

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE *of* AMERICAN HISTORY

*Inside the Vault:
Highlights from the Gilder Lehrman Collection*

July 29, 2021

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Our Team

- Sandy Trenholm - Collection Director
- Karalee Wong Nakatsuka - 2019 California History Teacher of the Year
- Meagan Jenkins - Curatorial Intern
- Allison Kraft - Assistant Curator

During the Session



- If you would like to ask a question, you can **use the Q&A feature.**
- We will be answering audience questions throughout the session.

For Security and Privacy

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Today's Documents

- *Chinatown Declared a Nuisance!*
- *Report from the House of Representatives*
- *“The Chinese Question”*
- *Paper Son Interrogation*

Chinese Immigration to the U.S.



Library of Congress

- Chinese immigration begins with the Gold Rush in 1849.
- By 1850, approximately 25,000 Chinese immigrants resided in California (mostly in San Francisco).
- A series of famines from the 1850s to the 1870s in China prompted immigration.
- Burlingame Treaty of 1868 between the United States and China
 - Allowed Chinese people to immigrate and travel within the US
 - Promised protection for Chinese people in the US
 - Gave citizens of both countries access to education while living in the other country
 - Protected trades done in Chinese ports and cities
 - Initiated the right for China to appoint consuls in American port cities

Leading Up to Chinese Exclusion

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY

CHINATOWN

DECLARED A NUISANCE!

CONTENTS:

1. INTRODUCTION—
The "New Grant Boom" of the Republican Party.
2. BOARD OF HEALTH.
3. MAYOR I. S. KALLOCH.
4. THE WORKINGMEN'S PARTY of California.

- 1853 Foreigner Miners' Tax - California levied \$4/month tax on foreign miners.
- 1854 *People v. Hall* - California Supreme Court ruled that Chinese people could not testify in court against White citizens.
- 1875 Page Act - makes it extremely difficult for Chinese women to enter the country.
- 1880 Angell Treaty - recognized the US's power to regulate labor emigration from China.

Chinese Labor

- 15,000 Chinese men worked on the Transcontinental Railroad.
- The Workingmen's Party of California felt Chinese laborers accepted lower wages than White workers.
 - Actively campaigned to remove Chinese from the United States
- The Panic of 1873 caused frustration among the White working class, who saw Chinese workers as the perfect scapegoat for the plummeting economy.

No. 41042 ORIGINAL

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Certificate of Residence.


Issued to Chinese Laborer, under the Provisions of the Act of May 5, 1892.

This is to Certify that Laborer Hongkyun Haag, a Chinese, now residing at Mountain View Cal has made application No. 2478 for me for a Certificate of Residence, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved May 5, 1892, and I certify that it appears from the affidavits of witnesses submitted with said application that said Hongkyun Haag was within the limits of the United States at the time of the passage of said Act, and was then residing at Mountain View Cal and that he was at that time lawfully entitled to remain in the United States, and that the following is a descriptive list of said Chinese: Hongkyun Haag VIZ: NAME: Hongkyun Haag AGE: 37 years LOCAL RESIDENCE: Mountain View Cal OCCUPATION: laborer HEIGHT: 5 ft 10 in COLOR OF EYES: Brown COMPLEXION: Dark PHYSICAL MARKS OR PECULIARITIES FOR IDENTIFICATION: scar on upper left arm 3 1/2 in mason's mark

And as a further means of identification I have affixed hereto a photographic likeness of said Hongkyun Haag 16 1/2

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL this March day of 1894 at Mountain View State of California

O. McMillberry
Collector of Internal Revenue,
District of California,
By H. M. Purcell Deputy



California Historical Society



California Historical Society

51ST CONGRESS, } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { REPORT
1st Session. } { No. 2915.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

AUGUST 5, 1890.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MORROW, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 11656.]

The Committee on Foreign Affairs, to whom was referred the bills (H. R. 4548 and H. R. 5357) prohibiting Chinese immigration, have given the subject careful consideration, and report a substitute containing the substantial provisions of both bills.

