PEOPLE OF THE YUKON:

Dawson Charlie
George & Kate Carmack
Robert Henderson
Skookum Jim
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Dawson Charlie
George & Kate Carmack
Robert Henderson
Skookum Jim

Yukon Archives
May 2016
Photo credits:

Title page:
Bonanza Creek valley from across Klondike River, [1900]
Yukon Archives, Anton Vogee fonds, #54

Dawson Charlie title page:
No. 2 below discovery on Bonanza Creek, 24 Sep 1896
Yukon Archives, Mining Recorder records, Placer mining records, GOV 368, #139

George & Kate Carmack title page:
George Carmack, Kate Carmack and Graphie Carmack in California, 1898
Yukon Archives, James Albert Johnson fonds, 82/341, #22

Rob Henderson title page:
Robert Henderson (not dated)
Yukon Archives, Robert Coutts fonds, 78/69, #322

Skookum Jim title page:
Skookum Jim, ca. 1900
Yukon Archives, Whitehorse Star Ltd. fonds, 82/563, f85 #46

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library material.

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4. Carmack, Kate, d. 1920 – Biography – Sources – Bibliography – Catalogs. 5. Henderson, Robert
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History – Sources – Bibliography – Catalogs.
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INTRODUCTION

In July 1896 Skookum Jim from Tagish, along with his sister Kate, her husband George Carmack, and relatives Dawson Charlie and Patsy Henderson, were travelling in the Klondike watershed. They were fishing for salmon and prospecting when another miner named Robert Henderson visited their camp. Keeping to the miners’ code of sharing information about potential prospects, he indicated there were promising traces of gold on Gold Bottom Creek.

During the last part of July and early August Skookum Jim’s group moved up towards Rabbit Creek, prospecting as they travelled eventually ending up meeting with Robert Henderson on Gold Bottom Creek. The party returned to Rabbit Creek and continued panning the gravels along its course. On August 16, 1896 they located rich deposits of placer gold in the creek. They staked Discovery and adjacent claims, and then headed to Fortymile to register their claims on August 17. Renamed Bonanza Creek, news of their find on it sparked an immediate rush to the area.

Robert Henderson didn’t hear about the discovery for another three weeks, by which time all the best claims had been staked and registered. He protested the failure of George Carmack to honour the miner’s code to inform him first about the Rabbit Creek discovery. For years he claimed to be the true discoverer of the Klondike. Government surveyor William Ogilvie investigated the claims of all involved and concluded that Skookum Jim, George Carmack and Dawson Charlie were the first discoverers on Bonanza Creek. The Canadian government eventually recognized Robert Henderson for providing “promising” information that helped to start the Klondike Gold Rush and awarded him a pension of $200 a month.

This bibliography consists of separate bibliographies, listing both archival and library material available at Yukon Archives, for each person involved with the Klondike gold discovery. The introduction of each mini-bibliography provides a short biography on each person.
DAWSON CHARLIE:
A Selective Bibliography of Archival and Library Material

Yukon Archives, Mining Recorder records, Placer mining records, GOV 368, #139

Yukon Archives
May 2016
INTRODUCTION

Dawson Charlie was born around 1860 in Tagish, Yukon. His Tlingit name was Káa Goox and he was born into the Dakl’awéidi (Wolf) Clan. Dawson Charlie married Sadusgé, also known as Annie, with whom he had a son and daughter. Charlie and Annie were separated by 1905.

Following traditional custom, Dawson Charlie spent a great deal of time with his uncle, Skookum Jim, who acted as a teacher and guardian. It was thus that Dawson Charlie and his brother, Patsy Henderson (Koolseen), were among the group, including Skookum Jim, and Kate & George Carmack, that discovered gold on Bonanza Creek in the Klondike on August 17, 1896.

Dawson Charlie continued to prospect and in July 1903 he filed the first claim in the Kluane Lake area which was the trigger for the short lived Kluane Gold Rush.

Dawson Charlie was the first member of a Yukon First Nation to be exempted from the provisions of the Indian Act. He was exempted “…from the operation of the said Act and of each and every provision thereof…” by a proclamation issued by the Governor General in Council in 1904. As a British subject Dawson Charlie could vote, sue or be sued, be called for jury duty, buy and consume alcoholic beverages, etc.

Dawson Charlie died on December 26, 1908 in Carcross, Yukon.

Dawson Charlie was also known by several other names and in order to do a comprehensive search it is necessary to consider searching under: Charles Henderson, Tagish Charlie, Cultus Charlie and Taghish Charlie.

This bibliography is a selective listing of archival and library material about Dawson Charlie which is available at Yukon Archives.

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1 Dawson Charlie’s exemption from the Indian Act, 1904 (PAM 1904-0033).
ARCHIVES

Government Records

   Note: The file also includes information on Dawson Charlie’s death.

