5th WCILCOS at University of British Columbia, May 16-19, 2012

# Chung Nye of New Westminster, B.C

--- A Canadian Story from the Perspective of Chinese Pioneers living in B.C. during the 1880s to 1920s

# 二埠的蔣柰

---卑詩省華裔先民在的加國故事

新會梅閣 蔣汶德 撰

Presented by: Rudy M.T. Chiang May 17, 2012

#### Chung Nye 蔣柰, 字經可 ca 1867-1928 AD

At age 16, Chung Nye left his home village of Moy Kwok (梅閣鄉) with a friend for the Gold Mountains

They landed in Victoria B.C. in April 1882

#### His career as

1. Contractor in the salmon canning industry,
2. Operator of Sun Kum Wo (新錦和),
Personifies the contribution of
Chinese pioneers in British Columbia

# Chung Nye 蔣柰, 字經可 ca 1867-1928 AD

The story of Chung Nye begins with a family portrait taken in 1922 ... on the occasion of son On Whei's visit to New Westminster ...

#### The Chung Nye Family Portrait, 1922

Son 安丁 On 翹酉 Kui 字

> Son Yon Yhei Yei Yei



<del>文</del> Nephew **韋** On Wey

に 会 Nephew P On Shun 子

Chung Nye 蔣柰,字經可

## Chung Nye 蔣柰, 字經可 ca 1867-1928 AD

The paths of the 4 young men diverged as each pursued their aspirations.

Two stayed in Canada, whereas nephew On Wey moved to the U.S.

The visiting son On Whei served in the rebuilding of China.

Destiny came to full circle 40 years later when their paths converged again in North America...

## Happy Re-union, 1966

44 years after the family portrait was taken, On Whei (*right*) visited Vancouver again.

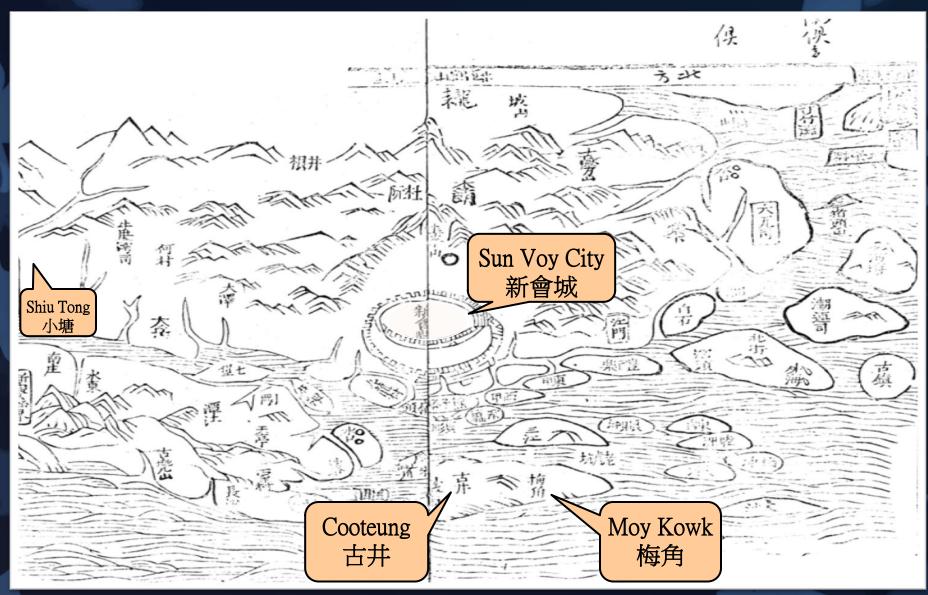


On Kui 安翹

On Shun 安順

On Whei 安懷

## 1741 Map of Sun Voy City



#### The History of Chung Nye

- told by his grandson Chi Ho Chiang 蔣麒賀
- ❖ Chung Nye received a Family Settlement Fee (安家費), an advance meant to bridge family needs until the sojourner could send money home.
- ❖ He left the 12 pieces of silver dollar (dai yong 大洋) with his widowed mother for the family.
- Chung Nye became a contractor for salmon canneries in B.C. He was well respected for recruiting fellow villagers from home.
- ❖ He founded Sun Kum Wo (新錦和), a Chinese herbal and grocery store in New Westminster.

#### The History of Chung Nye

- told by his grandson Chi Ho Chiang 蔣麒賀
- Chung Nye bought gold claims from Caucasian partners, it turned out to be fool's gold (pyrite).
- ❖ He befriended Leong Kia Chew (梁啟超) when Leong visited Vancouver in 1903. Nye supported the Reform movement in China.
- \* Chi Ho never met his grandfather in person. He got a glimpse of Chung Nye through the glass window of the casket, when the embalmed remain was returned to Moy Kwok for interment.
- Chi Ho was twelve years old at the time.

