

Shattered Dreams and Moral Sacrifice: Chinese Immigration at Angel Island

**Naomi Kissel
Senior Division
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Discouraged and frustrated Chinese immigrants boarded a ship bound for China. Their hopes for the future were destroyed when they were forced to return home after being detained on Angel Island for months. They had been so close to achieving their common goal: to live in America, but they were turned away at the last moment.

Many immigrants who tried to enter the United States through Angel Island Immigration Station shared this experience. The island served as a detention center for immigrants coming into the US from Asia and other countries west of the United States. Isolated on an island in San Francisco Bay, the station was in operation from 1910 to 1940 and most immigrants came from China. Growing anti-Chinese sentiments in the late 1800s and early 1900s contributed to the exclusion of Chinese immigrants from the US. Unlike other groups, Chinese immigrants were barred from the country by the Chinese Exclusion Act and were unable to become citizens except under very specific circumstances. Angel Island greatly influenced immigration history in the US by discriminating against and segregating Chinese immigrants. Chinese encountered long detentions and complicated court cases at Angel Island Immigration Station while attempting to gain US citizenship, forcing them to exchange legal methods for illegal ones in order to explore their opportunities in the US.

In the mid 1800s, Chinese immigrants left China in hopes of having a better life in the US and as they arrived, American prejudice against Asians in general increased because of the declining economy. Chinese immigrants had been coming to the US to work for years, toiling to build the Transcontinental Railroad. Chinese men established a reputation as hardworking laborers who would labor for less money than average white Americans. Immigrants who succeeded in the US exchanged messages with friends and relatives in China, saying that

everyone could be wealthy by working diligently in the US.¹ Many young Chinese men were also attracted to the US by the prospect of gold in California. The country was known as “Gold Mountain” to Chinese immigrants because of the massive amounts of gold that could be found. Chinese citizens often left their hometowns and made the long journey to the US because the economic situation in China was worsening and they wanted to get rich.² These immigrants traveled to the US before the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, when immigration policy was open and all immigrants could live in the US. Most of the Chinese immigrants were male because of the patriarchal society in China. Only when the men established a living in the US would their wives or any female relatives join them.³ After the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act, however, both Chinese men and women struggled to get into the US.

Chinese immigrants were discriminated against because there was such a large number of people coming to the US from China. Angel Island was also called the “Ellis Island of the West”, but immigrants passing through the Western station encountered much more discrimination than people coming through Ellis Island.⁴ Chinese people were officially denied the rights to immigrate, to marry whites, or to own land solely because of their race. These denied rights limited the exchange of culture between Chinese Americans and European Americans, and discrimination increased against the Chinese. During the economic recession in the 1850s, Americans, upset that they had lost their jobs, blamed Chinese immigrants for stealing work. This discrimination excluded them from the communities and American culture in cities, causing the formation of Chinese neighborhoods where people hoped to feel more at home among their

¹ Brooks, Charlotte. *Immigration and Multiculturalism in America*.: ProQuest

² Lai, H. M. "Island of Immortals: Chinese Immigrants and the Angel Island Immigration Station." *California History* 57.1 (1978): 88-103. *JSTOR*, 94

³ Lee, Erika, and Judy Yung. *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America*. New York: Oxford University, 2010, 72

⁴ Lee, Erika. *At America's Gates*. Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina, 2005. Print, 75

own culture. The closeness of the Chinese community, however, made it a target for violence and protests from Americans. Many Californians shared the opinion that the Chinese were an infestation on the US, and angry mobs destroyed Chinese settlements without repercussions.⁵ Despite the anti-Chinese sentiments that spread throughout the US, Chinese immigrants continued to travel to America in large numbers.

