

# THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT PHILADELPHIA

## May 2016 Newsletter

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. Commemorate May by discovering some of the records related to Asian-Pacific Americans at the National Archives at Philadelphia.

## Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month

705 807

No. 270

IDENTIFICATION.

It is satisfactorily shown that Quai Ying these persons engaged to proceed to the United States by Yui Fun Exposition Co., formed for the purpose of exhibiting, in connection with the Philadelphia Exposition, Philadelphia, Penn., a Chinese Village, illustrating the Architecture, Dress, Transportation, Social Life, and Religious Worship of China, he is therefore admitted to the United States under and by virtue of an Act of Congress, approved by the President for the better identification of the said person, the following description is hereto appended:

Family.	Individual.	AGE.	HEIGHT.	PHYSICAL PECULIARITIES.
	<u>Quai Ying</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u> ft. <u>6</u> in.	<u>Pack marked</u>
Former Occupation.		Where and how long pursued.		Residence.
<u>Acrobat</u>		<u>Changhai</u>		<u>Shanghai</u>
Occupation in the Exposition.				Signature.
<u>Acrobat</u>		<u>1 Year</u>		<u>桂英</u>

UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL, HONGKONG.

In compliance with Regulations made under the above-mentioned Act of Congress, I hereby state that Quai Ying personally appeared before me on this 19th day of August 1899, and was identified as the person named in and whose signature is attached to the foregoing description.

R. Millman  
U. S. Consul General.

The National Archives  
at Philadelphia

May 2016

The National Archives at  
Philadelphia is located at:

14700 Townsend Road  
Philadelphia, PA 19154  
(215) 305-2044  
Philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

Pages 1 and 2: Asian-Pacific  
American History Month

Page 3: Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Shenandoah!

Page 4: Information about  
Upcoming Initiatives and  
Reminders

The National Archives at  
Philadelphia research room is  
open to the public Monday  
through Friday from 8:30 am to  
3:30 pm. Researchers can also  
call to schedule an appointment  
to view textual records in our  
text research room.

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. A rather broad term, Asian-Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

Like most commemorative months, Asian-Pacific Heritage Month originated in a congressional bill. In June 1977, Reps. Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration. Twelve years later, President George H.W. Bush signed an extension making the week-long celebration into a month-long celebration. In 1992, the official designation of May as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month was signed into law.

For Asian-Pacific American History Month, take a look at this narrative written by Grace DiAgostino, Archives Technician at the National Archives at Philadelphia. You can also see the [Facebook photo](#) in which this story was featured on our [Facebook page](#).

The National Export Exposition was held in Philadelphia from September 14th to November 30th in 1899. The Exposition convened under the authority of Congress and was endorsed, sanctioned, and supported by federal and state government bureaus, commercial agencies, and private investors. Exports of American manufactured goods doubled in the decade between 1889 and 1899, and the Exposition sought to continue this growth of American trade by encouraging manufacturers of the United States to participate more actively in foreign export commerce. In addition to promoting the American export industry, the Exposition invited merchants and artisans of foreign countries to attend and exhibit native forms of art, crafts, religion and social life.

Due to the restrictions of the Chinese Exclusion Act, the federal government closely documented and regulated Chinese men and women attending and presenting at the conference. Some of the Chinese who attended the Exposition were Jinrikisha men, sedan chair bearers, servants, artisans, waiters, painters, acrobats, carpenters, singers, watchmen, actresses, and salesmen. This post features the identification paper of Quai Ying, a six-year-old female acrobat from Shanghai, China, which allowed her to enter the United States for the purpose of exhibiting her craft in a Chinese Village exhibit at the National Export Exposition in 1899.

