Canada Immigration

CHINESE HEAD TAX RECORD

SUN WOY DISTRICT

加拿大徵收
新會縣人頭稅記錄
1885-1923

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新會梅閣 蔣文德

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A Missing Chapter of Canadian History

The Legacy of Chinese Pioneers

Acknowledgement

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鳴謝

Professor Henry Yu

for his digital data on

the Chinese Head Tax Register, 1885-1949

and

Eleanor Yuen & Phoebe Chow

whose

Workshop on Taishan and Zhongshan Immigrants in Canada

provided a model for this study

研究範圍
SCOPE OF STUDY

- **Chinese Head Tax Register from 1885 to 1923**
- **96,494 entries, showing pioneers from**
  1. **Toi San 台山**
  2. **Hong San 香山 (Jong San 中山)**
  3. **Sun Woy 新會**
  4. **Poon Yue 番禺, Shoon Tak 順德**
  5. **Hoi Ping 開平, Yan Ping 恩平**
  6. **Hock San 鶴山, &**
  7. **Other locations**
  8. **Including Canada 包括加國等地**

This study is about pioneers of Sun Woy County

人頭稅研究目標
GOAL OF STUDY: HEAD TAX RECORD

- **To decipher the village name of Sun Woy Pioneers**
- **To identify last name of pioneers by ancestral village**
- **So their descendants may search for ancestral root**
- **To profile the age demography of pioneers, 1885-1923**
- **To profile the economic contribution of pioneers by occupation**
- **To document the history of Chinese Pioneers in building British Columbia**
- **To write the missing chapter of Chinese Pioneers in Canadian history**

新 會 縣

SUN WOY COUNTY / DISTRICT

or

XINHUI

新	會
Meaning	*Meaning*
New	*Gathering*

Dialect Pronunciation

San Voy

Challenge to Researchers

Spelling Diversity

新 (San) 會 (Voy)

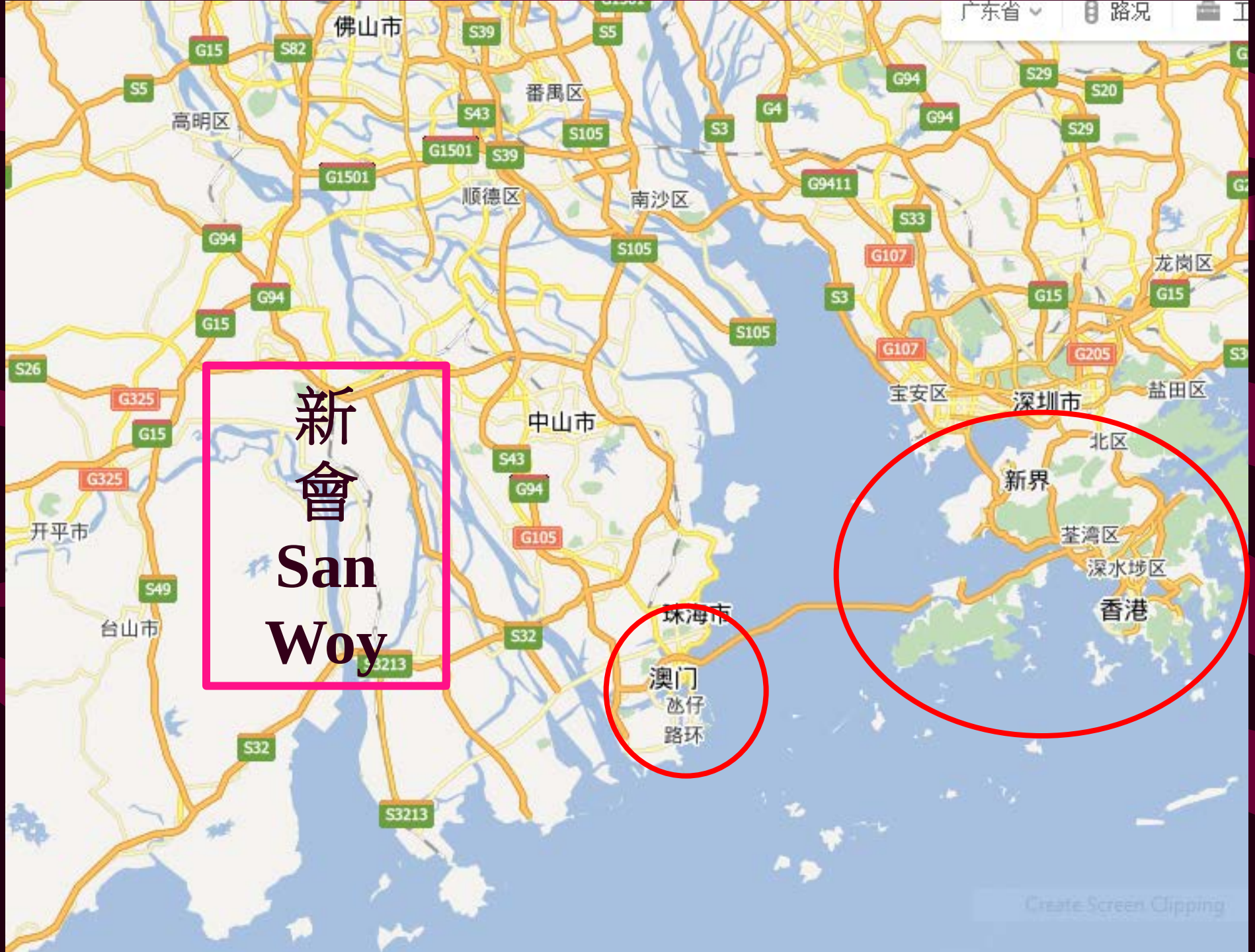
- San Ooi
- San Woi
- San Wui
- San Wae
- San Wai
- San Way
- San Wey
- San Woy
- Sang Woi

- Sen Way
- Sen Wey
- Sen Weyh
- Sen Woy

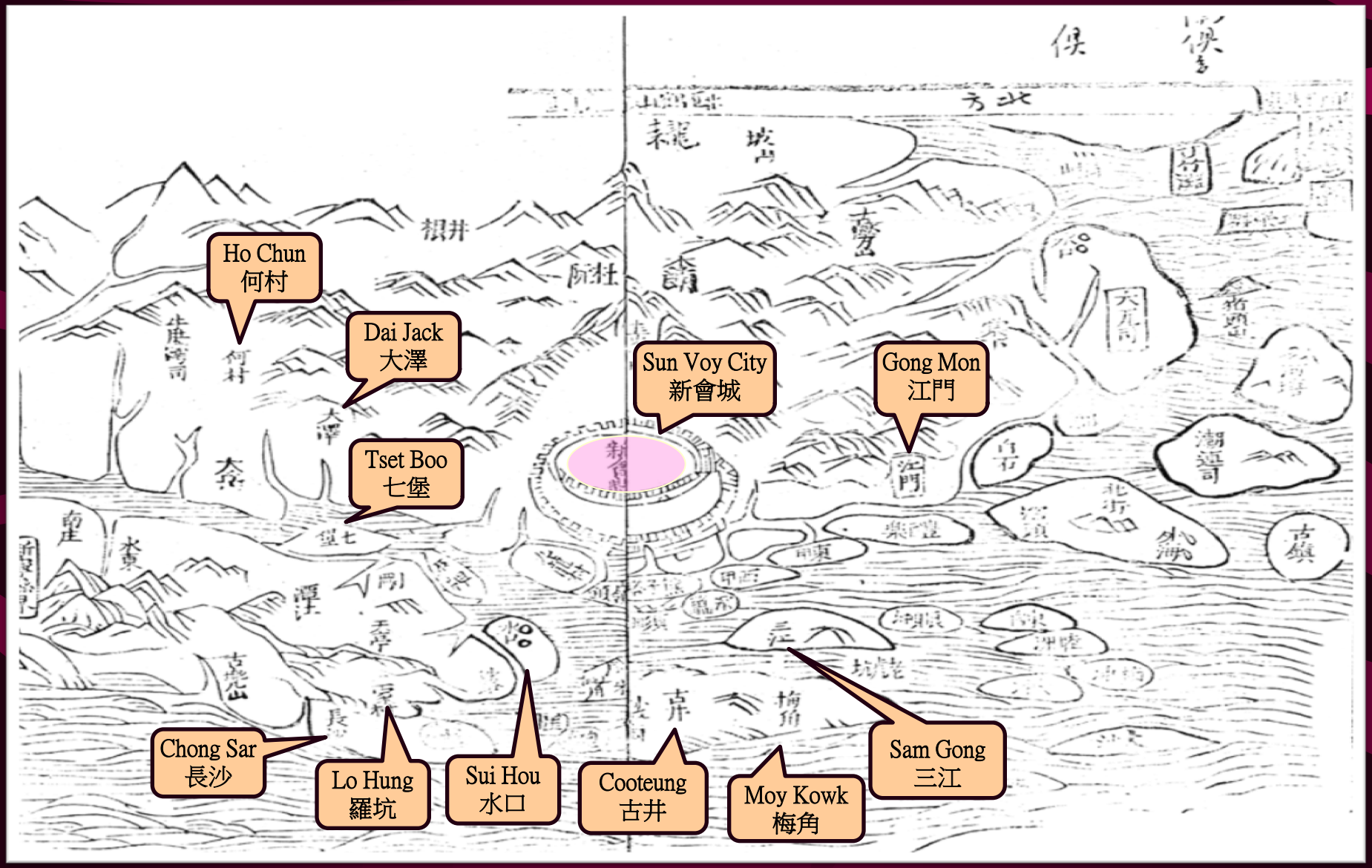
- Sin Wai
- Sin Way
- Sin Woi
- Sin Woy
- Sin Wey
- Sin Wui
- Sing Wae
- Sing Woi

- Sun Wae
- Sun Wai
- Sun Way
- Sun Wey
- Sun Woi
- Sun Woy

Gold Mine for Linguists!


新
會
San
Woy
佛山市
番禺区
高明区
顺德区
南沙区
中山市
开平市
台山市
珠海市
澳门
氹仔
路环
宝安区
深圳市
盐田区
龙岗区
北区
新界
荃湾区
深水埗区
香港
广东省
路况

1741 Map of Sun Voy City



County Hierarchy

COUNTY 縣

CITY 城

DISTRICT 都

TOWN 鎮

VILLAGE 鄉

HAMLET 村

LANE 里

ALLEY 巷

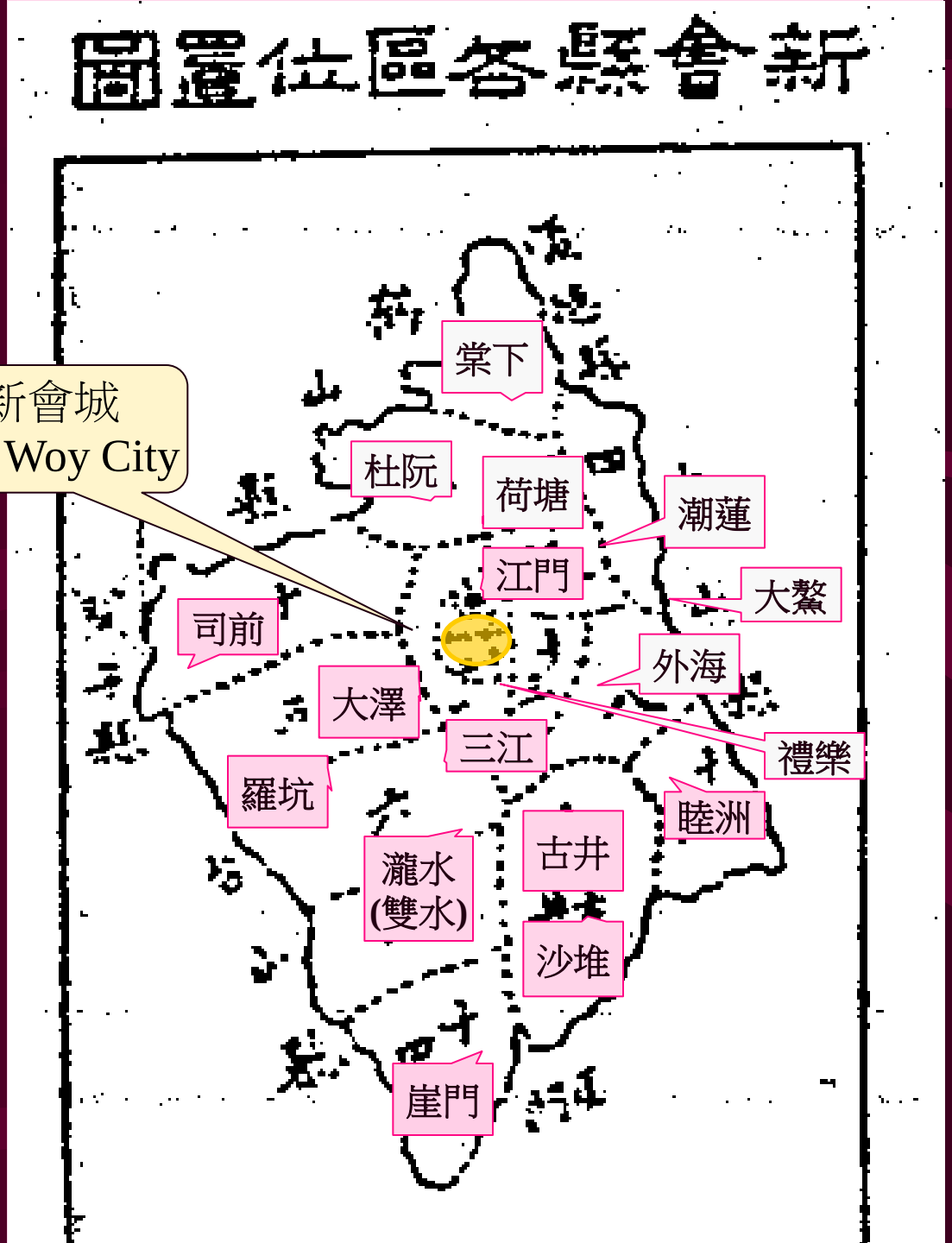
Deciphering the Name of towns & villages of Sun Woy County in Chinese