Mining Recorder records, Placer mining records (Applications for Grants for Placer Mining), GOV 368, #139. No. 2 below discovery on Bonanza Creek, 24 Sep 1896.
   Note: The application was made out in the name of Taghishe Charlie (Tagish Charlie).

Mining Recorder records, Placer mining records (Record Books for Placer Mining Claim), GOV 1. Bonanza Creek and Benches.

   Note: Contains documents pertaining to the management of his estate.

Manuscripts

   MSS 137 f19: Clippings and excerpts from published material on Dawson Charlie.

   Note: Includes news clippings on Dawson Charlie.

George Snow fonds, 80/89. 1884-1925, 1947.
   MF 47: Microfilm includes biographical material on Tagish Charlie.

Maps

Plan of Placer Mining Claims on Part of Bonanza Creek in the Klondike Mining Division of the Yukon Territory, surveyor W.M. Ogilvie D.L.S., 1897, Map H-307.
   Note: Lists each miner's name and claim number for part of Bonanza Creek as surveyed by William Ogilvie, Dominion Land Surveyor, in 1897.
   Electronic resource: http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/archives/family-genealogy/govt.html (map is located at the bottom of the page)
Photographs

Anglican Church, Diocese of Yukon fonds, 86/61, PHO 333.
    #575: Dawson Charlie’s son (there is a dot over the boy to identify him).

Finnie family fonds, 81/21, PHO 140.
    #215: Dawson Charlie's house in Carcross, 1922.

Richard Harrington fonds, 79/27, neg only.

Photography unit records, 90/51, PHO 429.
    #224: Carcross Cemetery--Here are buried three of the original discoverers [sic] of gold in the Klondike in 1896—Kate Carmack, Dawson Charlie, and James Mason (Skookum Jim), [not dated].

    #17: Bridge from which Dawson Charlie was killed, Feb 1973. 
    Restriction: All requests for reproduction must have permission from Skookum Jim Friendship Centre.

Their Own Yukon Project collection, 2000/37.
    #2 (PHO 517): Dawson Charlie photographed in Dawson City, 1899.
    #3 (PHO 574): Portrait of Dawson Charlie, [ca. 1900].
    Restriction: Researchers may obtain reproductions of these photographs but the reproductions cannot be used for profit or further reproductions without permission of Council of Yukon First Nations.

White Pass and Yukon Route fonds, 94/58, location: 4/2/3.
    Box 47 f9 #5: Carcross, grave of Dawson Charlie
Sound Recordings

SR 11 (1-12): The objective of this project was to record the verbal recollections of people in relation to the life and times of Skookum Jim. Transcripts are located in COR 1096 and a transcript subject index is located at MSS 254 f3.

*Restriction*: All requests for reproduction must have permission from Skookum Jim Friendship Centre.

Yukon Fish and Game Association fonds, 88/51R, 1950.
SR 4 (1-2): Patsy Henderson describes life before the gold rush, the impacts of gold discovery, traders and the White Pass Railway on first nation culture.

**LIBRARY**

**Books & Pamphlets**


Location: 971.910 2 Bert


Location: 971.21 Ca 1926

*Restriction*: Photocopy with care.

Electronic resource: [http://yukondigitallibrary.ca/digitalbook/yukonterritory1926/](http://yukondigitallibrary.ca/digitalbook/yukonterritory1926/)


Location: Ref 971.910 049 72 Cruik

*Note*: Includes a family tree for Skookum Jim and immediate family.


Location: PAM 1904-0033


Location: Ref 979.82 Thorn
Location: PAM ND-0496

Location: 971.910 2 John 2001

*[Photocopies of Documents Pertaining to the Original Gold Claims in the Klondike]*. [Fort Constantine, Yukon: North West Mounted Police], 1896.  
Location: PAM 1896-0011  
*Note*: Applications and affidavits for discoverers of the Klondike claims.

Location: PAM 1922-0002

Location: 971.910 2 Spot 1996

Location: Ref 929.2 Skoo  

**Newspaper & Periodical Articles**

"Boose His Enemy: Indian Dawson Charley Drowned At Carcross", *Weekly Star*, 1 January 1909.  
Location: MF N-5 r. 5

"Charlie's Secret Well Protected", *Yukon Sun*, 14 July 1903.  
Location: MF N-7 r. 4

Location: MF N-5 r. 9

Location: MF N-5 r. 4

Location: Newspapers/Periodicals
Location: MF N-5 r. 5

Location: MF N-5 r. 4

Location: MF N-5 r. 4

"[Interview with H. Ellis]", *Yukon Sun*, 20 September 1903.
Location: MF N-7 r. 4

