

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

IMMIGRATION FILE

No. 792

SUBJECT: CHIN SENG (JEN) LET

792
2008/1071
2008/622
2005/699

April 9, 1936.

District Director,
Ellis Island, New York

In accordance with request in your letter #170/533, of April 4, 1936, there is forwarded herewith our file in the case of NG HONG GOON, in which CHIN SENG LET testified, as well as the related file, those of NG YEE GOON and NG YUEH GUEY, #2008/622, and of NG FONG DEP, #2005/699. From the information given, we were not able to locate the file of MOY WING, in which CHIN SENG LET is alleged to testified in 1923 or 1924.

A. M. Doig
Assistant District Director
Chicago District.

Enc.

Department of Commerce and Labor
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

Office of CHINESE INSPECTOR IN CHARGEPort of CHICAGO.September 29, 1909

To Lorenzo T. Plummer
Chinese and Immigrant Inspector,
Chicago Ill.

SIR: It being my intention to leave the United States on a temporary visit abroad, departing and returning through the Chinese

port of entry of Portal N. Dak., I hereby apply, under the provisions of Rule 39 of the Chinese Regulations (Bureau Circular No. 25), for preinvestigation of my claimed status as an American citizen by birth, submitting herewith such documentary proofs (if any) as I possess, and agreeing to appear in your office personally, and to produce therein witnesses, for oral examination regarding the claim made by me.

This application is submitted in triplicate with my photograph attached to each copy, as required by said rule.

Respectfully,

Signature in Chinese 簽 唐 字 名 神 列
Signature in English 簽 番 字 名 Suen Lee
Address 具 稟 人 之 住 址 9 Laflin St

相 簽 詢 委 亦 憑 國 九 而 來 人 遊 欲 委 管
三 名 問 員 親 據 出 欸 回 亦 出 外 暫 員 理
幅 稟 口 之 與 呈 世 之 茲 卽 埠 入 邦 離 知 外
上 供 公 證 上 所 例 依 由 而 之 今 美 之 人
並 照 辦 人 查 有 在 三 該 去 港 由 國 我 入
附 例 房 到 驗 之 美 十 埠 將 華 出 現 口

Port of Portal, N.D.Oct. 9, 1909.

Respectfully returned to

L.T. Plummer,

Chinese and Immigrant Inspector,

Chicago, Ill.

With the information that I am _____ prepared, on the basis of the evidence submitted with the original of this application, to approve said application.

John E. Shel
Officer in Charge.
rest

Department of Commerce and Labor
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
SEATTLE, WASH.

RECEIVED
JUN 7 1911
Inspector in Charge,
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

HMM

No. 27,494.

June 3, 1911.

Inspector in Charge,
U. S. Immigration Service,
Chicago, Ill.

S i r:

In order that your file in the matter may be complete, I beg to advise that Chinese SENE LET whose status was the subject of your report of October 7, 1909, No. 792, to Inspector in charge, Portal, North Dakota, arrived at this port May 13, 1911, on the s. s. "Teucer", and that he was landed the same day as a returning citizen enroute to Chicago, Ill.

Respectfully,

Ellis D. Butler
C o m m i s s i o n e r .

HAM-TS.

No. 792.

October 11th, 1909.

Suen Let,

c/o Wing Tank & Co.,

301 So. Clark St., Chicago.

Sir:-

I hand you herewith the triplicate of your application for pre-investigation of status as native born American, and would instruct you to present the same to Inspector in Charge, Portal, North Dakota, to exchange with original upon your departure through that port.

Respectfully,

(Signed) L. T. Plummer.
(Signed) L. T. Plummer.

Inspector in Charge.

No. 792.

October 7th, 1909.

Inspector in Charge,
Immigration Service,
Portal, North Dakota.

Sir:-

I hand you herewith papers in the case of SENG LEE, applicant for pre-investigation of status as American born Chinese.

In making his application this man presented a certified copy of discharge showing that he was discharged at Port Henry, N. Y. September 1st, 1903 by Fred W. Dudley, U. S. Commissioner. He also presented a certified copy of the evidence taken at that trial in which it appears that the only defense made was that he was born in the United States.

