

## The Family Tong

### Wai Tuck Lo and Agnus Chui Moi Ching

Wai Tuck was born on June 9, 1919 in Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii. He is the son of Wai Tong Lo and Kam Ha Tong. He married Agnus Chui Moi Ching on January 4, 1958 in St. Patrick Church, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Bachelor of Science, Utopia University, Shanghai, China, 1942. Postgraduate, Yen Yu Institute Fine Art, Shanghai.

#### Art Shows

- Association Honolulu Artists
  - Most Decorative Award 1956, 1957
  - Popular Award 1957
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Water Color Award 1965, 1968
  - Honorable Mention in Oil and Water Color 1966
  - Hayward Award 1968
- Narcissus Festival Art Exhibition
  - Kaiser Award 1960
  - Most Popular Award 1960
- Maui County Fair Art Exhibition
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place 1963
- Home Builders Association Art Show
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Water Color Award 1966
- International Association Artists
  - Honorable Mention in Oil and Water Color 1979
- Commissioned silk painting for Pepsi-Cola USA 1987.
- Paintings reproduced by Regency Card Company



Family of artists, Waituck, & Mr & Mrs Wyleon Lo exhibit works, Narcissus festival exhibit S 1/27/54 22:1

Index to the Honolulu Advertiser & Star-Bulletin, 1929-1969

Wednesday, August 6, 2003

OUR HONOLULU

Zoo fence is painter's gallery

By Bob Krauss

One of these days, Waituck Lo should celebrate a 50th anniversary of his art at the zoo fence. The problem is, he can't remember how long it has been since he hung his first painting there.

When Madge Tennant was painting monumental Hawaiian tutus on canvas, Lo was painting monumental Chinese mountain scenes on wallboard under a bare bulb on the floor of his cottage in the Kukui slum district.

While John Young hung at the gallery at Gumps amid expensive antiques on Kalakaua Avenue, Lo hung down the street in the gallery of Barney Davis alongside tikis and Leeteg black velvets. Maybe Lo has never had a show at the Honolulu Academy of Arts but, make no mistake, he has been faithful to his creative urge and has probably sold more paintings than most artists in Our Honolulu, not only in Honolulu but on the Neighbor Islands, in California and Colorado.

His craft is an ancient one. He paints with brushes made of deer and wolf hair. His watercolors don't come readymade in a box. He makes them himself Chinese-style. One type of Chinese watercolors comes in small pieces that he grinds into powder and dissolves in water.

The other kind of watercolor is made of rocks of different color that have been ground into powder. He buys it in small packages at Iida's and adds water with glue as a binder. The colors are vivid and vibrant.

Lo paints graceful bamboo, pandas, flowers, birds, mist-shrouded mountains and craggy cliffs, peacocks, and roosters ready to fight.

His career at the zoo fence is only part of his resumé. Art on the fence began about 1952, and Lo believes he hung his first painting there a year later after arriving from Shanghai where he grew up.

"I was born in Honolulu, but my family moved to China when I was 2 years old," he said. His father was a merchant who gave his son art supplies and paid for art classes. But Lo chose to take civil engineering in college because World War II bombs wrecked so many buildings in Shanghai that he felt that engineers would find work.

Instead, he returned to Hawai'i where he worked as an engineer and painted at night in his cottage on Hall Street, which isn't there anymore.

One day he saw a story in The Advertiser that invited artists to enter a competition at City Hall. He entered one small painting, a Chinese landscape. On the first day a doctor from Straub Clinic bought it for \$50. Lo was making \$150 a month as an engineer.

He sold in small galleries and for Barney Davis, started going to the zoo fence on weekends, then stopped because he was too busy, then came back when he retired. He's 83 now and blind in one eye.

A small painting takes him several hours to complete. "I think it before I paint it," he said. "But I don't know how the idea will come out. It's always different."

At the zoo fence, he usually sells two or three paintings a week.



Form No. 100

**LIST OF IN-BOUND PASSENGERS**  
(Check Name, Origin and Destination)

Class FIRST from SHANGHAI, CHINA 12/14 1946

arriving at port of WORLEIGH, T.M. 12/19/49

Line	Name, Date of Birth, Sex, Age, Height, Weight, Hair, Eyes, Complexion	Place of Birth	U.S. Passport No.	Ship	Class	Remarks
5	CHEN, Clara G. 1513 Young St. Honolulu, T.H.	46	F	M	13705 6 7/16	Bonolulu T.H.
6	CHEN, Fook Tin Same as above	51	M	M	10246 6-10-17	Honolulu T.H.
7	CHEN, Yi Chuan Same as above	15	M	M	137014 6/16	Honolulu T.H.
8	16. Sid Toon 1212 W-5 Hall St. Honolulu, T.H.	29	M	M	242	Honolulu T.H.
9	LIU, Ah Jook 256 Wai seal Key Honolulu, T.H.	18	F	S	10365	Honolulu T.H.
10	LIU, Ah 154 1/2 Eastlone Blvd. Honolulu, T.H.	17	M	M	10365	Honolulu T.H.
11	LIU, Irene (Liu Ah) Same as above	28	F	S	417	Shanghai China
12	YOUNG, Ah Nuan Tong 1044 A Norrey St. Honolulu, T.H.	36	F	M	12106 4-14-44	Honolulu T.H.
13	YOUNG, James Allan Same as above	11	M	S	12106 4-14-44	Shanghai China
14	YOUNG, Franklin D. W. Same as above	5	M	S	11256 4-14-44	Honolulu T.H.

*Line 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14*

*Line 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14*

*Line 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14*

*Line 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14*

Agnus Chui Moi was born on June 23, 1932 but wasn't registered till June 28 so her birth certificate is so dated in British Hong Kong, China. She is the daughter of Charles Kui Ching and Hannah Goon Yin Chong.

**Children of Agnus Chui Moi Ching and Wai Tuck Lo**

- i. **Edwina Wai Mun Lo** was born on May 6, 1959 in Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii.
- ii. **Felix Paul Lo** was born on August 20, 1960 in Honolulu, Hawaii. He married Anita Baca on 1999 and had 2 children, Nathan and Daniel.
- iii. **Lisa Lo** was born on October 1, 1963 in Honolulu, Hawaii. She married Luca Revelli on 2005 and had 3 children, Alexandra, Juliana, and Enzo.

**Wai Tong Lo and Kam Ha Tong**

Wai Tong was born on August 24, 1888 in Palama, Kingdom of Hawaii. He was the son of Yat Ting Lo and Goo Shee. He married Kam Ha Tong, on May 10, 1917 in Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii. He died in 1966 in Shanghai, China.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR-BUREAU OF THE CENSUS  
THIRTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1910-POPULATION  
HAWAII

COUNTY: City of Honolulu  
ISLAND: Hawaii  
DISTRICT: Honolulu

NAME OF CITY, TOWN, OR VILLAGE: City of Honolulu  
ENUMERATED BY ALL OR THE: May 1910

WARD OR DISTRICT OF CITY: 1  
SPECIAL ENUMERATION: 2363

SEX	AGE	RELATION	MARRIAGE	NATIVITY			RACE		EDUCATION		LITERACY		SPEECH	
				Foreign born	Foreign born	Foreign born	White	Other	None	Some	None	None	None	
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...









維成 維特 柳琪輝 秋愛  
高天皓 吳齡 吳奇 吳煒 吳由

Kam Ha was born in 1892 in Hawaii and died in 1950 in Shanghai, China at the age of 58 years. She was the daughter of Tong Phong and Chock See Hing.

**Children of Kam Ha Tong and Wai Tong Lo**

- i. Wyleon Lo was born May 22, 1918 in Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii. He first married Brenda L. Su (1922) and had 2 children Cyleon and Linda, then married Amy Yamamoto (1927-2014). He died September 4, 2014 in Honolulu, Hawaii.




- ii. **Wai Tuck Lo** was born on June 6, 1919 in Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii.
- iii. Wychee Lo was born in 1921 in Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii. He married Sue Lam Quan (1925-) and had 2 children. He died in 2011.
- iv. Wysing Lo was born in 1924. He married Fun Yen Zhang (1927-) and had 3 children. He died in 1980.
- v. Chou Oi Loo was born in June 11, 1926 and married Qi Hui Liu (May 2, 1923-February 13, 2007) and had 4 children. She died in November 2, 2011 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Lo Yat Ting and Goo Shee**

Lo Yat Ting was born in August 1854 in China. He married Goo Shee.

338  
Adult

**TERRITORY OF HAWAII.**



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

CERTIFICATE OF HAWAIIAN BIRTH


To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

This is to Certify That Lo Yat Ting  
 now residing at Honolulu, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, whose  
 signature is attached, has made application No. 338 for a  
 Certificate of Birth, his son, Lo Wai Tong.

And that it appears from his affidavit and the  
 evidence submitted by witnesses that Lo Wai Tong  
 was born in the  
 Hawaiian Islands on the 24th day of August  
 B. D. 1888, and that the photograph attached is a good  
 likeness of him at this time.

In testimony whereof, the Secretary of the  
 Territory has hereunto subscribed his name  
 and caused the Seal of the Territory of  
 Hawaii to be affixed.

Done in Honolulu, this 11th  
 day of December  
 B. D. 1907



Signature Lo Yat Ting

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*Lo Wai Tong*

Goo Shee was born in February 1864 in China.

**Children of Goo Shee and Lo Yat Ting**

- i. Lo Wai Tong was born on August 24, 1888 in Palama, Kingdom of Hawaii. He died

in 1966 in Shanghai, China.

### **Tong Phong and Chock See Hing**

Tong Phong (唐) was born on July 29, 1865 in Tong Gar, Kwangtung, China and died on January 29, 1955 in Shanghai, China at the age of 89 years, 6 months. He was the son of Tong Chong Soy and Tong Loo Seh. He married Chock See Hing.

See Hing was born in 1868 in China.

Tong Phong: President, Chinese—American Bank, Ltd.

Born Sept. 17, 1865, Canton, China, son of Tong Chong and Loo Ngo; married Chuck Kim Tow, Canton, China, Feb. 22, 1886; children, Tong Tin Yen, Tong Tin Wai, Tong Kam Har and Tong Kam Bon; member Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, Chinese Chamber of Commerce and United Chinese Society.

Representing the third generation of his family in Hawaii, his grandfather, Tong Yee, having come to the Islands in 1850, Tong Phong, one of the organizers of the Chinese-American Bank, Ltd., has been its president since its formation in 1916, and has other extensive business interests. These include the presidency of the Sing Chong Co., rice factors and commission merchants, and a directorship of the City Mill Co., Ltd., which was organized by Chngng K. Al, with whom Mr. Tong attended Iolani College as a classmate, also of Dr. Sun Yet-sen, the famous Chinese patriot. Mr. Tong Phong later attended St. Louis College when it was opened, having been the first Chinese to enroll. Subsequently he attended Punahou.

Going to California for his health, Mr. Tong later went to China but returned to Hawaii in 1901 with the idea of starting a bank. The time did not seem propitious for such a venture, however, and he opened the Oriental Bazaar. In 1904 this store was moved as a unit to the World's Exposition at St. Louis by Mr. Tong and two of his associates, Chuck Hoy and Tong Kan. After the fair, Mr. Tong and Mr. Chuck opened a store in New York City, Mr. Tong remaining as manager and later moving the business to its present location in Atlantic City, where it is managed by his eldest son, Tong Tin Yen.

In 1915 Mr. Tong Phong returned to Honolulu on his way to China to purchase merchandise, but friends prevailed upon him to carry out his original plan of establishing a bank and he organized the Chinese-American Bank, Ltd., the first Chinese financial institution in the Islands. Mr. Tong came to Honolulu in 1876 on a sailing vessel with his father, who established the Sing Chong Co., the oldest Chinese concern in Hawaii.

Mr. Tong Phong's grandfather, Tong Yee, came to the Islands in 1850 and was a pioneer in the sugar industry on the Island of Hawaii and a prominent figure for years in Hilo. He was one of the founders of the Pankaa sugar plantation, now part of the Onomea plantation. He made one of the first sugar rollers used in the Islands, fashioning it from a bingee block of olna wood. He was also noted for the manufacture of furniture from Hawaiian hardwoods, some articles of which remain in the family to this day.

Men of Hawaii. Vol IV. Ed. George M. Nellist. The Honolulu Star-Bulletin Ltd. 1930 pg 485

Ever since the establishment of the Chinese American Bank, Ltd in 1916, the first Bank in Honolulu operating with Chinese capital. Tong Phong has been its president. He is also a director of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Honolulu and chairman of its trade development committee. For many years he was the manager of the Sing Chong Co., rice factors.

Son of the late Tong Chong, one of the founders of the Sing Chong Co., and a native of Tong Gah village, Chungshan district, Kwangtung province, Tong came to Honolulu when he was

twelve years old. He attended the Iolani School and took up photography. He then made a trip to China and returned in 1902 opening a curio store till 1905 when he went to the St. Louis. Mo., Exposition, and established a curio store there during the length of the Exposition. After that he conducted this business in New York for ten years and then moved to Atlantic City, where the store is being managed by his son.

In 1915 while on his way to China from San Francisco, he was approached by local Chinese merchants to organize a bank and consequently the Chinese American Bank was organized through their efforts.

He is a naturalized American citizen, and a deacon of the First Chinese Church of Christ, King St. He is 65 years of age. He and his wife, Chock Shee, have two sons and a daughter.

The sons Tin Yun, caring for his business in Atlantic City; Tin Wai, who after graduation from an American university and majoring in banking, became connected with the Chinese American Bank: and the daughter. Mrs. Lo Wai Tau, is in Shanghai.

The Chinese of Hawaii. Overseas Penman Club 1929. Pg 165

He left the drug business in 1904 and in July of the same year took the Oriental Bazaar of Honolulu to the St. Louis World Fair. After the close of the fair in January 1905, he moved the Oriental Bazaar to New York City and established a wholesale and retail business in Oriental goods with Mr. Tong Phong. Mr. Chuck Hoy returned to Honolulu in 1907, leaving Mr. Tong in charge of the business until 1914. He was president and manager of the Chinese Mutual Investment Co., Ltd., from 1915 to 1920. In 1901 Mr. Tong Phong and Mr. Chuck Hoy tried to start a Chinese bank in Honolulu, but were unsuccessful. Upon the return of Mr. Tong Phong from New York in 1914, they again tried to organize a Chinese bank, which became the present Chinese American Bank, Ltd.

The Chinese of Hawaii. Overseas Penman Club 1929. Pg 51

At the annual meeting of the United Chinese Society held on the 6<sup>th</sup> Inst., the following officers were duly elected.

C. Alee President

Goo Kim Vice President

Kam Fai Treasurer

Tong Phong Secretary

Ng Chan Ass't Treasurer

Tam Wah Hin Ass't Secretary

The Daily bulletin, (Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii), January 18, 1888, pg 2

The Daily bulletin, (Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii), January 25, 1888, pg 2

The Daily bulletin, (Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii), January 27, 1888, pg 2

Former Chinese students of Iolani Collect went In a nody to the home of Bishop Willis last evening to bid farewell to him and Mrs. Willis preparatory to their departure Bishop Willis was presented with a fine gold cross and chain together with a testamentary letter in scroll design. The presentation was made by a commitee consisting of Chung K. Ai, Lau Tang, Tong Phong, Wong Charles, Ah Fook and Yap See Wong. The young men were received in tho drawingroom and Mr. Ah Fook, as spokesman, stepped forward.