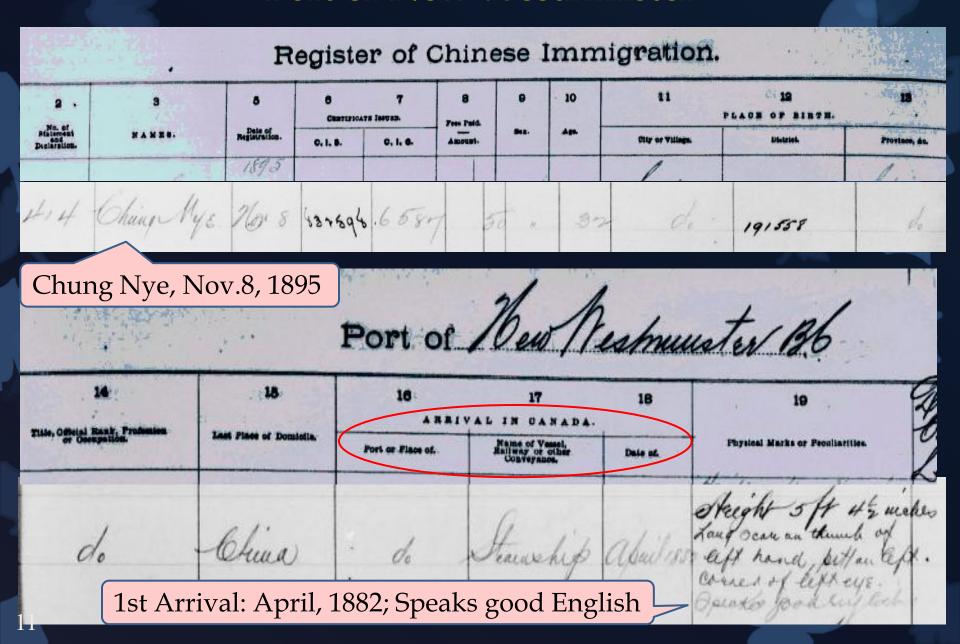
On line search turned up 3 entries for Chung Nye:

1) November 8, 1895, Port of New Westminster Declaration No. 414, CI5: 832598, CI6: 6587; Returning from China, merchant Chung Nye, Age 32, Entry Fee \$0.50, Place of Birth: Canton, China. Physical Description: "Height 5ft 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches. Long scar on thumb of left hand, pitt on left corner of left eye. Speaks good English."

First arrival date: April 1882, in Victoria,

by steamship.

#### Port of New Westminster



- ✓ April 1882 coincided with the arrival of the 2,000 men recruited by Andrew Onderdonk, on contract with the Canadian Pacific Railroad Company (CPR).
- ✓ Only the CPR, in desperate need for workers could afford to pay a Family Settlement Fee (安家費) of 12 silver dollars.
- ❖ The 16 year old Chung Nye and his friend had to be among the 2,000 men contracted to lay tracks along the Fraser Canyon for Canada.

#### Another record:

2) June 5, 1901, Port of Vancouver

Serial No. 37628, CI5: 32004;

Returning from Hong Kong, labourer Chung

Nye, age 38, Entry Fee \$100 Head Tax.

Place of Birth: Moy Gock, Senwoy, China

Vessel: Empress of Japan

Physical Description:

"5 ft. 5, scar right corner left eye, scar on left thumb, scar on left 2nd & 3rd finger."

#### More record:

3) February 3, 1906, Port of Vancouver

Serial No. 51591, CI5: 45030;

Returning from Hong Kong, merchant Chung Nye, age 43, Exempted from Head Tax;

Place of Birth: Go Deung (古井), Senwoy, China

Vessel: Empress of China

Physical Description: "5ft.4 in, scar on left thumb, scar on left 2nd & 3rd fingers, scar under corner

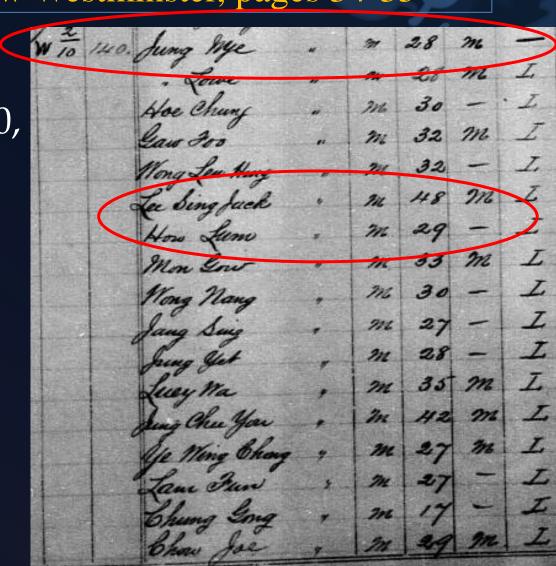
sear niles

left eye."

#### 1891 Census of Canada

District 2, New Westminster, Sub District 6, New Westminster, pages 34-35

June 6, 1891 House No. 140, w 2/10, Head of household: Jung Nye, age 28, married, Buddhist. 40 occupants, 4 could read & write English: Jung Nye, Lee Sing Jack, How Lum, & Jung Tie



# Census of Canada 1891 District 2, New Westminster, Sub District 6, New Westminster, pages 34-35

"...For the reference you found in the 1891 census for Jung Nye, W2/10 refers to a wooden, two-story building, with ten rooms. The number 140 is the household number, i.e. it was the 140th household the census enumerator recorded for that sub-district. Under Relation to Head of Family, L means lodger. This means that the men listed on that page were living in a rooming house."

---Ms. Mary Munk of Library & Archive Canada, personal communication, April 8, 2010

# Chung Nye in 1891 Nine Years After Arrival

- Chung Nye had transformed from labourer to the head of a 40 men household in New Westminster
- He established his cannery career
- At 28, Chung Nye was married, could read and write English
- His first trip home likely took place in 1887-89.
- Chung Nye built two identical houses of solid stone blocks. One for his mom and himself, the other for his younger brother Leon Ho (倫可), father of his nephews.

