**HMONG KEEB KWM**

**Nao Chao Lo- Interviewee**

**Siobhan Loendorf- Catawba County Library, Interviewer**

**\*There is also translator who is asking the questions in Hmong.**

**Nao Chao Lo- NL**

**Siobhan Loendorf- SL**

**Translator- TL**

**This is an oral history recorded on June 25, 2018 at the Newton Library in Newton, North Carolina as part of Hmong Keeb Kwm, a grant project awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities in partnership between the Catawba County Library, the Historical Society of Catawba County, and North Carolina Digital Heritage Center for the purposes of collecting and preserving the history of the Hmong in Catawba County and the surrounding area.**

**Total length of interview: 5 minutes and 55 seconds**

**Available format(s): Video available as a .MOV file**

**Transcription and translation by: Houa Yang- Catawba County Library**

**SL:** My name is Siobhan Loendorf. I am an employee of the Catawba County Library. Today is Monday, June 25, 2018. We are recording this at the Newton Branch Library in Newton, North Carolina and I am interviewing Nao Chao Lo. We’ll have someone else ask the questions.

**TL:** Ces tij laug, koj nyob lub zos twg los koj yug qhov twg? *(Alright brother, where do you live or where were you born?)*

**NL:** Hais tib si mus li lod? *(Do I talk about everything starting now?)*

**TL:** Hais lo lus teb qhov kuv nug no xwb. Tias koj yug qhov twg no. *(You can just answer the question I asked. Where were you born?)*

**NL:** Ces nim nos mas yog kuv hais meej mas kuv hais lub npe Hmoob, lub npe Miskas...mas kuv yog Hmoob… *(So now, for it to make sense, I have to say it in Hmong and English...but I’m Hmong…)*

**TL:** Koj tsuas hais tias koj yug qhov twg kiag xwb. *(You just have to tell where you’re born.)*

**NL:** Tab sis kuv hais lus Hmoob kiag lawv thiaj paub hauv yom? *(But I’ll speak in Hmong so they can hear it in the video right?)*

**NL:** I speak Hmong? [to the interviewer]

**TL:** Koj hais lus Hmoob kiag xwb. Dhau qhov no mam muaj tus yuav txhais lus tias koj yog li cas, ua li cas. *(You can just speak Hmong and later someone will translate what you said.)*

**NL:** Kuv hais lus Hmoob kiag lod? *(So I can just speak Hmong?)*

**TL:** Mmm, hais lus Hmoob kiag-- koj yug lub zos twg? *(Yes, just speak Hmong-- where were you born?)*

**NL:** Ntawm no kuv yog Nom Txos Lauj nawb. Kuv yog hmoob Lauj, kuv nyob North Carolina. Thaum kuv nyob teb chaws Nplog, kuv yug ces yog lub zos qab tsuas dawb toj xeem Kheng-Khuay, moos Nong-Hurt, xeev Xiang Khouang nawb. Kuv yog cov Hmoob nyob lub teb chaws ntawv tuaj.

*(My name is Nao Chao Lor. I am from the Lor clan and live in North Carolina. In Laos, I was born on the white mountain in the village of Kheng-Khuay, in the city of Nong-Hurt, in Xiang Khouang province. I am part of the Hmong who are from that area. )*

**TL:** Thaum kuv hais ib qho, piv xam li kuv hais “Koj yug lub zos twg?” no ces koj tsaus hais tias “Kuv yug lub zos no.” xwb no. Yog koj hais dab tsis yuav tsum “kuv ua li no…” yog raws cov lus no.

*(When you answer, for example if I ask “Where were you born?” then just answer “I was born in this town.” When you answer, just answer, “I did this…” according to what was asked, ok?)*

**NL:** Ces rov qab hais dua qhov no lod? *(So, I need to answer again?)*

**TL:** Qhov no tau lawm os. *(No, that was fine.)*

**TL:** Hnub no koj nqa yam khoom dabtsi tuaj rau qhov nov? *(What items did you bring with you today?)*

**NL:** Kuv nqa coj duab tub rog qub tuaj rau hauv library no rau hais tias kuv ua dab tsi yav dhau los lawm. Kuv nqa rau lawv saib thiab lawv toob kaas kom kuv nqa tuaj, tias kuv yog neeg dab tsi, kuv ua dab tsi, kuv coj tuaj prove rau lawv kom paub.