The treaty between the United States and the Empire of China, concluded November 17, 1880, provided, in article 2, that—

Whenever, in the opinion of the Government of the United States, the coming of Chinese laborers to the United States, or their residence therein, affects or threatens to affect the interests of that country, or to endanger the good order of the said country or of any locality within the territory thereof, the Government of China agrees that the Government of the United States may regulate, limit, or suspend such coming or residence, but may not absolutely prohibit it. The limitation or suspension shall be reasonable and shall apply only to Chinese who may go to the United States as laborers, other classes not being included in the limitations. Legislation taken in regard to Chinese laborers will be of such a character only as is necessary to enforce the regulation, limitation, or suspension of immigration, and immigrants shall not be subject to personal maltreatment or abuse.

The second article provided that—

Chinese subjects, whether proceeding to the United States as teachers, students, merchants, or from curiosity, together with their body and household servants, and Chinese laborers who are now in the United States shall be allowed to go and come of their own free will and accord, and shall be accorded all the rights, privileges, immunities, and exemptions which are accorded to the citizens and subjects of the most favored nation.

In pursuance of these provisions of the treaty the United States proceeded to legislate upon the subject and to provide against the coming of Chinese laborers to the United States.

The first act was approved May 6, 1882, and declared that after ninety days from the passage of the act and for a period of ten years from that date the coming of Chinese laborers to the United States should be suspended, and that it should be unlawful for any such laborer to come or having come to remain within the United States.

It was also made a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine to which imprisonment might be added, for the master of any vessel knowingly to bring within the United States from a foreign country and land any such Chinese laborer. It was, however, provided as an exception to such provisions of exclusion that they should not apply to Chinese laborers who were in the United States at the date of the treaty, to wit, on November 17, 1880, or who should come into the country within ninety days after the passage of the act; and to give such Chinese persons the full benefit of this exception it was provided that, for the purpose of identifying the

Report of the House
of Representatives,
1890

House of Representatives Report

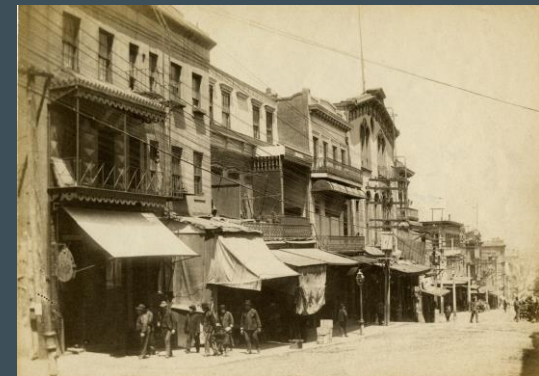
The competition steadily increased as the laborers came in crowds on each steamer that arrived from China, or Hong-Kong, an adjacent English port. They were generally industrious and frugal. Not being accompanied by families, except in rare instances, their expenses were small; and they were content with the simplest fare, such as would not suffice for our laborers and artisans. The competition between them and our people was for this reason altogether in their favor, and the consequent irritation, proportionately deep and bitter, was followed, in many cases, by open conflicts, to the great disturbance of the public peace.

have no regard for the obligations of an oath as administered in our courts. Their general habits, manners, and customs are different from and repugnant to those of the white and all other races, and as a race the Chinese assimilate with no other. That in the year 1880 there resided in this city and county 21,732 Chinese, and their number since has not materially changed. Of this number but a small portion—less than 1,000—are females, and the greater portion of these females are women of ill fame, living an abandoned life upon the wages of prostitution.