"Owns Discovery in Fourth of July Creek", *Whitehorse Star*, 15 June 1904.
Location: MF N-5 r. 1a or 8

Location: MF N-5 r. 9

"Route to New Diggings Closely Described", *Yukon Sun*, 15 July 1903.
Location: MF N-7 r. 4

"[Special to the Sun About Charlie Anderson]", *Yukon Sun*, 26 July 1903.
Location: MF N-7 r. 4

Location: MF N-7 r. 4

Location: MF N-5 r. 2

Location: MF N-2 r. 16

**SEARCH FILES**

The Search Files are file folders stored alphabetically in the Yukon Archives Reference Room. In general Search Files contain:
• Newspaper articles
• Magazine articles, excerpts from books
• Copies of useful documents that are accessed often
• Brochures
• Unofficial bibliographies, essays, etc.

Search file “Dawson Charlie”
Search file “Klondike Gold Rush”
GEORGE & KATE CARMACK:
A Selective Bibliography of Archival and Library Material

Yukon Archives, James Albert Johnson fonds, 82/341, #22

Yukon Archives
May 2016
INTRODUCTION

George Washington Carmack was born on September 24, 1860 in Contra Costa County, California. He came to Yukon and Alaska in 1885, first working as a packer on the Chilkoot Pass. There he became friends with two packers from Tagish, named Keish and Káa Goox, later to become known as Skookum Jim and Dawson Charlie.

In the winter of 1887, Carmack began a common-law relationship with Skookum Jim’s sister, Shaaw Tláa, later known as Kate Carmack. Kate was born around 1860 near Tagish, Yukon. In 1892, George and Kate had a daughter who they named Graphie Gracie. During 1893, George Carmack established a small trading post and tried to develop a coal mine in the area of the current Carmacks.

On August 17, 1896, at Bonanza Creek, George & Kate Carmack, Skookum Jim, Dawson Charlie and Patsy Henderson made the discovery of gold that led to the Klondike Gold Rush. George Carmack mined until the summer of 1899 when the family moved to California. Unhappy with her life in California, Kate moved back to Tagish, Yukon in 1900. By 1901 George and Kate were separated and after two court cases over custody of Graphie Gracie they went their separate ways.

George Carmack died in Vancouver on June 5, 1922. Kate Carmack died in Carcross, Yukon on March 20, 1920.

George Carmack was also known as Siwash George. Graphie Gracie was also known as Aage.

This bibliography is a selective listing of archival and library material about George & Kate Carmack which is available at Yukon Archives.
ARCHIVES

Government Records

Central Registry records, Correspondence and miscellaneous files, Numbered files, GOV 1607 f20. Taxes, Mrs. G.W. Carmacks, 1907-1910.

Central Registry records, Correspondence and miscellaneous files, Numbered files, GOV 1636 f9308. George W. Carmack’s deeds, 1900-1934.

Mining Recorder records, Placer mining records (Applications for Grants for Placer Mining), GOV 368, #136A. Discovery Claim on Bonanza Creek, 24 Sep 1896.


Mining Recorder records, Placer mining records (Record Books for Placer Mining Claim), GOV 1. Bonanza Creek and Benches.

Administration of estate records, Estate files, 78/46, GOV 3618 f10. Carmacks, Kate, 1920. Note: Kate Carmack’s estate file.

Manuscripts

Robert Coutts fonds, 78/69.
MSS 79 f15: A newspaper article retyped from the Seattle Times, 20 April 1904, with the title “Carmacks Disputes the Henderson Story” which was originally published in the Dawson Daily News in 1904.
MSS 79 f21: Includes a reprint, in the ‘49 Years Ago in the Whitehorse Star section of the issue published on December 29, 1969, of a short biography on Kate Carmack that was originally published in the Whitehorse Star, April 2, 1920.
MSS 80 f32: Handwritten summary of statements regarding George Carmack (1 page, not dated).
MSS 90 f39: Contains draft of an unpublished, untitled book, ch. 27, “Carmack”.

Nora Garside fonds, 81/27.
MSS 168 f7: News clippings compiled as a result of the Skookum Jim Oral History Project.
MSS 1: Manuscript of “Henderson Discoverer of 1st Gold in the Klondike” and an unpublished manuscript of “The Discovery: the Spark That Touched off the Greatest Gold Rush in History”.

E. H. Jones fonds, 77/65.
MSS 64: Includes “Resolution Offered by Seattle Lodge no. 2, Yukon Order of Pioneers” attesting to Carmack’s integrity, confirming his role in the discovery of Klondike Gold, 2 May 1922.

Note: Includes a poem by Carmack, a commentary, and song about him.

Note: Articles and news clippings on George W. Carmack.

George Snow fonds, 80/89. 1884-1925, 1947.
MF 47: Microfilm includes biographical material on George Carmack.