# The Moy Kwok Cannery Pioneers

With a pool of skilled cannery hands, Chung Nye & the Moy Kwok clan secured contracts along the B.C. Coast:

- New Westiminster (鳥埠), Delta,
- Steveston (市姊廠), Vancouver (雲埠)
- Bella Coola (巴罅咕罅), Klemtu (加欖粗),
- Prince Rupert (片市魯別), Port Edward,
- Nitnet (乃遠叻, 乃典律) and
- many other locals.

# The Moy Kwok Cannery Pioneers

# Some of the Moy Kwok Contractors

- Chung On Shun (Chong Quong, 蔣北強,安順),
- Chong On Wey (蔣安偉),
- Chong On Kui (蔣安翹)
- Chong Yat (蔣逸琴,字安烈),
- Chong Dot (蔣炳達,字安鰲),
- Chong You (蔣有,字容可),
- Chung Sat (蔣述,字國多),
- Chong Tee Poy (蔣池沛,字會可) ...

# 1922 Brunswick Cannery Contract Chung Nye & B.C. Packers --Courtesy of Chung Collection, UBC, ID 101-1-6

This Agreement

made in duplicate at Vancouver, B. C.,

this THENTY-FIFTH

day of

JANUARY

. A. D. 1922.

Between



of VANCOUVER, B.C. in the Province of British Columbia, hereinafter called the parties of the first part, and \*\*\* COLUMBIA PISHTIC & PACKING CO. LTD. Of Vancouver, British Columbia, hereinafter called the parties of the second part.

Whitnesseth, that the said parties of the first part, in consideration of the covenants on the part of the said parties of the second part hereinafter contained, hereby covenant and agree to and with the parties of the second part in the manner following, that is to say:

That they will, at any and all times during the canning season of 1922, supply to the parties of the second part all skilled labor, not less than \_\_\_\_\_ good men, required by them or their manager at their Cannery on PRASER RIVER called BRUBB WICE

Cannery in the work of making such cans as are required, and for the purpose of packing their salmon

#### Chung Nye Dealings with New Westminster City Council 1895-1926

1895,	Chung Nye asking permission to lay building material
Sept 23	on Carnarvon Street. Granted
1896,	Chung Nye & co. asking for short sidewalk on
Nov. 9	Carnarvon Street – Board of Works to act.
1897,	Chung Nye: Revenue Tax Fine - Finance to report
May 31	
1899,	[The Great New West Fire, Sept 10, 1898] Chung Nye
Mar. 20	asking for sidewalk – Board of Works to report.
1899,	Chung Nye asking refund of water rate paid in
Apr. 17	advance, the premises having been destroyed by fire
1899,	The accounts paid in advance on water services
May 15	destroyed by fire on September 10 last be refunded.
1910,	Corbould & Grant re: Sun Kum Wo's claim. City
Jan. 17	Solicitor to report at an early date.

#### Chung Nye & the Chinese Reform Association

1916, [Sep. 5, Top floor of CRA on fire] Chung Nye & others asking Sept. permission to rebuild roof of building belonging to Chinese Reform Assn. Also report of Building Inspector on 25 same, recommending that a life of 1 ½ years be placed on building. Granted & recommended. Adopted

04

1918, "The Building Inspector attended and referred to the fire at the building owned by the Chinese Reform Association which destroyed the roof. He stated that the building was a well built one and provided the top story was removed and a new roof put on would comply with the regulations of the No. 2 Fire Limits. The Insurance Co, offered \$100.00 for damage done, which would cover repairs, but he advised that alterations mentioned be made at a cost of \$235.00. On motion the Building Inspector was instructed to negotiate with the Chinese Reform Association to have this done."

### Chung Nye & Tom Hin Purchased 1047 Royal Ave for \$750 in 1923

"That the offer of Tom Hin and Chung Nye to purchase the re-sub of Lot S.P. 3, City Block 36, for the sum of \$750.00 – payable \$150.00 cash, balance in 6,12, and 18 months, with 6% on deferred payments, be accepted, and bylaw prepared accordingly." [譚欽,蔣奈1920/5/15,p10,ChineseTimes]

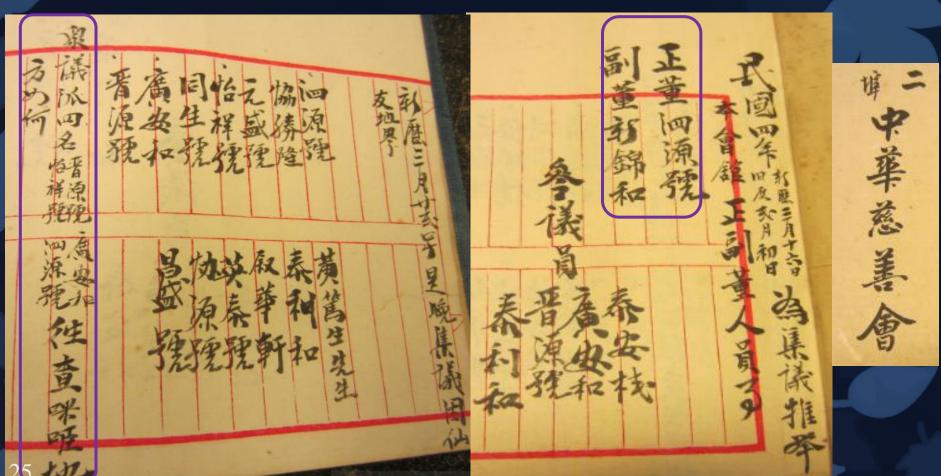
"Re: the application of Chung Nye and Yuen Ching for Nov 16 repairs to roadway and sidewalk adjoining corner of Royal Avenue and 11th Street – this matter has received attention. ADOPTED"

