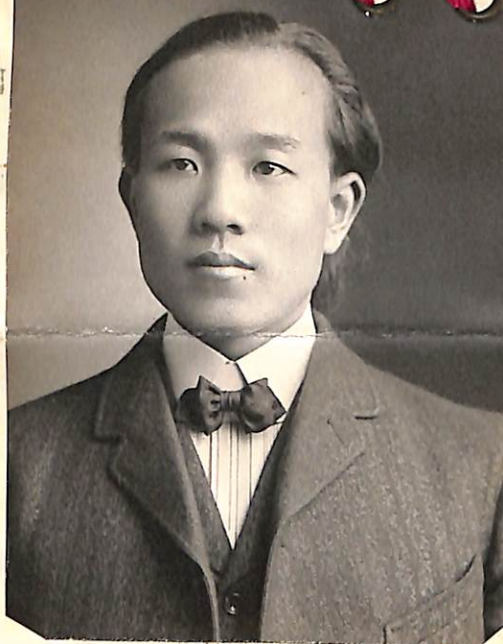


U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

No. 424

IMMIGRATION FILE

WHEREAS, LEE CHIN
hereto attached,
be and remain in
a person other
according to the
May 5th, 1892, as
Congress approved
ed April 29, 1902,
follows, to-wit:-



whose photograph is
is lawfully entitled to
the United States, being
than Chinese laborer,
Act of Congress approved
amended by the Act of
November 3, 1893, re-enact-
which provides as

"A merchant is a person engaged in buying and selling
"merchandise at a fixed place of business, which business is
"conducted in his name, and who, during the time he claims to be
"engaged as a merchant, does not engage in the performance of any
"Manual labor, except such as is necessary in the conduct of his
"business as such merchant."

"When an application is made by a Chinaman for
entrance into the United States on the ground that he was formerly
"engaged in this country as a merchant, he shall establish by the
testimony of two ~~xxxxxxx~~ creditable witnesses other than Chinese
"the fact that he conducted such business as hereinbefore defined
"for at least one year before his departure from the United States,
"and that during such year he was not engaged in the performance of
any manual labor, except such as was necessary in the conduct of
"his business as such merchant, and in default of such proof shall
"be refused landing."

Now, Therefore, and for the better identification
of the said Lee Chin, and in order to establish his standing as such
merchant as aforesaid,

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 ~~are~~ have been well
acquainted with the said Lee Chin for upwards of one year last past,
during which time he has been a reputable resident merchant of the ~~at~~
said City of Chicago.

WE DO FURTHER CERTIFY, THAT, during the said time of
our acquaintance with him, the said Lee Chin has been a member of the
firm of merchants trading and doing business under the trade-name
and style of Gustav M. Wagner & Company, dealers in groceries and
meats at number 900 Colorado avenue, in the said City of Chicago.

We do further certify, That, during the said time of our acquaintance with him, the said Lee Chin, has been so engaged in operating a meat market and grocery store, 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 time, the said Lee Chin has not been engaged in the performance of manual labor, skilled or unskilled, of any kind, except such as was necessary in the conduct of his business as such merchant, as aforesaid.

And We Do Further Certify, That the said trade-name and style does not indicate the names of all the members of the said firm;.

Dated, at Chicago, Illinois, U. S. A. May 24th, A.D., 1904.

:DESCRIPTION OF LEE CHIN:-
:AGE:- Thirty-four (34) years.
:HEIGHT:- 5ft. 6in.
:#####

Gustav M Wagner
900 Colorado Ave.
Chicago, Illinois.

George Bitzer
900 Colorado Ave.
Chicago, Illinois.

Clara Wagner
900 Colorado Ave.

Subscribed & sworn to by Clara Wagner, June 28-1904
before me at Chicago Ill.
L. J. Plummer

U. S. Chinese & Immigrant Inspector

IMMIGRATION FILE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

No. 424

IN THE APPLICATION OF LEE CHIN FOR RIGHT TO DEPART FROM THE UNITED
STATES AND RETURN AGAIN THERETO AS A MERCHANT.