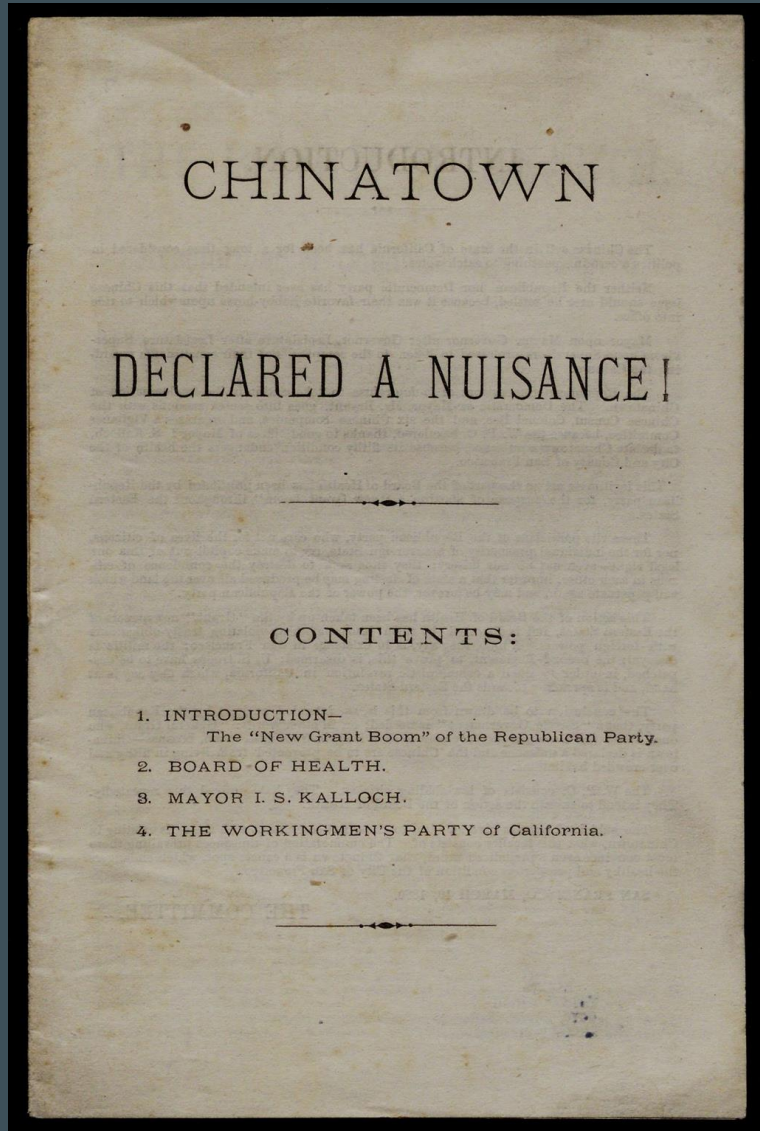
Gilder Lehrman Collection



California Historical Society



Chinatown Declared a Nuisance!, 1880



Anti-Chinese propaganda

- Isaac S. Kalloch
- Board of Health
- Workingmen's Party

Describes Chinese people as evil and "documents" ways they were dangerous to the public health.

Report of the Workingmen's Party

permeated wood and stonework. A radical cure alone can do justice to the citizens of San Francisco. The police officers on their beats in Chinatown receive bribes as hush money, so that they shall not disturb their (the Chinese) mode of living. This assertion is proven by the individual wealth of the police officers there on the one side, and the open violation of the law on the part of the Chinese on the other. The special policemen especially should be charged with the above, because they serve only to be subservient to the Chinese, and to guard them against arrest. We pray, therefore, your Honorable Board, as citizens of these United States, as inhabitants of the State of California, and voters and taxpayers of the city and county of San Francisco, to take into consideration the above described existing evil, and to remedy the same as follows:

First—To have Chinatown condemned as a nuisance, because its filth and stench and open lawlessness destroy the health and morals of the people of this city.

Second—To have the Chinese quartered outside of the city in decent quarters, wherever your Honorable Board may designate, or where the Chinese desire to build and purchase homes.

