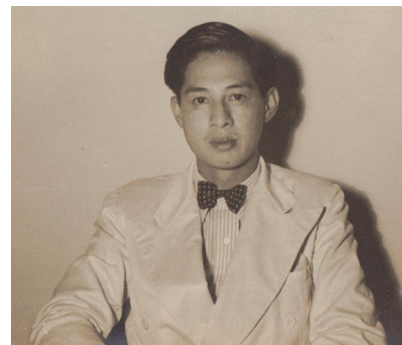


## CHOY WAI CHUEN (29-31)

Was born in 1914 and according to the Green Book was first OF and first Chinese player to appear on Centre Court at Wimbledon; played for the China Davis Cup team; won Suffolk title at Framlingham in 1937 and Middlesex, Herts, Leics and Frinton-on-Sea titles 1938.



The only reference I can find on the internet is about his Davis Cup career. He played 9 Davis Cup matches, winning 2 and losing 7.



Nicholas Watkis has recently very kindly sent us a photo of his father, **Jack Reginald Watkis (29-33)** (on the left) with his best friend Choy Wai Chuen in the centre. He believes the photo was taken on a cadet Field Day but is uncertain on the date.

Amazingly, in early 2011 we were contact by Robin Lung of Nested Egg productions, who spotted information about Choy Wai Cheun on the OF website and in particular that the son of Jack Watkis was looking for more information on his father's best friend. Robin Lung had interviewed Choy's sister for a documentary she was doing.

Amazingly Choy's sister, Wing Yung Emery, is alive and living in Honolulu at the age of 94 and she apparently still has a very sharp memory. She was interested in making contact with Jack Watkis's son and we were delighted to put them in touch

with each other.

A little time afterwards, Robin met up with Choy's sister and managed to scan a number of photos. The one on the left below was believed to have been taken around 1942 in Chungking, China. The picture on the right was taken with his sister in Charlinghouse also in 1942.





The photo below was taken in the same year during a match with the Viceroy of India (The Marquess of Linlithgow) in New Delhi.



Robin Lung goes on to say in March 2011 :-

*I had a nice visit with Wing-Yung Choy Emery last week and scanned the attached photos for you (note the dates on the photos are estimates). I think that she was touched that someone in England was interested in her brother after all these years. Here is a little synopsis of Wai Chuen's life (incidentally, Wing Yung spelled out her brother's name as Wai Chuen instead of Wei Chung):*

*After Framlingham, Wai Chuen Choy attended Cambridge and graduated from Pembroke College in 1936. He acted as a good will ambassador for China during the war, traveling extensively and playing exhibition tennis matches to raise money for China and America. Tragically, he died of leukemia in 1951 and is buried in London.*

*I quickly looked in the New York Times database and pulled a few articles about Wai Chuen's escape from Hong Kong and his tennis play. Those are also attached [can't be shown for copyright reasons]*

*Wing Yung Choy Emery left China to attend college in Texas at Hardin-Simmons University in 1946. Her brother played a big part in her leaving. She gave me an account of this that she wrote for her college newsletter. Here is a snippet from that account written in 1986:*

*"Forty years ago I was a student in war-torn China. Very few people were able to come to the United States at that time. My going to Harding Simmons was, indeed, a miracle which I had told many people about on many occasions.*

*My brother, Choy Wai Chuen, was a Wimbledon tennis player and represented China in the Davis Cup Tournament before the war. He met Gib Sandefer who was the Red Cross Director in India in 1944. Gib asked my brother to play some exhibition matches to raise funds for the Red Cross.*

*Afterwards Gib asked my brother if he could do something for him in return. Wai Chuen declined the offer but later he thought of me and asked if Gib could give me a reason to come to the U.S. to finish my education.*

*Gib fired a cable to me stating that Hardin-Simmons University offered me a scholarship. Actually, that was just an excuse without financial backing.*

*When I received that cable, it was like manna from heaven. With that in hand, I went to the Chinese Ministry of Education which unequivocally turned down my application for a passport. Then I went to the British Embassy to apply for a British passport because my brother and I were born in Hong Kong, a British Crown Colony. I was again frustrated due to the lack of sufficient documents. But a British official who had never seen me before recognized the striking family resemblance in me stopped and asked me about my family background. When he learned that his schoolmates in Cambridge were my brothers, he guaranteed the issuing of my passport."*

*Wing Yung told me that she can't remember the name of the official at the British Embassy who knew her brother at Cambridge and was a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> secretary at the British Embassy in Chungking. However, she'd love to track him down or find his descendants in order to thank them for his act of good will. If you or anyone at Framlingham knows who this might be, please let me know. It would be great to facilitate another "reunion."*

It turned out that Choy's sister lived near **Bryan Pearson (S45-47)** so we put Robin in touch with him. They met up and Bryan helped record narration for the fundraising trailer for Robin's documentary on KUKAN – you can see this here <http://www.nestedeggproductions.com/finding-kukan/narration-for-fundraising-trailer> . The documentary revolves around a 1941 Oscar-winning film called KUKAN – a documentary that was filmed in China during 1939 and 1940. Robin uncovered a copy of it and is investigating how it was made and what role Li Ling-Ai, a Chinese American author from Hawaii, had in making it. During the course of her investigations she came across Wing Yung (Choy's sister), who was in Chungking just after KUKAN was filmed.



Nicholas Watkis has been in touch with Choy's nephew and son of Wing Yung Emery. He provided the following additional information :-

*"Just want to let you know he is buried in West Hampstead Cemetery, Fortune Green Rd, London NW6. His grave is a white marble Romanesque tombstone, under a huge Oak tree. He died of leukaemia in London. My mother was his executor and buried him in 1951. None of the Choy family, as far as I know, had gone there to pay respect. I searched and looked for his gravesite. And through an acquaintance who went to London often, found it. I took my mother there once in the late 80's. In subsequent years, during my layovers as an airline crew, I had gone back a few times, spent a few hours, to clean up his grave from over grown ivy, planted assorted bulbs, so in spring there would be flowers for him. I have not been back for a number of years now. Its a long way from Honolulu, Hawaii."*



I have now heard from his nephew, Tony Koo, who has provided the following photographs from his visit to the West Hampstead Cemetery in September 1995.

