

Lem Kay on Baldwin Ranch



"Lucky" Baldwins employed many Chinese, African, and Native American workers



"Chinese are the most reliable laborers I can get"



Lem Kay



First Arrived to California
in 1867 (Age 21)

Worked for the railroad,
and was later a tenant
farmer and gardener

A wife, son, and daughter
in Hong Kong

Worked in the home of
senator del Valle, and later
took charge of the Baldwin
Ranch

Received a letter from
brother in China to telling
him to save money and be
a better man. This news
caused him to fall into a
state of melancholia

Born :1846
Died:1941

ORDERS EDUCATED CHINESE COMMITTED TO ASYLUM

SAID TO BE SUFFERING FROM
MELANCHOLIA

Lem Kay to Become Inmate of High-
land Institution—Broods Over Re-
cent Letter From Orient—Refuses
to Talk of Case

Lem Kay, one of the best educated
young Chinese of Los Angeles, was
yesterday ordered committed to the
state insane asylum at Highland by
the insanity commission in Judge
Gibbs' department of the superior
court.

Lem is said to be suffering with
melancholia in its most malignant form.
All efforts to arouse him from his
lethargy have failed.

According to the story told yester-
day in court by George Lem, one of
the wealthy and influential Chinese
merchants, his brother, Lem Kay had
become despondent upon receiving bad
news from China several weeks ago.

Educated in China

"Kay came from China about ten
years ago," said George Lem. "He
was born in Oakland but went to
China when he was a few years old
and received a good Chinese education.
He returned to the United States ten
years ago and for two years worked
in the home of Senator del Valle. Then
he went into business for himself. A
few months ago he went to San Fer-
nando to take entire charge of a ranch.
While he was there he received a let-
ter from a brother in China in which
he was warned to save more money
and be a better man. There must have
been some mistake, because Kay was
a very good boy and never smoked
opium or drank liquor.

"The letter seemed to cause my
anxiety, and he brooded over
it, became melancholy and now
won't talk or have anything to do
with relatives or his friends," Kay
refused to make any statement.



27	25 Yang Ky	45	Merchant	Landed or left for the first time in the S.F.P. 18 1903 ... by Insp'r ... Thompson ...	MERCHANT
28	24 Lem Kay	28	Chin	Landed or left for the first time in the S.F.P. 18 1903 ... by Insp'r ... Thompson ...	NATIVE U. S.
29	25 Dea Saw	29	Brown	Landed or left for the first time in the S.F.P. 18 1903 ... by Insp'r ... Thompson ...	NATIVE U. S.

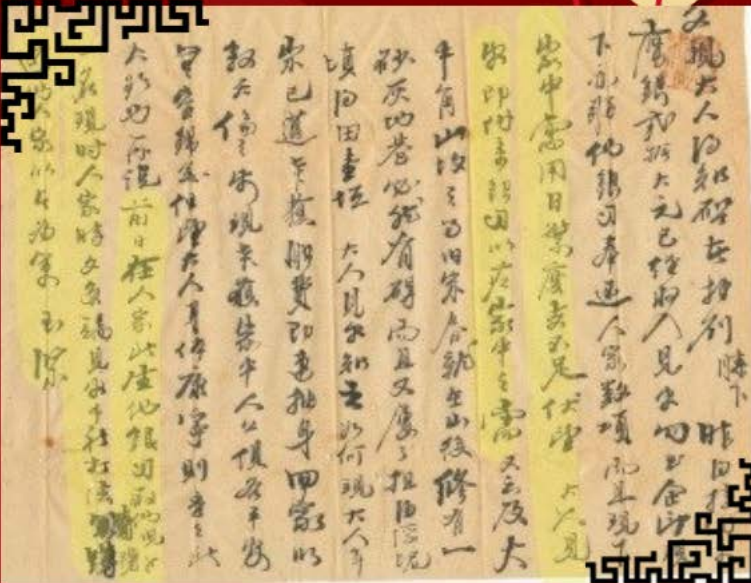
Lem Kay's letters



"When I went home to see our mother in September, she talked about not having enough money and wanted to find a solution. We are living modestly and have some rice, but we need to think of a solution soon."

"You should work hard to save money, I will send some food as soon as possible."

"Do not gossip and be mindful of what you say."



"We are struggling to balance the finances of our household— we have been spending too much."

"In addition, I saw two people fighting yesterday and someone got stabbed. There has been a lot of dangerous events lately, it is best not to be involved."

George Lem

Born: 1863
Died: 1951



First arrived to California in
1874 (Age 11)

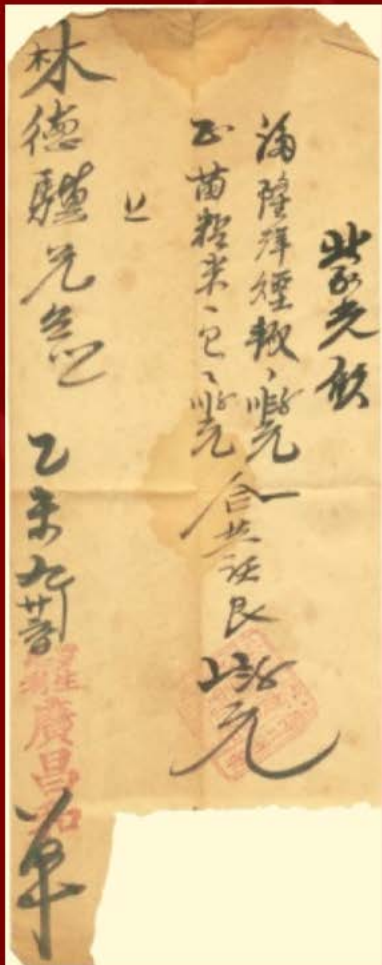
A prominent Americanized
merchant in Old Chinatown

Own a house on E 23rd St
and a restaurant in Old
Chinatown

Lived with wife, 4 daughters,
and two sons



Lem Kay's Personal Effects



Lem Kay's invoice:
Fu Long Cigarettes: \$3.35
Glutinous rice: \$3.50
Total: \$6.85
Lem De Kay Brother

