Angel Island Immigration and genealogical resources

Grant Din (a paper name)

November 19, 2016

CFHGSC
Our mission is to promote a greater understanding of Pacific Coast immigration and its role in shaping America’s past, present and future.

AIISF raises funds to restore, preserve and interpret the U.S. Immigration Station at Angel Island, a National Historic Landmark.

In partnership with the California State Parks, we educate the public about the complex story and rich cultural heritage of Pacific Coast immigrants and their descendants.
Some tools for genealogists aren’t always available for Asian Americans

- **Naturalization documents.** A 1790 law prevented people other than “free white persons” from being naturalized citizens – persons of African descent could after 1870; Asian immigrants not until the 1940s and 1950s.

- **Land holding records** – the California Alien Land Law of 1913 (finally ruled unconstitutional until 1952) prevented aliens ineligible for citizenship (Asians, not Europeans) from owning land. Eight other states enacted similar laws.
The Chinese Exclusion Acts

Anti-Chinese sentiment and scapegoating resulted in the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which was renewed in 1892 and not repealed until 1943. Chinese could only come to the U.S. if they were merchants, students, diplomats or travelers. The acts were the only U.S. laws to prevent the immigration of a particular racial or ethnic group. The number of Chinese immigrants dropped drastically.
Other Laws Affecting Immigration and Naturalization

- **U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark** decision of 1898 – established birthright citizenship for all (Wong fought to keep the right of citizenship for those born in the U.S., even though his parents could not become citizens, and won in the US Supreme Court)
- The Gentlemen’s Agreement of 1907 restricted Japanese immigration, and resulted in “picture brides.”
- Immigration Act of 1917 extended many of the Chinese Exclusion Act’s provisions to all Asians
• The Immigration Act of 1924 further curtailed Asian immigration, made family reunification almost impossible by restricting immigration of wives of immigrants.

• Chinese Exclusion Acts not repealed until 1943; Luce-Celler Act of 1946 allowed small quota for Filipinos and Indians; allowed them to naturalize.

• The McCarran-Walter Act of 1952 created rigid immigration quotas, but other Asians could finally become naturalized citizens.

• 1965 Immigration Act finally eliminated quotas and immigration greatly increased, especially from Asia and Latin America.
Responses to these laws

- During the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906, all of the records were destroyed at the Hall of Records. This expanded an opportunity for Chinese immigrants to circumvent the Exclusion Acts and increased the use of “paper sons” and “paper daughters.”
- People already here said that they were born here and so were U.S. citizens, AND that they had children in China who would also be eligible to come to the U.S., as children of citizens. These children, mostly male, became known as “paper sons and daughters.”
From an interview with Mr. Chan

“We didn’t want to come in illegally, but we were forced to because of the immigration laws. They picked on the Chinese, so we had to take the crooked path.”

Interviewed by Judy Yung and Him Mark Lai, 1977
Why was the U.S. Immigration Station at Angel Island built?

- To enforce the Chinese Exclusion Acts (1882-1943) and other anti-Asian legislation
- To try to deport paper sons and daughters and their families
- To serve as a processing center for immigrants from 80+ countries and ensure that they would not become “LPC” – Likely to become a Public Charge. Most of the immigrants who came through Angel Island did not have to stay overnight.
So Angel Island is not quite the “Ellis Island of the West” – in some ways, yes, in other ways not. It served to welcome some people, put up barriers for others.

Some government officials called Angel Island the “Guardian of the Western Gate.”
Angel Island in San Francisco Bay housed a United States Immigration Station between 1910 and 1940.
The immigration barracks circa 1910
Immigrants at Angel Island

- Over one million people are estimated to have been processed at Angel Island between 1910 and 1940, about half arriving, half departing to their home countries.
- Most were not detained and proceeded on to San Francisco.
- Those who were detained for a longer period included approximately 100,000 Chinese out of the 175,000 who passed through San Francisco in this period;
- 85,000 Japanese, including “picture brides” came through SF
- 8,000 South Asians; 8,000 Russians and Jews, 1,000 Koreans; 261 Filipinos after the Philippines began its process to become independent in 1934; 400+ Mexicans; and hundreds of Jews escaping the Holocaust in 1939 and 1940.

