



UTAH CHINESE
HISTORY MUSEUM

Utah Chinese History Exhibit

Resource

Utah Division of State History
Salt Lake City Library

Present by

Utah Chinese Association

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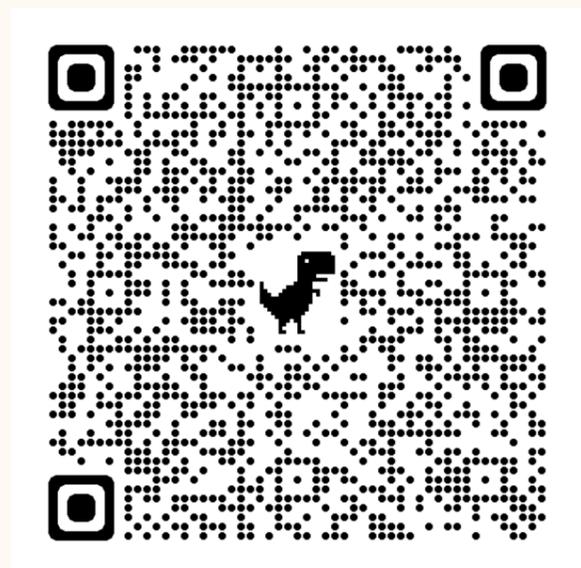
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Utah Chinese Association
433 S 400 E, Suite 100, Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Utah Chinese History Museum



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About The Utah Chinese History Museum

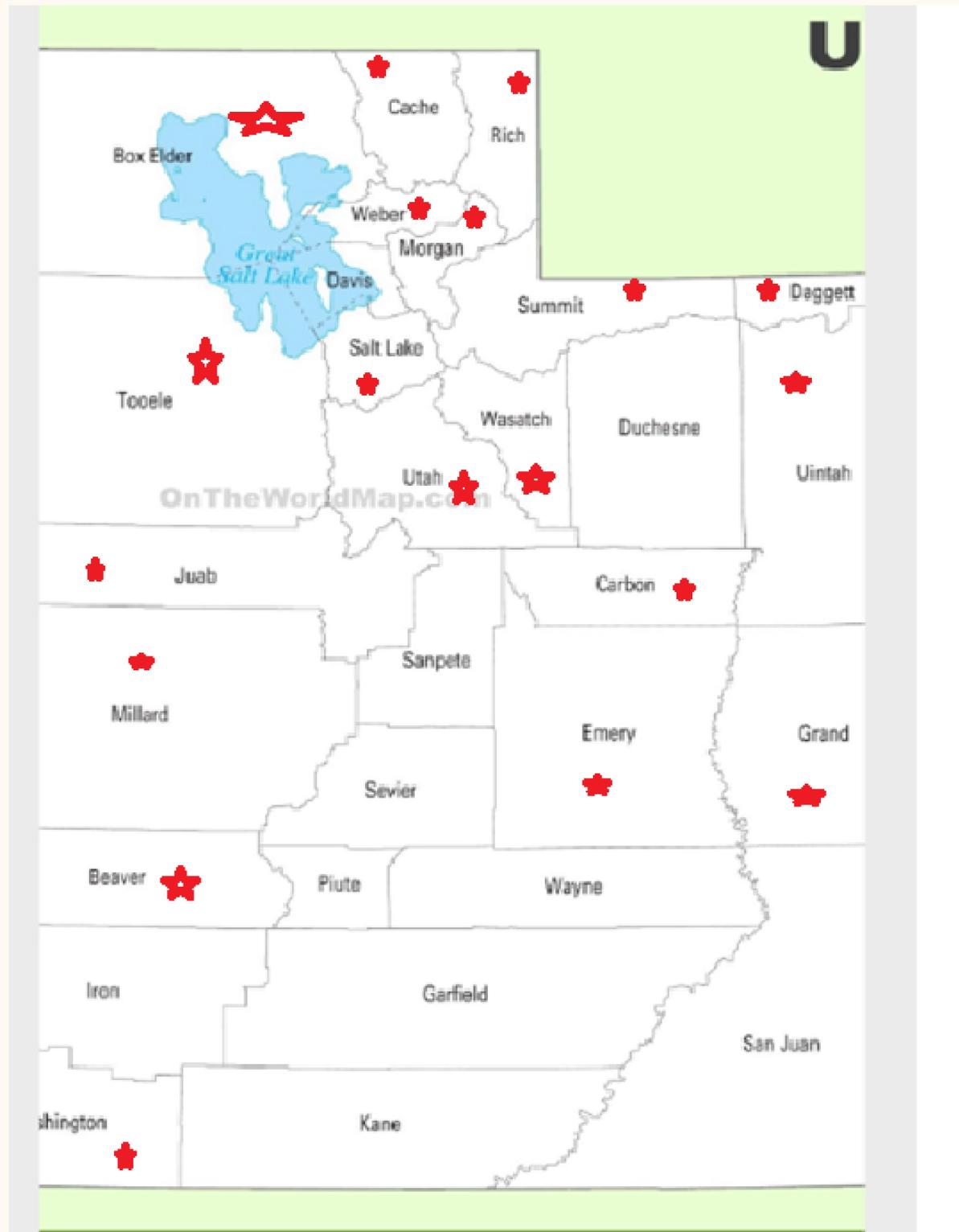
The history of Chinese in Utah began much earlier and is richer than previously believed. While it is commonly thought that the Chinese arrived in Utah in 1869 to build the railroad, research has shown that they arrived as early as 1860 and settled across 19 counties in Utah.

Sun Yat-sen, the first President of the Republic of China, visited Salt Lake City in 1911, and Meiling Song, the wife of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, visited in 1943. A prominent Chinese businessman, Wong Sing, operated in Utah from 1898 to 1934.

The Utah Chinese History Museum is dedicated to research and education, with a mission to promote and share the history of Chinese in Utah through traveling exhibitions and presentations across the state. The museum also has a youth history program to train and educate young Chinese Americans.

Currently, the museum has a collection and a physical location. Still, the goal is to build a larger museum to showcase the collection better and further promote the education of Utah's Chinese history.

Where Chinese lived in Utah during 1860-1890



Census Data Chinese in Utah

Back fu	8 m 24				12	China	China
Back fu	8 m 26				12	China	China
Back fu	8 m 28				12	China	China
Back fu	8 m 30				12	China	China
Back fu	8 m 32				12	China	China
Back fu	8 m 34				12	China	China
Back fu	8 m 36				12	China	China
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Back fu	8 m 90				12	China	China
Back fu	8 m 92				12	China	China
Back fu	8 m 94				12	China	China
Back fu	8 m 96				12	China	China
Back fu	8 m 98				12	China	China
Back fu	8 m 100				12	China	China

US Federal Census	Total Number of Results: 2055	Expand by State
1860 Census	Results: 1	Expand by State
1870 Census	Results: 407	Expand by State
1880 Census	Results: 517	Expand by State
1900 Census	Results: 498	Expand by State
1910 Census	Results: 335	Expand by State
1920 Census	Results: 297	Expand by State

1860 - 1

1890 - 806

1940 - 228

Since 1950, there has been an increase in the Chinese and Asian populations in Utah