杜阮鎮	Do Yeun	棠下鎮	Tong Har	荷塘鎮	Hotong
大澤鎮	Dai Jack	江門鎮	Gong Mun	潮蓮鎮	Chew Lan
司前鎮	See Chin	新會城	San Oui	外海鎮	Oi Hoi
羅坑鎮	Law Hang	三江鎮	Samgong	禮樂鎮	Lai Lok
雙水鎮	Song Soi	古井鎮	Cooteung	大鰲鎮	Dai Ow
厓門鎮	Ngai Mun	沙堆鎮	Sartuey	睦洲鎮	Mok Chou

Most Sun Woy Pioneers came from 8 Townships

Current Admin. Grouping: 16 Townships

Administrative Map of Sun Woy County



Sun Woy County Record
Chew Gou District 潮居都

潮居都地最廣一在厓海之東南至厓門外大小蟠珠與香山分界北白金牛頭南至東礮臺共五十五里四面環大海東西皆有村村各有沖亂山阻之而不相通如厓山奇嶺牛牯嶺鶴子嶺河溪嶺烟鎖嶺學堂嶺大嶺二嶺皆大山也聯恆起伏多無名狀又有大旗山大園山大林山將軍山古茶山月角山長春美山烟管嶺山鷲公頸山孖洲山鰐洲山獨洲山又有螺山馬山龜山虎頭虎臂虎矢諸山其奇者有上奇石下奇石牛眠石相踏石抱子石三星石望牛石虎矢石塞口石鬼石頭皆窮形盡相中有古井黃姓山頭林姓泗沖湯姓宮沖長樂北村慈佛四諸村

案慈佛四一村屬瀧水都

又有文樓吳姓霞露趙姓舊名北到仕路舊名古魯竹灣長沙田蔡姓

南朗龍泉井坑洋邊麻步石沖那伏高二姓趙石沖苑大灣沙

梅灣內有竹村里東坑里田唇里會龍里沖口沙埔南邊新圍沙角廣灣梅角

蔣姓虎矢諸村

三江村山多而名少只有馬山白坟山大都村皆山名也

有沙岡梁姓奈園聶姓洋美容姓步頭林姓臨潮林陳二姓坑李姓

皮子區陳葉三姓官田鍾湯二姓外澳湯姓謝沖李姓新村良

和里東頭恒美里齒德里諸村俱趙姓

梅沖大沖村相比鄰中有虎山鶴山白洲山鯉魚沖心

洲山又有挂帽山

東向睦洲二村相對東向南而睦洲北中隔一水

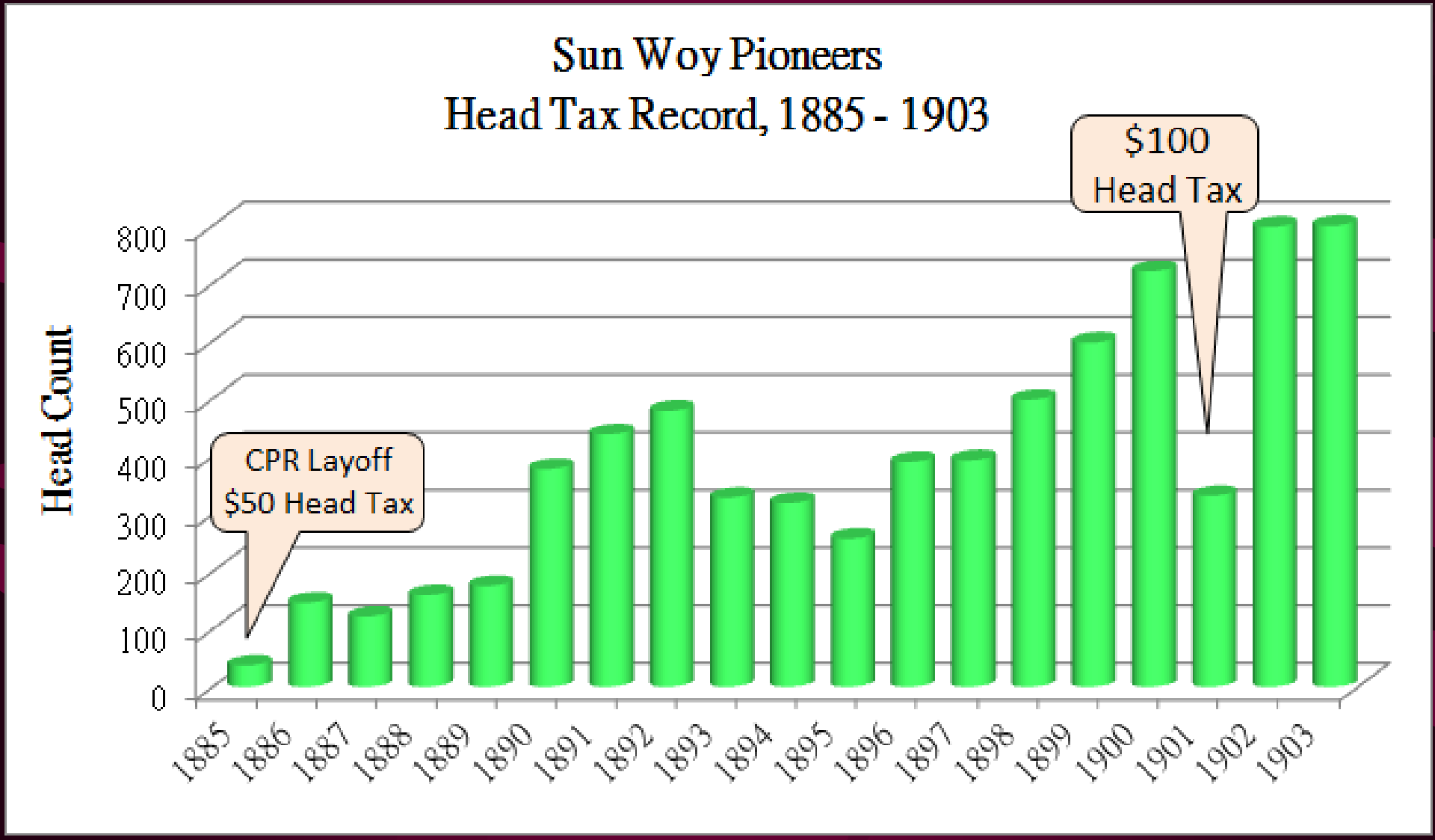
山牛山猪山塔山筆架山漁滄山三牙山龍頭山

Cross Referencing
Villages & Family Names

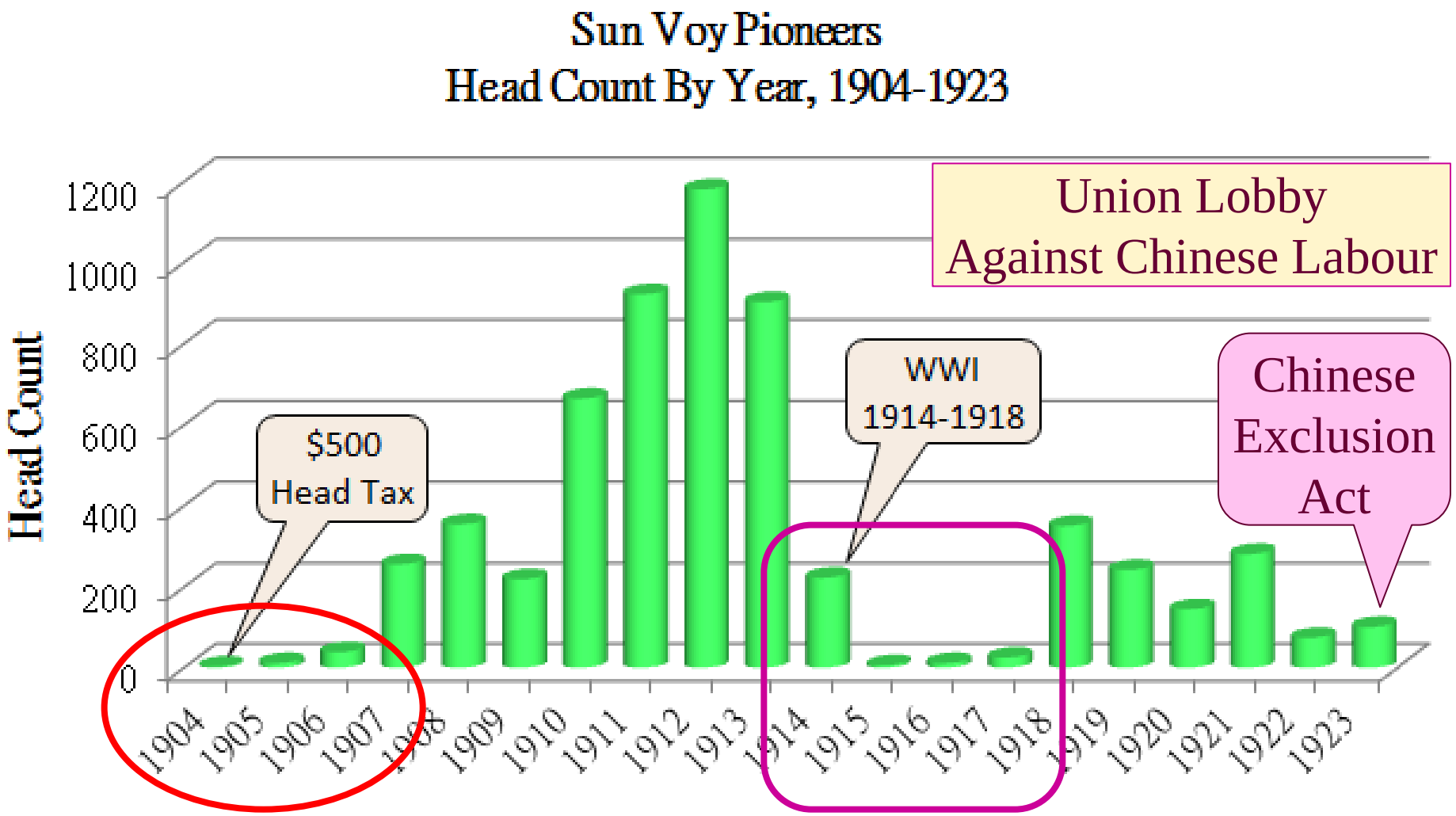
研究心得
RESEARCH FINDINGS

Photo Credit: Chong Quong Family, kindly provided by Dr. Brian Ho, grandson

新會縣抵加人數
Phase I: 1885 – 1903 ($50 & $100 HT)



新會縣每年抵加人數
Phase II: 1904 - 1923 ($500 HT & WWI)



Headtax Paid by Sun Woy Pioneers , 1885-1923

62% of the Sun Woy Pioneers Came from 3 Towns

Town	Trips	%	$ (k)	Town	Trips	%	$ (k)
古井鎮 Cooteung	3,404	**25%**	763.3	三江鎮 Sam Gong	439	**3%**	88.7
沙堆鎮 Sartuey	3,260	**24%**	716.0	睦洲鎮 Mok Chou	393	**3%**	107.4
崖門鎮 Ngai Mun	1,901	**14%**	343.8	新會城 SanOui Sean	293	**2%**	62.5
大澤鎮 Dai Jack	706	**5%**	210.4	江門鎮 Gong Mun	221	**2%**	56.6
雙水鎮 Song Soi	569	**4%**	149.5	司前鎮 See Chin	226	**2%**	50.5
羅坑鎮 Law Hang	478	**3%**	146.9	其他 Others	1,990	**14%**	381.2
				Total	13,880		3,077

SUN WOY COUNTY 新會縣

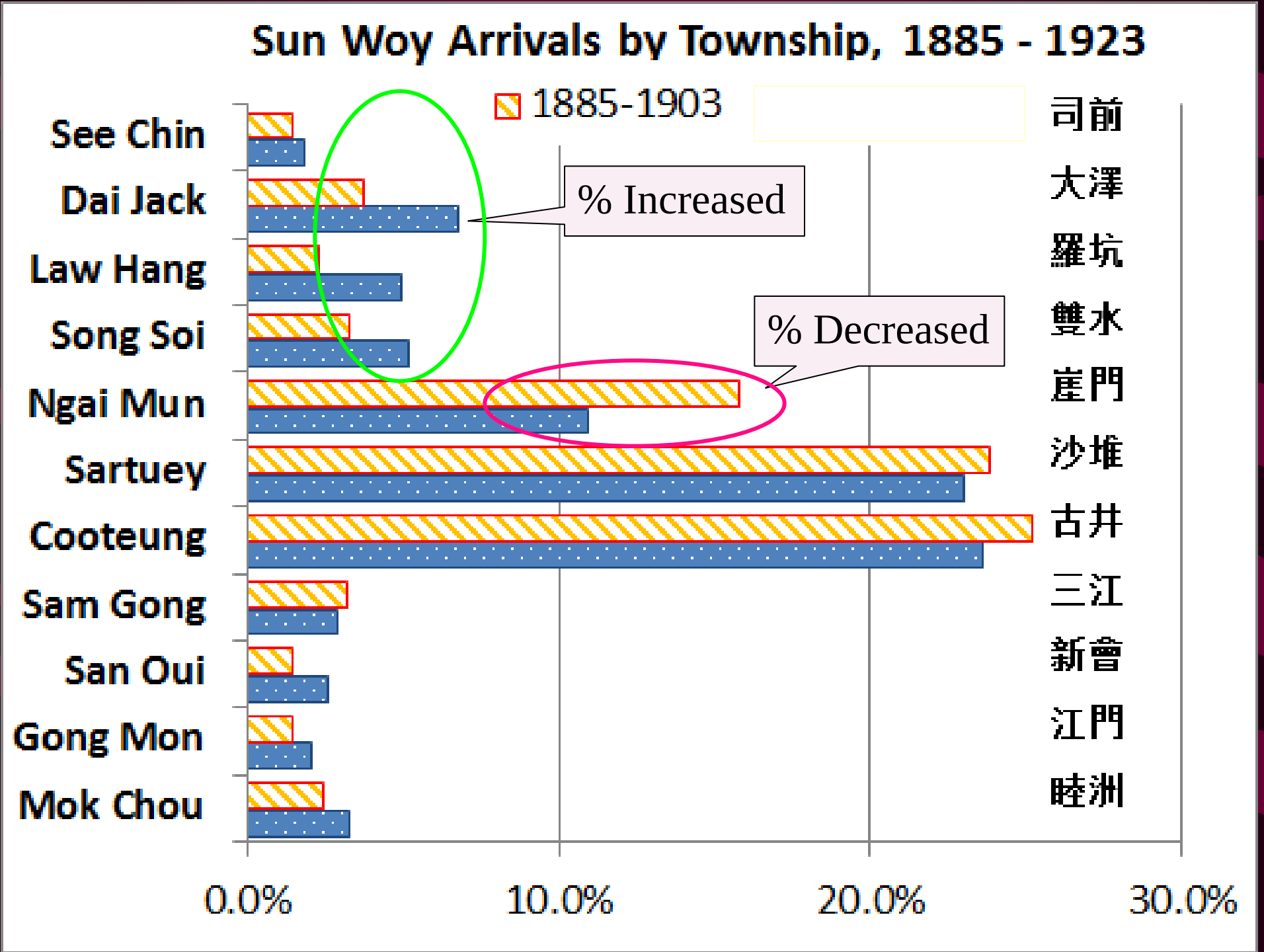
$500 Head Tax (1903) Impact on Arrivals

Towns	鎮	Trips	%	Trips	%
		1885-1903		1904-1923	
Cooteung	古井	1,985	25%	1,418	24%
Sartuey	沙堆	1,880	24%	1,380	23%
Ngai Mun	崖門	1,243	16%	658	11%
% of Sun Woy Total		65%			58%

