



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Chinatown Heritage & Visitors Center: 323-222-1918

APRIL 2005

MAY PROGRAM

Guest Speaker:

ANDREW YAN

"CHANGE, CHALLENGES, AND COMMUNITY: THE CHINESE IN LOS ANGELES; NEW YORK CITY; AND VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA"

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2005, 7:00 P.M.
CASTELAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Multipurpose Room

840 YALE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CHINATOWN

(PARK ON PLAYGROUND, ENTER ON COLLEGE STREET BETWEEN HILL AND YALE STREETS)

Over the last 10 years, Los Angeles, New York City, and Vancouver, British Columbia have seen dramatic changes in their Chinese populations. The recent 2000 American and 2001 Canadian censuses show the extent of these transformations as immigration and integration challenge any notion of a single, monolithic Chinese community in each city. For CHSSC's May program, doctoral candidate Andrew Yan will present a three-city comparative overview, augmented with photos and graphics drawn from his extensive field research. The presentation will then focus on the City of Los Angeles and the settlement patterns and socioeconomics of its Chinese American population. From inner city Chinatowns to the suburbs, each Chinese population faces unique challenges and varying government responses.

Andrew Yan is a doctoral student in the Department of Urban Planning at the University of California at Los Angeles School of Public Affairs. Mr. Yan specializes in community economic development strategies, applied urban economics, immigration and geographic information systems. He is a Visiting Scholar at New York University's Asian Pacific American Studies Institute

and a Research Associate at Simon Fraser University's Institute of Governance Studies. Previously, he worked in the private, public and non-profit planning and community development sectors in Vancouver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York City. Mr. Yan holds an Urban Planning Masters Degree from UCLA and a Bachelor Honors degree from Simon Fraser University.

AROUND CHSSC

APRIL REPORT

GOOD LUCK LIFE



(Rosemary Gong, CHSSC April General Meeting, photo courtesy of Sin Hock Gaw)

Both the theory and application of Rosemary Gong's new book on Chinese American celebrations, *Good Luck Life*, were at play in our April speaker meeting: While the audience enjoyed a colorful and informative talk on symbolism and rites of passage in Chinese culture, the joyful, three-month Red Egg and Ginger party for Theodore Wen-Han Hom—newborn son of CHSSC members Linda Chong and Gilbert Hom—was being celebrated in another part of Castelar Elementary's large auditorium. Ms. Gong's discussion was augmented by articles of clothing and other objects from her collections, and her talk included an audio-visual presentation.

[Please see "Good Luck Life," page 2]



[*"Good Luck Life," from page 1*]

Rosemary Gong was raised in the only Chinese American family in her California Central Valley town, church and school. A significant theme in her CHSSC presentation was her unfamiliarity, growing up and later, with Chinese celebrations and their deeper meaning: "I grew up giving and receiving red envelopes or *lai see* during Chinese New Year, making *joong* (sticky rice wrapped in bamboo leaves) for the Dragon Boat Festival, eating moon cakes during the Mid-Autumn Festival, and visiting the Chinese cemetery twice a year to honor our ancestors. I remember celebrating all of life's milestones in Chinese style: the Chinese wedding, Red Egg and Ginger party to welcome a new baby into a family, and the Big Birthdays: those of longevity when one turns 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100. [But] many members of the third, fourth, and future generations do not understand the traditions surrounding Chinese festivals and celebrations of life's milestones. I speak like an American. I act like an American. I think like an American. But, I'm also Chinese and I wasn't willing to toss away that side of me! Then, in 2001, my grandfather passed away and he was the last of a generation. And his passing was the catalyst for writing my book, *Good Luck Life*."

"Children in the Chinese tradition are considered very lucky because they represent a family's future. In fact, there are few other celebrations that deliver the joy and hope that a new child brings to a family. Of course, there are all those old wives tales about a pregnant mother not eating bananas because her baby will have big ears (which isn't really a bad thing—it's said that a baby with big ears is smart and energetic), or not going to the zoo because her baby will look like a monkey (again, monkeys are a sign of advancement and achievement because they climb up fast) or not sewing on the bed."

