

# Chinese Disinternment Documents: Creating a Online Exhibit

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Oregon Multicultural Archives

Northwest Archivists Conference  
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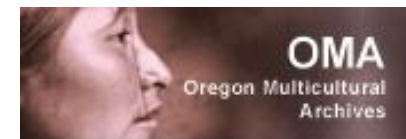
# A Collaborative Effort



The Documents



Digitization and Preservation

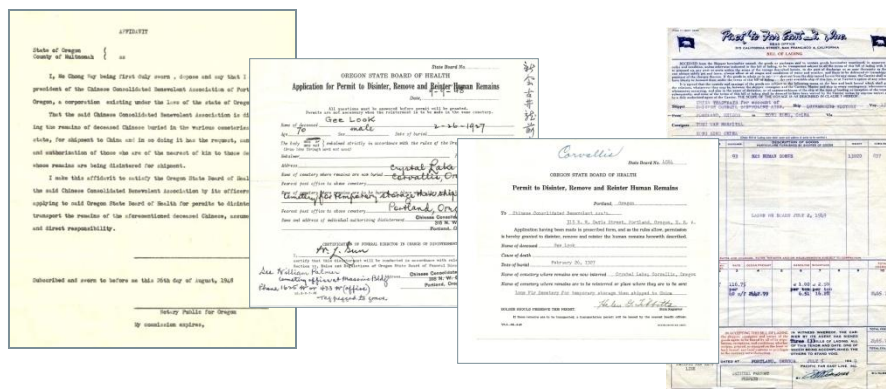
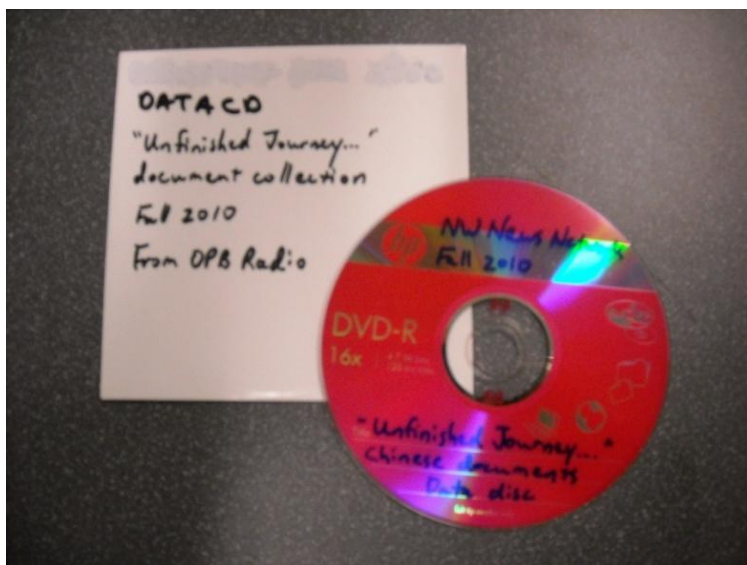


Online Exhibit



Custodians of the Original Documents

# Collection Contents





## Dashboard

✔ There is a new version of Omeka available for download (1.5.1). [Upgrade](#)

### Getting Started with Omeka

#### Items

- Add a new item to your archive Manage items in your archive: add, edit, and delete items.
- Browse your items

#### Collections

- Add a collection to group items Manage collections in your archive: add, edit, and delete collections.
- Browse your collections

#### Users

- Browse Users Add and manage users of various levels: from researcher to super.
- Add a User

#### 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](#)
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#### Pages:

- Immigration  [Edit](#) [Delete](#)
- Employment  [Edit](#) [Delete](#)
- Discrimination  [Edit](#) [Delete](#)
- Culture  [Edit](#) [Delete](#)



### Add an Item Public: Featured:

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

**Subject**  
  
 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**

### Layouts

The layout thumbnails show various combinations of content blocks (represented by numbered blue squares) and text areas (represented by horizontal lines). The blocks are arranged in different grid patterns, such as 2x2, 3x2, or 4x1, and some include text areas adjacent to the blocks.