In 1882, Congress passed the first Chinese Exclusion Act in an attempt to control Chinese immigration. Chinese people were banned from coming into the US for 10 years unless they were diplomats, students, merchants, or travelers.⁶ American born Chinese returning to the US from China encountered the Exclusion Act and were denied access back to the US, even if they had previously been American citizens. Those citizens felt that they were being treated unfairly. Though Chinese communities, particularly in California, protested these laws, and American products were boycotted in Shanghai, the law was renewed in 1892, 1902, and made permanent in 1904.⁷ The Exclusion Act gained support from Americans who believed that Chinese people did not deserve to be in the country. It rejected one in four Chinese immigrants during the time it was effective until it was repealed in 1943 by President Franklin Roosevelt.⁸ If immigrants were not deported due to the Exclusion Act, they were detained on the island for weeks, months, or in rare cases, years. Despite these laws, over 200,000 people, many of who were Chinese, managed to immigrate to the US through Angel Island.

Once a boat of immigrants arrived on the shore of California, a group of officers inspected everyone on board. Everyone who had acceptable papers got off at the mainland, but those who had inadequate immigration papers were sent on a smaller boat to Angel Island.

⁵ Lee, Yung, 75

⁶ Lee, Yung, 75

⁷ Lai, 89

⁸ Werner, Emmy E. *Passages to America*. Washington, D.C.: Potomac, 2009, 127

There, they underwent long medical exams and interrogations to determine whether or not they were fit to be American citizens.⁹ While waiting for their cases to be heard or recovering from diseases, immigrants were housed in small, flimsy buildings that were not adequate for human shelter.¹⁰ Men were separated from women and children, and they were not allowed to see each other unless their applications were accepted. Social status and wealth were important factors in the treatment of Chinese immigrants. Wealthy people would bribe officials, resulting in scandals and corruption in the immigration system.¹¹ People who went through the legal methods of immigration were treated extremely unfairly by immigration officials.

"The physicians had stripped us to the skin and exposed to the chilly sea breeze for several hours before he routinely tapped our chest and spine and ordered us to jump up and down like monkeys. Was it really a physical exam or was it designed to insult our entire race?"
- Jann Mon Fong, Chinese immigrant¹²

Immigrants felt that the claims of communicable disease prevented them from entering the US, but illnesses were controversial at the time due to varying risks and dangers. People seeking entry were screened for parasitic diseases that were common in their homes in rural areas in China, but even if they were disease-free, they were often detained for other reasons. Health officials claimed that certain illnesses were also reasons for a Chinese immigrant to be stopped on their way into the US, even if those diseases were not extremely dangerous or contagious, like trachoma, hookworm, and liver fluke.¹³ Chinese communities in California protested, so the government changed its policies so that immigrants with these diseases could stay to be treated in the US instead of being deported. From 1903 to 1905, one out of every four

⁹ A Ship Carrying Chinese Immigrants is Met by a Health Services Boat. *Modern American Poetry*, 1998. Web. <http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets/a_f/angel/natale.htm>.

¹⁰ "Declare Conditions at Angel Island Shocking." *Los Angeles Times* 17 July 1920

¹¹ Lai, 92

¹² Lee, Yung, 77

¹³ Su, John, et al. "About Angel Island." *Modern American Poetry*. N.p., 1997. Web. 14 Feb. 2016. <http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets/a_f/angel/about.htm>

Chinese people was rejected and sent back to China, which meant that many people did not achieve their dreams of gaining wealth in the US.¹⁴ People who passed the medical examinations, however, were not allowed into the country automatically. They also had to pass legal examinations, which were harsh and often inaccurate measures of immigrants' identities.

After passing the health examination, immigrants on Angel Island had to go through legal interrogations to affirm their applications for citizenship. Officials knew that people tried to immigrate illegally, so the questions were extremely difficult to answer. The interrogations were so obscure that people who were presenting their actual identities were denied access to the country because they did not know, for instance, which materials were used to build their homes in China.¹⁵ Family members had separate interrogations, and if any information was inconsistent between relatives, the entire family would be kept at the station's detention quarters for further examinations. Immigrants detained on Angel Island could hire lawyers to try and get themselves into the country, but communication was limited between the mainland and the station, and the courts took months, or even years, to rule on decisions. Long interrogations were implemented so that immigration officials could eventually find the imposters who were immigrating illegally.¹⁶ Sometimes, officials threatened immigrants to try to make them confess, trying to prove that Chinese were unfit to live in the US and would damage the country. Extensive examinations became known as an experience for which immigrants had to prepare, whether they came into the country legally or illegally. Due to the increasing number and risk of deportations, Chinese immigrants had to find other ways to bypass the immigration system.

