

United States of America,  
Washington Territory, 1888  
King County 11

Kwook She being first duly sworn on his oath deposes and saith:

I was born in China, and am a subject of the Emperor of China. I have resided in the United States 21 years. I am a merchant dealing in general merchandize, dry goods, medicines, provisions and all kinds of silks, also in wines. I have also been a contractor furnishing all kinds of Chinese labor during the time I have resided in Tacoma. I had carried on the business of a merchant and contractor for about 6 years before November 3. I had resided there 12 years.

About 20 days before the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November last a crowd of white men numbering 15 or 20 came down to Chinatown in Tacoma and notified all the

Chinese inhabitants of the city to leave Tacoma before the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November. They said that the Knights of Labor and all the people wanted the Chinamen to go. They said that they were sent by the Knights of Labor to notify us to leave. The result of this notice was that about 200 Chinamen became frightened and left town before the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November. The reason they were frightened was because the parties who notified us to go said if the Chinese did not leave they were going to cut their throats, kill them and destroy their property.

At that time there was about 1100 Chinamen in and about Tacoma. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November there was probably 800 or 900 Chinamen in town. I went and asked General Shrague Mr. Pipe, a merchant and Mr. Anderson, land agent of the Northern Pacific Railroad at Tacoma what was best to do.

They said: "this business is nothing but talk." The Government will take care of you. Go and behave yourselves, attend to your business and everything will be all right.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November about half past 9 o'clock in the morning about 1000 people most of them white residents of Pacama, came down to Chinatown down on the wharf and said that the Chinamen must leave by half past one in the afternoon. They went into all the Chinese houses (there were about 11 or 12 in that locality). They then went away. At about 1:30 p.m. of the same day a large riotous gathering of white persons returned to Chinatown and expelled the Chinese, breaking open the houses where the doors were locked. Some of the mob had clubs in their hands, some were armed with pistols. The Chinese became thoroughly frightened worse men

Some of the mob went upstairs  
in the Chinese buildings, broke  
the windows and destroyed  
articles of furniture. My house  
being on the water front some  
of the rioters came in a boat  
invaded my house, took a great  
many of my of my goods and  
carried them into the boat.  
They also put me out of the  
house. The wind was blowing  
a gale. It was raining hard.  
Some of the Chinese lost their  
trunks, some their blankets.  
Many were crying. A great number  
of white men, some of whom  
were on horseback, had pistols  
and clubs and thus armed they  
drove the Chinese from their  
quarters and marched them  
out of town. Two of the Chinese  
were seriously ill when they  
were dragged out of their houses  
by the crowd. These two after-  
wards died from exposure and  
excitement out on the road  
about 8 miles from Tacoma,  
where they had fallen down unable

to walk further. The Chinese people were driven out like a herd of cattle, a large crowd following them out of town. I went to the Sheriff's office and asked permission to remain in town three days to pack up my goods, but he would not allow me to stay longer than 48 hours. When I came back to my shore I found that half of my goods were gone, also \$360 I had in my safe had been stolen. I believe white men stole it. I never recovered either goods or money. Every Chinese house in town was treated the same way. About 11 o'clock A.M. of the same day the mob drove the Chinese out of old Tacama, a place situated about half a mile from Tacama. They also set fire to the Chinese buildings in old Tacama using coal oil to ignite them. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of November, <sup>about 9 o'clock A.M.</sup> the Chinese houses on the wharf in new Tacama were burnt down by the mob of white men.

Under the permission granted  
me by the Sheriff giving me  
48 hours to remain in the city.  
I packed up what was left of  
my goods. About half past  
9 o'clock in the evening of  
the 3rd November 30 or 40 white  
men came into the house  
and asked who was the boss  
I told them I was. Four or five  
of them pulled their pistols  
out of their pockets and said  
"You are a son of a bitch.  
You must get out of ~~here~~  
the house." I told them, "gentlemen,  
give me the time that the  
Sheriff has allowed me,  
the 48 hours." They said: "we  
have no time to give you.  
You should have gone about  
half past one to-day." I then  
became frightened, left  
went away and went out  
into the Country about a mile  
and a half from town to an  
Indian Agency, where I remained  
till the 5th when I saw the fire  
of the burning China town. They

store was burnt with the rest of the Chinese buildings. I left on the 6<sup>th</sup> on the train for Portland. The two Chinese men I took with me when I went to pack up my things in my store I left in my store in Chinatown. They were afterwards put in jail having been arrested on a charge of arson in having set fire to Chinatown, but on examination before the Magistrate they were released and also left for Portland.

The following is a just and true statement of my losses resulting from the losses by the riot:

1. Three story store 50 feet in depth, 24 ft wide, 36 feet high; and 1 two story store 60 feet in depth 16 feet wide 16 feet high \$1000

Out buildings improvements on house 479.45

~~Tax~~ ~~tariff~~ ~~goods~~ ~~Case~~ 675.00

Painting etc

Cash robbed by riot  
 Rice, oil & dry goods  
 and merchandise in  
 stock 5000  
 Medicines 1800  
 Debts due me from  
 solvent debtors (Chinese) 8.000  
 \$17314.45  
 Goods safe in  
 police mans  
 ware house \$ 1500.00  
 15814.45

I filed this same account  
 with Col. Bee, Chinese  
 Consul in San Francisco  
 Cal. some time ago.

I know Lung May and  
 his family. His wife became  
 insane 5 or 6 days after the  
 riot in Tacoma and is now  
 insane, being afflicted with  
 a homicidal mania.

In regard to some of my  
 losses I am unable to furnish  
 an accurate statement in  
 detail owing to some of my books  
 and papers having been destroyed  
 or stolen by the mob. I am able however



to say that I have not over stated  
my losses, but on the contrary  
understate the same.

Kwok Sue & Co

Subscribed and sworn to before  
me this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, A.D. 1886.

H. J. Voderberg  
Notary Public.

Territory of Washington, County of  
King, W.

On this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, A.D. 1886  
before me a Notary Public in and  
for said County and Territory, duly  
authorized by law to administer  
oaths, personally appeared Kwok  
Sue, a Chinaman, over the  
age of twenty one years, well  
known to me as the person who  
subscribed the foregoing affidavit  
and a person of respectability  
fully entitled to credit, who being  
by me first solemnly sworn  
according to law upon his  
oath says that the statements  
in the foregoing affidavits  
by him subscribed are true.  
I further certify that I am not  
interested in the said claim or

or any part thereof either  
directly nor indirectly.

In Witness whereof I have  
hereunto affixed my hand  
and official seal at Seattle  
in said county this 3rd day  
of June, A. D. 1886.

N. Söderberg  
Notary Public.

Book file

No 3.

In the matter  
of the application  
of Chinese from  
Tacoma

Affidavit of  
Book file.