

Singapore's Grandfathers' Roads – Legacies of Our Pioneers

Posted on January 9, 2014

<https://remembersingapore.org/2014/01/09/pioneer-names-in-singapore-streets/>

Bah Soon Bah Road

Bah Soon Bah Road was named after **Bah Soon** (峇順), the Peranakan name of Lim Nee Soon (also see Nee Soon Road).

Bah Tan Road (defunct)



Bah Tan Road, one of the roads at Chong Pang Village, was named after **Teo Bah Tan**, an early Chinese rubber plantation owner and trader. Teo Bah Tan was the fifth son of Teo Lee (also see Teo Lee Road), brother of Teo Eng Hock (also see Eng Hock Road) and was the great-grandfather of Teo Chee Hean, the current Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore.

The Teo family was closely related to Lim Nee Soon; Teo Bah Tan and Teo Eng Hock were Lim Nee Soon's uncles (also see Nee Soon Road).

Chong Kuo Road

The short Chong Kuo Road, located near the junction of Sembawang Road and Mandai Road, was named after **Lim Chong Kuo** (林忠国, 1902-1938), the eldest son of famous rubber and pineapple tycoon Lim Nee Soon (also see Nee Soon Road).

In 1923, Lim Chong Kuo married Tan Lay Ho, second daughter of another prominent Chinese businessman Tan Kah Kee. They held a grand wedding at Tenah Merah's Garden Club with many distinguished guests invited.

When Lim Nee Soon died in China in 1936, Lim Chong Kuo flew over to attend his father's state funeral held by the Nanking government. He himself, however, died two years later at a relatively young age of 36.

Chong Pang Road (defunct)

Expunged during the demolition of Chong Pang Village and development of Sembawang housing estate, Chong Pang Road was named after **Lim Chong Pang** (林忠邦, 1904-1956), son of well-known rubber and pineapple tycoon Lim Nee Soon (also see Nee Soon Road).

Lim Chong Pang himself was also a prominent businessman, especially in properties and real estate. He later ventured into the local film industry, and owned several cinemas at Nee Soon and Geylang. In 1929, Lim Chong Pang was appointed as a member of the Singapore Rural Board to serve for public interest. It was a position he had held for nine years. He was also a Justice of Peace and part of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce. After his death, Lim Chong Pang was buried at Bukit Brown Cemetery, and the Westhill Estate was renamed as Chong Pang Village in honour of him.

In 1924, Lim Chong Pang married Lee Poh Neo daughter of Lee Chong Guan, another famous Chinese businessman (also see Choon Guan Street).

Eng Hock Road (defunct)



Eng Hock Road was named after **Teo Eng Hock** (张永福, 1871-1958), the second son of Teo Lee (also see Teo Lee Road) and brother of Teo Bah Tan (also see Bah Tan Road).

Teo Eng Hock was a well-known Teochew rubber merchant and planter, who also owned factories to manufacture rubber goods. A firm supporter of Dr Sun Yat-Sen's revolutionary ideas, he co-founded the Singapore branch of *Tung Meng Hui* (Chinese Revolutionary League) in 1906, and [used his villa Wan Qing Yuan \(晚晴园\)](#), originally intended for his mother Tan Poh Neo, to act as its headquarters.

Teo Eng Hock's daughter Teo Soo Kim was the first woman barrister in Hong Kong.

Hock Chwee Road (defunct)

The expunged Hock Chwee Road at the former Chong Pang Village was named after **Chia Hock Chwee** (谢福水, 1895-1956), the father-in-law of Lim Chong Pang (also see Chong Pang Road). Educated at Raffles Institution, Chia Hock Chwee instead chose to be a fisherman and lived a secluded life.

Nee Soon Road



Nee Soon Road was named after **Lim Nee Soon** (林义顺, 1879-1936), one of Singapore's most well-known Chinese pioneers. Born in a shophouse at Beach Road, Lim Nee Soon was educated at the St Joseph's Institution and Anglo-Chinese School, after which he started picking up skills in the booming rubber industry. By 1911, Lim Nee Soon was able to establish his own plantations and factories at present-day Yishun and Sembawang, snapping up huge acres of lands formerly used for growing gambier and pepper.

At the same time, Lim Nee Soon also cultivated pineapple plantations to inter-crop with his rubber business. His investment in pineapples flourished, earning him the nickname of "Pineapple King". By late 1920s, Lim Nee Soon's properties and plantations could be found at Seletar, Kangkar, Choa Chu Kang and Johor. When the global depression hit in the 1930s, Lim Nee Soon was able to let go most of his rubber ventures.

A charitable person who donated regularly to schools and hospitals, Lim Nee Soon was made a Justice of Peace in 1925, and served in the Singapore Rural Board. He was also the President of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce in the 1920s.

Lim Nee Soon was a keen supporter of Dr Sun Yat-Sen's revolutions, giving large sums of money to start newspapers and support uprisings in Qing China. When he died while on a holiday trip in Shanghai in 1936, the Nanking (Nanjing today) government decided to honour Lim Nee Soon with a state funeral and a burial place near Dr Sun Yat-Sen.

There are other roads named after Lim Nee Soon's wife and sons (also see Peck Hay Road, Chong Kuo Road and Chong Pang Road).

Teo Lee Road (defunct)

The expunged Teo Lee Road at the former Chong Pang Village was named after **Teo Lee** (1833-1899), father of Teo Eng Hock and Teo Bah Tan (also see Eng Hock Road and Bah Tan Road).

Teo Lee's father had arrived from China as a pepper merchant in the early 19th century, whereas Teo Lee himself worked as a cloth trader and opened a shop at Beach Road. He later married Tan Poh Neo, the granddaughter of Tan Hong Khuay, who was the mayor of Muntok, Indonesia.