

NOTABLE KOREAN AMERICANS BIBLIOGRAPHY

From Korean Americans: A Concise History

Ahn Chang Ho- Leader in the Korean Independence Movement. He was also a scholar and writer whose work influenced and changed the face of Korean American history. While Ahn lived in the United States, he established the first Koreatown USA in Riverside, California sometime in 1904-1905. Ahn was born in 1878 and lived and worked in the United States until he was deported in 1926 after being falsely accused of being a Bolshevik. He lived in China and was later arrested by the Japanese government, illegally extradited to Korea, convicted, and tortured. He was released by the Japanese

Ahn, Helen- The wife of Dosan Ahn Chang Ho. Lee Hye-ryon (Helen) was born in Pyongyang, Korean on April 21, 1884. She and Dosan traveled to the United States in 1902. She and her husband were the first Korean couple to arrive in America. Helen supported the Korean Independence movement and worked hard while her husband traveled for the cause. She had five children: Philip, Philson, Susan, Surah, and Ralph Ahn. She died on April 21, 1969 and is buried with her husband at Dosan Park in South Korea

Ahn, Philip- The eldest child of Dosan Ahn Chang Ho and Helen Ahn. He became well known for his acting and was the first Korean American to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He died on February 28, 1978.

Ahn, Ralph- The youngest child of Dosan and Helen Ahn. He is a Korean American community leader and actor

Ahn, Won Kiu- A successful businessman. Born in 1877, he grew pineapples on land he leased in Ahuimanu, Oahu, Hawaii in the early 1900s. He played an instrumental role in the founding of the Korean National Association and was later awarded the National Foundation Medal by the Republic of S. Korea. Ahn died in 1947.

Ahn-Cuddy, Susan- Born on January 16, 1915, she was the eldest daughter of Dosan and Helen Ahn. She was the first female gunnery officer in the United States Navy and served during World War II. She died on June 24, 2015.

Buffman, Soorah- Born in 1917 in Los Angeles, she was the second daughter of Dosan and Helen Ahn. She started a popular restaurant called Phil Ahn's Moongate in Panorama City, California.

Charr, Easurk Emsen- Born in 1895, he migrated to Hawaii in 1904 and served in the U. S military. He is best known for his book, *The Golden Mountain: The Autobiography of a Korean Immigrant, 1895-1960*, which was published in 1961. He died in 1986

Hong, Myung Ki- A successful businessman and Korean American community leader. He moved to the United States in 1954 and earned a degree in chemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1959. He founded Dura Coat Products Inc. in 1986. Dr Hong was instrumental in erecting the Dosan Ahn Chang Ho statue in Riverside, California, in 2001.

Jaisohn, Philip- He was a Korean independence and Korean American community leader who was the first Korean to obtain American citizenship in 1890. He was also a practicing physician. Jaisohn convened the First Korean Congress in Philadelphia in April 1919.

Jang, In-whan- Born in Pyongyang, Korea, on March 30, 1875, he was a Korean independence activist best known for his role in the assassination of the American diplomat Durham White Stevens. Chang murdered Stevens in San Francisco on March 23, 1908. He was found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced to 25 years in prison. He was released in 1919 after serving only 10 years. In 1930 Chang committed suicide in San Francisco where he is buried. He was posthumously awarded the Order of Merit for the National Foundation by the Ministry of Patriots and Veteran Affairs in South Korea in 1962. His remains were exhumed in 1975 and reburied at the Seoul National Cemetery.

Kim, Chang-Joon Jay- Born March 27, 1939, in Seoul, Korea. Kim was the first Korean American to serve in the United States Congress. A Republican he was a member of the United States House of Representatives from California's 41st District from January 1993 to January 1999. He immigrated to the U.S in 1961 and graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in engineering. He also earned a doctorate in political science from Haiyang University in Korea. In 1976 he founded JAYKIM Engineers.

Kim Chong-lim- Born in 1884, Kim was the first Korean American millionaire known as the "Rice King". He was a Korean Independence activist who played an instrumental role in funding and founding of the Willows Korean Aviation School and Corps in Northern California. He also co-founded the Young Korean Academy with Dosan Ahn Chang Ho in 1913. He died in 1973.

Kim, Elaine- Born on February 26, 1945, in New York, Kim is an award-winning writer, editor, and professor of Asian American Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the co-founder of the Asian Women United of California and of the Oakland Korean Community Center.

She received a lifetime achievement award from the Association for Asian American Studies in 2011. She was also inducted into the Hall of Outstanding Women in California in 1995.

Kim, Harry- Born 1939, he is the son of In Kee Kim, one of the first Korean sugar plantation workers in Hawaii. Harry Kim was appointed Civil Defense chief for Hawaii in 1976, a position he held for 24 years. Later Kim became the mayor of Hawaii County in 2001 as a Republican. He held the post until 2008. He ran for office again in 2016 as an independent and won.