"Once the baby's first month is complete, everyone begins to relax. This is known as *mun yurt*—or complete month and is when the baby is given it's first bath, first haircut, its first new outfit, and it is granted a Chinese name. During the *mun yurt*, families used to shave the baby's head, except at the very top of the crown, to remove the hair they considered was grown in the womb, and to stimulate new hair growth. Strands of the baby's hair were tied with red string to save as a keepsake. Typically, a *mun yurt* dinner is held in the home—but some families opt to combine it with a Red Egg and Ginger celebration."

The tradition of the Red Egg and Ginger party is examined thoroughly in *Good Luck Life* and the author discussed it in detail: "The Red Egg and Ginger party is a banquet dinner or buffet luncheon that is typically held when a baby is 3 to 6 months old as 100 days is a significant milestone for a baby. There are always hard-boiled, red-dyed eggs and pickled gingerroot on hand. Eggs are a symbol of fertility; birth and life and the color red mean happiness and good luck. Pickled ginger represents a family's strong, deep roots that grandchildren perpetuate. The Cantonese words for pickled ginger, *sern guerng*, sound like the words 'grandsons' and 'gingerroot' combined, hence the connotation of pickled ginger. At Red Egg and Ginger parties, the celebrated baby is typically dressed western-style. Caps such as tiger hats and paper money caps are popular, and the Chinese are always afraid of the baby getting cold. Tiger clothing is significant

[Please see "*Good Luck Life*," page 3]

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California was organized in November, 1975. The purposes of the Society are: 1) to bring together people with a mutual interest in the important history and historical role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in Southern California; 2) to pursue, preserve and communicate knowledge of this history; and; 3) to promote the heritage of the Chinese and Chinese American community in support of a better appreciation of the rich, multi-cultural society of the United States.



["Good Luck Life," from page 2]

because tigers are believed to be the great protectors of children. There are tiger hats, tiger clothing, and tiger slippers with eyes wide open so they can watch where the baby is stepping. Many old uncles like to see if the baby will take a red envelope of lucky money. How the baby grasps for it and hangs on is said to be a sign of the child's prosperity!"

"Another fortune-telling trick is the fortune tray. Whatever the child is attracted to is a way to determine the child's future profession: a paint brush means an artist, a book means a scholar, a stethoscope suggests a doctor, a dollar bill could mean a businessperson, a race car means a NASCAR driver, and a gavel means a judge. Of course, this all depends on if you can get the baby to sit in the high chair long enough to select an item!"

RB

"CHINESE IN CALIFORNIA, 1850-1925: BETWEEN TWO WORLDS," OPEN THROUGH MAY 31, 2005

By Joyce Mar



(Chinatown, San Francisco—Robert B. Honeyman, Jr. Collection of Early Californian and Western American Pictorial Material)

The Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley holds the world's greatest collection of primary source materials on the history of California—from Spanish California to the Gold Rush Era to the emergence of Silicon Valley. On April 3rd, the Library hosted the opening of "Chinese in California, 1850-1925 Between Two Worlds." The exhibit documents the Chinese experience from 1850 to 1925 through art, letters, diaries, and business records in the United States, particularly San Francisco Chinatown—the oldest and largest Chinese community during that period. The exhibit also includes materials representing the lives of individuals in other Chinese communities in California.

CHSSC members Joyce and Dr. Wing Mar attended the exhibit's opening and reception. Also attending were Northern Californians portrayed in CHSSC's recent publication, *Portraits of Pride*, including Ralph Fong and his wife Mary, and Luther Lee and friend, Carolyn Gan. Dr. Mar presented the library a copy of *Portraits of Pride* which was received by Theresa Salazar, the exhibit's curator.

The Bancroft Library's core collection was initiated by book dealer, Hubert Howe Bancroft of San Francisco. Narrowly escaping destruction in the 1906 earthquake, the collection was acquired by the University of California in 1905, and was transported from San Francisco to Berkeley by ferryboat and horse cart.

K. SCOTT WONG'S "AMERICANS FIRST: CHINESE AMERICANS AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR"

Book Commentary—by Susie Ling

World War II was both a blessed opportunity and a racial challenge for Chinese Americans. K. Scott Wong's fantastic book, based on extensive research and oral histories, reviews this turning point in Asian American history. K. Scott Wong's own father was one of the twelve thousand Chinese Americans who served. Second Lt. Henry Wong was a member of the Third Air Cargo Resupply Squadron for the Fourteenth Air Force. His wife, Mary, returned to her in-laws in Philadelphia Chinatown to give birth and raise their firstborn.

