

## **GOLD DISCOVERED IN ALASKA IN 1895:**

This presentation is meant to be used as a companion with the *Adventures of Peter Decoto* as related to Ruth D. Chute in the *Hayward Daily Review* in a series of articles printed in January 1931. The maps and photographs in this presentation will mirror the travels and adventures of Peter Decoto in the Kenai Peninsula (pronounced Kee - nay) during 1895 and 1896; and the Klondike gold rush in Canada in 1897.

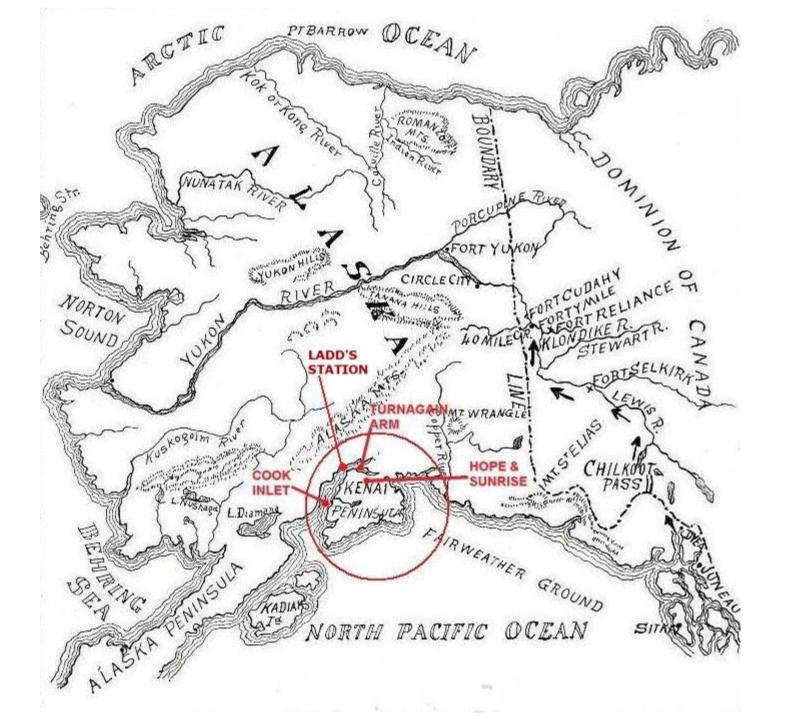
The Kenai strike of 1895 lacks documentation as to maps and photographs that the Klondike strike in Canada received just two years later. Apparently few photographers made the trip to the Kenai Peninsula. There is some documentation but it will be relatively short.

The Klondike strike of 1897 has hundreds of photographs and dozens of maps. Most of the photographs used in this portion of the presentation are used under the license of the University of Washington, which has graciously allowed me to use the collections of Eric A. Hegg, Frank La Roche and William E. Meed, noted photographers of the trial and tribulations of the 1897 Stampeders.

## PETER DECOTO'S ADVENTURE IN THE KENAI PENINSULA:

After a 90-day trip from San Francisco (it was scheduled as a 10-day trip), the barkentine "Marian" sailed up the Cook Inlet to Ladd's Station on the northwest part of the Cook Inlet. From there the Marian headed into Turnagain Bay on the northern part of the Kenai Peninsula to a small village on the Resurrection Creek. This village was probably Hope, Alaska, which still exists today on the mouth of Resurrection Creek. The excitement was on the Bear and Mills Creeks, but Decoto and his partner joined a company of six on a claim on the Resurrection Creek. The party of miners took all summer to get to bedrock and after they "cleaned up" they realized \$42 in gold dust, only \$7 apiece.

Decoto stayed until the following year and with a new partner leased a claim on Canyon Creek, a branch of Six-Mile Creek. In three weeks they took out \$5,000.