Maps

Plan of Placer Mining Claims on Part of Bonanza Creek in the Klondike Mining Division of the Yukon Territory, surveyor W. M. Ogilvie D.L.S., 1897, Map #H-307.
Note: Lists each miner's name and claim number for part of Bonanza Creek as surveyed by William Ogilvie, Dominion Land Surveyor, in 1897.
Electronic Resource: http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/archives/family-genealogy/govt.html (map is located at the bottom of the page)

Photographs

Bill Becht Jr. collection, 88/140, PHO 366.
#2: Photo of Kate Carmack, [ca. 1918].

Note: Fonds consists of photographs of George Carmack in his early years, his parents, both of his wives (Kate & Marguerite), and other family members.

Photography unit records, 90/51, PHO 429.
#224: Carcross Cemetery--Here are buried three of the original discovers [sic] of gold in the Klondike in 1896—Kate Carmack, Dawson Charlie, and James Mason (Skookum Jim), [not dated].
#8: Kate Carmacks headstone at Carcross/Tagish Cemetery, Feb 1973.
#33 and #35: George Carmack, Skookum Jim's wife Mary, Skookum Jim's daughter Daisy, Skookum Jim, and Patsy Henderson, 1898-1900. Photographs 83/102 #4, 82/341 #17, 88/58R #33, 88/58R #35, and 2000/37 #7 are the same image.
Restriction: All requests for reproduction must have permission from Skookum Jim Friendship Centre.

Their Own Yukon Project collection, 2000/37, PHO 574.
#4: Portrait of George Carmack, [ca. 1900].
#5: Portrait of Kate Carmack, [ca. 1898].
#7: George Carmack, Skookum Jim's wife Mary, Skookum Jim's daughter Daisy, Skookum Jim, and Patsy Henderson, 1898-1900. Photographs 83/102 #4, 82/341 #17, 88/58R #33, 88/58R #35, and 2000/37 #7 are the same image.
Restriction: Researchers may obtain reproductions of these photographs but the reproductions cannot be used for profit or further reproductions without permission of Council of Yukon First Nations.

James Whyard fonds, 82/407, PHO 47.
#2: Photo of Skookum Jim’s robe, made by Kate Carmack, which was returned to the Yukon by Miss Vivian Peele.

**Sound Recordings**

SR 11 (1-12): The objective of this project was to record the verbal recollections of people in relation to the life and times of Skookum Jim. Transcripts are located in COR 1096 and a transcript subject index is located at MSS 254 f3.
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Yukon Fish and Game Association fonds, 88/51R, 1950.
SR 4 (1-2): Patsy Henderson describes life before the gold rush, the impacts of gold discovery, traders and the White Pass Railway on first nation culture.
LIBRARY

Books & Pamphlets

  Location: 971.910 209 22 Bert

  Location: 971.21 Ca 1926
  Restriction: Photocopy with care.
  Electronic resource: [http://yukondigitallibrary.ca/digitalbook/yukonterritory1926/](http://yukondigitallibrary.ca/digitalbook/yukonterritory1926/)

Carmack, George W. *My Experiences in the Yukon.* [California]: Marguerite P. Carmack, c1933.
  Location: PAM 1933-0002C

  Location: Ref 971.910 049 72 Cruik

  Location: Ref 971.910 208 2 Dunc

  Location: Ref 979.82 Thorn

“Followed a Hunch and Found Eldorado but Perhaps George Carmac’s Dream Did Not Do So Much As His Experience and Pertinacity”, *Saturday Night Financial Section,* July 1, 1922, p. 22.
  Location: PAM 1922-0012 oversize

  Location: PAM 1934-0016

  Location: 971.910 209 2 John 2001

  Location: Ref 971.91 May
  *Note:* Includes a short biographical sketch of Kate Carmack.
   Location: PAM 1929-0004 oversize
   *Note*: Reprint from Denver Mining Record.

   Location: 929.209 73 Peck

[Photocopies of Documents Pertaining to the Original Gold Claims in the Klondike]. [Fort Constantine, Yukon: North West Mounted Police], 1896.
   Location: PAM 1896-0011
   *Note*: Applications and affidavit for discoverers of the Klondike claims

Rickard, T.A. “Discovery of the Klondike”, *Engineering and Mining Journal*, v. 114, no. 2, [July 8, 1922].
   Location: PAM 1922-0002

   Location: Ref 971.910 092 Vana

   Location: Ref 929.2 Skoo

**Newspaper & Periodical Articles**

   Location: Newspaper/Periodicals

   Location: MF N-2 r. 17

   Location: MF N-2 r. 26

“Christmas Thoughts by George Carmack”, *Klondike News (Vol.1, No. 1, 1898)*, April 1, 1898.
   Location: MF N-7 r. 1
   *Electronic resource*: http://yukondigitallibrary.ca/digitalbook/klondikenews1898/
Location: Newspapers/Periodicals
*Electronic resource:* [http://yukondigitallibrary.ca/digitalbook/goldencleanupedition/](http://yukondigitallibrary.ca/digitalbook/goldencleanupedition/)

Location: MF N-5 r. 1

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- Magazine articles, excerpts from books
- Copies of useful documents that are accessed often
- Brochures
- Unofficial bibliographies, essays, etc.