Evening bulletin. (Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii), May 17, 1902, Pg 8

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii), May 17, 1902, pg 9

NOTICE.

During the absence of our Mr. Hong Quon from this Territory, Mr. Tong Phong, one of the members of our firm, will act as Manager, and is authorized to sign the firm's name.

Dated Honolulu. June 24th. 1903.

**SING CHONG & CO.**

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 25 June 1903. Pg 7  
 The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 26 June 1903. Pg10  
 The Hawaiian star. (Honolulu [Oahu]), 26 June 1903. Pg 5

Mr. Hong Quon, manager of Sing Chong Co., will leave shortly for a trip through China and Japan. He will visit the Osaka Exposition before returning. During his absence Mr. Tong Phong, one of the members of the firm, will act as manager

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 25 June 1903 pg 9  
 The Hawaiian star. (Honolulu [Oahu]), 25 June 1903 pg 8

**MUTUAL TELEPHONE CO., LTD.**

The following additions and alterations have been made since new Directory was published. Subscribers are requested to cut this notice out and paste same on their books.

White 2746 Oriental Bazaar

White 3852 Tong Phong.

The Hawaiian star. (Honolulu [Oahu]), 08 July 1903 pg5

**PASSENGER BOOKED.**

For San Francisco, per S. S. Sierra, Feb. 16.

Chuck Hoy, Tong Phong

Evening bulletin. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii]), 16 Feb. 1904 pg 8  
 The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 17 Feb. 1904 pg 10

Among the passengers who left by the Sierra last evening were Chuck Hoy and Tong Phong. Tong Phong is manager of the Oriental Bazaar and also has other business relations in Honolulu. During his absence Tong Kau will manage the Oriental Bazaar.

Evening bulletin. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii]), 17 Feb. 1904 pg 2

Chuck Hoy and Tong Phong, two prominent Chinese merchants of this city, returned in the China from a three months' tour in the States. They are greatly pleased with America and especially like Los Angeles.

Evening bulletin. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii]), 26 May 1904. Pg 5

**ORIENTAL BAZAAR WILL MOVE EAST**

It has been decided by the stockholders of the Oriental Bazaar to give up their store in Honolulu and locate in one of the Eastern States where there is a greater opportunity for the sale of Oriental wares. The move will take place in about two weeks time.

The passing of the Oriental Bazaar takes from Honolulu one of her chief attractions. The cloisonne and satsuma ware, with silks, grass linens, ebony, teak and sandal wood furniture, and curios of the Orient have always proved of great interest to the tourist and the elegant stock so handsomely arranged will be missed by many Honolulu people who have found great pleasure in wandering about the aisles of the store, ever finding something new and unique to interest them

The Bazaar has been located in the Waity building for the past year and a half and the company is composed chiefly of wealthy merchants in China. Messrs. Tong Phong and Tong Kau have been actively engaged, in the management since its establishment. The business in this city has been insufficient to support so costly a stock, hence the decision to move to a more populous field. A clearance sale of the stock will be held beginning Monday morning.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 04 June 1904 pg 3

**NOTICE.**

During the absence of our Mr. Hong Quon from this Territory, Mr. Tong Phong, one of the

members of our firm, will act as Manager, and is authorized to sign the firm's name.

Dated Honolulu. June 17<sup>th</sup>, 1904.

SING CHONG & CO.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 17 June 1904. Pg 7

#### ORIENTAL STORE LEAVES HONOLULU

The Oriental Bazaar, King Street, which has been closing out its business in Honolulu during the past few weeks, will soon have a new store in St. Louis. By the Alameda today a party of employees of the store go for ward to open it. This party includes Tong Kau, Chuck Hoy, Tong Lewn, Chang Poi Quon and Chang Kee. Tong Kau has been quite well known to the business public here.

Tong Phong, proprietor of the Oriental Bazaar, will remain in Honolulu for a few months to close up his business affairs. His firm has been here for three yearst for a short time in Chinatown but during most of the time In the Waity Block, on King Street; Tong Phong's idea in leaving Honolulu is to open a larger store in a larger field.

He will first start one at St. Louis and take advantage of the Exposition trade and later open a big store in New York. Orders have already been given for the shipment of goods for the New York place direct' from China and Japan. The goods for the St. Louis store have been packed and placed aboard the Alameda.

Tong Phong said laet night: "In closing out our business here we wish to thank the Honolulu public for the many favors extended to us and to ask that our former patrons here favor us by advising their friends in New York of our venture there. In New York the store will be a large and elegant one, dealing in all kinds of Oriental goods. We will try to make it the largest and best store of its kind in the United States."

It is said that while the Oriental Bazaar failed to find any big profits here during the hard times their loss has been insignificant.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 27 July 1904. Pg3

Articles of incorporation wore filed with the Treasurer this morning by The Hawaiian Rice Growers and Factors, Association, Ltd. The affidavit by T. F. Lansing, president, E. A. Mott-Smith, treasurer, and C. K. Ai, secretary, shows that the number of shares of the proposed corporation is 5,000 at a par value of \$10 each. The amount of capital stock is \$50,000.

A schedule shown that there are twenty subscribers, of whom the principal names are L. L. McCandless, I. Rubinstein, City Mill Co., Yee Chin, Y. Ahin, J. A. Hopper & Co., and the officers named above. More than three fourths of the shares have been subscribed and 10 per cent, of the capital paid in.

The following constitute tho board of directors: T. F. Lansing, W. L. Hopper, I. Rubinstuln, L. L. McCandless, Tong Phong, Yee Chin, C. K. Ai, Y. Ahin and Wong Leong.

The purpose, of the association is set forth as being to do business as brokers or otherwise buying, selling, in dealing in rlice, paddy and their by-products and to aid and encourage the rice industry of Hawaii. To this end it will examine into and scure better methods of production of rlice and paddy.

Evening bulletin. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii), 31 Dec. 1904. Pg 1

**Phong, Fat & Co. (Tong Phong, Phong Fat,  
Chuck Hoy, Tai Y Hee, Shiu K. Wong) 30  
W. 22d  
Phonic Carbon Co. (dissolved) 300 E. 64th**

### A New Chinatown to Rise on Pacific

The plan to build, after the destruction of the original Chinatown area, a city completely autonomous, with a Chinese municipal government, detached from San Francisco.

With San Francisco Chinatown, the largest Chinese settlement outside of China destroyed – it occupied ten square blocks in the city's heart – a new Chinese city will be built on the Pacific Coast. A site will be purchased by a syndicate of Hongkong merchants, who already have the scheme well under way.

This information came to the Chinese merchants of New York yesterday. They were asked to lend a helping hand, so that the work of laying the foundation of the new city could be begun immediately. Tai Y. Lee of the importing house of Phong, Fat & Co., at 30 West Twenty-second Street, who has been named to head a Chinese relief committee here, said yesterday that the new Chinese city would probably be built at a point near San Francisco right on the beach.

Mr. Tai said that while many Chinamen were among those who had perished in the ruins of San Francisco, 20,000 had managed to get across the bay to Oakland's Chinese quarter. The majority of the rich merchants of San Francisco's Chinatown, Mr. Tai said, were importing agents for large syndicates in China, and it was on these syndicates that much of the loss would fall. However, many of San Francisco's Chinese importers had lost every dollar they possessed, for some of them carried stocks of gold and silver jewelry of great value.

A short story from The New York Times, April 21, 1906

The Oceanic steamship company's steamer Sierra, sailed for Honolulu yesterday promptly at 11 a. m.

A large crowd was at the Pacific street dock to wish the vessel godspeed, and as the beautiful craft pulled out into the stream, cheer after cheer went up from those on the wharf, and these salutations were returned by those who were sailing away to the islands.

The popular liner had 1,518 tons of cargo in her hold.

The cabin passengers were: Mr. Tong Phong

The San Francisco call. (San Francisco [Calif.]), 16 June 1907 pg 42

From San Francisco, per O.S.S. Sierra-June 21

Tong Phong

Evening bulletin. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii], 21 June 1907 pg 2

For the Orient, per S. S. Korea, July 15

Tong Phong, Tong Quon

Evening bulletin. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii], 15 July 1907. Pg 2

Per P.M.S.S Manchuria from the Orient-October 5

Tong Phong

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 06 Oct. 1907 pg 3

Per P.M.S.S. Siberia, August 17 from San Francisco-For Honolulu:

Tong Phong

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 18 Aug. 1908 pg10

Per O.S.S. Alameda for San Francisco, August 26

Mrs. Tong Phong and three children

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 19 Aug. 1908. Pg 10

### A FORMER CHINESE RESIDENT GIVES CUP

The winners of the C. A. C.-Alliance baseball game on Chinese New Year's day, will have something well worth playing for, in the near future. They will come into possession of a beautiful silver cup offered by Mr. Tong Phong. Mr. Tong Phong, who is paying his annual visit to Honolulu, is, a prominent businessman of New York. He is also connected with different business firms in Honolulu, as he is an old resident of the islands.

It is with deep regret Mr. Torg Phong cannot stay longer and witness the game. Pressure of business calls him back to New York. He leaves on the Manchuria.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 07 Jan. 1909. Pg 3

Per P.M.S.S Manchuria for San Francisco, Jan. 9:

### Tong Phong

The Hawaiian star. (Honolulu [Oahu]), 08 Jan. 1909. Pg2

### CHINESE BASEBALL PLAYERS TO MEET GREAT GAME IS PROMISED FOR JANUARY TWENTY-THIRD

Students' Alliance and C. A. C. Will Try Conclusions on Diamond Much Rivalry Between Two Organizations and Lively Contest Sure to Result

The baseball game scheduled for Chinese Now Year's Day, between the C. A. C. and the Students' Alliance will be a hummer.

The silver cup offered by Tong Phong will be presented to the winners of the ball game at the dance and, for the present, It is hard to foretell who is going to annex the trophy.

Evening bulletin. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii), 15 Jan. 1909. Pg 7

### Chinese Students' Alliance and C. A. C. to Meet on the 21st.

At 2:30 o'clock on the afternoon of the 21st inst., the Crack baseball nine representing the Chinese Students' Alliance of Hawaii will meet the Chinese Athletic Club on Aala Park.

The beautiful silver cup, which has been offered by Mr. Tong Phong to the winner of this game, is now in the show window of W. W. Ahana & Co.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 17 Jan. 1909. Pg7

The baseball game today between the Chinese Students' Alliance and the Chinese Athletic Club will be for a silver cup presented by Tong Phong, a well known New York merchant, formerly of Honolulu. The cup is a beauty and is well worth striving for.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 21 Jan. 1909. Pg 3

### ALLIANCE BOYS TO CELEBRATE

The Chinese Students' Alliance of Hawaii, branch of the World's Chinese Students Federation of Shanghai, will celebrate their victory over the Chinese Athletic Club this, evening at 7 o'clock at the St. Elizabeth House, Palama. The celebration will be in the form of a social gathering. The program has been arranged by the committee and it is said that it will be a lengthy one, suitable for the occasion. One of the features of the evening will be a speech by the president of the Chinese Athletic Club, who will perhaps give some reasons for his team's downfall that day.

Now that the Alliance has captured the Tong Phong trophy, another silver cup is now being offered by Mr. Hong Quon, manager of Sing Chong and Company for another game between these two teams to be played on Washington 's birthday.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 30 Jan. 1909. Pg 3

### ALLIANCE KIDS EXPECT TO WIN

At 2:30 o'clock this afternoon the representatives of the Chinese Athletic club will again meet the crack baseball nine representing the Chinese Students' Alliance of Hawaii on Aala Park. The

C. A. Cs., as the story goes, felt somewhat sore over the result of the Konohi game, and are now trying their mighty best so as to down the Alliance and even matters up.

The Alliance in winning the Konohi game has captured the beautiful silver trophy, which Mr. Tong Phong of New York has offered. Now Mr. Hong Quon manager of the firm of Sing Chong and Company, has offered a handsome silver cup to the winners

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 22 Feb. 1909. Pg3



## The Oriental Art Store

### SOUVENIRS and GIFTS

*Here will be found the choicest specimens of Oriental craftsmanship, imported direct from China, Japan and other countries of the "Far East."*

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*Ask Mr. Foster*

New York Directory 1910 pg 138

Aquatic sports supplied considerable entertainment for the cabin passengers on the Pacific Mail steamer Siberia, which came into port today from the coast. There were mermaids galore and the improvised canvas tank on the main deck was the scene of the attractions.

The Siberia brought 55 first class passengers to Honolulu, and most of these are tourists. The steamer was well past Koko Head this morning before he was sighted, a haze appearing to follow the ship and obscure the view from the island. The steamer was about two hours behind schedule in arriving. She will leave Pier 1 at p. m. tonight "

Per S. S. Siberia, July 16. For Honolulu:

Tong Phong

Honolulu star-bulletin. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii], 16 July 1915. Pg 5

1710-1753

**First Chinese Bank of Territory  
Opens For Business In Honolulu**

**THREE** Leading Officials of the Chinese-American Bank,  
Which Is Honolulu's Newest Financial Institution



*Tong Phong, President*



*Ching Lum, Vice Pres.*

**Men At Head of  
Big Enterprise  
Prominent**

WITH a capital of \$300,000, fifty per cent of which is paid up, the Chinese-American Bank is now open for business in temporary headquarters at 1017 Maunakea street, in the store of Sing Chong & Co. According to officers of the bank the conditions and up-to-date banking rooms in the Hocking building, at Nuuanu and King streets, now being made ready for occupancy, will be first used late in July or early in August.

The entire office fittings will be of steel manufacture with mahogany finish. This, along with attractive interior finish, and conveniently arranged women's waiting and writing rooms, and the handsome vault, now in course of construction, will make this banking house compare favorably with any in the city. While sufficient space has been allowed for the installing of a great number of safe deposit boxes, only one hundred will be opened for rental at present. They are of modern construction and make occupying handily arranged locations in the basement, which also contains a large storage vault, an exact counterpart of the one on the main floor.



*C. K. Ai, Cashier*

**Officers Are All Prominent**

The officers and board of directors are all men prominent in the business life of Honolulu. The president, Tong Phong, was for years a partner in the firm of Sing Chong & Co., ricefactors, who have been engaged in business here for more than forty years. Mr. Phong at one time conducted the Oriental Bazaar in the Waiy Building, and at the opening of the St. Louis fair moved to that city to engage in the same line of business, which he afterwards transferred to New York City, to a location in Broadway opposite Madison Square. After an absence of ten years he returned to Honolulu to take his place in the local business world.

Ching Lum, vice president, now retired from active business, was the organizer of the Oahu Lumber Company, and has extensive and varied property interests in Honolulu.

C. K. Ai, cashier, is one of the best known Chinese in the city, being manager of the City Mill Company and always closely identified with the varied public spirited enterprises.

