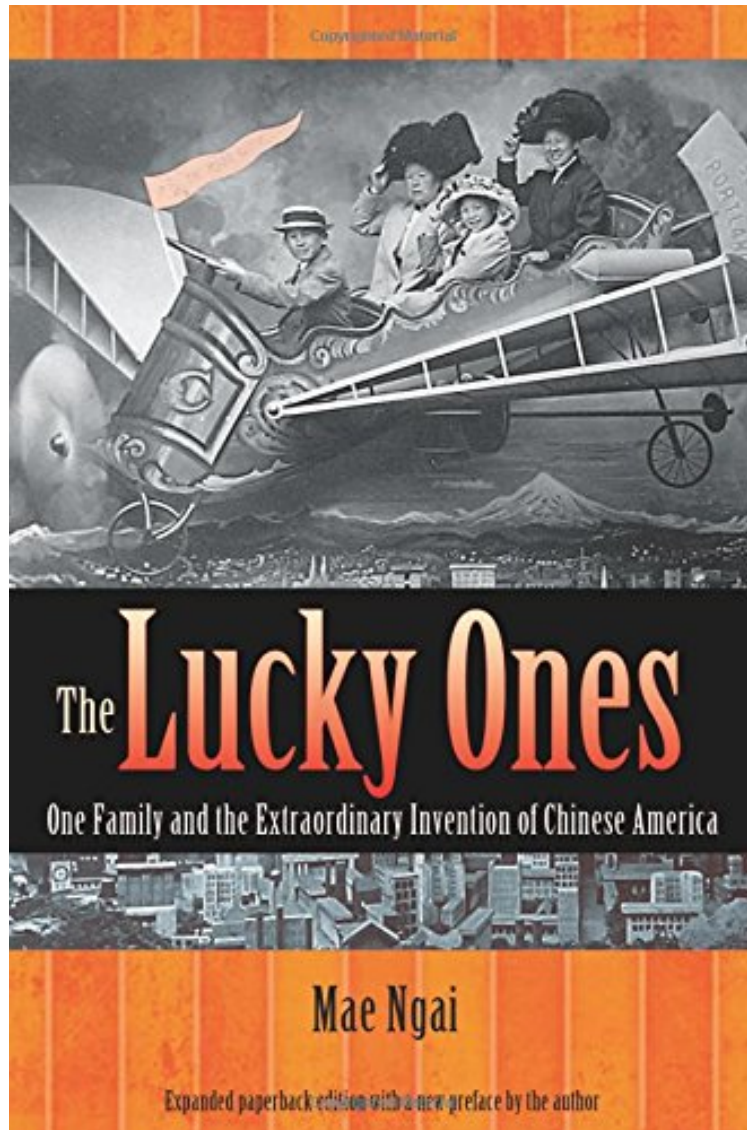


# The Lucky Ones: One Family and the Extraordinary Invention of Chinese America

Mae M. Ngai

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**Mae M. Ngai : The Lucky Ones: One Family and the Extraordinary Invention of Chinese America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Lucky Ones: One Family and the Extraordinary Invention of Chinese America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. To be rich is gloriousBy Reader in the PacificSwimming upstream is the fate of any new immigrant and especially to those of colour. Ambition is one thing, but how you achieve "success"

is another. The Tape family had the advantage of being early immigrants to California and they took full advantage of their "luck". The only ethical system at work seems to be centered around the family unit. Getting ahead and making "good" business decisions still rings true in much of the U.S. and now in mainland China. I don't know if it builds a stronger society or nation though. Ngai at times mentions certain photographs in detail, but does not reproduce them in the book. 10 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended to anyone interested in the immigrant experience in America. By Old hoosier. Although the lack of sources such as letters and diaries forces Ngai to much speculation in this family history, she brings a deep knowledge of the historical context to the task and reconstructs a fascinating story. Highly recommended to anyone interested in the immigrant experience in America. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars. By Lori Broady. Great book.

