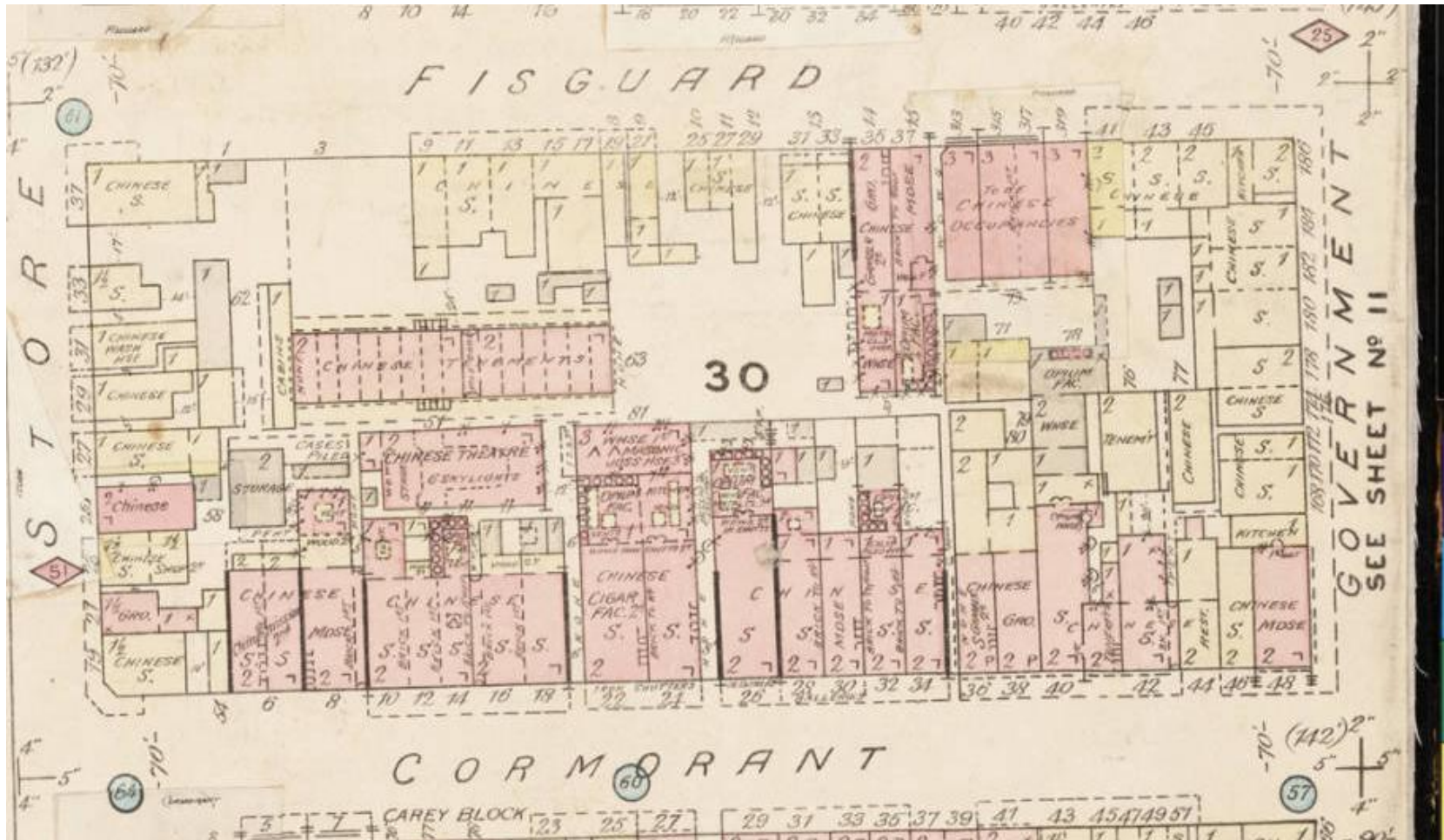


Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and China: 1884-1922

– A Selective Guide of Primary Resources

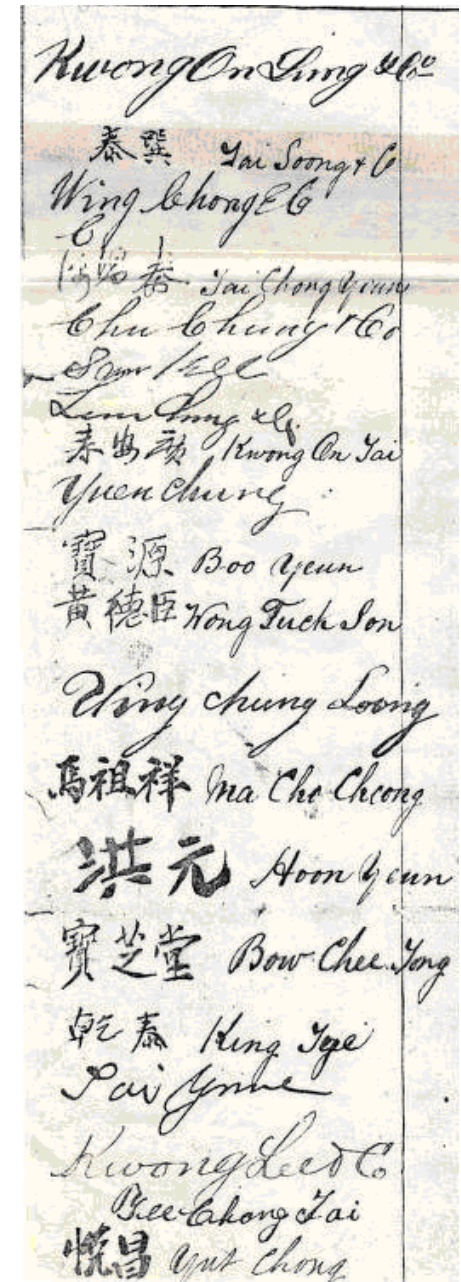
Tina Bebbington & Ying Liu
University of Victoria Libraries
May, 2012

One Block of Chinatown, 1891



Excerpt from Victoria, British Columbia [Fire Insurance Plans], 1891. UVic Libraries' Historical Cartographic Collections: <http://library.uvic.ca/dig/VictoriaFirePlans.html>

CCBA Fonds at UVic Archives



Victoria's Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association

- Founded 1884
- First such organization in Canada
- Sole representative for Chinese interests until 1908
- Still in existence



Timeline

- 1872 BC excludes Chinese from Provincial franchise
- 1873 Victoria bans Chinese from Voting
- 1873 Victoria's Anti Chinese Society founded