One Oahu College Graduate Charles A. Wong, assistant cashier, who will perform all the duties of cashier, was formerly connected with Claus Spreckels & Co., now known as the

Bank of Honolulu. He is a graduate of Oahu College, class of 1899, and has also received the degrees of A. B. cum laude, and A. M. from Harvard, and was for some time connected with the Chinese government salt revenue department of the military of finance, returning at the call of the local Chinese merchants to assist in the organization of the bank, his experience in general finances having specially fitted him for the work. Mr. Wong is virtually manager of the institution, having also held power of cashier.

Looi Tang, secretary, is connected with the firm of H. Huckfeldt & Co., in a responsible capacity, and will not sever his connection by reason of his office with the bank.

Ching Shai, assistant secretary, is manager of the Oahu Rice Mill, has been in business in Honolulu for thirty years and is well known for his acts of substantial kindness to the poor. He is one of the chief promoters of the China Mail Steamship Company.

**General Banking Business**  
The Chinese-American Bank will do general banking business, including loans and foreign exchange, and will conduct a savings department. The officers and directors wish it understood that they solicit business from individuals and firms of all nationalities. Their correspondents at present are the Canton Bank of San Francisco and the Bank of Canton in Canton, China. These will be added to after the normal opening.

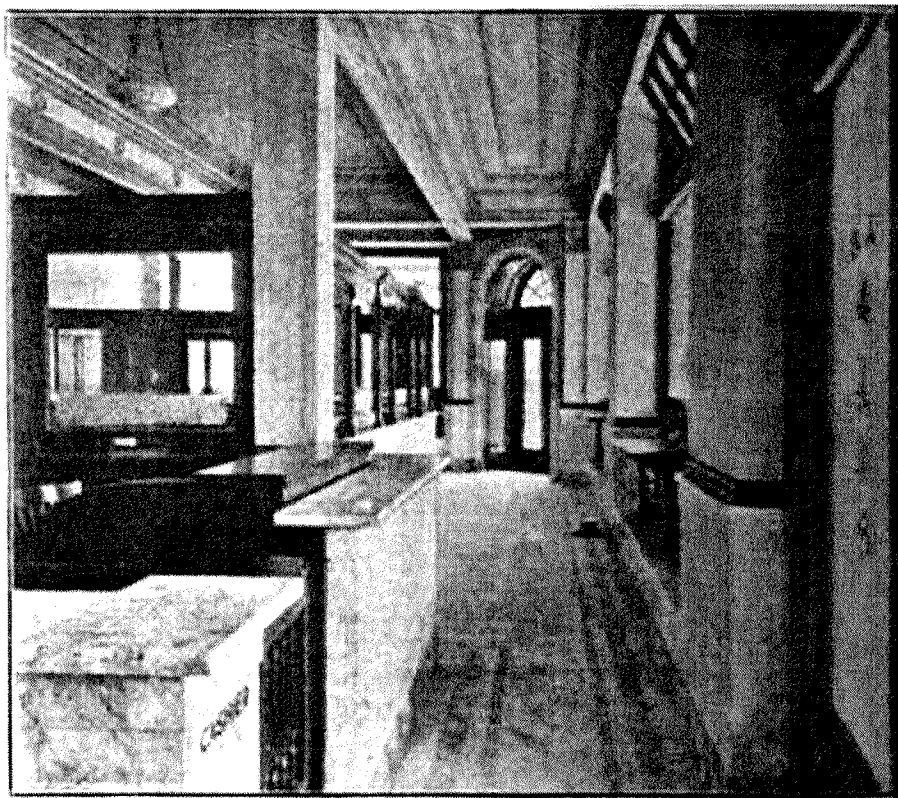
While open for business only three days, the deposits and general business done has exceeded the expectations of all concerned in the success of the first Chinese bank in the Territory of Hawaii.

**WITH TEMPORARY QUARTERS BANK OF CHINESE OPENS**  
Business is Taken Up and Fine Banking Home to Be Ready in July  
Chinese of Honolulu are now depositing funds in the new Chinese-American Bank, which has opened temporary quarters in the store of Sing Chong & Co., at 1017 Maunakea Street. These temporary quarters will be used until the latter part of July when the offices will be removed to the up-to-date banking rooms in the Hocking building at Nuuanu and King streets. The new building has been fitted up along attractive lines, and the office fittings will be of steel manufacture with a mahogany finish. Included in the rooms are a writing room and a ladies' waiting room. A handsome vault is now in the course of construction. Tong Phong, president of the bank, was for years connected with Sing Chong & Co., rice merchants, and is well known in New York business circles where he spent several years. Ching Lum, the vice-president, was the organizer of the Oahu Lumber Company and is well known in Honolulu. C. K. Ai, who will be cashier, is one of the most prominent Chinese in the

city, having a wide acquaintance among businessmen of all nationalities. Charles A. Wong, assistant cashier, who will be the new manager, is a Punahou graduate, and also completed a course at Harvard. He was at one time connected with the Spreckels interests. Lan Tang, secretary, is one of the best known young men in the city and is at present connected with Hackfeld Company. Ching Shai, assistant secretary manager of the Oahu Rice Mill and one of the stockholders of the China Mail Steamship Company.

The officers have announced that they will do a general banking business including loans and foreign exchange, and will conduct a savings department. They will solicit business from all nationalities. Their correspondents at present are the Canton Bank in San Francisco and the Bank of Canton in Canton, China. The business to date has exceeded the expectations of the officers,

Honolulu star-bulletin. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii], 25 May 1916. Pg 7



Centenary Number, 1820-1920: Commemorating the Hundredth Anniversary of the Landing of the First American Missionaries in Hawaii  
Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Limited, 1920 - Hawaii pg 74

#### CHINESE BANKS OPENS ITS DOORS TO NEW BUILDING

A new institution, the first of its kind in Honolulu, started business today in its own home, when the Chinese-American Bank, Ltd, opened its doors this morning to the public on the corner of King and Nuuanu streets.

That the bank is assured a strong financial future is evident by the number of depositors who came this morning to deposit their money. The bank is capitalized at \$200,000 with 50 per cent paid in.

The banking offices are beautifully finished with marble and dark woodwork and the

appointments are modern in every particular. The cost of constructive was \$12,000.

The officers of the bank are all Chinese and are as follows: Tong Phong, partner of Sing Chong & Co., the oldest rice factors in Honolulu, is president; Ching Lum, vice-president; C. K. AI, with the City Mill Company, cashier; Lau Tang, secretary; Ching Shai, assistant secretary and Chas. A. Won, assistant cashier and manager.

Honolulu star-bulletin. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii], 11 Sept. 1916. Pg 2

Although the China left Yokohama September 14, a day behind time owing to difficulties in getting bunker coal aboard, such good weather was met all the way over that Captian Dobson made the run in about 9 days and 18 hours, where the China schedule allows her 11 days for the distance from Yokohama to Honolulu. No call was made at Nagasaki out or in owing to the cholera epidemic there.

Arriving off port shortly after 8 o'clock, the China docked at Pier 7 soon after 9:45 with a capacity passenger list in all three classes. She could not have; carried many: more comfortably, as she had a grand total of 685 passengers aboard when she glided alongside the pier. The steamer brought to Honolulu fire first-cabin, four second, and 20 steerage passengers, and her through passenger list is 131 first-cabin, 39 second' and 489 steerage, the latter all Chinese.

Mrs. Tong Phong Back

Among the first-cabin Chinese passengers coming to Honolulu were Mrs. Tong Phong; wife of President Tong Phong of the Chinese-American Bank, Ltd of this city, their son and daughter, and their son's wife, daughter of Liang Kwo Wing (*sic* Liang Kuo-ying (梁國英), former Chinese Consul in Honolulu several years ago.

Honolulu star-bulletin. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii], 23 Sept. 1916. Pg 6



Liang Kuo-ying 1910

It is believed that the first radio telephone to broadcast music and speech in Hawaii was set up in the Electric Shop, Honolulu, about October, 1920, by Mr. M. A. Mulrony and Mr. T. C. Hall. After preliminary tests of the music and speech transmission, Mr. Mulrony went to the residence at Pacific Heights of Mr. Tong Phong (president of the Chinese-American Bank), where the only receiver suitable for reception of speech and music on a broadcast wave length was located. For

a period of nearly an hour music and speech were listened to by Mr. Mulrony, Mr. Tong Phong and members of his family. Mr. Hall remained at the Electric Shop and operated the radiotelephone transmitter during the tests.

The Reference Book of Information and Statistics Relating to the Territory of Hawaii. Thos. G. Thrum Compiler and Publisher 55<sup>th</sup> Issue, Honolulu, Hawaii 1928 pg 84

At marriage Sun Tai Cheong was given his married name which was Tuck Mung, the characters for which mean illustrious virtue. He was never called by this name but it was added to the family scroll, as were the other names which he afterwards assumed or were given to him. He did not remain in Canton long but went to Hong Kong and put in his time in preparatory studies awaiting the time when the medical school should open.

While at Hong Kong he was under Christian influence and was instructed for baptism by Mr. Hagar of the American Congregational mission. He had a friend who was prepared at the same time and was baptized at the same service. This young man was Tong Phong who went to the United States as a merchant and for years had a business in New York. He is now President of the ChineseAmerican Bank in Honolulu.

The Honolulu Mercury. Vol 1 No. 2 July 1929. pg 73

This may have been done, for Sun Yat-sen went to St. Louis where he made a short stay and then went on to New York, where he had friends whom he had known in China, one of whom was Tong Phong, who had been baptized at the same time he was in Hong Kong. The time was drawing near for the next uprising and he soon sailed for London where he embarked for the Orient by way of the Suez Canal. He made a short stop at Singapore and reached China without mishap.

The Honolulu Mercury. Vol 1 No. 4 September 1929. pg 45

It was while Sun was in America that news came that the Republic of China had been declared at Wuchang. He at once issued a statement addressed to the people of the United States, setting forth the principles and aims of the revolution, with the view of enlisting sympathy for the new Republic. He maintained that its government would be like that of the United States, the provinces having certain powers under the central authority. The press was very anxious to get a personal interview with him, but he managed to keep himself secreted in a hotel near Madison Square, New York. The Chinese who knew of his whereabouts would tell the reporters nothing. He took his meals with his old friend Tong Phong, from Hong Kong, who at that time had a store near the hotel where Sun had a room. It was in the care of Tong Phong that a cablegram came announcing that the outbreak had occurred prematurely in October, and insisting that he return to China at once. He was to have sailed on the Mauritania but missed that steamer, and although his departure was delayed for two weeks, his identity was not discovered. At the end of that time he booked on another vessel, under an assumed name, and reaching England remained incognito.

The Honolulu Mercury. Vol 1 No. 5 October 1929. pg 79

Four present had attended Iolani at some time. These were C. K. Ai, who entered Iolani at the same time as Sun Yat-sen; Tong Phong, who was baptized at the same time as Sun Yat-sen in Hong Kong, after Sun had returned to China; Chang Chau, who was the sworn brother of Dr. Sun and was with him in two insurrections and in two narrow escapes. Charles Wong, who, after leaving Iolani, graduated at Punahou and later at Harvard, taking the business course.

C. K. Ai is a well-known businessman, the President of the City Mill Company; Tong Phong is President of the Chinese-American Bank; Charles Wong is assistant Manager of the Chinese-American Bank; Chang Chau is Business Agent and Notary Public.

Hawaiian Church Chronicle Vol XX No. 8 Oct 1930 pg 8

What is thought to have been the earliest broadcast of music and speech in the Territory occurred

around October 1920 when M. A. Mulrony and T. C. Hall transmitted nearly an hour of talk and records from the Electric Shop in downtown Honolulu to the Pacific Heights home of their only known listeners, Tong Phong and his family.

Some Firsts in Island Leisure. Schmitt, Robert C. Hawaiian Journal of History, volume 12, 1978 pg 107

When Sun entered Iolani, then known popularly as Bishop's School, in September of 1879 he was one of ten Chinese boys. The first two who registered were Tong Phong, son of Tong Ching, one of four partners of the wealthy Sing Chong Company, and Lee Butt, brother-in-law of Chun Afong, the most notable figure in the early history of the Chinese in Hawai'i.

When he returned to his village, Sun and his friend Lu Hao-tung desecrated the temple idols. Later in 1884, while a student in Hong Kong, he and his Iolani classmate, Tong Phong, were baptized by an American Congregationalist missionary, Dr. Charles Hager

Sun Yat-sen's Christian Schooling in Hawai'i. Soong, Irma Tam. Hawaiian Journal of History, volume 31, 1997 pg 160-161, 172

Sun returned to Hawaii in 1896 to organize the Hsing Chung Hui (興中會) with a group of young men who had some Chinese and English education, as charter members. Among them were C.K. Ai (Chung Kun Ai, a former Iolani schoolmate) Luke Chan, Ho Fon, Li Cheung, Tong Phong, Yap See Young, Chang Chau, Yap Kwai Fong, and their purpose, according to their proclamation, to save China promote the interest of and uphold the dignity of the country. Those supporters raised funds (reputedly \$6000) to enable Dr. Sun to continue the enlistment of the wab kiu (overseas Chinese) in the United States and England and other European countries support his revolutionary cause.

When he visited Hawaii again in 1903, Dr. Sun suggested that it was time to change the name of Association, Hsing Chung Hui to the more realistic one of Chung Wah Tung Meng Hui (Chinese Alliance Association) whose announced objective was to restore China to the Chinese and establish a republic based on San Min Chu I (Three Principles of Government).

Sailing for the Sun: The Chinese in Hawaii, 1789-1989. Toy Len Chang. University of Hawaii Press, 1988 page 102-103

In 1915 the superintendent of the Chinese Mission of the Evangelical Association, Frank Damon, suggested the organization of a second Chinese church in Honolulu that would hold services in Cantonese. The Punti-speaking members of the Fort Street Chinese Church welcomed this suggestion. The Reverend Tse Keo Yuan was called to organize the church and serve as its first minister. His courage and effort were commendable. This church continued to grow by leaps and bounds. Its membership had increased to 375 by 1929 and to 809 by 1935. Between 1916 and 1918, leaders such as Yee Young, Ho Fon, Tong Phong, and Chung Kun Ai engaged in an intensive campaign among Chinese and Caucasian friends for a building fund. In 1918 the red brick building on Maunakea Street was dedicated. On the fortieth anniversary, a new sanctuary on Judd Street was completed. Nine years later a two-story parish hall was added. To this day the united Church of Christ is still ministering in both Chinese and English to young and old.

"A century of Chinese Christians: a case study on cultural integration in Hawai'i." The Free Library. 2010 Chinese Historical Society

## A Story Behind The Story

by Wyleon Lo

Sun Sui Fong's biography of her grandfather Dr. Sun Yay-Sen Brought to mind the following connection with our family: In 1862 Iolani opened as the first school for native Hawaiians. King Kamehameha IV himself donated \$1,100.00. The first 10 Chinese students were accepted in 1878, including Grandfather Tong Phong, C.K.Ai, Lee But, Chun Quen. Dr Sun-Yat-Sen enrolled the following year. Learning English from scratch. Dr. Sun graduated with honors

second in his class in 1882. King Kalakaua presented the diploma and award to the man who later became the Father of the Republic of China. Tuition, room and board in those times totaled \$150.00 a year.