Search file "*Carmack, George*
Search file "*Carmack, Kate*
Search file “*Klondike Gold Rush*”
ROBERT HENDERSON:
A Selective Bibliography of Archival and Library Material

Yukon Archives, Robert Coutts fonds, 78/69, #322

Yukon Archives
May 2016
INTRODUCTION

Robert Henderson was born in Pictou County, Nova Scotia in 1857. He spent several years working as a deck hand on ships sailing around the world and prospecting in New Zealand, Australia and Colorado before arriving in Yukon in 1894.

In the summer of 1896, he was prospecting for gold on Gold Bottom Creek, near the mouth of the Klondike River. There he met George & Kate Carmack, Skookum Jim, Dawson Charlie and Patsy Henderson. He invited Carmack to stake a claim on Gold Bottom Creek, but told the others that he did not want a lot of “natives” staking claims on his creek. Offended by Robert Henderson’s racism, the group did not tell him when they discovered gold on nearby Bonanza Creek, on August 17, 1896, as the unwritten miner’s code required. Robert Henderson did not hear of the Bonanza Creek discovery until all of the claims had been staked.

He left the Yukon for Colorado in 1898 but later returned to continue with his mining enterprises.

In recognition of his role in the discovery of gold, the Canadian government awarded Henderson a monthly pension of $200. He continued to prospect until his death in January 1933.

This bibliography is a selective listing of archival and library material about Robert Henderson which is available at Yukon Archives.
ARCHIVES

Government Records

Central Registry records, Correspondence and miscellaneous files, Numbered files, GOV 1660 f31349. Robert Henderson, claim Ground Hog Mayo division, 1919-1922.

Central Registry records, Correspondence and miscellaneous files, Numbered files, GOV 1661 f31388. Robert Henderson. Lots 22 and 23, block 6, Mayo, 1919-1921.  
Note: Land titles relating to Lots 22 and 23, block 6, Mayo.

Central Registry records, R.C.M.P. crime reports, applications for creek claims and miscellaneous files, GOV 2043 f8364. Robert Henderson - Application for 90 acres right limit Pelly, 1903-1912.  
Note: Land titles application.

Mining Recorder records, Placer mining records (Record Books for Placer Mining Claim), GOV 64. Hunker Creek.  

Mining Recorder records, Placer mining records (Record Books for Placer Mining Claim), GOV 133. Henderson Creek.  
Note: Creek claims for Henderson Creek, Discovery above and below, 1897-1934 (Discovery & #1 above Henderson Creek, 9 Aug 1897).

Territorial Court records, Estates, GOV 1470 f463. Robert D. Henderson, 1933.  
Note: Robert Henderson’s estate file.

Manuscripts

Robert Coutts fonds, 78/69.  
MSS 79 f15: Research file on Robert Douglas Henderson, 1897-1928.  
MSS 90 f38: Includes a draft from one of Dave Griffith’s articles entitled "Henderson".

MSS 137 f18: Handwritten research notes by Victoria Faulkner on Robert Henderson.

MSS 1: Photocopied manuscript entitled “Henderson Discoverer of First Gold in the Klondike” and an unpublished manuscript of “The Discovery: the Spark That Touched off the Greatest Gold Rush in History”.
Johan Groenewegan collection, 90/12.
MSS 207: Letter, dated 1904, from H.J. Woodside announcing Robert Henderson as “the real discoverer” of the Klondike-Indian River goldfields.

Henderson family fonds, 79/87.

Henderson family fonds, 82/204.
MSS 27: Papers and correspondence of Robert Henderson and family.

MSS 6: Includes "The Gold Discovery of the Klondike" as told by Robert Henderson to the writer, T.A.K. Turner, ca. 1930.
Restriction: Not to be copied without permission from the BC Provincial Archives.

MSS 7: Two photocopied letters from J.B. Harkin, Commissioner of Canadian National Parks, acknowledging receipt of documentation regarding Robert Henderson, the “discoverer” of Klondike gold, dated 1926.
Restriction: Not to be copied without permission from the BC Provincial Archives.

Photographs

Portrait of Robert Henderson, 80/122, PHO O/S 12.
Note: Hand-coloured portrait of Robert Henderson which was presented to the Robert Henderson School by Councillor George Shaw. n.d.