Figures from Erika Lee and Judy Yung, *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America.*
### Some Immigration Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Birth</th>
<th>US Immigrants 1911-1932</th>
<th>Estimated SF immigrants 1910-1940</th>
<th>Deportation Rate, US-wide, 1911-1932</th>
<th>Estimated detainees on Angel Island</th>
<th>Case files by country of birth at NARA</th>
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<td>Philippines</td>
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Missing: # of A-files

Figures from Erika Lee and Judy Yung, *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America.*
Japanese “picture brides” were among the immigrants who came through Angel Island.
Immigrants also arrived from Africa and over 80 countries, including sizeable numbers from Korea, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and Mexico.
Many Chinese immigrants were detained on Angel Island for weeks and even years because of the Chinese Exclusion Acts.
Many Chinese immigrants carved poems of frustration and hope, which still remain on the barracks walls. This is “Poem 69,” the best preserved poem.
Translation of “Poem 69”

Detained in this wooden house for several tens of days,  
It is all because of the Mexican exclusion law which implicates me. 
It’s a pity heroes have no way of exercising their prowess. 
I can only await the word so that I can snap Zu’s whip.

From now on, I am departing far from this building 
All of my fellow villagers are rejoicing with me. 
Don’t say that everything within is Western styled. 
Even if it is built of jade, it has turned into a cage.
Another of the poems on the walls

I clasped my hands in parting with my brothers and classmates
Because of the mouth, I hastened to cross the American ocean
How was I to know that the western barbarians had lost their hearts and reason?
With a hundred kinds of oppressive laws, they mistreat us Chinese.

-Lai, Lim and Yung, Island, Page 162
Interrogation table on footprint of Administration Building
Lena Fong is the baby in this Angel Island photograph
IMMIGRANT VOICES

how to create a story

AISEF is pleased to present stories about the immigrant experience. As we celebrate 100
Use of ship manifests

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<th>No. on List</th>
<th>HEAD-TAX STATUS</th>
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<th>DATED</th>
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Case file number will be 32281/4-3
(32281=ship no., 4=page no., 3 = row no.)
### Chinese Passenger Arrivals and Dispositions

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Some of the Japanese Immigrants and U.S.-born who came through the island
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<th>MARRIED OR SINGLE</th>
<th>Whether a Citizen of the United States</th>
<th>PORT OF EMBARKATION</th>
<th>No. of Pieces of Baggage</th>
<th>INTENDED DESTINATION OF ALL ALIENS IN TRANSIT</th>
<th>LOCATION OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN WHERE CASHED Passengers who died on the Voyage</th>
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<td>119</td>
<td>16.</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>Sg</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Memories of Angel Island

by Chizu Iiyama

Mrs. Kou Kitano arrived on Angel Island in 1914 and waited for her husband, who she had only seen in a photograph. Thus, begins the journey of a Japanese picture bride, as told by her daughter, Chizu Iiyama.

My sister Masako visited Japan as a graduation present with my mother in 1935. Their stay was extended several months as Mother became ill. She became very close to my mother who reminisced about her early life in Japan, how she became a picture bride, and her brief stay at Angel Island and her first glimpse of her husband-to-be.

Kou Yuki was born in 1888 in the village of Oita, Japan. She was very fortunate that the Japanese government, under the Meiji reforms, opened up public education. This included girls for the first time. She was very bright, graduated 8th grade, then became an elementary school teacher.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Port</th>
<th>Vessel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jiro “Dick” Kobashigawa</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
The Story of Jiro Dick Kobashigawa

by Grant Din

Born in Phoenix, Arizona, Mr. Kobashigawa moved to Japan with his family when he was six years old. When he became 16 years old, his father sent him back to the U.S. to work and support the family. He spent three weeks at the Angel Island Immigration Station in 1931. His account of life in the Detention Barracks provides a detailed description of the isolation and anxiety immigrants experienced.

"The food was terrible...the soup was smelly, made from old meat. The rice was steamed but hard. I couldn't eat." That's how Dick Jiro Kobashigawa described one of his first memories of Angel Island, when he arrived from Okinawa in 1931 when he was sixteen. "It was kind of dark by the time I got to Angel Island and they took me to this holding place. They put me with the...illegal immigrants who were waiting for deportation. There were bunk beds, three high...after lunch, we were all outside in the fenced in area behind the building. We were in the sun. That time I met Japanese who were waiting to be deported. I didn't know anyone there. I couldn't speak to anyone."