In 1907 Dr. Sun Yat-Sen's first revolution attempt against the Ching Dynasty failed. He hid for a while in Great grandma's house in Tong Gar Village. When the authorities somehow learned of his whereabouts, he had to make a rapid escape to Hong Kong.

Years later, in the mid-1930's, the young Lo brothers Wyleon, Wai Tuck, Wychee and Wai Sing came to visit Greatgrandma in Tong Gar from Shanghai. The youthful brothers played detective and explored the big, dark house (no electricity at that time). In one of the second floor bedrooms they discovered a suitcase containing some of Dr. Sun's belongings. It contained a pistol, a kung fu knife 4' x 1' and some clothing labeled with Dr. Sun's given name (Dai Chong). One can imagine what a close escape he had to leave all this behind. But back then, the brothers thought the only honest thing to do was to put everything back as it was.

In 1986 I, the eldest of the brothers, re-visited Tong Gar. Time was not kind to Greatgrandma's house. What was once a nicely decorated living room had only some old furniture and odds and ends in one corner. Grandfather Tong Phong's second wife and their daughter had both married and moved away. Clearly the house had been rented to a series of different tenants.

When I first entered Iolani only two other Chinese boys, Tong Phong and Lee Butt had been registered ahead of me. Tong Phong and I became very good friends. After two years of schooling, I went back to Kona for a while. Upon my return to Honolulu, Tong Phong and I renewed our friendship. We associated in everything we did and were like brothers. Later he went to Kansas to start a business.

In 1915, a group of Chinese businessmen from Honolulu attended the World's Fair (Panama-Pacific International Exposition) in San Francisco. Tong Phong approached them on the matter of starting a Chinese bank in Honolulu, an idea which materialized on May 22, 1916. It was called the Chinese-American Bank, Ltd. The bank prospered and each share increased from a par value of \$75 to that of \$100. Unfortunately, on September 18, 1933, the bank was forced to close its door by order of the Treasurer of the Territory of Hawaii. Not being able to collect the money it had loaned out, the bank could not meet the demands of its depositors. All of its assets were frozen. Tong Phong's shares which he had pledged as collateral to the Bank of Hawaii and the Bishop National Bank were taken over by the banks and sold. He was idle for a few years, then returned to Canton, China to his native village with his wife to pass the autumn of his life.

Prosperous days, however, were in store for Tong Phong. In 1880, his father, Tong Chong was one of four partners of Sing Chong Company. The company made money and each partner received approximately \$5,000 as his share. His father invested in land in Hong Kong, which Tong Phong inherited. In 1941, Tong Phong bought land in Macau for only \$5,000. He later was offered \$20,000 for the land, but he refused to sell. He had more than \$12,000 H.K. and 300 mou'a (75 acres) of rice fields which yielded two crops a year. As the price of rice went up, his wealth increased also. He built a mausoleum for his wife and himself which cost \$20,000 H.K., the equivalent of \$3,333.20 U.S.

At the beginning of June 1951, Tong Phong's village organized an anti-landlord meeting. All the landlords of the village were called in, insulted, and spat upon. Unfortunately Tong Phong was listed as an overseas Chinese landlord. He was requested to contribute 8,000 pounds of rice. He could not meet their demand. He was penalized and ordered to stand for twenty-four hours without food or water. As he was 85 years old, he could not stand this sort of punishment. He agreed to pay for the rice and asked them to release him so that he could borrow the money, about 4,000 Hong Kong dollars from his relatives and friends. But all his relatives and friends

were just as poor and could not help him. He then wrote to his niece in Macau and asked her to borrow from friends there. She was able to borrow the desired amount but the interest on the loan was very high. He finally wrote me a long letter telling me of his sad plight; how he had lost all his money and property, and was now desperately in need of \$4,000 H.K. to repay the loan. I immediately wrote to Dr. Luke Kan Fai, my agent in Macau to lend the money to Tong Phong. Then I went about to interest his friends here on his behalf. I started the subscription with \$200. C.Q. Yee Hop donated \$100. I invited twenty-four friends to a luncheon at Wo Fat Restaurant, but only eighteen persons attended. I gave each person present a copy of the letter. Then I wrote to other friends. In all I was able to collect \$605.

After he was released by the communists, Tong Phong suddenly changed. He became ill and was bedridden. He and his family of five needed help. I sent him twenty-five U.S. dollars each month. His good brother-in-law, See Hung added five dollars, which brought the monthly allowance to thirty dollars. We both kept our promise faithfully for two years and two months. Tong Phong passed away on January 29, 1955, at the age of ninety years. After his death, his young wife asked me for help. I sent her ten dollars a month for two years. Now for an indefinite period I send her five dollars each month.

When Tong Phong was imprisoned by the Communist in China, he wrote me a letter in Chinese which I have translated to English, but before I received this letter, he sent his niece to Dr. Luke Kan Fai, my agent for distribution of funds in Macau, to borrow \$3,000 H.K. and promised to return it within four months. Tong Phong's letter was urgent and remorseful. I felt sorry for him and committed to send him \$200 U.S. and immediately sent him \$50 U.S.

August 25, 1951

My dear friend Mr. Ai:

It has been almost twenty years since I said goodbye to you in Honolulu. I think of you often, my friend, and sincerely hope that all has been well and successful with you.

After the liberation by the communists, my life was suddenly changed. I was ill last spring. After several months in bed, I still do not feel strong although my physical health has slightly improved. I have not left my house for half a year.

How true it is of that old Chinese saying that happiness comes only once but sorrows come back again and again. At the beginning of last June, our village organized an anti-landlord meeting. All the landlords were called into the village government office, jeered at, and spat upon by the fellow villagers without the opportunity to defend themselves. This is not an exceptional case in our village as all liberated districts are doing the same thing. Very unfortunately, I was listed as an overseas Chinese landlord and was ordered to contribute 8,000 pounds of rice. Since I could not meet this demand at that moment, I was penalized and ordered to stand up for twenty-four hours without even water to drink. Because of my poor health, I could not stand this penalty too long. I, therefore agreed to pay for the rice and asked them to release me so that I could make arrangements to borrow the money from my relatives and friends. However, all my relatives and friends are just as poor as I am and could not raise the money, about \$4,000 H.K., for me. I then wrote to my niece in Macau and asked her to help me. She was able to borrow the desired amount from various friends there, but only at a very high interest. During the last few months, I have written several letters to See Hung and others for help but I have not had any response from them. It may be possible that they are too busy to answer my letters or that they do not have the money. Therefore, I humbly am writing this letter to you with the hope that you will kindly give me the \$4,000 H.K. to repay my debt so that I do not have to pay the high interest. If you are

kind enough to do so, please tell See Hung, Tin Wai, and Kwai Leong to return the IOU statements immediately. I dare to ask this great favor of you only because I know very well that you are kind, generous and always willing to help others who are in trouble. Being such a good friend of mine, you certainly will not refuse my request and will give me the help I need.

My present condition is deplorable. My land, home, clothing, and money have been confiscated by the government. I cannot even afford to eat rice. I have a family of five to support. I am old and am unemployed. How can I support my family? I need at least five or six Hongkong dollars a day. I am sorry and am ashamed to have to suffer like this in my old age. I am exactly in the situation as quoted in verses 21 and 22 of the third chapter of Job.

If you can spare some of your time, please tell See Hung and Tin Wai that I must have help in the middle of this month, or starvation will be my fate.

With kind regards and best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

H. K. Tong

Chung Kun Ai, My SeventyNine Years in Hawaii (Hong Kong, 1960), 46-52

As soon as I landed, I was told by father that I was to return to Iolani College to continue my formal schooling. Again I made inquiries at the school, met the same young man Edmund Stiles, and was told to come back in September to register. I was staying then at the Sing Chong Company, father's purchasing agent in Honolulu. Sing Chong occupied a three-story building on the mauka side of Hotel Street between Nuuanu and Smith Streets. My old schoolmate Tong Phong also stayed there. He told me that he and Sw1 Tai-Cheong (later Dr. Sun Yat-Sen) had already become convinced that the Christian way of life was the one that they wished to follow, and that Tai-Cheong had already returned to China. When I told him in return that I too believed that Christianity was the true religion, he was very happy. Let me add here that Sun Tai-Cheong and Tong Phong were soon baptized in Hongkong. Because of strong objection on the part of my father, I was not baptized until 1896.

Tong Phong and I began to go to church together, every Sunday morning and evening. It wasn't long before Tong Phong's father learned of our church going. One night, on returning from evening services, we were met at the entrance of Sing Chong Company by Tong Phong's father, who blasted us for taking to this foreign religion. After he had vented his wrath upon the two of us, he turned to me in particular and ordered me out of Sing Chong Company. "I don't want you here to lead my son astray. Get out." I kept silence, and as he did not repeat his order after his wrath had cooled, I continued to stay on the third floor. He reported to my father, however, that Tong Phong and I were going to church and wanted to become Christians. When next father saw me, he took out fifty cents and told me to use the money to have my head shaved. That was his Chinese way of telling me that so far as he was concerned I could give up being his son and become a monk, for in China, monks and nuns shaved their heads bald to show that they were cutting off all earthly ties; even the close tie of son to father. When I refused the money, he slapped me across the face and also punished me. He told me to give up hope of returning to Iolani College, ordered me to go out and earn a living. I took my punishment in silence and began to look for something to do.

Chung Kun Ai, My SeventyNine Years in Hawaii (Hong Kong, 1960), 89-90

Of the three of us who had accepted Christianity during our school years and after, the Reverend Happer had baptized Dr. Sun Yat-Sen in China in 1883. Reverend Happer, the Chinese in Honolulu knew as the father of that blessed lady Mrs. Francis Damon, who with her husband the Reverend Francis Damon, labored for many years among the Chinese of Honolulu. In 1885 or 1886, Mr. Tong Phong, on his visit to China had also been baptized by the Reverend Happer. I was baptized in 1896.

The Chinese-American Bank released me of a part of another obligation. The Honolulu Fruit Company had borrowed \$50,000 from the bank with the note endorsed by my wife and myself. With the depression getting worse, I saw no way of meeting that obligation I therefore early in 1931, invited Tong Phong, President and Charles A. Wong, cashier of the Chinese-American Bank, to my home one Saturday afternoon to discuss the note. Wishing to protect the bank, I proposed to give them a mortgage on my home as partial protection of the bank's interests.

Charles Wong praised my generous suggestion but suggested that I consult with the Bishop Bank first, as I owed them more money. The Bishop Bank agreed that they should hold the first mortgage on my home. The Chinese-American Bank had to be satisfied with holding the second mortgage on the Star Block, and my property in Kahili. The first mortgage on the Kahili property I had given to the Bishop Estate, and I had been repaying the loan at \$250 the month, but I still owed the Estate \$15,000. After the depression had hit Hawaii, I asked George Collins, Chairman of the Bishop Estate, to foreclose my mortgage, which he did. What else could I do, because the depression had hit my tenants too, and they could not pay me rentals and other moneys due me under our agreements of sale? Rather than face the disgrace of foreclosure, I offered to give the Bishop Estate a bill of sale, but inasmuch as I had given the Chinese-American Bank a second mortgage of that property, I suggested that Collins talk over the matter with Tong Phong and Charles A. Wong. Tong and Wong refused to have their bank barred out of their second mortgage, so the property was foreclosed and advertised for sale. As no one offered to buy the property, the Bishop Estate took it over to settle the \$15,000 debt. The \$4,000 that I was charged with in lawyer's fees, interest money, and other incidentals, was slapped on my Hotel Street property. Then, one day, Collins telephoned me that someone wanted to buy my Kalihi property for the \$4,000 deficiency judgement against me, but he was offering it to me for \$1,000. I asked for one month to raise the money. I went to the Bishop Bank to borrow the \$1,000, but was turned down because I had no security to back up the loan. So by voluntarily offering the Kalihi property to the Chinese-American Bank for a second mortgage, I lost it.

I also lost the Star Block the same way. I had given a second mortgage to the Chinese-American Bank on that Star Block. When in September 1933, the Chinese-American Bank was closed and placed under receivership with Worth Aiken in charge of the assets of the bank, that mortgage had run almost six years. Aiken wanted to protect his mortgage so he wrote me to say that he wanted to foreclose on his second mortgage. As the Bishop Bank had the first mortgage and therefore the sole right to foreclose, it acted. Bishop Bank had to keep the property, as there were no offers, so the Chinese-American Bank got nothing out of the deal. The irony of it was that over forty years ago, John Podmore had offered me \$70,000 for the Star Block, but I would not sell. And now I have lost a piece of property valuable as an income-producing unit. My tough luck, was it not?

In 1942, I offered to settle my account with the Chinese-American Bank. The \$50,000 had grown to \$72,000 in six years, with the interest at 7%. I proposed that the bank forget about the \$22,000 interest money, and that it cut the principal from \$50,000 to \$30,000. As I had a total indebtedness of 285,000 at that time, the bank-receiver agreed to my proposals. I, in turn, agreed to pay \$300 or more dollars each month until I had paid the \$30,000 in full, without interest, which the bank waived, most generously. So, I ought not to be jealous of the good fortune of others, when I myself had been fortunate enough, first to have my \$29,000 in back taxes voided by law, and second, to have the Chinese-American Bank waive interest money totaling \$22,000, and principal amounting to another \$20,000.

In 1906 the Canton-Hankow Railroad wrote the United Chinese Society to help sell their stock in Honolulu. The Society called a meeting, which I did not attend, but the meeting appointed me chairman of the committee in charge of sales. The railroad instructed us to remit all moneys direct to the company, and they would, in turn, send us the money to I pay for whatever clerical help we needed. We hired a few clerks, but for months no money came. I threatened to take direct action here in Honolulu to pay the clerks. Finally the paychecks came. That was a very inauspicious beginning. Things went from bad to worse. When Tong Phong was in Hong Kong, I instructed him to sell my stocks. I got back fifty cents on the dollar. Not long after that, the company it went broke.

Chung Kun Ai, My SeventyNine Years in Hawaii (Hong Kong, 1960), 303

I have already mentioned that I had to give up my schooling because Tong Phong and I admitted to being interested in Christianity. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen was the first of our trio to be baptized, under the Reverend Happer in 1883. In 1885 or 1886, the Reverend Happer also baptized Tong Phong, on his visit to China.

Chung Kun Ai, My SeventyNine Years in Hawaii (Hong Kong, 1960), 313

The sketch by architect Hartwood of a Chinese temple-like structure won the approval of the congregation. Contractor Takahashi was lowest bidder by \$7,000 for a total of \$70,000. As we had not yet collected all the money that had been pledged, we hesitated but finally signed the building contract. The Chinese-American Bank agreed to lend us what money we needed to complete the building. For an additional \$5,000 we authorized the contractor to add the tower. The church was completed in 1929 and dedicated.