- Arrivals decreased from Ngai Mun

Sun Woy Head Tax $471,346 $2,605,500

5 x increase


Sun Woy Arrivals by Township, 1885 - 1923
1885-1903
% Increased
% Decreased
See Chin
Dai Jack
Law Hang
Song Soi
Ngai Mun
Sartuey
Cooteung
Sam Gong
San Oui
Gong Mon
Mok Chou
司前
大澤
羅坑
雙水
崖門
沙堆
古井
三江
新會
江門
睦洲
0.0%
10.0%
20.0%
30.0%

SUN WOY COUNTY
新會縣

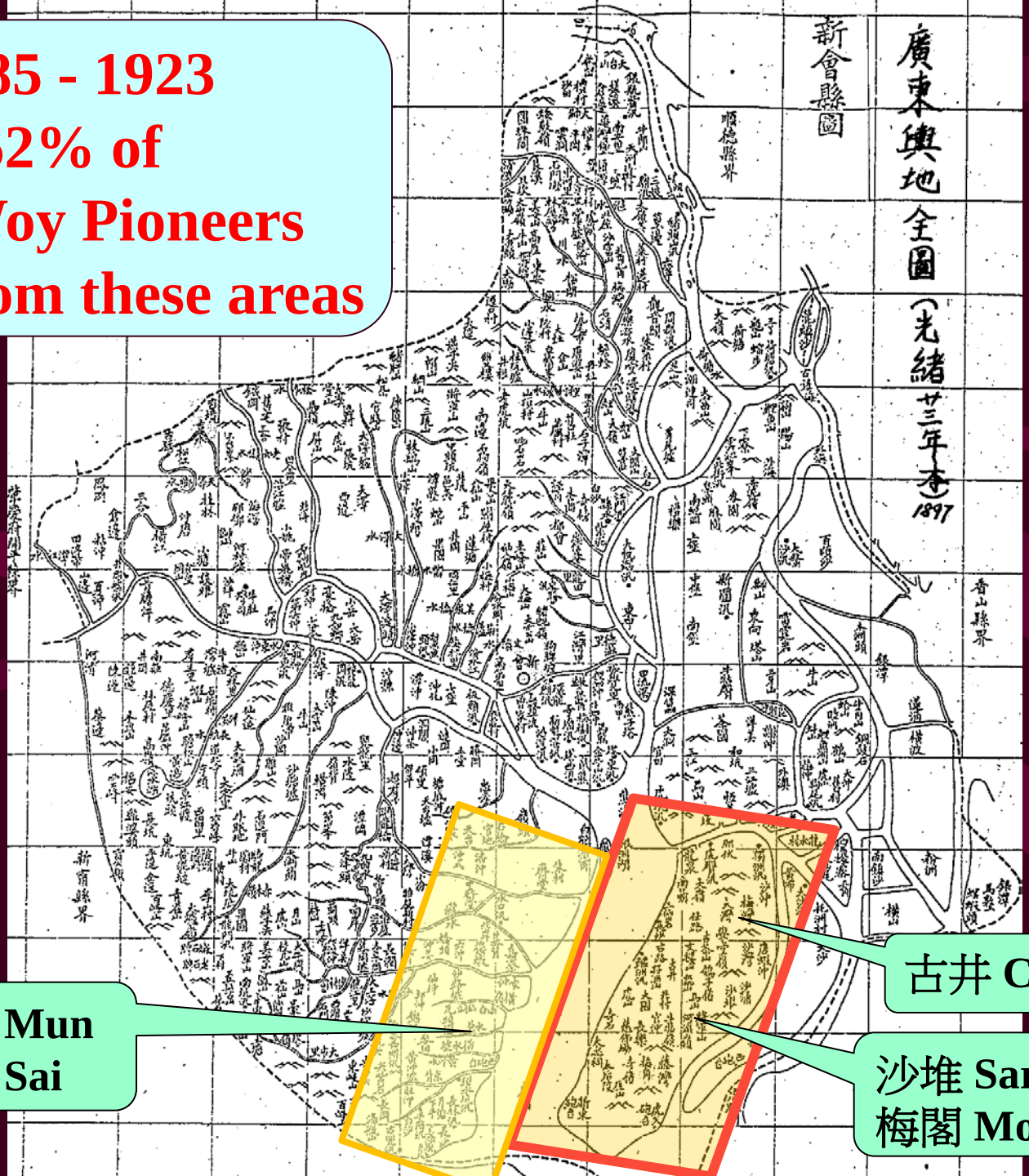
Pioneers from 3 Towns accounted for 62% of Sun Woy arrivals, 1885-1923:

Towns	鎮	Trips	%	$ (k)	%
Cooteung	古井	3,404	24%	$763	25%
Sartuey	沙堆	3,260	24%	$716	23%
Ngai Mun	崖門	1,901	14%	$344	11%

- Head Tax from above 3 towns: $1,823,162
- 59% of Sun Woy County Total @ $3,076,847

Pioneers came from concentrated pockets

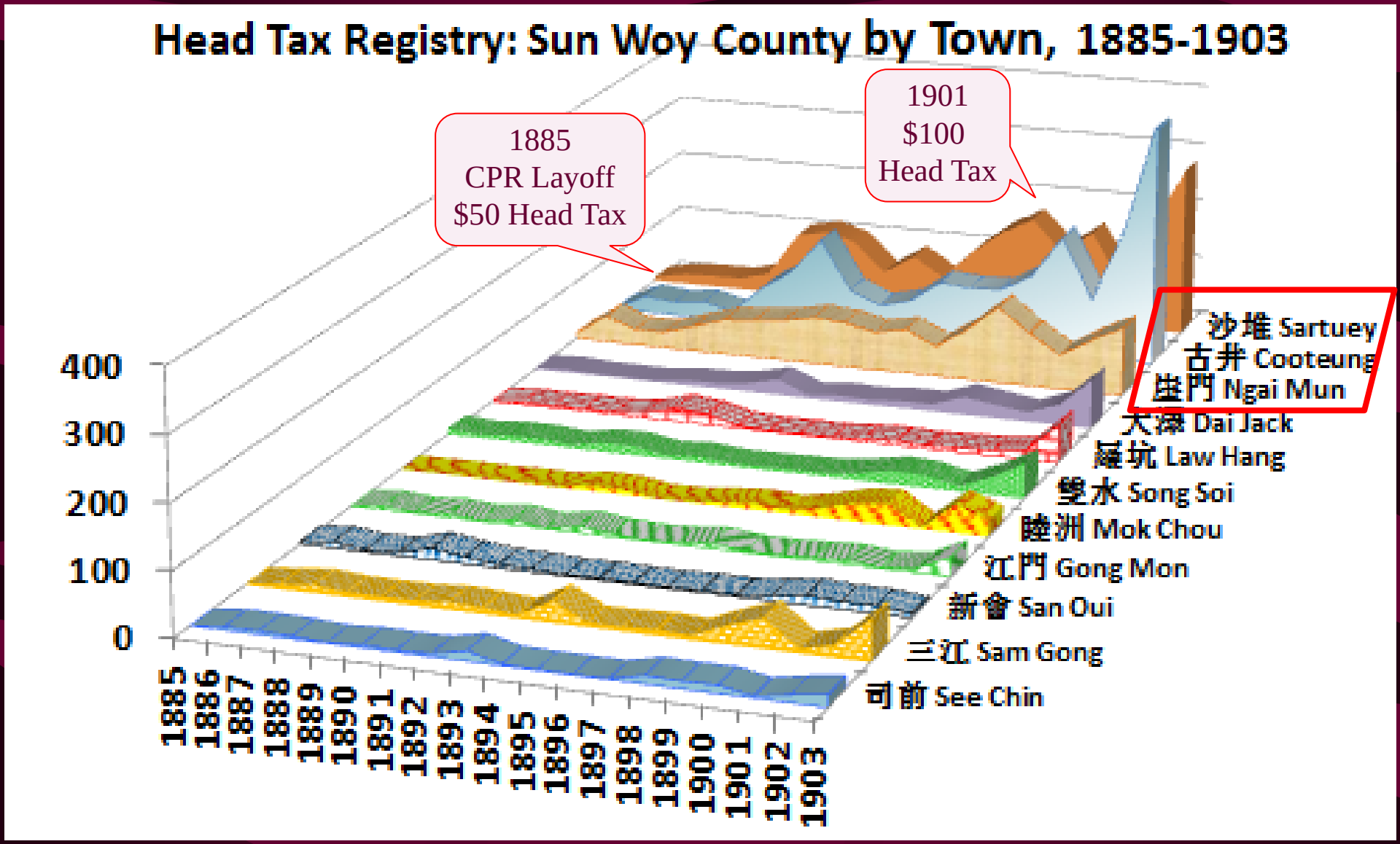
1885 - 1923
62% of
Sun Woy Pioneers
came from these areas