Kobashigawa stayed at Angel Island for about three weeks in 1931. An American citizen born in Phoenix, Arizona in 1914, Kobashigawa went with his family to Okinawa when he was six because his mother was homesick and his father had made enough money farming strawberries to return. On Okinawa, he did well in a school far enough from home that he had to stay in a boarding house, but when he was sixteen, his father had financial problems, took him out of school, and sent him to the U.S. to work to support the family.

Kobashigawa was planning to return to Arizona where his half-brother still lived, and sail to Los Angeles. His father had heard that it would cost the same to sail to Los Angeles as San Francisco, but on the way to the U.S., he found that it would cost ten dollars more, so he spent almost all the rest of
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>No.</th>
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<td>H. Schmoldt</td>
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<td>E. C. Haworth</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Medical certificate release

Held for SPECIAL INQUIRY by Inspector Lawler as LPC

Alien sworn: (presents passport 56019 dated 12/30/13 to U.S.)

My name is Kane Mineta; age 20 yrs. 5 mos.; born in Japan; have always lived there; unaccompanied; married to Kunisaku Mineta; arrived on S.S. Chiyo Maru from Yokohama; husband paid passage; never in U.S. before; going to husband at...

By Chairman: It is the unanimous opinion of the Board that inasmuch as the applicant seeks admission as the wife of Kunisaku Mineta, an alien resident of the U.S., by reason of a photographic marriage which is not recognized by the laws of California, that she be admitted provided she shall be married according to the laws of California, and shall furnish satisfactory evidence of such marriage to the Commissioner of Immigration at this port; and the applicant is so informed.
Fred Korematsu’s parents
Japanese Americans on the Island in World War II
Found on eBay!

INTERNEE OF WA

KOTO HANZAWA

HALEPOKALUA

HA'IKU

MAUI

HAWAII

HEADQUARTERS, PRISONER OF WAR ENCLOSURE
Angel Island, California.
Taichiro Hanzawa

Form 632
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

Permit to Reenter the United States

PURSUANT to provisions of section 10 of the Immigration Act of 1924, this permit
is issued to bearer,

TAICHIRO HANZAWA

an alien previously lawfully admitted to the United States, to reenter the United
States, if otherwise admissible, as a nonquota immigrant, and its validity shall
expire this 20th day of September, A. D. 1933.

The personal description of the bearer is: Age, 45 years; height, 5 feet
and 8 inches; weight, 127 pounds; complexion, Japanese;

hair, black; eyes, brown; identification marks, little finger right hand deformed and

cannot straighten

Approved:

Second Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Issued at Washington, D. C. this 20th day of September, A. D. 1933.
From NARA, College Park, MD

---

**BASIC PERSONNEL RECORD**

(As an Enemy or Prisoner of War)

**HANZAWA, Taichiro (Taichiro)**

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<th>Black</th>
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<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>55</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Distinguishing marks or characteristics:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crooked right little finger</td>
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</table>

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**INVENTORY OF PERSONAL EFFECTS TAKEN FROM INTERNEE**

- $196.05 cash

---

**Right Hand**

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**Left Hand**

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<td>[Finger impressions]</td>
<td>[Finger impressions]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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21 June, 1942

Hawn Dept Alien Processing Center, Honolulu, HI

The above is correct:

[Signature of internee]

---

Note: amputations in proper space

---

*Do not fill in.*
Yasutaro Soga was a journalist for a Japanese newspaper in Honolulu and wrote *Life Behind Barbed Wire* in Japanese. It was translated in 2008, and includes a chapter on his twelve days on the island.
IMMIGRANT VOICES

From Punjab, India to Angel Island

by Samra Family and AIISF

Angel Island Profile: Dalip Singh Samra

Published on Aug 30, 2013

Born in 1896, Dalip Singh Samra immigrated to the U.S. from his native village of Sidhwan in Punjab, India, in 1910. Although his grandfather told him he'd live to regret leaving India, he was determined to travel to this new land. Mr. Samra spent twelve days on Angel Island before being released to live in California. He was able to find work on farms in the Sacramento River Delta.
Kehar Singh
MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

Port of San Francisco, Cal.

Date, 9/23/13, 191

Name, Keha Singh, 12924/4-10  Age, Male

Native of India  Race, Hindu  Date arrival, 9/22/13

S. S. NIPPON MARU  Class, Manifest No.

This is to Certified That the above-described person has this day been examined and is found to be afflicted with UNCINARCTIS:-- infection of the intestinal tract with hookworm. A DANGEROUS, CONTAGIOUS DISEASE.