Chung Kun Ai, My SeventyNine Years in Hawaii (Hong Kong, 1960), 319

#### **Children of See Hing Chock and Tong Phong**

- i. Tong Yen Ting was born June 11, 1886. Married Kau Wen Leong (1895-1942) and had 3 children. He died on July 9, 1949 and was buried in the Greenwood Cemetery Pleasantville, Atlantic County, New Jersey
- ii. Tong Tin Wai married Helen M. Chan (1911-) and had one child then Beatrice Choy and had 2 children.
- iii. **Tong Kam Ha** was born in 1892 in Hawaii and died in 1950 in Shanghai, China.

He married 2<sup>nd</sup> wife.

#### **Child of 2<sup>nd</sup> wife and Tong Phong**

- i. Tong Kam Yee.

#### **Tong Chong Soy and Tong Loo Seh**

Tong Chong Soy was born in Tong Gar, Kwangtung, China. He was the son of Tong Yee Sen and Tong Choy See. He first married Tong Choi Seh then he married Tong Loo Seh.

#### **Arrival of the Ho Chung**

The Ho Chung the long expected Chinese steamer arrived off the harbor at 10.15 a.m. yesterday and her advent was the occasion of the congregation of a decidedly large number of Orientals at the wharf-sides who expected to meet incoming sisters, cousins, brothers, or uncles. The vessel made little delay in docking. Captain Fuller using quick dispatch to place her in position, and at 11.45 she was made fast. The vessel brings, besides her 491 passengers, about 320 tons of

general merchandise and is consigned to Sing Chong & Co. She will sail for San Francisco. Tuesday, Aug. 17.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 14 Aug. 1880. pg3

Sing Chong & Co. wishes to contract 100 Chinese men for Walau, Waiakea, Waianae and Honouliuli plantations.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 11 Sept. 1880. Pg 2

**昇昌 米行 Sing Chong & Co., Rice Mill.....Maunakea St.**

International Chinese Business Directory of the World: A Comprehensive List of Prominent Chinese Firms and Individuals in Parts of China, Japan, India Proper [etc.]. International Chinese Business Directory Co., 1913 pg 1555

This is to certify that Loon Gawk, Tuckong, Tongchong. Leong Nam, constitute the partnership of the Firm of Sing Chong & Co, doing business as dealers in General Merchandise on Hotel Street, Honolulu. H.I.

SING CHONG & CO.

Honolulu, Nov 1st, 1880.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 13 Nov. 1880. Pg 2

Vessels Expected at Honolulu, from Foreign Ports

Ger bk Lasker, Kaemana, Whampoa, over due, Sing Chong & Co. Agents

Swedish bk Hermine, Lonngren, Hongkong, Sing Chong & Co. Agents

From San Francisco per Australia Nov.29- Sing Chong & Co. 21 pkgs mdsc.

From Canton, per Ho Chung, Nov- Sing Chong & Co, 23 wooded ware, 6 bamboo ware.

Saturday press. (Honolulu, H.I.), 04 Dec. 1880. Pg 2

The Chinese steamer Hee Foo managed to arrange her libel suit so as to sail on Wednesday last for Hongkong. Her agents Messrs. Sing Chong & Co., becoming sureties for the amount to be awarded by the Court, in favor of the "Board of Health."

The Hawaiian gazette. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii]), 22 June 1881. Pg 3

Spirits Imported ETC., by Chinese

Quantities imported and purchased from April 1st, 1880, to April 1st, 1882, being a return ordered by the Legislative Assembly.

Sing Chong & Co. -1222½ dozen and 2 gallons of shamsou

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 17 June 1882. Pg 3

A Cleaver Capture

On Monday night last the Honolulu police headed by Captain Mehtens succeed in capturing rather cleverly a number of celestials on whom it is believed with good reason the authorities will be able to settle the guilt in connection with the late robberies from the business places of Wing Wo Chan, Sing Chong & Co., and L. Ahlo. A large reward had been offered for information connected with the larcenies, and thanks to cupidity which happily for the interest of law and order is almost invariably associated with criminality in members of the Chinese species, it was not very long before Mr. Dayton had sufficient grounds on which to have the issue of warrants. Armed with these, Captain Mehtent and his subordinates visited on Monday night, as before stated, several Chinese establishments where a quantity of the stolen property was found, and whence Sun Chuck In aud Ah Chow were marched to the district lock-up as prisoners. An opium smoker, I.eong Fong, was accidentally unfaithful during the course of search, and lie was compelled to accompany his countrymen to durance vile. Other information

might be given In connection with the robbery affair, for a hint from the parties interested to the effect that it yet is possible for the course of full justice to be in lei fend with by publicity of further details.

Saturday press. (Honolulu, H.I.), 16 Feb. 1884. Pg 3

The bktne Mount Lebanon was hauled along side Brewer's wharf yesterday. She is consigned to a Chinese firm, Sing Chong & Co

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 14 June 1884 pg11

The British bark Catalina is advertised for freight and passage to Hongkong by Sing Chong & Co.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 02 Sept. 1884. Pg2

The Bark Catalina took \$9000 in gold, shipped by Sing Chong & Co.

The Daily bulletin. (Honolulu [Hawaii]), 18 Sept. 1884. Pg3

Supreme Court

BEFORE Judd C. J.

Monday, June 1st.

Sing Chong & Co. vs. Hutchinson Plantation Company. In equity. A. S. Hartwell and C. Brown for plaintiff; P. Neumann and F. M. Hatch for defendants.

Heard, argued and submitted.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 03 June 1885. Pg 3

Ku Tai was charged with being a gross cheat by attempting to obtain \$275.75 under false pretenses from Sing Chong & Co. His case will be heard on Wednesday.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 11 Nov. 1885. Pg3

BEFORE POLICE JUSTICE BICKERTON.

Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ku Tai was brought uy on remand, charged with being a gross cheat, by attempting to obtain the sum of \$275.75 from Sing Chong & Co. After hearing the evidence for the prosecution His Honor committed the defedaant for trial at the January term of the Supreme Court, 1886.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 16 Nov. 1885. Pg 3

Mr. E. B. Thomas commenced yesterday the construction of four two-story brick stores on the corner of Maunakea and King streets for Sing Chong & Co. This block of stories will be 93x60 feet in size, furnished with iron doors and windows, and will be completed under the contract in 90 days.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 13 July 1886. Pg2

Lum Chung Wa is leaving for China on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. All accounts due him will be collected, and all accounts owed by him will be paid by Sing Chong & Co.

Honolulu, August 18, 1886

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 19 Aug. 1886. Pg 2

The ten thousand dollar brick building on Nuuanu Street near King being erected by Mr. Thomas for Aswan and Sing Chong Co., has reached the top of the first story.

The daily herald. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 22 Oct. 1886. Pg 3

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Figure 1 The Daily bulletin. (Honolulu [Hawaii]), 20 Sept. 1887. pg3

**FOR SALE!**

The undersigned has for sale a variety of

**Chinese Fruit Trees!**

Just received by the Zealandia from China, among others

**GRAFTED LICHEE!**

That will be bearing in two years.

Apply to **SING CHONG & CO.**

30 1m Maunakea St.

**Meat**

81 K

G. J. WAL

Wholesale

NAVY

**MESSRS**  
Are at  
**BULLETIN**  
Honolulu J

**FIRE**

In the Hawaiian News Company's window is shown a Chinese cranberry grown on a tree three years old by Sing Chong & Co. It is a large berry but dry-looking. The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 23 Aug. 1888. Pg 3

<b>Tweeds, Diagonals,</b> Worsted Shirts, Serges.	<b>Notice of Special Partnership</b> I hereby certify that the above named firm has been dissolved...	<b>TO HIRE</b> A CARPENTER FOR a short time for a building...
<b>Lining, Buttons,</b> Single Suit	<b>Notice of Special Partnership</b> I hereby certify that the above named firm has been dissolved...	<b>DAVID KAHIUK</b> I hereby certify that the above named firm has been dissolved...
<b>Pant Patterns,</b> Dress Patterns, JAS. F. MOHMAN,	<b>Notice of Special Partnership</b> I hereby certify that the above named firm has been dissolved...	<b>NOTICE</b> J. W. MAGUIRE being unable to attend to his business...
<b>Waister &amp; Supplecht,</b> House and Office Painters	<b>WANTED</b> A SITUATION WANTED	<b>NOTICE</b> WHEREAS W. L. Lee of the Hawaiian News Company...

The Daily Bulletin. 02 Jan. 1889. Pg 2

Messrs Sing Chong Co and others that there are 1000 rice growers at Ewa who will come to town once a week on an average during the entire year if they can make the round trip for \$1, \$52,000. We will take half of their estimate, which is \$26,000.00 The Hawaiian gazette. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii]), 22 Jan. 1889. Pg1

**ATTEMPTED MURDER.**  
A Chinaman  
Shot at Koolau- Fair Chance of Recovery-Suspicion fixed  
A telephone message through both companies' wires yesterday morning announced that a Chinaman had been shot at Kaalaea, on the Koolau side of this island, and that he was dead. Captain Larson of the police force and Dr. C. B. Wood immediately left for the scene of the tragedy and returning at 3 o'clock reported the victim alive and likely to recover with proper care. He was able to eat while they were there. About 2:30 o'clock in the morning a noise was

heard outside the plantation house where eight or ten Chinamen slept. This man went out and saw a man running away. He gave chase to the disturber and the latter turned and fired twice at him with a revolver. One of the shots took effect, entering the pursuer's right breast, passing through the lungs, and lodging in muscles near the shoulder blade. Dr. Wood did not extract the bullet. It is said to be from a .32 calibre pistol. The wounded man was to be brought to town in a chair, during the cool of the evening, the firm of Sing Chong & Co. undertaking to look after him here. Suspicion for the cowardly deed is directed against certain persons with whom the Kaalaea gang had previously had some quarrel.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 23 April 1889. Pg3

#### HORRIBLE MURDER.

An Aged Chinaman and his Wife Found Dead in Their Home at Waihee.

An old Chinaman named Ah Nee has for several years past taken charge of a duck ranch for Sing Chong Co. at Waihee, near Kaalaea, district of Koolaupoko, on this island. He lived in a small cottage with his wife and son. The old man and his wife were alive and well between nine and ten o'clock Saturday night, for at that time the son left home to go off serenading. He slept at a native house a little distance away and returned home about 7 o'clock Sunday morning. Coming up to the house he noticed a pool of blood on the ground outside, and called out to his parents, but received no answer. He pushed the door open and a horrible sight met his gaze. His father and mother were both lying on the floor dead; their faces were covered with cuts, evidently done by a knife, and blood. The old man's head was towards the door and the end of his queue was hanging outside the door. The wife's body was stretched across her husband's legs. There was a lot of dried grass on the man's face, some of which was partly burnt, showing plainly that the murderer evidently intended to burn his victims. The wounds on the faces of the two poor people looked as if they had been inflicted with a small jackknife. The rooms in the house had been ransacked. Ah Nee had between four and five hundred dollars hidden somewhere, but whether or not the murderer found the money is not known. The couple had resided in the islands about twenty-seven years and both were between fifty and sixty years of age. The woman was almost blind.

Deputy Marshal C. L. Hopkins went over to the spot Sunday, arriving there as Judge Pahia was holding an inquest. The jury returned a verdict that Ah Nee and his wife came to their deaths from wounds inflicted by a knife at the hands of some person unknown between the hours of 7 p.m. August 10<sup>th</sup> and 7 a.m. August 11<sup>th</sup>.

No arrests have as yet been made. There is a strong suspicion towards a Chinaman who had some trouble with Ah Nee a short time ago. This man was been in the vicinity of the murder on Saturday.

The Daily bulletin. (Honolulu [Hawaii]), 12 Aug. 1889 pg3

Mortgagee's Notice of foreclosure.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE provisions of a certain mortgage made by Aona and Akona to Sing Chong and Company-dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December. 1885, recorded in Liber 37. page 393; notice is hereby given that the mortgagees intend to foreclose the same for conditions broken, to wit: non-payment of principal and interest.

Notice is likewise given that after the expiration of three weeks from the date of this notice, the property conveyed by said mortgage will be advertised for sale at public auction, at the auction rooms of Jas F Morgan, in Honolulu. ON SATURDAY, the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1890, at 12: o'clock noon of said day.

Further particulars can be had of W. C. Achi, Attorney at Law.

Dated Honolulu, February 24. 1890.

SING CHONG & CO., Mortgagees.

The property covered by said mortgage consist of: All the crops of Awa growing upon the Ahupuaas and lands of Papa, Aiika and Kolo, South Kona, Hawaii, ten acres at Papa, more or less, five acres at Aiika, more or less, thirty-acres at Kolo, more or less.

The Hawaiian gazette. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii]), 11 March 1890. Pg10

The sloop H. L. Tibbals, which lately dropped in from Victoria, B. C, has been sold to Sing Chong & Co., for the Ewa rice trade.

The Daily bulletin. (Honolulu [Hawaii]), 08 July 1891 pg 3

The sloop H. L. Tibballs was purchased by Sing Chong & Co. for use in the rice industry between here and Pearl River.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 09 July 1891 pg 3

Mortgagees Notice of Intention to Foreclose

THE UNDERSIGNED THE WESTERN HAWAIIAN INVESTMENT COMPANY (limited) a foreign corporation here by gives notice that it intends to foreclose for condition broken to wit non payment of principal and interest when due that certain mortgage given by Quong On Kee & Co to said corporation dated January 13 1887 of record in liber 103 folios 161-165 giTen to secure a note for \$3300 payable in ono year from the date of said mortgage; and that it intends to offer for sale at public auction at the salesrooms of J F Morgan in Honolulu on Saturday July 13, 1891 at 12 oclock noon all of the property named in said mortgage.

The property covered by said mortgage being a lease from Sing Chong & Co to Quong On Kee & Co dated December 13 1886 of record in liber 101 folio 396 of premises on East corner of King and Maunakea Streets in Honolulu now occupied by said Kwong On Kee Co known as lot 1, said lease being for a term of 30 years from July 1, 1886 at an annual rental of \$375, and also all of the interest of said Quoe On Kee & Co in and to the brick building oa said premises

Terms cash Deeds at expense of the parcloser

The Hawaiian gazette. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii]), 14 July 1891. Pg 10

The sloop formerly known as the H L Tibbals recently purchased by Sing Chong & Co. and sailing under the British flag has been registered at the Port of Honolulu and will henceforth be known as the Manana. This makes the second vessel engaged in the fruit industry and owned by this firm.

The Hawaiian gazette. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii]), 22 Sept. 1891 pg 7

The ahupuaa of Kaalaea, sold on Saturday last by Jas. F. Morgan, by order of the trustees of the Lunalilo estate, was purchased by Sing Chong & Co. for \$18,800.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 19 Oct. 1891 pg3

The Hawaiian gazette. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii]), 20 Oct. 1891 pg 7

The sloop Manana, which came from Victoria, B. C, some time ago and was bought by Sing Chong & Co., was later sold to a syndicate of Maui fishermen for \$500.

The Daily bulletin. (Honolulu [Hawaii]), 10 Dec. 1891 pg 3

A new sloop, built in San Francisco, by order of Sing Chong & Co. arrived on the deck of the burkentine W. H. Dimoud today. It is a fine boat, about 16 tons register, and has been given the name "Kaiulau" by Hon. W. G. Irwin. Sing Chong & Co. will use the sloop between this port and Ewa in the riee carrying trade.

