

Reference Code MS 172

Repository: Georgia Room, Augusta-Richmond County Public Library, 823 Telfair Street, Augusta, Georgia 30901

Title: Augusta Chinese-American Oral History Project

Date: August 8, 2011 – May 31, 2012; 2018

Extent: One (1) box.

Scope and Content: Twenty-six (26) oral history interviews on DVDs of Chinese-Americans who either immigrated to Augusta from China, and/or grew in Augusta during the early to mid-part of the twentieth century.

Lastly, the box contains the 2018 Digital Library (DLG) of Georgia Competitive Digitization Proposal requesting a grant to digitize the material. The grant was awarded and the oral interviews were made available in the DLG in 2018.

Name of Creator: The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association.

Administrative/Biographical Information: On July 25, 2011 the Georgia Humanities Council awarded the CCBA a grant of \$2000 for the Augusta Chinese American Oral History Project. The project dates were 8/1/2011 to 5/31/2012. In 2018 the Digital Library of Georgia awarded ARCPLS a grant to have the collection of interviews digitized and made available through the DLG website.

The Augusta Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) was chartered in 1927 to support Augusta's Chinese community. The CCBA is the oldest Chinese organization in Georgia and remains active in the community.

The interviews were gathered in 2011 and 2012 by members of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of Augusta (CCBA), with Augusta-Richmond County Public Library System (ARCPLS) serving as a partner institution. The DVD recordings contain both audio and visual components. The visual component consists of a slide show of personal photographs documenting life in Augusta, immigration to America, and family life.

Because of the variety of topics discussed by those interviewed, the oral histories appeal to a broad number of researchers, social historians, those tracing family histories, and students. Anyone interested in the study of immigration, minority cultures, economic history, race relations, or the establishment of Chinese-American organizations in the south will find the interviews informative. Many of the interviewees discuss family-owned business that opened in predominantly African-American neighborhoods in Augusta during the Jim Crow era. Whites in Augusta refused to provide services to African-Americans, thereby opening a window of opportunity, which Augusta's Chinese-Americans took advantage of by opening successful groceries, restaurants, and laundry establishments, a few of which were damaged or destroyed during the 1970 Augusta Riot.

In addition to the twenty-six (26) audiovisual recordings, the collection includes the Georgia Humanities Grant written by the CCBA, which provides a list of project participants, with brief profiles, as well as a complete list of all participants interviewed during the oral history project. Also included are folders for

each interviewee containing a narrator's questionnaire with biographical information, a family tree, and a brief sketch of what the person discusses in the interview, with pictures.

Conditions governing access: No restrictions.

Related resources:

https://dlg.usg.edu/collection/gaec_caoh?f%5Bprovenance_facet%5D%5B%5D=Augusta-Richmond+County+Public+Library

Disc 1, Folder 1: Elaine Beggs
Disc 2, Folder 2: Gerald Chow
Disc 3, Folder 3: K. J. Chow
Disc 4, Folder 4: Ellen Woo Dong
Disc 5, Folder 5: Yick Dong
Disc 6, Folder 6: Rosa Heung and Leung Kit Heung
Disc 7, Folder 7: Nuey Ying Hon and Mrs. D. L. Hon
Disc 8, Folder 8: Jean Dick Joe and George Joe
Disc 9, Folder 9: June Law
Disc 10, Folder 10: Alex Loo
Disc 11, Folder 11: Dorothy Woo Loo
Disc 12, Folder 12: June Loo (Woon Kwai Loo)
Disc 13, Folder 13: Scott Loo (Suey Chong Loo)
Disc 14, Folder 14: Walter Lum
Disc 15, Folder 15: Zai Song (Jamie) Ng
Disc 16, Folder 16: Mary Kathryn Rufo
Disc 17, Folder 17: Raymond Tom Rufo
Disc 18, Folder 18: Jean Strickland (CCBA Building history)
Disc 19, Folder 19: Gary Tom
Disc 20, Folder 20: Ida Yee Tom
Disc 21, Folder 21: Travis Tom
Disc 22, Folder 22: Betty Wong (Yau Kwan Wong)
Disc 23, Folder 23: Bess Gee Woo
Disc 24, Folder 24: James Woo
Disc 25, Folder 25: Madison Woo and Lessie Jo Woo
Disc 26, Folder 26: Truman Woo