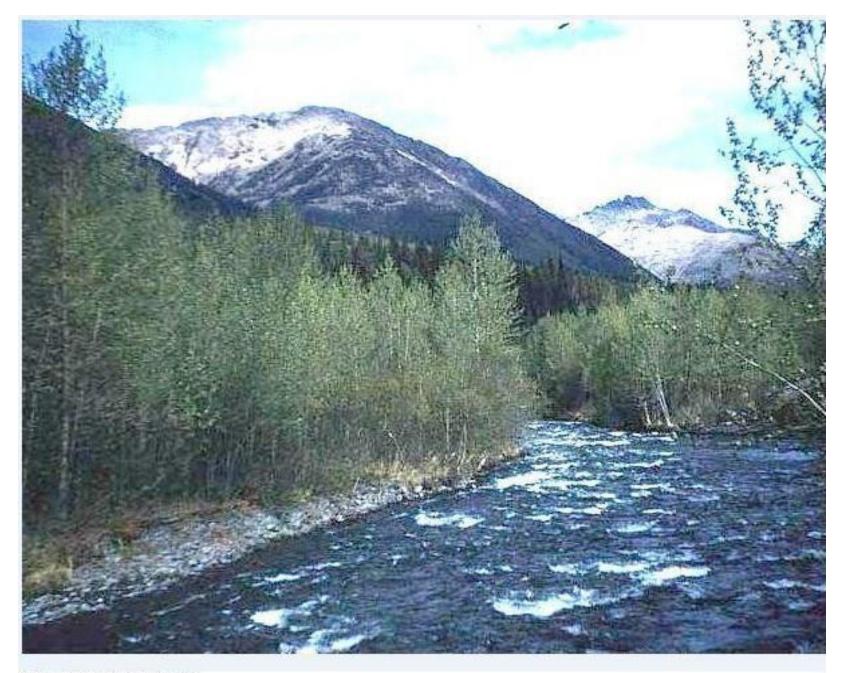
Peter Decoto landed on the Kenai Peninsula on July 1895. The excitement was was on the Mills and Bear Creeks. Peter spent the first year on the Resurrection Creek, netting \$7 for his first year's labor. The next year Peter and his new partner pulled \$5,000 out of Canyon Creek, a branch of Six Mile Creek, in three weeks.



LADD'S STATION, TRADING POST AND FISHING STATION ON THE NORTHWEST SHORE OF COOK INLET.