Third—Whereas the American people are as yet free from such a terrible disease as leprosy—a disease inherent with the Chinese race; and whereas, in accordance with all medical science, constitutional and hereditary or inherent disorders, such as leprosy, lupus, syphilis, etc., are related to and intermingle with each other, so that a contamination with syphilis also carries in its train an inoculation of leprosy or lupus; and whereas, through necessity, on account of the close intercourse existing between the American race and Chinese, the infusion of said incurable and hereditary diseases must follow, and result in the deterioration of our healthy American race; therefore,

We pray—having also our prayers upon the provisions of the New Constitution, now in force, viz., Article XI, Section 11, to wit: "Any county, city, or town, or township may make and enforce within its limits, all such local, police, sanitary or other regulations as are not in conflict with the general laws"—to have all intercourse cease between Chinese and Americans and vice versa, for sanitary reasons only; and to make it a misdemeanor for any person or citizen to have any business or other relations with the Chinese, for reasons aforesaid. Very respectfully,

GEO. A. REICH, M.D.,
D. McMILLAN, M.D.,
JOHN BARTON,
A. VANINA,
JOHN SHIELDS, *Committee.*

By order of the Anti-Chinese Council.

T. ALLEN, *President.* * W. I. CLARK, *Secretary.*

Nearly every house in this so-called Chinatown ought to be included, but time and space prevent us from doing so.

Actual observation, taken almost daily, during the last six weeks, convinced us of this state of affairs.

If need to be, the Committee are willing to swear to this report before a Notary Public and be punished accordingly if impure motives and not the truth has actuated them.

Itemized Report of Nuisances IN CHINATOWN.

614, 712, 714 Dupont Street.—Immediately behind the Cathedral is a house of terrible filth, stink and slime; the urine having percolated through the excrement is all over the floor of the hall-way. Wooden structures are built out into the court-room from the building proper (a feature which can be found all over Chinatown). Open fires are there on every floor. The building is crowded with Chinamen, who smoke opium and live in an atmosphere surcharged with stench and smoke.

Mansion-House Place.—Terrible filth and stink; garbage; piles of dirt; old wooden rickety structures, etc., at the end of which is a wood-yard. Dangerous, also, on account of fires, because open fires are there in full blast, which are built in coal-oil cans. Water-closets everywhere.

Ross Street, off Washington, between Stockton and Dupont.—The same condition exists there.



Dupont Street
Library of Congress

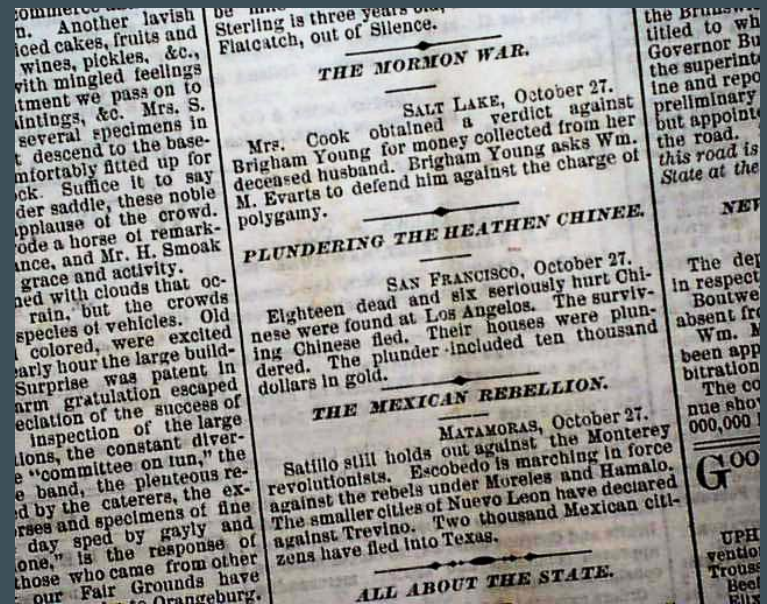
Massacres of Los Angeles and Rock Spring

Los Angeles, California

- Tensions became high between rival groups in an immigrant sector of Los Angeles, which led to a shootout.
- In the chaos, a White man was killed and the White residents began to riot.
- 10 White men were convicted and charged with manslaughter, but the convictions were later overturned.
- It became the largest mass lynching in American history.

Rock Spring, Wyoming

- White workers at Union Pacific Railroad mines grew angry that the railroad used Chinese workers to keep wages low.
- They attacked and murdered Chinese residents and burned down their homes.





