

## U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

IMMIGRATION SERVICE

IMMIGRATION FILE

No. 718

In re  
 CHOW KEE,  
 of  
 "Quong Duck"  
 Merchants,  
 No. 113 Harrison St.,  
 Chicago, Illinois,  
 U. S. A.

*nd. at*  
 NAME:- CHOW KEE.  
 AGE:- Twenty-five Yrs.  
 HEIGHT:- 5 Ft. 5 In.  
 Faint Scars, Left Temple.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. )  
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS. ) Sct:  
 EASTERN DIVISION. )

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, Citizens of the United States and residents of the City of Chicago and vicinity, in said division and district, Do Hereby Certify that we have been well acquainted with the above-described CHOW KEE for upwards of one year last past, during which time he has not been a huckster, peddler, laundryman or laborer of any kind, but during which time he has been a reputable resident Chinese Merchant of the said City of Chicago.

WE DO FURTHER CERTIFY That during the said year of our acquaintance with him the said CHOW KEE has been a member of the firm of Chinese merchants trading and doing business under the trade-name and style of "QUONG DUCK", at number 113 Harrison street, in said City of Chicago, Dealers in Teas and General Chinese and Japanese Merchandise.

WE DO FURTHER CERTIFY That during the said year of our acquaintance with him the said Chow Kee has been engaged in buying and selling merchandise at the said fixed place of business under the 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 he has not been engaged in the performance of manual labour, skilled or unskilled of any kind, except such as has been necessary in the conduct of his business as such merchant as aforesaid.

WE DO FURTHER CERTIFY That the foregoing photograph, hereunto affixed is a true and correct likeness of the said Chow Kee; and that the foregoing description is a true description of the person of the said Chow Kee.

AND WE DO FURTHER CERTIFY That we have been credibly informed, and verily believe, that the said Chow Kee has a financial interest of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.) in the business and assets of said firm. From our frequent visits to the said place of business and our general acquaintance with the various members of the said concern, we have been well satisfied that the said Chow Kee is actively engaged in the business of the said firm, exercises a voice in the management and affairs thereof, and that he is a bona fide merchant and member of "QUONG DUCK".

Dated, at Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., October 10<sup>th</sup>, 1908.

*V. J. Reward*  
35-1 So Clark St

I vow to inform me  
 February 20-1909  
*S. O. Oliver*  
 Chinese & Immigrant Inspector

*N. L. Dana*  
 (Address) *159 LaSalle St*  
*Chicago Ill's.*

*766 W. Illinois*  
 (Address) *39x So Clark St*  
*Chicago, Ill's.*

APPLICATION FOR ENDORSEMENT OF ACCOMPANYING EVIDENCE UNDER THE  
PROVISIONS OF RULE 25, REGULATIONS OF FEBRUARY 5, 1906.

Chicago, Ill., October 9, 1908.

To

LORENZO T. PLUMMER, ESQ.,  
Chinese Inspector in Charge,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Sir:-

My childhood name was CHOW FONG. About two years ago I took and assumed the name of CHOW KEE, and I am known and called in business matters CHOW KEE. I am a native and subject of China, twenty-five years of age, and have resided in the United States for the last ten years. Virtually all of that time in Chicago; and during that time I have not revisited China or been outside of the United States.

My father's name is Chow Toy. He came to the United States about the 14th K.S., and was a merchant and member of the firm of "Quong Chong", No. 737 Sacramento Street, San Francisco, California. He visited in China from the 22nd to the 24th K.S., and upon his return to San Francisco brought me with him. For about eight months I resided with him in San Francisco. Then I removed to Chicago; and was in the laundry business for several years, here.

For upwards of one year last past, I have been a merchant and member of the firm of "QUONG DUCK", Chinese Merchants, of No. 113 Harrison Street, Chicago, Illinois. That is to say, in or about the month of May, 1907, for Five Hundred Dollars (\$500), I purchased a share and interest in the said concern; and my said share and interest therein is now worth One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000).

