

Chinese Disinternment Documents: Creating an Online Exhibit

Natalia M Fernández
Oregon Multicultural Archives

Northwest Archivists Conference
April 27, 2012

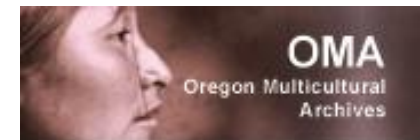
A Collaborative Effort



The Documents



Digitization and Preservation



Online Exhibit



Custodians of the Original Documents

Collection Contents

[illegible]

**omeka**

Oregon State University Archives | Omeka

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Items

Collections

Item Types

Tags

Simple Pages

Exhibits

CSV Import

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Getting Started with Omeka

Items

- Add a new item to your archive
- Browse your items

Manage items in your archive: add, edit, and delete items.

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- Browse your collections

Manage collections in your archive: add, edit, and delete collections.

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- Browse Users
- Add a User

Add and manage users of various levels: from researcher to super.

Site Overview

Oregon State University Archives | Omeka contains 334 items, in 4 collections, tagged with 100 keywords. There are 12 users. This is Omeka version 1.3.2.

Recent Items

- Canneries
- Sam Lee
- Tung Wah Hospital Letter
- Discharge and Release
- Coastwise Line, Agents Invoice

Exhibit Sections and Pages

Introduction

[Edit Section](#) [Delete Section](#)

Pages:

Introduction to the Collection

[Edit](#) [Delete](#)

The Story of the Documents: An

[Edit](#) [Delete](#) [Add a Page](#)

A Brief History of the Chinese in

[Edit Section](#) [Delete Section](#)

Pages:

Immigration

[Edit](#) [Delete](#)

Employment

[Edit](#) [Delete](#)

Discrimination

[Edit](#) [Delete](#)

Culture

[Edit](#) [Delete](#)



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Public: ☐ Featured: ☐

Dublin Core

Item Type Metadata

Collection

Files

Tags

Dublin Core

The Dublin Core metadata element set. These elements are common to all Omeka resources, including items, files, collections, exhibits, and entities. See <http://dublincore.org/documents/dces/>.

Title

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A name given to the resource. Typically, a Title will be a name by which the resource is formally known.

Subject

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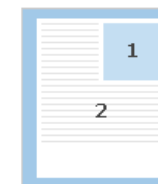
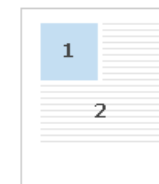
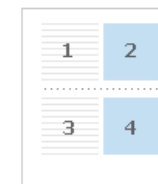
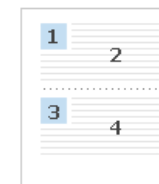
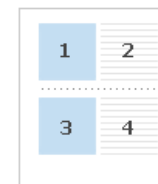
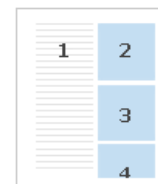
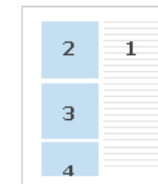
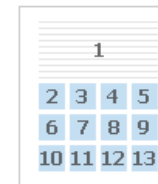
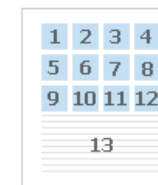
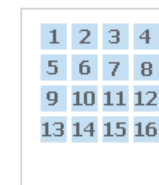
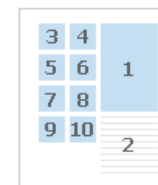
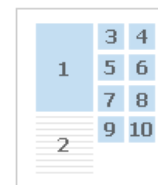
☐ Use HTML

The topic of the resource. Typically, the subject will be represented using keywords, key phrases, or classification codes. Recommended best practice is to use a controlled vocabulary. To describe the spatial or temporal topic of the resource, use the Coverage element.

Description

[Add Input](#)

Layouts



The Online Exhibit

[Introduction](#)[A Brief History of the
Chinese in Oregon,
1850-1950](#)[Disinterment: Traditions
and Practices](#)[The Documents](#)[Remembering the Past](#)[A New Tradition](#)[Resources for Further
Research](#)[Acknowledgments: A
Collaborative Effort](#)[Search Items](#)[Back to Exhibits List](#)

The Oregon Chinese Disinterment Documents digital collection provides access to documents pertaining to the 1948-1949 disinterment of hundreds of Chinese immigrants' remains from cemeteries throughout Oregon.

