

Salem Remembers Timeline 1900 - 1901



Children of Chinese descent at the Marion County Courthouse, c. 1900.

1900, June 8 | Salem's Chinese Heritage

Weekly Oregonian Statesman

SALEM'S CHINESE POPULATION

There Are About 50 Celestials in the Capital City — One Native-born Chinaman

The twelfth census now being taken will show a Chinese population in the Capital City, of about fifty persons, and seven Japanese.

The enumeration of Salem's Celestial inhabitants was made on Tuesday afternoon, by Census Enumerator William Manning, assisted by Tong Chee, as interpreter. Chee is well known in Salem being salesman at G. Steiner's poultry depot. The enumeration shows about fifty resident Chinese, of whom seven are women and twelve are children. Besides the twelve children, who are all native born, there is one native-born Chinaman, viz Ah Sing, who is cook at Hotel Salem.

It would appear from the number of Chinamen seen on Salem's streets almost daily, that the number residing within the city exceeded fifty but it is explained that many reside on farms surrounding Salem and spend much of their time in the city, which accounts for the great number usually seen upon the streets.

The census numeration will show but seven Japanese residents in the Capital City and of the seven four are women.

1900, July 21 | Salem's Chinese Heritage

The Daily Journal

First Presbyterian

Reverend H. A. Ketchum, pastor. Preaching tomorrow at 10:30 a. m. and 8 p. m. Subject of morning sermon — "The Chinese War, 'What Meaneth These Things?'" Evening subject—"A Question That Deserves and Demands Most Serious Consideration."

1900, July 21 | Salem's Chinese Heritage | Article Contains Slurs

The Daily Journal

Have No Opinion

Chinese Residents of Salem Are Non-Committal on the Present Trouble.

The Chinese residents of Salem are exceedingly non-committal on the subject of the trouble in China. A JOURNAL reporter interviewed some of the prominent Chinamen of the City yesterday, but got little worth repeating.

On Lee, of On Lee & Co., was the first man seen, and his talk was an advance copy of all the rest.

"Don't know anything about the trouble in China," said On Lee, "I've been in this country twenty-six years. I don't know boxy man. Don't know what that means. Never hear about boxy man. I don't know anything about trouble in China, only what Americans tell me. We have no telegraphs to China; no telephones. Letters take long time — twenty-four days. Don't like to see any trouble between China and America. It is bad business."

This was rather more definite than anything said by the others. They were all more or less voluble in explaining that they knew nothing about the matter, and Sun Lung, the Court Street laundry man, added "that he didn't care." A bright young Chinaman in one establishment, in the absence of the bossee man, was inclined to the opinion that Japan was responsible for the trouble. But the absence of any definite opinion is a remarkable illustration of the secretiveness of the Chinese character.



Professor Clayton Wentz and Mr. Comp with students
at the Oregon School for the Deaf, c. 1900

1900, August 15 | Salem's Deaf Heritage

The Morning Astorian

Professor Clayton Wentz, Superintendent of the Oregon School for the Deaf

Professor Clayton Wentz, superintendent of the Oregon School for the Deaf at Salem, has issued a letter to the patrons of the school and the parents of deaf children throughout the state giving notice of the opening of the school, and the arrangements made to receive the pupils. The text of the letter follows:

"You are hereby notified that the coming school year will begin September 19; classes will be organized on the following day. Have your child leave home in time to reach Salem on the 18th. In order to conserve the best interest of all concerned, the following has been adopted: all pupils who enter school later than October 15th will drop back into the next lower class. All pupils who enter between the 1st and 15th of October will be given a trial in the regular class, and if unable to keep up with the class will go into the next lower. You will see the importance of sending them at the beginning of the term.

It is advisable to place a little money to the child's credit in the institution office for incidentals, and for his spending money. If money is given or sent to the child, the school management does not assume responsibility until it is deposited in the office. Be careful to mark plainly all the initial letters of your child's name on each article of clothing sent with him. All westbound O. R. & N. trains will be met in Portland by an attendant on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 15th and 19th. Please notify us if your child will be in school this year and when we shall meet him."