For upwards of one year last past, I have not been engaged or interested in the performance of manual labor, skilled or unskilled, of any kind, except such as has been necessary in

the conduct of my said business as a merchant and member of the "Quong Duck" Company; but have been continuously and actively engaged in the business and affairs of the "Quong Duck" Company.

I desire to visit China with the intention of returning to resume my present residence, occupation and status in the United States.

Wherefore, I transmit herewith the evidence of two credible witnesses other than Chinese, and pray that the same may be endorsed as provided by Regulation for the purpose of such re-admission.

Very respectfully,

CHOW KEE

See #854



STATE OF ILLINOIS }  
COUNTY OF COOK } ss.

MOY SING being duly sworn according to law, states: I am forty-two years of age; have resided in Chicago, Illinois, for twenty-six years last past, excepting twice when I visited my home in China; am now conducting a laundry at No. 2261 W. Harrison Street.

I am personally acquainted with Chow Fon, sometimes called Chow Kee, and have been for about eleven years last past. I first met him in China about eleven years ago. When I went back to my old home in the village of Sun Ning, China, I stayed there about two years, and while I was there I met Chow Fon a number of times with his father and mother. His father's name is Chow Toy. I have known Chow Toy for more than twenty-six years. When I visited China the last time Chow Toy came to visit his family at Sun Ning, and stayed there about a year, and while he was there we visited each other a number of times and talked about matters in the United States, and I saw him and Chow Fon very often. Chow Fon lived with Chow Toy as his son. A number of months before I returned to the United States the last time, Chow Toy, with his son Chow Fon, went to the United States, and soon after I returned to Chicago from my visit I met Chow Fon, and have met him many times since that time. I did not know him by the name of Chow Kee until a short time before he went in the firm of Quong Duck.

The photograph of Chow Fon or Chow Kee attached to this affidavit is the genuine picture or photograph of Chow Fon.

Affiant further states: When I came to the United States about twenty-six years ago Chow Toy was a merchant in San Francisco doing business on Sacramento Street, and when I met Chow Toy in China on my last visit Chow Toy told me that he was still in business there.

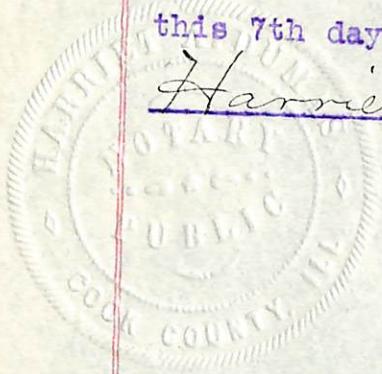
And further affiant saith not.

Moy Sing

Subscribed and sworn to, before me,  
this 7th day of December, A. D. 1908.

Harriet A. Adams

Notary Public.



Department of Commerce and Labor

IMMIGRATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF CHINESE INSPECTOR IN CHARGE  
CHICAGO, ILL.

December 22, 1908.

Mr. L. T. Plummer,

Chinese Inspector in Charge,

Chicago, Illinois.

Sir:

In the matter of CHOW KEE, or Chow Fong, alleged merchant, member of the firm of Quong Duck, 113 East Harrison St., Chicago, I have made the following investigation at Waukegan, Illinois:

There is only one Chinese laundry in this town, located at No. 129 Genesee St.; it employs two Chinamen.

The alleged proprietor, Chow One, stated that he was born in China, is 46 or 47 years old, was registered in Chicago while living at 330 Milwaukee Ave., has since worked in a number of cities, was a waiter in a restaurant in Terre Haute, Indiana, until early in 1908, when he came to Chicago and lived several months in "Quong Duck", 113 E. Harrison St.; further, that not quite four months ago he bought this Sam Sing laundry at 129 Genesee St., Waukegan, of his cousin, Chow Fong, who then went to live at "Quong Duck." He identified the photograph of applicant, Chow Fong (Chow Kee), and said the description of him in his papers was accurate. Chow One admitted that he had little money when he left Terre Haute and came to Chicago, that he did no work for several months, that he paid no cash down at time of purchase, that Chow Kee (Chow Fong) has the lease and insurance policy, and that "Quong Duck" hold his money and give

Chow Kee (Chow Fong) some on account from time to time, but was unable to state how the account stood. I am of the opinion, from the conflicting story told by Chow One, that applicant Chow Kee (Chow Fong) still owns this Sam Sing laundry at 129 Genesee St. This laundry is located in the basement.