The Daily bulletin. (Honolulu [Hawaii]), 11 April 1892 pg3

Kaiulani is the name of a new 17-ton sloop, which was brought to Honolulu from San Francisco by the barkentine W. H. Dimond yesterday. This makes the third sloop that the Dimond has successfully brought to Honolulu, the other two being the crack yachts Helene and Spray. The Kaiulani measures 40 feet in length with about 12 feet beam, having a carrying capacity of about 300 or 400 bags of rice. The sloop was built by Mr. Poole of San Francisco to the order of Sing Chong & Co., and will ply between Honolulu and Pearl Harbor. She is strongly built. During the yachting seasons, Sing Chong & Co. will enter their sloop in the first class yacht races. The Kaiulani was launched from the deck of the Dimond yesterday afternoon. The Kaiulani has the appearance of being a smart sailer, and may prove a match for our first class yachts. The sloop is named after Princess Kaiulani.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 12 April 1892 pg 3

#### A DISCHARGE IS A DISCHARGE.

Decision by the Supreme Court on a Bankruptcy Case,

The full Court, sitting in banco, filed a decision in the case of C. Alee vs. Wong Leong, in the Supreme Court today. It was an assumpsit suit to recover the amount of two promissory notes for \$500 and \$200 dated 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 1888, made by defendant to Sing Chong & Co., endorsed by plaintiff, and at maturity paid by the endorser, The defendant pleads in abatement of the action his discharge in bankruptcy dated April 11, 1889. To this the plaintiff filed a replication setting up promises of the defendant to pay the debt made since the discharge. The question raised by the bill of exceptions is whether the evidence set up on the replication sustains the verdict. The Court held the law to be that a discharge in bankruptcy discharges the debt, and that it will take more than a mere acknowledgment or recognition of the debt to create a legal obligation to pay it, but there must be an express promise to pay the debt. The exceptions were overruled and the verdict must stand.

A. S. Hartwell and Ashford & Ashford for plaintiff; W. R. Castle and F. M. Hatch for defendant.

The Daily bulletin. (Honolulu [Hawaii]), 14 April 1892. Pg 3

The new sloop Kaiulani was tried this afternoon. She skimmed out the passage like a thing of life. Sing Chong & Co. are well proud of their new craft, which will be used between here and Ewa.

The Daily bulletin. (Honolulu [Hawaii]), 18 April 1892 pg 3

Sing Chong & Co.'s new sloop Kaiulani went out on a trial trip yesterday. A large number of Chinese were on board the sloop, and they seemed to have enjoyed their outing. The owners do not seem to be satisfied with the work of the San Francisco builders. The sloop leaks just as bad as the old Alike. She will go to Ewa today on her maiden trip to load with rice.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 19 April 1892. Pg 3

#### Mortgagee's Notice of Intention to Foreclose.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE provisions contained in that certain indenture of mortgage dated the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July 1882, and made by ANA MOMONA opio. ANA MOMONA makua and NAKIHEI, her husband, all of Ewa, Island of Oahu to S. Roth of Honolulu, Island of Oahu, and of record in the office of the Registrar of Conveyances in Liber 71 on pages 192 and 193, and under sundry mesne conveyances now owned by Sing Chong & Co. of Honolulu, Oahu, and also in accordance with the provisions contained in that certain indenture of mortgage dated the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 1886, and made by Nicholas Anna and Ana Momona Jr. of Honolulu, Island of Oahu to William C. Achi of the same place, and of record in the office of the Registrar of Conveyances in Liber 9S, on pages 174 and 173, and under sundry mesne conveyances now

owned by Sing Chong & Co. of Honolulu, Island of Oahu. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends to foreclose said mortgages for conditions broken, to-wit-the non-payment of the principal and interest secured by said mortgages.

Notice is also hereby given that after the expiration of three weeks from the date of this notice, the property in said mortgage deeds described will be sold at public auction in the city of Honolulu, Island of Oahu, on SATURDAY, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1894, at 12 noon of that day, at the auction rooms of Jas. F. Morgan.

For farther particulars apply to Sing Chong & Co.

Assignees of said mortgages,

or to

Cecil Brown,

Attorney at Law.

Dated Honolulu. July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1894.

The property in laid mortgage deeds described are:

1st. All premises situate lying and being at Waiau in Ewa, Oahu and more particularly described in deed of Kahaleponli to Ana Monona, dated July 6th, 1867 recorded in Liber 23, on pages 412 and 413 and containing an area of 85 7-10 acres.

2nd. All those premises situate at Kaumakpili, Oahu more particularly described in deed of W. C. Achi to Nicboias Anna and Ana Kamai, dated April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1866, recorded in Liber 93, pages 173 and 174, containing an area of 72 fathoms.

3rd. All the undivided one-fourth of said Nicholas Anna in those premises situated at Waiau, Ewa, Oahu, being the same premise conveyed to Antonio Phillips by deed of Salem P. Hanchett, recorded in Liber 4, page 133. Containing an area of 12 acres, 99 fathoms and 2 feet, and by said Antonio Phillips devised to said Nicholas Anna et al by will duly admitted to Probate.

The property situate at Waiau, Ewa. Containing 33 7-10 acres is under lease at a yearly rental of \$130 and will be fold subject to said lease.

The Hawaiian gazette. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii]), 27 July 1894 pg8

Two pieces of land having an area together of 35.70 acres situate at Waiau, Ewa, comprising aps. 1 and I 2 of L. C. A. 6557 to Jonah Piikoi, were purchased at auction from Sing Chong & Co. for \$4,200.

The Daily bulletin. (Honolulu [Hawaii]), 28 Feb. 1895 pg 3

The schooner Kawailau brought 200 bags of rice for Sing Chong & Co last evening. The rice came from Koolau.

The Hawaiian star. (Honolulu [Oahu]), 21 June 1895. Pg 3

#### THE KAIULANI STOLEN.

#### THIEVES TRY TO GET AWAY WITH THE FAST ISLAND, SLOOP

Frustrated by the police-Ran the Craft Aground-Parker On Hand-Some Mystery.

Another attempt to steal a fast yacht from the harbor was frustrated by an accident which happened to the vessel shortly after all sails had been set. The attempted steal occurred yesterday evening between 8 and 9 o'clock, the vessel being the well known yacht Kaiulani, plying between Waiau and Honolulu as a rice packet and belonging to Sing Chong & Co.

The Kalulau was tied up near the Fishmarket. About 7:30 o'clock the master of the sloop, a native, who sleeps on board, left the vessel and went up town. Three foreigners who had evidently been waiting for the man's departure sneaked on board, each with a valise. Later a five-gallon keg of wine was brought down and put on board. The actions of the men had been noticed by some of the natives who live at the Fishmarket, and Senior Captain Parker was notified.

Captain Parker armed eight of his special corps and dispatched them ahead in a boat to wait outside the lighthouse. The captain himself waited a while and then took a shore boat and joined his men.

Between 8 and 9 o'clock the captain returned to the wharf. As he neared the place he saw all sails set on the Kaiulani, and she was moving away from the wharf. Just as the captain got to the edge of the wharf the sloop went aground on the Ewa side of the bark Sumatra. There was a stiff breeze blowing at the time. A crowd of natives soon assembled on the wharf, and the three foreigners were seen to jump overboard, each with a valise in his hand, and make for uptown. Natives chased them and one was caught, the others were chased as far as Beretania street where they were lost sight of.

The man who was caught was brought to the station where he gave the name of Landcroft. He is a sailor, having been on the Irmgard and other vessels visiting here. At one time he was on the Esmerelda. Landcroft said it was the intention of himself and companions to go direct to Maui, and their secure provisions.

From there they were to go to Hawaii and then to some place 1800 miles from there. His companions were also sailors, one being Foster, formerly second mate on the steamer Claudine. When told that a posse of police were waiting for them outside the harbor if even they got out with the sloop. Landcroft carelessly replied, "You fellows would have got hurt if you crossed us." Landcroft says they were to be met by a boat with provisions off Waikiki sufficient to last them three or four weeks.

The yacht was pulled off and tied up again alongside the wharf. There was no damage to the craft. It is believed her bottom is not injured as the place where the sloop struck is a muddy bottom, the sloop was boarded and a search was made. The only thing in the way of provisions that was found was a bag of rice, but that belonged to the sloop. The five-gallon keg of wine was stored, besides a five-gallon barrel of water.

This is the second attempt at yacht stealing made by sailors within the past few weeks, and in both instances the would-be thieves have had the same luck of running aground. The Bonnie Dundee ran aground near the lighthouse, and the Kaiulani last night off the Market.

In conversation with a Star reporter Senior Captain Parker stated that he believed an opium hui had sent out these men. Or perhaps it was only an enterprise of idle sailors. According to the way Landcroft talked it would appear that all were armed. If the men had got outside the harbor there would have been a fierce encounter, as the captain says he wasn't going to allow his men to be "bluffed" or hurt. He knows the identity of Landcroft's companions and will take them during the day.

Foster was seen going on board the Claudine this afternoon. Officers were sent down and the steamer was searched, but no Foster could be found. As it was getting near the time of departure of the Claudine, Senior Captain Parker decided to send officer Hammer off on the steamer to watch for the man.

The Hawaiian star. (Honolulu [Oahu]), 16 Aug. 1895. Pg3

#### NEW CHINESE HOSPITAL IN PALAMA.

The Chinese merchants who had the matter in hand, and they were by no means few, set to work at once, went around to the main Chinese places of business, and soon had enough money subscribed to make the starting of the building a matter beyond question.

Among the main subscriptions were the following: Sing Chong Co., \$500;

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 30 Jan. 1897. Pg 1

Mokuahi (k) of Ewa, Oahu, to Sing Chong Co. Dated June 6, 1899 consideration \$200 at 8%, 3 years. Liber 196, folio 43. L.C.A. 9381 at Waiau, Ewa

The Independent. (Honolulu, H.I.), 28 July 1899. Pg 4

F. K. Archer and wife, of Ewa, Oahu, to Sing Chong Co. Warranty Deed, dated June 26, 1899 consideration \$700; Liber 198, folio 51. R.P. 4163 L.O.A. 914 and R.P. 6157 at Honouliuli, Ewa

The Independent. (Honolulu, H.I.), 07 Sept. 1899. Pg 4

Sing Chong & Co. have filed a suit against Lin Hop Wai Co. claiming that defendants have unlawfully obtained possession of certain lands at Waipio, Ewa.

The Pacific commercial advertiser. (Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands), 18 Nov. 1899 pg 13

It was in 1887 that Mr. B. F. Dillingham proposed building a railway capitalized at \$1,000,000. I was in the office of Loo Ngok, manager of Sing Chong Company when Mr. Dillingham called to talk railroad to the Sing Chong interests. Sing Chong, in 1887, was the most prosperous Chinese firm, as well as the largest rice planter and factor in Hawaii. It owned rice mills and land at Waiau, Honouliuli and Kaalaea that was planted to rice. Dillingham tried that morning to convince manager Loo Ngok that Sing Chong should actively participate in the railroad project, as its rice could be hauled into Honolulu by the railroad. After Mr. Dillingham had left, the Chinese who were present made that general remark that Dillingham was a man obsessed with an impractical idea. Yes, Mr. B.F. Dillingham had the most difficult time convincing people that the. In the end, Dillingham showed that the Oahu Railway and Land Company was a sound business proposition and Sing Chong Company, as soon as freight trains were available shipped its rice by rail, even though it had a two-masted schooner, Kawailani that had been freighting its rice before.

Chung Kun Ai, My SeventyNine Years in Hawaii (Hong Kong, 1960), 151-152

The first freight of rice brought by the Oahu Railway morning from Aki's place. It was consigned by Sing Chong & Co.

The Daily bulletin. (Honolulu [Hawaii]), 13 Dec. 1889. Pg 3

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE OAHU RAILWAY AND LAND COMPANY by virtue of the powers and authorities given to and vested in it by its Charter and by Act approved on the eleventh day of September, A. D. 1888, entitled "An Act to Authorize and Promote the Construction of Steam Railroads on the Island of Oahu," and of every other power in anywise enabling it in this behalf, intends to take and use for the purposes of the Railway which it is authorized to construct, and works connected therewith, the pieces or parcels of land described as follows:

thence through a tract covered by Royal Patent 821, owned by Mrs. C. A. Brown, leased to Sing Chong & Co. 28 feet, containing an area of 3-100 acre;

thence in the same tract through land leased to Sing Chong & Co, 870 feet, containing an area of..... acre;

The Hawaiian gazette. (Honolulu [Oahu, Hawaii]), 11 Feb. 1890 pg 10

I have already mentioned that Sing Chong Company was perhaps the largest strictly Chinese business concern in Honolulu in those early days. Their largest holdings were in Waiau, Honouliuli, and Kaalaea. Part of the Kaelaea Plantation had originally been leased for 100 years and operated as a sugar plantation by a haole couple. They, however, could not make a go of the sugar plantation, and fell so deeply into debt that their financial backer, the Theo. H. Davies Company was forced to stop supporting them. The couple wanted to return to the mainland, so

Davies had to donate them the passage money for the trip. Davies offered but could find no one willing to take over the operation of the plantation. Finally, in desperation, Davies sold the land in fee simple to Sing Chong Company for \$20,000. Sing Chong converted it into a rice plantation, erected a rice mill there, and made good money out of their investment.

By the 1900's, however, Sing Chong and the other rice plantations in Hawaii began to feel the pinch. The Chinese Exclusion Act had been applied to Hawaii immediately after annexation, and had thus closed the only source of the cheap labor that had made rice planting profitable and possible. Without that source, the rice plantations of Hawaii were forced one by one to close down. By then, California had taken to the planting of rice, so that rice began coming from California to Hawaii. Today, hardly any rice is grown in Hawaii except in a small area in Kauai, where glutinous rice for Chinese New Year puddings is still grown. But the colorful Chinese water buff alo has completely disappeared from our Hawaiian landscape. Sing Chong itself had not kept up with the growing times and is today only a mere shadow of the grandeur that had once been hers.

Chung Kun Ai, *My SeventyNine Years in Hawaii* (Hong Kong, 1960), 157-158

Another very conservative Chinese businessman, Uncle Hong Quon, manager then of Sing Chong Company, unexpectedly marched into my office and asked me to put Sing Chong Company down for thirty shares. Uncle Hong had such a well-deserved reputation for being solid and careful as a businessman that had I gone out to solicit subscriptions to our stock, I would not have dared to step into his office to interview him. City Mill had no difficulty after that to dispose of its stock.

Chung Kun Ai, *My SeventyNine Years in Hawaii* (Hong Kong, 1960), 190

#### 1887: The Great Bribery Scandal

Rumors of bribery began circulating immediately after the issuance of the license to Chun Lung on December 31, 1886 (PCA, January 3, 1887; Gazette, January 18 and February 1, 15, 1887; Daily Bulletin, January 13, 1887). The unfolding story held that a Chinese rice planter, Tong Kee (aka Aki), had been persuaded by Junius Kaae, the registrar of conveyances, to make a gift to the king of \$75,000, in return for which Aki was to receive the license. After Aki had given \$71,000, the license was issued to Chun Lung. Aki demanded the return of his money. When this was refused, the unsuccessful bribery attempt was made public in the form of twelve affidavits filed by Aki and some of his friends and coinvestors (Gazette, May 17, 1887).