# Chinese Benevolent Association (CBA) in New Westminster Minutes of 1915

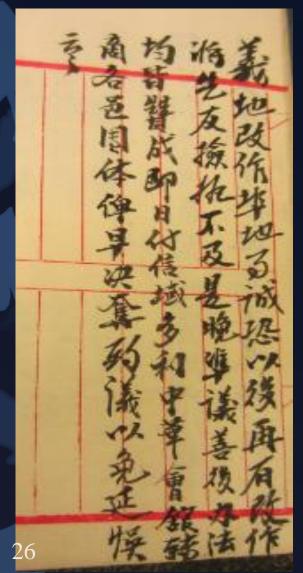
March 16: Chung Nye of Sun Kum Wo 新錦和 elected Vice-Chair.

March 22: CBA appointed 4 members to check on burial site issues.

[Nov. 9,1914: City cancelled the 1909 Chinese Cemetery Agreement]



March 23: Confirmed that City has revoked the Chinese Cemetery. Prompt action needed to reclaim buried remains. CBA to request Victoria CBA to alert its members of the need for quick action.





April 26, 1916: Chung Nye proposed a public meeting be held on Sunday to fund raise for reclaiming buried remains. [July 7, 1919: City approved Mah Chan to exhume 21 or more remains at the 8th Street Chinese Cemetery.]

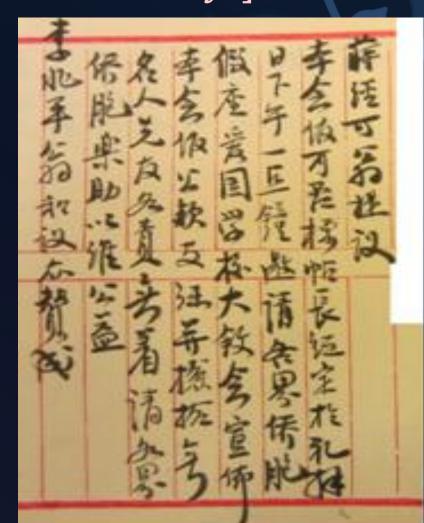
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各責無