RESURRECTION CREEK WITH THE KENAI MOUNTAINS IN THE BACKGROUND

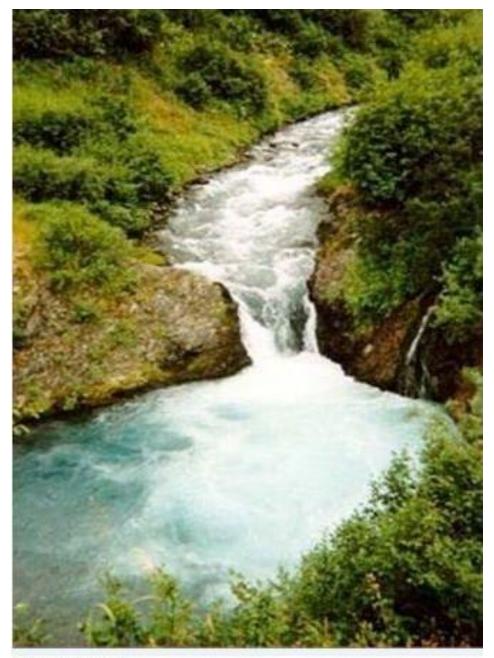


RESURRECTION CREEK





MILLS CREEK

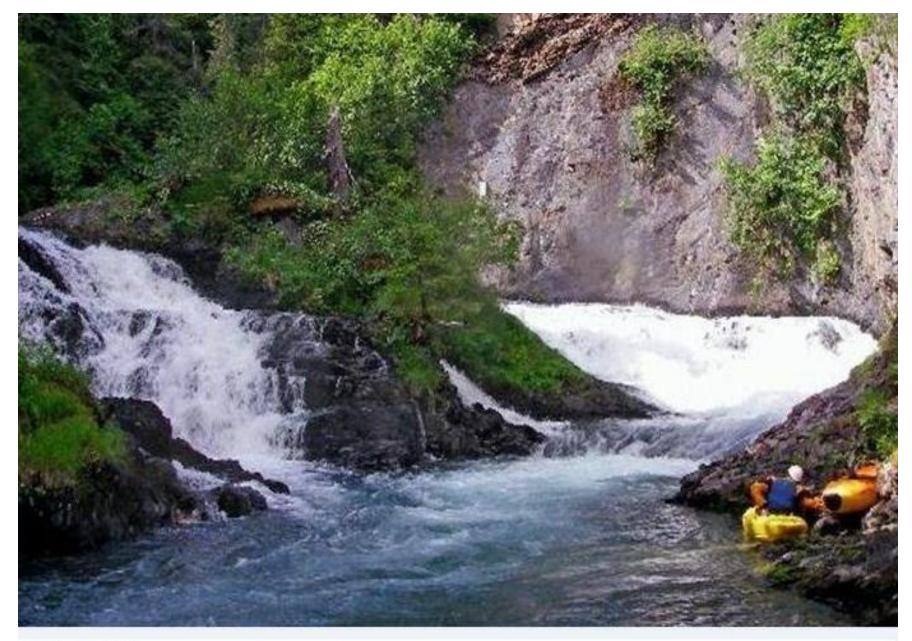


MILLS CREEK



MILLS CREEK JUST BELOW THE MOUTH OF JUNEAU CREEK. THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN IN 1906.





CANYON CREEK



CANYON CREEK



### **GOLD DISCOVERED IN THE KLONDIKE:**

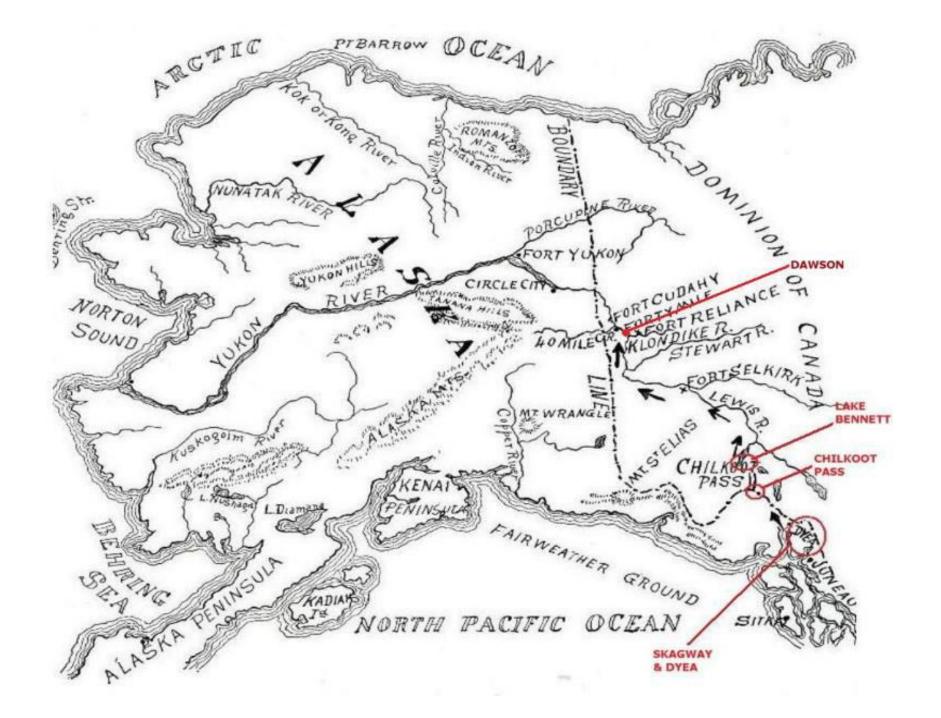
Peter Decoto had some luck in the summer of 1896, but because of the lack of water on his claim he had to move on. Further prospecting on Mills Flat didn't pan out and Peter left for Seattle to try to sell his claim. Not having any luck with selling his claim, he returned to draw what money he had left.

