

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Immigration

No. 2005/182-E. Office of Inspector in Charge, Chicago, Ill. December 2, 1913.

Case of } Howard D. Ebey, Examining Inspector;
HONG SLING, }
MERCHANT departing) Louis S. Svacina, Stenographer.

Direct examination, no interpreter used.

Hong Sling, applicant, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

- Q What is your boyhood name? A Hong Sling.
- Q Are you married? A Yes, sir.
- Q Have you a marriage name? A Hong Yuesy Huey.
- Q How old are you? A Fifty-eight.
- Q When did you first come to the United States? A KS 1st year.
- Q Are you registered? A Yes. I am registered, I don't know where my certificate is now.
- Q Where did you register? A In Chicago.
- Q What kind of a certificate did you get? A Merchant's certificate.
- Q What is your occupation? A Merchandise business.
- Q Give all your business? A Passenger Agent for Chicago & Northwestern Ry. and Union Pacific and Pacific Mail Steamship Company; I am also President of the Hong Fong Lo company which conducts a restaurant corner Van Buren and State street, Chicago.
- Q How long have you lived in Chicago? A Since 1892.
- Q Have you been a merchant all that time? A Yes, sir.
- Q With what firm are you connected? A Sam Lung and Company, 431 So. Clark street, old number 299.
- Q Who is the manager of that firm? A Myself.
- Q How long have you been connected with that firm? A Since it opened.
- Q When was that? A I got that store, begin on Wabash Ave., and on State street for couple year.
- Q But what year did you start? A I forget exactly, what year, and start on Clark street about fourteen, fifteen year ago.
- Q Did you organize the firm? A Yes, sir.
- Q How much is your interest in the firm? A I got twelve hundred dollar.

No. 2005/182-E....#2.....12/3/12.

- Q How many members in your firm? A Oh, I guess about twenty.
- Q What is the capitalization of your firm? A I think nineteen or twenty thousand dollars.
- Q What kind of business do you conduct? A Chinese grocery. Import tea, and groceries, got everything.
- Q How many men work in the store? A Sometime eight or ten, sometime more.
- Q Can you name those who are employed in the store? A Yes. Myself, See Hoo She, Min Ham, Hong Fat, Jin Chow Gui, Hong Lee, Hong Gat, Hong Nam, Hong Nguey, Hong Loy Ock, Hong Goon, Hong Jee, that is all I remember.
- Q Who is the bookkeeper? A See Hoo She.
- Q Does he look after the store when you are absent? A Yes.
- Q How much time do you spend in the store? A I can't tell, sometime when I am not very busy outside, I spend all my time there.
- Q Are you there every day? A Oh, sure.
- Q Several hours a day? A Yes, sir.
- Q Then your other business takes you outside too, does it? A Yes, sir.
- Q Do you manage the Hong Fong Lo? A No, I am President, we got manager there.
- Q What is the name of the manager? A Lee Fong.
- Q During the past year have you performed any labor outside the Sam Lung and Company? A No, sir.
- Q Have you ever been engaged in manual labor since you came to the United States? A Well first, two or three year.
- Q Where was that? Oh, used to be west, in Wyoming.
- Q What are your property interests in the United States worth, what do you estimate your worth in the United States? A In the United States?
- Q Yes? A Well, about thirty thousand.
- Q Have you property interests in China too? A Yes, sir.
- Q About what amount? A Well, about seventy or eighty thousand.
- Q What is your wife's name? A Toy Shee.
- Q When and where did you marry her? A In China, KS 23rd year, when I went back to China that time.

No. 2005/182-E.....#3.....12/2/13.

Q You were actually married in KS 23? A Yes.

Q Is she your only wife? A Yes, sir.

Q Did you bring her then to the United States? A Yes, sir, I bring her, coming into the United States, she was born in the United States, I brought her back with me after we were married?

Q How long after you were married? A Four or five month.

Q Can you give the steamer and the date on which you returned with your wife? A Steamer "Gaelic", I forget the date, about March or April, arrived San Francisco 1898, about that.

Q Did you land as a returning merchant? A Yes sir.

Q Of what firm? A San Lung Company.

Q Did your wife enter as the wife of merchant? A My wife come on, she get certificate on Section Six.

Q Were you married according to the Chinese custom? A Yes, sir.

Q There was no marriage ceremony, no license, no papers? A No, use Chinese way.

Q How many children have you? A Got three children of my own.

