

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

IMMIGRATION FILE

No. 497

In re. CHOW HUNG SOONG, Laundryman, Des Plaines, Cook County, Illinois.

STATEMENT OF REGISTERED CHINESE LABORER, ABOUT
TO DEPART FROM THE UNITED STATES WITH THE INTENTION OF RETURNING THERETO.

MADE in compliance with the treaty between the United States and China, concluded and signed March 17th, 1894, ratified December 7th, 1894, and proclaimed by the President of the United States December 8th, 1894, and the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to prohibit the coming into, and to regulate the residence within the United States, its Territories, and all territory under its jurisdiction, and the District of Columbia, of Chinese persons and persons of Chinese descent", approved April 29, 1902, and the Rules and Regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury in conformity therewith.



I HEREBY DECLARE That I am a Chinese Laborer, duly registered as such under the Act of Congress approved November 3, 1893. My Certificate of Residence is attached hereto. It was issued to me by the Collector of Internal Revenue for the First District of Illinois, at Chicago in said district, and is numbered "6429" and dated April 2, 1894.

MY DESCRIPTION IS AS FOLLOWS:-

NAME: CHOW HUNG SOONG.
AGE: Forty-Six (46) Years.
HEIGHT: 5 Feet, 5 Inches (In Chinese Sandals).
Residence: Des Plaines, Cook County, Illinois.
OCCUPATION: Laundryman.
EYES: Dark Brown. COMPLEXION: Dark.
MARKS: Upper Front Teeth Irregular.

I CLAIM TO POSSESS THE PROPERTY AND DEBTS BELOW:

PROPERTY: None, except the personal property described below, and money in hand.

DEBT: Payable by one CHOW FUNG WY, Laundryman, Des Plaines, Cook County, Illinois, for the purchase-money on account of the purchase and sale of the "Hong Lee Laundry", in Des Plaines aforesaid, the sum of One Thousand Sixty Dollars (\$1,060.00), with interest and expenses.

Said Debt is reasonably and actually worth at least One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). It is unsettled and unascertained, and is not covered by promissory note or notes, or other evidence of ascertained liability.

I HEREBY AGREE That none of said Debt shall be diverted, transferred or collected during my absence from the United States, but shall remain as it now exists until my return to the United States.

I intend to depart from the United States at the sub-port of Portal, North Dakota, one month from the date hereof, or as soon hereafter as I may, and to return to the United States within one year thereafter.

WHEREFORE, I respectfully request a Certificate of my right to return to the United States.

Dated, at Chicago, Illinois, August 27, A.D., 1906.

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Subscribed and sworn to, at the City of Chicago, in the County of Cook and State of Illinois, by the above-named CHOW HUNG SOONG, this 27 day of August, A.D., nineteen hundred six, before me.

[Signature]
Chinese and Immigrant Inspector.

Case of : L. T. Plummer, Examining Inspector.
CHOW HUNG SOONG, : Wong Aloy, Interpreter.
Lab. Dep. : D. Arthur Plumly, Examining Inspector.

Applicant, CHOW HUNG SOONG, sworn by Insector Plummer, testified:

Q What is your name?
A Chow Hung Soong.
Q What is your business?
A Laundryman.
Q Where is your laundry?
A I sold my laundry K.S. 32, 5, 10.
Q Where was it at the time you sold it?
A Des Plaines, Illinois.
Q How long did you own that laundry?
A Three or four years.
Q Who did you sell it to?
A Chow Fung Wy.
Q How much did you get for it?
A \$1060.00.
Q Cash?
A He has not paid me any money as yet. He still owes me that money.
Q Did he give you any note for it?
A No, sir; no notes given; only we have the understanding that if he doesn't pay me when I return from China I will take the laundry back.
Q Did you have that understanding at the time you sold the laundry?
A Yes, sir.
Q How long have you known Chow Fung Wy?
A About 15 or 16 years.
Q Did you know him in China before you came to the United States?
A Yes, sir; I knew him in China.
Q How ~~man~~ many men do you work in that laundry in all?
A There are only two men there now.
Q How much business do you do a week?
A In the summer time from \$50 to \$60 a week and in the winter from \$30 to \$40 a week.
Q How many laundries do they have there?
A This is the only laundry there. A barber shop has a steam ~~laundrx~~ laundry agency.
Q Who is your landlord?
A I don't know his name. He is an old man and lives up stairs.
Q How much rent do you pay?
A \$10 a month.
Q Do you think that laundry is worth \$1,000.00?
A Yes, sir.
Q Is this a true debt?
A Yes, sir; it is a true debt. He really owes me this money.
Q Have you understood Interpreter Wong Aloy?
A Yes, sir.

Applicant signed his testimony in Chinese:

(Signed) CHOW HUNG SOONG, Applicant.

(Signed) L. T. PLUMMER, Inspector.

(Signed) WONG ALOY, Interpreter.

DES PALINES Sept. 18, 1906.