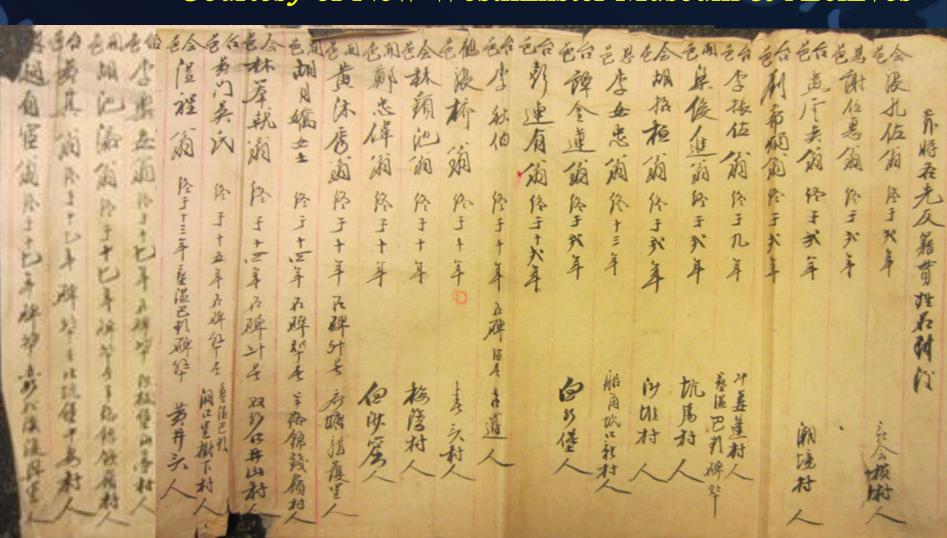
請各界

會館公款支[?] 入叙會 胞

蔣經可翁提議



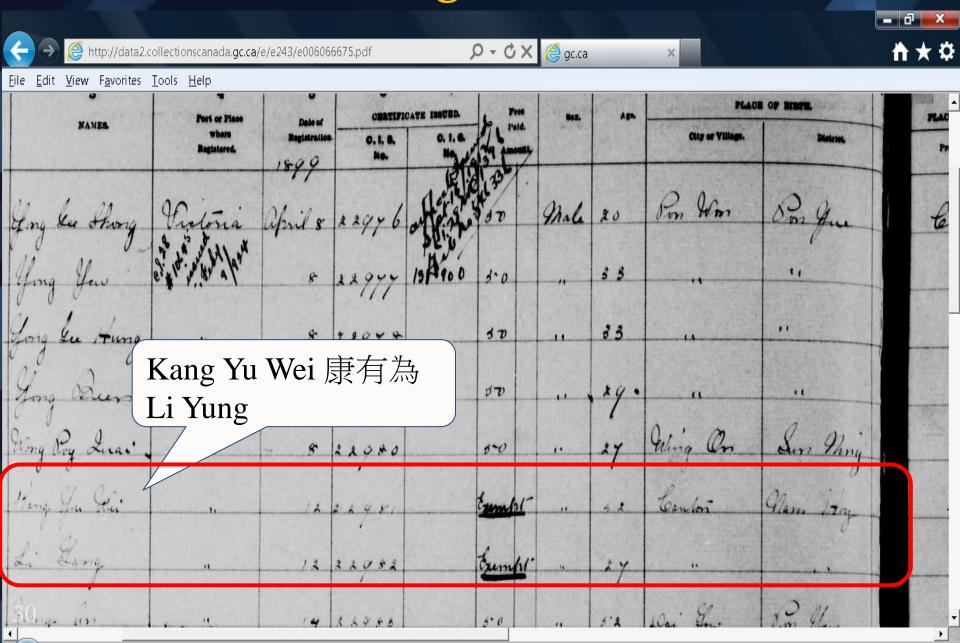
# List of Deceased Pioneers, 1912-1928 Ancestral Village, Year of Death & Marker Rumber --- Courtesy of New Westminster Museum & Archives



## "Diplomatic" Visit of Kang Yu Wei in 1899

- June Sept., 1898 Wushu Reform 戊戌變法
- Kang Yu Wei 康有為 and his secretary Li Yung arrived in Victoria on April 7, 1899
- Kang, age 42, 5ft 2in, of Nan Hoy 南海 County
   diplomatic corps, exempted from Head Tax
- Li Yang, age 27, 5ft 3.5in, Nan Hoy, secretary,
- exempted from Head Tax
- They boarded the MV Igumi Maru at Yokohama, Japan
- Immigration file: Microfilm C9512 e0060666

# Visit of Kang Yu Wei 康有為

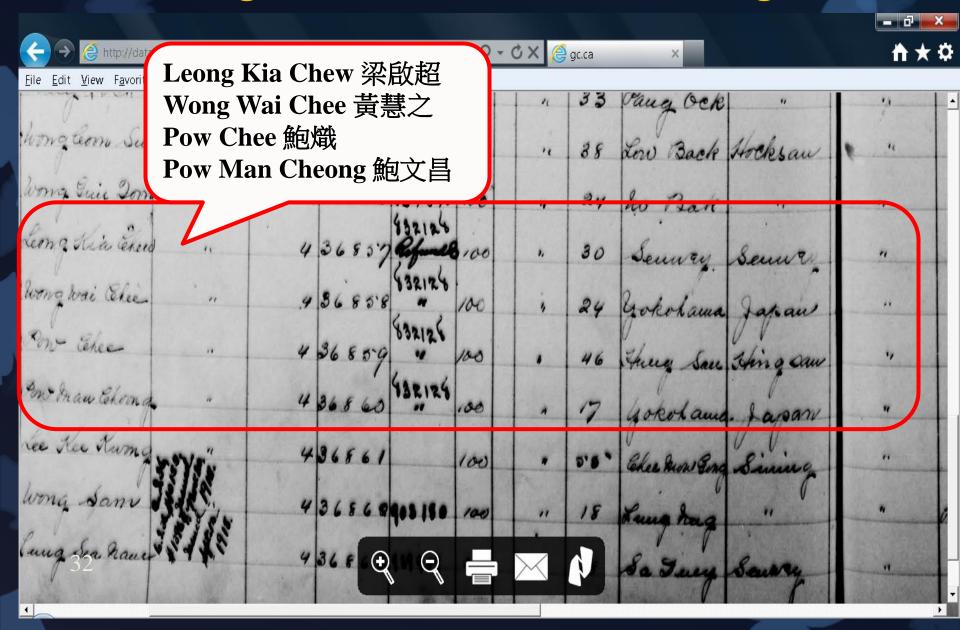


#### Leong Kia Chew Toured America in 1903

Mar. 3, 1903 Leong Kia Chew 梁啟超 & his entourage arrived at Vancouver on the Empress of India

- ➤ Leong Kia Chew 梁啟超 age 30, 5ft 5in, of Senwey 新會 [茶坑], boarded from Yokohama 橫濱
- His entourage boarded from Hong Kong
- > Wong Wai Chee 黄慧之 age 24, 5ft 5.5in, of Yokohama
- ➤ Pow Chee 鮑熾 age 46, 5ft 4in, of Hung San 香山
- ➤ Pow Man Cheong 鮑文昌 age 17, of Yokohama
- > Their \$100 Head Tax was refunded on Mar. 15
- ➤ Immigration file: Microfilm C9512 e0060668

#### Leong Kia Chew & His Entourage



#### Chung Nye died on November 14, 1928

#### 殷商又弱一個

二埠函、殷商蔣奈翁字經可,新會 梅閣人。向承辦雇工製沙文魚罐頭 事務。去月因在魚濕食山羊肉煲醋, 即覺身體不豫,隨出二埠入醫院調 治、越時四日、頗覺痊可、乃出院。 未幾舊病復發、遂再入院、至昨晨 五時、醫藥罔效。 心血管崩裂、延 至下午一時、竟與世長辭、享壽共 十有五。查蔣翁為人、胸懷磊落、 忠厚待人、歷任憲政黨總理。對於 社會與黨務、靡不竭力贊襄。 今忽 歸道山、聞者莫不惋惜。長子紹賢 君、英年卓举、向負笈華北、畢業 于天津大學。次子安翹亦學貫中西、 33 已于上月返國云。