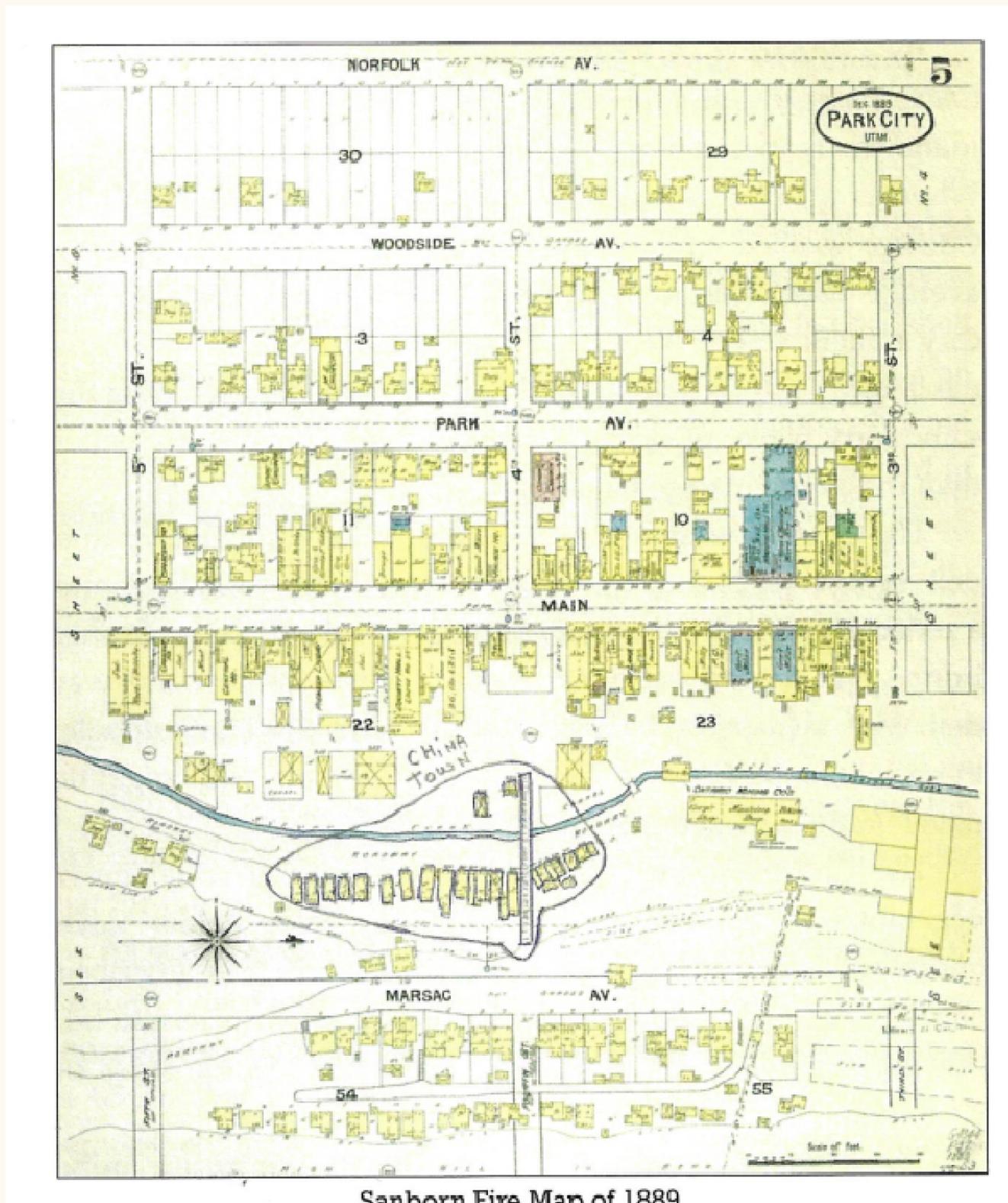
2020 - 22,785*

The AAPI population has more than doubled since 2000.

Why Chinese Came to Park City

- Park City was discovered in 1868 when soldiers stationed in Salt Lake City traversed the mountain from Big Cottonwood Canyon to find silver. The completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1870 brought hopeful miners by the droves to Utah with their eyes set on becoming rich overnight.
- 1869, Chinese railroad workers came to Utah, they built the hardest part of Transcontinental Railroad, They made a huge contribution to America.
- After completion of the Transcontinental Railroad construction, some of Chinese railroad workers came to Park City.

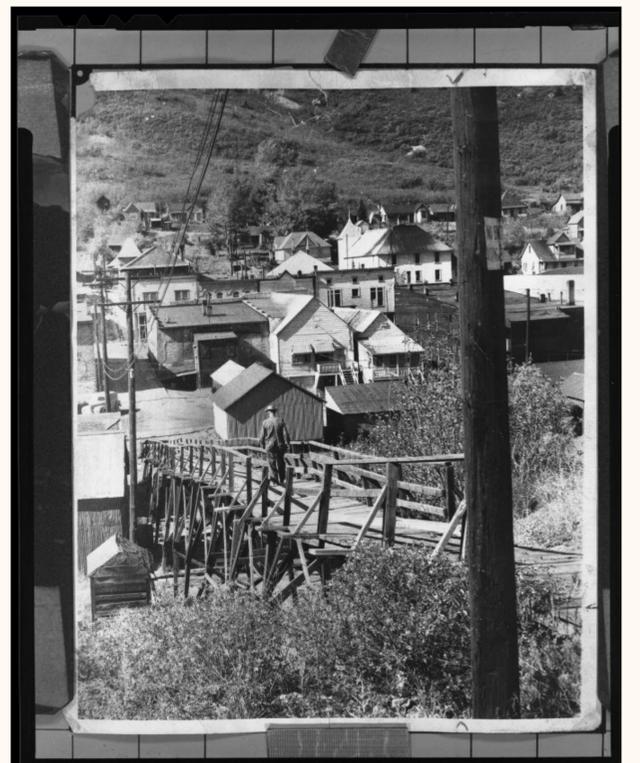
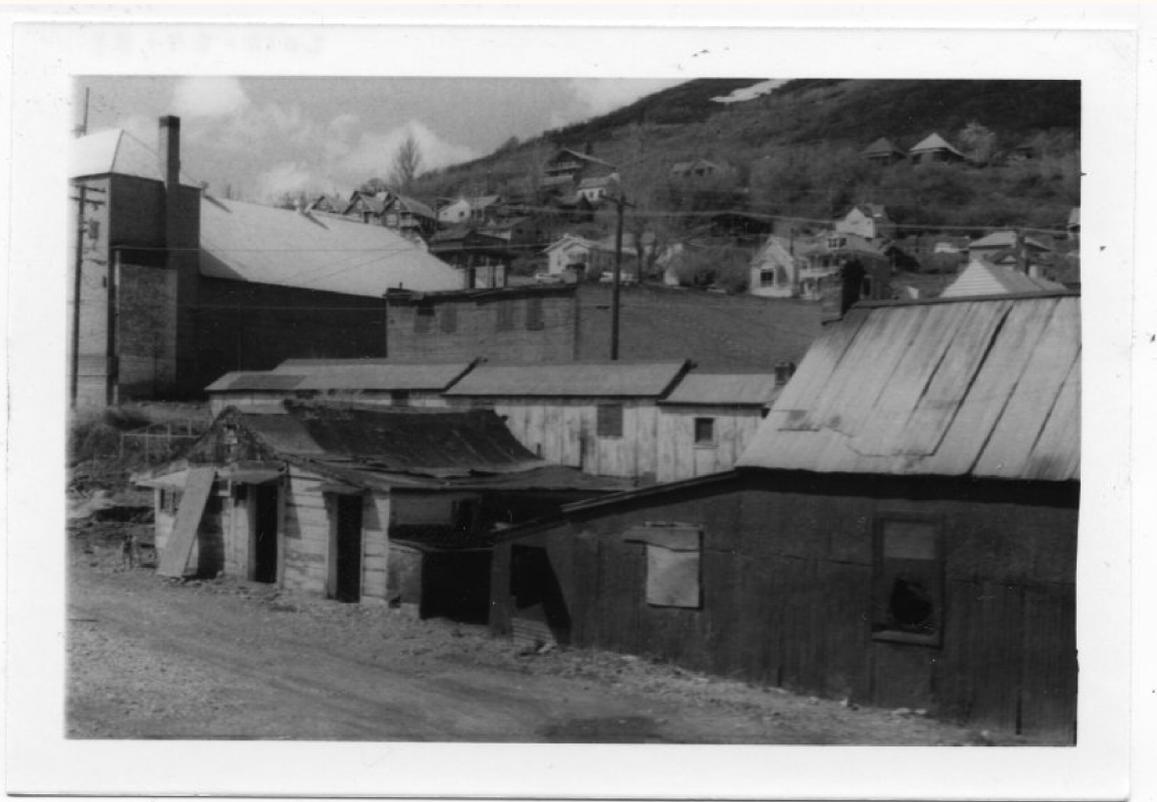
Park City Map 1889



Sanborn Fire Map of 1889.

The Circle area is Chinatown, the bridge crossing Chinatown called China Bridge.