The first chapter, "Chinese America Before the War," sets the stage for the evolution towards the book title. In the 1930s, second generation Chinese Americans were thrust into an identity debate. New York's Ging Hawk Club sponsored an essay contest in 1936 on the topic "Does My Future Lie in China or America?" When Japan invaded China, American Chinatowns established organizations including the Anti-Japanese Association, National Salvation Association, and CCBA's Chinese War Relief Association. In 1938, twelve thousand Chinese Americans from all over the Northeast marched through New York City in support of China. Other "Rice Bowl" parades and parties helped raised millions of dollars plus relief and medical supplies. In Chapter 2, Dr. Wong, discusses Chinese Rosie the Riveters and enlisted soldiers in "Chinatown Goes to War." He estimates that twenty percent of Chinese American adult males joined the Navy, the Army, and the Chinese-American Composite Wing of the Fei Hu ("Flying Tigers").

But Chinese Americans knew the vulnerability of being labeled "the Good Asian". Japanese American counterparts
[Please see "Americans First," page 4]

[*"Americans First," from page 3*]

were interned for being Asian. Chinese Americans recognized that America's warm reception of Madame Chiang Kai-shek and the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act were also cloaked in racial stereotypes. Japanese Americans' exemplary 442nd Regimental Combat Team put pressure on the all-Chinese squadrons and companies. It was hard to bring efficiency to the Chinese units; the GIs spoke different Cantonese dialects, Fujianese, Hakka, English, etc. Some American-born Chinese resented segregation and believed that they were being used by Chiang Kai-shek to show that Chinese Americans were fighting for the "Motherland." Civilian Chinese in Hawaii were especially resentful that the military was bringing in mainland racial prejudice to the Islands.

Chinese Americans rejoiced at the end of the war. The Warbrides Act would allow for the establishment of all-important Chinese American families. CHSSC's *Portraits of Pride* as well as the Delbert Wong biography are special reminders of the power of the GI Bill in transforming Chinese Americans to "Americans First." K. Scott Wong is a professor of history at Williams College in Massachusetts. The book is published by Harvard University Press for \$29.95, hardbound.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

END OF LIFE ISSUES



By Dr. Betty Gaw

The Miracle of Life and the Mystery of Death

The great miracle of life endowed to all living creatures also subjects them to the mystery of death. For humans, we do not choose to be born, nor do we choose when or how we die. We arrive naked, and we depart clothed. Life starts with a deep breath, propelled by life-giving oxygen, whereas death ensues with a last feeble or agonal breath. Life can be glorious, but DEATH is our final ENEMY!

Whether pauper, prince or pope, we need to prepare for our departure. Leaving our earthly body and matters to our loved ones to dispose of when we are gone is imprudent, and may be costly in time, emotions and money; moreover, it may not be what we wish. So, why not document your explicit wishes while you have your faculties, orchestrating your expected end of life, whenever that may be. It can be a magnificent celebration of life well lived.

The Terri Schiavo case, as obscenely broadcasted by television day after day, incessantly, during March 2005, acutely impacted our conscience about living and dying. Had she left written medical directives or a living will on how to take care of her medical needs when in a persistent vegetative state, legal battles between her husband and contentious parents would not have ensued. She was kept "alive" for fifteen years on machines and tubes, until her last two weeks.

Preparations for the End of Life

Hold a conference with family members, close friends and associates, communicating your wishes, and documenting them. Having a big family party with a PowerPoint show using family photos of past happy events, and each person giving a testimonial, will fulfill the dying person's legacy of life. What better way of saying: "We appreciate what you are and all you've done for us.?"

For the terminally ill, time is crucial. Make this meeting as soon as possible in order that debility, pain and medications do not cloud the mind, and decisions are not made under duress. Some families believe in the conspiracy of silence when cancer or a terminal illness diagnosis is given by the physician, creating a silent, cruel hoax to the suffering/dying person. This happened in my family twenty years ago when my mother was dying of cancer, and I, the only medical doctor, was outvoted by five of my siblings to perpetrate this silence. The emotional pain of grieving was outweighed by the pain of living a horrendous lie. Make it known to your family that you wish to know the medical diagnosis irrespective, in order that you can put all relationships and earthly matters in order. Videotaping these conferences is very helpful, supplementing the documentation in the Living Will or health care directive, as well as the Will and Testament dealing with disposition of assets. Consult an estate planning lawyer. A copy of the will is to be given to all the significant members.