I forwarded these papers to Hon. H. E. Owen, Asst. U. S. Attorney, Port Henry, and I inclose his letter of September 15th which states that this man was discharged at the time stated and that the defense was that he was born with the United States. I would therefore recommend that this application be acted upon favorably.

Respectfully,

(Signed) L. T. Plummer

Inspector in Charge.

Inc.

WBC

No. 792.

522, Commercial National Bk. Bldg. CHICAGO

October 5th, 1909.

Case of : L. T. Plummer, Examining Inspector.
SENE LET, : Charley Kee, Interpreter.
Native departing. : W. B. Calkins, Stenographer.

Applicant, SENE LET, sworn by Inspector Plummer, testified:

Q What is your name? A. Sene Let.
Q How old are you now? A. Twenty-two.
Q What is your occupation? A. Laundryman.
Q Do you own a laundry, is so, where is it located?
A. 9 Laflin St.
Q Do you own it? A. Yes, I sold it now.
Q What is your full name? A. Chin Shing Let.
Q Are you married? A. No.
Q Were you arrested and tried at one time before a United States Commissioner? A. Yes.
Q When was that? A. 1903. Chinese date, K.S. 29.
Q What month and day? A. 7th month, Chinese. I can't fix it Christian date.
Q Is this the paper that was given to you at the time of your discharge? (Referring to discharge paper filed with application)
A. Yes.
Q What was the name of the Commissioner? A. I do not know his name.
Q Did you have a lawyer? A. Yes.
Q What was the name of your lawyer? A. Moore.
Q What was the name of the Government's lawyer? A. I do not know his name.
Q What was the name of the interpreter? A. An American fellow.
Q What was the name of your witness? A. Chin Gow.
Q Where is he living? A. New York.
Q What relation is he supposed to be to you? A. Uncle.
Q Who else was tried with you? A. Me and my brother.
Q What was your brother's name? A. Chin Wing Shuck.
Q Where is he now? A. New York.
Q When did you come to Chicago? A. I came to Chicago the same year I was landed.
Q Have you been in Chicago ever since? A. Yes.
Q Have you understood the interpreter? A. Yes.

Applicant signed his name in English & Chinese.

(Signed) Seun Let, Applicant.

陳神列

(Signed) Charley Kee, Interpreter.

(Signed) L. T. Plummer, Inspector.

[illegible]

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Fred Young

Notary Public.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER'S COURT,
Northern District of New York.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

-vs-

SENE LET(2628) & WING SEC(2631)

Preliminary hearing had in the above entitled case
before Hon. Fred W. Dudley, United States Commissioner, at his
office in Port Henry, New York, on the 14th day of August, 1903.

APPEARANCES.

H.E. OWEN, Assistant United States Attorney,
for the United States.

B. W. Berkshire, Esq., for the United States.

R. M. Moore, Esq., for the defendants.

Defendants in court in charge of Marshal Spring.

The usual ADMISSION as to the defendants and the
STIPULATION that they be tried together are entered in
this case.

THOMAS W. G. WALLACE sworn as INTERPRETER.

C H I N G K O W, sworn as a witness for the
defendants, testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION by Mr. Moore.

Q Where do you live? A 979 Sixth Avenue, New York.

Q How old are you? A Forty four.

Q How many years have you been in the United States?
A 22 years.

Q Where did you land? A San Francisco.

Q How long did you remain in San Francisco?
A Three or four weeks.

Q Then where did you go? A Rapid City, South Dakota.

Q How long were you in Rapid City, S.D.? A 14 years

Q Do you know these defendants, Sene Let and Wing Sec?
A Yes, I know them; they are nephews of mine by an older brother.

Q Where were they born, if you know? A Rapid City. S.D.

Q How old is Sene Let? A 16

Q And Wing Sec? A 14

Q Where did they go from Rapid City? A Went to China

Q Who, if anybody, went with them?

A Their father and mother.

Q How old was Sene Let when they returned?