The Lucky Ones uncovers the story of the Tape family in post-gold rush, racially explosive San Francisco. Mae Ngai paints a fascinating picture of how the role of immigration broker allowed patriarch Jiu Dip (Joseph Tape) to both protest and profit from discrimination, and of the Tapes as the first of a new social type--middle-class Chinese Americans. Tape family history illuminates American history. Seven-year-old Mamie attempts to integrate California schools, resulting in the landmark 1885 case Tape v. Hurley. The family's intimate involvement in the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair reveals how Chinese American brokers essentially invented Chinatown, and so Chinese culture, for American audiences. Finally, The Lucky Ones reveals aspects--timely, haunting, and hopeful--of the lasting legacy of the immigrant experience for all Americans. This expanded edition features a new preface and a selection of historical documents from the Chinese exclusion era that forms the backdrop to the Tape family's story.

.com Product Description If you're Irish American or African American or Eastern European Jewish American, there's a rich literature to give you a sense of your family's arrival-in-America story. Until now, that hasn't been the case for Chinese Americans. From noted historian Mae Ngai, The Lucky Ones uncovers the three-generational saga of the Tape family. It's a sweeping story centered on patriarch Jiu Dip's (Joseph Tape's) self-invention as an immigration broker in post-gold rush, racially explosive San Francisco, and the extraordinary rise it enables. Ngai's portrayal of the Tapes as the first of a brand-new social type--middle-class Chinese Americans, with touring cars, hunting dogs, and society weddings to broadcast it--will astonish. Again and again, Tape family history illuminates American history. Seven-year-old Mamie Tape attempts to integrate California schools, resulting in the landmark 1885 Tape v. Hurley. The family's intimate involvement in the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair reveals how the Chinese American culture brokers essentially invented Chinatown--and so Chinese culture--for American audiences. Finally, Mae Ngai reveals aspects--timely, haunting, and hopeful--of the lasting legacy of the immigrant experience for all Americans. Photos of the Tepe Family from The Lucky Ones (Click on Images to Enlarge) Joseph Tape with his hunting rifle and bird dogs, San Francisco, c. 1880s The Tape family (Joseph, Emily, Mamie, Frank, Mary), 1884 Mamie with children, Emily and Harold, and sister Emily, Portland, 1912 Ruby Tape, 1912 Gertrude and husband Herbert, Sunol, California, 1913 Gertrude with Florence Park and daughters, Pacific Grove, c. 1915 From Publishers Weekly A thoroughgoing look at the historical record of early Chinese immigration to San Francisco unearths the heartening story of one rags-to-riches family. Columbia history professor Ngai (Impossible Subjects) characterizes her work as history, situating the union of two young working people in San Francisco in 1875 within a larger frame of Chinese immigration, which had been encouraged by the California Gold Rush of the mid-19th century, attracting impoverished men mostly from the Guangdong Province. Jiu Dip, an enterprising drayman who had come over at age 12, and Mary McGladery, an indentured Chinese servant (mui tsai) who had emigrated as an orphan and was then rescued from prostitution at 11 years old, thanks to the Ladies' Protection and Relief Society, both became acculturated English-speakers and ambitious to live among the white middle-class. Despite recent legislation limiting Chinese immigration, and growing anti-Chinese racism due to the resentment from the displacement of the white workforce, Jiu Dip, renamed Joseph Tape, flourished as a deliveryman and broker for new immigrants; Joseph and Mary grew prosperous and even sued to have their daughter Mamie attend the local white public school. Ngai traces their descendants, especially their son, Frank, who was tried for extorting money from new immigrants, and his estranged wife, Ruby, who joined the Women's Army Corps (WAC) during World War II. Ngai fashions a terrifically readable, compelling work about the little-known middle-class in the Chinese immigrant experience. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist At age 12, Jiu Dip emigrated from China to San Francisco during the tail end of the gold rush, ultimately finding work as a domestic. He faced the isolation, hardship, and discrimination against Chinese as they struggled to find a place for themselves among the burgeoning Eastern European immigrant population. He reinvented himself as Joseph Tape, an immigrant broker not above exploiting his Chinese clients even as he propelled himself into the middle class, living among whites and assimilating. The Tape family pushed against the restrictions on Chinese, integrating the public schools after bringing an 1885 landmark lawsuit, and helping to establish Chinatowns culture and commerce. Drawing on 10 years of research, historian Ngai documents three generations of the rise and influence of the Tape family during the era of Chinese exclusion (1882-1943), through the world wars and Great Depression, offering a record of the Chinese immigrant experience that

is not as widely known or appreciated as that of other immigrants. Photographs help document the acculturation and prosperity of the Tape family. --Vanessa Bush