Chicago, Illinois, June 30, 1904.

WITNESS SWORN.

L.T. Plummer, Inspector;
Wong Aloy, Interpreter.

- Q. What is your name?
A. Sam Lee.
Q. What is your Chinese name?
A. Chin Fun.
Q. Do you own this laundry? (#2139 W. 12th St., Chicago).
A. Yes.
Q. How long have you owned it?
A. Eight weeks.
Q. Who did you buy it of?
A. Chin Toon.
Q. Is this a picture of Chin Toon? (Showing photograph of Lee Chin).
A. Yes.
Q. How much did you pay him for this laundry?
A. \$760.00.
Q. How long did Chin Toon own this place?
A. About eight months.
Q. Did he use to work in this laundry?
A. Yes, he worked here and employed some men besides.
Q. What you have told me is all true, is it?
A. Yes; Chin Toon opened this laundry about eight months ago and sold it to me about eight weeks ago.
Q. Who do you pay rent to?
A. (Shows receipt signed by Sigmund Hecht.)
Q. Did you make out any paper when you bought this laundry?
A. The landlord gave me a lease.
Q. Did Chin Toon have a lease, do you know?
A. Yes, he had a lease and returned it to the landlord.

NOTES WERE READ OVER TO THE WITNESS AND HE STATED THEY WERE CORRECT.

IMMIGRATION FILE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICENo. E 424

IN THE APPLICATION OF LEE CHIN FOR RIGHT TO DEPART FROM THE UNITED STATES AND RETURN AGAIN THERETO AS A MERCHANT.

WITNESS SWORN.

Chicago, Illinois, June 27th, 1904.

Q. Mr. George Bitzer states he has known Lee Chin for over a year, and that he worked in the store of Gustaf Wagner & Co., #900 Colorado Avenue, since about Christmas time until last week when he started in business for himself at the corner of 40th and Cranshaw Avenue.

Q. During the time that you worked in that store did the Chinaman work there too?

A. I can't say that he worked like we did, but I understood that he was a silent partner.

Q. How often would you see him about the store?

A. Two or three times a week, I should say, at least.

Q. What else did he do for a living besides having an interest in that store?

A. I don't know what else he has besides this. I never questioned him about that, as I did not regard it as any of my business.

Q. Would you want to swear that this man has done no work in a laundry or some other place since you have known him?

A. No; maybe he had an interest in some other business; I don't know.

Q. He might have had an interest in a laundry and worked there for all you know?

A. Yes; he might have had an interest in a tea business, I don't know; I only know that he had money, and I thought that he had an interest in the store.

Q. Did you ever see this man wait on customers?

A. Not that I remember of; either Mr. Wagner, or I, or the lady, waited on the customers. This man seemed to have an interest in the store, and I thought him a partner.

Q. How long would he stay around the store when he came there?

A. Two or three or four hours; I never paid much attention; he would often come twice a day.

Q. What would he do about the store when he came?

A. Clean up the place; put away goods; look around and see if everything was all right, and talk about the business with Mr. Wagner.

IMMIGRATION FILE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

No. 424

IN THE APPLICATION OF LEE CHIN FOR RIGHT TO DEPART FROM THE UNITED STATES AND RETURN AGAIN THERE TO AS A MERCHANT.

Chicago, Illinois, June 28th, 1904.