¹⁴ Lai, 89

¹⁵ Barde, Robert Eric. *Immigration at the Golden Gate*.: Praeger, 2008, 4

¹⁶ "Immigration Station." *California Department of Parks and Recreation*. State of California, Web. <http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1309>.

"The only place in the United States where a man is guilty until he is proven innocent is at the immigration station." - Charles Jung, interpreter at Angel Island and immigration attorney¹⁷

The large number of Chinese immigrants who were forbidden from coming into the US tried to find ways to get around the laws. Many immigrants used false identities and pretended to be relatives of people who were exempt from the Exclusion laws.¹⁸ It is possible that around 90% of Chinese immigrants who came through Angel Island did so illegally and with false papers.¹⁹ People created fraudulent identities and made sure they knew answers to the questions asked by immigration officials to verify their identities. Coaching books were used to help immigrants learn the answers to questions they would have to answer during interrogations. People often pretended to be related to citizens with similar last names, or who lived in the same village so that they were familiar with their false family members.²⁰ These immigrants with false papers were known as “paper families” because the people involved were only relatives according to their immigration papers.²¹ Officials knew that many Chinese immigrants attempted to pass the interrogations illegally, and automatically assumed that immigrants were lying. Immigrants could easily fake Chinese American citizenship because all the birth records were destroyed in a fire in San Francisco in 1906.²² Many people coming into the US used the lack of birth records to their advantage and pretended they were citizens or related to citizens.

"I clasped my hands in parting with my brothers and classmates.

¹⁷ Lee, Yung, 90

¹⁸ Kwok, Steve. "My Father Was a Paper Son." *Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation*. Web. 2 Apr. 2016. <<http://aiisf.org/immigrant-voices/stories-by-author/737-my-father-was-a-paper-son/>>

¹⁹ Lee, Yung, 84

²⁰ "Entrapment: The Interrogation Process at Angel Island Immigration Station." *Citizenship Process*. Web. 14 Feb. 2016. <<http://sun.menloschool.org/~mbrody/ushistory/angel/citizenship/>>.

²¹ Lau, Estelle T. *Paper Families*. Durham: Duke University, 2006. Print, 36

²² Werner, 126

*Because of the mouth, I hastened to cross the American ocean.
How was I to know that the Western barbarians had lost their hearts and reason?
With a hundred kinds of oppressive laws, they mistreat us Chinese."*
- Chinese poem, anonymous²³

While detained on Angel Island, many immigrants wanted to express their frustration in the way they were treated. Chinese immigrants wrote poems and carved them into the walls and furniture at the immigration station.²⁴ Immigrants were crammed into small, filthy spaces and often had no other outlet for creativity or anger. People wrote about separation from loved ones and the agonizing detention they endured as they waited for their cases to be heard in court.²⁵ Many of the poems were worn away or were covered by layers of paint or wood that tried to remedy the unfortunate living conditions on the island. People wrote about their hopes and dreams, but they also wrote about the despair and sorrow they felt about being deported or even detained for such long, indefinite periods of time. Some immigrants committed suicide because they were agonizingly frustrated, or because they despaired at the thought of returning to poverty in China. Preserving the frustration and anger of the people who were kept at the station, some poems can still be seen in the museum on the island today.

Even after passing interrogations and examinations at Angel Island, immigrants still faced discrimination and hardship in the US. Chinese immigrants often settled close together for familiarity, and Chinese quarters became prevalent in California and other states in the US.²⁶ The Chinese community in San Francisco looked out for affairs concerning Angel Island and

²³ Lee, Yung, 69

²⁴ Chinese Poetry, Angel Island." *Office of Historic Preservation*. State of California, Web. <http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26821>

²⁵ "United States Immigration Station (USIS)." *Angel Island Conservancy*. Web. <<http://angelisland.org/history/united-states-immigration-station-usis/>>.