Gold in fabulous quantities had been struck in the Klondike and the greatest gold rush in history was on, with the storm-swept peaks of Alaska barring the converging thousands from the gold fields. Decoto arrived in Juneau, the outfitting point for the upper Yukon in 1897. The stores were short of clothing and other supplies and those who had already outfitted at San Francisco, Seattle or Victoria were fortunate.

The services of freighters and packers were in great demand. On the Chilkoot Trail the rate was 10 cents per pound to the top of the "hill," and from there 10 cents a pound to Lake Lindeman, head of navigation to Dawson. The average outfit of a Klondiker weighed one ton.

Mushing to Dyea (about four miles from Skagway, Alaska), Decoto freighted from Dyea over the Chilkoot Pass and to Lake Lindeman all winter. From Dyea to the summit of Chilkoot Pass is about 19 miles. The method used was to move the outfit to the floor of the pass, and from there it was carried by pack to the summit, a 3,500 foot precipitous wall of rock reaching into the sky, being scaled by means of steps cut in the snow and ice. Burdened by a 100 pound pack, it took a strong man two hours to make the ascent. Once on the summit, the packers threw aside their loads and then slid to the bottom of the pass for another load. Six hours constituted a good day's work at the pass.

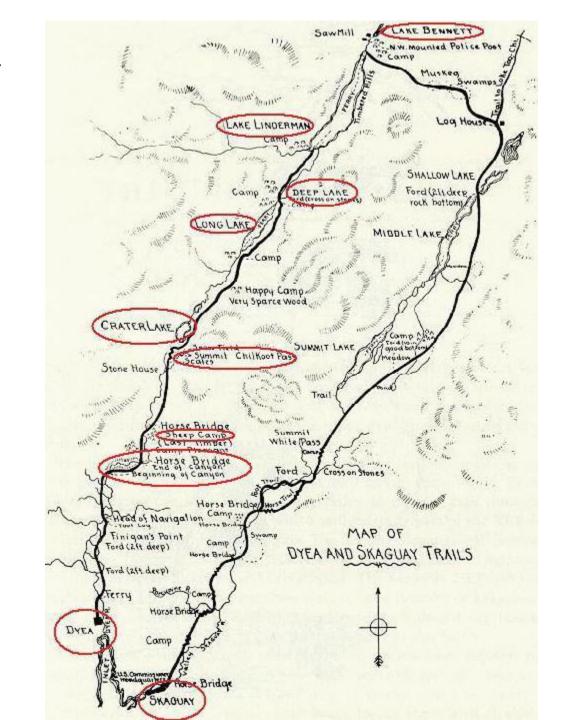
Skagway (known as "Skaguay" in those days) was the point of disembarkment for the journey. From there it was about four miles to Dyea and the commencement of the Dyea Trail (also known as the Chilkoot Trail).



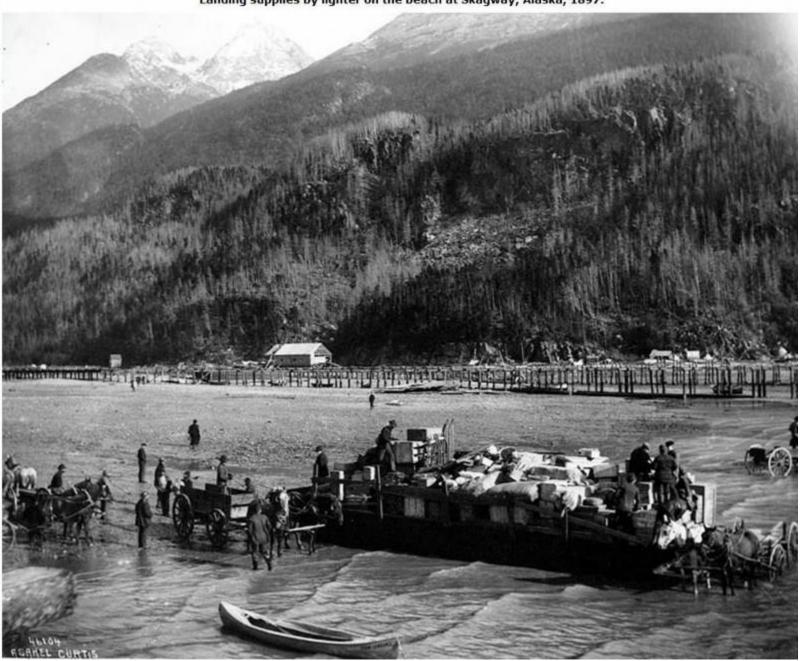
Dogsled team departing for Dawson in front of Hegg's photography studio, Skagway, Alaska, ca. 1898.