[Signature] Surgeon,
[Signature] Asst.
Dec. 1, 1913.


Sirs:—

You are notified that a warrant of deportation has been issued for you by the Acting Secretary of Labor in his letter dated November 23rd, and in compliance with the terms of that warrant you should surrender yourself in order that it may be executed on Tuesday, December 2nd.

Respectfully,

Exact copy as signed by Samuel W. Backus
WARRANT—DEPORTATION OF ALIEN

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Department of Commerce and Labor

Washington


To Samuel W. Backus, Commissioner of Immigration, Angel Island Station, San Francisco, Cal.

WHEREAS, from proofs submitted to me, after due hearing before Immigrant Inspector R. E. Peabody, held at Angel Island Station, San Francisco, Cal.

I have become satisfied that the alien is

Kahn Singh and Keher Singh

who landed at the port of San Francisco, Cal., per ss "Nippon Maru",

on the 22nd day of September, 1913, has been found in the United States
in violation of the Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, amended by the Act approved March 26, 1910, to wit:

That the said aliens are members of the excluded classes in that they were afflicted with unctionis, a dangerous contagious disease, as the time of their entry into the United States, and that they were at the time of such entry persons likely to become public charges,

and may be deported in accordance therewith:

I, Louis F. Post, Acting Secretary of Commerce and Labor, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the laws of the United States, do hereby command you to return the said aliens to India, the country whence they came, at the expense of the appropriation "Expenses of Regulating Immigration, 1914". You are directed to purchase transportation for the aliens from San Francisco, Cal. to their home in India, at the lowest scheduled steerage rate available, payable from the above-named appropriation.

For so doing, this shall be your sufficient warrant.

Witness my hand and seal this 22nd day of November, 1913.

(sgd) Louis F. Post,
Form 611
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

NAMES OF ALIENS

ROSASARA GUENSBERG
also
spelled
GINSBERG

RECORD OF HEARING
before a
BOARD OF SPECIAL INQUIRY
held at
501 Custom House, San Francisco, California

Date: March 14, 1940
PRESENT: Insp. Daniel G. Mead, Chairman;
" Milan O. Myers, Member;
Clara Marjorie E. Kidd, Member.
Int. None.

B.S.I. No. 39368/11-2
Arrived (date and manner): passenger, "Asama Maru", March 7, 1940
Held by: Immigrant Inspector Patrick J. Farrelly
Cause: L.P.G.
On March 7, 1940, 18-year-old, Rosa Sara Ginsberg, arrived in San Francisco, California aboard the *Asama Maru*. An Austrian Jew, carrying a German passport, Rosa traveled alone to the United States via Shanghai, China where she left behind her parents, Bernhard and Erna Guensberg, as well as her sister and brother-in-law.

While Rosa had a good deal of family living in the United States, she seemed ill-prepared for her arrival. She stepped into port with only $2.50 in her pocket, and no clear plan of where she was going or how she planned to get there. Her aunts and an uncle lived clear across the country in New York, while her father’s cousin and his wife lived in Chicago. Seemingly most significant, however, was Rosa’s fiancé, Herbert Klein, who lived in Yonkers, New York.
Examples of Documents You Can Find Online or at the National Archives
Much of my own research started with this Certificate of Identity for my maternal grandfather, who passed away in 1963. Date of Arrival: 1919, which is when we thought he first came to America.
We had my grandmother’s Certificate of Identity, which helped me find both of their files at the National Archives in San Bruno (they also have a collection of duplicate copies of C.I.s).
Through research at NARA San Bruno, I found he came to the U.S. 14 years earlier than we had thought, crossing into Sumas, WA from Canada. This is his Certificate for Merchant from 1905.
He had to prove merchant status.
Q. What was the amount of your interest in the Company?
A. I have $2,000.00
Q. Have you ever been a laborâr?
A. No sir.
Q. What was your father's business?
A. He was a merchant and now he is dead.
Q. Did he leave you his business?
A. No, this was organized by myself.
Q. How long did you conduct this business in Canton?
A. I was in Canton three years.
Q. Less than three years or over three years?
A. Over three years.
Q. Have you sold your business now?
A. No sir, I still have interest.
Q. What are you coming to the United States for?
A. I am going to look for a place to put a general merchandise store.
Q. How much do you expect to invest in it?
A. I dont know. If opportunities are good, I will send back for more money. I have here about $1,100.00. (Applicant here exhibits first draft on the Russo-Chinese Bank No. 9/59 for $1,000.00 in gold dated Hong Kong, August 22, 1904, also about $100.00 in gold and paper money)
Then I found his arrival in the U.S. on Ancestry. Note another spelling of his name.
This is a log of immigrants from China who crossed into Sumas. Hoon Owyang was detained for five days: date of exam November 17, 1905, date of admittance the 22nd.

