Subject Guide: Asian-American History

LancasterHistory’s Subject Guides follow the same format and are designed to help you identify the types of resources best suited to your needs. The first half focuses on resources that are available remotely. First, you will find helpful online resources from other organizations, and second, materials from our collections that have been digitized and made available online.

The second half of the guide includes materials that are available to access on-site at LancasterHistory in our Research Center. First are materials from our Archives. Each listing includes a link to the Finding Aid so that you can learn more about the items in that manuscript group. Next are materials in the Library collection, which can be found in our catalog by searching for the title and located on-site using the call number listed here. Next are items from our Photograph collection, which include links to the object record with the digital photograph attached. Finally, we have listed items from our Artifact collection, which can be found by searching for the Object ID or by following the direct link to the object record in our catalog.

If you have any questions about how to use these guides or need to report a broken link, please email research@lancasterhistory.org.

If you would like to schedule an appointment at our Research Center or learn more about visiting, you can do so here: https://www.lancasterhistory.org/research

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Online Resources

The Asian American Education Project:  
https://asianamericanedu.org/

Asia at the Smithsonian:  
https://www.si.edu/feature/celebrate-asia

Asian Nation:  
http://www.asian-nation.org/

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Resources from the National Archives:  

Asian Week Database Project:  

Chinese Historical and Cultural Project – Virtual Library:  
https://chcp.org/Virtual-Library

“A Chinese soldier in the Civil War” from the Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society:  
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo4003

A history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Philadelphia:  
https://whyv.org/articles/history-asian-americans-pacific-islanders-philadelphia/

Hong Neok Woo, Asian American Soldiers Memorial Hall:  
https://www.aasoldiersmemorialhall.org/hong-neok-woo/

Hong Neok Woo, Association to Commemorate the Chinese Serving in the American Civil War:  
https://sites.google.com/site/accsacw/Home/hong-neok-woo

Hong Neok Woo, Find a Grave:  
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/200503881/hong-neok-woo

Hong Neok Woo, St James Episcopal Church:  

Japanese American National Museum:  
https://www.janm.org/research
Japanese American Relocation Centers Records: A Student Digital Exhibition:
https://blogs.cornell.edu/japaneseamericanrelocationrecordsarchive/

Pacific Citizen Newspaper Digital Archives:
https://www.pacificcitizen.org/digital-archives/

South Asian American Digital Archive:
https://www.saada.org/

The Southeast Asian Archive at UC-Irvine:
https://seaa.lib.uci.edu/

UCLA’s Asian American Studies Center:
https://www.aasc.ucla.edu/

The Vietnam Center and Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University:
https://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/vahp/

The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience – Collections:
http://db.wingluke.org/?_ga=2.36326624.1371207035.1661459472-88620577.1661459472

Online Genealogy Resources

Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (San Francisco)
https://www.aiisf.org/research

Asian American Resources from the National Archives
https://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/ethnic-heritage

Japan GenWeb (RootsWeb)
http://sites.rootsweb.com/~jpnwgw/

Vietnam Genealogy at FamilySearch

Vietnam GenWeb
https://www.worldgenweb.net/vietnam/
Digitized Articles and Books from LancasterHistory

“A Chinese soldier in the Civil War”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo4003

“Lancaster in the Gettysburg Campaign”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo4060

“Dr. John S. Messersmith”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo4067

“Federal Revenues of Lancaster County, Pa.: from about 1850 to date”
https://collections.lancasterhistory.org/en/permalink/lhdo3712

LancasterHistory’s On-Site Resources

Archives Collection

Judicial Record, Quarter Sessions AUG 1880 F178 QS. Charge: malicious mischief, against unidentified “Chinaman” in Bowmansville. See also: Indictment, AUG 1880 F105.

Library Collection

Non-Bibliographic Materials

Woo family – Family File
Chinese in Lancaster County – Information File

Books

974.815 LACI W928 Old Lancaster Tales and Traditions, “A Chinese soldier in the Civil War”

973.0495 A945 Oversize Atlas of Asian-American history
973.0495 A832 The Asian-American almanac: a reference work on Asians in the United States

Journal Articles

905.748 PHMC v. 39 “Woo Hong Neok a Chinese American Soldier in the Civil War”
905.748 HSP v. 142 “From chow chop suey to dishes in cans: how Pennsylvania Chinese American restaurateurs lost to racism, ruffians, reformers, and economic decline”

Photograph Collection

Note: The Rebecca Walton Griest Photograph Collection includes many photographs of her travels in China, especially related to her studies at Ginling (Jinling) College in Nanjing

Object ID 2-01-03-08 Photographic Print, Hong Neok Woo, c. 1870

Object ID 2-01-03-07 Photographic Print, Hong Neok Woo in religious clothing, c. 1860

Object ID LR-02-01-42 Photographic Print, Girls in Asian dress

Object ID DL-02-06-40 Photographic Print, Festival in downtown Lancaster with participants in Asian dress

Object ID DL-02-06-41 Photographic Print, Festival in downtown Lancaster with participants in Asian dress

Object ID DL-02-06-42 Photographic Print, Festival in downtown Lancaster with participants in Asian dress

Object ID UF-01-01-05 Carte de visite, Asian man in traditional dress, inscribed "Ah You, Jan. 26, 1885."

Object ID JH-01-03-33 Photographic Print, How Gum in military uniform and boxing gloves

Object ID HC-79-03-21 Photographic print of three Asian men in suits, inscribed "Do You, Mark Ute, Ah Wong" and "From album of Miss Rachael Jackson".


Object ID 1-02-02-38 Cabinet card, 2 Chinese students, possible taught by Rachel Jackson, identified as Lee Wing and his cousin

Object ID A-10-01-88 Photographic Print, Chinese and Vietnamese students from J.P. McCaskey High School host a retirement party for English teacher, Mrs. Valavanes, c. 1988

Object ID 1-02-01-57 Photographic Print, Lieut. George Clayton Foulk, b. October 30, 1856 d. August 6, 1893, and his wife Kame Murase
Object ID A-10-01-89  Photographic Print, Group of Vietnamese girls at McCaskey Prom: Phuong Le, Hanh Phan, Mai Tran, Mrs. Valavanes, Nha Tran, Huong Nguyen, and Loc Ouy Nguyen


Object ID P.95.17.01  Photographic Print (framed), Do You, 1888.

Object ID 1-06-02-71 and 1-06-02-74  Photographic Print, RCA engineers and Chinese training class. Seated, left to right: Bruce Marks, Ernie Speros, John Holtzapple, Joe Piascinski, Jim Maley and Walter Masterson.

Object ID RT-02-08-11  Photographic Print, Chinatown in New York City, c. 1950

Object ID RT-02-09-04, RT-02-09-24, RT-02-09-01, RT-02-09-02  Photographic Print, Chinese New Year festivities, New York City, 1957

Object ID 2002.097.039  Lantern slide, Two men with a sign in Chinese, c. 1889-1920