²⁶ Chew, Lee. "The Biography of a Chinaman." *Independent* 19 Feb. 1903

immigrants being detained there.²⁷ Chinese immigrants encountered racism from European-Americans who wished to limit the immigrants' exploration of opportunities. While some Americans accepted the Chinese people just like any other immigrant group, some people were racist and discriminated against immigrants coming from China. Chinese students in college were not usually chosen for presentations and received lower grades because professors assumed these students had difficulties with the English language. Job discrimination was extremely prevalent and white people, who had the same degrees as Chinese people, were hired more often.²⁸ People of Chinese descent faced racial prejudice and were not able to obtain jobs, so many immigrants and families opened groceries, laundries, or restaurants. Chinese families also stayed mainly within the Chinese communities because they felt left out everywhere else. Chinese immigrants often felt internal shame as well, because they had come into the country illegally.

After successfully getting through Angel Island, immigrants who came to the US illegally had to keep their documents in the event that their citizenships and papers were checked again. Police were more likely to arrest Chinese immigrants living in the US because of the knowledge of false identities. Even after settling in the US, Chinese people still had to worry about being discovered as illegal immigrants. To lift the burden off these people, the Immigration and Nationalization Service created a confession program so that any illegal Chinese immigrant could become a legal immigrant by confessing that they had come into the country illegally.²⁹ Even though this program existed to help Chinese immigrants become legal citizens, European

²⁷ Lai, 90

²⁸ Wong, William. "My Journey from China to America." Ed. Jordan Yee and Eddie Wong. *Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation*. N.p., n.d. Web. 4 Apr. 2016. <<http://aiisf.org/immigrant-voices/stories-by-author/595-lee-don-yee-fung-3/>>

²⁹ "Chinese Confession Program." *Museum of Chinese in America*. Museum of Chinese in America, 2015. Web. 14 Feb. 2016. <http://www.mocanyc.org/learn/timeline/chinese_confession_program>.

Americans still discriminated against Asians. Chinese were blamed for problems because they looked different and were foreign to many racist people who considered themselves truly American.

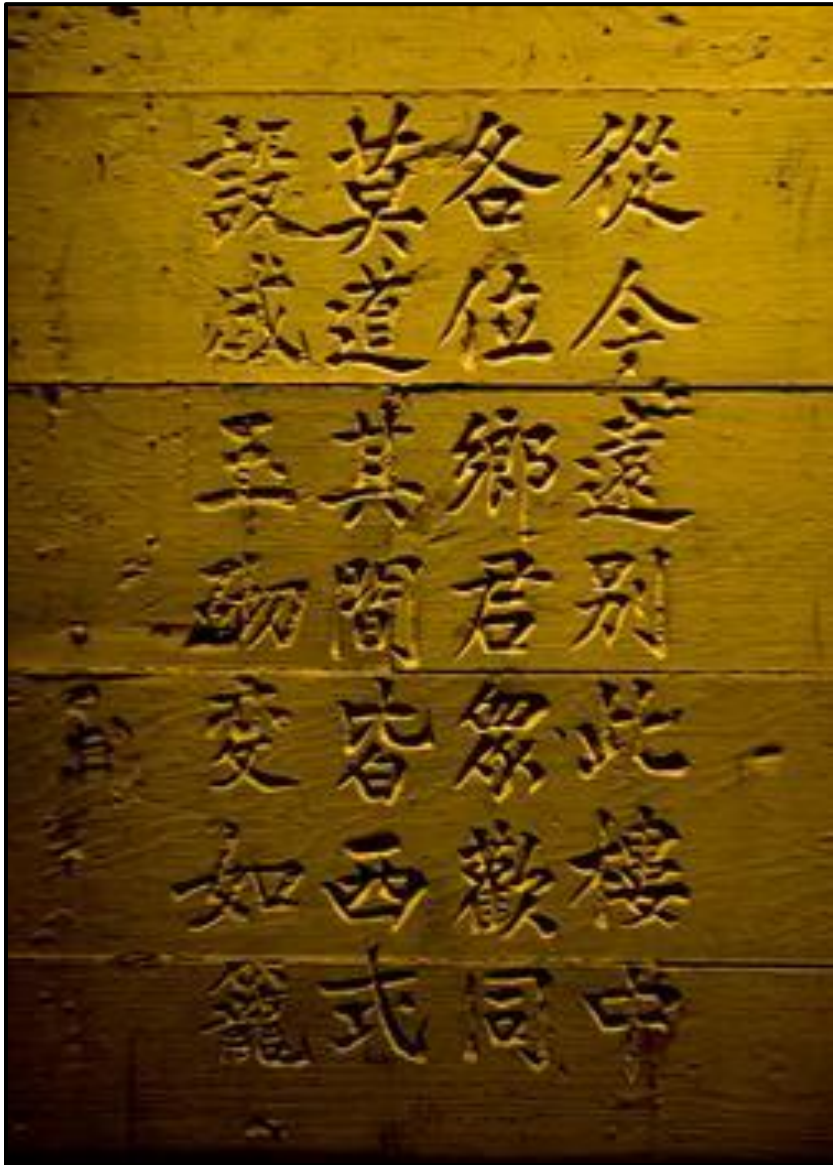
Chinese immigrants encountered racism and discrimination during the immigration process into the US at Angel Island, leading them to use illegal methods to come into the country. Angel Island, while serving as a detention station for immigrants coming into the US, implemented intense interrogations and procedures that forced many immigrants to exchange moral and legal methods of immigration for illegal ones. Chinese coming into the country made up a large portion of the labor force and helped the American economy, contrary to what European Americans believed at the time. Chinese faced unfair discrimination, and many Americans supported and encouraged racism by blaming the immigrants for problems and issues in the country. Angel Island influenced immigration history by demonstrating discrimination and issues with the immigration system in the US. Even today, there are controversial immigration issues that can be compared to situations at Angel Island. Despite their difficult experiences, Chinese immigrants managed to immigrate, though not always legally, and explore opportunities in the US that today are integral to the multicultural and multiracial identity of our nation as a whole.