The Documents

Applications, Permits, and Notes

Introduction

A Brief History of the Chinese in Oregon, 1850-1950

Disinterment: Traditions and Practices

The Documents

Remembering the Past

A New Tradition

Resources for Further Research

Acknowledgments: A Collaborative Effort

[Search Items](#)

[Back to Exhibits List](#)



Oregon Chinese Disinterment Documents

The Documents

The 1948 Disinterment [Map of Cemeteries](#) Northwest Oregon: Albany, Astoria, & Corvallis
Northwest Oregon: Portland & Salem Eastern Oregon Southern Oregon Shipping Related Shipping Related

[← Previous Page](#) [Next Page →](#)

Map of Cemeteries



The disinterments took place at 17 cities and 23 cemeteries:

Northwest Oregon: Albany, Astoria, Corvallis

- Riverside Cemetery, Albany
- Greenwood Cemetery, Astoria
- Oceanview Cemetery, Astoria
- Riverview (Lewis and Clark) Cemetery, Astoria
- Crystal Lake Cemetery, Corvallis, OR

Northwest Oregon: Portland and Salem

- Lone Fir Cemetery, Portland*
- Riverview Cemetery, Portland
- I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Salem
- Private Property near Keizer School House, Salem

Eastern Oregon:

- Chinese Cemetery, Baker City
- Canyon City Chinese Cemetery, Canyon City
- I.O.O.F. Cemetery, The Dalles
- John Day Chinese Cemetery, John Day
- I.O.O.F. Cemetery, La Grande
- Evergreen Cemetery, Ontario
- ..
- ..
- ..

Southern Oregon:

- Mountain View Cemetery, Ashland
- Old Ashland Cemetery, Ashland
- I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Coos Bay
- Sunset Cemetery, Coos Bay
- Linkville Cemetery, Klamath Falls**
- I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Lakeview
- Sunset Park, Lakeview

The Documents

Applications, Permits, and Notes

Eastern Oregon



Chinese Cemetery, Baker City, Oregon

Application and Permit to disinter 22 men: Wong Ngum, Wong Ngep Ting, Wong See Tye, Dong Nging, Chin Ngon, Wong Forn, Huey Park, Louis Yuen, Lum Yun, Lore Park, Jue Park, Leong Deo, Chin Hong Teung, Fong Wing, Lee Guay, Lock Sin, Lock Tin Guay, Fong Toong, Fong Don Ging, Jung Jee, Wong Nging, Lock Ching; page of notes regarding the disinterment (text in Chinese).



Canyon City Chinese Cemetery, Canyon City, Oregon

Application and Permit to disinter Joong Shew.



I.O.O.F. Cemetery, The Dalles, Oregon

Application and Permit to disinter 14 men: Chuan Dai, Yuen Yuen, Jung Jung, Luy Luy, Chang Hang, Chung Quong Tai, Wong Chong, Lee You, Lung Ling, China Jim, Lee Moon, Leo Gooley, Long Duck, Sid Jueguck; notes regarding cemetery plots (includes some text in Chinese).



John Day Chinese Cemetery, John Day, Oregon

Application and Permit to disinter 10 men: Yoe Shing, Go Fun, Eng Shin You, Joong Sin Ngorn, Hoong Hin Shom, Yee Sing, Eng Yee Shim, Leong Yorn, Ng Bock Den, Ng Jeung Get (documents include some text in Chinese).



I.O.O.F. Cemetery, La Grande, Oregon

Application and Permits to disinter 9 men: Wong Sing, Huey Toon, Wong Mina Yee,

The Documents

Applications, Permits, and Notes

Date Board No. _____

OREGON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Application for Permit to Disinter, Remove and Reinter Human Remains

Date, 9-17-1948

All questions must be answered before permit will be granted.
Permits are necessary whenever the reinterment is to be made in the same cemetery.

Name of deceased 22 Chinese whose names are
Age _____ Sex male Date of burial _____
The body was not embalmed strictly in accordance with the rules of the Ore.
(from line through word not used)
Undertaker _____
Address _____
Name of cemetery where remains are now buried Chinese Cemetery
Nearest post office to above cemetery Baker, Oreg
Name of cemetery where remains are to be buried, or place where they are to be
Cemetery for temporary storage then ship
Nearest post office to above cemetery Portland,
Name and address of individual authorizing disinterment. Chinese Consulate
SIS N. W.
Portland, Ore

CERTIFICATION OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF DISINTERMENT

I, W. F. Sun,
certify that this disinterment will be conducted in accordance with rule
Section 33, Burial Regulations of Oregon State Board of Funeral Directors
Chinese Consolidated
where key to gate is left by
住址

Address _____
Portland, Oreg _____

To Be Disinterred a
None None
None None
None Lee T.
None None
None None
None John
Huel Park
Louie Men
None Men
None Park
Que Park
None Deo
Chin Hone
Fore Ning
Zee Gang
Leck Sin
Leck Tin

To be disinterred at Chinese Cemetery, Baker, Oregon

Wang Neum
Wang Neep Tine
Wang Lee Tye
Dane Neine
Chin Ngan
Wang Farn
Huei Park
Louie Mun
Lum Mun
Lore Park
Jue Park
Leone Deo
Chin Howe Teune
Fong Nind
Lee Guef
Lack Sun
Lack Tinkway
Fong Toong
Fong Don Qing
Jung Lee
Wang Neine
Lack Ching

Total 22

Baker

State Board No. 1561-1582

OREGON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Permit to Disinter, Remove and Reinter Human Remains

Portland, Oregon

To Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Ass'n.