Witness, CHOW FUNG WY, sworn by Inspector Plummer, testified:

- Q What is your name?
A Chow Fung Wy.
Q Are you registered?
A Yes, sir. (Witness produces certificate No. 6258 issued to Chow Fook at Chicago, April 2, 1894: Age 30; Height 5' 5".)
Q Do you know this man (showing photograph of applicant)?
A Yes, sir; it is my cousin, Chow Hung Soong. He and I used to work here together.
Q How long have you known him?
A I knew him when I was a boy in China.
Q Who owns this laundry?
A I do.
Q How long have you owned it?
A Since June 30th, American date.
Q Who did you buy it of?
A Chow Hung Soong.
Q How long did Chow Hung Soong own it?
A Three or four years.
Q What did you pay for it?
A \$1060.00.
Q Cash?
A No; credit.
Q When will you pay him?
A When I have it, but I don't think I can pay him before he comes back, as he will only be away 6 or 8 months.
Q Did you give him any note for this debt?
A No, sir; we are cousins and it is the Chinese custom not to give notes.
Q If you don't pay him what will Chow Hung Soong do?
A He can take the laundry back, but if I have the money I will pay him and he can buy another laundry.
Q How much rent do you pay?
A \$10.00 a month.
Q How much business do you do?
A From \$50 to \$70 a week, according to the season.
Q Do you think this laundry is actually worth \$1000.00?
A Yes, it is worth that to us because we do a good business and it is a profitable class of work.
Q Have you understood Interpreter Wong Aloy?
A Yes, sir.

Witness signed his testimony in Chinese:

(Signed) CHOW FUNG WY, Witness.

(Signed) L. T. PLUMMER, Witness.

(Signed) WONG ALOY, Interpreter.

Witness, CHOW FUNG WY, recalled, testified:

- Q The landlord says that you have owned this laundry for the last ten years. What have you to say to that?
- A I came here ten years ago and opened this laundry. Then when I went to China I sold it to Frank Chow and after my return I came here with Chow Hung Soong and he bought the laundry from Frank Chow. Then I worked for Chow Hung Soong in this laundry until a short time ago when I bought it.
- Q When did you go to China?
- A I went K.S. 26th and returned K.S. 27th.

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CHICAGO Sept. 120, 1906.

Applicant, CHOW HUNG SOONG, recalled, testified:

- Q The landlord says that Chow Fung Wy owned that laundry ten years ago and has always been in it with the exception of the time that he has been in China, that he has always paid the rent and he supposed that he was the owner. This statement of the landlord was corroborated to a certain extent by the lady in the market across the street. What have you to say to that?
- A It is true that people generally think that this man owns the laundry. It is true that he did own it ten years ago and that he went to China and returned and has staid there ever since. But when he went to China he sold the laundry to Frank Chow and when he returned I had bought the laundry from Frank Chow myself. At that time I ~~was~~ needed a man to work for me and I thought he would be a good man to work for me, as he is well-known there and can speak good English--better than I can--and I let him pay the rent, buy things for the laundry, and transact all the business for the laundry as long as I was there. I have no doubt that people generally thought that he then owned the laundry but he did not. I owned the laundry and sold it to him and want to go to China, and he still owes me for it. I have been there four years now. I don't know the landlord's name and I don't think he knows my name. He comes down and gets a few dollars on the rent occasionally and never gives us a receipt, and has never given us a lease.
- Q How much rent do you pay him in this irregular manner in the course of a year or a month?
- A \$10.00 a month.
- Q When did you buy the laundry of Frank Chow?
- A K.S. 27, 10, 10.
- Q Where is Frank Chow?
- A He is in China.
- Q When did he go?
- A I should judge very close to two years now.

9/20/06.

- Q What did you pay Frank Chow for the laundry?
A I paid him \$1,000.00 for it, but the laundry is really worth a little more than that.
- Q Have you been there all the time since you bought the laundry in K.S. 27th up to the time when you sold it to Chow Fung Wy?
A I was there until last summer, when I got sick during the hot spell. I got another man to work for me until the winter, when I returned and remained until the fifth month this year, when I wanted to go to China and sold the laundry to Chow Fung Wy.
- Q How much did you pay Chow Fung Wy to work for you?
A On an average about \$12 a week.
- Q Is this the truth that you are telling me, that you bought the laundry of Frank Chow, that Chow Fung Wy was working for you and you sold the laundry to him, and the landlord is mistaken in his opinion that Chow Fung Wy has been the owner all the time?
A Yes, sir; it is true that I bought the laundry of Frank Chow and owned it until a short time ago and sold it to Chow Fung Wy. The landlord is a shiftless fellow, anyhow, and we never told him anything about our business, as we thought it was enough to pay the rent.
- Q Have you understood Interpreter Wong Aloy?
A Yes, sir.

Applicant signed his testimony in Chinese:

(Signed) CHOW HUNG SOONG, Applicant.

(Signed) L. T. PLUMMER, Inspector.

(Signed) WONG ALOY, Interpreter.

9/20/06.

Witness, CHOW FUNG WY, recalled, testified:

- Q How much did Chow Hung Soong pay you a week?
A \$12.00 a week on an average, according to business.
Q How much did Chow Hung Soong pay Frank Chow for the laundry?
A \$1,000.00.
Q You swear, do you, that the landlord is mistaken as to the ownership of this laundry and that Chow Hung Soong has been the real owner for the past four years or more until you bought it of him June 30th.
A Yes; I do.
Q And you swear that you still owe Hung Soong the purchase price of the laundry (\$1060) do you?
A Yes, sir.
Q Why has Chow Hung Soong allowed you to do all the business with the landlord?
A Because I opened the laundry and am well-known in Des Plaines, and Chow Hung Soong is not very intelligent. That is why he has always let me act for him.
Q You swear that all these statements are true?
A Yes, sir.
Q Have you understood Interpreter Wong Aloy?
A Yes, sir.

Witness signed his testimony in Chinese:

(Signed) CHOW FUNG WY, Witness.

(Signed) L. T. PLUMMER, Inspector.

(Signed) WONG ALOY, Interpreter.