The ground or main floor is occupied by Messrs. Meyer and Frank, furniture dealers, who identified applicant's photograph and described him in harmony with his application. They have occupied this store for a little over two years, and said he was there in full charge of the laundry when they moved in and continued running the place until three or four months ago, when a new man took charge.

This property is owned by Robert Dady, an elderly gentleman, who lives north of Waukegan on Sheridan Road. The management of his property is in the hands of his daughter, who lives with him, but was away on a visit at the present time.

Mrs. John Conrad, living in a flat on the second floor, front, No. 129 Genesee St., is Mr. Dady's daughter. She stated that her sister has always handled the property, but that she knew that applicant (whom she satisfactorily identified) had been in Waukegan over eight years, his father having established the laundry prior to that time, and had taken full charge when his father died, and ran it until late this summer, the last date when she could state positively that he was actually working in this laundry being August 25, 1908, and that he frequently visited Chicago.

Respectfully,

*R. Arthur Plumley*  
Immigrant and Chinese Inspector.

522, Commercial Nat'l. Bk. Bldg. CHICAGO December 29th, 1908.

Case of : L. T. Plummer, Examining Inspector.  
 CHOW KEE, : Charley Kee, Interpreter.  
 Mer. departing. : W. B. Calkins, Stenographer.

Witness, CHOW DUCK, sworn by Inspector Plummer, testified:

Q. What is your name? A. Chow Duck.

Q. What is your occupation? A. Grocery business.

Q. You are the manager of the firm of "Quong Duck" 113 E. Harrison St., Chicago, are you not? A. Yes.

Q. Has there been any change in the membership of your firm since a partnership list was furnished me January 30th, 1907?

A. No, the same people are there.

Q. What is your full Chinese name? A. Chow Teung Duck.

Q. Is that your marriage name? A. Yes.

Q. What is your boyhood name? A. Chow Sher Dick.

Q. What other names have you besides these two? A. None at all.

Q. What name are you known by among American people?

A. Chow Duck.

Q. How long has your firm of "Quong Duck" been in existence?

A. About nineteen months.

Q. Has it been located always at 113 E. Harrison St.?

A. Yes, at the same place.

Q. What is the value of the goods your firm has on hand at the present time? A. Between four and five thousand dollars.

Q. Does that represent just the goods, or the assets of the firm, such as debts, fixtures, etc.? A. All in goods. We have that much on hand.

Q. Do you know this man? (Showing photograph of applicant)  
A. Yes.

Q. Who is it? A. Chow Kee.

Q. What other name has he besides Chow Kee? A. Chow Fong.

Q. Is that his boyhood name? A. Yes, his boyhood name.

Q. What is his other boyhood name? A. That is all, Chow Fong.

Q. Is he married? A. No.

Q. What is his occupation? A. He takes care of the goods in the store.

Q. Is he a partner in your firm? A. Yes.

Q. Under what name does he appear in the partnership list?

A. Chow Kee.

Q. Why is his name in the partnership list "Chow Kee" when his true name is Chow Fong? A. Chinese people have several names.

Q. Q. Yes, that is true; but your name appears on the partnership by the name you are generally known by? A. Chow Fong is his right name. We call him by this name of Chow Kee in business.

Q. Does your partnership list show the actual names of its members? A. Yes.

Q. Then why does it show the name of Chow Kee on the partnership list if Chow Fong is his right name? A. I did not know that Chow Fong was his right name.