Appendix I



An immigrant ship is met at Angel Island by a boat carrying health inspection personnel. The initial health inspection took place on the ship, before the passengers even reached the island. People who were supposedly unhealthy were either immediately sent back across the Pacific Ocean or detained at the immigration station. If immigrants were sent into the station, they were detained with inadequate shelter and undesirable conditions. Immigration inspectors even pushed for the improvement of conditions for Chinese detention centers, but the government did not change the immigration policies. From *Modern American Poetry* by Valerie Natale.

Appendix II



Chinese poetry was engraved into walls at the immigration station, expressing anger and longing for a better life. Chinese immigrants often felt like they were being held hostage because of their race, which was extremely frustrating. These experiences on Angel Island often encouraged people who got through to speak out about the practices and conditions on the island to try and change the situation for other immigrants. From the Office of Historic Preservation in the State of California.

Appendix III

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 9125981


DECLARATION OF NATURALIZATION

• ORIGINAL •

Petition No. 190283

Person's description of holder as of date of naturalization: Date of birth January 15, 1912 sex male
 complexion medium color of eyes brown color of hair black height 5 feet 7 inches
 weight 135 pounds, visible distinctive marks none
 Marital status married Country of former nationality China

I certify that the description above given is true, and that the photograph affixed hereto is a likeness of me.



Jim Fong Quock
 (Complete and true signature of holder)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 NORTHERN DIST. OF CALIFORNIA S.S.

Be it known, that, at a term of the _____ District _____ Court of
 The United States _____

Hold pursuant to law at _____ San Francisco
 on January 20, 1970 the Court having found that
JIM FONG QUOCK
 then residing at 9 Phoenix Terrace, San Francisco, California
 intends to reside permanently in the United States (whom, so required by the
 Naturalization Laws of the United States), had in all other respects complied with
 the applicable provisions of such naturalization laws, and was entitled to be
 admitted as a citizen of the United States of America,
 In testimony whereof the seal of the court is hereunto affixed, this _____ 20th
 day of January in the year of our Lord, nineteen hundred and
seventy

C. C. EVENSEN
 Clerk of the _____ U. S. District _____ Court.
 By *June A. Walker* Deputy Clerk.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

IT IS A VIOLATION OF THE U. S. CODE (AND PUNISHABLE AS SUCH) TO COPY, PRINT, PHOTOGRAPH, OR OTHERWISE ILLEGALLY USE THIS CERTIFICATE.