# THE CHILKOOT TRAIL (AKA DYEA TRAIL) FROM SKAGUAY TO DYEA TO LAKE BENNETT



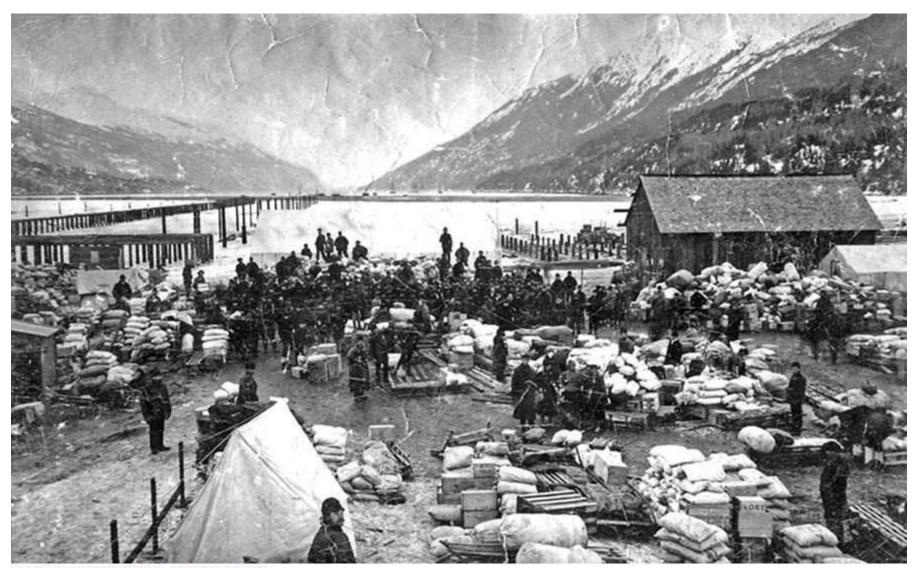
Landing supplies by lighter on the beach at Skagway, Alaska, 1897.



#### ONE YEARS' SUPPLY OF GOODS AS NEEDED FOR ENTRY INTO THE YUKON TERRITORY

Each person traveling to the goldfields of the Yukon Territory were required to take along one years worth of supplies. Every dealer of goods was ready to tell them exactly what they needed, and sell them the products at a very high price. Outfit for two men for fourteen months, food and clothing, Sitka (Alaska) prices, August 1, 1897: Also additional items were noted, such as: medicines and medical supplies, reading matter, and personal items.

