

AFD 262 Mar 12 Idaho Chinese History

- Gold Rush (1848-55) → Railroad (1862-69) → Ft Boise & Idaho Territory established 1863 → Idaho Head Tax (1864, raised 1866) → 1866: Idaho Chinese people lobbied successfully for more legal rights unlike California the year before, but more consistent w/ new 14th Amendment → Exclusion Act (1882) → Anti-Chinese Convention (1886) → Expulsions/Pogroms (1887)
- <https://twitter.com/emdragon12/status/1099438871610253312>
 - Anti-Chinese Convention in Boise February 25 1886
<https://calendar.eji.org/racial-injustice/feb/25> *In 1866, the Idaho Territorial Legislature levied a tax of five dollars per month on all Chinese residents. Chinese residents were not permitted to testify against whites in court, and acts of violence committed against the Chinese were rarely investigated or punished. Idaho public sentiment against the Chinese culminated in an anti-Chinese convention held in Boise on February 25, 1886. At the convention, white residents of Idaho voted to expel Chinese citizens.*
 - Clipping from Idaho Semi-Weekly World, 23 Feb 1886:
https://www.newspapers.com/clip/17689172/delegates_elected_to_territorial/
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Chinese_Americans_in_the_Pacific_Northwest
- <https://www.cdapress.com/archive/article-f6dbe14c-4e62-51f6-9500-15421215a9c2.html>
 - Mining and the Transcontinental Railroad work brought many Chinese workers to the region (at least 10,000 Chinese railworkers). One construction superintendent purportedly didn't want to supervise them because he didn't believe they could do the job and his boss told him that the Chinese people built the Great Wall of China so they could definitely build a railroad.
 - Some Chinese were brought to the area as slaves rather than indentured servants or migrant workers.
 - **Hell's Canyon Massacre:** *In May 1887, bodies of Chinese gold miners started drifting down the Snake River into Lewiston. Thirty-four men from Quangdong had been hacked to death at Deep Creek on the Oregon side of the Snake River in Hells Canyon. The Sam Yup Company of San Francisco that employed the Chinese miners, commissioned Lee Loi, who may have lived in the area, to investigate. He hired Lewiston judge Joseph K. Vincent for the job. The findings were sent to the U.S. State Department but it refused to help. Nine months later, one of the gang of killers, named Frank Vaughn, confessed and turned state's evidence against the rest. The killers were a gang of horse thieves and teenage boys. Six men and boys of Wallowa County, Ore., were indicted but fled and were never caught. At trial, three others were declared innocent, and the crime remains unpunished. Many accounts claim it was a cover-up because some of the accused were from prominent families. Locals suggested that gang leaders took some of the stolen gold with them, and buried the rest. It has never been found.*
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- <http://nwasianweekly.com/2009/07/historians-track-chinese-history-in-idaho/>

- *Chinese mining methodology was different. While many miners worked alone, the Chinese worked in large, often related groups and drew from their experiences using water in agriculture, she said. They formed neighborhoods with stores, gardens, and medical facilities and often kept communities alive between phases. By the 1870s, there were an estimated 1,500 Chinese in Lewiston [Idaho] alone.*
- *Bush says whites would cut off the queues [legally required Qing Dynasty era braids] of Chinese men to terrorize them. Cutting the traditional ponytail was a sign of treason in China, leading to execution. [...] One of the worst racial crimes in Northwest history occurred in Hells Canyon in 1887, when as many as 34 Chinese miners, who had worked their way upriver from Lewiston, were slaughtered along the river. [this is the incident mentioned above in the other article]*
- <https://webpages.uidaho.edu/AACC/signif.htm>
 - *Male Chinese laborers who entered before 1882 [Chinese Exclusion Act] generally could not bring their families over after that date. They became known as a "bachelor society," but of course most were not bachelors at all. Once the gold played out in Idaho, they moved to larger towns to work, or returned to China if they could afford to do so; sadly, however, many died here without ever seeing their families again.*
- <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4519832>

Boise Basin (Idaho City, Placerville, Centerville and Pioneerville): 46%

1870s Chinese immigrants were allowed to testify in courts, and were allowed to file suit against whites

United States Marshal Henry W. Moulton: called himself the leader of "a great movement to ameliorate the condition of the Chinamen in Idaho", urged local Republicans to fight discrimination.

Ah Bow v. Britten (1869): Judge sided with the Chinese but didn't strike down the tax.

1890s: Boise County Chinese people, although not citizens, were allowed to vote for a \$9 poll tax.

1899: E.W. Jones from Boise Basin sent to legislature; won election by 3 votes due to Chinese voters