# The Online Exhibit

[Introduction](#)

[A Brief History of the Chinese in Oregon, 1850-1950](#)

[Disinterment: Traditions and Practices](#)

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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

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## 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

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### Map of Cemeteries



[Interactive Google Map](#) of Oregon Cemeteries

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 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

# 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 Ming Yee,



# The Documents

## Applications, Permits, and Notes

State 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 not necessary when 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 Oregon Board of Health (Draw line through word not used)

Embalmer \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of cemetery where remains are now buried Chinese Cemetery, Baker, Oregon

Nearest post office to above cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

Name of cemetery where remains are to be buried, or place where they are to be reinterred Cemetery for temporary storage then ship to Portland

Nearest post office to above cemetery \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of individual authorizing disinterment \_\_\_\_\_

Certification of Funeral Director in Charge of Disinterment

I, W. X. Sun certify that this disinterment will be conducted in accordance with rule Section 16, Board Regulations of Oregon State Board of Funeral Directors

Chinese Consolidated Association  
Address 315 N. W. D. Portland, Oregon

where key to gate is left by 任得立

VS-9-31-48

To be disinterred at Chinese cemetery, Baker, Oregon

Wong Neun  
Wong Neun Ting  
Wong See Tye  
Dong Neun  
Chin Neun  
Wong Farn  
Huei Park  
Louie Yuen  
Lum Yuen  
Lore Park  
Jue Park  
Keung Deo  
Chin Hone Tung  
Fong Ning  
Lee Quai  
Loek Sun  
Loek Tin Quay  
Fong Toong  
Fong Don Qing  
Jung Jee  
Wong Neun  
Loek Ching

Total 22

*Baker*

State Board No. 4561-4562

**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 made in prescribed form, and as the rules allow is hereby granted to disinter, remove and reinter the human remains here

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 board.

VS-9-31-48

To be disinterred at Chinese Cemetery, Baker, Oregon

Wong Neun  
Wong Neun Ting  
Wong See Iye  
Dong Neun  
Chin Neun  
Wong Farn  
Huei Park  
Louie Yuen  
Lum Yuen  
Lore Park  
Jue Park  
Keung Deo  
Chin Hone Tung  
Fong Ning  
Lee Quai  
Loek Sun  
Loek Tin Quay  
Fong Toong  
Fong Don Qing  
Jung Jee  
Wong Neun  
Loek Ching

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

通告

十月十三日

中國廣東省王縣村埔良全廣敬啟者

啟者先夫王德祥公，字德祥，廣東省王縣村埔良全廣人，於民國三十三年十月十三日，不幸逝世，享年六十有九。公一生勤儉，克己奉公，為人忠厚，德高望重。公之遺體，現已安葬於美國波特蘭市之中國公墓。茲因故鄉親友，多有欲回國安葬者，特將公之遺體，運回故鄉安葬。凡我同鄉親友，如有欲回國安葬者，請速向本會接洽，以便派員前往接洽。此佈。

民國三十三年十月十三日

王德祥公遺體回國安葬委員會 啟

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

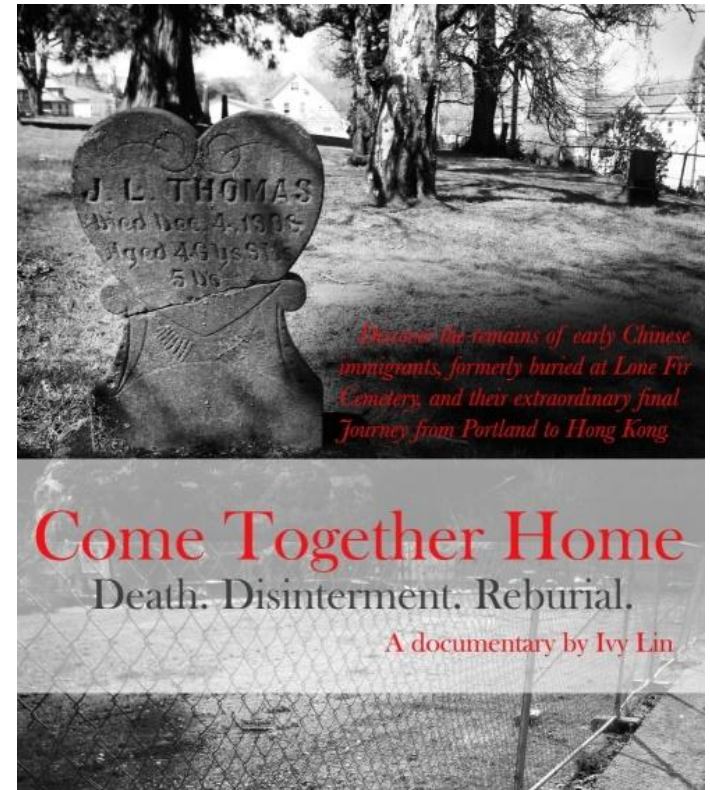
Letter from the Chairman of the Tung Wah Hospitals in Hong Kong to the CCBA stating that the shipment has arrived.

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](#)

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#### [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.

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