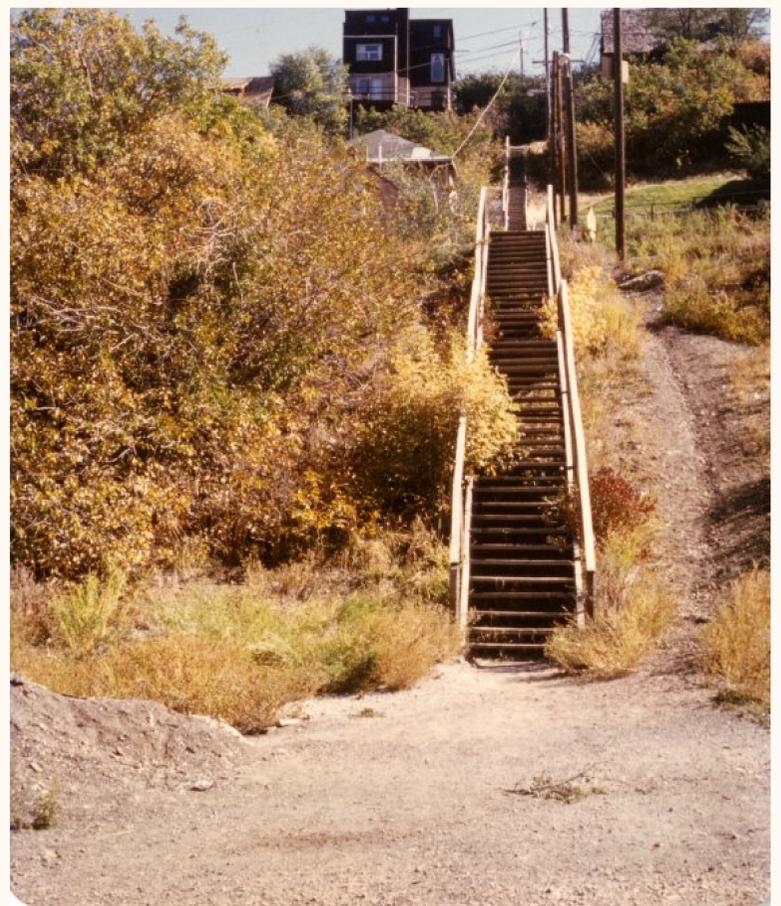
Park City Chinatown



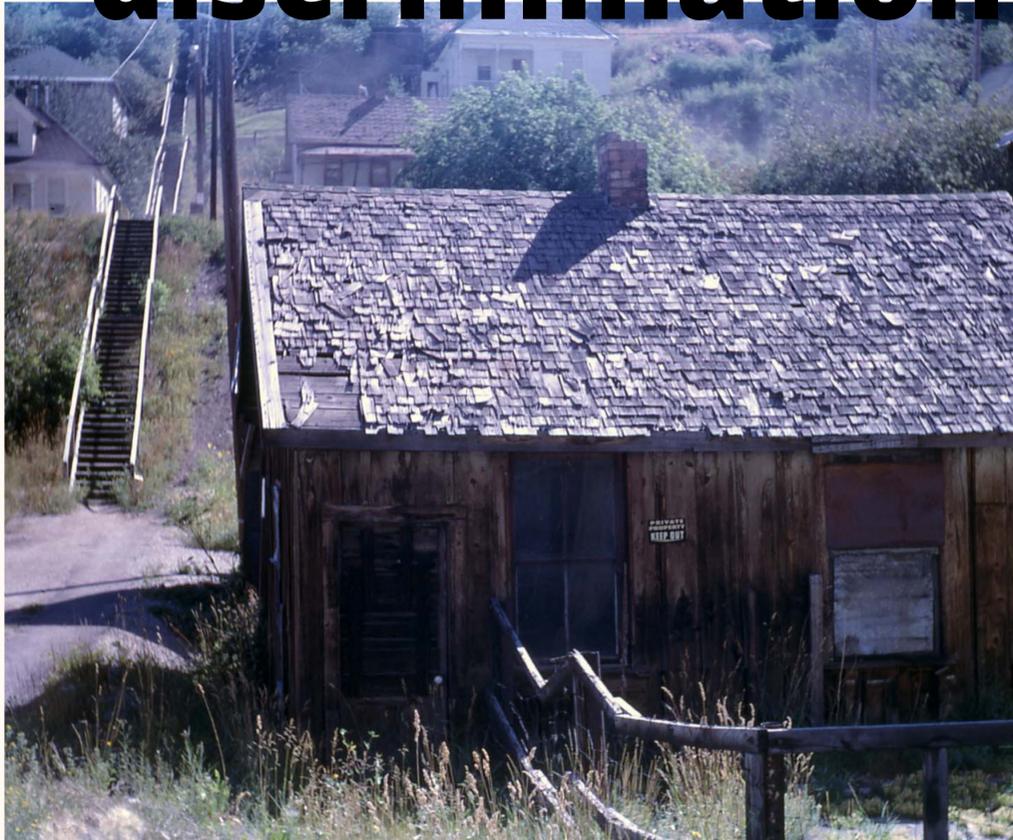
Park City Fire 1898



Rebuild China Bridge after Fire



Chinatown was poor, China Bridge means discrimination

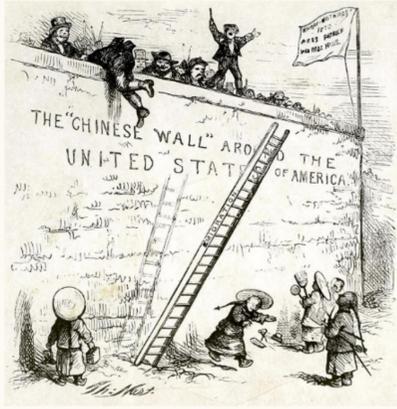


Miners earned \$5 per day, other jobs earned \$1 per day, Chinese were only allowed to do \$1 per day.

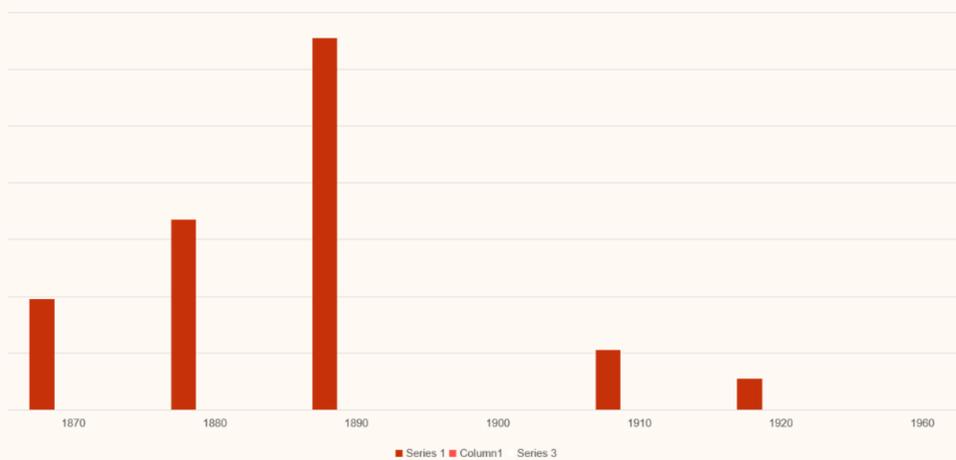
Chinese in Park City



Park City Chinatown no longer exist



May 6, 1882
Chinese Exclusion Act



Park City Chinese Population



Chinatown become the China Bridge Garage.

Wong Sing

The merchant prince of the Uinta Basin



No history of the Chinese in Utah would be complete without the story of Wong Sing.

Wong Sing

He lived in Utah from 1889 to 1934. In 1889, he was a laundryman on the Uintah River Bank. Later, he opened a store to sell Chinese goods. In the early 1900s, it was the biggest store in Eastern Utah. Wong Sing Store had \$70,000 worth of goods. This was 300 times the average annual salary at that time.

Wong Sing's wife and daughter remained in China and never moved to the USA. However, his son came to Utah in 1923.

Wong Sing had many customers and made friends with all community members. Wong Sing had a strong friendship with Native Americans. They made purchases of up to \$200 at one time.

Wong Sing often gave gifts to children.

Wong Sing

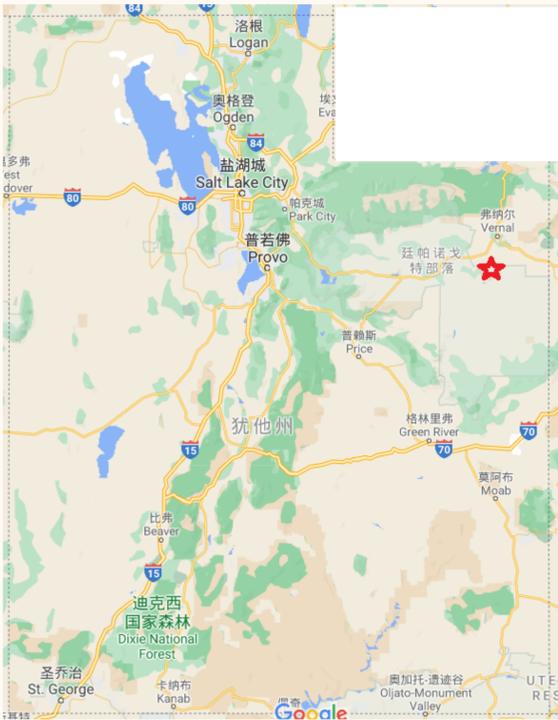
He also donated to build the Uintah hospital. During the Great Depression in the 1930s, Wong Sing allowed his customers to purchase goods without money.