- 1876 Chinese excluded from municipal voting in BC
- 1878 Victoria Working Man's Protective Association founded.
- 1878 Victoria requires "licensing fees" of \$10 quarterly required for every Chinese person in BC. Struck down by Federal Government in that year.
- 1878 "Chinese Tax Act" adopted in BC
- 1884 BC passes "Act to Prevent the Immigration of Chinese". In force with amendments until 1908.
- 1885 Electoral Franchise Act excludes Chinese in definition of 'persons'
- 1885 Chinese Immigration Act sets \$50 "head tax"
- 1900 Head Tax raised to \$100 and 1903 set at \$500
- 1923 immigration ban in effect until 1947



The Victoria Context

Workingmen's Protective Association (B.C.).

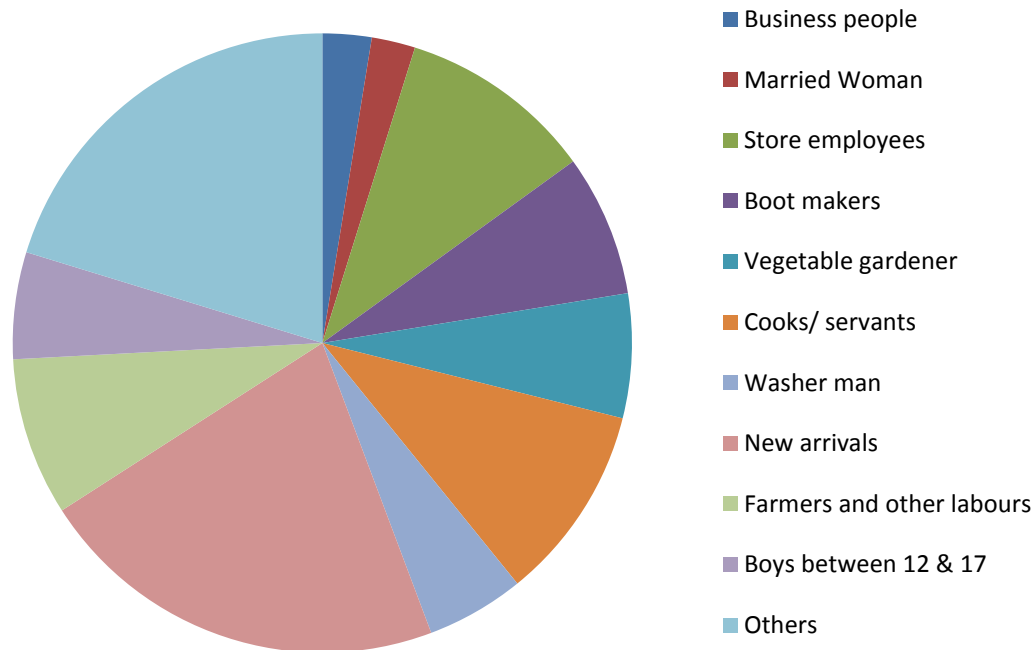
Constitution, by-laws and rules of order of the Workingmen's Protective Association. Victoria, B.C.? : s.n., 1878.

http://www.archive.org/details/cihm_16504.