Lee, George (Eng-ho)- Born in Chemulpo (Incheon), Korean, in 1895, Lee was the first Korean pilot. He and his father migrated to the United States in 1903. When World War 1 broke out in 1914, Lee wanted to enlist. When he was 18 he joined the U.S Army and became a pilot. By 1918, he had flown 156 missions. After the war ended, Lee lived in New York, got married, and had a son.

Lim, John- Born on December 23 1935, in Yeosu Gyeonoggi-do, Korea, Lim is a Republican politician who served in both houses of the Oregon Legislative Assembly. He was also the majority leader of the Oregon Senate in 1995. Lim emigrated to the United States in 1966 and received a Master of Divinity from Western Evangelical Seminary in 1970.

Lee, Kyung Won- Born in 1928, "K.W." Lee was a pioneering reporter who is considered the godfather of Asian American journalism. Lee is best known for his work on the Chul Soo Lee case during the 1970s and his publication of the *Koreatown Weekly* and the *Korea Times* English Edition newspapers

Lee, Sammy- Dr Samuel "Sammy" Lee was the first Asian American man to win gold during the 1948 Olympic Games in London. He won gold again during the 1952 Olympic Games in Helsinki. Dr Lee was born on August 1, 1920 in Fresno, California. He had four siblings and was the youngest of the children, one boy and one girl. Dr Lee was good friends with Col. Young Oak Kim. Dr Lee retired in 1990 from his practice in Orange County after 35 years. He died in December 2016.

Lee, Yong-keun- born in Gang-su Gun, Pyong-an Nam-do in 1890, Lee arrived in the United States in 1916 and moved to Los Angeles in 1917. He was a member of the Young Korean Academy. He was one of the first two aviation officers appointed by the Korean Provisional Government in Shanghai on July 18, 1921. He graduated from Redwood City Aviation School in June 1920 and later attended the Willows Korean Aviation School and Corps. After the Willow school was shuttered in 1920 he went to Sacramento Aviation School to continue his studies. Lee returned to Korea in 1923, where he died in 1950.

Oh, Angela E- Born in 1955, Oh is a Korean American attorney, teacher, writer, and activist. She is best known for her role as a spokesperson for the Korean American community after the 1992 Los Angeles Riots. In 1997 President Bill Clinton appointed her to One America in the 21st Century: The President's Initiative on Race.

Oh, Bonnie Bongwon- Born in South Korea, Oh emigrated to the United States for her education and earned a Ph.D. in East Asian history from the University of Chicago. She is currently a distinguished professor of Korean studies at Georgetown University. Her 38 years of teaching at the university level are peppered with milestones including her work on comfort women, women II.

Ohr, Fred- Born on July 15, 1919, in Idaho, Ohr was a highly decorated flying ace during World War II. He joined the US military in 1938. He was deployed in 1942 with the 88th Material Service Squadron U.S. Army Air Corp. He flew missions with the 2nd Fighter Squadron, 52nd Fighter Group, and was its squadron commanding officer. After the war he became a dental surgeon and lived in Chicago. He died on September 6, 2015.

Park, Hee-sung- Born on May 8, 1896 in Haeju, Hwanghae Province, Korea, Park was one of the two first aviation officers appointed by the Korean Provisional Government in Shanghai. He emigrated to the United States in 1918 and went by the American name Howard. He began training as pilot at Willows Korean Aviation School and Corps in Northern California when it opened in early 1920. When the Willows school closed in 1921, he went to an aviation school in Sacramento, where he trained with Lee Young-keun. Today the Korean Air Force recognizes the Willows Korean Aviation School and Corps as its origins. Park was an exceptional pilot according to newspaper reports. However, due to a mechanical malfunction his plane crashed during his examination and he barely survived. Three weeks after his accident, he retook the exam and passed on May 22, 1921. Lee lived a quiet life and suffered from injuries he sustained from the accident. He died in 1937.

Park, Yong-man- Born on July 2, 1881, in Cherwon, Gangwon, Korea, Park emigrated to the United States in 1904. He was a Korean independence activist who established various Korean nationalist organizations in the U.S including a Korean military academy in Hastings, Nebraska. He also founded the Korean Military Corps. In Hawaii. He also joined the American Expeditionary Force and was sent to Siberia in 1918. When he completed his military service, he went to Shanghai, China in 1920. He was assassinated on October 17, 1928, by a Korean communist.

Rhee, Syngman- Born in March 1875, Rhee was the first president of South Korea and a well-known Korean American leader. Rhee was the first Korean American to earn a doctorate's

degree when he graduated from Princeton University in 1910. He spent significant time in the United States lobbying for Korea's independence during the early 1900s. However, Rhee's political career was riddled with controversy. He was forced to resign his presidency in 1960 and fled South Korea to Hawaii, where he lived in exile until his death in 1965.

Song, Alfred H- Born on February 6, 1919 in Hawaii, Song was the First Korean American and Asian American to serve on the California state legislature. He won election to the state assembly in 1961 and in 1966 moved to the state senate. A lawyer by trade, he was revered for his expertise. By 1978, his career had to an end after an FBI investigation that was later dropped. Song died in October 2004.