Funeral Record of Chung Nye

Place of Death:

1047 Royal Ave

Cause of death: Cancer

Died: Nov. 14, 1928

Age: 62

[Vital Statistics: Age 66]

Where Born: China

Occupation: Merchant &

contractor

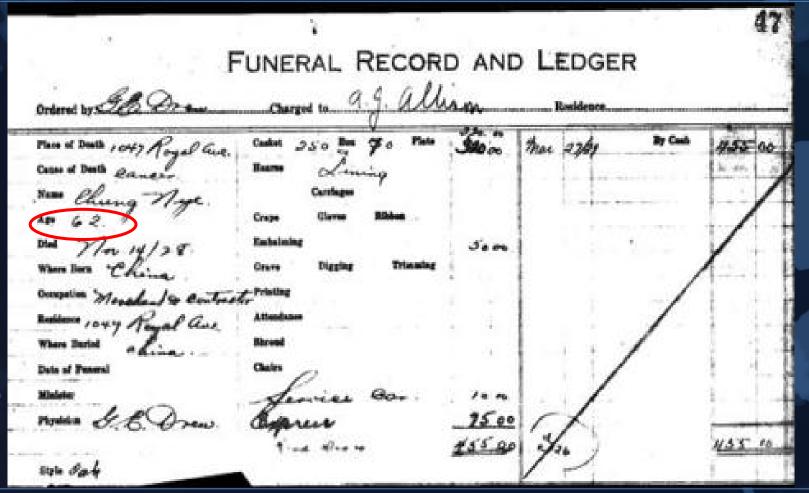
Residence:1047 Royal Av

Where Buried: China

Physician: Geo. E. Drew

Funeral cost: \$455.00

#### Courtesy of Bowell & Son



When was Chung Nye Born? Immigration & Census Records point to 1864 Family History & Funeral Record suggest 1867

### Chung Nye Estate

The Chinese Time December 10, 1928, page 13

December 8, 1928 the B.C. Supreme Court validated Chung Nye's will and awarded his estate of \$24,193 to son On Whei (蔣紹賢, Chiang Shao Hsien). 月

#### Chiang Shao Hsien 蔣紹賢 字安懷, 1895-1974 On Whei, the 2nd Son of Chung Nye

S. St. Chiana

Maximplified the regular war of study and paids in the

In Testing my Hope of the home affect one

This cretifies that

- ➤ Graduate of Tien Jing University (天津大學)
- Polytechnic Business College
   Oakland California
   Diploma in Business Training
   April 16, 1924
- Modernization of China

Controller, Engineering Division, Ji Jiang 浙江 Province Ji Jiang Railways 杭江鐵路, Chien Tang Jian Bridge 錢 塘江大橋, Negotiated a \$7 million construction loan. War Efforts: Controller of Army Corp of Engineers, Yun Nam Airport, Yun Nam-Siam Rail Proj (滇緬鐵路)

### Shao Hsien Honoured by the Constitution Reform Association, December, 1922 憲政會之大讌會

When Shao Hsien visited his father Chung Nye, the Reform Association held a banquet in his honour. Chairman Won Cumyou invited Shao Hsien to give an eye witness account of recent political upheavals in China. It was well received...

蔣柰翁之長公子蔣紹賢先生 、在中國北京肄業多年、茲 者學成來遊此地。并陳宗璜 先生奉北京孔教會委任、籌 建北京孔教總會堂、駕臨本 埠數日。昨日下午六時、憲 政會諸先生特設酒與兩先生 晤談、酒酣之餘、會長温金 有翁宣布設讌理由、先請蔣 紹賢先生演講、亹亹而談、 尤足動聽....

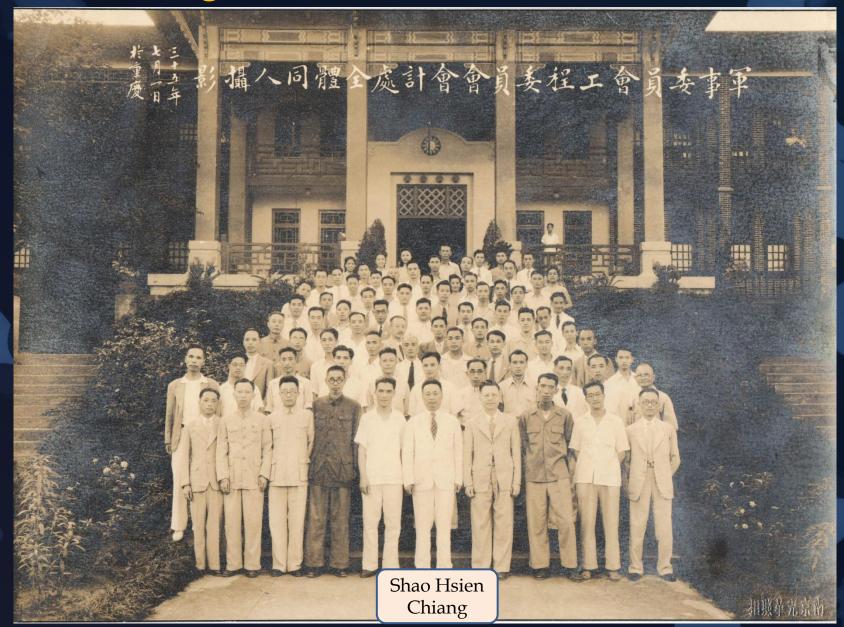
# An Eulogy In Memory of Leung Kia Chew 1873-1929

From ten thousand miles away, the sad obituary came; Who would have thought that our face to face encounter in Peking seven years ago, Turned out to be an everlasting memory?