315 N. W. Davis St., Portland, Oregon

Application having been in prescribed form, and as the rules and regulations of the Board of Health of the State of Oregon in this behalf are hereby granted to disinter, remove and reinter the human remains herewith described, to wit:

Name of deceased 22 Chinese whose names are on attached sheet.

Cause of death _____

Date of burial _____

Name of cemetery where remains are now interred Chinese Cemetery

Name of cemetery where remains are to be reinterred or place where they are to be reinterred Lone Fir Cemetery for temporary storage then shipped to

HOLDER SHOULD PRESERVE THIS PERMIT. _____

If these remains are to be transported, a transportation permit will be issued by the nearest State Board of Health.

VS-8 (2-8-63)

To be disinterred at Chinese Cemetery, Baker,

Wong Kuen
Wong Ngai Ting
Wong Lee Yee
Dong Hing
Chin ~~Ngai~~ Ngai
Wong Fong
Huey Park
Lucia Tuen
Lun Yau
Lore Park
Joe Park
Leong Dao
Chin Leon Young
Fong Wing
Lee Guey
Look Tin
Look Tin Guey
Fong Poeng
Fong Ben Sing
Jung Jew
Wong Seling
Look Ching

Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Ass'n.
315 N. W. Davis St.
Portland, Oregon--U. S. A.

[illegible]

Chinese Cemetery Baker City, OR Application and Permit to Disinter 22 Men

The Documents

Shipping Related Documents

Shipping Related



Hanset Sheet Metal Invoice

Invoice for Iron Boxes purchased at Hanset Sheet Metal by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and shipped to Lone Fir Cemetery.

July - August, 1948



United Sheet Metal Works Invoice

Invoice for 35 "Boxes as per sample" purchased at United Sheet Metal Works by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association.

August 20, 1948



Coastwise Line, Agents Shipment Booking Receipt

Shipment of "570 boxes of human bones" from Portland to Hong Kong.

June 15, 1949



EADS Transfer & Storage Co. Letter

Description of boxes.

June 20, 1949

Shipping Related



EADS Transfer & Storage Co. Invoice

Invoice for shipment of 93 boxes plus labor.

July 5, 1949



Pacific Far East Line, Inc. Bill of Lading

Bill of Lading for Shipment of "93 BXS HUMAN BONES"

Shipper: China Tradeways, Co. for account of Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association

From: Portland, Oregon to Tung Wah Hospital, Hong Kong, China

July 5, 1949



Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association Letter

Letter written by W.L. Sun, Executive Secretary and Secretary on American Relations, CCBA to Fred Chinn, General Manager of China Tradeways Co.

September 9, 1949



Tung Wah Hospital Letter

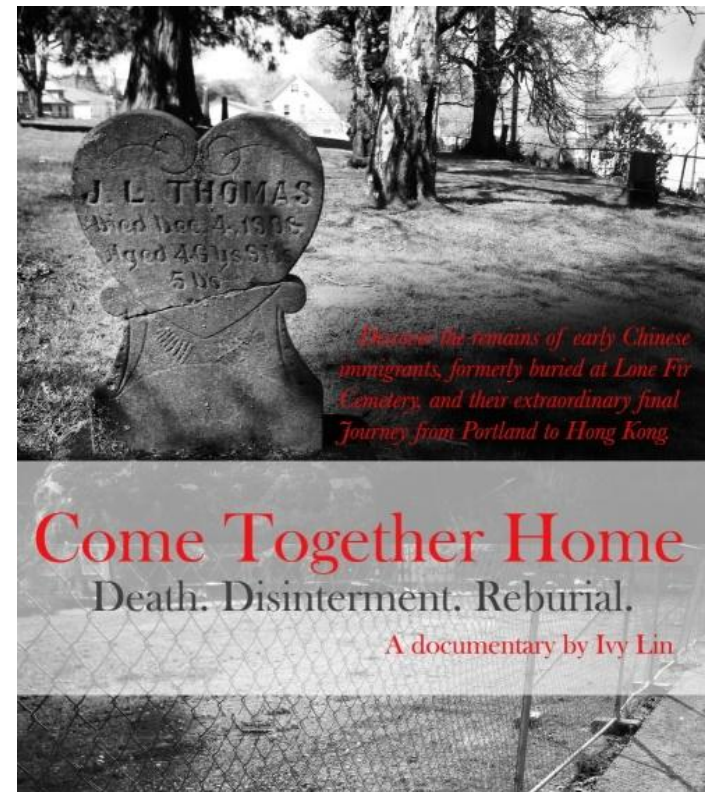
Letter from the Chairman of the Tung Wah Hospitals in Hong Kong to the CCBA stating that the shipment has arrived.

