

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

IMMIGRATION FILE

No. 560

LEE WON CHONG,
Merchant
of
"WING TANK" CO.,
No. 301 Clark st.,
Chicago, Illinois.
U. S. A.

Age:-Fifty Years.

Height:-5 Feet, 4 In.

The United States of America.)
Northern District of Illinois.) Set:
Eastern Division.)



WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, Citizens of the United States and residents of the City of Chicago in the County of Cook and State of Illinois, Do Hereby Certify that we have been well acquainted with the above-described LEE WON CHONG for upwards of one year last past, during which time he has been a reputable resident Chinese Merchant of the said City of Chicago, and neither a huckster, peddler, laundryman or laborer of any kind.

WE DO FURTHER CERTIFY, That, during the said year of our acquaintance with him, the said Lee Won Chong has been a member of the firm of chinese merchants trading and doing business under the trade name and style of "Wing Tank", Importers and dealers in Teas, Groceries, Provisions and general Chinese and Japanese merchandise, at No. 301 Clark street, Chicago aforesaid; that the said firm was established in business in the same vicinity two years ago.

WE DO FURTHER CERTIFY, That during the said year of our acquaintance with him, the said Lee Won Chong has been engaged in buying and selling merchandise at the said fixed place of business, under the said trade-name and style of the said firm of which he is a member; and that, during the said ^{year} of our acquaintance with him, the said Lee Won Chong has not been engaged in the performance of manual labor, skilled or unskilled, of any kind, except such as has been necessary in the conduct of his said business as such merchant as aforesaid.

WE DO FURTHER CERTIFY, That the foregoing photograph, hereunto annexed, together with the personal description above, is a true and correct likeness and description of the said Lee Won Chong.

We have been credibly informed that said Lee Won Chong has a financial interest of One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00) in said firm and from our frequent visits to the said place of business and general acquaintance with the various members of said concern, we have become well satisfied that he is actively engaged in the business and affairs of said "Wing Tank" Co. and enjoys his proper share in the profits thereof, as a bona-fide partner of said firm.

Dated at Chicago, Illinois U. S. A. May 11th A.D. 1907.

(Address) John B. Macaulay
444 So. Clark St. Chicago, Ill.

(Address) Andson L. Henson
19-29 Market St. Chicago, Ill.

The United States of America)
Northern District of Illinois) Set:
Eastern Division.)

John L. Monahan of the city of Chicago, in said division and district, being first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says as follows to-wit:-

I am a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the City of Chicago in the county of Cook, and state of Illinois where I follow the occupation of a lumber supply dealer

I am one of the signers of the foregoing and annexed certificate; and the statements therein made are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to, this
11th day of May A.D. 1907.)
before me.

Mark A. Foote,
U. S. Commissioner, N. S. Del.

The United States of America,)
Northern District of Illinois) Set:
Eastern Division)

Andson L. Henson of the city of Chicago, in said division and district, being first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says as follows to-wit:-

I am a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the city of Chicago in the county of Cook and state of Illinois, where I follow the occupation of a Amey's Salesman

I am one of the signers of the annexed and foregoing certificate, and the statements therein made are true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Subscribed and sworn to, this
11th day of May A.D. 1907.
before me.

Mark A. Foote,
U. S. Commissioner, N. S. Del.

Chicago, Illinois May 11, A.D. 1907.

To
Lorenzo T. Plummer, Esq.
Chinese Inspector in Charge,
Chicago, Ill.

Sir:-

My name is Lee Won Chong, and I am a native and subject of China. I was born at Sin-ning, Kwong Tung, China; and am fifty years of age; have resided in the United States 28 years; in San Francisco 20 years, Chicago 8 years. While residing in San Francisco I made one Visit to China.

I first came to the United States aboard the S.S. "City of Peking" and landed at San Francisco in the 5th K.S., 8th month. I immediately invested Twelve Hundred Dollars (\$1200.00) in the "Bow Tsee Tong" Co., Druggists, of No. 780 Dupont street, of which I was a member until I sold out in or about the 23rd K.S. I was out of business about two years; then came to Chicago and in K.S. 25 or 26 purchased a Restaurant at No. 2009 State street. I sold said Restaurant upwards of one year ago.

In 10th K.S., 10th month I sailed from San Francisco aboard the Steam ship "San Pablo" and after a visit to China returned to San Francisco aboard the S.S. "Oceanic" K.S. 11th, 5th month.