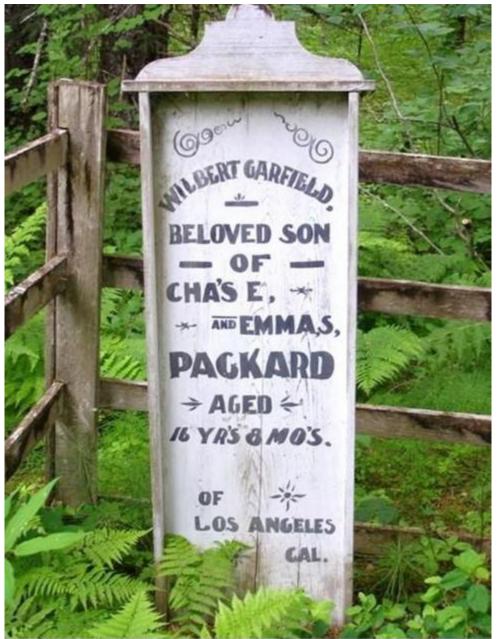
4 barrels best flour, at \$6	24.00	24 pounds of raisins	2.40
200 pounds granulated sugar, at 6 cents	12.00	Outfit for boat:	
200 pounds navy beans, at 4 cents	8.00	30 pounds nails, \$1.50; 5 pounds white lead, 60	2.10
100 pounds of corn meal	2.75	Candle wicking, 20 cents; 1 2-inch auger, \$1.25	1.45
250 pounds of breakfast bacon, at 12.5 cents	31.25	Oakum, 25 cents; pitch, 25 cents	0.50
75 pounds of island rice, 6 cents	4.50	1 hand saw, \$1.50; 1 jack pane, 75 cents	2.25
2 cases condensed milk	17.50	Paint brush, 25 cents; 4 candle wicks, 40 cents	0.65
20 pounds of salt	0.35	2 pairs oars, \$1.75; oarlocks, 40 cents	2.15
25 pounds best Mocha and Java coffee	8.75	3 pairs heavy wool blankets	20.50
10 pounds best tea	4.50	2 pairs pack straps, \$3.00; 1 hand ax, \$1.00	4.00
B pounds soda	0.70	2 pairs hip rubber boots, leather soles, \$6.00	12.00
20 pounds baking powder	9.20	2 pairs high top lace shoes	3.00
25 pounds dried apricots	2.50	4 pairs German socks 75 cents	3.00
25 pounds dried peaches	2.50	2 pairs lumberman's rubbers	3.00
25 pounds dried apples	2.25	2 pairs suspenders	0.75
2 boxes candles	5.00	4 suits heavy wool underwear	12.00
1 box pepper, 25 cents; soap \$1	1.25	4 dark blue flannel overshirts	8.00
3 boxes yeast, 25 cents; one-half tin of matches,	0.75	4 pairs Mackinaw pants	11.00
1 Yukon stove complete	6.00	2 Mackinaw coats	6.00
3 half-spring shovels	3.00	2 blanket coats	8.00
3 miner's picks	3.00	12 pairs wool socks	4.50
1 double-bladed ax complete	1.50	6 pairs wool mittens	3.00
13 oil sacks, 50's and 100's	7.55	40 yards mosquito netting	1.00
2 gold pans, \$1; one coffee mill, 35 cents	1.35	11 buckskin pouches	5.00
12 condensed onions	5.00	1 magnet, 50 cents; 2 pairs goggles, 50 cents	1.00
10 pounds evaporated spuds	2.50	2 pairs snow glasses	1.00
40 pounds rope	5.00	1 dozen bandana hankerchiefs	1.00
Toilet soap	0.50	1 lot spoons, knives and forks	1.35
6 tin plates, 50 cents; 3 granite cups, 50 cents	1.00	1 butcher knife	0.75
1 coffee pot, 40 cents; whetstone, 20 cents	0.60	4 oil blankets	6.00
Awls, shoe thread, wax, bristles, etc.	1.00	1 lot buckets, pans, cooking utensils, etc,	3.35
2 fry pans, \$1.00; fish line and hooks, 50 cents	1.50	2 sou'westers, \$1.00; tent, \$12.00	13.00
2 - extract of beef	1.00	1 41 Colt's revolver and ammunition	15.00
6 assorted files, 60 cents; oil blacking, 50 cents	1.10	1 Winchester rifle and ammunition	18.00
1 package chocolate	0.30	2 fur caps	2.50
2 miner's candlesticks	1.00	1 whipsaw	5.50
1 iron brace and bits	1.75		\$367.10



DYEA WATERFRONT, MARCH 1898



THE OLD DESERTED VILLAGE OF DYEA AT THE HEAD OF LYNN CANAL -- 5 MILES NORTH OF SKAGUAY, 1902.