Certificates such as these were issued once an immigrant passed interrogations and health examinations to become a naturalized citizen of the US. This paper, however, was given to a man who had a false identity and pretended to be a citizen's son in order to immigrate to the US. The most common types of false identities were people who pretended to be related to merchants, who were exempt from Exclusion laws, either by marriage or blood. Chinese people already in the US could pretend they had more children than they actually had and then sell spots in their families for money. People back in China were eager to buy places in citizens' families and come to the US, but immigrants had to convince officials they were related to the US citizen, which proved to be an integral part of the interrogation process. From the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation.

Works Cited

Primary Sources

Acting Secretary. Letter to Secretary of Commerce and Labor. 16 Oct. 1908. TS.

National Archives at San Francisco. I found this letter very interesting because it was about the frustration of Chinese-American citizens who were being detained at the immigration station, which I was not aware of until I saw this source.

“Angel Island Muddle Is to Be Considered.” *San Francisco Call* 27 Sept. 1910: n. pag.

Print. This primary source showed me how much of the immigration information was shared with the public. It also clearly shows the racism and discrimination that Chinese immigrants faced in the US.

Arizona Sentinel 16 Feb. 1878. Print. This newspaper article mentions how lonely Angel Island was before the immigration station, meaning that it was very isolated from the mainland and other people.

Berkshire, F. W. Letter to Commissioner-General of Immigration. 19 June 1904. TS.

National Archives at San Francisco. This letter gave me a real idea of how many court cases there actually were that were waiting to be heard, and it also gave me the information that people were worried that inspectors mistreated Chinese immigrants.

Chew, Lee. “The Biography of a Chinaman.” *Independent* 19 Feb. 1903: n. pag. Print.

This article was very helpful because it gave an account of someone who experienced racism in the US even before the Exclusion Acts were passed.

“Declare Conditions at Angel Island Shocking.” *Los Angeles Times* 17 July 1920: n. pag.

Print. This primary source showed me that people cared about the conditions at

Angel Island and wanted to change them even though the changes were never made.

Ferry boats. *California State Parks*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.museumcollections.parks.ca.gov/code/emuseum.asp?style=Browse¤trecord=1&page=search&profile=objects&searchdesc=angel%20island&quicksearch=angel%20island&sessionid=AEEAF9CF-C5AC-47C3-A3BD-2444D46AA578&action=quicksearch&style=single¤trecord=8>>. This historical photograph gave me an idea of what people would have been able to see from Angel Island, and what immigrants experienced while on the island.

Hyde, Harriet. "San Francisco's New Ellis Island." *San Francisco Call*: n. pag. Print.

This newspaper showed the hopes the American public had for the immigration station and its effectiveness, although the policies did not work as well as the government hoped.

Immigration Station Buildings. *California State Parks*. State of California, n.d. Web. 1 Feb. 2016.

<<http://www.museumcollections.parks.ca.gov/code/emuseum.asp?collection=4120&collectionname=Angel%20Island%20Immigration%20Station&style=single¤trecord=3&page=collection&profile=objects&searchdesc=Angel%20Island%20Immigration%20Station&sessionid=4EFBB4E0-BA6F-4DA3-83A3-293F305C7A54&action=collection¤trecord=4>>. This photograph was taken while the immigration station was still in operation and it gave me an idea of what it would have looked like to immigrants coming onto Angel Island.

“Jim Quock’s Certificate of Naturalization.” *Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation*. N.p., n.d. Web. 5 Apr. 2016. <<http://aiisf.org/immigrant-voices/stories-by-author/737-my-father-was-a-paper-son/>>. This photograph, which I used in my appendix, is a real example of a paper son. This man passed the interrogations at Angel Island and became a US citizen under false papers, pretending to be a citizen’s son.