Q. Do you mean to say that when you made up this partnership list you did not know that Chow Kee was not his right name? A. Yes.

Q. When did he take his interest in the firm first? A. At the time we started.

Q. How much of an interest has he? A. \$500.00.

Q. How long has he been in the store devoting all his time to the business? A. Ever since it started.

Q. That would be since May 1st, 1907? A. Yes.

Q. Since May 1st, 1907, has he been devoting all his time to the business of the firm and has done no manual labor outside?

A. Only for a few weeks on the last day of the week, he went up to a laundry down to his uncle's to do some work. He came back the same day.

Q. Has he been going up to his uncle's the last day of the week

12/29/08.

Case of CHOW KEE.

## Testimony of CHOW DUCK, continued:

ever since he has been a member of the firm? A. Before that he did.

Q Since May 1st, 1907 has he gone to this laundry and done any work? A. Before he joined the firm he did, but not since then.

Q Since May 1st, 1907, has he done any manual labor except at the firm of Quong Duck? A. No, all his time has been spent at the store.

Q What was he doing before he became a member of your firm? A. He was a laundryman then.

Q Where? A. Waukegan.

Q Did he own a laundry there? A. Part of it was his.

Q How long did he own it? A. He knows that, but I do not.

Q How long has he been in Chicago? A. Twenty-eight years.

Q Does Chow Kee still own that laundry? A. No, he sold it.

Q When did he sell it? A. He sold and came into the business.

Q Are you positive that he has not been working in that laundry since May 1st, 1907? A. No, he sold that laundry.

Q Give me the names of your partners who devote their entire time to the firm's business? A. Chow Quong, Chow Duck and Chow Kee.

Q What rent do you pay for your store? A. \$20.00.

Q Is it located on the grade floor or in the basement?

A. On the street floor.

Q How much business do you do there a year? A. About sixteen thousand dollars.

Q Is Chow Kee going to China on his own business or on business of the firm? A. On his own business.

Witness signed his names in English & Chinese.

(Signed) Chow Duck,

Witness.

Chow

曹 曹  
羽 德

Chow

Teung

Sher

Duck

Dick

(Signed) Charley Kee,

(Signed) L. T. Plummer,

Interpreter.

Inspector.

Case of CHOW KEE.

Place: same.

Applicant, CHOW KEE, sworn by Inspector Plummer, testified:

Q What is your name? A. Chow Kee.  
Q What is your boyhood name? A. Chow Fong.  
Q Is that your full boyhood name? A. That is all.  
Q What is your marriage name? A. I am not married.  
Q Then where do you get the name of Chow Kee? A. I have this name in business.

Q What do you mean by that? A. This is the name I give in business.

Q When did you first come into the Business? A. When Quong Duck started.

Q When was that? A. Last year in May.  
Q How much money have you in that firm? A. \$500.00.  
Q Did you put that in when the firm started? A. Yes.  
Q What have you been doing since this firm first started?  
A. I have worked in the store since it started.

Q What salary do you draw? A. Thirty.

Q What rent does your firm pay? A. Twenty.

Q What other members besides yourself devote their time to the firm's business? A. Three persons, Chow Quong, Chow Duck and myself.

Q Have you done any work outside of the store or any manual labor since the firm started in May, 1907? A. All my time has been at the store.

Q How much business does your firm do a year? A. About eleven or twelve thousand dollars a year.

Q What kind of work do you do yourself? A. I am there selling goods.

Q What was your occupation before you became a member of the firm? A. Laundryman.

Q Do you own a laundry? A. The laundry was mine.  
Q Where was it located? A. Waukegan.  
Q What street and number? A. 129.  
Q How long did you own it? A. About three or four years.  
Q When did you sell it? A. Sold it and then came to Quong Duck.

Q When did you sell it? A. Quong Duck had started about two months when I sold it.

