

## *ANGEL ISLAND*—(Territory and Memory)

Angel Island, across San Francisco was the Ellis Island of the West, but also a detention center. Chinese poems, carvings, had been left on the walls of the immigration station in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Alexander Weiss a state park ranger, upon watching and recognizing the beauty of the Chinese carvings on the walls of the building initiated a movement that helped preserve and restore the building scheduled to be erased.

In 1906, San Francisco fell victim of a massive earthquake that buried thousands of birth records.

Fathers and other members who had emigrated to the US returned to China to visit family members and neighbors from their original villages they had left years ago. A movement emerged, the Chinese Paper Sons and Daughters. Fake papers with fake stories were sold to Chinese villagers for them to claim they were US citizens; they took advantage of the loophole.

The following stories—diaries, newspaper articles, journals, memoirs--were written by La Folie Saint-James 10<sup>th</sup> grade students (élèves de seconde) as their final task.