Wong Sing had a good reputation, his checks could be used as cash in post offices and banks.

Wang Sing had functioned as a one-man Chamber of Commerce for eastern Utah.

Wong Sing died in a car accident on March 24, 1934. The Salt Lake Tribune Headline reported that Native Americans mourn the death of Wang Sing, Pioneer of Duchesne, and about 20 top Utah elected officers mourn the death of Wang Sing. He will never die in the memory of his acquaintances and the residents of Uinta Basin.

Wong Sing's Store



Wong Sing's son and friends



Wong Sing's Calendar



Wong Sing gave calendars as gifts to his customers. He also gave candies and fruit to customers after a purchase.

Wong Sing on the Newspaper

The Wong Sing Store
General Merchandise
Hay and Grain

\$5,000.00 Stock of Goods, Including Everything a
Customer Needs

A BEAUTIFUL LINE OF CHINA
DISHES IMPORTED FROM CHINA

Three-fourths Mile East of Ft. Duchesne, on A. Q. Bonn Place, Main
Road to Vernal

Our Wong Sing Not Indicted on Opium Charge as Reported

In last week's Express we printed an article published in the Price Sun to the effect that Wong Sing, merchant at Fort Duchesne, was to be tried in Salt Lake city for illegally possessing and purchasing opium products.

It appears that the Wong Sing mentioned is altogether another man and not the popular Chinese merchant so well known throughout the entire Uintah Basin and Utah. We are not only glad to make this correction, but pleased to know it is all a mistake as will all others of his many friends.

We supposed the news was au-

Vernal Express
November 10, 1922

Wong Sing, Merchant Prince

When Wong Sing died in 1934, his mourners in Utah included high government officials and ranking army officers. Sixty Ute Indians met in solemn tribal council to extol his virtues. Friends and acquaintances gathered to share their memories of him with newspaper reporters and each other.

Maud Anderson, the daughter of a homesteader, remembered seeing Wong Sing when she was a child riding in a wagon with her family. They had just bounced over the cobblestones of the river bottom and were crossing the big red bridge that spanned the Uintah River when her father said, "Look at the Chinaman!" and stopped the team so they could take a closer look. "This was a long time ago," she said. "But I can see him now as he was then—a small slender fellow with a funny shirt we thought was fascinating. He had a small close-fitting cap and a long queue of black hair hanging to his waist. He was bending over a washtub doing laundry for the soldiers of the fort."

Neither Maud Anderson nor anyone else could remember exactly how or why Sing had first come to Fort Duchesne, Utah. Some believed he had emigrated with his father to San Francisco and was then hired as a handyman by an army officer who brought him to the post. Others claimed he went to Utah to join an old Chinese laundryman who had become too old to pick up and deliver the laundry himself. Still others said Sing had always worked alone. But all agreed he had

August 20, 1886, the black troops of the Ninth Cavalry arrived to establish the post and to "discipline and control the Indians" in eastern Utah, western Colorado, and southwest Wyoming.

The 275 soldiers in the six-company post were delighted to have Sing do their laundry, and he had more than enough business. Sing, a young man of twenty or so, had other aspirations. When two soldiers from the fort rented a room at the Fort Duchesne Hotel and opened a poker game, Sing eagerly accepted their invitation to join the game. "He was a dead game sport," his friend, William TenBroek, recalled. "The soldiers used to try to read his face, but he could hold four aces and never bat an eye."

Though Sing did not always win, he made enough to order a supply of inexpensive chinaware, which he packed in a little red wagon and sold to the wives of army officers and homesteaders when he delivered their laundry. With the profit, he opened a restaurant that catered to the military trade. A little later, he added a small store and set out to secure the Utes' trade.

Relations between Chinese and Native Americans in the West varied. In the Pacific Northwest, Chinese were at first welcomed as brothers, and some Chinese married Native American women. But as the numbers of Chinese increased, Native Americans came to regard them as poachers on their lands and fishing grounds, and there were often attacks and murders of Chinese.

MARCH 29, 1934

Notice to Public!

The business of the Wong Sing Mercantile will continue under Wong C. Wing, who will endeavor to follow the principles of the late WONG SING.

His son Wong Wing continued the business.
Wong Wing died at the age of 53.
The business and house were sold.

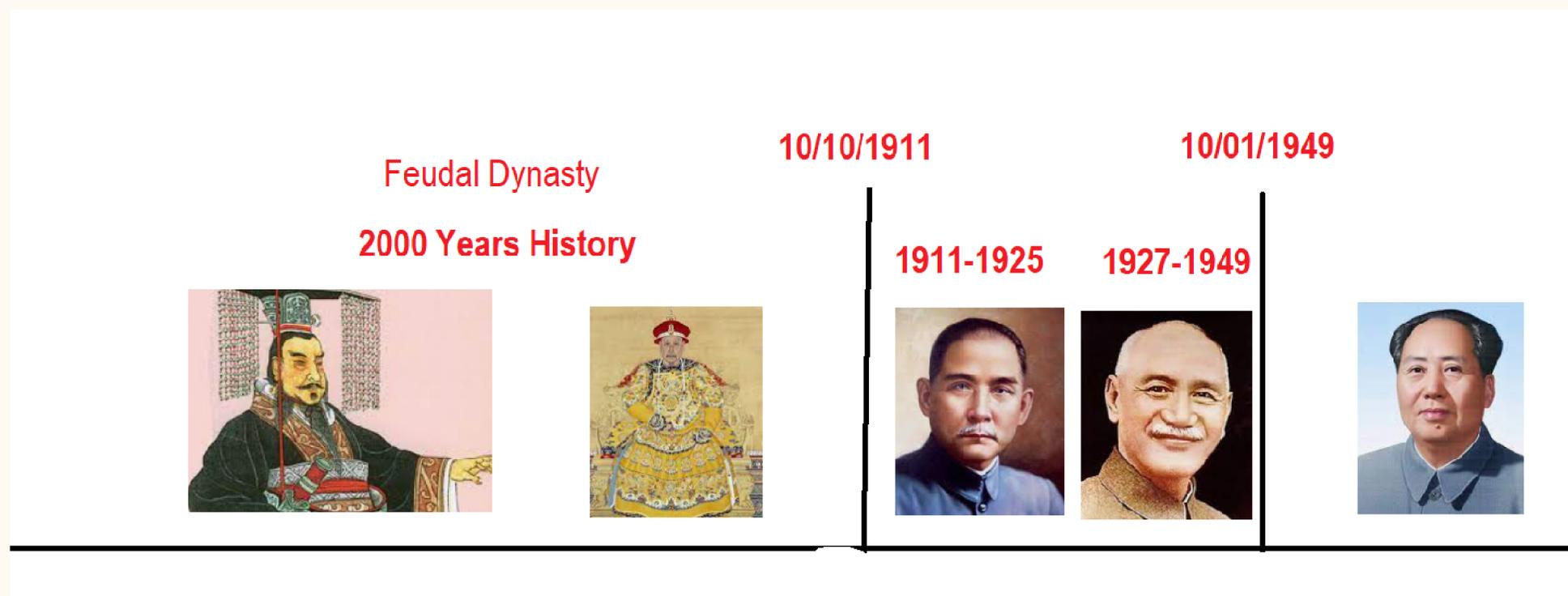
Sun Yat-sen



Father of Modern China

Sun Yat-sen visited Ogden and Salt Lake City in 1911.

October 10, 1911 is an important date for Chinese.