Q Whom did you sell it to? A. Turned it over to my uncle.  
Q What is his name? A. Chow Hung Soon.

Q What is the name of the laundry? A. "Sam Sing".

Q How many men were employed there? A. Two persons.

Q What is the name of your landlord? A. Dady.

Q How much rent do you pay? A. \$15.00.

Q Did you start that laundry or buy it? A. I bought it.

Q Of whom? A. I bought it from a Chow.

Q What is his name? A. He went by the name of Sam Sing but he was a Chow.

Q What is his Chinese name? A. It is a long time ago. He went to China. I forgot his name.

Q When did you buy that laundry? A. Four years ago.

Q Did you only run it two years? A. I ran it four years.

Q Is this laundry in the basement or on the main floor?

A. In the basement.

Q Didn't you sell this laundry to a Chinaman by the name of Chow One? A. I didn't sell it to him.

Q Didn't you sell it to him about four months ago? A. No. My uncle sold it to him perhaps.

Q Isn't this laundry located at 129 Genesee St., Waukegan?

A. Yes.

Q Isn't there a firm known as Meyer & Frank, furniture dealers, on the ground floor? A. I do not know.

Q Do you know Mrs. Conrad on the second floor of the building?

A. No.

12/29/08.

Case of CHOW KEE.

## Testimony of applicant, CHOW KEE, continued:

Q Isn't it true that you own this laundry and worked in it up until the last part of August this year? A. No.

Q Isn't it a fact that your father opened that laundry there and after your father died you took charge of it, and you ran it for about eight years up until about four months ago? A. It is not so.

Q Didn't Mr. Daddy's daughter manage that property and collect the rent? A. Yes, the daughter collects the rent.

Q Do you mean to tell me that those people are mistaken when they say your father or some one whom they took to be your father ran that laundry until he died, and that you ran it for about eight years? A. Yes, they tell a story.

Q Have you a certificate of residence or any other paper showing your right to be in the United States? A. No.

Q Isn't it a fact that you own that laundry today, and that the man Chow One who is init is only running it for you? A. It is not mine now.

Q Did he pay you cash for it when he bought it? A. Yes.

Q How much? A. \$600.00. I didn't have any dealings with Chow One. I sold it to my uncle.

Q What name were you known by at that laundry, Chow Fong or Chow Kee? A. I went by the name of Sam Sing.

Q What name were you, yourself known by? A. People always called me Sam Sing.

Q Have you understood the interpreter? A. Yes.

Applicant signed his names in Chinese.

曹 宏  
Chow Kee,  
(Signed) Charley Kee,  
(Signed) L. T. Plummer,

Interpreter.  
Inspector.

Case of Chow Kee, Chinese merchant departing.

- 1 What is your name? V J Rivaord
- 2 What is your business? Druggist.
- 3 What is your business address? 351 So Clark St
- 4 Who is the person represented by this photograph? Chow Kee
- 5 What is his business? Merchant
- 6 Of what firm is he a member? Leong Duck
- 7 Where is their store located? 113 E Harrison St
- 8 What kind of business do they conduct? General Merchandise
- 9 Is there any laundry, restaurant, lodging house, or barber shop connected with their store? No
- 10 What has been the nature of this applicant's personal employment in conducting said business during the past year? General work in store
- 11 Has this applicant, during the said year, engaged in any manual labor except such as was necessarily incident to the conduct of such business? Not to my knowledge
- 12 How long have you known this applicant as a member of this firm? About 14 months
- 13 Please state in a general way, what opportunity you have had for observing the applicant during the past year? By waiting on him in my place of business across the street.
- 14 How often have you visited this store during the past year? Two or three times
- 15 At the time of your visits, was the applicant engaged in the store? Yes.
- 16 Give the names of any other members of the firm whom you know? Chaw Duck

(Signature of witness) V. J. Rivaord

Subscribed and sworn to before me at Chicago, Illinois, this 20 day of February 1908.

L. O. Glazener

Chinese & Immigrant Inspector.