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<th>Arrived</th>
<th>Vessel</th>
<th>Port of</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Residence</th>
<th>Boarded Ship</th>
<th>Date of Exam</th>
<th>Name of Witnesses</th>
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<td>Hoon Owyang</td>
<td>San Fran.</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>11/17/05</td>
<td>S. C. Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td>279</td>
<td>Wife of Hoon Owyang</td>
<td>San Fran.</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>11/17/05</td>
<td>S. C. Hall</td>
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<td>280</td>
<td>Son of Hoon Owyang</td>
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<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>11/17/05</td>
<td>S. C. Hall</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>281</td>
<td>Louis Wah Sing</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>11/22/05</td>
<td>Louis Smith</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>282</td>
<td>Winter Ling</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>11/12/05</td>
<td>Louis Smith</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
His arrival in Canada was confirmed when my cousin Michael Ho came across this listing for him on Ancestry.com showing his name crossed off of a San Francisco-bound ship.
He had to confirm his merchant status when he returned to China to get married in 1917.
He brought his wife and a paper son (his nephew) back in 1919. His wife was questioned extensively.
On my paternal grandfather’s side, it took longer to get the file from NARA, known as an “A-file.” He immigrated as a paper son.
Q. 2nd house, 5th row? A. The first three houses are the Oo ancestral hall.
Q. Who lives in the next house to that hall?
A. Oo Soo Hon, my teacher.
Q. Is he married? A. Yes.
Q. How many children has he? A. One boy, Oo Chow, 30.
Q. How do you know he is 30? A. My mother told me.
Q. Where does he live? A. With his father.
Q. Was he living there when you left China? A. Yes.
Q. Is he married? A. Yes.
Q. Has he any children? A. No.
Q. What does he do for a living? A. He has a drug store in Canton city.
Q. Who lives in the next house? No other houses on that row.
Q. First house, 2nd row? A. Vacant lot.
Q. First house, 6th row? A. Oo Hing Gan.
Q. Married? A. Yes.
Q. Where do you get your water for domestic purposes? A. Well in front of vill.
Q. Any other boyd of water near the vill? A. Fish pond in front of vill.
Q. Is there a market in your vill? A. No, a li away is Oo vill, new market on left hand side.
Q. Give names and locations?
A. Chuen, first house, first row; Oo hall, 5th row, first house; Joe Wah 7th row, 1st house; Jew Wing 10th row, first ho.
Q. Who in the US has seen you in China? A. Dan Kan; came to my house and brought $100 and a letter ST 1-10.
Map of paper family’s village
Ow’s paper father’s documents
In the matter of
Ow Luen,
Son of a Native.

State of California,
City and County of San Francisco: As.

Ow Tung Gee upon being duly sworn deposes and says:—
That he is a Native born Citizen of the United States.
That the above Ow Luen is his son. That your affiant is about to
send for his said son to come to the United States, and makes this
affidavit in order to facilitate his landing upon his arrival at the
Port of San Francisco:

Ow Tung Lee
Aug. 30, 1912.

Inspector in Charge,
Chinese Division.

Sir:

In re Ow Luen, son of native, 14444 Manchuria,
Aug. 15 1912:

I have taken the statements of applicant, the alleged father and one Chinese witness.

The essential trip is established by the alleged father's presence in China at a time to allow paternity. He was landed as a native, 136 Belgic, Oct. 7, 1896. He presents certificate of identity, #292, showing he was landed as a native, 14 Mongolia, Sep. 5, 1909.

There are no material discrepancies in the statements of applicant and alleged father and in view of the testimony introduced I recommend applicant be landed.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Inspector.

[Encl. 14 Mong. Sep 25 09
136 Belg. Oct 7 96
Cert. of birth of al. father present by Hm.]
Cross-references can be helpful.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Our Long Lee</td>
<td>Belgift</td>
<td>Oct 7/96</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Soo</td>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>Sep 25/09</td>
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<td>125</td>
<td>Our Long Lee</td>
<td>Arica</td>
<td>2/25/09</td>
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<td>Cousin</td>
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</table>
This information doesn’t really tell me anything about this side of my family (though the photos are nice to have)!