September 20, 1949

Remembering the Past



Lone Fir Cemetery Bock 14 Memorial



Ivy Lin Documentary

A New Tradition and Further Resources

Bringing Ancestors to the United States

Many of the Chinese who first immigrated to the United States during the middle 19th and early 20th centuries expected their stay to be temporary. In the event that they did not return to their homeland alive, they made arrangements for their remains to be in the United States only temporarily. Although some chose to remain buried in their new home, for almost a century the practice to be disinterred and returned to China was most common.

However, in the 1930s and 1940s, the shipment of human remains was discouraged due to political instability within China after the Japanese invasion in 1937 and establishment of the People's Republic in 1949. Then, just a few decades later, a new trend emerged. As the historic record proves, though diplomatic relations between China and the United States have been tumultuous, beginning in the 1970s a more stabilized political relationship encouraged Chinese immigration and permanent residence in the U.S. With each decade more and more immigrants achieved citizenship and established themselves and their families in the United States. Since the purpose of disinterment is to move remains into the care of a living descendent, the shipment of remains has reversed directions. In the 1970s there has been a steady increase in the number of remains shipped from China to the United States.

It is customary for the oldest living relative to decide to rebury the ancestors in the United States and, ideally, a family member travels to China to personally accompany the remains. If this is not possible,



The Old Tradition

Tung Wah Hospital Coffin Hall in Hong Kong

Photo Credit: Ivy Lin, 2009

Tung Wah Hospital, established in 1869, was the destination of the shipment of bones from Portland in 1949. This photograph is representative of how the Chinese remains were stored.

The Coffin Hall serves as temporary location to house the remains before being picked up by relatives or shipped to their final destinations within China.



List of Resources



Oregon State Parks curator Christina Sweet reviews records donated to public radio with reporter Tom Banse

Photo Credit: Northwest News Network

Museums and Archives

The State of Oregon

Located in John Day, Oregon, the [Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site](#) serves as a time capsule of Oregon's early Chinese immigrants. In the late 1880's Chinese businessman Lung On and herbal doctor Ing Hay immigrated to Oregon and became business partners. The structure from which they worked and lived is preserved just as they left it and contains the tools, herbs, artifacts and more that bring to light the legacy of the Chinese workforce in Oregon. In 2010 Lung On's and Ing Hay's stories were highlighted in an episode of Oregon Experience: [Kam Wah Chung Oregon Experience Episode](#)

The [Oregon Historical Society](#) located in Portland, Oregon, and established in the early 20th century contains thousands of artifacts, photographs, maps, and documents. The research library's photograph collection contains numerous images of Chinese immigrants from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Next Steps

[Introduction](#)[A Brief History of the
Chinese in Oregon,
1850-1950](#)[Disinterment: Traditions
and Practices](#)[The Documents](#)[Remembering the Past](#)[A New Tradition](#)[Resources for Further
Research](#)[Acknowledgments: A
Collaborative Effort](#)[Search Items](#)[Back to Exhibits List](#)

Oregon Chinese Disinterment Documents

Acknowledgments: A Collaborative Effort

[The Partnership](#)

[← Previous Page](#)

The Partnership



[Oregon Public Broadcasting](#)

Tom Banse, Regional Correspondent for the Northwest News Network, researched and reported on the documents for OPB, with assistance from Colin Fogarty.



[Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association](#)

Marcus Lee and Rebecca Liu shared their knowledge of Oregon Chinese history and continue to be heavily involved and dedicated to the Block 14 Memorial project



[Portland State University Archives](#)

Cristine Paschild, Head of Special Collections & University Archivist for the PSU, organized the digitization of the documents.



[Oregon Multicultural Archives](#)

Natalia Fernández, Oregon Multicultural Librarian, organized the creation of the digital collection, with assistance from the OSU Special Collections and University Archives Research Center staff, especially Trevor Sandgathe and Chris Petersen, as well as various student workers including Laura Cray, Oliver Padilla, and Lauren Doege.

[← Previous Page](#)