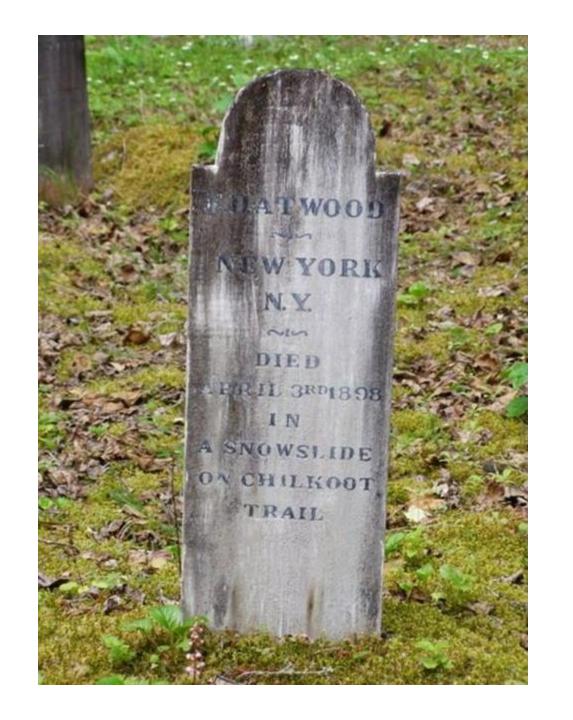
**DYEA CEMETERY** 



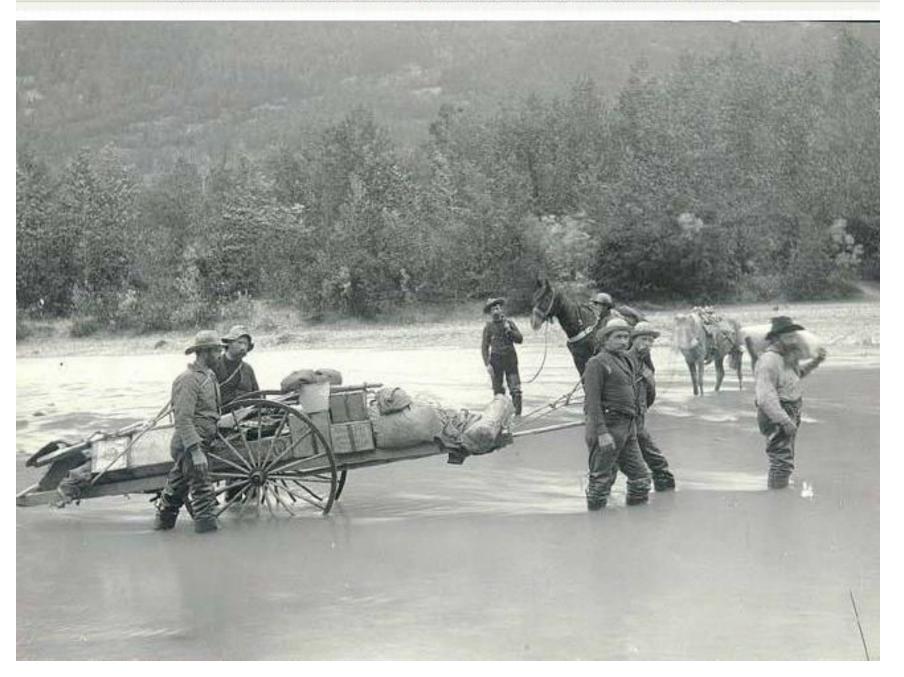
DYEA CEMETERY FOR APRIL 3, 1898 SNOW SLIDE VICTIMS.