Draped as a kin, we share a teacher to student bond; Your teachings and lofty publications 蔣 stacking tall, Shall forever be echoed by followers to come. 賢

--- Chiang Shao Hsien

# Controller Branch, Army Engineers Corp. Chiang Shao Hsien & His Staff, 1946

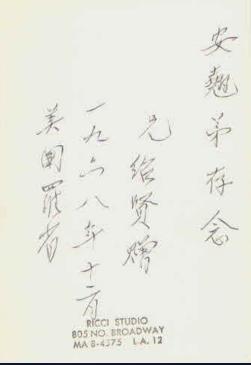


#### Chiang Shao Hsien Resettled in America

- Chiang Shao Hsien went to Hong Kong in 1950.
- > He left for Cuba in 1952 to join his son Luis Chiong.
- ➤ In 1960 Luis fled Cuba to Florida with only US\$5 in his pocket. He got a job at Trader Vic the next day. He sent for his father in Cuba right away.
- Shao Hsien soon accepted a job as secretary-custodian for the Los Angeles Kong Chow Benevolent Association at 931 N. Broadway.
- Chiang Shao Hsien passed away at age 79, on June 2, 1974. He was laid to rest at the Los Angeles Chinese Cemetery.

### Shao Hsien Chiang, 1968



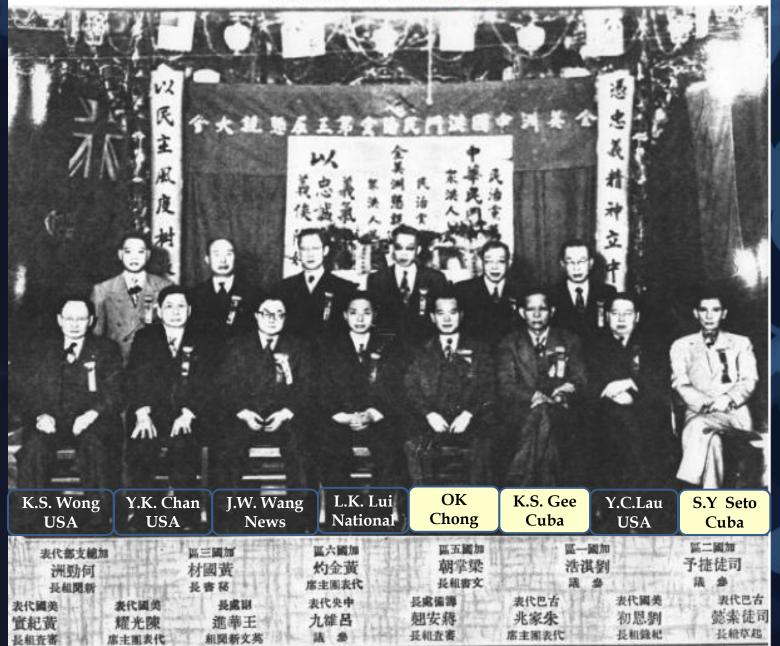




### Chong Ding Yow 蔣丁酉 字安翹, 1897-1978 On Kiu, the 3rd Son of Chung Nye

- Ding Yow, age 14, landed in Vancouver May 15, 1910,
   Under the Name of Ching Ding Yow.
- \$500 Head Tax exempted, merchant's son
- He Graduated from High School in New Westminster
- Fluent in both Chinese and English
- Career journalist for the Chinese Times in Vancouver
- Retired as General Manager, April 1, 1958
- Renowned for his lyrics & couplets
- Member of the Chinese Freemason
- Chair of the 3rd Pan-America Freemason Conference in Vancouver, January, 1950.

The 3rd Pan-America Conference of the Freemason Party of China Vancouver, B.C. January 15, 1950 Conference Chair: On <u>Kiu Chong</u>



#### The 3<sup>rd</sup> Pan-America Conference of the Freeman Party of China



本鴻黃 利漢胡 傑達林 新媳黃 山放馬 公洪林 根墟梁 常你趁 光應鄭 俊廷李 華徒司 梁增黃 舜炳黃 庭禮呂 柏 鄧 洲勁何 材國黃 約金黃 朝堂梁 浩淇劉 予捷徒司 生玉周 榮 林 安國简 任邓關 實紀黃 螺光陳 進華王 九維呂 慰安斯 兆家朱 人夫兆家朱 初恩劉 懿素徒司 梅美能

## Chong Quong 蔣北強 字安順, 1891-1972 On Shun, nephew of Chung Nye

- Chong Quong came at age 12 to stay with Chung Nye in 1903. He became a Chinese boss at age 18.
- He was a well known figure with B.C. Packers and Nelson Brothers.

- His son Danny Chung (蔣章霖) held contract with the Port Edward Cannery of Nelson Brothers until 1959.
- Quong's younger son, Wayne Horne Chong (蔣榮漢) retired from the Canadian Fishing Company's Home Plant at the Foot of Gore Ave in Vancouver.

#### Bountiful Harvest at Steveston, ca. 1950's

Chong Quong standing next to a bailful of salmon, and holding a 30 lb. Spring salmon in each hand.