"The Chinese Question" by Thomas Nast, 1871

The Chinese Exclusion Act, 1882

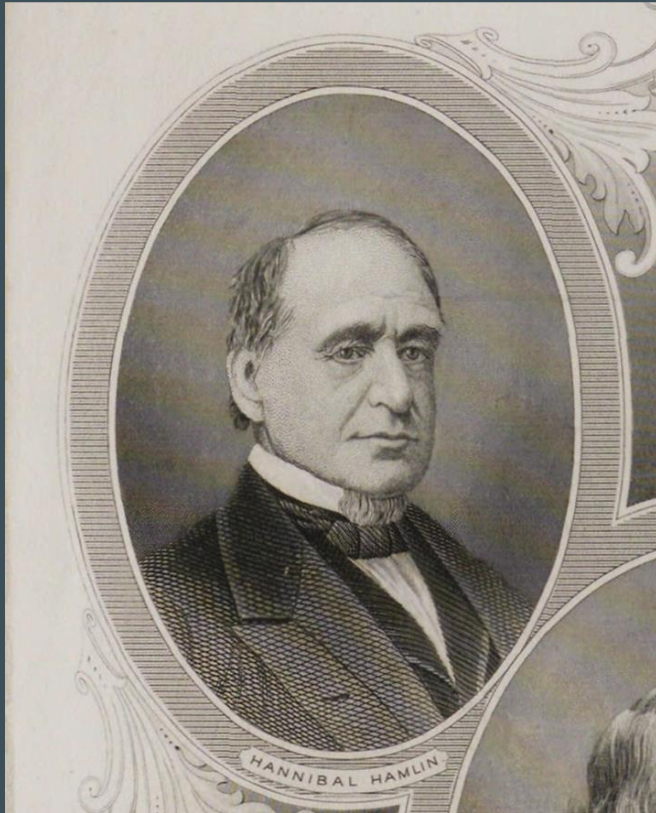
- May 6, 1882 - signed into law by President Chester A. Arthur
 - First major restriction of immigration into the US
 - Based on race
 - Barred most Chinese immigrants from entering the country for 10 years
 - Prevented Chinese immigrants from becoming US citizens
- 1892 - extended for ten years by the Geary Act
- 1904 - Made permanent by Theodore Roosevelt
- Repealed in 1943
- 1882- Fundraising for the Statue of Liberty began
- 1883 - Emma Lazarus published "The New Colossus"



Senator Hannibal Hamlin, 1879

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Speech against Chinese Exclusion,
February 15, 1879



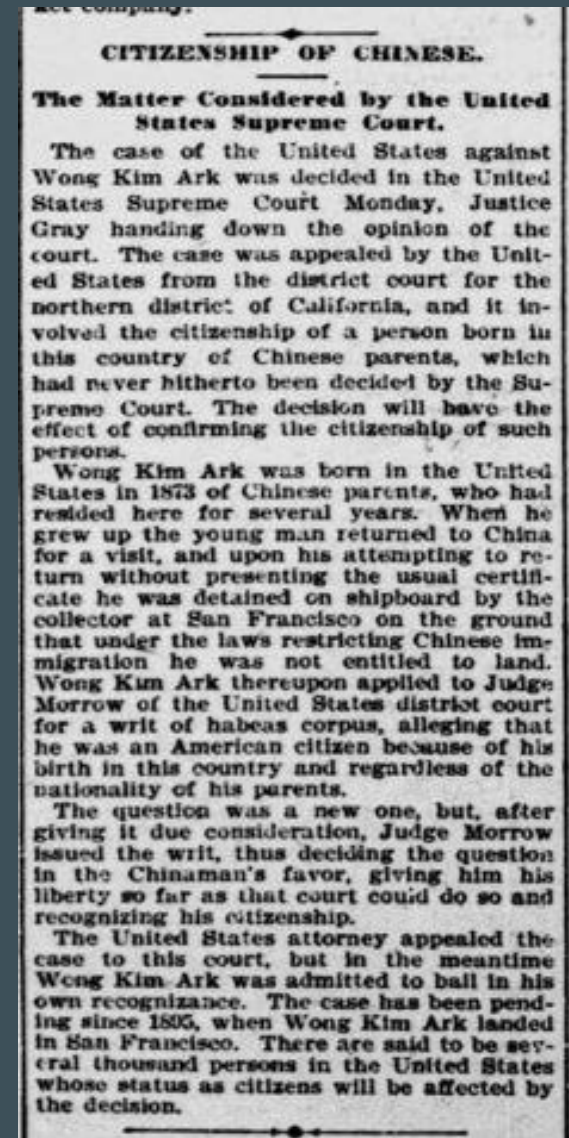
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“I am willing to admit them to naturalization. I think all persons who come here to make their permanent home ought to participate in our Government, ought to be citizens, and ought to have the right of franchise conferred upon them. I voted for it once; I will vote for it again; and, I believe, Mr. President, that if you will treat these people upon the Pacific slope with common humanity they will assimilate, not, perhaps, as readily as other nationalities, to our institutions, but within a reasonable time.”