Don't forget to support and take care of the spouse, closest next of kin or person doing the caretaking of the dying. The caretaker needs physical assistance, emotional support during grieving, and respite. [Please see page 5]



APRIL 2005

[*"Health & Wellness," from page 4*]

The following is shared by Dr. Robert Chen, Family Physician and Palliative Care, University Kebangsaan Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, who is Senior Lecturer on this topic of end of life issues. He was consultant to various organizations in Malaysia after the Tsunami disaster of December 26, 2004.

Useful Links

www.ilrg.com;
www.wills.com;
www.abanet.org;
www.compassionindying.org.

Read: *Caring for the Dying: Critical Issues at the Edge of Life*, Robert Baird and Stuart E. Rosenbaum (Editors), Prometheus Books, 2003.

(Continued next month.)

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NOMINATIONS FOR CHSSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

The CHSSC Nominations Committee invites the membership to submit nominations for Officer and Member at Large positions. Self-nominations are welcome. Nominations must be received by May 15th and must include a candidate statement limited to 100 words, to be submitted by email (chssc@earthlink.net), if possible. A list of nominees and their statements will be provided in the May, 2005 issue of *News 'n Notes*. Additional nominations and the election will take place at the Wednesday, June 1, 2005 CHSSC General Meeting. Board officers serve one-year terms, and members at large for terms of two years, beginning, this year, on June 1st. For submission of nominations or for additional information, please call Dr. Albert Chang at 310-454-3621 or email to AlbertChang@charter.net.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL GENERAL MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Thank you to the following members for their tasty snack donations at our April General Meeting: Bill Chun-Hoon, Mae Hom, Mary Yee Kwok, Margie Lew, Winnie Lew, Ruth Lung, Johnny & Esther Yee and Donna Young.

ERRATA

March, 2005, *News 'n Notes*, page 2: "The Learning and Re-Learning of Chinese in the U.S." The photo credit should have read: "(March 2nd General Meeting—CHSSC President Kenneth L. Chan and Dr. Gay Yuen—*Jason Jem photo*)."

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PAST PRESIDENT, CY WONG

If you think life is empty, why not try putting something into it? The only things you can be sure of accomplishing are the things you do today.

PORTRAITS OF PRIDE BOOK AVAILABLE THROUGH CHSSC OFFICE & WEB

The new *Portraits of Pride* book is available from the CHSSC office, and an order form may be downloaded from our website at www.chssc.org. The book tells the stories of 38 WWII-generation Chinese Americans who achieved greatness in medicine, defense and science. The \$35 price includes tax and shipping.

CHSSC AND FRIENDS OF THE CHINATOWN LIBRARY WILL CO-SPONSOR CHINESE HERITAGE COLLECTION OPEN HOUSE ON FRIDAY, MAY 20TH AT 6:30 P.M.

Join CHSSC and The Friends at the Chinatown Branch Library as former branch manager Juliana Cheng reminisces on how and why the Chinese Heritage Collection was initiated in 1978. The Collection is important to all those who wish to browse, read and research the history of China, Chinese culture, art, health, cookery, related subjects, and the Chinese in America. The Open House begins at 6:30 p.m.

[Please see "Announcements," page 6]



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

APRIL 2005

[“Announcements,” from page 5]

with appetizers and desserts in the Beth and Wilbur Woo Community Room. Activities will include guest and staff presentations, tours, exhibits and browsing. Free parking is available at the Library and Unified Parking Lot, one-half block north of the Library on the west side of Hill Street.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ongoing, Often

BONE MARROW DRIVES by ASIANS FOR MIRACLE MARROW MATCHES

Various locations throughout L.A. area

Information: (888) 236-4673; www.asianmarrow.org

Through May 7th, Saturday

CONTEMPORARY MAINLAND CHINESE FILMS

Through May 8th, Sunday

NEW TAIWANESE CINEMA

James Bridges Theater, UCLA

Information: (310) 206-FILM; www.cinema.ucla.edu

Through May 15th, Sunday

“WHAT STAYS BEHIND TO BE REMEMBERED”