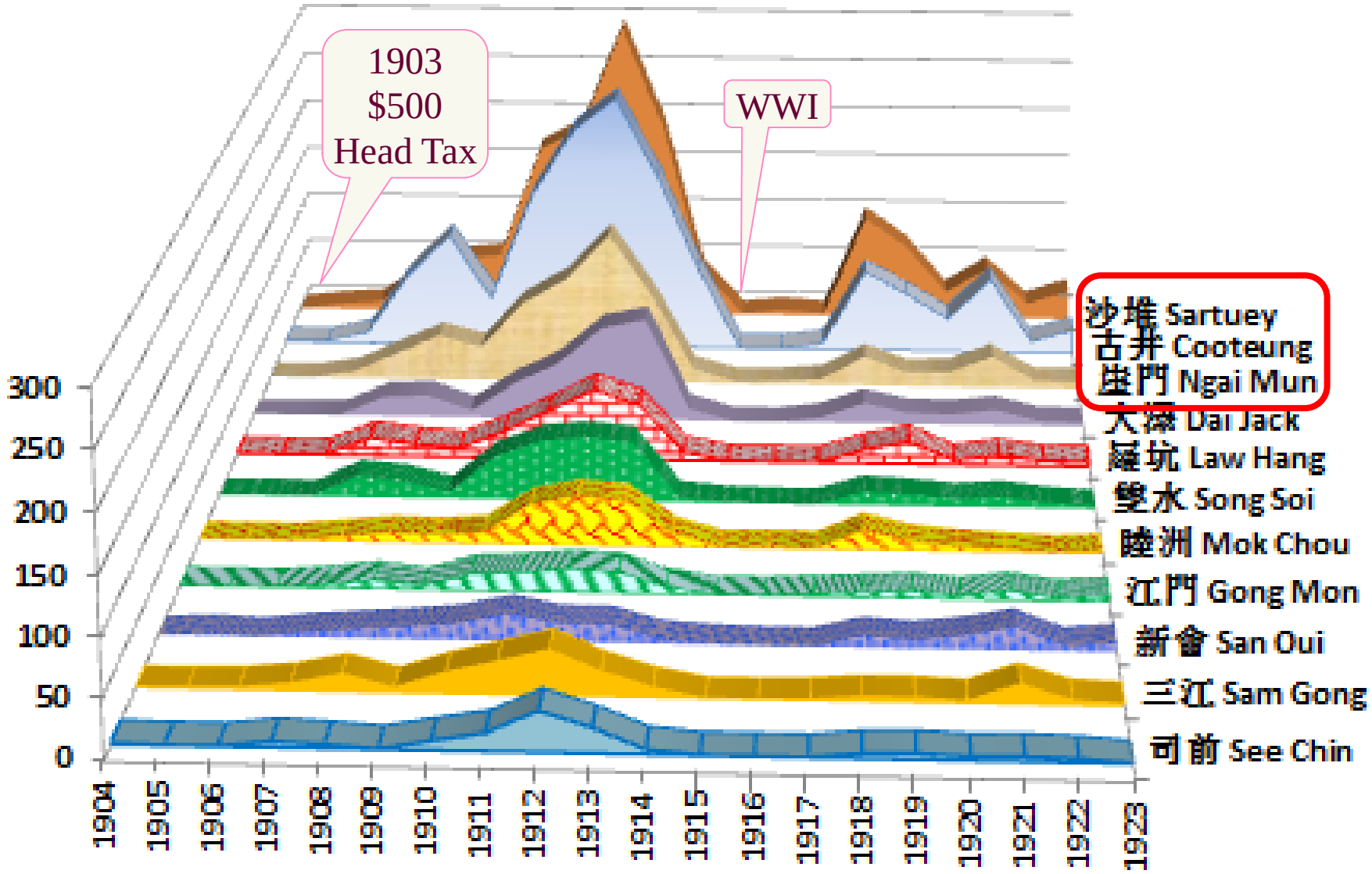
古井 Cooteung

崖門 Ngai Mun
崖西 Ngai Sai

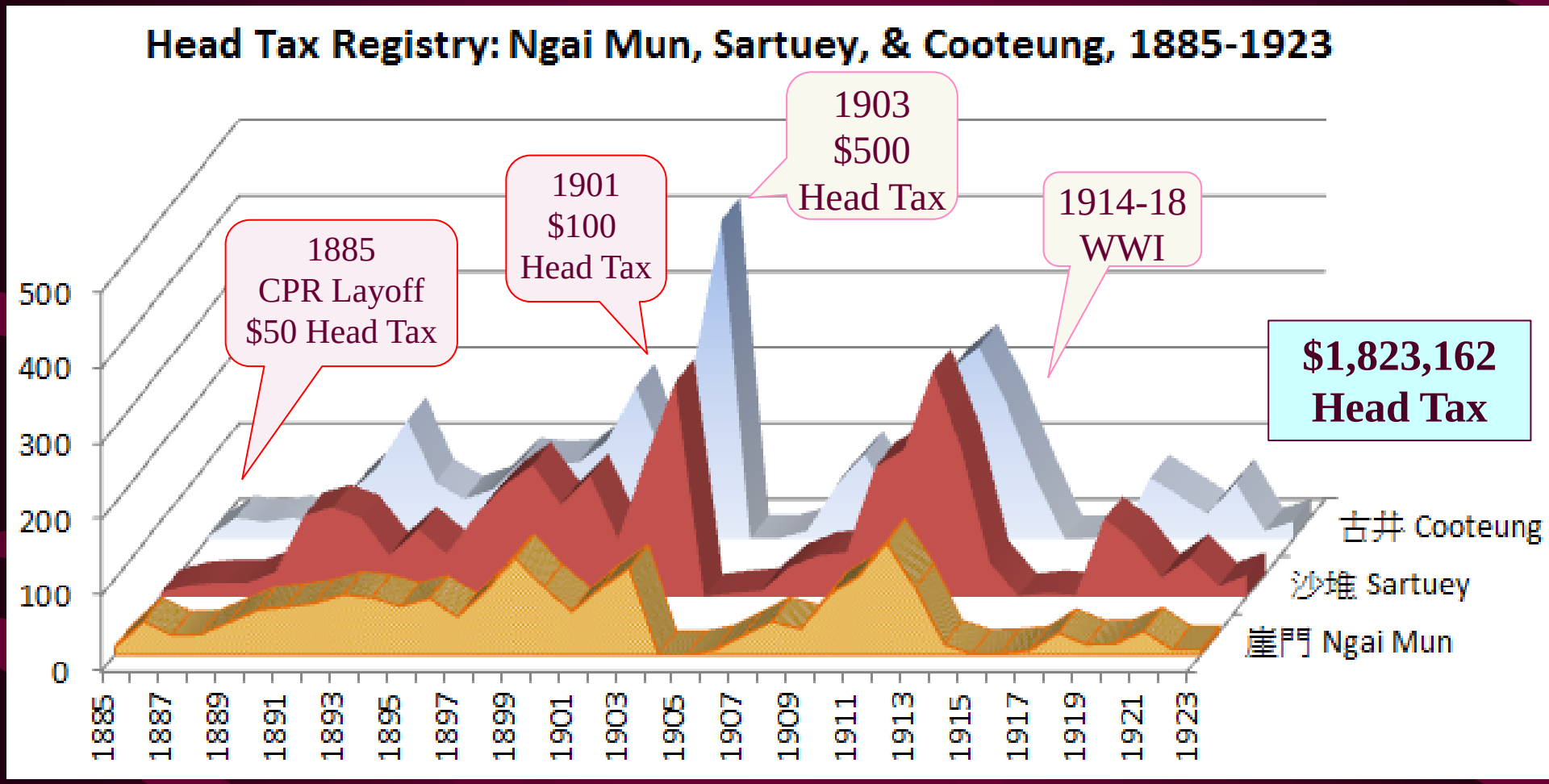
沙堆 SarTuey
梅閣 Moy Gock


Head Tax Registry: Sun Woy County by Town, 1885-1903
1885
CPR Layoff
$50 Head Tax
1901
$100
Head Tax
400
300
200
100
0
1885
1886
1887
1888
1889
1890
1891
1892
1893
1894
1895
1896
1897
1898
1899
1900
1901
1902
1903
沙堆 Sartuey
古井 Cooteung
崖門 Ngai Mun
大澤 Dai Jack
羅坑 Law Hang
雙水 Song Soi
睦洲 Mok Chou
江門 Gong Mon
新會 San Oui
三江 Sam Gong
司前 See Chin

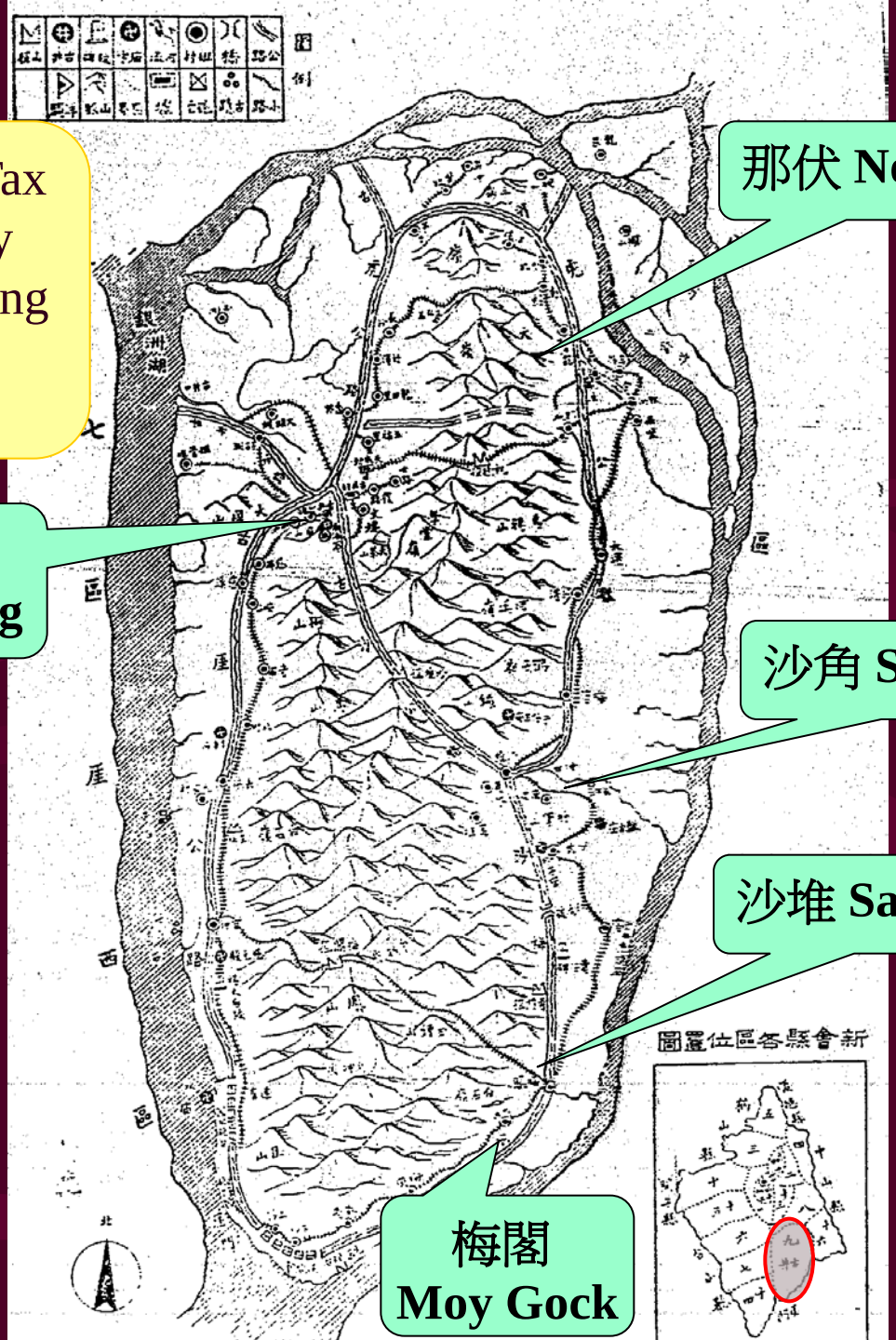
Head Tax Registry: Sun Woy County by Town, 1904-1923



Young Men from these 3 Towns Paid 59% of the $3,076,847 Sun Woy Head Tax



48% of the Head Tax $$ from Sun Woy contributed by young men from this small island



