

EXCERPT FROM JOURNAL WITH TESTIMONIES FROM CHINESE SURVIVORS OF THE COOLIE ERA,  
AUTHOR UNKNOWN, 1913-1914. CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY.

NOTE: The following transcription of the original manuscript attempts to preserve the text as best as possible. Dr. Aimee Loiselle made the transcription in 2016. Abbreviations and misspellings are kept as they existed in the original. Where the handwriting was illegible, Dr. Loiselle made guesses based on the surrounding language context and indicated these with brackets, like this [X]. When you see an underscore like this \_\_\_\_\_, it means that the document's author redacted (left out) the interviewee's name or that any another individual identified by name for the purpose of privacy or confidentiality.

105.           20. Hawker. My friend \_\_\_\_\_ took me to Macao promising to find me a place to cook. Arrived there 18/2/12 J.C., and remained in the XXX [washing or machine?] till 4/3/12 J.C., when he told me that if I wanted to take a sick man's place for 1 night I would get \$8. Went to a barrac: and to a Port off: signed a contract and got \$8. Contract was explained but I did not understand it. Went on board a steamer. 8/4/12 J.C. sailed. Arrived 10/1/13 J.C. Out of 930, more than 200 died. Food and water insuf. Food was soft rice and crackers. When I got on board, I saw over 200 men chained up. They were all strong and stout. I came here on arrival. We have to carry and lift large rocks. When we can not lift, then the overseer flogs us. We are paid no wages. We recd 1 suit of clothes on the vessel. I am not content to remain here. Food insuf. Have a mo-ther 59 yrs old who depends on me for support.

637.           25. Shoemaker. Business being dull of \_\_\_\_\_ induced me to go to Macao with him to find employment. On arrival we went to barrac: 5 days afterwards they asked me to sign a contract but I did not want to do so. The clerk then told me that he would see that I was brought on shore again and I was only wanted to take a sick man's place for a night. I signed the contract \_\_\_\_\_ and got \$8. Went on board steamer 19/3/12 J.C. Sailed 22/3/12 J.C. Arrived 18/1/13. Was whipped and kicked for being sick. Allowed on deck occasionally. On arrival came here. First 2 or 3 days swept the yards and since then carried large stones. Food insuf. Only 2 [Page 13] meals a day. Each of us served bowl of rice. each No wages. Do not want to stay here. My mother + father in China, each 60 years old, depend on me for support.

23.            22. Paper image maker. Was induced by a man named \_\_\_\_\_ to go with him to Hong Kong to find employment. Went on board of a junk, but instead of Hong Kong was carried to Macao. Remained thru 5 d. in the hong. ~~Remained thru 5 d.~~ and was then taken to the Port: off. to sign a contract, which was explained to me + \$8 was advanced. Signed the contract against my will but did not XXX. Embarked 9/3/12 J.C. Sailed 23/7/12. Arrived 13/1/13 J.C. Very badly treated, especially by the Chinese interpreter. Food enough. Has not been in barrac: 18 d. For the first four days, was very badly treated and did not have enough to eat, but since they heard of the arrival of the Commission we have had plenty to eat and are not made to work. Before this we had to carry stones. Out of 865 men, 120 died on the passage.

24.            25 Meat seller. Having been told by a friend named \_\_\_\_\_ that employment might be [attained?] in Macao, I accompanied him there in a junk. On arrival was taken to \_\_\_ hong and remained there 9 days. Went before the Port: off: and expressed my unwillingness to go. Then the man \_\_\_\_\_ and several others threatened to drown me should I say the same thing again. So the second time that I was taken before the off: I signed the contract for fear that they would carry out their threat. Contract explained and \$8 advanced. Embarked 20/3/12 J.C. Sailed 22/3/12. Arrived 9/1/13. First 2 mo. had enf. food, but after that had bad food. Was kicked + knocked about by the sailors. Have now been 15 days in the barrac. Had to carry stones at first but since the arrival of the Chinese Mandarins ~~had~~ have not had to do this + have rec'd double rations. My parents do not know where I am. Cured myself on board of opium [smoking?]