“San Francisco Fire Ruins - NRA, Co’s Pacific Coast Branch.” *California State Parks*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Feb. 2016. <<http://www.museumcollections.parks.ca.gov/code/emuseum.asp?style=Browse¤trecord=1&page=search&profile=objects&searchdesc=angel%20island&quicksearch=angel%20island&sessionid=AEEAF9CF-C5AC-47C3-A3BD-2444D46AA578&action=quicksearch&style=single¤trecord=1>>. This photograph helped me picture and think about the fire in San Francisco that destroyed birth records for Chinese Americans, making it easier them to immigrate illegally.

A Ship Carrying Chinese Immigrants is Met by a Health Services Boat. *Modern American Poetry*. N.p., 1998. Web. 1 Feb. 2016. <http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets/a_f/angel/natale.htm>. This picture showed me how the Chinese immigrants were excluded from the country before they even set foot on Angel Island by being examined for the first time on the ship. I also used it in my appendix.

“Steward Takes Charge.” *San Francisco Call* 29 Oct. 1910,: n. pag. Print. This source was helpful in that it demonstrated how the immigration officers and government viewed Chinese people who were trying to get into the US.

Secondary Sources

Barde, Robert Eric. *Immigration at the Golden Gate*. N.p.: Praeger, 2008. Print. I used some pictures from this book that gave me an idea of what kinds of people went through the immigration station.

Bernstein, Nina. “Immigration Stories, from Shadow to Spotlight.” *New York Times* 29 Sept. 2009: n. pag. Print. This source gave me information told by someone who actually went through Angel Island and experienced discrimination and fear when they were living in the US.

Brooks, Charlotte. *Immigration and Multiculturalism in America*. N.p.: ProQuest, n.d. Print. This source gave me some background information about Angel Island when I first started researching.

“Chinese Confession Program.” *Museum of Chinese in America*. Museum of Chinese in America, 2015. Web. 14 Feb. 2016.

<http://www.mocanyc.org/learn/timeline/chinese_confession_program>. This short website gave me an idea of how anti-Chinese sentiments spread throughout the US more than once throughout history, and it showed me that illegal Chinese immigrants had constant burdens because they immigrated with false papers.

“Chinese Poetry, Angel Island.” *Office of Historic Preservation*. State of California, n.d. Web. 1 Feb. 2016. <http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26821>. I used this source in my appendix and it was useful because it showed me how Chinese immigrants

expressed their frustration at being detained for such a long time and in such terrible conditions.

“Entrapment: The Interrogation Process at Angel Island Immigration Station.”

Citizenship Process. N.p., n.d. Web. 14 Feb. 2016.

<<http://sun.menloschool.org/~mbrody/ushistory/angel/citizenship/>>. This website helped me learn more about the interrogations that happened in an attempt to verify immigrants’ identities.

Fanning, Branwell, and William Wong. *Images of America: Angel Island*. Charleston: Arcadia, 2006. Print. This book was very detailed, giving me lots of specific information, and included images which helped me visualize what the station would have looked like to immigrants.

Foster, Philip S., and Daniel Rosenberg, eds. *Racism, Dissent, and Asian Americans from 1850 to the Present*. Westport: Greenwood, 1993. Print. Contributions in American History 148. This book gave me some insight and context as to the kinds of racism and discrimination that happened during the time Angel Island was in operation.

Gyory, Andrew. *Closing the Gate*. Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina, 1998. Print. This book helped me understand more of the historical and political context, such as why Americans were racist towards Chinese immigrants and some of the protests and anti-Chinese movements that happened in the US.

Hine, Robert V., and John Mack Faragher. *The American West: A New Interpretive History*. N.p.: Yale University, 2000. Print. The Lamar Series in Western History.

This book gave me some background information about immigration in general from the West and how it affected the US.

“History of Angel Island.” *Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 Jan. 2016. <<http://www.aiisf.org/education/station-history>>. This website gave a good overview of what people experienced at Angel Island, and helped me decide to focus on Chinese immigration.