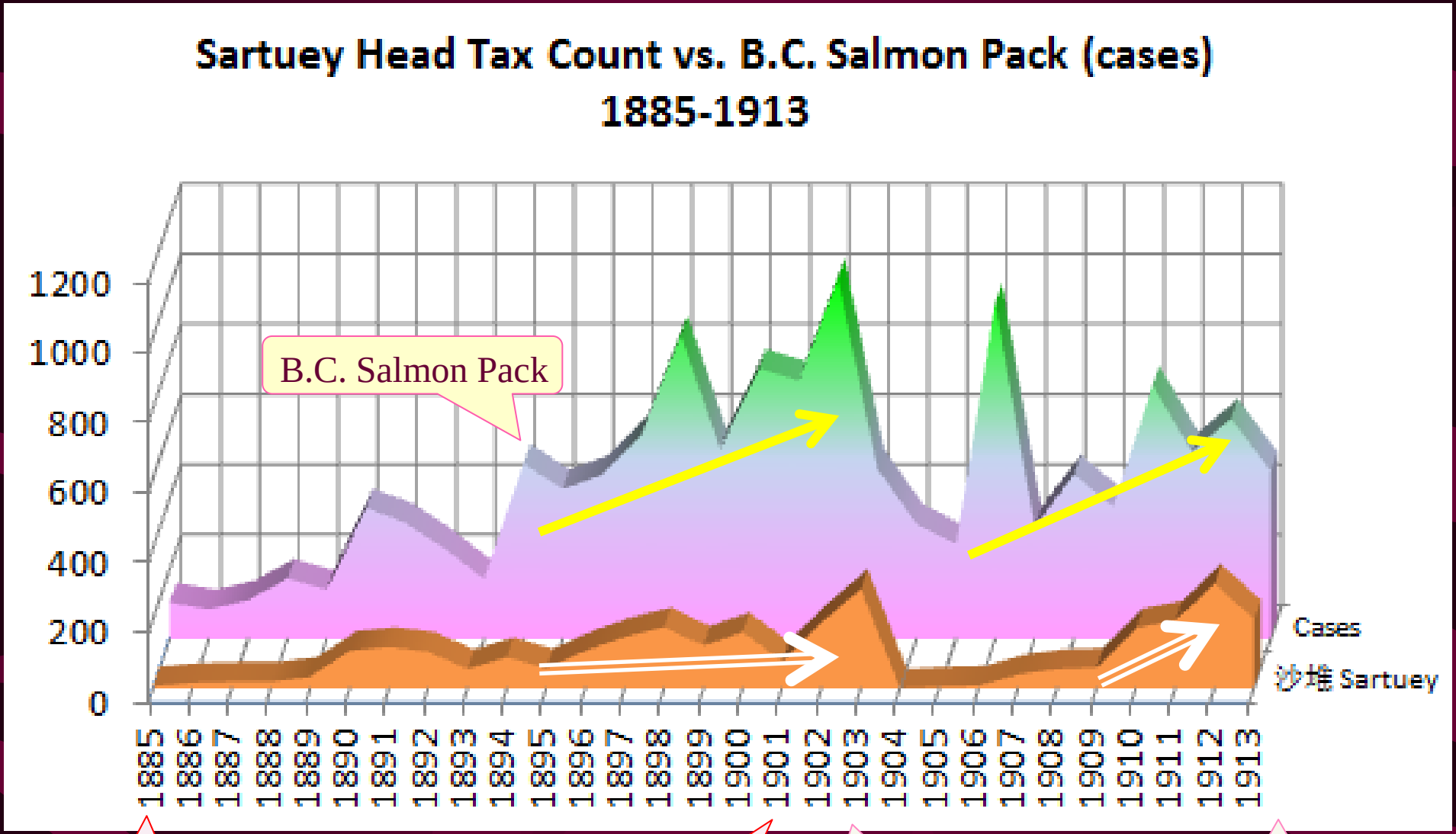
那伏 NoFok

古井 Cooteung

沙角 Sar Gok

沙堆 SarTuey

梅閣 Moy Gock



1885
$50
Head Tax

1901
$100
Head Tax

1903
$500
Head Tax

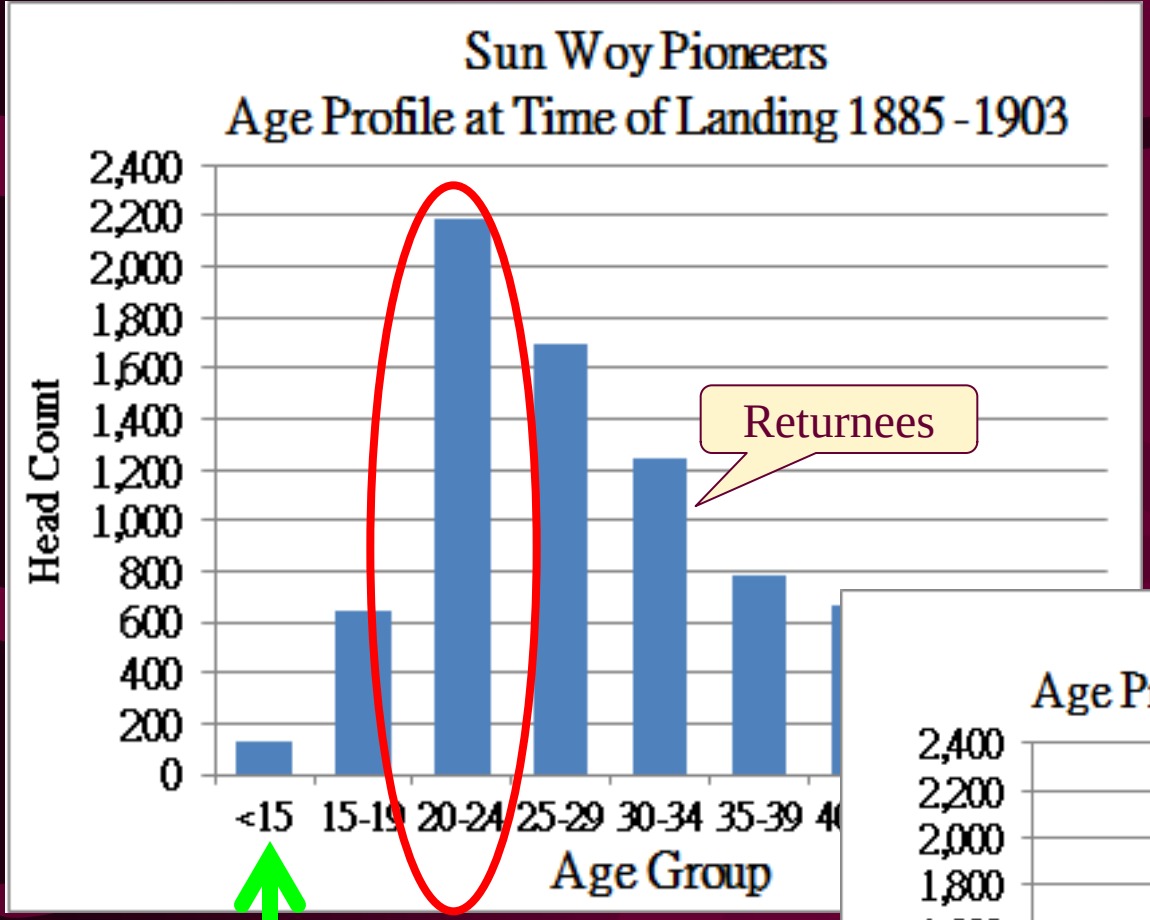
1914
WWI

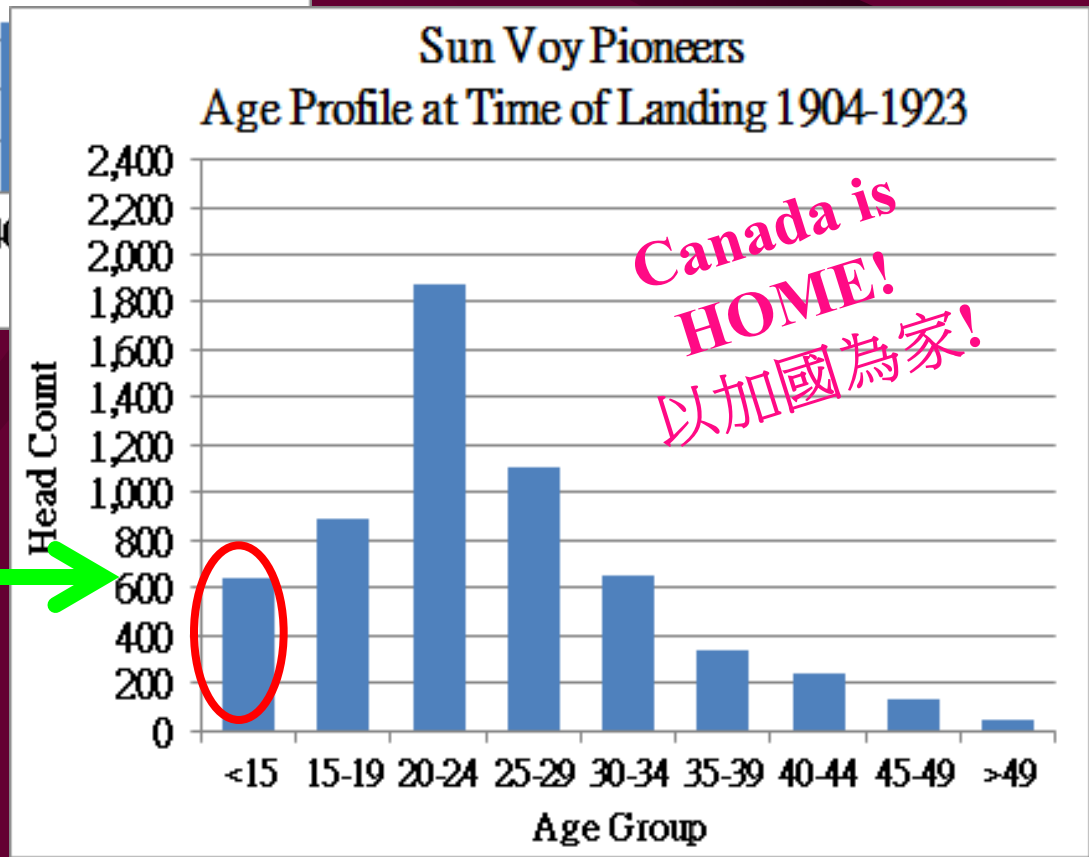
Demography of Sun Woy Pioneers 1885 - 1923

清末民初
新會先民抵加開墾
人口狀況

First Arrival 20-24
少壯來加開墾

Returnees from Home Visit
>30 返鄉探親





1904-1923

- Students 學生
- Sons & Daughters 兒女
- Family Reunion 團聚

Arrival Age of Sun Woy Pioneers
1885-1923

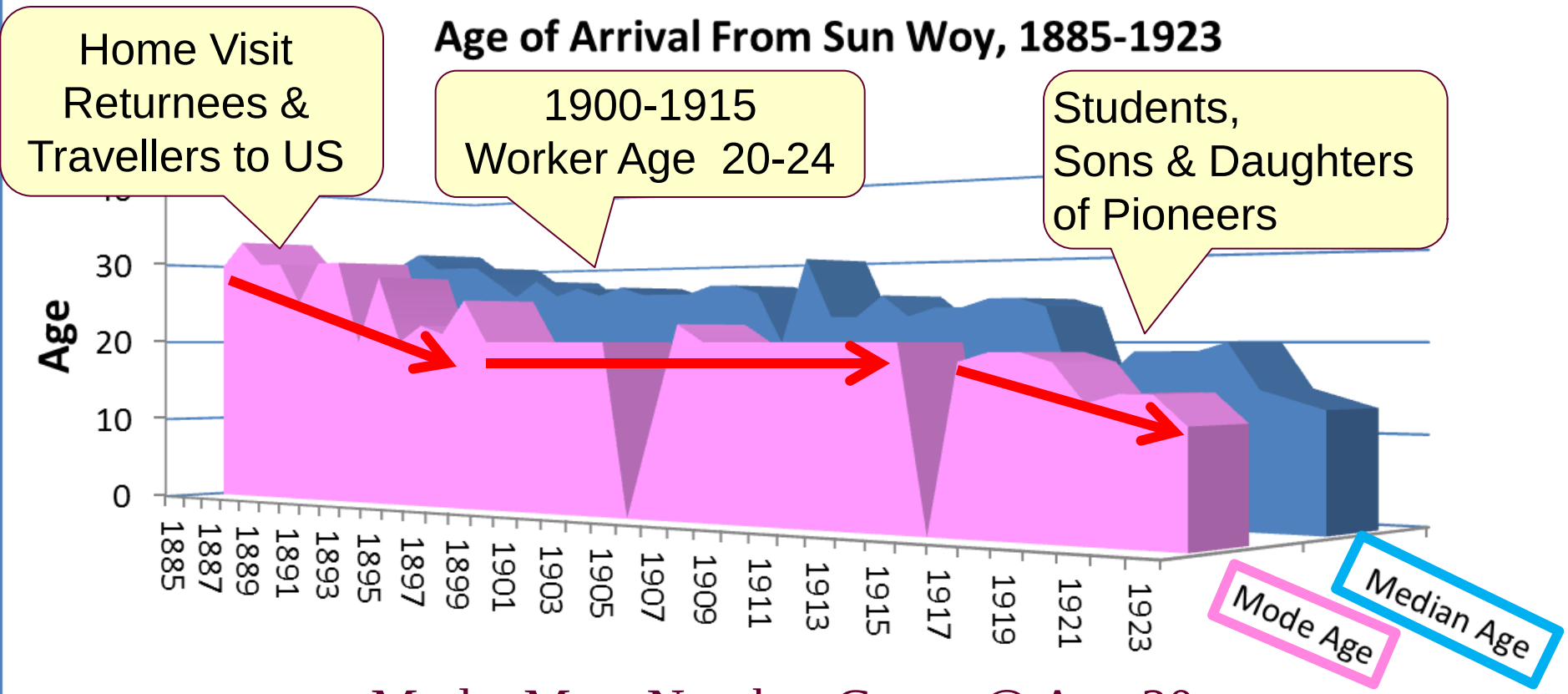
- Most pioneers arrived between age 20 to 24
- Age 20 was the biggest age group

Postulate

- Young men needed for the labour force
- Travelers returning from home visit in China were mostly 30 or older

Age of Arrival From Sun Woy 1885 - 1923

After WWI: Family union, Canada is home



Mode: Most Number Count @ Age 20

Median: Mid-Range @ Age 23

Arrival Age of Sun Woy Pioneers

Phase I: 1885-1903

Township		Age			Township		Age		
		Ave	Mdn	Mode			Ave	Mdn	Mode
古井鎮	Cooteung	28	27	20	三江鎮	Sam Gong	29	27	20
沙堆鎮	Sartuey	27	25	20	睦洲鎮	Mok Jew	29	28	25
崖門鎮	Ngai Mun	29	28	20	新會城	Wui Sean	31	30	30
大澤鎮	Dai Jack	30	29	35	江門鎮	Gong Mun	31	29	30
雙水鎮	Song Soi	31	30	27	司前鎮	See Chin	29	29	25
羅坑鎮	Law Hang	29	28	24	其他	Others	29	28	22
新會縣 Sun Woy County: Most arrived at Age 20							28.6	27	20

Arrival Age of Sun Voy Pioneers

Phase II: 1904 - 1923

Township		Age			Township		Age		
		Ave	Mdn	Mode			Ave	Mdn	Mode
古井鎮	Cooteung	25	23	20	三江鎮	Sam Gong	23	22	20
沙堆鎮	Sartuey	23	22	20	睦洲鎮	Mok Jew	27	25	20
崖門鎮	Ngai Mun	25	24	20	新會城	Wui Sean	22	21	20
大澤鎮	Dai Jack	26	25	20	江門鎮	Gong Mun	23	22	20
雙水鎮	Song Soi	25	23	20	司前鎮	See Chin	25	24	20
羅坑鎮	Law Hang	26	25	25	其他	Others	25	24	20
新會縣 Sun Woy County:					1885-1903		28.6	27	20
新會縣 Sun Woy County:					1904-1923		24.5	23	20

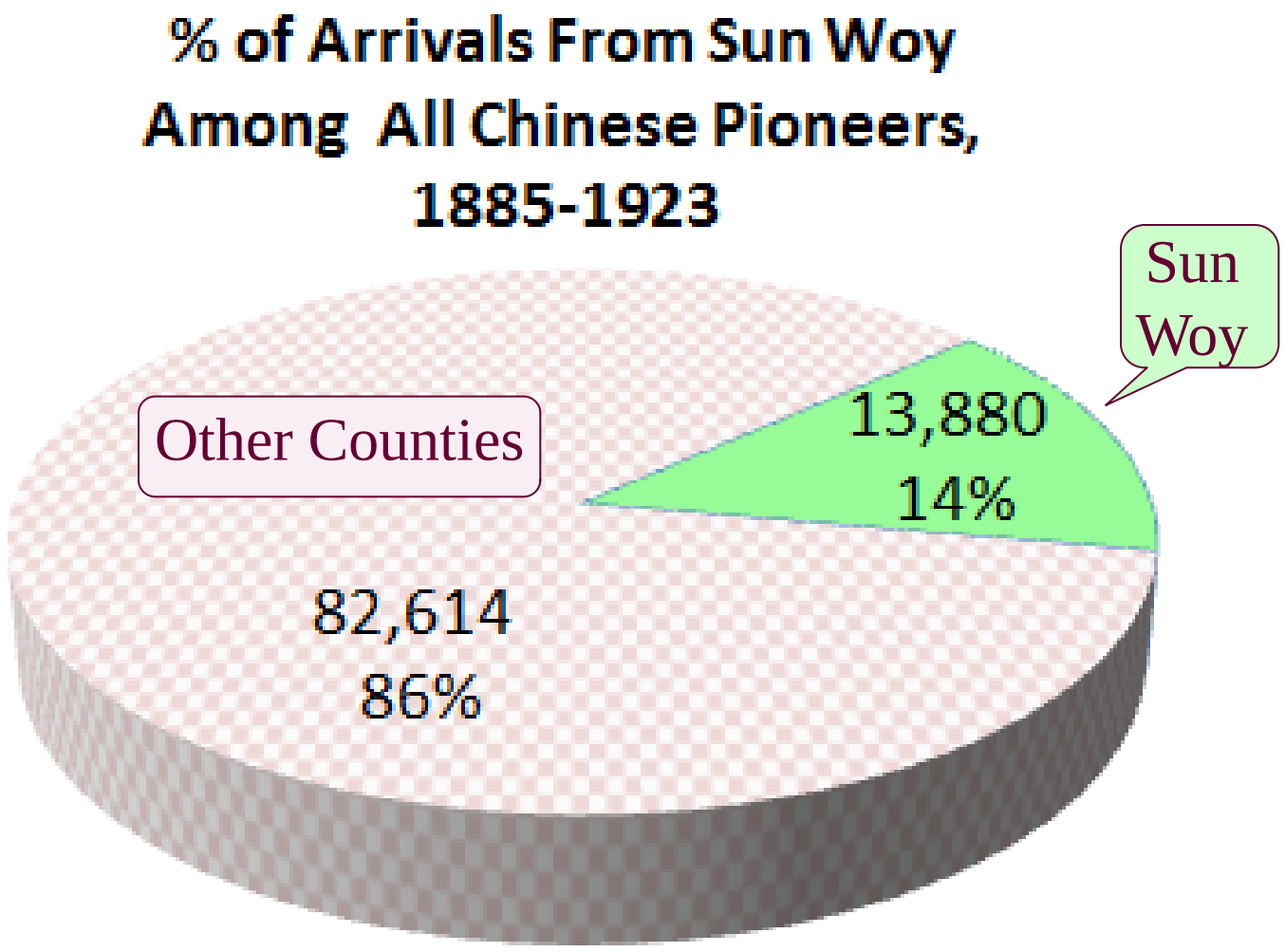
Younger By 4 years!

