

Maduk Deng

Our American

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Professor Nathan

Museum of Chinese in America

The museum of Chinese in America was founded in 1980 in Manhattan Chinatown, the museum began as the New York Chinatown history project by historian John kuo wei tchen and community resident and activist Charles lai to promote. The Chinatown was the second largest Chinatown in the U.S. between 1880 and 1900 the exhibition tells the story of the growth of the community and the history of the Chinese community. There is a room in the museum with a traditional chinese apothecary . In that same room there was a picture about the Chinese Exclusion Act. It was the legislation that focused on the Chinese people as a group, basically. The US didn't want to sever economic ties with China. That's why they call it the Chinese exclusion. At the time the US was in a limited number that's why they were allowing the merchants, students and scholars to enter the United states so they could study. Just to maintain the opening relationship with china. And there is another poster that acually ignited the exclusion act in America at the time there were a lots of organizing particularly on the west coast after the california gold rush after those gold deposits were dried up.there was a

special chair i saw in the museum, the chair was used During the exclusion era chinese were still arriving in the US but they were arriving at a place call angel island which is the equivalent of an ellis island on the west coast. When you sit on the chair you see a sort of question talking about the truth about immigration people.

In the museum I saw a picture of angel island, the island was beautiful and also that section called attention to a phenomenon that was happening during the exclusion era which is called the paper sun phenomenon which also contributed to increasing the harder question. In the 1700s a handful of chinese sailors were on trading ships were the first chinese visitors to the united states of america, but in the 1840s a flood of chinese laborers arrived to help build the cross country railroad starting from nyc museum. Chinese immigrants came as a part of the gold rush when prospector was found gold in the hills and streams of the western U.S and and Canada when the gold rush was over and the railway was built the laborers were no longer welcome, the chinese exclusion act of 1882. It was the only US law to ever block the immigration and naturalization on the basis of national origin where there were an economic recession in the united states and the chinese people were asked to leave the country and go home at the time of the acted after they build the railway and the US ask them to go home at the time. But unfortunately many of the workers have no home to go to and also there's no way for them to bring their family over because they were not citizens yet.