

## IMMIGRATION FILE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

No. 477

LEE HING DON,  
of  
"WAH CHING LUNG",  
Merchants,  
291 S. Clark st.,  
Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

AGE:-Forty Three Years.

HEIGHT:-5 Ft., 5 In.,  
Barefooted.  
No Marks Visible.



Department of Commerce and

See letter dated Jan. 11, 1908  
in Moy Ham's file No. 556.  
admitted January 10, 1908.

The United States of America. )  
Northern District of Illinois. ) Sct:  
City of Chicago.

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 Hing Don 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 HING DON has been a member of the firm of Chinese merchants trading and doing business under the trade-name and style of "WAH CHING LUNG", Importers and Dealers in Teas, Groceries, Provisions and general Chinese and Japanese merchandise, at No. 291 Clark street, Chicago aforesaid; that the said firm was established in business in the same vicinity, as we know by its reputation, about twenty years ago, and has to our personal knowledge been so engaged in business for upwards of ten years last past.

WE DO FURTHER CERTIFY, That, during the said year of our acquaintance with him, the said LEE HING DON 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 HING DON 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 HING DON.



We have been credibly informed that said Lee Hing Don has a financial interest of Twelve Hundred (\$1200.00) Dollars 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 of the firm and exercises a voice in the management of the business and affairs of the said "Wah Ching Lung," and enjoys his proper share in the profits thereof, as a bona fide partner of said firm.

Dated at Chicago, Illinois U.S.A. February 21, A.D. 1906.

(Address)

379 Dearborn St  
Chicago, Illinois.

H. C. Pana

(Address)

159 La Salle St  
Chicago, Illinois.

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

Sct.

H. C. Kiehl 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 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 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 Wash & Dry (Laundry) Machine

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 )  
12<sup>th</sup> day of March A.D. 1906  
before me.

Mark A. Foster, Notary Public Cook Co. Ills.  
S. S. COMMISSIONER, N. D. ILL.

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

Sct:- H. C. Pana 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 Insurance Agent

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 )  
12<sup>th</sup> day of March A.D. 1906  
before me.

Mark A. Foster, Notary Public Cook Co. Ills.  
S. S. COMMISSIONER, N. D. ILL.



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 I am acquainted with H. C. Kiehl and H. C. Stana, the signers of the foregoing and annexed certificate and affidavits; that they are not chinese persons; 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 their statements 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 12<sup>th</sup> day of March ~~February~~, A.D., nineteen hundred and six (1906).

Mark A. Foote, Commissioner.



Application  
for  
Endorsement  
of accompanying Affidavits under Rule 25, Regulations approved Feb.5, 1906.

Chicago, Ill., February 24, 1906.

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

Sir:

My name is LEE HING DON; and I am a native and subject of China. I ~~am~~ first came to the United States twenty-five years ago, and have never been back there since. When I first arrived in the United States, I landed at San Francisco, California, from the steamship called by the chinese "Ung-si Lun-sun"; and resided, as a Merchant and member of the firm of "Dong Chung Wah", No.627 Dupont street, there, for fifteen years.

During the period of registration under the laws of May 5, 1892, and November 3, 1893, my older associates did not register, and they informed me it was unnecessary for me, as a merchant, to register; and therefore I did not register.

I am informed and believe that the buildings on Dupont street, San Francisco, in the vicinity where I resided and did business, have been torn away, and the premises re-numbered.

I removed from ~~am~~ San Francisco to Chicago, Kwanghsii 22; and have resided here ever since. Those are the only places in which I have lived during my residence in the United States.

About four years after my removal to Chicago, that is to say, about five years ago, I purchased an interest in the business and assets of the firm of Chinese Merchants, trading and doing business under the name and style of "Wah Ching Lung", at No. 291 South Clark street, Chicago aforesaid; and I have been a member thereof, continuously, ever since. My said share and interest is worth, reasonably and at least, Twelve Hundred Dollars (\$1200.00).

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,

*Lee Hing Don*

#291 Clark st., Chicago, Ill.



CHICAGO, ILL., September 26, 1907

Case of : L.T.Plummer, Examining Inspector,  
LEE HING DON, : J.G.C.Longchallon, Interpreter.  
Mer. Ret.