EXHIBITION IN MEMORY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN TSUNAMI VICTIMS

Pacific Asia Museum

46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena

Information: (626) 449-2742 x20; www.pacificasiamuseum.org

Through May 22nd, Sunday

“A DISTANT SHORE” PLAY BY CHAY YEW

Kirk Douglas Theatre

9820 Washington Blvd., Culver City

Information: (213) 628-2772; www.taperahmanson.com

Through May 31st, Tuesday

“GATEWAY TO GOLD MOUNTAIN: THE ANGEL ISLAND IMMIGRATION EXPERIENCE” EXHIBIT

Calif. State Univ. Hayward, University Library

25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward

Information: (415) 561-2160; www.aiisf.org

Through May

“CHILDREN OF HEAVEN” EXHIBIT BY CINDY SURIYANI

Central Plaza, L.A. Chinatown

943 N. Broadway

“EAST WEST TRADING POST” EXHIBIT BY ANNIE SHAW

Gold Line Station, L.A. Chinatown

901 N. Spring St.

“BRIDGING THE PRESENT” EXHIBIT BY SHAN CHAO

L.A. Public Library, L.A. Chinatown

639 N. Hill St.

Information: (213) 680-0243; www.chinatownla.com

Through June

“HAVE YOU EATEN YET?: THE CHINESE RESTAURANT IN AMERICA” EXHIBIT

Museum of Chinese in the Americas

70 Mulberry St., 2nd Floor, New York Chinatown

Information: (212) 619-4785; www.moca-nyc.org

Through September 4th, Sunday

“ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER ADOPTEES: A JOURNEY THROUGH IDENTITY” EXHIBIT

Wing Luke Asian Museum

407 7th Ave. South, Seattle

Information: (206) 623-5124; www.wingluke.org

April 28th, Thursday, to May 5th, Thursday

VC FILM FEST – THE LOS ANGELES ASIAN PACIFIC FILM FESTIVAL

Los Angeles

Information: (213) 680-4462; www.vconline.org

May 1st, Sunday, 5:00 p.m.

“WHAT’S WRONG WITH FRANK CHIN?” FILM BY CURTIS CHOY

Directors Guild of America

7920 Sunset Blvd., L.A.

Information: (213) 680-4462; www.vconline.org

May 5th, Thursday, to June 5th, Sunday

“IMELDA” BY EAST WEST PLAYERS

David Henry Hwang Theater

120 N. Judge John Aiso, Little Tokyo

Information: (213) 625-7000; www.eastwestplayers.org

May 7th, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

22nd ANNUAL CHILDREN’S DAY CELEBRATION

May 8th, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

5th ANNUAL MOTHER’S DAY HAWAIIAN STYLE

JACCC Plaza

244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo

Information: (213) 628-2725 x145; www.jaccc.org

May 7th, Saturday, 8:00 p.m.

CHINA SOCIETY – “CHINESE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS” (Concert)

Habeson Hall, Pasadena City College (Colorado and Hill)

Information: (323) 463-1396

[Please see “Community Calendar,” page 7]



[*"Community Calendar," from page 6*]

May 13th, Friday, 6:00 p.m.

CHINESE AMERICAN CITIZENS ALLIANCE 93rd ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Empress Pavilion Restaurant
988 N. Hill St., L.A. Chinatown
Information: (213) 628-8015

May 15th, Sunday, to indefinite, Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

"IMPRESSIONS: MILTON QUON'S LOS ANGELES" EXHIBIT

Chinese American Museum
425 N. Los Angeles St.
El Pueblo State Park at Olvera Street, L.A.
Information: (213) 626-5240; www.camla.org

May 17th, Tuesday

MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION – VOTE!

May 18th, Wednesday, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

Chinese American Museum
425 N. Los Angeles St.
El Pueblo State Park at Olvera Street, L.A.
Information: (213) 250-9888; www.oca-gla.org

May 20th, Friday, 6:30 p.m.