Q What is the name of the oldest? A Hong Wing You, American Harry Hong Sling.

Q How old is he? A Chinese we call it sixteen year.

Q Can you give the date of his birth? A KS 24, September 15, Chinese, 9th month fifteenth day.

Q Where was he born? A 324 So. Clark street on third floor.

Q Did you live there with your family at that time? A Yes, sir, we lived there over ten year.

Q Who is the next child? A Hong Wing Gwong, American name William Hong Sling.

Q Is that a boy? A Yes.

Q How old is he? A Chinese call it ten year.

Q What is the date of his birth? A KS 30th year, and twelfth month and 26th day.

Q Where was he born? A Just same place, 324 So. Clark street, third floor.

Q Who is the third child? A Little girl, name H^ong Nee Shu, American name Jennie Hong Sling.

No. 2005/182-E.....#4.....12/2/13.

- Q What is her birthday? A KS 32, 11th month third day.
- Q Have your children resided in Chicago ever since their birth? A Yes, sir.
- Q Has your son Harry attended Chicago schools? A Yes, sir.
- Q What school? A He went to public school,^{and}/then he is in high school now.
- Q What school did he first attend? A Jones school.
- Q How long did he go there? A Since he was about six year old.
- Q Did he start there in the kindergarten? A Yes, sir.
- Q When did he quit there? A He graduated last June.
- Q Then he went to what school? A Then went to Lane High School.
- Q He is going there now, is he? A Yes, sir.
- Q What name does he use in the schools? A Harry Hong Sling; sometime call it Harry Hong.
- Q Do your other children attend school? A Yes, sir.
- Q What school? A Jones school.
- Q Going there now? A Yes, sir, every day.
- Q They both started in when they were five or six? A Yes, sir, always start in in Kindergarten.
- Q Have you birth certificates for your children? A Yes.
- Q Have you got them here, Sling? A Yes, sir. (Shows birth certificates for Hong Wing Ye (Harry Hong), Hong Wing Quong (William Hong), and Jennie Hong).
- Q Do you remember the name of the doctor? That assisted at the birth of your son Harry? A I remember the name but I don't know where she is?
- Q What is her name? A.Brighhouse?
- Q Who assisted at the birth of your son William? A Dr. Brennemann.
- Q And who assisted at the birth of your girl Jennie? A Same doctor, Dr. Brennemann.
- Q Have you any photographs of your family? A Yes, sir. (Shows group photograph marked "Exhibit A").
- Q Who is figure No. 1 of that picture? A My wife.

No. 2005/182-E.....#5.....12/2/13.

- Q Who is the boy standing by your wife? A Harry, my oldest son.(Figure No.2)
- Q Who is figure No. 3? A Myself.
- Q And who is figure No. 4? A Second son, William Hong.
- Q And who is figure No. 5? A My little girl, Jennie Hong.
- Q Where was this picture taken? A Taken here in Chicago.
- Q Do you know the photographer? A Gibson, used to be on Wabash Ave. over Jevne's grocery store.
- Q What is this group picture "Exhibit B"? A That is my family picture.
- Q Is the picture of your wife and three children? A Yes.
- Q Who is the person standing, in the picture? A My nephew.
- Q What is his name? A Hong Fong.
- Q Where was this picture taken? A Kimball Hall, Chicago, on Wabash Ave.
- Q Who took it? A A cousin of mine and Mr. Root. My cousin's name is Eddie Hong.
- Q When was "Exhibit B" taken? A Couple month ago, two or three month ago.
- Q When was "Exhibit A" taken? A Few year ago, I forget now; taken about three or four years ago.
- Q Have you any earlier picture than this? A Yes, it is in a frame.
- Q Can you name people in Chicago who know your children and know that they were born in Chicago? A Lots of people know my children born in Chicago, and know my family: Mr. Mark Foote know my family and my children born in Chicago; and Mr. A. W. Shapman; Mr. Henson; Mr. W. G. Niemyer, General Agent Southern Pacific; and Mr. Sam Hutchinson; Mr. Charley Wright; good many people know my children born in the City of Chicago. Frank Milchrist and Senator Milchrist.
- Q Who are your white witnesses to the fact that you are a merchant? A. Mr. Henson and Mr. Chapman.
- Q Through what port will you visit China? A San Francisco.
- Q What will be your address in China? A 104 Burham street, Hongkong.
(Tracing of applicant's signature)

Hong Fong

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