Initially the king, through his minister of foreign affairs, disclaimed any involvement (Merrill, 1887). Soon, however, the Gazette (May 17) charged that the attorney general had acknowledged the money was paid by Aki and had "informed the gentlemen interested in getting the money back that he would never accomplish his object so long as he allowed the newspaper to speak of the affair." Instead, the attorney general had suggested that a "quiet tongue be kept in the matter . . . for the bribe may be returned."

Meanwhile, the suit brought by A. K. Loo Ngawk and Tong Chong Soy, executors of the estate of the now-deceased Aki, to recover the money given to King Kalakaua in 1886 was being aired in the Supreme Court. On September 22, Justice Preston awarded the money to Aki's estate, holding that while "in the eye of the law . . . the King cannot be bribed," a "gift must be returned."

Lily Lim-Chong and Harry V. Ball, "Opium and the Law: Hawai'i, 1856-1900," *Chinese America: History & Perspectives – The Journal of the Chinese Historical Society of America* (San Francisco: Chinese Historical Society of America with UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 2010), pages 65-66

### Children of Tong Loo Seh and Tong Chong Soy

- i. **Tong Phong Him Kong** was born on July 29, 1865 and died on January 29, 1955 in Shanghai, China.
- ii. Tong Him Luen was born on and married Loo Seh. They had 6 children.
- iii. Tong Kuen Him Ung was born on and married Leong Seh and had one child.
- iv. Tong Gnau was born on and married Seck Seen Chuck and had 4 children.
- v. Tong Eel was born on and married Peen Seen Leong
- vi. Tong Yuen was born on and Bo Lem Loo and had 4 children.



Empress Dowager's Birthday Reception November 16, 1904

Receiving party of the Imperial Chinese Commission to the World's Fair upon the occasion of a reception given in honor of the seventieth birthday of Her Imperial Majesty, the Empress Dowager of China. Reading from left to right the party consists of: Mr. Francis A. Carl, Imperial Vice-Commissioner; Mr. Kee Ow Yang; Mrs. Wong Kai Kah, wife of Imperial Vice-Commissioner; Miss Kate Carl, sister of Mr. F. A. Carl; Mrs. F. A. Carl; Mr. Wong Kai Kah, Imperial Vice-Commissioner; Mr. Tong Foo Pei, and Mr. D. Percebois, Secretary of Chinese Imperial Commission.

Nephew of Tong Pong, Tong Foo Pei, Assistant Expectant Magistrate of the Empire, Attaché of Prince Pu Lun, Chinese Commission for 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition

History of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition : comprising the history of the Louisiana territory, the story of the Louisiana Purchase and a full account of the great exposition, embracing the participation of the states and nations of the world, and other events of the St. Louis World's Fair of 1904. Mark Bennitt and Frank Parker Stockbridge: Universal Exposition Pub. Co., 1905. Pg 798

### Tong Yee Sen and Tong Choy Seh

Tong Yee Sen was born in 1830 in Tong Gar, Kwangtung, China and died December 26, 1861 in Hilo. He was the son of Tong Fu Kam and Tong Zea Seh. He first married Tong Loo Seh. Then married Tong Choy Seh.

D. H. Hitchcock, writing about early plantations in the Hilo area, stated that, in 1857, Akau owned a sugar plantation at Paukaa. Early tax records show that Akau paid taxes on property in Paukaa from at least 1857 to 1864, but no records have been found showing that he bought or leased land in this ahupuaa. One possibility is that Akau was a partner of Keoni Ko, who is recorded as having leased a total of 8,091 acres in Paukaa in two lots in 1857 and 1860, from Lot Kamehameha. Two other Chinese men who were apparently partners in this plantation were John Ena and Tong Yee (called A'ii, who joined the Hilo Chinese colony in 1850 after trying his luck in the gold fields of California). Tong Yee was said by his daughter, Mrs. Emma Nawahi, to have fashioned the rollers of the mill (at Paukaa) with his own hands from huge ohia logs.

Chinese Settlers in the Village of Hilo before 1852. Kai, Peggy. Hawaiian Journal of History, volume 8, 1974 pg32

### **Children of Tong Choy Seh and Tong Yee Sen**

- i. **Tong Chong Soy** was born in Tong Gar, Kwangtung, China.

He married Kahaoleana on June 25, 1851 in Hilo, Hawaii.

Marriages: Hawaii (1832-1910) H-14a, pg 1

### **Children of Kakaoleana and Tong Yee Sen (Aii)**

- i. A'ana Aii was born 1852 and married Charles Cash and had one son. She died in 1912.
- ii. A'ima (Emma) Aii who was born 1854 and died 1936. She married Joseph Nawahi on February 17, 1881.
- iii. A'lai Aii who was born on 1856. She married Leong S, Akamu and had 4 children. Sehe then married Wog Kwon Akana and had one child. She died in 1935.
- iv. A'oe Aii who was born 1859 and died 1913. She married John Liki on August 21, 1875 and had 3 children.
- v. Mihana Aii who was born on April, 24, 1862 and died March 28, 1928 and was buried in Homelani Memorial Park, Hilo, Hawaii County, Hawaii.

- a. Mrs. Mihana Kalaniwahine Ai Passed on.

At 10 o'clock P. M. of the evening of Wednesday, death visited the home of Mrs. E. A. Nawahi at Homelani, and took the life breathe of her youngest sister Mrs. Mihana K. Ai, at nearly 66 years of age. She was born here in Hilo, on the 24th of April in the year 1862 from the loins of Kahaoleaua and Ai-i, her father, one of the first Chinese who arrived in Hilo nei, and he arrived along with Hapai, Akau, Keoni Ina [John Ena], Akina, Keoniko, and Aiko, and these Chinese were the first ones to start Sugar Plantations at Amaulu, Paukaa, Kaupokuea [Kaupakuea], and Kohala.

Their parents had five of them, the first born was Mrs. Aana Kekoa, then next was Mrs. E. A. Nawahi [Emma Aima Nawahi], and Mrs. Alai Akana, and Mrs. Aoe Like who died earlier, and Mrs. Mihana Kalaniwahine Ai their youngest. She married Simeona Kealoha of Honomu in her youth, and after some years of them living in the bond of matrimony, they were separated, and Mrs. Mihana remarried with Mr. Ai who is now living. She was a member of the Haili Church, and she remained in that church until the time when death released her. She was a fine member of the Kaahumanu Society [Hui Kaahumanu] here in Hilo, and she was a good member of the Hale o na Alii.

Her last services were held at the Church of her parents and her Grandparents, and a great crowd gathered of her friends and companions. When the worship

was over at the Church, the funerary procession moved on to Homelani Cemetery and she was laid by the side of her daughter who passed on earlier. She was a mother who was greatly loved by her friends, and some of her close friends came from the other side of the land and shed tears for the friend who they loved dearly. She left her two Sisters on this side of the river, and her kin grieving for her on this side as well.

We join with the Family Sadened for their loved one who left their side.

Ke hele liilii nei,  
Na hoa o kakou.  
Aohe kaula e paa ai,  
E moku ana no.

Going little by little,  
The friends of ours.  
There is no cord that binds,  
It will be severed.

E hele liilii mau,  
A pau loa ae kakou.  
Aohe hoa e kanikau,  
E make like no.

Always going little by  
little,  
Until we are all gone.  
There will be no friend to  
mourn,  
They will all be dead.

[The five Chinese blossoms of Hilo, Aana, Aima, Alai, Aoe, and Mihana Ai-i.]  
Hoku o Hawaii, 4/3/1928, p. 2

In the kingdom of Hawa ii, in the year 1856, a half-Hawaiian and half- Chinese child was born near the village of Hilo. Despite the fact that she was a particularly pretty child, her Chinese father was disappointed because she was the third girl born to his wife, Kahaole'au'a. He named the child Ah Lai that means, in Chinese, 'hopefully the last child'. The name in Hawaiian was spelled A'lai. He would have been even more unhappy if he could have looked into the future because two more girls were to be added to his family. Five girls and no boys was almost a disaster to the Chinese of his period. It was considered that a family had to have boys to carry on the ancestral practises, to care for the parents in old age, to perpetuate the family name and any number of other reasons.

The girls' surname in Hawaiian was A'ii, but it should have been Tong, since the father's name was Tong Yee. The Hawaiians assumed that Yee was his last name, whereas it was really his first. A'ii was the Hawaiian way of saying Ah Yee, the Ah being a Chinese prefix similar to the diminutive Western suffix y or ie as in Johnny or Johnnie.

Tong Yee A'ii had arrived by sailing vessel in 1850 at a Hilo that was predominantly Hawaiian in language, in customs, and in population. He joined a small colony of Chinese men who had married Hawaiian women and settled down as citizens of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Most of them were operating somewhat primitive sugar mills converting cane, which they grew or bought from other growers into crystallized sugar. This group included L. Hapai, Aiko, Akau, John Ena, Keoniko and Akina, whose names were Hawaiian adaptations of the names Lau Fai, Lum Jo, Tang Chow, Tseng Shang In, Cheong(?) and Tang Hung Sin respectively.

Tong Yee had grown up in South China, in the village of Tong Ka in Chungshan County, Kwantung Province. This was on the shores of the estuary of the Pearl River (the Chu Kiang) between Canton and Macao. He would often have seen foreign vessels in the roadsteads of the delta area, and like other Cantonese before him, may have been fired by tales of foreign lands and the possible fortunes to be made overseas. In 1849, he followed the trail of gold to

California. We have no record of whether he found any. The next year he came to the Hawaiian Islands, known in South China as the Sandalwood-Fragrant Mountains.

In 1851, he married a beautiful, sixteen-year-old Hawaiian girl, the daughter of a minor chief with the unlikely name of Kahaole'ōpūnui, meaning the foreigner with a big stomach. The bride's name was Kahaole'au'a, meaning the foreigner who does not want to give or who holds back. We can only wonder why this family repeated the use of the word haole in their names. There is no evidence that they had any foreign blood.

During the first years of their marriage, Tong Yee A'ii and Kahaole'au'a probably lived at Pauka'a, which is about five miles up the coast north of Hilo. He is said to have been in partnership with Akau and Keoniko in the manufacture of sugar at Pauka'a Plantation. Their second daughter, A'ima Nawahi, stated in her biographical sketch in *Women of Hawaii* 1920, that "with his own hands (he) fashioned the rollers for the sugar mill from huge ohia logs" . . . (he also was) a cabinet maker and samples of his work" still existed in 1920. Where are they now?

The year that A'iai was born, 1856, was an eventful one in the Kingdom of Hawaii. Emma Rooke, the granddaughter of John Young I, married Kamehameha IV and became Queen Emma. Attempts were made to establish steamship service between the islands to replace hazardous and uncomfortable sailing craft. Whaling was still the mainstay of the economy. Honolulu, Lahaina and Hilo were the ports where the whalers spent the off-season. Thirty-four had spent parts of 1856 in Hilo Bay; refitting, buying supplies, and adding excitement to the life of the village. In addition to the whaling ships, the economy of Hilo was bolstered by the export of sugar and molasses, coffee, arrowroot, *pulu* - the soft red hair of the tree fern used for pillow and mattress stuffing, goat skins, cattle hides, and pepeiao akua, the tree fungus or *Auricularia polytricha*. These latter were exported to China and San Francisco where the Chinese used them in cooking and called it *wun ngee*, *mook ngee* or *chin ngee*.

Of most pressing importance during the summer of 1856 was a lava flow from Mauna Loa that had been creeping steadily to ward Hilo for one year. The inhabitants were understandably worried. Attempts were made to appease the fire goddess. Rumours circulated that Pele had been seen in various guises; as an old woman in a red *holohū*, as a young girl picking maile in the forest. Finally, in November the flow stopped eight miles from the outskirts of Hilo. In the following May, 1857, a Protestant minister, the Rev. Titus Coan of Hilo, read an impassioned address before the Hawaiian Evangelical Association in Honolulu entitled, "Is it proper to hold up the idea before the Hawaiians that the lava flow toward Hilo ceased in the answer to prayer?" At the time when Tong Yee married his only daughter, Kahaole'ōpūnui was a respected citizen and kama'āina of Kūkūau, an *ahupua'a* in the district of Hilo. He was the *honohiki* for John Young II, called Keoni Ana, who was then Minister of the Interior for Kamehameha III. Kahaole'ōpūnui's father before him, Neheupalani, had been *konohiki* for John Young I, called Olohana. The *konohiki* acted as agent for the high chief of a given land area. He collected taxes and tended to other matters in relation to the land and the tenants living on it. The *ahupua'a* of Kūkūau had probably been given to John Young I by Kamehameha I as a reward for valuable assistance in one of Kamehameha's battles. This was customary in Polynesian-Hawaiian culture. Because the Hawaiians were very much attached to their land, it is worth our looking more closely at this Kūkūau land where some of our Hawaiian ancestors lived. Although the whole *ahupua'a* of Kūkūau belonged to the Young family, Kahaole'ōpūnui family were considered to have rights to a part of it under the Hawaiian land tenure system. When Kamehameha III changed the Hawaiian land system to conform to Western land ownership concepts, Kahaole'ōpūnui's land was granted to him in the Great Mahele, as Land Commission Award No. 3206.

As one can see on the map this was a very desirable two and one-half acre homesite surrounded on two sides by the waters of the Waiolama River, flanked by two fresh-water springs, and near the sea. The Waiolama of the present day has been channeled into a sterile canal, but in the 19<sup>th</sup> century it meandered through the flatlands between Volcano Road and Hilo Bay. It was an intermittent river whose outlet to the sea was sometimes blocked by a sand bar. Its waters filled many fishponds and created marshland, ideal for growing taro. Its banks were the feeding grounds for shore birds such as the *koloa*, the *'akekeke*, the *hunakai*, the *kukuluāe'o*, and the *kōlea*. When Hawaiian-Chinese families came: to live along its shores, the waters were soon dotted with white Peking ducks. Children played and swam in the waters. One of the descendants, Albert Like, can remember a game of jumping into the river from a mango tree that grew on the shore of Kahaole'ōpūnui's yard.

In trying to visualize this land as it was then, we can look down on it from the railing in the back of the Bank of Hawaii on Pauahi Street. The Waiolama River no longer winds through the lowlands, and, where there were ponds and homes and springs, there is only a grassy plain. But the plover still return each year, and bobbing their heads up and down, poke for worms. One can still look out over the waters of Hilo Bay, sparkling in the sunlight, and hear the trade winds rustling through the coconut trees as they did a century ago. Mauna Kea still points its summit into the wedgewood-blue sky. There is a soft quality to the air and the slight scent of seaweed coming in off the ocean. This is the land that our ancestors loved.