Everything is false. The village is not correct, family members, etc. I have to talk to relatives for this information (always the best place to start, of course!)

What it does, though, is give me a sense of what my ancestors had to go through.
Application for Admission of

LOCK SHEE

wife of a citizen

State of California

City and County of San Francisco

DOOM HO, being first duly sworn upon oath, according to law, deposes and says:

That affiant is a citizen of the United States, and that it has been so found and determined by competent authority. That affiant's last admission into the United States was at the Port of San Francisco, by the Commissioner of Immigration for the Port of San Francisco, on which occasion affiant was incoming passenger Manifest No. 18375/13-15 on the ex SS "China," which steamer arrived at the Port of San Francisco July 27, 1919. That the photographs annexed hereto are of your affiant and applicant.
Lock Shee came over as the wife of my grandfather’s brother.

When did your husband come to the United States?
He came in C.R. 8/6/5 (July 1919)
Has he ever returned to China since then? No
Are you the only wife he ever had? Yes
When and where did you marry Doon Ho?
I married him in C.R. 2/10/3 (Oct 31, 1913) in Bak Tong village,
Poon Yee Dist
Have you ever lived anywhere else since your marriage? No
How many children have you? Three sons, no daughters
What are your children’s names, ages, birthdates and present whereabouts?
Don Gum, eight, born C.R. 3/12/20 (Feb 3, 1915) now at home in China
Doon Yook, six, born C.R. 5/5/13 (June 13, 1916) at home
and Doon Ming
How large is the Bak Hong village?
There are 12 dwelling houses, one ancestral hall and one temple. arranged in five rows.

How many rows of dwelling houses? A Three

Whereabouts in the village is your house?
The first house in the second row.

Counting from which way, the right or left?
Counting from the right, the second alley is called Chung Gan Jung where our house is located.

Where is the ancestral hall located?
On the extreme end of the left-hand side

Where is the temple?
Next to the ancestral hall on the outer side

Is your house in the center row of the three rows of dwelling houses? Yes

How many rooms in your house?
Four bedrooms, one parlor and two kitchens

What part of the house did you occupy?
I occupied the front bedroom on the right-hand side of the house

What part of the house did your mother-in-law occupy?
The room back of mine, on the right-hand side
Q. & A. statement of WONG Lin Hung (cont'd)
In re: WONG Lin Hung, file A7 225 937

Q. When and where were you born?
A. I was born CR 3-11-1 (December 17, 1914) at Go Baw Lo Village, Far Yuen District, Kwangtung Province, China.

Q. Of what country are you a citizen?
A. Citizen of China.

Q. Was either of your parents ever a citizen or resident of the United States?
A. No.

Q. Do you now make any claim to United States citizenship?
A. No.

Q. For what do you appear here today?
A. I came to the United States as the wife of one man but I was truly the wife of another man and I wish to straighten out whatever difficulties that may have caused in connection with my presence in this country.

Q. When, where and in what manner did you first enter the United States?
A. I first came to the United States in June 9, 1949 by C A C plane, arriving at San Francisco as the wife of OW Luen, under the name of WONG Lin Hung. That is the only time I ever came to the United States. I have never left the United States since that entry.

Q. Was OW Luen your true and legal husband?
A. No. I had to claim him as my husband as my true husband KONG Sun was in the United States and could not bring me.

Q. When, were you married to your true husband KONG Sun?
A. I was married to him in CR 20-9-25 (November 4, 1931) in Ping Sun Village, Far Yuen District, China.
Mystery photos
## Some Owyang case files

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SHIP OF ARRIVAL</th>
<th>ARRIV DATE</th>
<th>Case Number</th>
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<td>GAI</td>
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</table>
Welcome to Tonaidin.net!

Celebrating 100 years of the Din family in the United States on August 15, 2012!

Through the Freedom of Information Act, we have been able to obtain the wartime files for Gengoro Tonai. A produce merchant in San Pedro, California, he was arrested by the FBI on December 7, 1941. The files show an odyssey throughout Department of Justice camps throughout the American west and his only "crime" appeared to have been a donation to an organization that supported Japanese maritime causes. Despite this harsh treatment, Mr. Tonai became a naturalized citizen in 1955. More details to follow.