Robert Coutts fonds, 78/69, PHO 96.

James Fyfe fonds, 86/42, PHO 311.
#43A-B: Robert Henderson's daughter, Cassie Henderson, [ca. 1909-ca. 1911].

Bill Hare fonds, 82/418.
#6679: A photo of five people, including Robert Henderson, outside of the McCaffery and Sunderland's Roadhouse in Mayo, ca. 1924.

James Albert Johnson fonds, 82/341, PHO 38.
#69: Tintype of Robert Henderson.

University of Washington photograph collection, 82/278.
#1348: Group photo of the Officers of the Grand Lodge of the Yukon Order of Pioneers, which includes Robert Henderson, ca. 1900.
Sound Recordings

Athol Retallack fonds, 91/74.

SR 129 (3): Athol Retallack interviews Chester Henderson, grandson of gold prospector Robert Henderson. They discuss Chester's memories of his grandfather as well as his memories of Dawson City and its many residents. 1 May 1962. 0:33:26.

LIBRARY

Books & Pamphlets

Location: 971.910 2 Bert

Location: PAM 1960-0034C

Location: PAM 1928-0015 oversize

Location: PAM 1948-0048 oversize

Location: PAM 1934-0016

Location: PAM 1915-0018C

Location: 971.910 209 2 John 2001

Location: PAM 1971-0089C
Robert Henderson’s Discovery of the Klondike (as Told by His Brother, Captain Henry Henderson). [Halifax, Nova Scotia: Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, Nova Scotia Division, 1998].

Location: PAM 1998-0075

Note: Reprinted by the Nova Scotia Division, Canadian Corps of Commissionaires on the anniversary of the Klondike, 1898-1998.


Location: PAM 1997-0323

**Newspaper & Periodical Articles**

Aldham, Francis. "Bob o'the Klondike: Blazed the Trail of ’98", Vancouver Sun Province, 4 September 1932.

Location: Newspaper Van Sun Pro (Coutts Library)

"Bob Henderson Passes Away At Vancouver: Recognized As One of Discoverers of the Klondike", Dawson Weekly News, 27 January 1933.

Location: MF N-2, r. 4

"Henderson the Original Discoverer", Dawson Weekly News, 3 February 1933.

Location: MF N-2, r. 40


Location: MF N-5, r. 54


Location: MF P-10, r. 1

**SEARCH FILES**

The Search Files are file folders stored alphabetically in the Yukon Archives Reference Room. In general Search Files contain:

- Newspaper articles
- Magazine articles, excerpts from books
- Copies of useful documents that are accessed often
- Brochures
- Unofficial bibliographies, essays, etc.

Search file “Henderson, Robert”
Search file “Klondike Gold Rush”
SKOOKUM JIM:
A Selective Bibliography of Archival and Library Material

Yukon Archives, Whitehorse Star Ltd. fonds, 82/563, f85 #46

Yukon Archives
May 2016
INTRODUCTION

Skookum Jim was born in the 1850s in Tagish, Yukon. A member of the Dakl’aweidi (Wolf) Clan of the Tagish First Nation, his Tlingit name was Keish. He was given the name James Mason by George Carmack, whom he met while working as a packer on the Chilkoot Pass. His reputation as a packer earned him the nickname “Skookum,” meaning “strong,” and Keish became known as Skookum Jim.

In the early 1890s he married a Tlingit woman named Daakuxda,éit’, also known as Mary. In 1891, they had one daughter, Saayna.aat, also known as Daisy. Skookum Jim and Mary separated in 1905 with Jim maintaining custody of Daisy.

Skookum Jim is best known for his role in the discovery of gold in the Klondike on August 17, 1896, while prospecting with his nephews Dawson Charlie and Patsy Henderson, his sister Kate Carmack and her husband, George Carmack. Credit for the first discovery of gold on Bonanza Creek remains disputed, but William Ogilvie credits Jim with the actual find.

The discovery of gold made Skookum Jim very wealthy and he was also known to be very generous. According to Daniel Tlen, “in 1912 he gave the largest potlatch ever held in honour of his deceased nephew Khaa Ghooxh, Dawson Charlie, and he left a remarkable legacy in his will to look after underprivileged natives”¹.² The Skookum Jim Friendship Centre in Whitehorse was built from the trust fund established in Skookum Jim’s will.

Skookum Jim died in Carcross, Yukon on July 11, 1916.

Skookum Jim was also known by several other names and in order to do a comprehensive search it is necessary to consider searching under: James Mason, Tagish Jim and Taghish Jim.

This bibliography is a selective listing of archival and library material about Robert Henderson which is available at Yukon Archives.