A 8 years of age.

Q Have you ever been back to China? A Yes, 23rd year of K. S.

Q How long did you remain in China? A About a year.

Q State whether or not you saw the defendants during that year that you were in China?

A Yes. Upon my return there I saw them.

Q How frequently? A Saw them all the time I was there.

Q Through what port did you return from China on your visit?

A It is a border town up there.

Q Malone? A Malone.

CROSS EXAMINATION by Mr. Owen.

Q What is your business at 8th Avenue? A Laundryman.

Q How long have you been a laundryman? A 4 years.

Q Where were you before you were at Sixth Avenue?

A I was in China, and, previous to that, I was at 1028 Sixth Ave, between 56th and 57th Sts., New York.

Q What was your business there? A Two years a laundryman.

Q What was your business in Rapid City?

A I worked with my brother in his store, ~~gax~~ grocery.

Q Did you have an interest in the store? A I was only working there

Q You were'nt a partner of his? A I had no interest in the store

Q You never did any work other than that of laundryman and working in this store?

A That is all.

Q Is your labor certificate issued to you as a laborer or as a merchant?(showing certificate to witness)

A I was in my brother's store at the time, and that is a merchant paper.

Q You made application for it did you?

A Whiteman came to the store, he arranged it.

Q What do you remember about China previous to coming to the U.S.?

A I remember my brothers wedding and a large storm there.

Q That all you remember? A I don't remember much else.

Q You lived there how many years? A 22 years

Q All the time in this one village in China? A That is all

Q All you remember is the storm and your brother's marriage there?
A No, I don't remember anything else.

Q Are you certain about that? A No mistake.

Q Do you understand the question? A No mistake.

Q Who did you come to the U. S. with the first time you came?
A I came with my sister-in-law; my brother came a year before I did

Q How old is your brother? A 46.

Q Are you married? A No.

Q Have you ever been married? A No.

Q What year was your brother married?
A Married the 3rd year of K.S. and came to the United States in the 4th.

Q What year did you come? A 7th year

Q You came with your brother's wife? A Yes.

Q What was her father's name?
A I don't know the father's name; don't remember

Q Do you know your brother's wife's mother's name?
A I never knew her name; only just knew her, that is all.

Q Did she have any brothers or sisters? A No.

Q Are you certain about that? A Had none.

Q Did you ever go to her father's house? A Yes.

Q How many times? A Twice.

Q What year did you first go?
A When my brother first came & here I returned to my sister-in-law's house with her.

Q Lived with her?
A No, only stopped there for a short time; just to see her that is all.

Q How long did you stay there? A Just a few days

Q Did you leave your village in the morning or afternoon when you first came to the United States?
A It was after breakfast in the morning.

Q Did you come via Hong Kong? A Yes.

Q How long were you going there? A Three or four days

Q When did you arrive in Hong Kong, in the morning or afternoon?
A Afternoon or evening.

Q How long did you stay in Hong Kong? A Ten days or so

Q Where did you stop? A Kwong Wo Yuen.

Q Had you ever been in Hong Kong before? A No.

Q You and your sister-in-law went there together? A Yes.

Q How far was it from the dock where you landed?

A Short distance away.

Q Any one meet you there?

A People from the store of Kwong Wo Yuen received us.

Q When you left Hong Kong to come to the U. S. did you leave there in the morning or afternoon?

A Afternoon.

Q You arrived in S. F. when?

A I don't remember whether it was in the morning or afternoon.

Q Was it in the evening?

A I don't remember clearly; may have been evening.

Q How long did you stay in San Francisco?

A Three or four weeks

Q Where did you go from San Francisco? A Went to Rapid City.

Q Did you leave S.F. in the morning or afternoon to go to Rapid City?

A In the morning.

Q You arrived in Rapid City in the afternoon or morning?

A I am not sure what time I arrived there; it was towards evening I think.

Q What did you do in Rapid City? A I went to my brothers store

Q Your brother was conducting the store there on what street when you first went there?

A It was on Main st., small town, don't remember

Q What do you remember about your life in Rapid City, the people you knew there or the events that occurred there during that time?