*(I brought some old photos of when I was a soldier to the library today, to show who I used to be and what I used to do. I was asked to bring it, so I brought it to show everyone, as a form of proof of what I used to do.)*

**TL:** Vim li cas koj thiaj li xaiv yam khoom ntawv? Thov qhia mi ntsis txog yam khoom ntawv. *(Why did you choose to bring these items. Can you tell a bit about them?)*

**NL:** Yam khoom ntawv yog ib yam khoom tseem ceem rau kuv yav dhau los hais tias kuv ua dabtsi. Tej tug neeg mas hu tuaj los tsuas tam tam xwb tab sis tsis muaj duab, tsis muaj dab tsi prove lawv. Hos kuv mam yog ib tug neeg muaj proof. Kuv hais tau, ces kuv muaj cov khoom ntawv rau lawv saib. Kuv thiaj nqa tuaj prove hais tias kuv yog ib tug neeg tiag tiag tsis yog ib tug neeg dag.

*(I brought these things because they are very important to me. They are things from my past that show what I have done. Some people, they will tell you stories of what they used to do but have nothing to show that they actually did it. I, on the other hand, have proof. I can say that I did it and I can show you as well. That’s why I brought these things here today to prove that I really did what I say I did and I’m not just lieing about it.)*

**TL:** Yav tom ntej no koj xav kom neeg paub dab tsi txog Hmoob, Hmoob lub neej, thiab Hmoob kab lig cev cai? *(In the future, what would you like for people to know about the Hmong, their history, and traditions?)*

**NL:** Tom ntej no kuv xav hais tias peb yog Hmoob, peb tuaj lub teb chaws Nplog tuaj mas, peb xav kom sawv daws sib pab sib hlub, ua kom tau ib lub siab ib lub ntsws, tom ntej no peb thiaj yuav ua tau ib tsob, li xyoob ntoo, es peb ua tau ib tsob ib zoov. Kuv xav tias pom zoo ua li ntawv. Peb cov laus no ces khaus tas lawm. Peb yuav tsum tseg. Zoo li cev ris tsho uas peb yuav hloov tseg. Peb yuav hnav cov tshiab lawm xwb.

*(In the future, I think, we are Hmong, we all came from Laos so we need to help one another and love one another. We need to share one heart and soul so that in the future we can be strong like a tree, and become like a forest. That’s how I want it to be. I think sometimes the old people are too stuck in their ways. We need to stop that. It’s like clothing, where you take off the old clothes and from now on just wear the new clothes.)*

**NL:** Tshuav ib qho ntxiv. Puas muaj lwm yam uas kuv tsis tau nug txog tab sis koj xav piav thiab qhia txog? *(Is there anything else that I didn’t ask you but that you wanted to tell about?)* [Repeats the question]

**NL:** Kuv pom tau hais tias peb cov laus ces laus dhau tas lawm. Tshuav nej cov hluas. Nej cov hluas tom qab no ces yam peb ua dhau los nej tsis paub ces peb tuaj no ces peb qhia tej qho ua peb ua dhau los es kom nej ho paub thiab. Es tom qab no dhau peb lawm los kom nej ho paub thiab. Es nej ho nrhiav txoj kev zoo los ua rau coj mi tub mi nyuam, coj tub coj kwv coj tij coj neej cov tsav kom ua tau txoj zoo xwb.

*(I can see that my old generation is passing away. There will only be you young ones left. After us, you young ones won’t know what we’ve done. That’s why I came here today to tell about my history so that you will know. When we [old] have passed away you will still remember and you will be able to use these as lessons teach your children, your family, and everyone.)*

**TL:** Thov ua tsaug rau koj lub sij hawm hnub no. *(Thank you for your time today.)*

**SL:** Thank you. Did you [Nao Chao]...You [translator] asked this, but did he have any stories or things that he thought was really important?

**TL:** Tshuav ib qho. Nws nug hais tias koj puas muaj ib qho, xws li zaj dab neeg los sis tham ib qho sai sai hais tias yav tas los no, qhov tseem ceeb rau koj tshaj plaws yog dab tsi? Koj tham ob peb los lus ntxiv. Qhov koj nco tau.

*(One more thing. She asked, if there’s anything else, any stories, or anything from the past that is the most important to you that you wanted to tell a bit more about? Whatever you can remember.)*

**NL:** Qhov kuv nco tau mas yus yuav tham mas yog ib week mas thiaj tham tau tab sis kuv tham qho short xwb. *(My memories...if I was to talk about them it would take a week to tell it all so, I’ll just tell a very little.)*

**TL:** Aws, tham me me kiag xwb. *(Yes, that’s fine. Just tell a little bit.)*

**NL:** Kuv txoj hauj lwm kuv ua dhau los ces...ua ntej kuv hlob ces kuv txawj kawm ntawv ces kuv mus kawm ntawv. Tom qab kawm ntawv tag ces kuv mus ua tub rog lawm xwb. Kuv lus ces muaj li ntawv xwb.

*(In the past, when I was still young, I was great at school so I just went to school and studied. Then after I finished school, I went straight to becoming a soldier. That’s about it for me.)*

**SL:** Thank you so much. Thank you.