Owyang family roots

On November 8, 1905, Hoon Owyang (later also known as Owyang Koon Cheung when he got married) disembarked from the SS Empress of China in Vancouver, BC. He came as a son of a native born American citizen, which if true would mean he was immigrating legally. In reality, he was a "paper son," claiming he was the son of a US native. To see his immigration papers, scanned from the US National Archives, visit the link to Tonaidin.net.

One hundred years ago, Gong Bow Gwun or his family bought papers of a man named Ow Luen in order to come to the United States. Unlike other immigrant groups, Chinese immigrants were restricted by a law called the Chinese Exclusion Act, which was in effect from 1882 to 1943. In June 2012, the House of Representatives joined the Senate in expressing "regret" for this discriminatory legislation.

Ow Luen came over from China on the SS Manchuria, which docked in San Francisco on August 15, 1912. He was questioned by government officials and detained on Angel Island for three weeks, finally receiving his Certificate of Identity on September 7, 1912, allowing him to remain in the United States. Like many Chinese immigrants trying to come over during the Chinese Exclusion Acts, he came over as a son of a native born American citizen.
Some NARA San Bruno resources

- Over 70,000 case files (44,000 plus from China, 8,000 plus from Japan, less than 500 each from Germany, Russia, Korea, India, Mexico, etc.). They are not in alpha order, and can range from a few pages to over one hundred.

- Over 38,000 copies of Certificates of Identity (CI) 1909-1938 which can lead you to files.

- Assistance to finding “A-files” – “A” standing for “Alien.” These are files for people who became naturalized or were named in the “confession” program and are gradually becoming available. Many are being released.

- We have a copy of the case file and CI indices from NARA and I can email you copies.
Please call or email ahead before you visit the San Bruno branch of the Archives. You can visit by advance appointment.

Pull together any documents you might have – you never know, they may contain a key piece of information.

Hours: M-F 7:30 – 4:00
Phone: 650-238-3501
E-mail: sanbruno.archives@nara.gov
USCIS A-files information

A-files numbered below 8 million. Especially good when someone has become naturalized or participated in the “confession” program.

https://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/genealogy/files-numbered-below-8-million
USCIS Genealogy Program

Web Request Page

Here you can choose your type of request, provide information about yourself and about your ancestor, pay the applicable fees and upload supporting documents:

Index Search Request

Start your Search with an Index Search Request

- Requests for searches of USCIS indices reveal whether any USCIS records exist for a specific individual. If records exist, our researchers will capture the citation for each record and provide that information to you. You can use the citation(s) to submit a Record Request.

You’ll have to provide certain information -- Read more about making Index Search Requests

† The fee for a record copy from microfilm identified as (M) is $20 per request. The fee for a copy of a hard copy file identified as (HC) is $35 per request. More on the fee associated with each file series.

Record Request with Request Case ID

Follow up on your index search by submitting the file number citation(s) in a Record Request with Request Case ID

- You have up to one year from the date of the search request to submit related Record Request. Our researchers will review the records.

Read more about submitting Record Requests
National Archives info

National Archives A-files: national database
http://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/

Information on the A-files
http://www.archives.gov/research/immigration/aliens/a-files-kansas-city.html#copies
The National Archives Catalog

Search the online catalog and other National Archives resources at once for information about our records.

Search the National Archives Catalog

owl luen
Search

Advanced Search

We’re excited to announce that in the National Archives Catalog you can now:

• Enjoy the updated homepage featuring background images from Catalog records
Alien Case File for Ow Luen

⚠️ This File Unit contains records, some of which may not be available online.
To obtain a copy or view the records, please contact or visit the National Archives and Records Administration location(s) listed in the Contact information below.

Additional Information About this File Unit

National Archives Identifier: 6327242

Local Identifier: A11400474/085-12-001/Box 176

Department of Justice. Immigration and Naturalization Service. District 17 (Honolulu). 1940-? (Predecessor)
Copy 1: Preservation-Reproduction-Reference

Contact(s): National Archives at San Francisco (RW-SB)
1000 Commodore Drive
San Bruno, CA 94066-2350
Phone: 650-238-3501
Fax: 650-238-3510
Email: sanbruno.archives@nara.gov
Request: Finding Ancestral Villages

http://villagedb.friendsofroots.org/search.cgi

created by Dominic Yu.