The identification papers state: “It having been satisfactorily shows that Quai Ying is one of a number of Chinese persons engaged to proceed to the United States by Yut Fun Exposition Co., representing a company formed for the purpose of exhibiting, in connection with the Philadelphia Exposition, to be held at Philadelphia, Penn, a Chinese Village, illustrating the Architecture, Dress, Industries, Amusements, Transportation, Social Life, and Religious Worship of China, he is therefore entitled to enter the United States under and by virtue of an Act of Congress, approved by the President March 1, 1899, and for the better identification of the said Quai Ying, the following description is hereto appended: Quai Ying, age: 6, height: 3 ft 6 in, physical peculiarities: pockmarked, occupation: acrobat, where and how long pursued: Shanghai 1 year, occupation in the Exposition: acrobat, residence:

Shanghai, and signature.”

Although small, this collection of identification papers offers a fascinating look at selective Chinese inclusion in America during a time of stringent legal Chinese exclusion. The National Archives at Philadelphia holds many collections related to Asian-Pacific American history. Want to learn more about Asian-Pacific American history? Check out our [online catalog](#) and make an appointment to view our holdings.

## Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Shenandoah National Park!



Commemorate Shenandoah's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday by learning more about the park! Take a sneak-peek at this article that will be featured on our Facebook page later this month.

May 22, 2016 marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Shenandoah National Park. Featured here is a photograph of a group of friends and their dog picnicking and enjoying the surroundings at White Oak Canyon in Shenandoah National Park. Today commemorates the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the authorization of Shenandoah National Park. Although authorized on May 22, 1926, the park was not officially established until 1935.

Shenandoah, like many other National Parks, benefitted from New Deal legislation and the establishment of the Works Progress Administration. Utilizing the money and manpower made

available by the New Deal, the construction of Skyline Drive began, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) established a camp in the park area, and over 450 families of mountain residents were relocated from the Blue Ridge so that the CCC could build visitor facilities throughout the mountain.

Shenandoah National Park is located in Northcentral Virginia alongside the Blue Ridge Parkway and encompasses almost 200,000 acres of land. Hiking trails, picnic spots, camp sites, and waterfalls are just some of the many features offered by Shenandoah National Park. Natural parks like Shenandoah have

long been thought of as American oases at which Americans could escape from the pressures of the fast-paced, urban lifestyle.

Want to learn more about Shenandoah National Park or other NPS sites? Check out our online catalog at: <http://www.archives.gov/research/catalog/> and make an appointment to view our holdings at the National Archives at Philadelphia by calling (215) 305-2044 or emailing us at [philadelphia.archives@nara.gov](mailto:philadelphia.archives@nara.gov).

## Upcoming Events and Initiatives:

**The National Archives at Philadelphia does not have any upcoming onsite events.** However, there are many NARA programs available online. See two notable examples below:

### [“TO THE BRINK: JFK AND THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS”](#)

Our colleagues at the National Archives in Washington D.C. and at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library created an online exhibit marking the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis titled “To the Brink: JFK and the Cuban Missile Crisis”

### [“AMENDING AMERICA”](#)

Another notable NARA initiative is the Amending America program, which is Highlighting the remarkably American story of how we have amended, or attempted to amend, the Constitution in order to form a nation that more closely mirrors our ideals. 2016 marks the 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights, one of our nation's early attempts to form "a more perfect union." In honor of this milestone, the National Archives encourages the nation to engage in thoughtful debate and discussion of how our ancestors sought to create a more just society and how we do so today.

Through our series of *National Conversations on Rights and Justice*, we invite Americans to explore a range of contemporary issues, addressing the tension between individual rights and collective responsibilities, a process that began with the Bill of Rights.

## Reminders

The National Archives at Philadelphia will be closed on Memorial Day, May 30, 2016. We will be reopen on Tuesday, May 31, 2016 at 8:30 am.



Follow the National Archives at Philadelphia on [Facebook](#) and [Tumblr](#) for featured highlights from our collection! We'll be commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service throughout 2016 by highlighting some of our many NPS records.

**Are you on the National Archives Mailing List?** If the answer is “no,” then e-mail us with your contact information to [Philadelphia.archives@nara.gov](mailto:Philadelphia.archives@nara.gov). *Per the Privacy Act of 1974 we will not share your personal information with third parties.*