抵加人數
Number of Arrivals

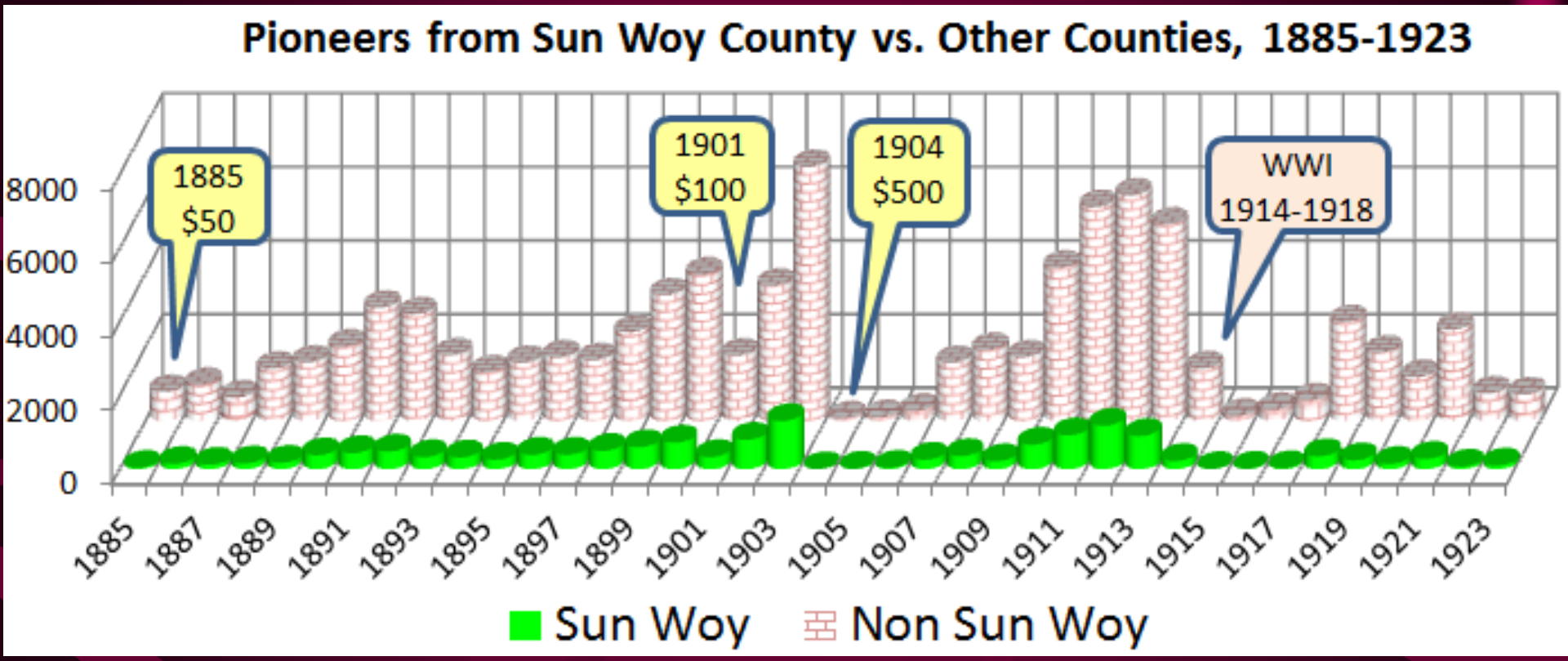
Depended On	跟據
• Labour Demand	勞工需求
• Prohibitive Head Tax	人頭稅荷限
• World War I, Ship Blockade	歐戰禁海運
• Chinese Exclusion Act	禁華人入境荷法

Must Pay to Work
人頭稅:先繳買路錢!

1885 -1923 年華裔人頭稅記錄
新會縣人數成份



新會縣與其他縣抵加人數 此較
1885 – 1923



Sun Woy Pioneers Accounted for 14% of Chinese Pioneers

Sun Voy Pioneers
By Occupation, Phase I: 1885-1903

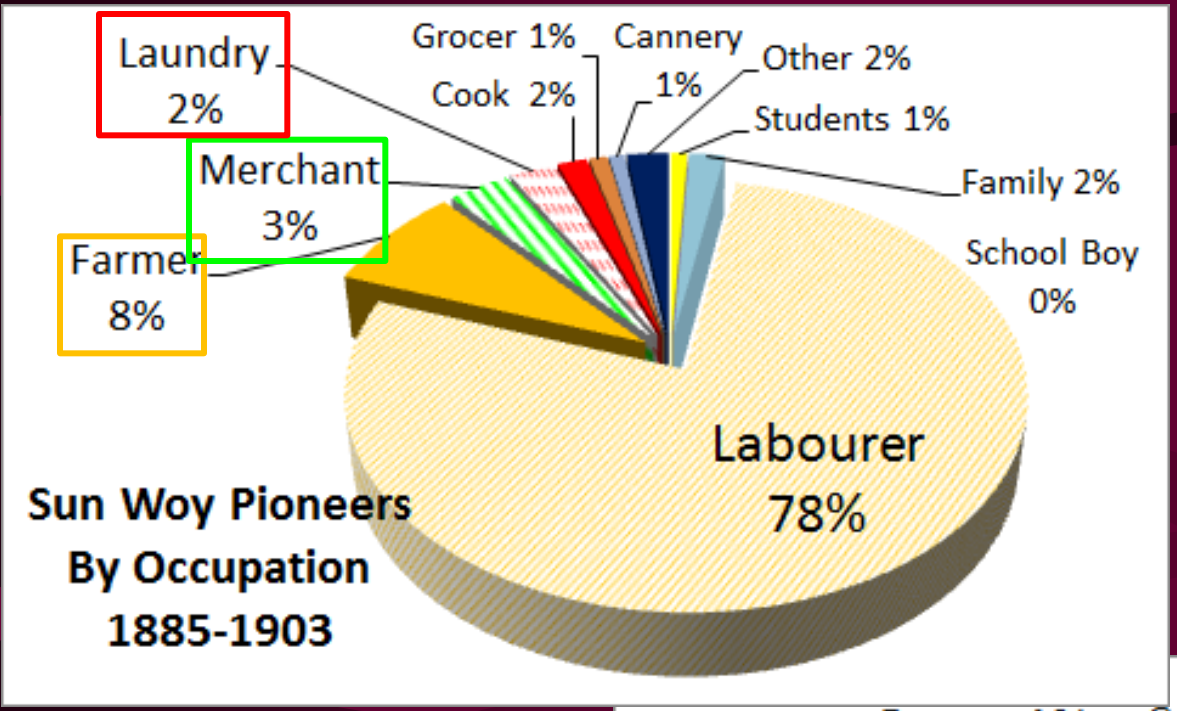
Occupation	Count	%	Age			Age Range
			Ave	Mdn	Mode	
Labourer	6,112	77.6%	29	27	20	8-63
Farmer	629	8.0%	28	26	20	6-54
Merchant	264	3.3%	*35*	*34*	*30*	*18-60*
Laundry	198	2.5%	*32*	*31*	*30*	*18-61*
Cook	129	1.6%	*29*	*28*	*22*	*11-53*
Grocer	79	1.0%	*31*	*30*	*40*	*17-51*
Cannery	67	0.9%	*30*	*30*	*30*	*17-48*
Others	397	5.0%	*31*	*31*	*28*	*8-51*
Total	7,874	100%	10 Years to get established			

Sun Woy Pioneers,
By Occupation, Phase II: 1904-1923

Occupation	Count	%	Age			Age Range
			Ave	Mdn	Mode	
Labourer	3,932	65%	*29*	*27*	*20*	*8-63*
Farmer	29	0%	*28*	*26*	*20*	*6-54*
Merchant	282	5%	*35*	*34*	*30*	*18-60*
Laundry	3	0%	*32*	*31*	*30*	*18-61*
Cook	4	0%	*29*	*28*	*22*	*11-53*
Grocer	55	0%	*31*	*30*	*40*	*17-51*
Cannery	0	0%	*30*	*30*	*30*	*17-48*
Others			*31*	*31*	*28*	*8-51*
Total	6,006	97%	10 Years for Home Visit			

$500 Impact on Occupation

Sun Woy	1885-1903		1904-1923		1885-1923	
Occupation	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Labourer	6,112	78	3,932	65	10,044	72
Farmer	629	8	29	0	658	5
Merchant	264	3	282	5	546	4
Laundry	198	3	3	0	201	1
Cook	129	2	4	0	133	
Grocer	79	1	55	1	134	1
Cannery	67	1	0	0	67	0
Others	177	2	54	1	231	2
Students	68	1	747	12	815	6
School Boy	0	0	335	6	335	2
Total (Exclude Family)	7,723	98%	5,441	91%	13,164	95%

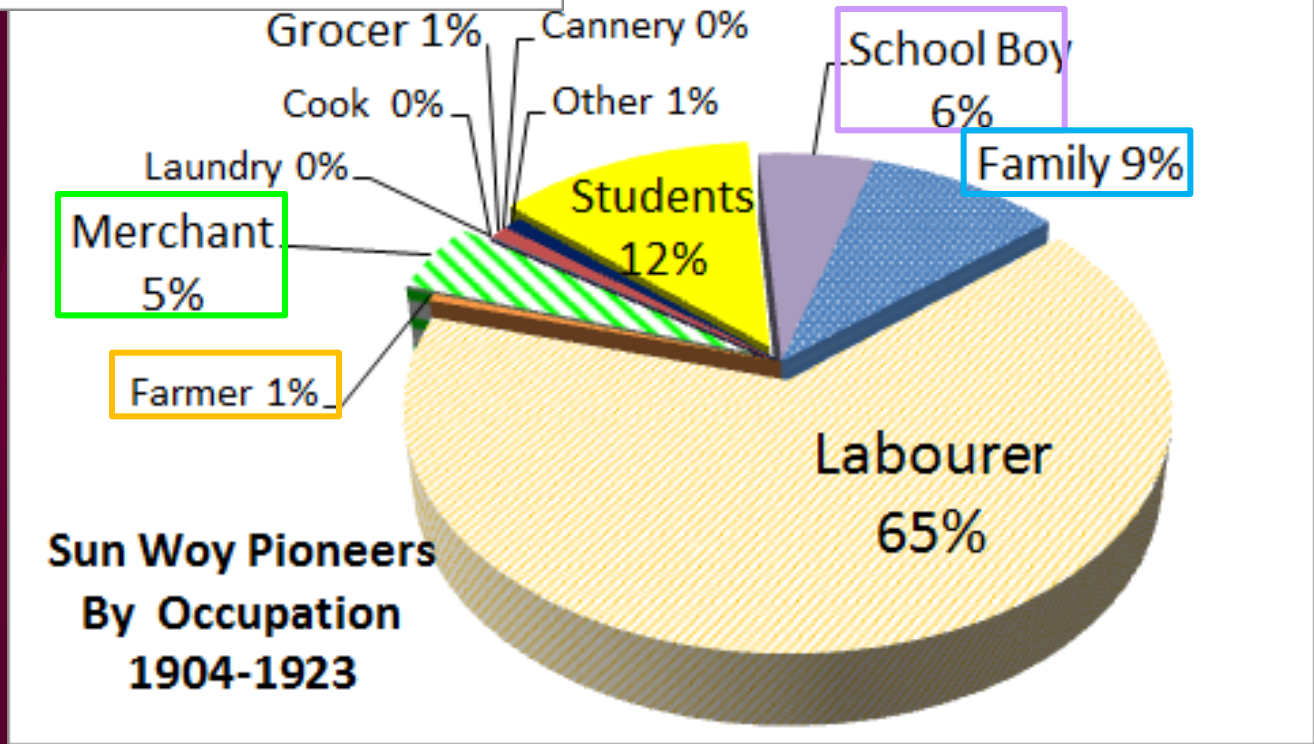


Phase I: 1885-1903

Labourers
Farmers
Merchants
Service Providers

Phase II: 1904-1923

Students
School Boys
Family



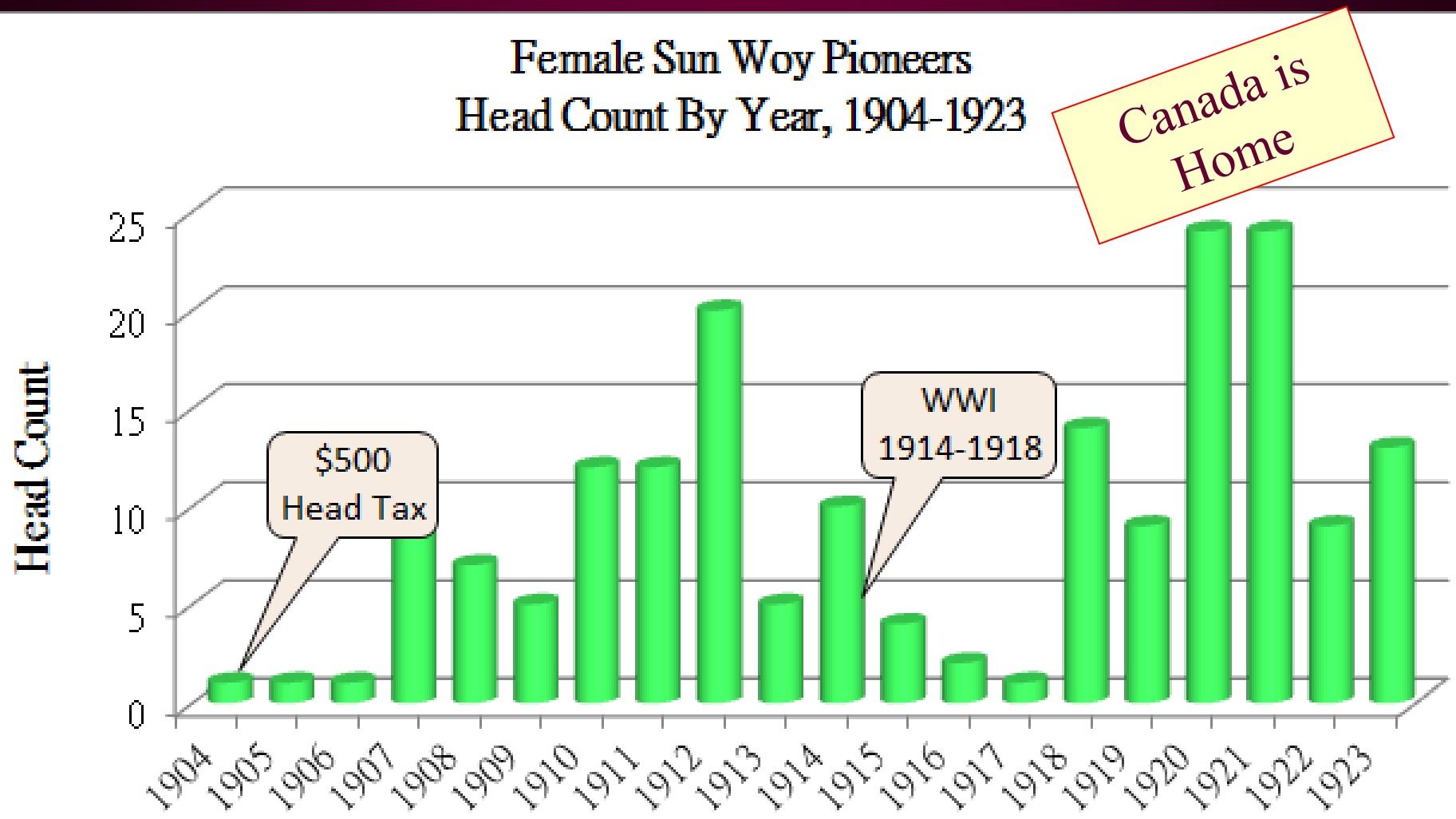
Sun Woy Pioneers
Labourer Profile

	Phase I: 1885-1903		Phase II:1904-1923
• Labourers	6,112		3,932
• Average Age	28.7		27.1
• Median Age	27.0	2 years younger	25.0
• Mode	20		20
• No. @ Age 20	548		481
• Age 20-29	3,193		2,454
• Age Range	8 to 63		8 to 84