WITNESS SWORN:

L.T. Plummer, Inspector,

- Q. What is your name?
A. Gustav M. Wagner.
Q. How long have you known this Chinaman? (Showing photograph of Lee Chin.)
A. About three years.
Q. How much of an interest has he in your store here? (#900 Colo. Ave)
A. \$800.00.
Q. Is this an \$800.00 interest, or is it money borrowed of him?
A. It is an interest in the business, and he has his share of the profits.
Q. Does this Chinaman do any work in the store?
A. He works around here quite often, but I can't keep him continually owing to the prejudice that the people have against the Chinese.
Q. What does he do for a living?
A. He has not been doing anything lately at all except working about the store; he used to have a laundry, and that is where I got acquainted with him.
Q. Do you know whether he owns that laundry now?
A. I don't think he does.
Q. What part of his time does he put in in this store?
A. He is here every day for two or three hours at least on the average working about the store.
Q. Do you know whether or not this Chinaman does not work in a laundry somewhere?
A. I don't know whether he does or not; I don't know what he does when he is not here, but he is here every day.
Q. Have you any other partners besides Lee Chin?
A. No.
Q. How long has Lee Chin been a partner with you?
A. About 15 months.
Q. And during all that time he has been here every day?
A. Yes.
Q. How much profit have you paid him since he has been in with you?
A. I would think about \$15.00 or \$18.00 a week; we divide up each week.
Q. Does he still have this same interest while he is gone?
A. Yes.
Q. You would not want to state positively that this Chinaman does no labor except about this store?
A. No, I could not.
Q.

IN THE APPLICATION OF LEE CHIN FOR RIGHT TO DEPART FROM THE UNITED STATES AND RETURN AGAIN THERETO AS A MERCHANT.

Chicago, Illinois, June 28th, 1904.

WITNESS SWORN:

L.T. Plummer, Inspector.

- Q. What is your name?
A. Mrs. Clara Wagner.
Q. You are the wife of Mr. Gustav Wagner?
A. Yes.
Q. Whose photograph is this? (Showing photograph of Lee Chin).
A. Lee Chin.
Q. How long have you known him?
A. Over two years.
Q. What business is he in now?
A. He is a partner of my husband in the grocery business at #900 Colorado Avenue.
Q. How long has he been a partner?
A. About a year and three months.
Q. How frequently have you seen him during that fifteen months?
A. Three or four times a week, at least.
Q. Was he working about the store there when you would see him?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you know whether or not he has done any work as a laundryman or other manual labor outside the store since he became a partner?
A. No, he has not that I know of.
Q. You would not want to be sure that he has not done any work outside the store would you?
A. No, only he is in the store so much that he could not do anything else very well.
Q. Do you know how much interest he has in the store?
A. \$800.00.
Q. Has your husband any other partner than Lee Chin?
A. No.
Q. What kind of work would he do about the store?
A. Put up orders, occasionally deliver order, or go down town to look after things; but he was not quite the same as a white man because lots of customers might not like to see a Chinaman about the store.
Q.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

IMMIGRATION FILE

No. 424

IN THE APPLICATION OF LEE CHIN FOR RIGHT TO DEPART FROM THE UNITED STATES AND RETURN AGAIN THERETO AS A MERCHANT.

Chicago, Illinois, June 28th, 1904.

