

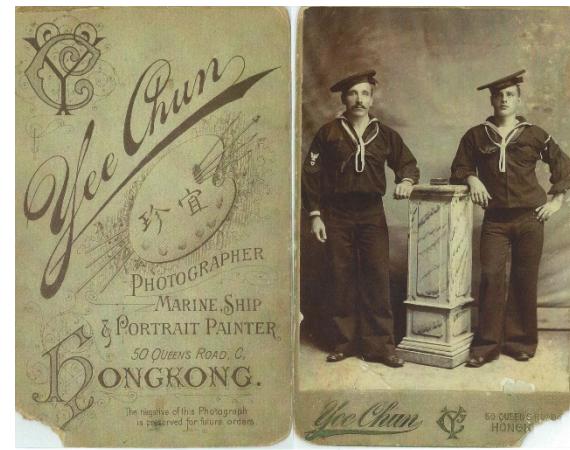
As I write this it is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of US Official entry into World War I or Great War. I am aware of 5 Great-Uncles on my paternal side that were in the Army during the 1917-1919 time of our involvement. Many other male relatives in 1917 & 1918 had to fill out draft registration cards, one of these was a Great-Grandfather on my maternal side named Joseph Charles Podrasky. By the time he registered on September 12, 1918 he was 39, had 4 children and living in DesPlaines, Illinois and worked at Benjamin Electric Manufacturing Company. What is not indicated on the draft registration is that he previously had served in the U.S. Navy for 4 years, enlisting on December 20, 1899 until he was honorably discharged on December 19, 1903. During this time, he was active when the United States was involved in the Philippine Island or Philippine-American War of 1899-1902.

This is another forgotten and undeclared war the U.S. was involved with that history has not looked in great detail or wishes to remember. There are various places if one is interested in learning about this history on the internet and in books. One example is a source I found by doing a search for research theses done by graduate students. I found a good source by a Navy Officer in 2004 that has excellent information on the ships my great-grandfather stated in a letter he was stationed as a coxswain. [U.S. Navy Lieutenant Carlson, Dec 2004]

My purpose is to explain what I have learned about my great-grandpa's time in the Navy and not the 'possible' battles his crew and ships might have taken part in.

#### **Research: What Learned So Far**

At this point I have learned when he enlisted, the ships he was assigned to the possible dates he served on each ship, some information on these ships, pictures, a letter that my Great-Grandfather wrote to the Veteran's Administration in 1933 to explain his service and wound(s) for a pension application he had started in 1926. At end of this brief article, you will see one of many reported paintings he did years after his service, showing his love of the seas and ships. He must have loved the water and ships he saw on Lake Michigan as a child growing up in the last two decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in Chicago, IL.



Joseph C Podrasky (right standing) in Hong Kong late 1900

#### **Chronology of Ship Service – 1899 – 1903 Joseph Charles Podrasky**

Enlisted December 20, 1899

Receiving Ship – **USS Franklin** (1864 – Launched) Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia

Sent to **USS Dixie** and **sail to Manilla, Philippines** arrive around May 15, 1900

Transferred to **USS Glacier** about May 20, 1900

Transferred to **USS Zafiro** about June 15, 1900

Transferred to **USS Oregon** in Hong Kong about June 20, 1900\*

- Stranded on reef June 26, 1900 off Taku (located by the Hai River (Peiho River) estuary, in Tanggu District, Tianjin northeastern China)
- Remained there for about a month
- Arrived in Kure, Japan about August 1, 1900
- Arrived in Woosung, China about September 9, 1900
  - The USS Oregon was a Battleship stationed in area for protection of U.S. interests (Lieutenant Carlson, Dec 2004)
- Left Woosung, China for Hong Kong about February 22, 1901

Transferred to **USS Zafiro** about April 15, 1901

Transferred to **USS Princeton** about May 1, 1901\* (Injury to head)