Welcome to the Roots Village Database, a digitization of the information from the Index of Clan Names By Villages published by the American Consulate General in Hong Kong in the 1970s. Originally used to investigate immigration fraud, this data is now valuable for genealogy research.
Search by surname

Village DB Search

[Search function is under development. Comments are appreciated.]
Search tips: Search results don't include subheungs. You can search for pinyin with tones using numbers, e.g., shan1.

Search by surname

Search for villages with surname Lam (林)  Search

Search by other

Search for Villages whose name in Cantonese romanization starts with  Search
254 Villages listed for “Lam”!

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<th>Village</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>永康鄉 / Wing Hong Heung (3 subheungs)</td>
<td>五福里新 / Ng Fuk Lay Sun aka 山頭橋 / Shan Chu Cho (林, 李, 林 / Lau, Lee, Lam)</td>
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<td>百樂 / Pak Lok (林 / Lam)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Browse by village

Roots Database

Contains 5 Counties:

1. 
2. 中山 / Chung Shan
3. 開平 / Hoiping
4. 新會 / Sun Wui
5. 台山 / Toishan
Contains 10 Areas:

1. 1
2. 2
3. 3
4. 4
5. 5
6. 6
7. 7
8. 8
9. 9
10. 10
Contains 13 Heungs:

1. 長安鄉 / Cheung On Heung (3 subheungs)
2. 長山鄉 / Cheung Shan Heung (3 subheungs)
3. 企嶺鄉 / Kay Ling Heung (3 subheungs)
4. 五十鄉 / Ng Sup Heung (5 subheungs)
5. 白水鄉 / Pak Sui Heung (2 subheungs)
6. 平嶺洞鄉 / Ping Ling Tung Heung (3 subheungs)
7. 西南鄉 / Sai Nam Heung (3 subheungs)
8. 石化鄉 / Shek Fa Heung (2 subheungs)
9. 台山城 / Toishan City
   aka 縣城鎮 / Yuen Sing Chun
   aka 附城鎮 / Fu Sing Chun (23 villages)
10. 東坑鄉 / Tung Hang Heung (47 villages)
11. 溫泉鄉 / Wan Chuen Heung (4 subheungs)
12. 永興鄉 / Wing Hing Heung (4 subheungs)
13. 永康鄉 / Wing Hong Heung (3 subheungs)
Contains 3 Subheungs:

1. 下坪鄉 / Ha Ping Heung  (47 villages)
2. 南村鄉 / Nam Chuen Heung  (25 villages)
3. 上坪鄉 / Sheung Ping Heung
   aka 松頭鄉 / Chung Tau Heung  (45 villages)
Contains 47 Villages:

1. 八家 / Bat Ka (伍 / Ng)
2. 陂頭 / Bay Tau (伍 / Ng)
3. 昌平 / Cheong Ping (伍 / Ng)
4. 長盛 / Cheung Shing (伍 / Ng)
5. 正平 / Ching Ping (伍 / Ng)
6. 潮光樓 / Chiu Kong Lau (伍 / Ng)
7. 廠 / Chong (伍 / Ng)
8. 中間巷 / Chung Kan Hong (伍 / Ng)
9. 下坪 / Ha Ping (伍 / Ng)
10. 下坪舊 / Ha Ping Kau (伍 / Ng)
11. 向南 / Heung Nam (伍 / Ng)
12. 向北 / Heung Pak (伍 / Ng)
13. 康平 / Hong Ping (伍 / Ng)
14. 錦昌 / Kam Cheong (伍 / Ng)
15. 錦安 / Kam On (伍 / Ng)
16. 高平 / Ko Ping (伍 / Ng)
17. 蕁地 / Lau Dai
   aka 雙潮 / Sheung Chiu (伍 / Ng)
18. 嶴背新 / Ling Pui Sun (伍 / Ng)
19. 龍桦 / Lung Chi (伍 / Ng)
20. 龍樓 / Lung Lau (伍 / Ng)
21. 廟邊 / Miu Bin (伍 / Ng)
22. 門樓仔 / Moon Lau Chai (伍 / Ng)
AIISF wants your stories!

- To add your stories about family members or others you may have researched who have immigrated to the United States to AIISF’s website, especially through Angel Island, visit www.aiisf.org and click on “Immigrant Voices.” We also have information about how to visit the immigration station.

- If you know of people who came through Angel Island and would like to share their stories, we encourage you to interview them! We have resources to do so as well. Please contact us at 415-348-9200 x11 or email gdin@aiisf.org.
For more information, please contact

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Visit my website at www.tonaidin.net