"CHINESE HERITAGE COLLECTION" OPEN HOUSE

Chinatown Branch Library
639 N. Hill St., L.A. Chinatown
Information: (213) 620-0925;
www.lapl.org/branches/63.html

May 25th, Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES – AUTHOR AMY TAN

Pasadena Civic Auditorium
300 E. Green St., Pasadena
Information: (800) 508-9301; www.speakersla.com

June 3rd, Friday, 6:30 p.m.

FRIENDS OF CHINATOWN LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Golden Dragon Restaurant
960 N. Broadway, L.A. Chinatown
Information: (213) 620-0925; www.friendsocl.org

June 5th, Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

CHSSC 2005 ANNUAL SPRING DINNER – CELEBRATING CHINESE AMERICAN PIONEERS IN LAW

San Gabriel Hilton Hotel
225 West Valley Boulevard, San Gabriel, CA
Information: (323) 222-0856

June 6th, Monday, 10:00 a.m.

CHINATOWN SERVICE CENTER 16th ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Braemar Country Club
4001 Reseda Blvd., Tarzana
Information: (213) 808-1700; www.cscla.org

June 11th, Saturday, 11:00 a.m.

ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS PICNIC

Alhambra Park
500 N. Palm Ave., Alhambra
Information: (213) 250-9888; www.oca-gla.org

June 24th, Friday, 6:00 p.m.

CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 50th ANNUAL INSTALLATION DINNER

Empress Pavilion Restaurant
988 N. Hill St., L.A. Chinatown
Information: (213) 617-0396; www.lachinesechamber.org

July 9th-10th; Saturday, noon-9:00 p.m.; Sunday, noon-8:00 p.m.

28th ANNUAL LOTUS FESTIVAL

Park Ave. between Glendale Ave & Echo Park Blvd., Echo Park
Information: (213) 485-1310;
www.laparks.org/grifmet/lotus.htm

July 28th-31st, Thursday-Sunday

27th ANNUAL ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS NATIONAL CONVENTION

Bally's Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas
Information: (202) 223-5500; www.ocanatl.org

October 7th-9th, Friday-Sunday

"THE CHANGING FACE OF CHINESE AMERICA" CONFERENCE

Radisson Miyako Hotel
1625 Post St., San Francisco
Information: (415) 391-1188, ext. 108; www.chsa.org

(Compiled by Donna Young)

CANTON, UNITED STATES

There are quite a few towns and cities in the United States named "Canton." Most of these names are not derivatives of the Swiss territorial term. The Internet did not tell the stories behind all the names, but here are a few interesting curiosities.

Canton in Massachusetts was incorporated in 1797. Founder Elijah Dunbar named the town after the city in China because it was thought to be antipodal to the Canton in China. Dunbar was wrong but the name stuck over the two other proposed names: "Freedom" and "Danbury".

Canton in New York was first settled in 1801 by Stillman Foote, who traveled from Vermont. It was incorporated in 1805 and is now the home of St. Lawrence University and SUNY-Canton.

An Irish trader, Captain John O'Donnell, owned a Baltimore plantation and named it "The Canton Estate" in commemoration of the fact that he had transported the first cargo to arrive at Baltimore from Canton, China. Canton in Maryland is still a thriving community. Bezaleel Wells, formerly of Baltimore, thought Captain O'Donnell a hero. When Wells learned of O'Donnell's death, he recorded his new plat and named it Canton as well. Canton, Ohio acquired a post office in 1809 and incorporated as a village in 1815. At one point, unfortunately, their high school mascot name was the "Canton Chinks."

Interestingly, the village of New Berlin was founded in 1831 next to Ohio's Canton. During the anti-German persecution of World War I, New Berlin changed its name to North Canton in 1918.

Canton in Illinois is located midway between Chicago and St. Louis. The city was founded by Isaac Swan in 1825 who also mistakenly thought that his town's location was the antipodes of Canton, China. Canton, Illinois was a stop on the Underground Railroad.

On March 7, 1834, Canton in Michigan was established. Canton, like Nankin and Peking townships were named in an era when trade with China was important. Nankin and Peking in Ohio have changed names but Canton has 76,000 residents.

Canton in Texas was surveyed in 1840 by Dr. W. P. King and Jesse Stockwell. Settlers followed in 1850.

Submitted by Susie Ling



**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**

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Los Angeles, CA 90012-1703**