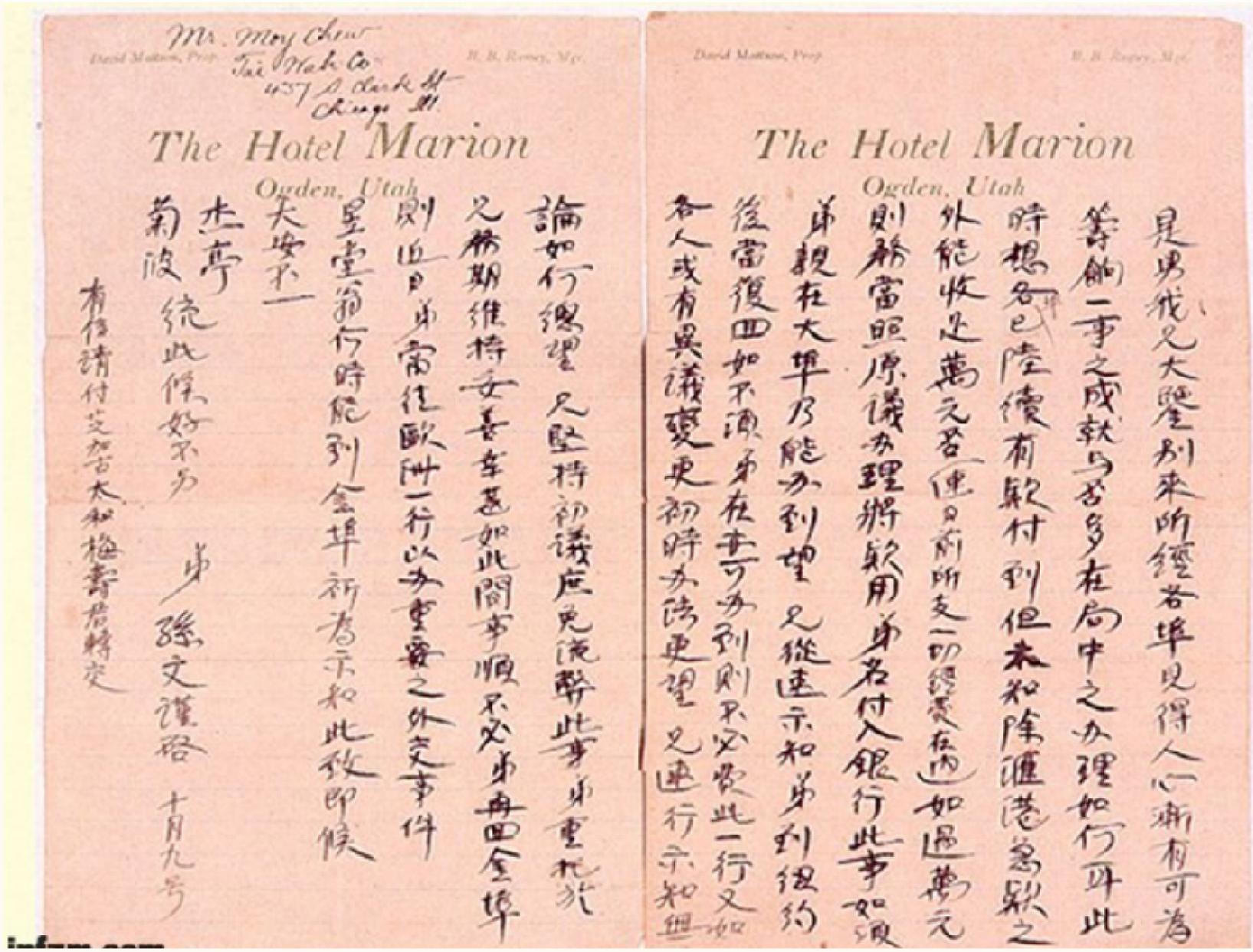


Sun Yat-sen, November 12 1866 – March 12 1925.

China was weak at the end of Qing dynasty, Sun Yat-sen came to the American Chinese community to raise funds to rebuild China and reform China. In 1911, he traveled from SF to Ogden, and then came to Salt Lake City.

On October 10, 1911 China had a revolution at WuChang to overthrow the Qing Dynasty. Sun Yat-sen was in Salt Lake City at the time. Later, he was elected to be the President of China.

On October 7, 1911, Sun Yat-sen stayed at The Hotel Marion in Ogden. Sun Yat-sen used the letterhead of the Hotel to write a letter to China.

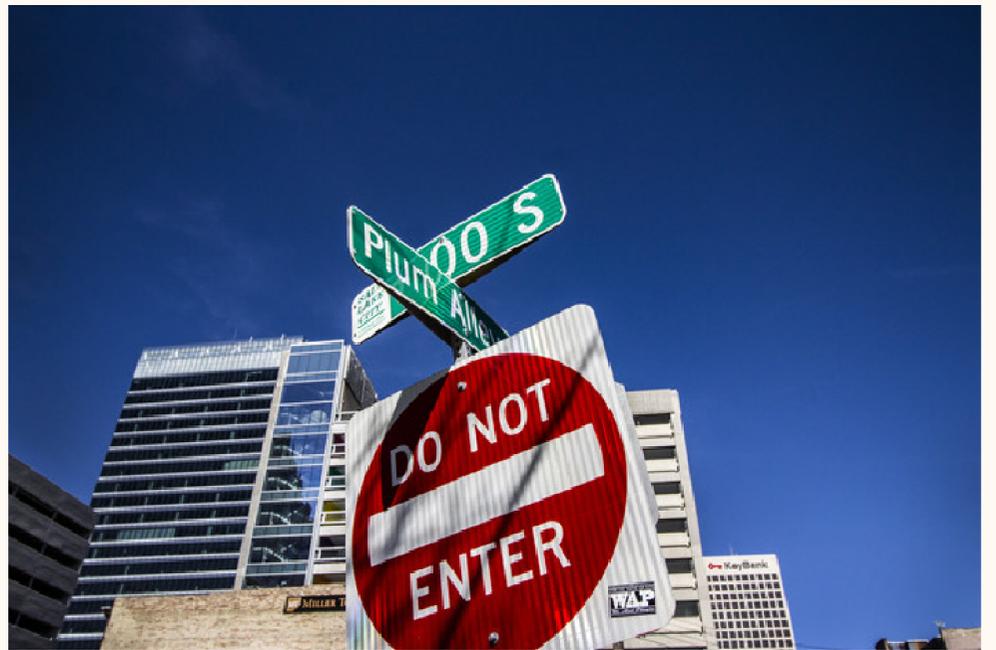
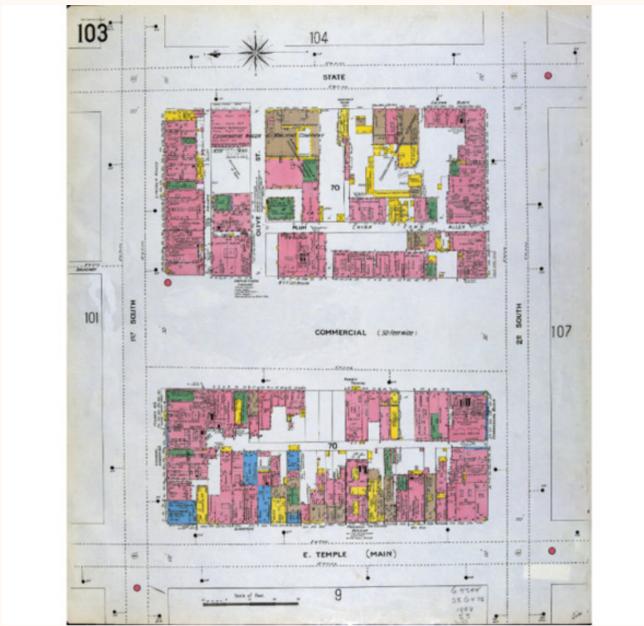


DR. SUN VISITOR IN
SALT LAKE IN OCTOBER

Salt Lake, Dec. 30.—Dr. Sun Yat Sen, who was recently elected president of the Chinese provinces of China, was a visitor of the Chinese colony of Salt Lake City on October 7, 8 and 9 of the present year. Dr. Sun stopped over in Salt Lake three days while en route from San Francisco to New York, from which port he sailed for China shortly before the beginning of the revolution in that country.

While in this city Dr. Sun stopped at Sing Sun & Co.'s place at 49 Plum alley. His purpose in touring this country was to lecture on the need of a change of government in China. While here about \$1,000 was raised by local Chinese for the revolutionary fund. Since his departure the local fund has increased to between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

Oct 7-9, 1911, Sun Yat-sen was in Salt Lake City. October 10, 1911, when the important revolution happened in China, it's leader was in Salt Lake City.



He stayed in Chinatown, Plum Street, Salt Lake City, it was west of State St, between 100s and 200 s.

Madame Chiang Stayed in Ogden



Madame Chiang was the First Lady of the Republic of China, the wife of President Chiang Kai-shek.

Sister-in-law of Sun Yat-sen.



Madame Chiang Kai-shek addresses the House of Representatives on Feb. 18, 1943. | George R. Skadding/AP Photo



WASHINGTON, D. C. (Soundphoto)—Mme. Chiang Kai-Shek is shown addressing Congress last week, when she delivered a stirring appeal for American aid to the fighting Chinese. Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House, is shown seated as China's First Lady is speaking.

When she was 9 years old, she came to the USA for education. She went back to China with a degree from Wesleyan College.

In 1927, she married Chiang Kai-shek and became the First Lady of China.