ARCHIVES

Government Records

Mining Recorder records, Placer mining records (Applications for Grants for Placer Mining), GOV 368, #138. No. 1 above discovery on Bonanza Creek, 24 Sep 1896.

*Note:* The application was made out in the name of Taghish Jim (Tagish Jim).

Mining Recorder records, Placer mining records (Record Books for Placer Mining Claim), GOV 1. Bonanza Creek and Benches.

Territorial Court records, Estates, GOV 1455 f206. James Mason (Skookum Jim), 1916-1939.

*Note:* Skookum Jim’s estate file.

*Electronic Resource* for the “Last will and testament”:

http://www.yukonprospectors.ca/SkookumJim%20Mason.html

Corporate Records


*Note:* Correspondence between Bishop Stringer and W.L. Phelps (with a letter by Phelps to P. Peele) regarding James Mason (Skookum Jim), probate of James Mason's will and charges against the estate of the same.


*Note:* Correspondence regarding the Skookum Jim Indian Fund, Skookum Jim’s estate and custody of Daisy Mason. Includes a report on the Skookum Jim Memorial Centre Advisory Board Meetings and includes the Last Will and Testament of James Mason (Skookum Jim).

*Electronic Resource* for the “Last will and testament”:

http://www.yukonprospectors.ca/SkookumJim%20Mason.html

Manuscripts

Robert Coutts fonds, 78/69.

MSS 80 f31: Includes news clippings titled "Skookum Jim: Historic Plaque Switch Draws Fire in North", "Skookum Jim Getting All the Credit: Klondike Gold Rush History Being Rewritten" and "Klondike Gold" (letter to the editor).


MSS 137 f19: News clippings on Skookum Jim and his activities.

Nora Garside fonds, 81/27.

MSS 168 f7: News clippings compiled as a result of the Skookum Jim Oral History Project.
W.L. Phelps fonds, 82/31, 1904-1940.
   MSS 1 f1-f4: Includes copies of "Skookum Jim biographical sketch", last will and testament of Skookum Jim, correspondence with daughter Daisy, W.L. Phelps and Percy R. Peele.
   Electronic Resource for the “Last will and testament”: 
   http://www.yukonprospectors.ca/SkookumJim%20Mason.html

Maps

Plan of Placer Mining Claims on Part of Bonanza Creek in the Klondike Mining Division of the Yukon Territory, surveyor W. M. Ogilvie D.L.S., 1897, Map #H-307.
   Note: Lists each miner's name and claim number for part of Bonanza Creek as surveyed by William Ogilvie, Dominion Land Surveyor, in 1897.
   Electronic Resource: http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/archives/family-genealogy/govt.html (map is located at the bottom of the page)

Photographs

Craig family fonds, 89/55, PHO 217.
   #1: Skookum Jim's daughter, Daisy, taken in Seattle on January 19, 1902.

Finnie family fonds, 81/21, PHO 140.
   #216: Skookum Jim's cabin in Carcross, 1922.
   #318: Skookum Jim's cabin in Carcross, 1929.

E.J. Hamacher fonds (Margaret and Rolf Hougen collection), 2002/118, PHO 583.
   #174 (PHO 577) and #731 (PHO 583): Studio portraits of four men, identified left to right: George P. Mackenzie, Chief Jim Boss, Skookum Jim, Rev. W.G. Blackwell. 91/38 #2 is a cropped version of 2002/118 #731. They are similar to 95/67 #2 and 2002/118 #174, which is a different pose.

James Albert Johnson fonds, 82/341, PHO 38.
   #16: Skookum Jim on his No.1 Above claim on Bonanza Creek, 1899.
   #17: George Carmack, Skookum Jim's wife Mary, Skookum Jim's daughter Daisy, Skookum Jim, and Patsy Henderson, 1898-1900. Photographs 83/102 #4, 82/341 #17, 88/58R #33, 88/58R #35, and 2000/37 #7 are the same image.

William Peter fonds, 83/77, PHO 232.
   #11: Skookum Jim (with fur cap) center with Crazy Frank and two unidentified men.
Photography unit records, 90/51, PHO 429.
   #224: Carcross Cemetery--Here are buried three of the original discoverers [sic] of gold in the Klondike in 1896—Kate Carmack, Dawson Charlie, and James Mason (Skookum Jim), [not dated].

   #31-#35: Photographs of Skookum Jim with family members.
Restriction: All requests for reproduction must have permission from Skookum Jim Friendship Centre.