Witness, LEE KING, sworn by Inspector Plummer, testified:

Q What is your name? A Lee King.  
Q You are the manager of the firm of Wah Ching Lung & Co., 291  
So. Clark St., are you not? A Yes.  
Q Do you know this man (showing photo of applicant)? A Yes, it  
is Lee Hing Don.  
Q Is he still a member of your firm? A Yes.  
Q Does he still retain the same interest in your firm as at the  
time of his departure? A Yes.  
Q Would you say that your firm is doing as much business now as  
at the time of his departure? A Yes, about the same.  
Q Are your goods worth as much now as then? A Yes.  
Q What interest does he have? A \$1200.  
Q What will he do when he returns? A He will come back into the  
store and do the same work as before his departure.  
Q Have you understood the interpreter? A Yes.

(Witness signed his testimony in English)

(Signed)	Lee King,	Witness,
(Signed)	L.T.Plummer,	Inspector,
(Signed)	J.G.C.Longchallon,	Interpreter.



CHICAGO, March 8, 1906.

Case of	:	L. T. Plummer,	Examining Inspector.
LEE HING DON,	:	Wong Aloy,	Interpreter.
Mer., Dept	:	D. Arthur Plumly,	Stenographer.

Witness, LEE KING, sworn by Inspector Plummer, testified:

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Q What is your name?  
A Lee King.  
Q What is your business?  
A I am a merchant.  
Q What firm are you a member of?  
A Wah Ching Lung Co.  
Q Where is that store located?  
A No. 291 So. Clark St., Chicago.  
Q What is your position in that store?  
A Manager and treasurer.  
Q On the 26th day of October 1904, you furnished me a list of your firm members. Has there been any change in the membership of that firm since that time?

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A No; there has been no change.  
Q Do you know this man here (showing photograph of applicant)?  
A Yes, I know him; he is Lee Hing Don, a partner of mine.  
Q Is he a member of your firm?  
A Yes, sir; he is my partner.  
Q How much of an interest has he in your firm?  
A \$1,200.  
Q How long has he been a member of your firm?  
A Since K.S. 28th.  
Q What did he do before he became a member of your firm?  
A He was a merchant in San Francisco before he came to our firm.  
Q This partnership list here shows that he has had an interest in your firm since K.S. 20. How long has he had his money in your store?  
A He has had this interest since K.S. 20 but only came into the store as an active partner in K.S. 28.  
Q How long has he been in the store engaged all the time in its business?

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A From K.S. 28th up to now.  
Q Your partnership list shows that at the time it was given in October 1904 this man was in Chicago doing nothing?  
A This man came from San Francisco and lived in the store until the time Lee Gook Sing went to China and then he took Lee Gook Sing's place.  
Q How long ago was it that Lee Gook Sing went to China?  
A I think it was between a year and a half and two years ago. (Records show Lee Gook Sing went to China in October 1904.)  
Q How many partners have you got in the store now whose entire time is occupied in attending to the firm's business?  
A Four, including the applicant.  
Q Who are they?  
A Lee King (myself), my son Lee Yuen, Lee Hing Don (applicant), and Lee You Ling.



- Q Who is going to come into the store now to take Lee Hing Don's place?
- A We have not made any arrangements yet but we will a little later on.
- p68 Q What salary do you pay Lee Hing Don?
- A \$40 a month.
- Q When did Lee Hing Don come from San Francisco to Chicago?
- A It was several years ago; I don't remember just when. He first came with the intention of looking up some business.
- Q When did he first come to the store to live there?
- A I can not remember exactly how long, but it was several years ago.
- Q What are Lee Hing Don's duties about the store?
- A General work in the store and waiting on customers.
- Q Who has taken Lee Gook Sing's place as bookkeeper or assistant bookkeeper?
- A Lee Yuen took his place as assistant bookkeeper.
- Q During the past year has Lee Hing Don done any work in restaurants or laundries?
- A No, sir.
- Q Has he done any work outside of the store?
- A No, sir; he has not. He has lived in the store all the time since he came from San Francisco.
- p69 Q Do you know of any reason why Lee Hing Don should not be allowed to visit China and return to the United States again as a bona fide Chinese merchant?
- A No, sir.
- Q Does he make any part of his living by gambling?
- A No, sir.
- Q Have you understood Wong Aloy?
- A Yes, sir.

Witness signed in English.

(Signed) LEE KING, Witness.

(Signed) WONG ALOY, Interpreter.

(Signed) L. T. PLUMMER, Inspector.



3/8/06.