“Immigration Station.” *California Department of Parks and Recreation*. State of California, n.d. Web. 31 Jan. 2016. <http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1309>. This website gave me some background information on why the Chinese Exclusion Act was passed and how common anti-Chinese sentiments were in the US.

Kallio, Jamie. *Angel Island Immigration: A History Perspectives Book*. Ann Arbor: Cherry Lake, 2015. Print. Though this source is intended for a young audience, it still provided some basic facts that helped me get started on my project.

Kwok, Steve. “My Father Was a Paper Son.” *Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation*. N.p., n.d. Web. 2 Apr. 2016. <<http://aiisf.org/immigrant-voices/stories-by-author/737-my-father-was-a-paper-son/>>. This account of a real person going through the interrogation processes as a paper son gave me some more basic information and specific details about false identities.

Lai, H. M. “Island of Immortals: Chinese Immigrants and the Angel Island Immigration Station.” *California History* 57.1 (1978): 88-103. *JSTOR*. Web. 26 Oct. 2015. This source was really useful for background information and even some specific information, and I found it very interesting to read.

Lai, Him Mark, Genny Lim, and Judy Yung. *Island*. Seattle: U of Washington, 1980.

Print. I read through this book to get an idea of the types of poems that immigrants wrote on the walls. These poems were touching and helped me understand how despairing and miserable these immigrants were.

Lau, Estelle T. *Paper Families*. Durham: Duke University, 2006. Print. This book gave me the details about paper families and the coaching books that were used to help immigrants prepare for interrogations at Angel Island. It also informed me more about Chinese Exclusion during the 1900s.

Lee, Erika. *At America's Gates*. Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina, 2005. Print. This book gave me some very helpful information about the details of the Exclusion Act. It also compared Angel Island to Ellis Island, which I thought was an extremely interesting and a thought provoking comparison.

Lee, Erika, and Judy Yung. *Angel Island: Immigrant Gateway to America*. New York: Oxford University, 2010. Print. This source was very useful for background information and a general overview of Chinese immigration through Angel Island.

Melendy, H. Brett. *The Oriental Americans*. New York: Hippocrene, 1972. Print. This book gave me some useful information about Chinese and Chinese Americans, as well as how Asian immigrants were treated in the US.

Salyer, Lucy E. *Laws Harsh as Tigers*. Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina, 1995. Print. This book educated me about the actual politics and how the laws that excluded the Chinese people actually worked. It also gave me information about people wanting to change immigration policy.

Soennichsen, John. *Miwoks to Missiles: A History of Angel Island*. Tiburon: Angel Island Association, 2001. Print. This book was useful to me as a secondary source to give me background knowledge about the actual island, as well as the immigration station.

Su, John, et al. "About Angel Island." *Modern American Poetry*. N.p., 1997. Web. 14 Feb. 2016. <http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/poets/a_f/angel/about.htm>. This website gave a good overview of many of the important aspects at Angel Island, including false identities and illegal immigration.

"United States Immigration Station (USIS)." *Angel Island Conservancy*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 Jan. 2016. <<http://angelisland.org/history/united-states-immigration-station-isis/>>. This website was important in the beginning of my research because it informed me about false identities and the methods that people used to try and get into the US.

Werner, Emmy E. *Passages to America*. Washington, D.C.: Potomac, 2009. Print. This book gave accounts from real people who passed through the immigration station and were children at the time.

Wong, Li Keng. "Angel Island: Li Keng Wong's Story." *Asian Pacific American Heritage*. Scholastic, n.d. Web. 4 Apr. 2016. <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/asian-american/angel_island/index.htm>. This source gave me an idea of how Chinese people adjusted to life in the US after getting through Angel Island.

Wong, William. "My Journey from China to America." Ed. Jordan Yee and Eddie Wong.

Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation. N.p., n.d. Web. 4 Apr. 2016.

<<http://aiisf.org/immigrant-voices/stories-by-author/595-lee-don-yee-fung-3/>>.

This source was the story of a man who came through Angel Island, and I found it helpful because it also described what he and his family experienced in the US that was related to racism and discrimination.