Sun Woy Pioneers, 1885-1923
Female Profile

	1885-1903		1904-1923	
• Female	41		185	
• Median Age	23		22	
• Age Range	3 – 48		2 – 58	
• Age <15	12	(29%)	50	(27%)
• Age 20-29	12	(29%)	77	(42%)
• Age 30-39	11	(27%)	31	(16%)
• Housewifes	18	(44%)	Family Union 124	(67%)
• Daughters / Students	5	(11%)	49	(26%)
• Servents / Labourer	9	(22%)	8	(4%)
• Seamstress / Laundry	4	(10%)	0	

Female
Sun Woy Pioneers, 1904-1923



Students. Sons & Daughters of Sun Woy Pioneers, 1885-1923

	1885-1903	1904-1923
• Number	199	1,511
• Female	4	54
• Average Age	15.9	15.9
• Median Age	16.0	15.0
• Mode	16	15
• Age <15	49	600
• Age 15-19	140	633
• Age 20-24	5	196
• Age 25-29	2	58

Students. Sons & Daughters of Sun Woy Pioneers, 1885-1923

Town		Trips 1885-1903		Trips 1903-1923		All Trips 1885-1923		
古井鎮	Cooteung	35	18%	351	23%	**386**	23%	Residence
沙堆鎮	Sartuey	78	39%	442	29%	**520**	30%	Residence
崖門鎮	Ngai Mun	32	16%	145	10%	**177**	9%	Residence
大澤鎮	Dai Jack	6	3%	65	4%	**71**	4%	
雙水鎮	Song Soi	2	1%	80	5%	**82**	5%	
羅坑鎮	Law Hang	5	3%	52	3%	**57**	3%	
三江鎮	Sam Gong	5	1%	39	3%	44	3%	
睦洲鎮	Mok Chou	0	0%	39	3%	39	2%	
新會城	SanOui Sean	4	2%	60	4%	64	4%	
江門鎮	Gong Mun	1	1%	26	2%	27	2%	
司前鎮	See Chin	3	3%	30	2%	33	2%	
其他	Others	28	14%	82	12%	110	6%	
總數	Total	199		1511		1710		

Students. Sons & Daughters of Sun Woy Pioneers, 1885-1923

Town		Trips 1885-1903		Trips 1903-1923		All Trips 1885-1923		
古井鎮	Cooteung	35	18%	351	23%	**386**	23%	Residence
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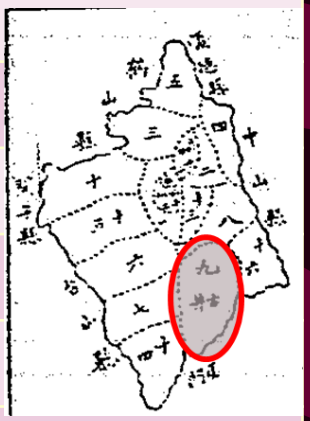
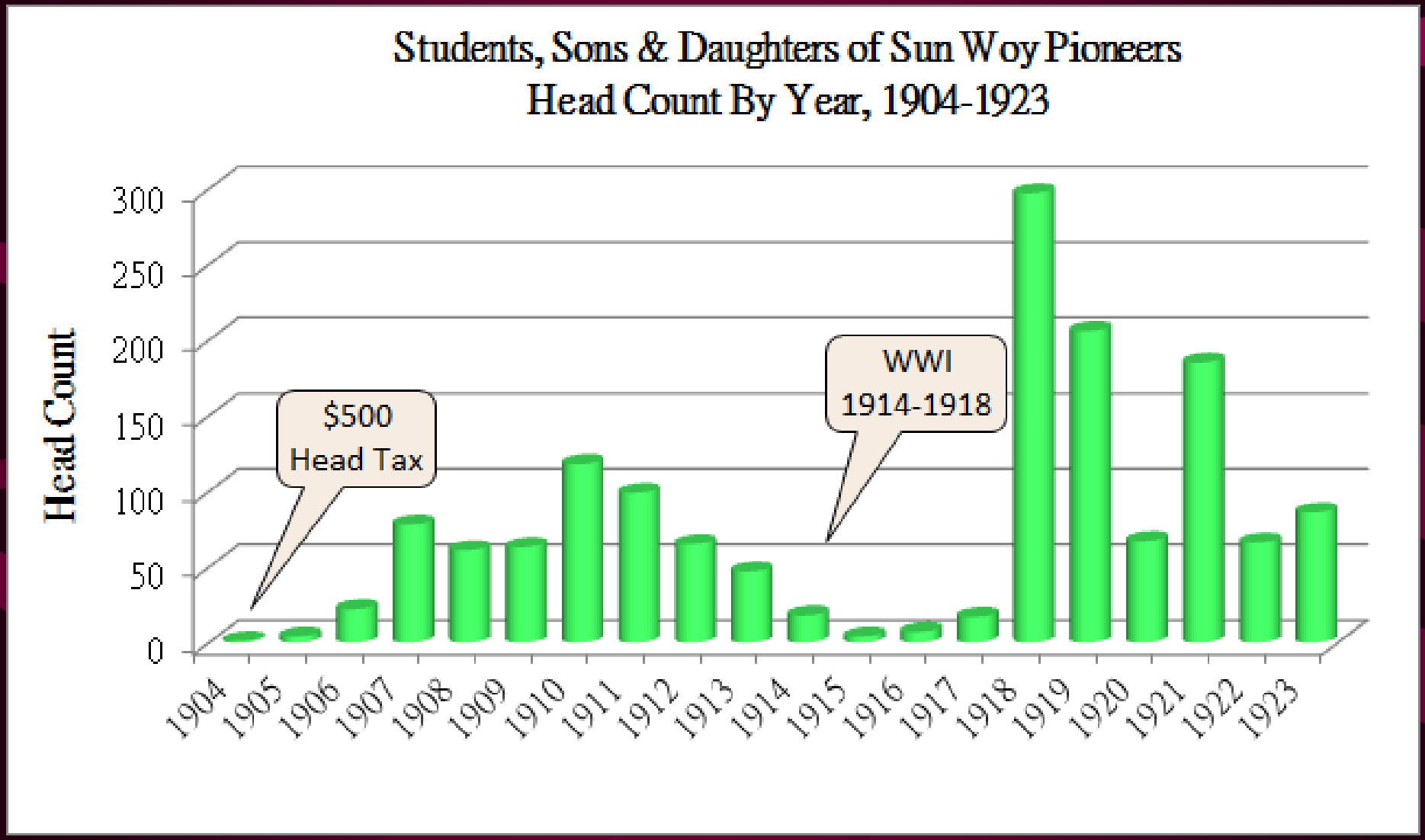
羅坑鎮	Law Hang	5	3%	52	3%	**57**	3%	
三江鎮	Sam Gong	5	1%	39	3%	44	3%	
睦洲鎮	Mok Chou	0	0%	39	3%	39	2%	
新會城	SanOui Sean	4	2%	60	4%	64	4%	
江門鎮	Gong Mun	1	1%	26	2%	27	2%	
司前鎮	See Chin	3	3%	30	2%	33	2%	
其他	Others	28	14%	82	12%	110	6%	
總數	Total	199		1511		1710		



Students. Sons & Daughters of Sun Woy Pioneers, 1904-1923



Sun Woy Pioneers
Head Tax Exemption

	1885 - 1903	1904 - 1923
• Merchants	3	149 (27%)
• Wife	1	41 (7%)
• Sons	3	289 (53%)
• Daughters	0	33 (6%)
• Students	2	12 (2%)
• Labourer	1	7 (1%)

Only 10 exemptions

	Merchant Age	Merchant Age
• Average Age	40.0	34.4
• Median Age	54.0	32.0
• Mode	54	28
• Age Range	12 to 54	19 to 62

Chung Nye Family Portrait, 1922
On occasion of Son On Whei's visits from San Francisco

Son
On Kui
Arrived
1910
exempted

安翹 丁酉字

Son
On Whei
Visitor
1922

安懷 紹賢字

安偉

Nephew
On Wey
Charles

北強字安順

Nephew
On Shun
"Quong"
Arrived
1903
$100

Chung Nye 蔣柰, 字經可
Arrived April 1882

HENDERSON PUBLISHING CO., Ltd. L
Directory and Gazetteer Publishers. WINNIPEG, VANCOUVER AND VIC

1902

CHINESE BUSINESS FIRMS.

Chinese Reform Association, Ah Yam, secretary.
Chin Kee, shoemaker, Columbia.
Gee, Hing, laundry, Blackie.
Hee Chung, tailor, McInnes, cor. Columbia.
Hee Chung & Co., tailors McInnis, cor. Columbia.
Hong Yuen & Co., merchants, McInnis.
Hong, Yung, laundry-Blackie.
Hop Lee laundry, 8th st.
Hop Wau, laundry, 352 Columbia.
Hung Lung, laundry., Blackie.
Joe, Quoy, tobaccos and fruits, Columbia.
Kwong Man Tai & Co., Lee Coy, mgr., and labor contractor, mrchts, Columbia near McNeely.
Kwong On Wo & Co., general merchants, Lee Soon, mgr., Columbia ave.
Kwong Wing Lung, merchant, McInnes.
Tai Lee Wo, merchants, McInnes.
Lee Coy, mgr., Kwong Man Tan & Co., Front.
Me Lun, tailor, Carnarvon.
Quen, Yick, grocer, McInnis.
Quon, Lung, merchandise, McInnis.
Quon Lung, merchant, 417 Front.
Works.
Sam Chung, laundry, Blackie.
Sam Chung, laundry, Blackie.
Kenzie.
Sam Shing, laundry, 603 Front.
Sing Kee, merchant, 929 Columbia ave.
Sing Lee, laundry, Blackie.
Sing Lung, laundry, 10th st., near Royal ave.
Sing On & Co., mfgrs. ladies underwear. Carnarvon.
Sun Kum Wo & Co., merchants, McInnes.
Tai Kee, merchant, McInnis.
Tai Lee Wo., merchants, McInnis.
Tai Sing, butcher, McInnis.
Tai Soong & Co., merchants.
Tom Lung, laundry, Columbia west.
Tsung, Yuen, grocer, McInnis.
Wing Lee, laundry, 381 Front.
Wing Lung, grocer, 427 Front.
Ying, Tai & Co., merchants, and labor contractors, Ah Gam, manager, McInnes cor Columbia.
Yuen, Shing, merchant, McInnes.

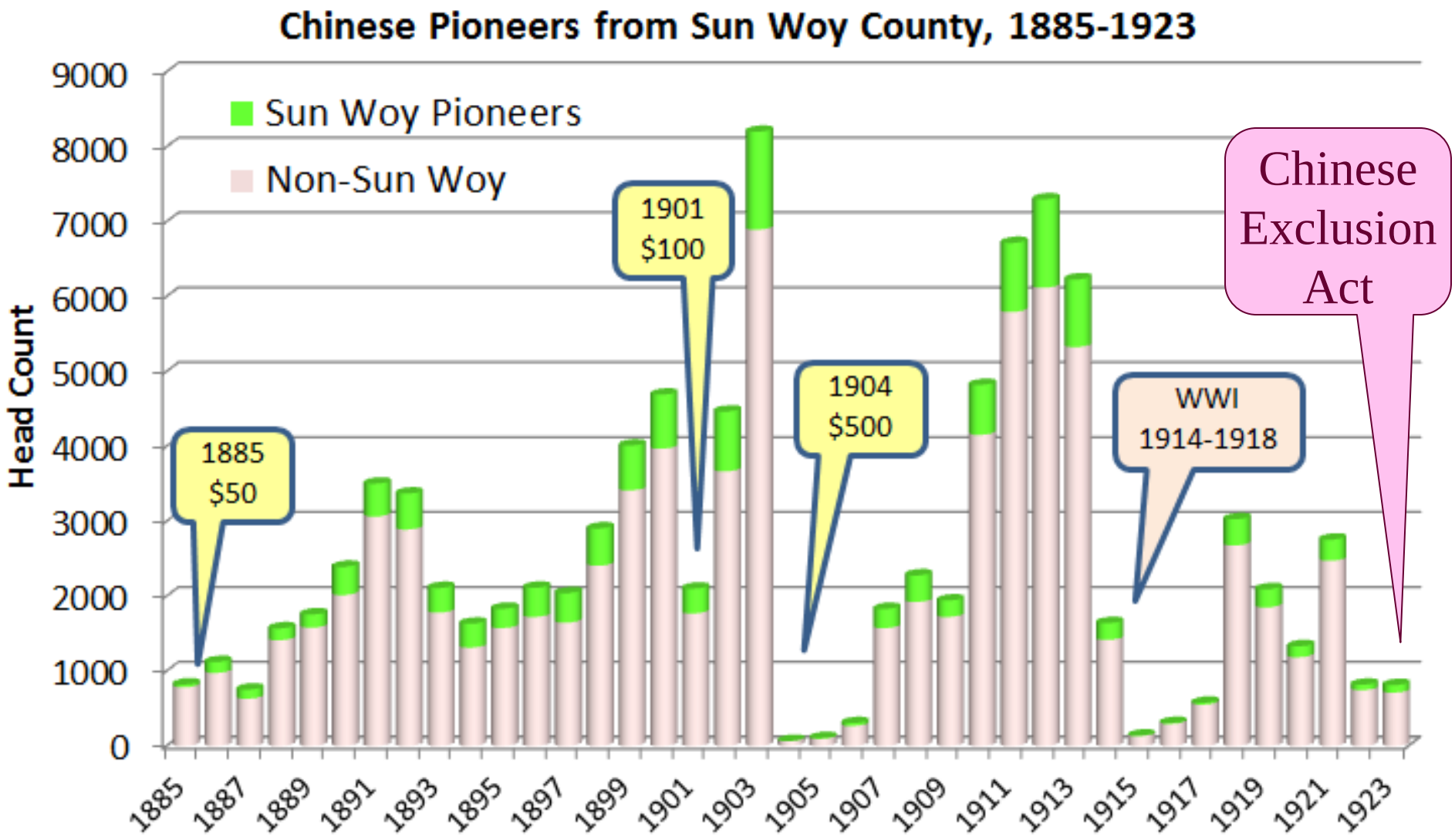
Head Tax Exemptions, 1885-1923

Town		1885-1903		1903-1923		All Exemptions 1885-1923	
古井鎮	Cooteung	4	40%	98	18%	**102**	18%
沙堆鎮	Sartuey	1	10%	146	27%	**147**	27%
崖門鎮	Ngai Mun	4	40%	70	13%	**74**	13%
大澤鎮	Dai Jack			9	2%	9	2%
雙水鎮	Song Soi			30	6%	30	5%
羅坑鎮	Law Hang			12	2%	12	2%
三江鎮	Sam Gong			21	4%	21	4%
睦洲鎮	Mok Chou			6	1%	6	1%
新會城	SanOui Sean			31	6%	31	6%
江門鎮	Gong Mun			15	3%	15	3%
司前鎮	See Chin			13	2%	13	2%
其他	Others	1	10%	92	17%	93	17%
總數	Total	10		543		553	