In 1937, the Japanese invaded China

In 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

In 1942, Madame Chiang visited the USA, looking to build the World War II League.

Mme. Chiang 'Captures' New York



Adet Lien and Florence Chu "say it with flowers" as they greet Madame Chiang Kai-shek on her arrival to make a tour of New York city. Mayor and Mrs. LaGuardia extend the official welcome of the city to the distinguished guest. China's first lady, despite a recent illness, undertook a campaign of public appearance more strenuous than many a robust politician might be expected to endure.

She gave speeches in 7 U.S. cities. Hundreds of thousands of people listened to her speech. She drew crowds as large as 30,000 people to listen to her in New York.

Utah governor invited her to visit Salt Lake City, but she could not make it due to her illness.

Madame Chiang Invited To Visit Salt Lake

Madam Chiang Kai-shek has been invited to visit Salt Lake City during her contemplated trip to the west coast on her way back to China, Governor Herbert B. Maw said Tuesday.

The governor said he had asked Senator Elbert D. Thomas to present the invitation to the Chinese leader through the Chinese embassy at Washington, D. C., and the senator had replied the Chinese ambassador had assured him he would be notified when a decision was reached.

China First Lady Unable To Stop in Utah

Due to her recent illness Madame Chiang Kai-shek will be unable to stop over in Utah on her western tour, Senator Elbert D. Thomas Wednesday advised Governor Herbert B. Maw, who last week invited China's first lady to be guest of the state.

The telegram from Senator Thomas said Madame Chiang expressed her appreciation for the invitation. Now a White House guest, she will be a guest at a San Francisco celebration on March 18.

But on her way to San Francisco, Madame Chiang made a stop in Ogden 9:35am-10:50am ,March 24,1943.

Train Carrying Mme. Chiang Stops in Ogden

Special to The Telegram

OGDEN, March 24—Under doctors' orders to spend a few hours a day in bed resting, and with two nurses attending her, gracious Madame Chiang Kai-shek was unable to come out of her compartment Wednesday when an eight-car special train carrying the madame, other dignitaries and secret service men to San Francisco stopped in Ogden for an hour and a quarter.

The first lady of China was

The first lady of China was able only to catch a panoramic view of Utah and the Rocky mountains through a speeding train window.

Acting as spokesman, Wellington K. Tong, chief, China office of war information, told newspaper men that the diminutive madame has been "ordered to rest in bed." There was some talk she was suffering nervous exhaustion resulting from her Chicago visit.

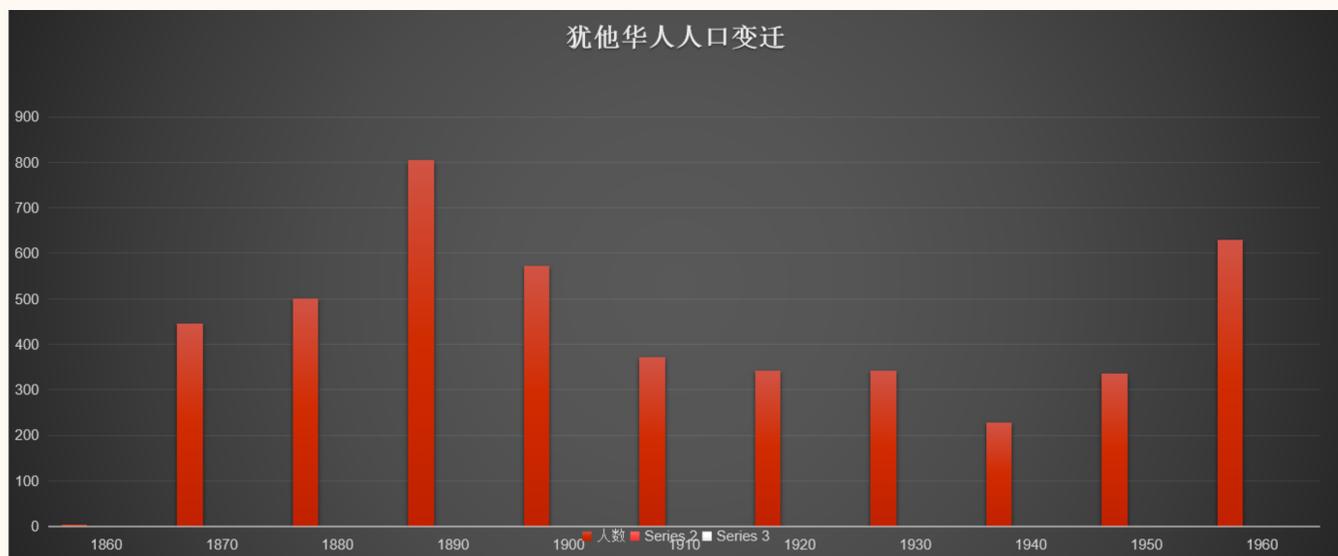
Madame Chiang is headquartered in the special car used by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands.

ister Winston Churchill and Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands. Railroad officials like to take care of the madame because she is the "easiest passenger we have ever taken care of."

Making it clear he spoke only his own opinions, Mr. Tong said the "principal contribution America can continue to make to China is planes and more planes, heavy artillery and ammunition."

"With more arms and planes, we will retake Burma and Rangoon," he said enthusiastically. "Our best way to get in touch with the outside world is to retake Burma."

Liu Chieh, Chinese minister to Washington, was among the many dignitaries on board the special, which left Ogden via the Southern Pacific at 10:50 a. m.



After Madame Chiang's Visit, the US ended the Chinese Exclusion Act. The Utah Chinese Population started to increase.

Silver Reef Main Street



Silver Reef Population

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1880	1,046	—
1890	177	-83.1%
1990	50	—



Founded 1875
Abandoned 1891

Silver Reef Chinatown



Chinatown



Chinese relics in silver reef

No Children lived in Silver Reef Chinatown

Female	10
Male	38

Single	24
Married	24

Age 17-20	10
Age 21-40	31
Age 41-60	7

Other resources said Silver Reef had a total Chinese population of fifty-one in 1880. Of these, ten were women. Undocumented estimates of the Chinese population go as high as 500 in Silver Reef.

According to census data, no Children Lived in the Silver Reef Chinatown

Chinese workers' children lived in China because it was cheaper than in America.

Chinese people occupation in Silver Reef

- keeping house
- Merchant
- Laborer
- store clerk
- laundryman
- Cook
- Servant

Chinese were not allowed to do mining jobs because miners got paid higher than other jobs.



Silver Reef's Chinese Businesses

- Drug Store
- Meat Market
- Laundry
- General Store
- Chair Maker



Silver Reef's Chinese community advertised a variety of services in the Silver Reef Miner:

Call around to Hop Lee's establishment and be convinced that there is no better repairer of chairs in the Reef.

Other items and advertisements in the Silver Reef Miner were:

SAM WING

First Wash-house

Bonanza

(lower Main Street)

Washing, ironing and fluting. Work done promptly and in best of style.

Silver Reef Chinese Businesses

Sam Wing - laundry, mercantile, drug store, Mayor of
Chinatown

Empire Market

Lucinda Lee Butcher Shop

Hop Lee's Chair Repair

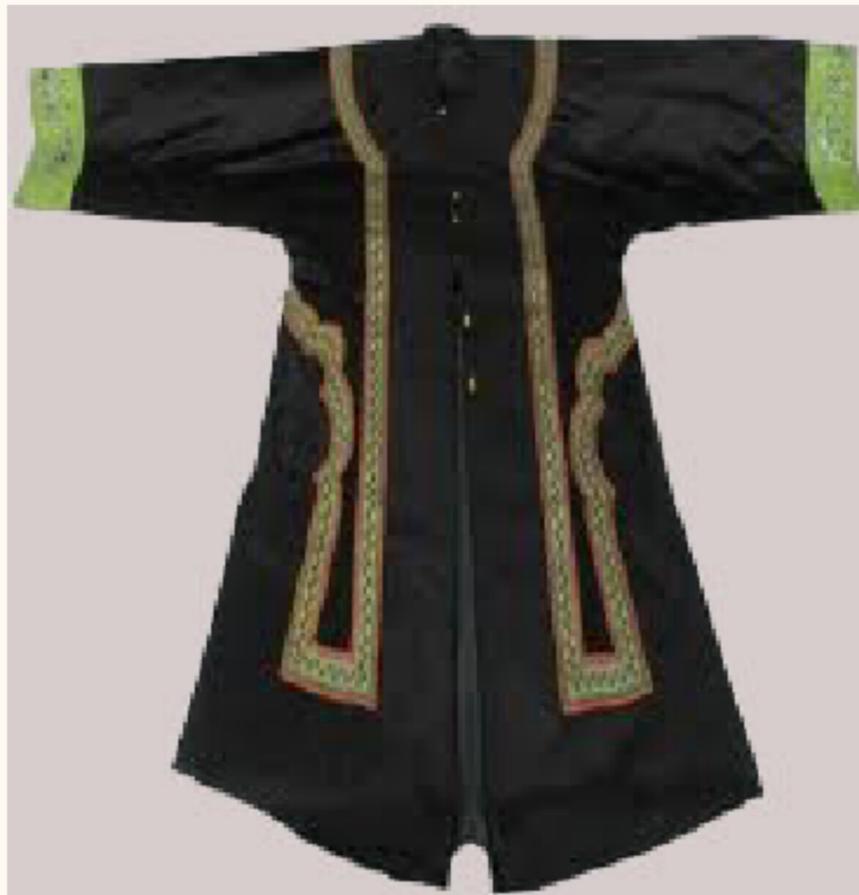
Charley Legget - caterer, bakery

Mongolian Kitchen

Chop House

Saloon -- This appears questionable from research.