Other people have loved it too, and through the years both prose and poetry have praised the charms of Hilo. In 1837, Laura Fish Judd wrote, "The little schooner entered the quiet waters of Hilo or Byron's Bay at sunset, and I realized for the first time all my . . . dreams of tropical beauty." An article in the *Friend* in February 1857 describes Hilo thus, ". . . on approaching it from the sea . . . it exhibits probably, one of the most pleasing and extremely picturesque sites that the islands can afford . . . though at times humid, the climate is salubrious . . ." The author of the *Directory of the Hawaiian Kingdom* wrote in the 1880-81 edition, "Hilo is one of the most delightful places I was ever in in my life . . . copious delightful showers . . . the trees look lovely . . . varieties of fruit-bearing trees . . . mangos, figs, tamarind, orange . . . no such bananas are to be found in the world . . . the mornings are cool . . . there is always a fine sea breeze or land breeze blowing. . . ."

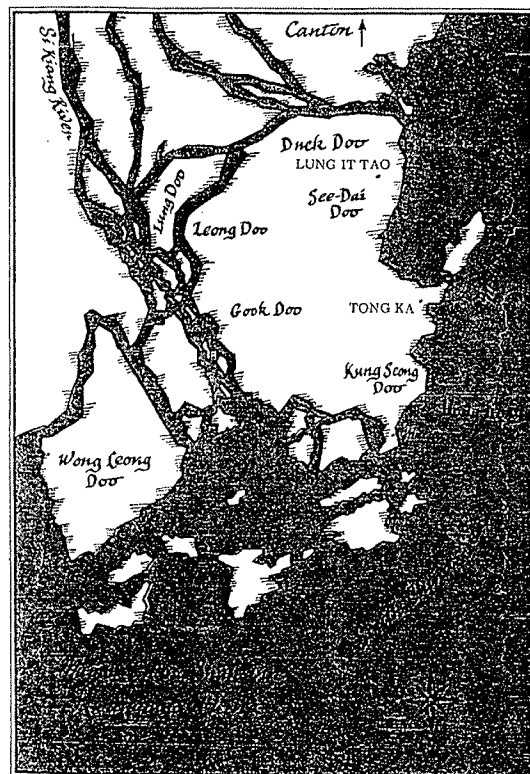
The family's *'aumakua* is linked with the Waiolama River, which may indicate that members of the family had lived near the river for many generations. Their *'aumakua* was the *mo'o*, a dragon-like reptile and water spirit. The family's story is that in ancient times a beautiful creature, part human and part-*mo'o*, emerged from the waters of the Waiolama near the Kumu Spring. Sitting on the banks in the sun, she would comb her long, shiney hair. A handsome young man fell in love with her, and as she dove back into the water he followed her. After a long period of time, he emerged near two coconut trees that grew by the sea. From their union, Kahaole'ōpūnui's family sprang. Until the last generation, the descendants were taught to treat lizards with respect. In 1861, Tong Yee A'ii and Kahaole'au'a bought a two-acre homesite in Kūkūau, across Volcano Road from the home of her father. We assume that they moved there from Pauka'a. The land was located on what was then the corner of Kukuau Street and Volcano Road. The Hongwangji Mission is located there today. It is believed that the house in the photograph on page 8 was built on this site, but whether the A'iis built it we do not know. The title to an illustration in *Ka Buke Moolelo o Hon. Joseph K. Nawahi*, indicates that this was the home of A'ima Nawahi's parents, and therefore would have been the home in which she and her sisters grew up. Its shingled sides and roof must have been very 'modern' for the times, and reflect the growing Westernization of life in Hawaii. Many roofs in both Hilo and Honolulu were still thatched in the 1860s. Unfortunately, we do not know the identity of the people in this photograph. The man in the

foreground may be Kahu'āina, Kahaole'au'a's second husband, and the person at the head of the stairs may be A'oe.

We wonder whether the garden of this home in Kūkūau had growing in it some of the plants that the Chinese brought with them from their homeland. Like all migrants, they were homesick and sought to alleviate this by growing plants that reminded them of China. They were also very practical people and much attached to their eating habits so they did not want to be without certain plants. Some of the plants that may have grown in the A'ii's yard were lychee and longan trees, pomelos and limes, kumquats and persimmons, or sweet-smelling *kwai fah*, *ylang-ylang*, or *soo hung*, which the Hawaiians called *pikake* and *yar loy heong* now called *pakalana*. These last two were strung into flower leis and soon considered *kama'āina*. Some of the edible plants that the Chinese brought with them were green onions, winter melons, bitter melons, dish-cloth gourds, bean sprouts, Chinese parsley, *won bok*, *pok choy*, and *kai choi*, varieties of Chinese cabbage. They almost certainly would have grown Chinese ginger. No Chinese cooking can be without fresh ginger root. Although there were native gingers growing in Hawaii, none of them were edible.

Soon after the A'iis moved to Kūkūau, their fifth child, Mihana was born. There were now five girl children: A'ana who was ten; A'ima who was eight; A'lai, six; A'oe, three; and the baby, Mihana. We can only assume that this all-girl family was too much for their Chinese father. Sometime after Mihana's birth he went to China, never to return. Kahaole'au'a married again; this time a Hawaiian man named Kahu'āina. It was he who helped her to raise her girls.

The Story of A'lai, Our Hawaiian-Chinese Heritage. Kai, Peggy. Honolulu: Kai, 1976.



HOW I DISCOVERED OUR LIVING HAWAIIAN RELATIVES

First, I have to thank Jo-Lynn Lee, whose librarian friend on the island of Hawaii gave her "The Story of A'lai." This book is a clear, loving account of great-great grandfather Tong Yee 's Chinese- Hawaiian descendants, a branch we had lost touch with over the generations.

Looking though this book, I was shocked to learn our connection with Ernest Kai, a famous Honolulu politician of the 1950's. I became curious to compare the flow of generations from great-great grandfather Tong Yee 's two families. At that time I had no genealogy chart for their branch to compare with us, so I made a simple one. I found that Ernest, my mother Tong Kam Ha and my uncles Tin Yen and Tin Wai were all fourth generation from Tong Yee.

Somehow this made all our branches seem very close and I decided to actually try contacting Ernest 's family. However, when I began by looking in the telephone directory, I found 47 Kai 's listed and none matched names given in the book. Then I remembered that Ernest and retired U.S. Senator Hiram Fong had been political colleagues. But when I called the Senator, I could only learn that Ernest had just one daughter who lived somewhere on Nuuanu Avenue and no further details.

Unable to continue the search for the Kai family, I decided to try other names in the book. "Baker" was another possibility, but there were over 100 listings in the phone directory. "Aluli" had only 10 listings and 3 matched those in the book: Kep (short or Kepoikai), Irmgard and Yuklin. I first tried calling Kep, who is also from the fourth generation and one of Emma Yuklin Akamu and Noa Webster Aluli's 6 children. I could only get a "This number is no longer in service" recording. Next I tried calling Yuklin Aluli, assuming she was Emma Yuklin Akamu's granddaughters. I left messages with her law office but received no response. Then I called the number of Irmgard Aluli, composer of the songs included in the book. The other end of the line answered all my question with a sweet, friendly voice. It really was Irmgard, widow of Auwae Leong Nane Aluli. She told me her brother-in-law Kep had at one time goes to China and located the family of A'lai's only son Aloehu Akamu, in the village of Chung San. But Kep's health was failing now keeping him home. For more information, Irmgard gave me the number for Kep's youngest sister Emma Akana Meyer, Kep and Emma are the only 2 living of Emma Yuklin Akamu and Noa Webster Aluli's 6 children.

Irmgard also told me that Emma is very busy with religious work and it would be best to call her after six o'clock. When I finally reached Emma, her voice was warm and friendly it seemed we already had known each other for ages. We arranged to have lunch, my brother Waituck included, the following week in Chinatown, Thursday, January 30, 1977.

On the day of the luncheon, Waituck and I were so excited we waited at the wrong restaurant for half an hour. When we realized the building actually had more than one restaurant, we ran for the right one. As we were anxiously looking around in front of the restaurant, Emma and the daughter who accompanied her must have recognized us from my pre-arranged description: "Two half bald men with one carrying a white shopping bag". Emma and her beautiful daughter dashed out and immediately hugged us. We were all truly like long lost friends finding each other at last. After 147 years great-great grandfather Tong Yee's two families were reunited. At that moment, I felt electricity going through my whole body. I could never in my life have imagined how happy I would be to discover unknown relatives. "Aunty" Emma looked like a typical Chinese lady. Her daughter a Stanford art graduate, showed her mixed heritage strongly. After the introductions, Waituck and I began telling then what we knew about our family history. Great-great-grandfather Tong Yee arrived in Hilo Hawaii in 1850. Although he already had a family in China, he married a young Hawaiian chiefess. After this marriage produced five daughters, he returned alone to China in 1860. Unknown to his Hawaiian family, he came back to the Island and died in Honolulu in 1862. His remains and a part of his wealth were sent to his Chinese family in Tong Kah. This allowed his only son Tong Chong to come to Honolulu in

1868. After a stint at farming Tong Chong started a rice mill, Sing Chong, at 1017 Maunakea Street. Later, he was able to bring over his elder son Tong Phong of his six children to Honolulu. Tong Phong attended Iolani, St. Louis and Columbia. After graduating, Tong Phong returned to Honolulu and started the Chinese American Bank. The bank operated temporarily in the Sing Chong location, then moved a few months later to a new structure on the corner of King and Nuuanu. The modern, up-to-date interior of this banking house compared favorably with any in the city.

Although there were so many more things to talk about, our reunion with Emma could not be as long as we wished. Both Emma and her daughter had to leave for other commitments, we are hoping to get together again. Perhaps Kep, who is recovering from a stroke last year, will be able to join us.

March 1997 Wyleon Lo

In 1976 Peggy Kai published a book called 'The Story of A'lai', the history of her husband's Chinese Hawaiian heritage. A year later, in 1977, Edward Tong published the Tong Family Genealogy (童氏族譜), "a preliminary effort to record this family's genealogy from the time it first left [China] some seven generations ago". It is unlikely that these two family historians ever met or were even aware of each other's work. This was unfortunate and curious since their respective histories are about the descendants of the same man Tong Yee was Kai's great-grandfather. He was also Edward Tong's great, great grandfather (identified as Tong Fu Kam on Ed's genealogical chart).

In his genealogy, Edward Tong lamented that his story-telling abilities were insufficient to write the narrative of the family's history. This edition of the Tong Family Genealogy is certainly not the narrative Edward Tong hoped for or anything akin to the exhaustive and fascinating chronicle told by Peggy Kai about the descendants of Tong Yee and his Hawaiian wife. It is merely a compilation of articles, news clippings, photographs or other materials, mostly about the Tong Family in Hawaii. It is a rather haphazard collection, gathered by various members of the family, out of personal interest or curiosity. As a result, many gaps still exist in the "story" of the Tong family, particularly as concerns ancestors preceding Tong Yee and life in China.

Because this "book" is no more than "research in progress", it has been deliberately formatted for a three-ring binder so materials may be easily inserted and added to it. While the information you now have in your hands is incomplete, nonetheless, it is extremely informative and interesting, especially for those of us who have heretofore heard only bits and pieces of the family's history.

Tong Yee grew up in South China, in the village of Tong Ka in Chungsam County, Kwantung Province. Tong Ka is located on the shores of the estuary of the Pearl River between Canton and Macao. In 1849 Tong Yee left Tong Ka for California. Possibly, speculates Peggy Kai, he was "fired by tales of foreign lands and the possible fortune to be made overseas". There is no record of what he did once he reached California or whether he found gold. Apparently he did not find it to his liking for, a year later, he took a sailing vessel to Hilo. Was he simply on his way back to China or had he deliberately chosen to seek a new life in the "Sandalwood - Fragrant Mountains", as the Hawaiian Islands were called in southern China? He married a Hawaiian girl, the daughter of a minor chief, in 1851. His Hawaiian name was A'ii. He remained in Hilo for at least eleven or twelve years during which he sired five daughters.

Tong Yee was an expert cabinet-maker and carpenter. While in Hilo, he started the Paukan sugar plantation with John Ena Sr. and some other men from the Chinese-Hawaiian community then residing in Hilo (possibly Akau and Keoniko). There were no iron works in those days. The huge rollers for the sugar mill were fashioned by hand from the huge logs taken from Hawaiian forests. It was the first mill of commercial consequence in Hilo.

According to Peggy Kai, Tong Yee returned to China after the birth of his fifth Hawaiian daughter, sometime in the 1860's, never to be heard from again. Interestingly, a newspaper account written in the 1930's about the family suggests Tong Yee died in Hawaii. (See, Tong Family Is Of Fifth Generation In Hawaii, reproduced in the 1977 Tong Family Genealogy). In that account, it is reported that after Tong Yee died, in 1862, "[h]is remains and a part of his wealth were sent to Tong Kah village, China, to his family there. This made possible Tong Chong's coming to Hawaii in 1868. "

Tong Yee's son, Tong Chong, did not return to Hilo but migrated to Honolulu. After a stint at truck fanning, Tong Chong started Sing Chong, a rice mill, with three associates (Loo Ngoh, Leong Nam and Look Tuck Kong). He brought his son, Tong Phong, from China to Honolulu in 1876. Tong Phong was eleven years old at the time and, it is reported, he was "the first Chinese boy to attend St. Louis School". According to a remembrance sent to us by Wyleon Lo, in 1882 Tong Phong entered Iolani School, a prestigious school established for native Hawaiians, where he was one of the first ten Chinese students accepted into the school. One of his classmates was Dr. Sun Yat Sen, who had enrolled a year later. Wyleon writes: "Tuition, room and board in those times totaled \$150.00 a year." Wyleon relates further that "[i]n 1907 Dr. Sun Yat Sen's first revolutionary attempt against the Ching Dynasty failed. He hid for a while in great grandma's house in Tong Gar Village. When the authorities somehow learned of his whereabouts, he had to make a rapid escape to Hong Kong." Years later, in the mid-1930's Wyleon and his brothers, Wychee and Wai Sing visited the house in Tong Gar village and discovered, while playing, a suitcase Dr. Sun Yat Sen apparently left behind containing, among other items, a pistol and kung fu knife.

Tong Phong was a prominent resident of Honolulu. He headed the Chinese American Bank during its operation from 1913 until it was suspended for business in 1933 by the Territorial Treasurer. The closure of the bank created something of a furor in Honolulu at the time as indicated by the newspaper reporting of the day. A flavor for the controversy it sparked can be gleaned from reading the articles in this binder. This material has not been edited in any way. Articles were not deliberately included or excluded because of content. After the bank failure Tong Phong returned to China.

This was about 1934. In 1949, in the wake of the Communist takeover of China, Tong Phong's home and lands were confiscated and heavy fines imposed upon him. He was caught in what was known as the "Red China ransom racket" whereby attempts were made to extort money from his overseas family and friends in return for his release from imprisonment. It is reported that he was forced to stand in the sun for long periods by the Communists. Tong Phong died at the age of 91 on January 29, 1955.

As indicated above, these materials leave us with as many questions as answers about the history of the family. The "story" has yet to be written. As Edward Tong wrote in 1977 "[h]opefully, some talented member of our family, perhaps using some of this material, will do further research and give us such a work." I look forward to it.

Jo-Lynne Lee  
October, 1996