The firm of "Wing Tank", Importers and dealers in Chinese and Japanese Groceries, Provisions, China-ware and general merchandise, No. 301 Clark street, Chicago, Illinois, was organized in May 1904, and at that time I purchased an interest in the said concern for \$300.00. Since the 10th month of the 31st Kwanghsii I have been engaged in the business of said "Wing Tank", actively and exclusively of every other occupation; and my said interest therein is now worth, reasonably and at least Sixteen Hundred Dollars (\$1600.00).

I desire to visit China, and to return upon the completion of my visit, to resume my said residence and business in the city of Chicago.

WHEREFORE I transmit herewith the affidavits of two credible witnesses other than Chinese, and pray that the same may be endorsed as provided in the Regulations above cited.

Very respectfully, 李元創

#301 Clark street, Chicago, Ill.

The United States of America
Northern District of Illinois.

Eastern Division.

Mark A. Foote, United States Commissioner for the Northern District of Illinois, do hereby certify that I am acquainted with John L. Mahan and Hudson L. Henson the signers of the foregoing annexed certificate and affidavits; that they are not Chinese; that they are citizens of the United States, and residents of the City of Chicago, in the Division and District aforesaid; that they are reputable persons, of good character; and that in my opinion the same are entitled to full credence and belief.

Witness my hand and seal, at the city of Chicago, in the Eastern Division of the Northern District of Illinois, this 14 day of May A.D. Nineteen Hundred ~~Eight~~ Seven (1907)

Mark A. Foote, COMMISSIONER.



May 21, 1907.

Case of : L. T. Plummer, Examining Inspector.
LEE WON CHONG, : Wong Aloy, Interpreter.
Mer. Dep. : D. Arthur Plumly, Stenographer.

Applicant, sworn by Inspector Plummer, testified:

Q What is your name? A Lee Won Chong.
Q What is your full Chinese name? A I have another name,
Lee Lin Din.
Q What is your business? A I am a merchant, member of the
firm of Wing Tank & Co., No. 301 S. Clark St., Chicago.
Q Are you married in China? A Yes.
Q Have you any children; if so, how many? A I have two
sons.
Q How long have you been a member of Wing Tank & Co.?
A We began to arrange for this firm in K.S. 30th but I did not take
part in the store until K.S. 31, about 10th month, and I am drawing
a salary of \$40.00 per month.
Q How long have you been in that store, all of your time
devoted to its business? A Since K.S. 31st year, 11th month, up
to now.
Q How much of an interest have you in the firm? A \$800.00.
Q What would you say the goods in your store are worth at the
present time? A I think they are worth close to \$30,000.00.
Q What do you do about the store? A When the goods arrive
I unload them and unpack them, and sometimes pack them, and some-
times I sell goods about the store, but Lee Won Yawn is the manager,
and Lee Chong is treasurer, and Ng Yee Sue is bookkeeper, and I do
odd jobs about the store.
Q Give me the names of all the partners whose entire time is
devoted to its business? A Ng Yee Sue, Lee Chong, Lee Won Yawn,
Lee Bow Won, Lee Won Chong (myself), Lee Doo, Lee Hing, Ng See Goon,
and Woo Jung Yen. There are nine men in the store altogether.
There are four men on the road who come into the store now and then,
one of them is Yee Bing. We have eighteen partners in the firm
altogether. There are nine in the store and four of the others are
on the road.
Q What were you doing before you came into the store?
A I came to this country K.S. 5th year and in K.S. 6th I worked in
the store of Bow Doo Hong, druggists, 718 DuPont St., San Francisco.
I had \$1200.00 interest in that firm and I also drew a salary there.
I remained in that firm until K.S. 23d, when I sold my share to the
firm, and I came east in K.S. 24th.
Q What have you been doing since you came east? A I had a
restaurant at No. 2009 South State St., Chicago, and employed two
men, and I was there until K.S. 30th, when we organized the firm
of Wing Tank & Co.
Q Were you in that restaurant between K.S. 30th, when you ~~found~~
formed the firm of Wing Tank & Co., and K.S. 31st year, 11th month,
when you came into the store? A I came east in K.S. 24th and
went into that restaurant at No. 2009 South State St., and I remained
there until I sold my interest K.S. 31st year 10th month, when I went
into the store of Wing Tank & Co. and have been there ever since.
Q Are you registered? A No, sir, I did not register.
None of my partners ever registered in that store out west.
Q Have you any papers to show that you were a merchant at that
time? A No, I have no papers at all, but I know I was a merchant
and my partners were all merchants.