Chinese Attire in Silver Reef



Coolie Caps, Tunics, Pantaloons

Chinese Drug Store in Silver Reef

Doorway was entrance to Sam Wing's drugstore.

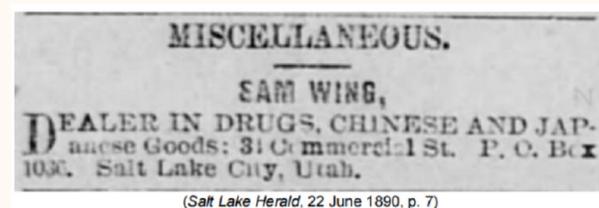
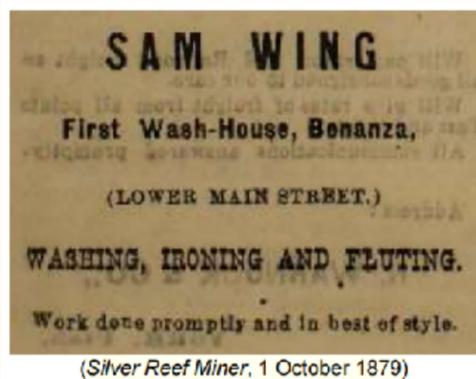


Sam Wing's drug store entrance (image from *Desert: Western Travel/Adventure/Living*, May 1966, p. 6).



Silver Reef's Famous Sam Wing

Mayor of Chinatown
Laundry owner/ Bonanza
Flats
Land owner
Druggist



1843(1844)-1927 84 years old

He immigrated to the United States in 1867 or 1869.

He married Mary (also known as Maile and Molly), and they had children and lived in China; later, Mary returned to China and lived with their Children.

He opened stores in different mine cities, but his stores permanently be destroyed by fire. So he was not rich.

He had long hair and did not cut it because he said that if he cut his hair, he would never return to China.

In his declining years, he longed to see his native land but did not have the means to gratify his desire. A neighbor, Enos A. Wall, gave him the money to make the trip to China and return.

Toward the end of his life, Sam lived at 166 Plum Alley in Salt Lake City.

Yee Sam Wing died at age 84 on February 20, 1927 in the Salt Lake City Hospital after surgery for a right strangulated hernia with general peritonitis.

Silver Reef's Infamous China Joe...

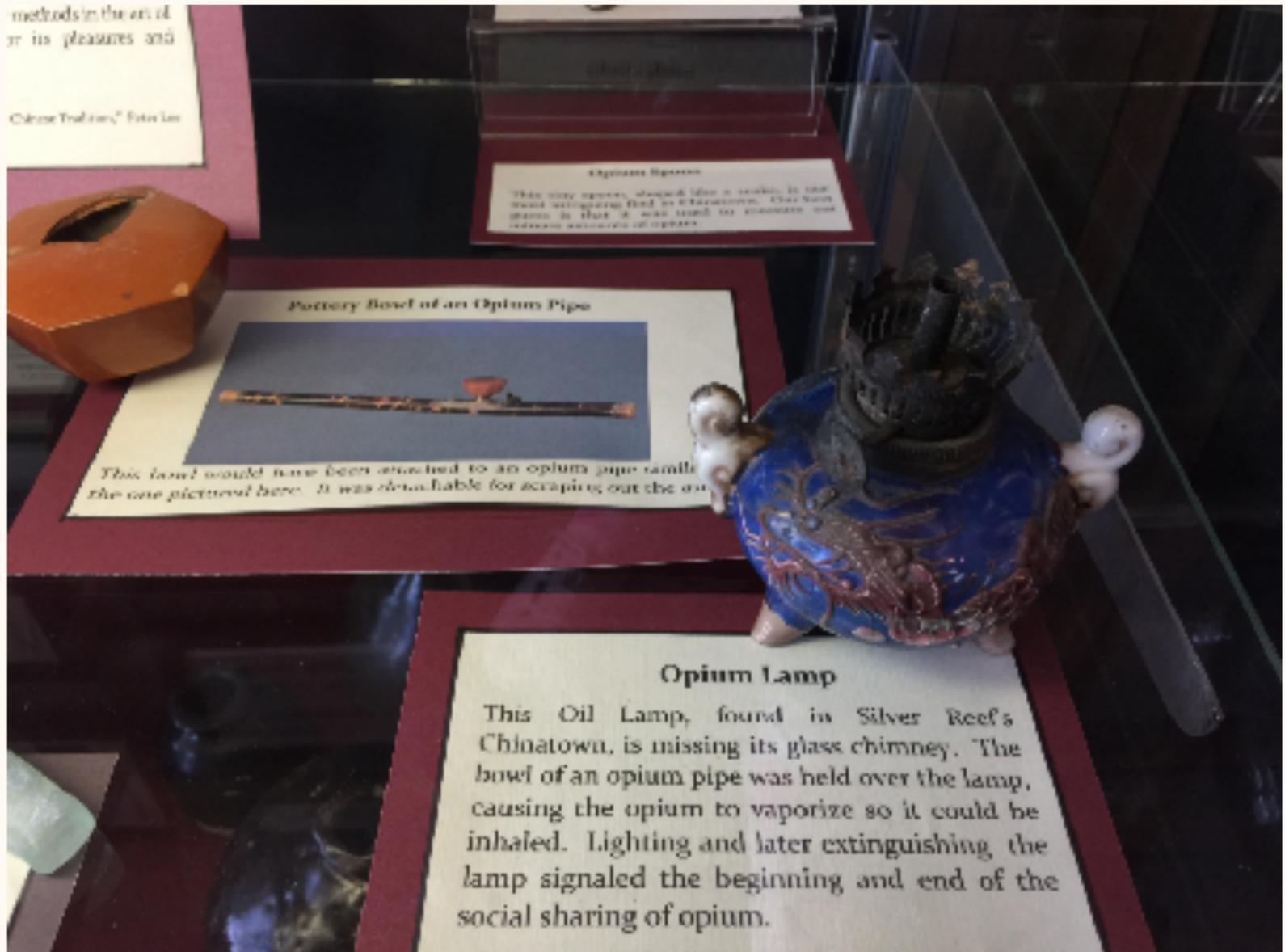
- Wealthy Opium Dealer/land-owner
- Fraternized with white women
- Home was burned by miners
- Utilized opium paraphenalia



He had a white girl friend, it made the white community angry. His house was arsoned at 5 am by miners, he lost \$2000 opium in the fire, which needed one man work for 2 years.

Anti-miscegenation laws in the United States prohibited Chinese married with white people.

Opium tools in Silver Reef





Chinese cooks in front of old Silver Reef's Cosmopolitan Restaurant

Stories

Hop Lee, The owner of a Chair store, advertised to have his woman returned to him...for a \$50.00 reward. This Chinese lady cost \$700. This lady was his property because Chinese customs of the time embraced slavery and kept persons, which are even numbered in the census.

The Chinese man lived here without a family; they moved from one work to another work, A Chinese man missed his daughter and asked a white parent to permit him to hug their daughter.