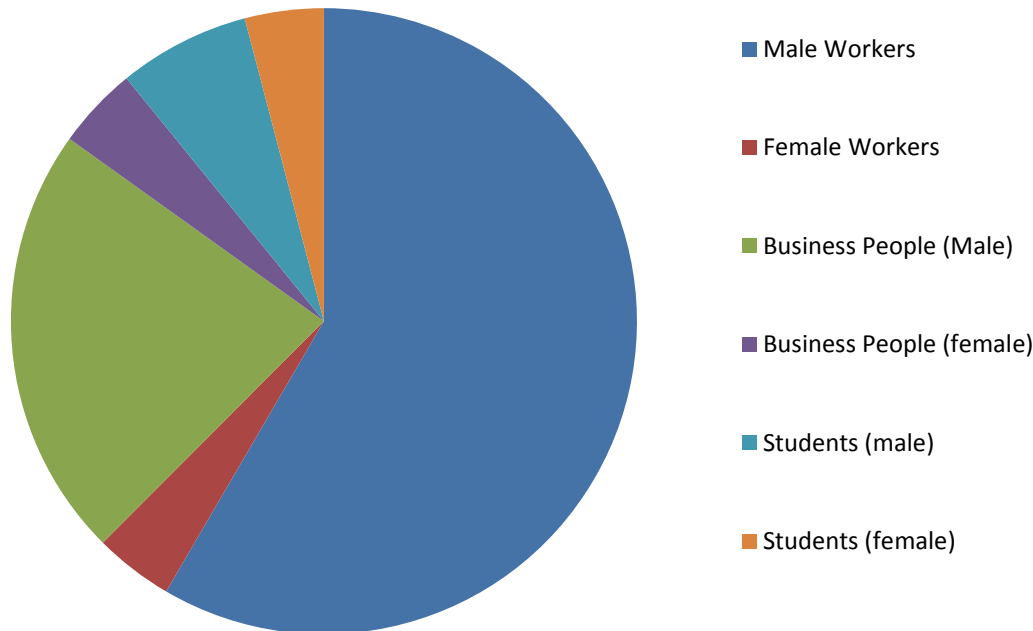
Chinese population in Victoria 1880s & who they were

- 1884 - “List of numbers and occupations of Chinese in British Columbia.” University of Victoria Libraries Digital Collections. <http://library.uvic.ca/dig/Chinese-Canadian.html>



Chinese population in Victoria 1992

- 1886 - “[Draft letter to Chinese Ambassador to England concerning the immigration law applied to the Chinese.](#)” University of Victoria Libraries Digital Collections.
- 1922- “[Chinese population and their occupations in Victoria.](#)” University of Victoria Libraries Digital Collections.



Context in China

- Before 1860
- Self-Strengthening Movement 洋务运动
- In 1870s, established consulates in North America

“Writing on the Draft Regulations of Granting Ranks to Encourage Overseas Chinese’s Investment from the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry and Business 农工商部奏遵议拟定华商办理实业爵赏章程折,” *in New Laws and Regulations at the Emperor Guang Xu’s Reign 大清光緒新法令*, ed. The Commercial Press (Shanghai : Shang wu yin shu guan, 1909), vol. 16, 49.

Establishing CCBA

1884 Letter from Huang Junquan (黄钧铨) regarding to the establishment of CCBA

Mar., 1884 “[Bulletin inviting contributions to the Association](#)” University of Victoria Libraries Digital Collections

July 1884 “[CCBA Constitution.](#)” University of Victoria Libraries Digital Collections.

Aug., 1884 “[The official incorporation of the Association.](#)” University of Victoria Libraries Digital Collections.