1900, September 26 | Salem's Black Heritage | Article Contains Slurs

Morning Oregonian

Negro Law of Oregon

Kansas Bryanites Quoting it for Campaign Purposes

Designated as Worse Than Disenfranchisement or Tillmanism

Governor Geer on the Subject

"Oregon Black Law" is the heading of a campaign paragraph given a prominent place every week in The Colored Citizen, a paper published by a negro at Topeka, Kansas, in the interest of Bryan. This paragraph, quoting Oregon's constitutional provision regarding negroes, claims that it is "worse than disenfranchisement or Tillmanism." The Republicans of Kansas seem to be considerably disturbed because of the use Bryan's followers are making of this section of the Oregon constitution to help Bryan in the Middle States. Governor Geer has received a number of letters making inquiry regarding the Oregon law, and then answering the last one, received today, he explains that the law is obsolete, and then continues:

"I wish to say that the mental depravity of the negro who will, for any reason, justify the treatment of his race in the Southern States by what this editor calls 'Tillmanism' is past comprehension or characterization. Tillmanism stops nowhere short of the admission made by Senator Tillman himself in the Senate this year when he declared that, 'We stuffed the ballot boxes, we shot them, and we are not ashamed of it.' But the difference is that that section of our constitution was never enforced, while 'Tillmanism' is, and whatever else is not known by the average voter of this country, he does know that this section was repealed and rendered null and void by the adoption of the 14th and 15th amendments to the Federal Constitution. The principle of the 'consent of the governed,'" in its larger and truer sense, is in operation everywhere in this country save in that portion where Mr. Bryan will receive nearly all of his electoral votes.

"I dare to say, further, in regard to this Kansas matter, that since discovering that you have a negro in your state who is so unappreciative of the great privileges conferred upon himself by the Republican party as to endorse and apologize for the treatment of his race in the Southern States, I believe it should have this obsolete section of our constitution reengrafted into its own organic law and rigidly enforced. I should be in favor of enforcing it here if we had such negroes."

1900, October 19 | Salem's Black Heritage
Weekly Oregon Statesman

Called a Liar

Copies of an Indiana Paper Received Yesterday

Show with What Weapons This Political War is Waged There

Plain Words are Used.

When William Jennings Bryan made his campaign tour through Indiana, and was asked the question regarding the disenfranchisement of the negroes in the South, he answered that the Oregon constitution was worse than that of any Southern states. The Weekly Herald of Anderson, Indiana, telegraphed Secretary of State F. I. Dunbar for his information regarding this matter, and received a prompt reply, both messages being published in The Anderson Herald of October 12th, just to hand. The Herald article, headed "Bryan Lie Nailed Again," is as follows:

The Herald sent the following telegram Saturday afternoon to honorable F. I. Dunbar, secretary of state of Oregon:

"Secretary of State, Salem, Oregon:—Can negroes vote in Oregon? Is negroe's right to hold property limited by your constitution? If so limited, is limitation operative? Write or reply immediately. Morning Herald.'

"Morning Herald, Anderson, Indiana — Oregon Constitution adopted 1857 restricted the right of suffrage to white male citizens. This has never been changed, but it has been held by our courts that the effect of the Fifteenth Amendment to the National Constitution is to nullify this provision so far as it effects negroes, therefore, since the adoption of said amendment negroes are allowed to vote in Oregon and the right to hold property is not limited by our constitution or by our laws. F. I. Dunbar, Secretary of State.'

"The Constitution was adopted in 1857 as stated by Secretary Dunbar, but did not become operative until February 14, 1859, when Oregon was admitted to the Union. This telegram brands Bryan as a liar and a demagogue."

In the same issue of the Herald appears the following, showing the feeling against Bryan's misrepresentation of facts, and the proofs adduced:

"The Herald wired Secretary of State Dunbar, of Oregon, Tuesday for the vote on the heads of the tickets at the June election, and the vote to amend the section of the Constitution referring to negroes. The reply follows:

'Salem, Or., Oct. 9.—Morning Herald, Anderson, Indiana.—Vote of Oregon June election: Supreme Judge Wolverton, Republican, 44,025; Green, Democratic, People's Party, 33,388. Green defeated. Repealing amendment, that section 35 of Constitution be repealed: voted "yes," 19,074 voted "no," 19,999, four other amendments also voted down at same time. F. I. Dunbar, Secretary of State.'

"This telegram proves what The Herald expected, that there was no interest in the amendment because it was a dead letter anyway. Barely half of the voters expressed themselves either way on the amendment. There were only 39,073 votes cast on the amendment, while there were 77,413 votes for supreme judge. So little interest was felt in any of the five amendments all were defeated.

"Bryan tried to deceive the people in his answer to the Herald's question and then went further by furnishing type-written copies of the falsehood to the press. The Herald has unmasked this dangerous

deceiver, this smooth juggler of words, who would barter the suffrages of his fellow-men for office. Down with Bryan, Bryan methods and Bryanism."

