contains more people than the head and his direct family, but only the household head may have a conjugal unit in the household.
- Vertical: more than one conjugal unit may be present, but only within the direct patriline of the head of household.
- Horizontal: multiple conjugal units may be present, but all of these units are first-degree kinship to the head either through direct lineage, or by being a younger sibling. Incestuous parents of the household head are unacceptable.
- Diagonal: the household head is not necessarily the sole arbiter of the household due to the presence of older siblings or members of older generations, such as uncles.

Hypotheses
1. Household Types: Individuals from Extended, Diagonal or Horizontal households would be more likely to become the head of a new household in the next register year than those from Vertical households.
2. Relationship to the current head of household: Individuals who are the current head’s grandchildren or great-grandchildren, non-stem kin above the head’s generation (e.g. uncles), non-stem kin in the head’s generation (cousins), non-stem kin one generation below the head (nephews), or non-stem kin two or more generations below the head (nephews’ children), would be more likely to become the head of a new household than the head’s son.
3. The death of the previous head: An individual would be more likely to become the head of a new household if the previous household head died.

Method: Discrete Time Logistic Regression Model
This study examines the timing of becoming the head of a new household by age and a number of personal and household characteristics. The CMGPD-LN collects data from registers that were compiled every 3 years, making it best suited to discrete time methods. In this case we have used piece-wise logistic regression to determine the most important factors affecting the odds of becoming the head of a new household.

New household heads are identified by finding reported household heads who were lesser members of another household in a previous register. Independent variables are the individual’s age in 5-year age groups from 5 to 74, a number of dummies for relationship to household head in the previous register, characteristics of the former head, the general structure of the previous household, its size and number of couples by generation, and the generational and sex positions of the other members of that household.

How many new households formed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generation</th>
<th>Direct Heir</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Above Head</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Above Head</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head’s Generation</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Below Head</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Below Head</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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