

MY AMERICAN JOURNEY

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DEFINITIONS AND TERMS

The following words and terms are being defined and romanized by me to present a proper standard for Chinese character romanization. For words and terms being translated from Chinese to English, in order to avoid the confusion as to how Chinese character terms should be romanized.

Our surname (as given in Chinese character 周), correctly, is romanized as Jo via the English romanization of my family's Hebrew surname. The name "Chow" is generally used in the Western world as our family's last or surname though. Our family's name is romanized as Chow in Cantonese and as Zhou in Mandarin. The word "Chou" (as in Chou Dynasty 周朝) is used as the English romanization term for our family's dynasty name in order to distinguish it from our surname.

The proper way to romanize the form of the martial art practiced by clan members would be Jow Ga (周家). Jow Ga (周家功夫) is a form of Kungfu founded by Chow Lung (周龍), 1891-1919, in the Safu village in Sun Wei, where my family or extended clan, also, resides. The Chinese characters Zhou Ga (周家) translates into Chow family. Whereas the characters "zhou jia kung fu" (周家功夫) represents the art of the Chow family. In its shortened form it is written in English as Jow Ga (martial art) as opposed to Chow Chia (周家Chow family).

The term Sifu (teacher or master 師傅) is the proper term to use for a Chinese martial arts instructor and not the term "Sensei", which is the Japanese term (先生) which translates into or means "authority figure".

My second-uncle William Kwai Sun Chow practiced and developed a form of martial arts called Chinese Kempo or Chinese Kara-Ho Kempo. And another uncle, John Chow (John Chow-Hoon) practiced and developed the art form called or referred to as Goshin Jitsu.

History of Martial Arts in Hawaii

Martial arts in Hawaii came in large way from Hawaii's Chinese community. In the old days, martial arts was not shared with any other ethnic group outside of the Chinese race. So, many people in Hawaii, including my second-uncle, who was part-Chinese and part-Hawaiian, had to turn to the Japanese community for their instruction.

Kungfu originated in China and not necessarily with the Shaolin Temple. The Chinese club that taught and practiced Kungfu in Hawaii eventually came to be named as the Chinese Physical Culture Association. The purpose of this organization is not necessarily the development of Kungfu, but the cultural preservation of the Chinese culture.

Non-Chinese in Hawaii who wanted to learn martial arts had to go to people like James Mitose for instructions.

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jow-Ga_Kung_Fu
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Kwai_Sun_Chow
<http://www.answers.com/topic/william-kwai-sun-chow>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Mitose