“I shall vote against the measure, and I leave that vote the last legacy to my children that they may esteem it the brightest act of my life.”

Chinese Fight Back in Court

- Over 10,000 lawsuits filed between 1882 and 1905 regarding Immigration & Civil Rights
- Many cases argued violations of the Fourteenth Amendment:
 - “nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”
- *United States v. Wong Kim Ark*, March 28, 1898 - established birthright citizenship in the US



Paper Sons and Daughters



- The 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire destroyed City Hall and its records.
- This created an opportunity for Chinese immigration.
 - Chinese Americans could bring relatives into the US.
 - Immigrants pretended to be relatives of Chinese Americans to gain entry into the US
- The terms “paper son” and “paper daughter” refer to Chinese immigrants who acquired this documentation.
- At immigration stations, authorities interrogated people to find illegal immigrants with fraudulent documentation.

Paper Son Interrogation

8-13

12-13-23

Applicant 8-13

A Yes.
 Q What is your mother's native village? A. Yep Hong Village, S. H. D.
 Q How far is that from your village? A. Quite a distance, I have never been there.
 Q Are your mother's parents living? A. No
 Q Who were they? A. I don't know their names.
 Q Has your mother any brothers or sisters? A. No
 Q How large is Su Ling Village? A. Only 4 houses
 Q Are they all dwelling houses? A. Yes
 Q Are there any other buildings in the village? A. Yes, 1 lantern house
 Q How are the buildings in that village arranged? A. In 5 rows, 1 on each row
 Q What way does the village face? A. South
 Q In what section is that village? A. Ung How Section
 Q What villages does Ung How Section include? A. Quite a few, I don't know their names
 Q Do you know any place called Gung Share? A. I don't know any village by that name but there is a village named Gong Dusy, it is in front of my village a little over 1 li away.
 Q Did you ever hear of a Gung Share Section anywhere in your neighborhood? A. No
 Q Where is the social hall in your village? A. 1st house counting from the west of my village.
 Q What is it used for? A. Used as a meeting place for the villagers
 Q Was it ever used as a schoolhouse? A. No.
 Q Was school ever held there? A. No
 Q Where is your house? A. 3rd house counting and including the lantern house or social hall
 Q Is your house a regular five room house? A. Yes
 Q What kind of floors has it? A. Dirt
 Q Is the open court paved? A. Yes, with red tile
 Q In what condition is that paving? A. Not in very good condition, some of the tiles are broken
 Q Who lives in the house between your house and the social hall? A. Wong Oh Chmg
 Q How old is he? A. About 62 years old
 Q What is his occupation? A. He is conducting a rice store, named Ock Wah, in Wah On Market, about 3 li west of my village
 Q Is that your nearest market? A. Yes.
 Q How long has Wong Oh Chmg followed that occupation? A. A long time I think, I don't know when he went there.
 Q Did he ever do any farming in your village? A. No, not that I know of.
 Q What family has he? A. A wife, son and daughter; the children's names are, Wong Chm Ock, son, about 7 years old.
 Wong Jung Ho, daughter, about 12 years old.
 Q Who lives in the house next yours on the east? A. Wong Tung Gee
 Q What are his age and occupation? A. About 22 years old and is farming in the home village.
 Q Has he a family? A. Yes, a wife and daughter, no son; daughter's name is Wong Toy Gue, about 7