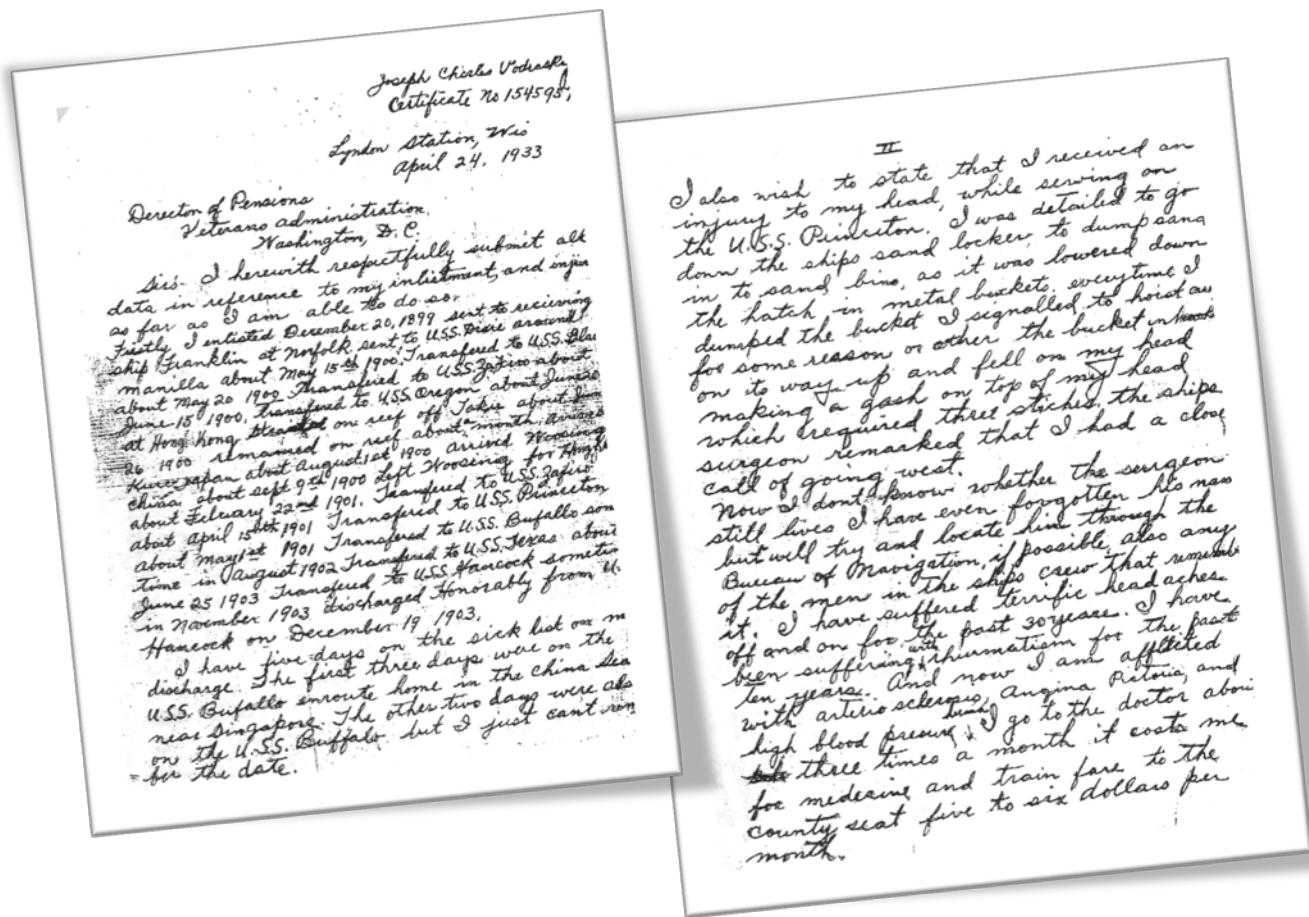
Transferred to **USS Buffalo** about August 1902\* (Sick list)

Transferred to **USS Texas** about June 25, 1903

Transferred to **USS Hancock** about November 1903 (came home)

Discharged on Hancock on December 19, 1903

**Letter written on April 24, 1933 in Lyndon Station, WI to US Veteran's Administration**



1928 Painting done by Joseph C. Podrasky – My Great-Great Grandfather on my Maternal side



Copyright: Robert J. Rettammel, 2017

## **References**

- 1) Web search done on April 21, 2017 by Bob Rettammel found following:  
Graduate Thesis

**THE PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION: THE U.S. NAVY IN A MILITARY  
OPERATION OTHER THAN WAR, 1899-1902**

**By Ted W. Carlson**

**Lieutenant, United States Navy**

B.A., San Diego State University, 1999

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

**MASTER OF ARTS IN NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS**

**from the NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL**

**December 2004**

Author: Ted W. Carlson

\*Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited\*

<http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a429668.pdf>

- 2) Research done by 4<sup>th</sup> Cousin of Author back in 1999.

- 3) Authors Family Archive

## **Parent Tree of Joseph C Podrasky**

**Joseph Charles Podrasky (1878-1934) (Great-Grandmother Maternal side)**