會館執事章程

Excerpts from the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association Fund, University of Victoria Libraries Digital Collections: <http://library.uvic.ca/dig/asiancollections.html>

八 凡埠中及各埠興利除弊諸公事先告知董事及司事即定期傳集正副董事正副值事等公議以多數定行止如是否各半改期集眾再議

九 凡遇本處地方有苛待華人之事須費重資駁除者屆時再集眾公議籌費以期足用

十 凡華人被洋人欺凌或毆打或搶劫或欠債各事自己無力伸理者其人親到館投訴或寄信來訴司事即傳正副董事正值事公議共伸冤抑如其人未捐會館底銀兩元會館不理

十一 凡華人被洋人斃命克手逃匿者其親友投訴到館即集眾公議助訟費銀貳拾伍元並懸賞格聲明捉獲克手定賞一等

公推黃彥豪徐金禮馮錦鴻馬心銘四人前往金山稟

總領事黃大人設法保護現蒙黃大人允許代為詳稟轉咨

欽差大臣行吏英國王家再行辯駁又承黃大人批諭我商民等急宜籌捐巨貲以備行例時延請狀師控駁并宜乘此機會捐貲設立中華會館公推董事辦理若使會館已成將來華洋大小事務有人專責料理又可施行善舉使華人貧病者不致流離失所

途窮忽逢苛政有不痛心切齒急思剷除虐全者乎域多利番人向皆厚待華人自光緒四年議立新例歲抽華人丁稅銀四十元當時衆人憤激商家罷市工人停工幸賴眾梓友各捐厚貲控駁於按察司衙門又蒙欽差鄧大人行文英國王家辯駁卒至廢除苛例安息數年不謂貪心未已苛政又頒本

Objectives of CCBA

Objectives – CCBA Constitution

1. to promote inter-relationships among the Chinese communities
2. to carry out relief aids and social welfare to solve disputes
3. to assist the sick and poor
4. to eliminate internal troubles
5. to fight against foreign oppression
“杜御外侮”

Objectives – registration in local authority

1. The translation into the Chinese language and advertisements of the Laws of the Country which most mainly concern them and of which they are ignorant.
2. Affording assistance to the officers of this Government in detecting crime.
3. Assisting members of the Association who may be in distressed circumstances through sickness, old age...
4. For... paying the passage of any sick infirm or poor Chinese to return to China.
5. The settling disputes between members ...

Activities of CCBA

- Protest against discrimination
- Community building & leadership
- Donations to Chinese government and Chinese charitable organizations



Protest against discrimination Head Tax - activities

1886 draft letter to the Chinese Ambassador to England

1889 draft letter to the Chinese Ambassador to England

1897 Letter to the Chinese Ambassador to England

1899 Letter to Chinese Foreign Minister

1900 Letter to the Chinese Government

Protest against discrimination - response from China

1884 – 1891 Three letters from Huang Zunxian ([黄遵宪](#))

“呜呼民何辜，值此国运剥。轩琐五千年，到今国极弱。鬼蜮实难测，魑魅乃不若。若谓人非人，竟作异类虐。茫茫六合内，何处是可托挂。”(《逐客篇》)

1900 Account of the diplomatic protest made by the Chinese Ambassador to England (罗丰禄)

1905 Anti-American movement in Canton Province

Din, Yo. 丁又. “Anti-American Movement in Canton Province in 1905. 1905年广东反美运动.” In *Historical Documents 1840-1949近代史资料*, edited by the History Research Institute, China Academy of Social Sciences, vol.5. 9-52. Peking: Ke Xue Chu Ban She, 1958.



Schools & Segregation

5. That as far as possible, the English language only be spoken at all schools and particularly on the playgrounds.

3. We are informed, and verily believe that 85% of the Chinese children are Canadian born, and many of them are children of parents who themselves are Canadian born, and are therefore Canadian subjects, and, as such, they should, in accordance with the fundamental principles of building up the Canadian Nation, be given every opportunity to learn Canadian Customs and Language, and this can best be done by intermingling.

The Chinese Canadian Club,
The Chinese Chamber of Commerce,
and
The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Ass'n.,

Gentlemen:-

In reply to petition signed by the Chinese Canadian Club, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, protesting against the segregation of Chinese children in the public schools, I beg to state that the Board of School Trustees of Victoria is convinced that the best educational interests of the Chinese pupils demand that they be segregated up to the Senior Fourth grades.



CCBA's Donations to China

Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association.

[“CCBA's Contributions.”](#) *University of Victoria Libraries Digital Collections.*



Future Plans & Acquisitions

- Additional digitization & translation
 - CCBA correspondence
 - Leave permits
 - Donation records
- New Acquisitions
 - Hung Lee fonds
 - Harling Point Cemetery records



Thank You

- Chinatown Bibliography: <http://goo.gl/sa3l5>
- CCBA Fonds @ UVC Archives:
<http://library.uvic.ca/dig/Chinese-Canadian.html>
- British Colonist 1858 – 1910:
<http://www.britishcolonist.ca/>

Contact Us:

Tina Bebbington [REDACTED]

Ying Liu [REDACTED]