In the same issue appears the following article regarding Bryan's campaigning, and proving that he will make his campaign pay him well, even if he meets defeat at the polls, which is now considered by the best informed Democrats:

"The conservative Democrats of the gas belt are now raising 'blue blazes' over the amount of money that was given Col. Bryan for his trip through this part of the state. In his speech in Anderson Bryan said: 'Because I have been the candidate of my party for the presidency, I can make a living for myself and family easier than most of the men responsible for this administration.' These Democrats have found out what Bryan meant by this.

"Bryan made the local central committee shell out an even \$600 for his work Friday in this county. Of this \$300 was charged to Anderson and \$150 each for the meetings at Alexander and Elwood. The county central committee assessed the three cities according to the charges made and the money was paid over. One of the stipulations of the contract entered into by Bart Campbell was that there should be no delay about turning over the money, and the train that hauled Bryan out of the county, hauled away six hundred Madison county dollars.

"Friday was a big day for Bryan. The day he was here four years ago he gleaned \$1800. But on Friday he beat that record by from \$300-\$400. So it is at the rate of \$2000 a day that he is trying to save the country from Imperialism and the laboring men from the galling yoke of a protective tariff that gives them work. He stopped at thirteen towns Friday. They were charged \$150 each where short stops were made, and the price at other places ranged from that figure to \$300. The charge at Anderson, Munsie and Richmond got tolerably long stops and coughed up \$200 apiece.

"The Democrats of Alexandria are especially warm. Bryan was to have stayed there a half hour, but on account of the train being late he stayed but fifteen minutes. Yet no deduction was made. The \$150 had to be produced just the same.

"Is it any wonder that Bryan is prospering as few people in this great country are?"

1900, October 22 | Salem's Chinese Heritage

Morning Oregonian

Chinese Found Dead in Salem

Huon, a Chinese, was found dead in Chinatown, in this city, shortly after midnight by Night Officer Smith. Coroner Lane was summoned, but could not tell whether he was the victim of foul play, and an inquest will be held today.

1901, January 25 | Salem's Japanese Heritage | Article Contains Slurs

Morning Oregonian

A Debate Over Jap Labor

Congress Memorialized to Shut Out Them and the Chinese

Senate joint memorial No. 2, in favor of the re-enactment of the Chinese exclusion law, which passed both houses, was the subject of a sharp debate in the Senate this morning. The memorial was called up by its author, Senator Inman, and was attacked by Kuykendall, who moved to strike out the second, third, fourth and fifth clauses of the resolutions.

The memorial as introduced is as follows:

Whereas, Those laws of Congress commonly known as the Chinese exclusion laws, will expire on or about the fifth day of May, 1902; and,

Whereas, Unless the said laws be re-enacted our country will be overrun with countless hordes of Chinese, Japanese and other Asiatic laborers, equally objectionable; and,

Whereas, Their unrestricted immigration here would work incalculable injury to our miners, mechanics, and skilled laborers and wage earners generally throughout the length and breadth of the land by reason of the grinding competition to which they would be thereby subjected and to numerous other evils of a most calamitous nature; and,

Whereas, All our smaller dealers in our various kinds of business and most of those belonging to our professional classes would, in a very short time, fall victims to the deplorable effects of such unlimited immigration from the quarter here alluded to; and,

Whereas, Our country as a whole would suffer there from a fatal blow to its future advancement toward a higher state of enlightened civilization and be shorn of much of its prestige, greatness and glory as a nation; and,

Whereas, A failure to reenact the said exclusion law would be an unwise and a dangerous reversal of a policy we have found imperatively necessary during the last 20 years — a policy which has enabled us to preserve a much greater degree of peace, good order and tranquility within our borders than would otherwise have been possible; and,

Whereas, Our miners, mechanics, unskilled laborers, and wage earners generally are, from all practical points of view, unanimously in favor of the re-enactment of the said laws — a fact particularly true of the wage earners in Oregon and all over the Pacific Coast and Western States without exception; and,

Whereas, The remainder of our fellow citizens the whole country over, not embraced within the several descriptions of persons above mentioned, are for the most part also in favor of re-enactment of the said laws; therefore, be it

Resolved, As the sense of the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Oregon, now in regular session assembled;

First — that said exclusion laws are to be re-enacted at the present session of Congress or as soon thereafter as may be necessary to keep them in continuous and unbroken effect.

Second — That said laws ought to be widened in their scope so as to be made to apply to the Japanese and all other Mongolian or Asiatic races as well as to the Chinese and to be furthermore so modified as to be unlimited in their period of operation.