Applicant, LEE HING DON, sworn by Inspector Plummer,  
testified:

- p70 Q What is your name?  
A Lee Hing Don.  
Q What is your business?  
A Merchant.  
Q How long have you been a merchant?  
A I became a merchant a little over a year after my arrival in San Francisco.  
Q When did you arrive in San Francisco?  
A K.S. 7th year.  
Q What month did you arrive in San Francisco?  
A I think it was the 8th month.  
Q What firm were you a member of there?  
A Ark Chung Wah.  
Q What year did you come from San Francisco to Chicago?  
A K.S. 22.  
Q Did you get registered?  
A No, sir.  
Q Why not?  
A We all understood we were merchants and we did not have to register.  
Q What have you been doing since you came to Chicago?  
A I didn't do anything for several years. I lived down in a store in Chinatown and then took part in the store.
- p71 Q How much money have you got invested in Wah Ching Lung?  
A \$1,200.  
Q How long have you had that \$1200 invested in the firm of Wah Ching Lung?  
A I became an active member of the firm in K.S. 28.  
Q When did you first invest any money in the firm of Wah Ching Lung?  
A In K.S. 28 when Lee King reorganized the firm of Wah Ching Lung Co., at that time I invested \$1200.  
Q What was the name of the firm of Wah Ching Lung Co. before it was reorganized in K.S. 28?  
A It has always been Wah Ching Lung Co.  
Q Did you have any money in the firm before that reorganization in K.S. 28?  
A Yes.  
Q How much?  
A The same amount of money, \$1200.  
Q When did you first put that money into the firm?  
A K.S. 20.  
Q Where were you living at that time?  
A San Francisco.  
Q Where did you get that money that you invested in that firm?  
A I ~~xxxx~~ earned this money as a merchant in San Francisco.  
Q How many partners have you got in that store now who are engaged in its business all the time?  
A Four of us.  
Q Who are they?  
A Lee King, Lee Yuen, Lee You Ling, and myself (Lee Hing Don).



3/8/06.

- p72 Q Where have you lived since you have been here in Chicago?  
A When I first came to Chicago I lived in the store of Hop Wing Lee at the same number where Wah Ching Lung is now, 291 So. Clark St., Chicago.
- Q Did you have any money invested in Hop Wing Lee?  
A No.
- Q When was this firm of Wah Ching Lung organized?  
A I don't know how long. All I know is that it was in existence when I came to Chicago.
- Q Why did you say that you came to live in the firm of Hop Wing Lee at the same number, 291 So. Clark St.?  
A I went to Wah Ching Lung when I first came to Chicago, but they didn't have any room to spare and we were all Lee cousins, and so I went to Hop Wing Lee to stay.
- p73 Q When did you first go to living in the firm of Wah Ching Lung Co.?  
A I went to live with Wah Ching Lung Co. one year before they moved to their present location at 291 So. Clark St.
- Q What year did Wah Ching Lung move to 291 So. Clark St.?  
A Either K.S. 28 or 29.
- Q Did you put your \$1200 into that firm all at one time?  
A All at one time.
- Q What year did you put that money into the firm?  
A About 12 years ago.
- Q What salary do you draw in that firm now?  
A \$40 a month.
- p74 Q Does that \$40 a month include your dividends from the firm?  
A I receive \$40 a month besides my dividends.
- Q How much dividends do you receive?  
A It depends on circumstances. Sometimes when business is good we have as much as \$2,000 or \$3,000 profits to divide.
- Q How much did you have last year and what was your share?  
A We didn't have any dividends last year, on account of having lots of goods on hand, and so let our dividends remain with the firm; but we do draw our salary regularly each month.
- Q Did you do any work in laundries or restaurants last year?  
A I never did anything else but what I did in our store.
- Q How did you make your living from the time you came to Chicago from San Francisco and the time that you became an active member of this firm and received a salary for your work there?  
A I had a good deal of money when I left San Francisco and I lived on that money; it didn't cost me much to live here.
- p75 Q Whose place did you take in the store when you came in?  
A Lee Gock Sing went to China and I took his place.
- Q What do you do around the store; what are your duties?  
A General work in the store.
- Q Have you understood Wong Aloy?  
A Yes, sir.

Applicant signed in English.

(Signed) LEE HING DON, Applicant.

(Signed) WONG ALOY, Interpreter.

(Signed) L. T. PLUMMER, Inspector.