Their Own Yukon Project collection, 2000/37, PHO 574.
   #1: Skookum Jim, his wife and their daughter Daisy, ca. 1900.
   #6: Skookum Jim, some years after the gold rush, [190-?].
   #7: George Carmack, Skookum Jim's wife Mary, Skookum Jim's daughter Daisy, Skookum Jim, and Patsy Henderson, 1898-1900. Photographs 83/102 #4, 82/341 #17, 88/58R #33, 88/58R #35, and 2000/37 #7 are the same image.
   #9: Skookum Jim's gold nugget necklace, [196-?].
Restriction: Researchers may obtain reproductions of these photographs but the reproductions cannot be used for profit or further reproductions without permission of Council of Yukon First Nations.

Whitehorse Star Ltd. fonds, 82/527, neg only.
   cs512 #9 and cs512 #10: Skookum Jim Hall. Photo of Skookum Jim Friendship Centre, prior to its reconstruction.
Restriction: No copying or publication without permission of the Whitehorse Star. Photocopying is allowed, credit line is required. Credit must be given to Whitehorse Star if published.

Whitehorse Star Ltd. fonds, 82/563, PHO 195.
   f85 #46: Portrait of Skookum Jim, ca. 1900. Photograph 82/563 f85 #46 is a cropped version of 88/58R #34.
Restriction: No copying or publication without permission of the Whitehorse Star. Photocopying is allowed, credit line is required. Credit must be given to Whitehorse Star if published.

James Whyard fonds, 82/407, PHO 47.
   #2: Photo of Skookum Jim’s robe, made by Kate Carmack, which was returned to the Yukon by Miss Vivian Peele.
Sound Recordings

SR 11 (1-12): The objective of this project was to record the verbal recollections of people in relation to the life and times of Skookum Jim. Transcripts are located in COR 1096 and a transcript subject index is located at MSS 254 f3. 
Restriction: All requests for reproduction must have permission from Skookum Jim Friendship Centre.

Yukon Fish and Game Association fonds, 88/51R, 1950.
SR 4 (1-2): Patsy Henderson describes life before the gold rush, the impacts of gold discovery, traders and the White Pass Railway on first nation culture.

LIBRARY

Books & Pamphlets

Location: 971.910 2 Bert

Location: 971.21 Ca 1926
Restriction: Photocopy with care.
Electronic resource: [http://yukondigitallibrary.ca/digitalbook/yukonterritory1926/](http://yukondigitallibrary.ca/digitalbook/yukonterritory1926/)

Location: Ref 971.910 049 72 Cruik
Note: Includes a family tree for Skookum Jim and immediate family.

Location: Ref 979.82 Thorn

Location: 971.910 209 2 John 2001

Location: PAM 1929-0004 oversize
[Photocopies of Documents Pertaining to the Original Gold Claims in the Klondike]. [Fort Constantine, Yukon: North West Mounted Police], 1896.
Location: PAM 1896-0011
Note: Applications and affidavits for discoverers of the Klondike claims

Rickard, T. A. "The Discovery of the Klondike", *Engineering and Mining Journal*, July 8, 1922.
Location: PAM 1922-0002

Location: 971.9102 Spot 1996

Location: Ref 929.2 Skoo

**Newspaper & Periodical Articles**

Location: MF N-7 r. 4

Location: MF N-5 r. 4

"[Interview with H. Ellis]," *Yukon Sun*, 20 September 1903.
Location: MF N-7 r. 4

Location: Newspapers/Periodicals

Location: Newspapers/Periodicals
Electronic resource: [http://yukondigitallibrary.ca/digitalbook/goldencleanupedition/](http://yukondigitallibrary.ca/digitalbook/goldencleanupedition/)

Location: MF N-5 r. 44

Mason, James (Skookum Jim). "To Whom It May Concern (Open Letter Regarding His Wife)," *Daily Evening Star*, 20 April 1905.
Location: MF N-5 r. 12
Location: MF N-5 r. 1a

"Route to New Diggings Closely Described," *Yukon Sun*, 15 July 1903.
Location: MF N-7 r. 4

Location: MF N-2 r. 17

"'Skookum Jim’ in Town," *Yukon Sun*, 29 August 1903.
Location: MF N-7 r. 4

"Skookum Jim Is The True Owner--The Dredger Company Have Only Leased His Claims As Yet, But May Buy Later," *Yukon Sun*, 1 April 1903.
Location: MF N-7 r. 3

Location: Newspapers/Periodicals

Location: Newspapers/Periodicals

Location: Newspapers/Periodicals

Location: Newspapers/Periodicals

Location: MF N-2 r. 3

Location: MF N-2 r. 3

Location: MF N-7 r. 1
"Stampede Takes Place to Rich Discovery--Found by Party of Indians which are Skookum Jim and Dawson Charlie of Bonanza Fame," *Yukon Sun*, 12 July 1903.  
Location: MF N-7 r. 4

Location: MF N-5 r. 2

Location: MF N-2 r. 16

Location: MF N-2 r. 14

Location: MF N-5 r. 2

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