Third — That the Senators and Representatives of this state in the United States Congress be and are hereby respectfully requested to use all honorable means within their power to secure the re-enactment of the said exclusion laws at the present session of Congress or as soon thereafter as may be necessary to keep them in continuous an unbroken effect.

Fourth— That in so doing they are hereby also requested to have the said laws so widened in their scope and lengthened in their breadth as to remain in force as well make them conform to the requirements of the foregoing preamble and resolutions.

Fifth — That they are hereby furthermore requested to urge upon Congress and the treaty-making power of the government to take immediate steps looking to such treaty modifications, if any, as may be necessary or expedient to prepare the way for re-enactment of the said laws with changes therein hereby recommended.

Sixth—That duly certified copies of the foregoing preamble and resolutions be forthwith forwarded to the Senators and Representatives of this state in the United States Congress.

When Inman moved the adoption of the memorial he stated that as the Federal Chinese exclusion law is so generally favored, it would be unnecessary for him to offer any arguments in its behalf. He had no sooner taken his seat, however, than Senator Kuykendall offered his motion to strike out. He said that it appeared to him that proper consideration of the merits of the questions involved might not have been given when the memorial was prepared, and that it was perhaps more far-reaching than the members of the Senate would have it on more careful inspection. He objected particularly to the second provision, that the laws be so widened as to be made to apply to the Japanese and all other Mongolian or Asiatic races, as well as to the Chinese, and to be furthermore so modified as to be unlimited in their period of operation. He expressed the opinion that the people do not favor so extensive an application of the law.

Smith of Baker got the floor as soon as Kuykendall sat down, and addressed the Senate in opposition to the motion to strike out. He intimated that he thought the motion has been made for political reasons and said he objected strenuously to any such attack upon the memorial. He believed the exclusion act to be in the interest of the American laborer, and an extension of the provisions of the law would be an increased benefit to American labor.

Kuykendall denied that his motion was made for political reasons and said that he is opposed to exclusion laws on general principles. He believes the intelligence and skill of American labor will enable it to compete successfully with the whole world and that exclusion laws are unnecessary. As a temporary measure, he would have no objection to the law, but he would object, most emphatically, to extending the exclusion to the energetic, progressive Japanese and to making the exclusion laws perpetual.

Inman of Multnomah closed the debate with an eloquent and effective plea for the protection of white American labor. He asserted that the workingmen of this country should be paid at least \$1.75 per day, and if they receive this, they must not be compelled to compete with a foreigner who can make money at

50 cents per day. He would not only make the continuance of the exclusion law unlimited, but would have it apply to every man who has not white skin.

The vote resulted in a defeat of Kuykendall's motion and the adoption of Inman's memorial.

1901, February 13 | Salem's Black Heritage

Morning Oregonian

In the Senate

Abrogation of Negro Clause From Constitution Voted.

The Senate was called to order at 10 A. M. and was opened with prayer by Reverend Henderson of the Central Congregational Church.

The committee on judiciary reported favorably on Senate bill No. 33, by Daly to provide for contests for places on the official ballot, with an amendment providing that no costs shall be allowed to either party.

The Senate concurred in the adoption of House joint resolution No. 8, on an amendment to the constitution abrogating the Negro clause.

1901, March 26 | Salem's Chinese Heritage

Morning Oregonian

"Limpy" Jim

"Limpy" Jim, a Salem Chinese, well known for his peculiarities, died today of consumption.

1901, June

U.S. Inspector James McLaughlin declared a 25,791-acre tract of the Grand Ronde Reservation "surplus" and the U.S. sold those "surplus" lands for \$1.16 per acre. LB

1901, June 21 | Salem's Chinese Heritage

Polk County Itemizer

The Bowling Alley

The bowling alley has been dismantled and E. C. Kirkpatrick is having the property fixed up for the Chinese wash house. The present wash house will be torn down and a building erected there for a store and office.

1901, June 21 | Salem's Chinese Heritage

Polk County Itemizer

Why Patronize Any Loud Smelling

Why patronize any loud smelling Chinese wash house while the Salem Steam Laundry will give you so much better service for the same money.

1901, November 22 | Salem's Chinese Heritage

The Dalles Daily Chronicle

Geer In Favor of Exclusion of Chinese

In response to a message from a San Francisco paper requesting an expression from Oregon's chief executive relative to the sentiment in Oregon on the Geary Chinese exclusion act, Governor Geer last night wired that the public sentiment in Oregon is unanimously in favor of the re-enactment of the Geary law. The message was read at a convention of Californians held in San Francisco today, when Congress was memorialized to re-enact the legislation covering the Chinese question.