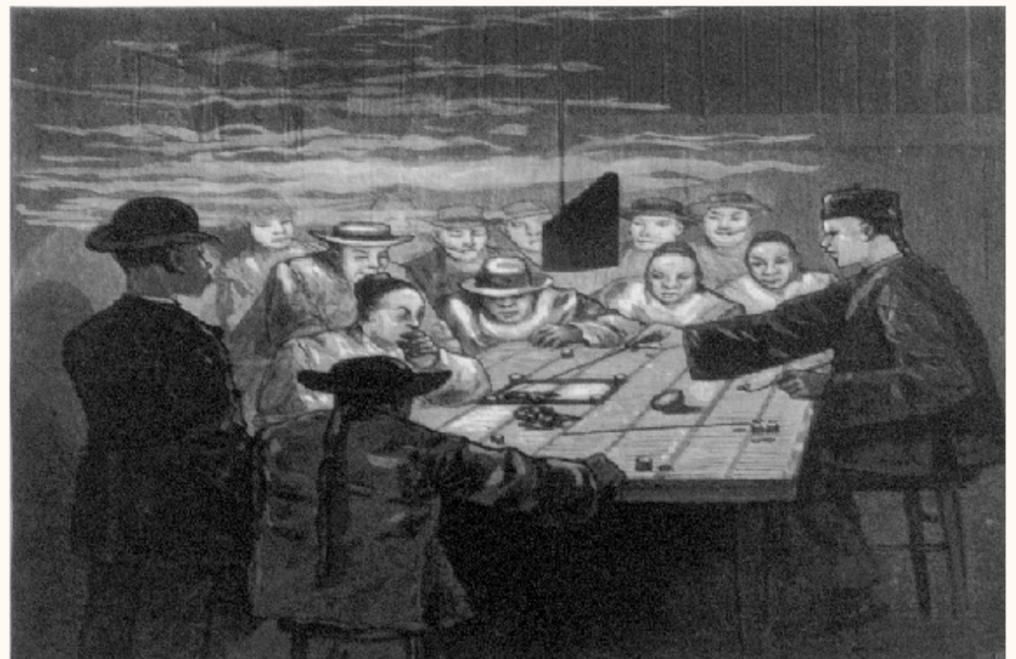
Most of the Chinese in silver reef could read and write Chinese.

The Chinese raise pigs in Silver Reef.

Silver Reef's Chinese Lottery

AKA the "Som Toy", it could be purchased from any Chinese businessman, for lots ranging up to \$2. per chance. Winnings were determined by cost of ticket.

Silver Reefs "Som Toy" had a dubious distinction of being the highest paying at \$10,000. for a lucky winner.



“Fan Tan” is a game where items (buttons, beans or coins) were covered with a metal bowl, and the player would bet on the odds being a remainder of 1, 2, 3 or 4 items.

This is after the banker removes 4 items at a time from the pile, using a small bamboo stick.

Silver Reef's Chinese Cemetery

One of the unique customs of Chinese culture was their treatment of their dead. When a Chinese man or woman died they were buried in a graveyard east and a little south of Bonanza Flat.

When they would take a person (corpse) to the grave yard, they would carry them on a litter and one or two China-men would go ahead of them, carrying a lot of small pieces of paper about two inches square. They would throw these in every direction in front and to the sides. This paper was "spirit money," used to detract and appease the evil spirits who would otherwise deter the soul's successful journey heavenward. They thought that if the man or woman who was buried was going to heaven, they'd need to have time to eat or drink while they went. So they'd have a lot of nice aromatic roast pork and other delicacies to take down for this person to eat and a bottle of liquor. Well, they'd put it on the grave and go away. When evening came, the Native Americans would come and eat the pork and drink the liquor.



Chinese worker's Tombs

After Silver Reef had disbanded, a Chinese gentleman came, and exhumed the bodies for proper burial in China, and wrapped the remains in tea leaves and shipped them to their homeland with respect.

We can not see the Chinese worker's tomb in Silver Reef, their bones with other thousands of chinese railroad workers bones were sent back to china to be buried.

We can not see the history of Utah Chinese in Utah history text books and museums, only the tombs in China tell the story silently : Chinese workers immigrated and made a contribution to America even with their life.



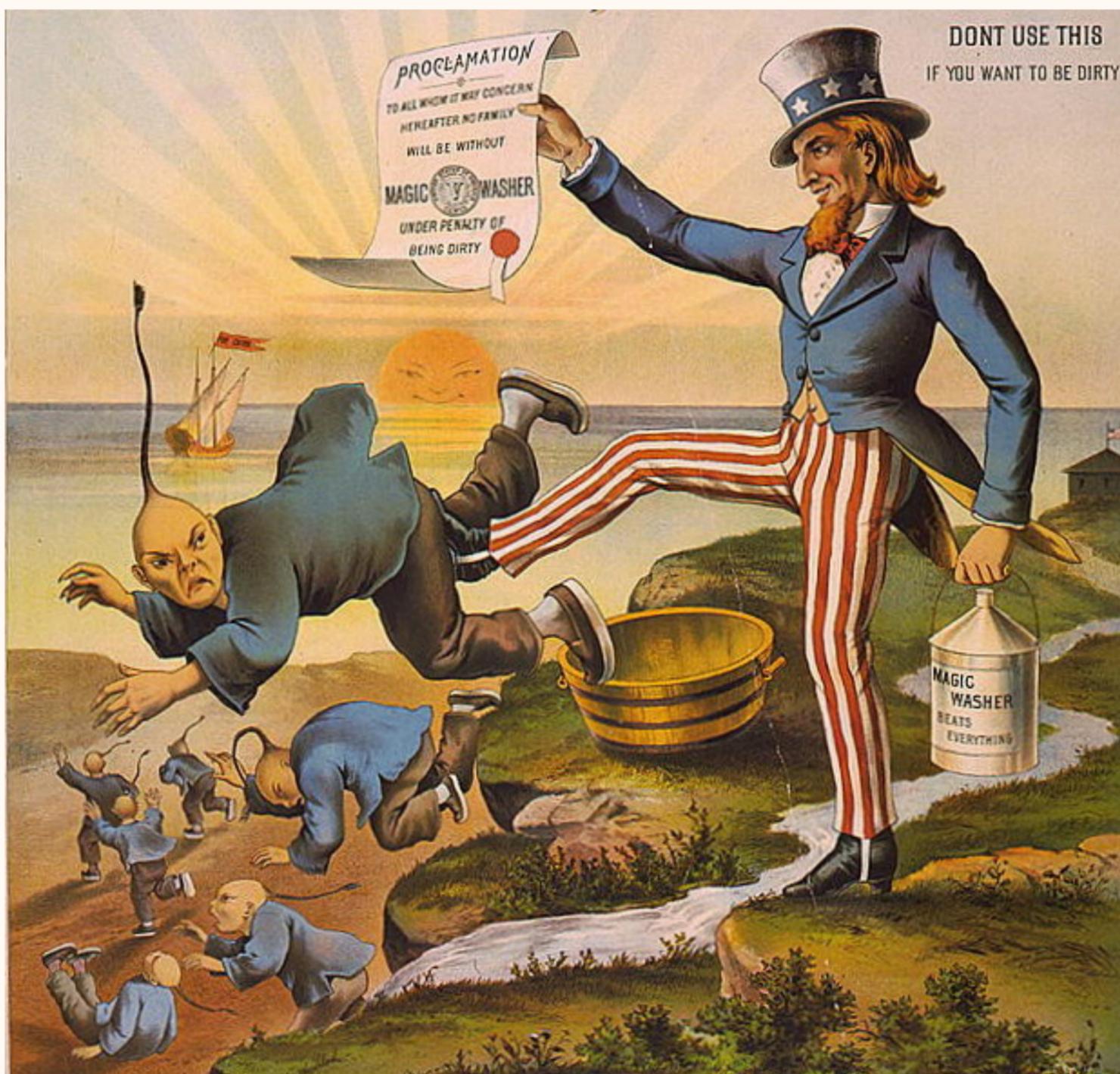
The Chinese Exclusion Act was a United States federal law signed by President Chester A. Arthur on May 6, 1882, prohibiting all immigration of Chinese laborers.

Nicknames: Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882

Effective: May 6, 1882

Enacted by: the 47th United States Congress

Public law: Pub.L. 47-126



Recent contributions by Chinese-Americans in Utah

Chinese Americans work in all industries in Utah, from education to health care to the financial sector.

Nathan Chen - World Champion Figure Skater.

China is Utah's third largest trading partner, after the United Kingdom and Canada. Utah's trade with China totaled nearly \$ 4 billion in 2018. In 2019, Utah exported almost \$740 million in goods to China. Pre-pandemic, Chinese tourists brought over \$140 million into Utah's economy each year.

Source: World Trade Center Utah



Utah Chinese Association



Trent Nelson | The Salt Lake Tribune) The Days of '47 Parade in Salt Lake City, Tuesday July 24, 2018. Utah Chinese Associ...

[View Caption »](#)



UTAH CHINESE ASSOCIATION