8-13

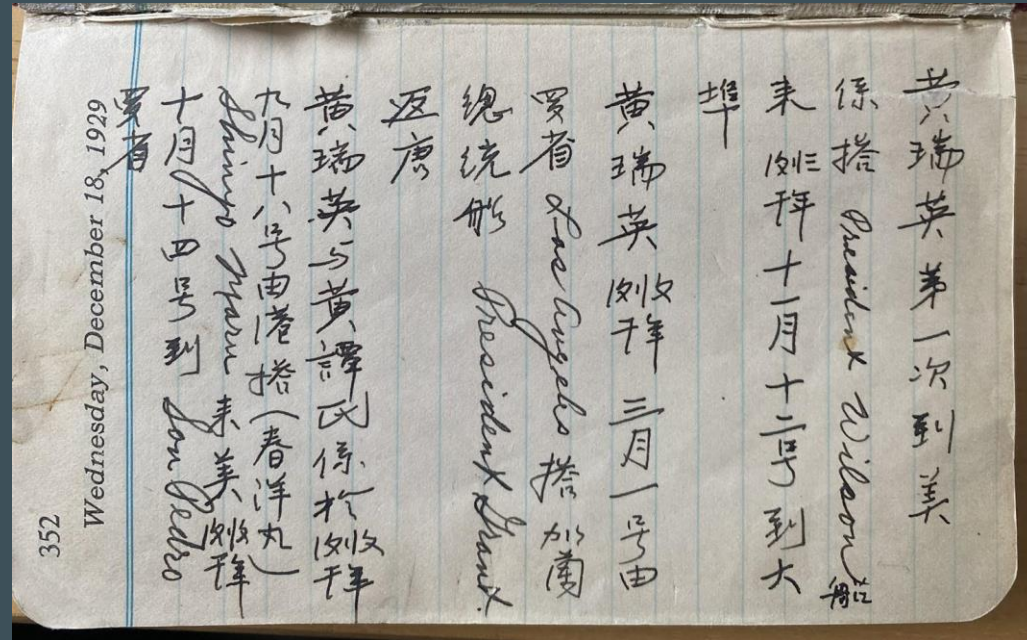
12-13-23

Applicant 8-13

Q Where are Wong Tung Gee's parents? A. They are dead
 Q Did you ever see either of them in your village? A. No
 Q Would you be apt to know if they had been in your village in recent years? A. Yes
 Q Who lives in the 1st house on the east side of the village? A. Wong Ging Gay
 Q What are his age and occupation? A. He is about 42 years old and is now in Mexicali
 Q When did he go there? A. I think he went there in the last part C.R. 9 (1920)
 Q What was his occupation in your village? A. He had no particular occupation
 Q Has he a family in your village? A. Yes, a wife-- no children
 Q Is any house in your village occupied by more than one family? A. No.
 Q When your father was last in China where did you and your two brothers sleep?
 Q When he was home we were attending school and we slept in the school, during vacation we slept home, sometimes on the big door side and sometimes on the small door side; my parents usually occupied the room on the big door side.
 Q Did you always sleep in the school during the school term? A. No, we slept in school during the last few years
 Q Where did you have your meals when you slept at school? A. At home
 Q Did you attend school with both your brothers? A. I was with my eldest brother for 8 or 9 years and with my second brother for about 13 years.
 Q How many different teachers did you have? A. Only one
 Q What are his name and age? A. Wong Ock Chung, past 60 now.
 Q Where does he live? A. Poon Lung Village
 Q Did he have sons who attended school with you and your brothers? A. No
 Q What school did you attend in Poon Lung Village? A. There is no name for that school but it was held in Wong Yuk Ancestral Hall.
 Q How large is Poon Lung Village? A. It is quite a size, I don't know how many houses there are
 Q Where is the ancestral hall in the village? A. At the tail end of that village
 Q In going from your home village to school how did you enter the Poon Lung Village?
 A. From my village to the school we walked around the hill and did not have to go into the village to reach the school.
 Q What kind of a road connects your village with Poon Lung Village? A. It is all dirt with the exception of a short way at the point of the hill where there is a stone road
 Q What is the name of that hill? A. There is no particular name for it; that is the hill back of my village.
 Q Did you ever know anyone by the name of Wong Hing Jui? A. No
 Q Did you know anyone by the name of Wong Gim Hing? A. No
 Q Were you ever in Wah On Market? A. Yes.
 Q Was there any mission there? A. Yes.
 Q Did you ever hear anyone speak at that Mission or Market? A. No, but I passed there and looked in there several times.
 (Intr. Yong Kay takes the place of Intr. Fung Ming)
 Q Have you understood the previous interpreter? A. Yes.
 Q What is the name of that mission in Wah On Market? A. Fook Gim or gospel hall
 Q Is there a wall on any side of your village? A. No
 Q Has the village any ponds? A. No.
 Q Where do you get water for household use? A. From the river in front of the village, about 20 jungs away