L. T. PLUMMER.....INSPECTOR.
WONG ALOY.....INTERPRETER.

Q. What is your name?
A. Lee Chin.
Q. What is your other name?
A. I have no other name, though some American people call me Charley.
Q. What is your business?
A. Merchant, in the grocery business.
Q. What firm are you a member of?
A. Wagner & Co., #900 Colorado Avenue, Chicago.
Q. How long have you been a member of that firm?
A. About a year and three months.
Q. How much money have you invested there?
A. Altogether there is \$2500.00; I have \$800.00.
Q. Who are the other members of the firm?
A. Just myself and Mr. Wagner.
Q. What did you do before you came into this firm?
A. I worked in a laundry.
Q. Where?
A. I worked in no particular place; sometimes a few days in one place and then a few days in another.
Q. When did you come to the United States?
A. Twelve years ago.
Q. Have you any papers that you came in on at that time?
A. No; I don't know where the paper is.
Q. What kind of a paper is it that you came in on at the first time?
A. I think a merchant's paper.
Q. How did you come in?
A. I came by way of Vancouver, Portal, and Chicago.
Q. What year and month was it that you came the first time?
A. K.S. 18.
Q. What month?
A. I don't remember; the snow was pretty near gone; I think about March.
Q. What firm were you a member of at that time?
A. Quong Wing Hai, Hongkong, China.
Q. When you came to the United States what did you do?
A. I worked in Quong Yuen Lung, #313 S. Clarke St.
Q. How long did you work there?
A. About five years; then I went to China and stayed about a year, and came back and worked in Quong Yuen Lung about another year; about ten months I think it was. (Shows a merchant's application dated October 13, 1897, as a member of Quong Yuen Lung, #313 S. Clarke Street, as the paper on which he made his trip to China.)
Q. Do you remember what year you came back to the United States on this visit?
A. Seven years ago in the month of August.
Q. Did you go out or come back seven years ago?
A. It was seven years ago this August that I came back to the United States.
Q. Now what have you been doing for the past six years?
A. When I sold out my interest in this firm the debts were divided among the members, and for about a year and a half I was around collecting my share of the debts.

Q. Then what did you do?
A. Then I worked at anything for a few days or a week at a time.
Q. Did you ever own a laundry of your own?
A. I had one of my own three or four years ago.
Q. Where was it?
A. #217 West Jackson Street, Chicago.
Q. How long did you own that?
A. About two years.
Q. What did you do with it?
A. I sold it.
Q. What did you get for it?
A. \$400.00.
Q. When did you sell it?
A. Two years ago.
Q. What have you been doing since you sold it?
A. I was trying to find a business, and I worked around sometimes a week, sometimes two or three weeks, in a place.
Q. Then you have not owned a laundry for two years?
A. I think it is about two or two and one-half years.
Q. What have you been doing the last year?
A. I started that business on Colorado Avenue.
Q. You were not out there all the time, were you?
A. I was over to the store every day, but not all the time.
Q. What did you do when you ~~were not in the store~~ were not in the store?
A. I was about the city looking after the store's business.
Q. Have you not worked in a laundry or restaurant during the past year when you were not in the store?
A. No.
Q. How long have you known Mr. Wagner?
A. About three years.
Q. Where did you get acquainted with him?
A. I met him on Jackson Street when I had the laundry there.
Q. What was he doing then?
A. I don't know.
Q. How long has he been in the grocery business?
A. About a year and three months.
Q. He first started in the business at the time you went in with him on Colorado Avenue, did he?
A. Yes.
Q. Where did you get the money you put in there?
A. Some I got from my interest in the Chinese grocery store, and some from the sale of my laundry.
Q. How much did you get for your interest in that grocery store?
A. \$3000.00.
Q. What position did you have in that firm of Quong Yuen Lung?
A. I did odd jobs at whatever came to me.
Q. You were not the manager?
A. No.
Q. Who was the manager?
A. Lee Ying Gai.
Q. What did the American people call him?
A. Lee Ying Gai.
Q. Did you know Law Toi?
A. I remember him.
Q. Was he manager?
A. Not to my knowledge.
Q. Do you remember when that firm was transferred to Quong Chung?
A. Yes.
Q. Who were the managers of Quong Yut Chung?
A. Fahn Hong, Lee Shue, Law Sam; there were six or seven men

- Q. together, and I can't remember them all.
Don't you think that \$3000.00 is a large interest for a man to have when he is not a manager?
- A. I did not put \$3000.00 in at the first place, but I got that when I sold out as interest on what I had made.
- Q. How much did you put in when you started in there?
- A. \$400.00.
- Q. Have you made any money out of this firm of Wagner & Co.?
- A. Some.
- Q. How much?
- A. Over \$100.00.
- Q. Are you sure that you have done no work in any laundries or other places for the last year or more?
- A. No; I have not.

WITNESS SWORN AND NOTES READ OVER TO HIM