Location: Nelson Brothers Phoenix Cannery or B.C.

Packers Imperial Plant

Credit: This photo, kindly provided by Dr. Brian Ho, belongs to the Chong Quong Family.



## Charles On Wey Chong 蔣安偉, 1894-1968 Nephew of Chung Nye

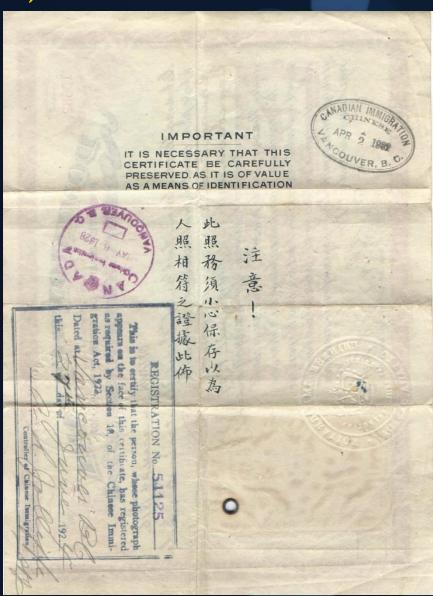
- Charles On Wey stayed with Chung Nye in New
   Westminster. He was a member of the cannery clan.
- He and his cannery crew donated to the Vancouver Gee Gong Tong (雲域致公堂) in 1930.
- Charles moved to New York in the 1930's and later
   worked as a bar tender in Washington D.C.
- He retired in Los Angeles.
- In 1963, three generations of the On Wey family were finally re-united when his wife, his son Shek Wan (蔣石 穩) and family landed in Los Angeles on February 28.
- On Wey passed away at age 74 in 1968. He was laid to rest at the Los Angeles Chinese Cemetery.

# CI 36: CHANG FOOK 張福有(楠) Lee Yip Sang of Sartuey 沙堆 李業勝



## Lee Yip Sang & Rudy Chiang Vancouver B.C., 1964





# DISCUSSION Head Tax: An Exploitation Tariff

- A \$50 Head Tax was imposed in 1885
  - Raised to \$100 in 1900
  - Jumped to \$500 in 1903

ASSUMING IN 1903
AT AN AVERAGE WAGE
OF \$35 PER MONTH

Canada extracted a 14 month equivalent of free labour from every arriving Chinese worker up front...

ROOM AND BOARD WAS NOT PROVIDED

# DISCUSSION Head Tax: An Exploitation Tariff

The Invisible Hand of the Free Market Economy was handcuffed by the excuse of "Cheap Labour"

#### THINGS HAVE NOT CHANGED

Modern Anti-Dumping Tariff Replaced the Head Tax

# ❖JULY 1, 1923, ♣ D&Y TO REMEMBER

- The Chinese Exclusion Act closed all doors to the Chinese.
- ➤ It too closed the door to potential economic growth for the Province & the Dominion.
- ➤ New Westminster's population declined.

# Opportunity Cost of Discrimination Discrimination

- ✓ Deprived financial rewards to Chinese workers
- Taxed the discriminator in productivity gains.
- The opportunity cost of discrimination, measured as impeded economic growth to the discriminator is seldom acknowledged.

### **Denial of National Identity**

- ➤ Chung Nye & family accepted the dichotomy of their Canadian identity, without compromising their Chinese cultural affinity.
- > Canada was their home.
- > Even if they have to wait until 1949 for recognition.

# National Identity & Cultural Affinity A Dichotomy of Divided Loyalty?

- ✓ National Identity is a commitment to where one lives, and contributes to.
- ✓ Cultural Affinity is an expression of the life-style one prefers to live.
- \*Where one lives and how one lives, are two distinct issues.
- Land & life-style do not have to be congruent.

# Chinese Pioneers: A Missing Chapter in Canadian History

# Non-Congruency

When the dichotomy of national identity & cultural affinity is fully appreciated as non-congruent,

the Chapter on Chinese pioneers & their way of life at the forefront of Canada's nation building will flourish.

#### Conclusion

- ✓ The story of Chung Nye is by no means unique for men of Chinese descend in B.C.
- ✓ Trade unions, civic authorities, provincial and federal governments all conspired to exclude them.
- ✓ Lobbyists did not hesitate to reap benefits from the wealth created by the value added labour of Chinese pioneers.
- ✓ Chung Nye & his peers struggled, but they met each challenge.
- ✓ They helped each other in times of need & cared for those who were less fortunate.

#### Conclusion

- ✓ The pioneers contributed to a departure fee of \$4 for each home trip they made.
- ✓ The money was to pay for shipping home, the remains of those who died in a foreign land.

Chinese Pioneers brought with them ethics, humanity, reciprocity, family value, and the commitment to build a better home in Canada.

- Their founding role in British Columbia and their participation in our nation building
  - Must not be left blank in Canadian history

## Acknowledgement

Library & Archives Canada

The Chinese Head Tax

Census of 1881 and 1891

UBC Asian Library & Multicultural Canada

The Chinese Times

Chung Collection, UBC

Chung Nye Contracts

❖ New Westminster City Council

City Council Minutes Records, 1874 to 1926

❖ New Westminster Museum and Archives

Chinese Benevolent Association Minutes, & Archive Materials

The Organizing Committee of the 5<sup>th</sup> WCILCOS

# Fish Shop

漁

洛

Yue

Sup