Wong Chun Ning (1906-1997)

- 1923 - Immigrated as a Paper Son
 - Real age: 17
 - Paper age: 19
 - Traveled with the real son of his paper father
- Worked in the wholesale produce business
- Returned to China in 1929 match-made marriage
 - Wife was able to come to the US due to a 1925 revision in the immigration law
- Had 7 children and 21 grandchildren



Courtesy of Karalee Wong Nakatsuka

“China to America on the President Wilson, landed November 12, 1923. America to China on the President Grant, departed March 1, 1929. Departed Hong Kong September 18, 1929 China to America on the Shimpo Maru, returned October 14, 1929.”

Chinese Immigration in the 20th Century



- 1943 - the Magnuson Act repealed the Chinese exclusion Act but established a quota
 - Only 105 ethnically Chinese immigrants that would be allowed into the US regardless of country of origin
 - Allowed some Chinese residents to become citizens
- 1965 - The Immigration and Nationality Act abolished National Origins Formula
- 1966 - the term “model minority” first used by sociologist William Petersen in the *New York Times Magazine*
 - Describes groups that achieved a high level of success in the United States
 - Has the consequence of denigrating other ethnic groups

Upcoming Programs

- *Inside the Vault*, Thursday, August 12 at 7 p.m. ET (4 p.m. PT)
 - We will be discussing Robert F. Kennedy's report on civil rights with Lois MacMillan.
- *Book Breaks*, Sunday, August 1 at 2 p.m. (11 a.m. PT)
 - Clint Smith discusses his book *How the Word Is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery across America*.

Student Transcription Project

GLC02437.04422: Henry Knox to Jeremiah Wadsworth, 28
November 1789.: Page #1

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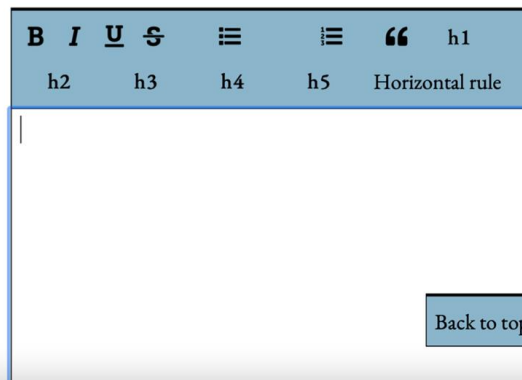
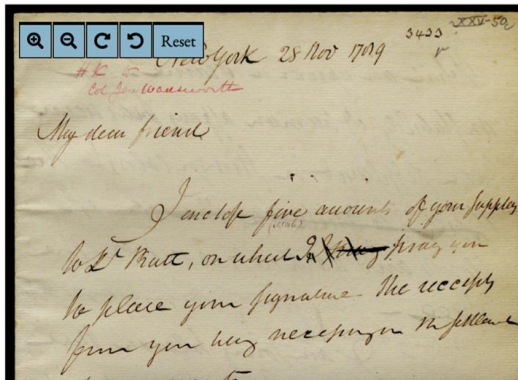
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