Q Have you ever been back to China? A Yes, I made one trip to China, K.S. 10th year, on S.S. "San Pablo," and I remember we were out of coal and stopped in Japan to get some wood before we could go on. I returned to San Francisco on the S.S. "Oceanic" and arrived K.S. 11th year, 5th month, when I returned to the store.

Q How old are your two sons in China? A One is 28 and the other is 22.

Q How old are you at the present time? A I am 50 years old. When I came to this country I was 23 years old.

Q When will you come back to this country? A I hope to come back within a year.

Q What will you do when you come back to the United States? A I will return to the store.

Q During the past year or since K.S. 31, 11, have you done any manual labor except such as was necessary to the conduct of your business in the firm of Wing Tank & Co.? A No, sir. I have done no work outside of the store.

Q How long do you intend to stay in China? A I have considerable business to attend to in China. If I can get through I will come back next year, but if not I will return the year after that.

Q Are you going to China on your own business or on business of the firm? A Partly both. I have some firm business to attend to and I want to see my wife and children.

Q Have you understood Interpreter Wong Aloy? A Yes.

Applicant signed his testimony in Chinese:

(Signed) LEE WON CHONG, Applicant.

(Signed) L. T. PLUMMER, Inspector.

(Signed) WONG ALOY, Interpreter.

5/21/07.

Witness, LEE WON YAWN, sworn by Inspector Plummer, testified (in English and Chinese):

- Q What is your name? A Lee Won Yawn.
- Q What is your business? A Chinese merchandise.
- Q Are you manager of the firm of Wing Tank & Co., 301 S. Clark St., Chicago, Ill.? A Yes, sir.
- Q How long have you been manager of Wing Tank & Co.?
- A Since it was opened about three years ago.
- Q Has there been any change in the membership of your firm since August 6, 1904, when you furnished me a partnership list?
- A The membership remains the same, except that our business has increased and our stock is worth more to-day than then.
- Q Who are the members of your firm at the present time whose entire time is devoted to its business? A Lee Won Yawn (myself), Lee Chung, Lee Bow One, Lee Hen (Hing), ~~Lee Suet Suen~~ Ng See Goon, Ng Yee Thue (Sue), Woo Jung (June) Yun, Lee Won Chong (applicant), and Lee Doo.
- Q Whose photograph is this (showing photograph of applicant)?
- A He is my partner, Lee Won Chong.
- Q How long has he been in the store? A Since K.S. 31.
- Q How long has he been working in the store? A 15 or 16 months.
- Q How much of an interest has he in the store? A He originally invested \$800.00, but I should say it is worth \$1600.00 today.
- Q At the time you gave me this list August 6, 1904, he was in Chicago in a restaurant? A Yes, on State St.
- Q At what number? A No. 2009 South State St.
- Q What would you say is a fair value of the goods now on hand in the store? A Nearly \$30,000.00 worth of goods. I can't give you the exact amount.
- Q Is there any laundry, lodging house, boarding house, or restaurant connected with your store? A No.
- Q What has Lee Won Yawn been doing in the store since he has been in it? A Just packing goods and selling goods and general work around the store.
- Q How much do you pay him; anything? A Oh, sure. He gets \$40.00 a month.
- Q Is that \$40.00 besides his profits or does it include his dividends? A No, sir, this is only his salary. It does not include his ~~his~~ dividends at all.
- Q Is he going to China on his own business or on business of the firm? A He is going home to see his folks.
- Q Who will take his place in the store while he is gone?
- A We have not decided yet.
- Q What will he do when he returns from China? A He will come back into the store.
- Q Is he registered? A No, sir, he did not register. He lived in San Francisco.
- Q Why didn't he register? A He was a member of the firm of Wah Doo Hong, drugstore, in San Francisco, and I know several members of this firm and they did not get registered. They only dealt with Chinamen. They never dealt with white men.
- Q Have you understood Interpreter Wong Aloy? A Yes, sir.

Witness signed his testimony in English:

(Signed) LEE WON YAWN, Witness.

(Signed) L. T. PLUMMER, Inspector.

(Signed) WONG ALOY, Interpreter.