Head Tax Record 1885-1923 Conclusion 總結

- Sun Woy Pioneers accounted for 14% of All Chinese Pioneers
- Sun Woy Pioneers paid $3,076,847, or 14% of $21,790,718 collected from All pioneers

1885 -1923 年華裔人頭稅記錄
新會縣人數成份



Head Tax Record 1885-1923
Conclusion 總結

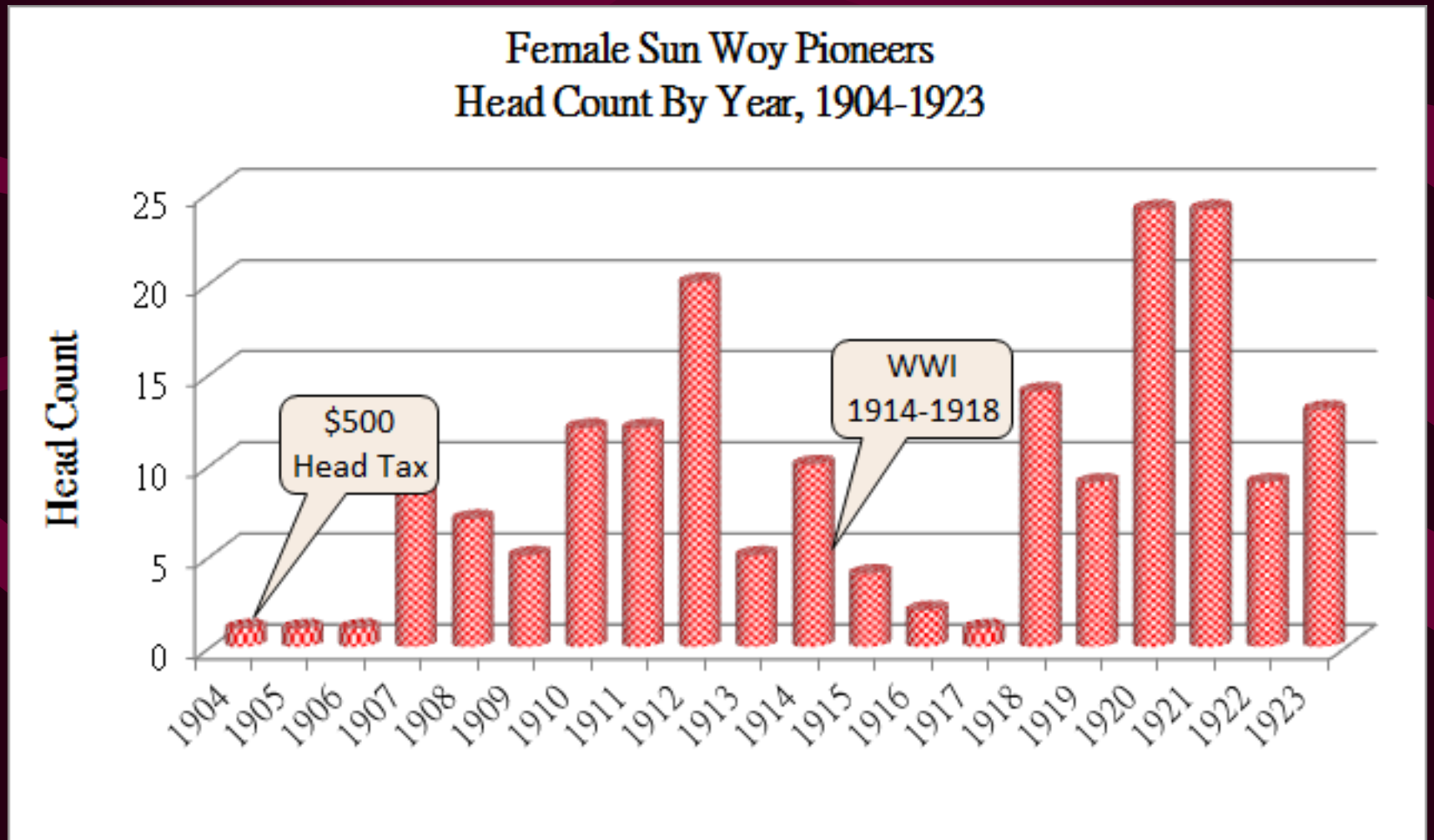
- In 1903 Real Gross Domestic Income @ $70.9 / capita (Statatics Canada)
- $500 Head Tax = 7 years Income

- Lower paid Chinese Pioneers would take more than 7 years to pay off Head Tax

- No food, no lodging, no nothing!

Head Tax Record 1885-1923
Conclusion 總結

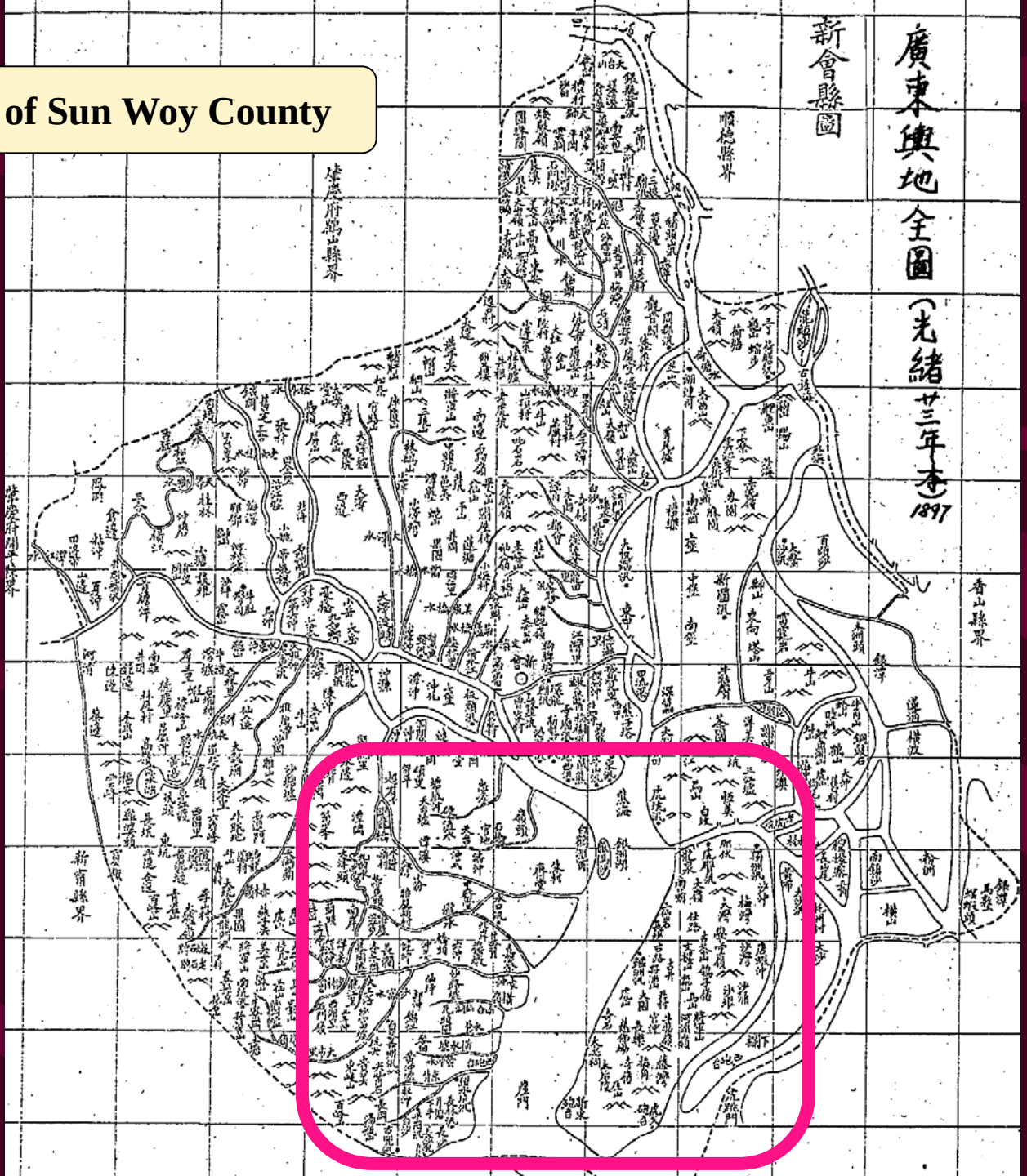
- **Most Pioneers Arrived at Age 20 to 24**
- **From 1907: Wife & Children Came**
- **Stopped by the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1924**



Head Tax Record 1885-1923
Conclusion 總結

- Sun Woy Pioneers came from geographic pockets
- 83% of Sun Woy Pioneers came from remote coastal villages
- 62% of Sun Woy Pioneers came from 3 towns: Cooteung, Sartuey, & Ngai Mun
- Village proximity reflects family ties

1897 Map of Sun Woy County



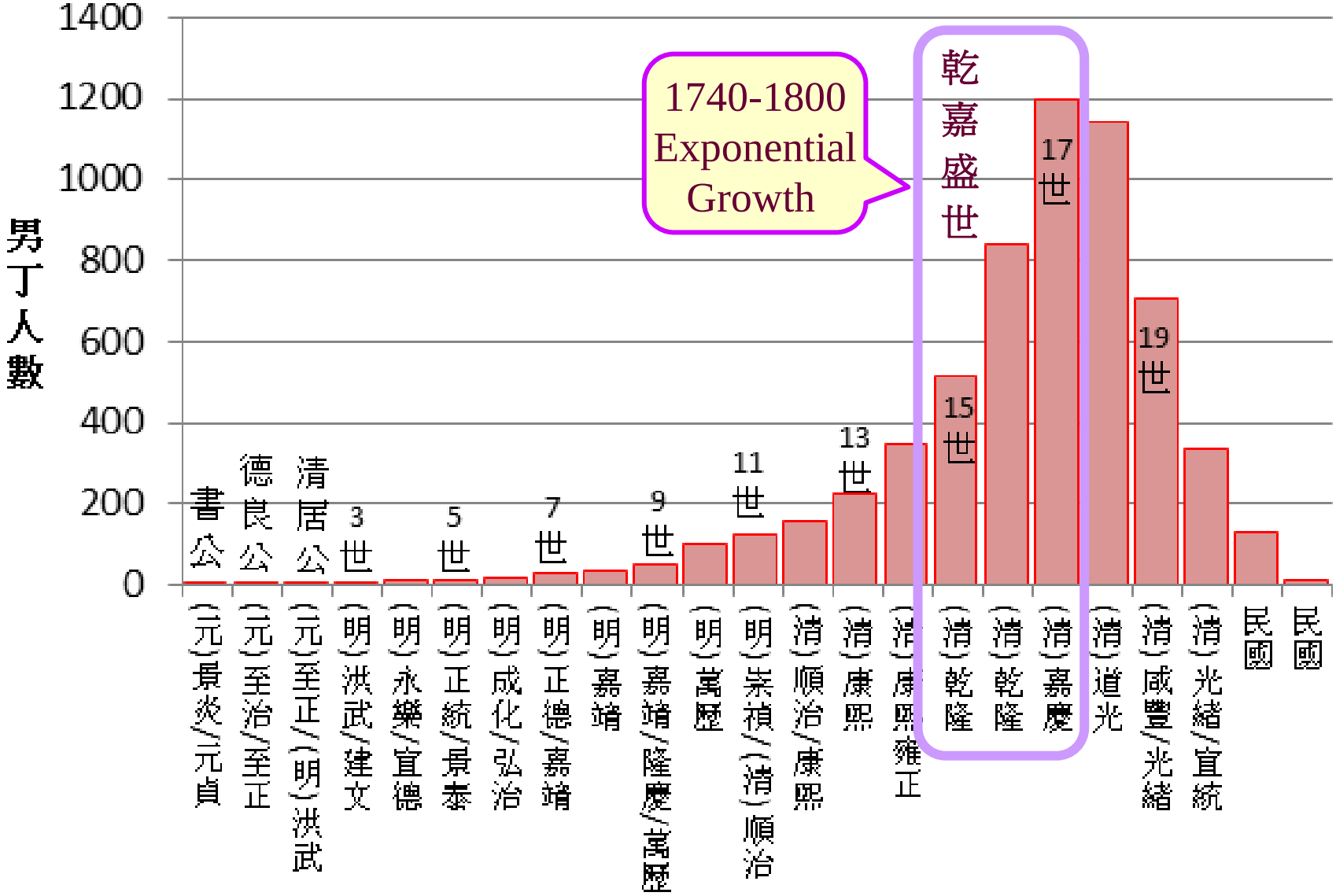
Head Tax Record 1885-1923
Conclusion 總結

Population Growth

- Relative stability in China during 1740-1800 prompted population growth.

  [Qian Long (乾隆) & Jia Qing (嘉慶) period (乾嘉盛世)]
- Coastal villages ran out of farm land

新會梅閣鄉蔣姓族譜
太始祖蔣書公,二舍德良公歷朝男丁人口
(1933年,1至17世記錄)



Thank You!

謝謝!

Merci!

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