A I remember the birth of the defendants; I remember quite a number of people there, although I cannot recollect the names, remember a large wind storm there

Q You don't remember any persons who lived there then? A Yes.

Q How many? A Few tens.

Q How many tens? A Twenty or thirty altogether.

Q How many Chinese persons living there at that time?

A About two hundred.

Q You have told us all that you can remember about your life at Rapid City?

A That is all I remember

Q How old were the defendants when they left there to go to China?

A Eight and six respectively.

Q Did you go to school in Rapid City? A No, too young.

Q Any other Chinese children there at that time? A Yes.

Q How many years is it since the defendants were last in Rapid City?

A 8 years

Q Did these defendants play with these other children?

A Yes,

Q Have you talked with these defendants with reference to their life there as to whether or not they remember anything about it?

A I asked them when I was at home but they didn't seem to remember

Q They had only been done from Rapid City about two years when you were home ~~we~~ had'nt they?

A Yes.

Q And they had forgotten all about it at that time had they?

A They didn't remember.

Q I show you certificate No. 60,307 issued to Chin Kow on the

14th day of January, 1893, by John Peters, Collector, -----

District of Nebraska, and ask you if it is yours?

A Yes.

Introduced in evidence on the part of the government for identification and marked U. S. Ex. A.

Certificate returned to witness.

Re direct Examination.

Q Where were you living at the time you took out this labor certificate?

A Rapid City.

Case Submitted.

COPY

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER'S COURT,
Northern District of New York,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
Plaintiff,)
against) Docket No. 2628.
S E N E L E T,)
Defendant.)

Before me, FRED W. DUDLEY, a United States Commissioner for the Northern District of ~~xxxxxxx~~ New York, complaint was presented by Joseph Wright, a Chinese Inspector, charging in substance that on or about the 23rd day of July, 1903, near Rouses Point, New York, ~~xxx~~ in said district, one SENE LET in violation of the Chinese Exclusion Acts, statutes of the United States, did unlawfully come in to the United States from the Dominion of Canada, and was found unlawfully within the United States in said district, he being a Chinese person and laborer and not a diplomat or other officer of the Chinese or any other government, and without producing the certificate required of Chinese persons seeking to enter the United States; and on the 23rd day of July, 1903, said defendant was brought before me, the said Commissioner and the proceedings were adjourned from time to time, and upon a full hearing on said charge Hon. H. E. Owen, for the United States, being present and the defendant being represented by R. M. Moore, Esq., his attorney, IT WAS ADJUDGED BY ME, on the 1st day of September, 1903, that the said defendant, SENE LET, was not guilty of said charge; that he had a lawful right to be and remain within the United States, and he is accordingly hereby discharged.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name officially and affixed my seal at Port Henry, in the Northern District of New York, this 1st day of September, 1903.

FRED W. DUDLEY,
United States Commissioner,
Northern District of New York.

(SEAL)

SECOND PAGE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
Northern District of New York.) ss.

I, Fred W. Dudley, a United States Commissioner for the Northern District of New York, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the judgment rendered in the above-entitled case on the 1st day of September, 1903, and of the whole thereof. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto signed my name officially, and affixed my seal, at Port Henry, in said district, this 1st day of September, 1903.

FRED W. DUDLEY,
United States Commissioner,
Northern District of New York.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.)
Northern District of Illinois.) Sct:
Eastern Division.)

I, Mark A. Foote, United States Commissioner for the Northern District of Illinois, Do Hereby Certify that the foregoing is a true, full and correct copy of a certain original paper this day produced to, and compared by me at my office in the city of Chicago in the division and district aforesaid; and that the photograph hereto affixed and impressed with my official seal, while not made from the same photographic plate, is a true and good photographic copy of the photograph affixed to said original paper and ~~xxxxxxx~~ impressed with the seal by which said original was attested.

Witness my hand and official seal at Chicago aforesaid, this 20th day of August, A.D., 1909.

Mark A. Foote
U.S. Commissioner, N. D. Illinois.