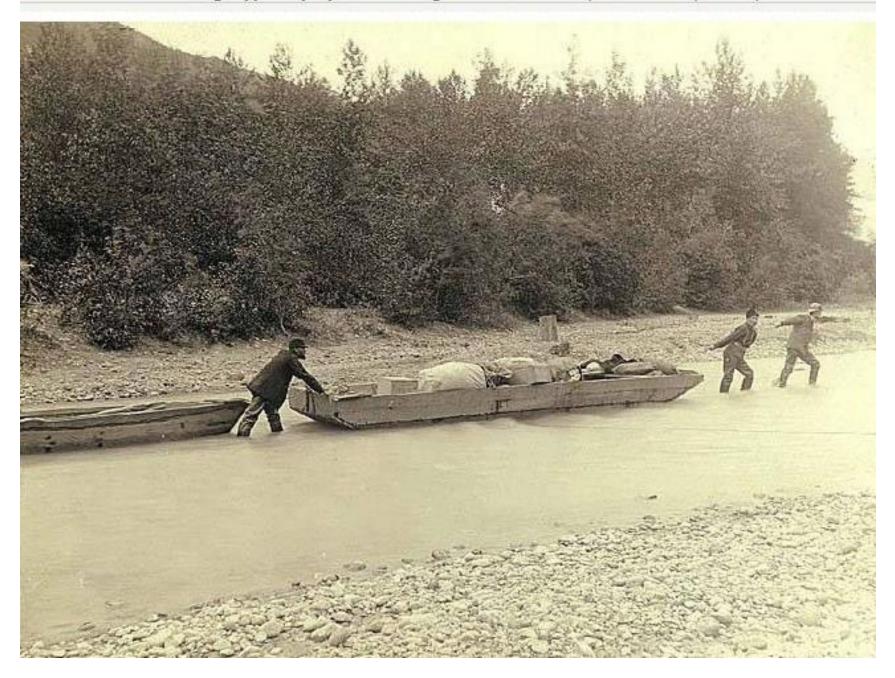




Fording Dyea River with cart full of supplies on the Chilkoot Trail, Alaska, 1897.



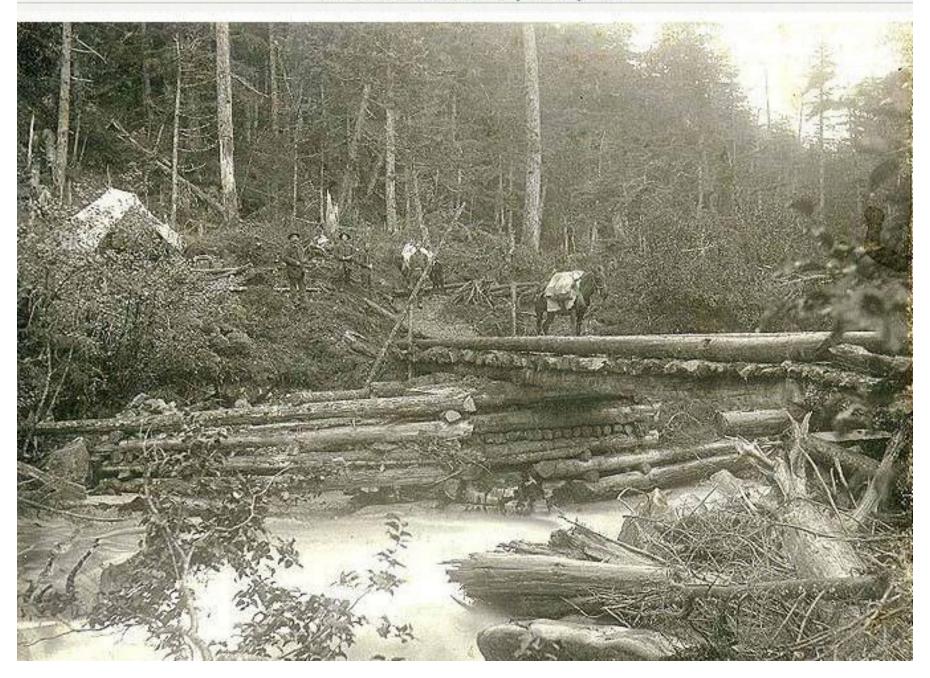
Klondikers towing supplies up Dyea River using flat bottomed boat, Chilkoot Trail, Alaska, 1897.



End of the navigable portion of the Dyea River by canoe about 6 miles north of Dyea, Alaska, 1897.



Toll road on the Chilkoot Trail, Alaska, 1897.

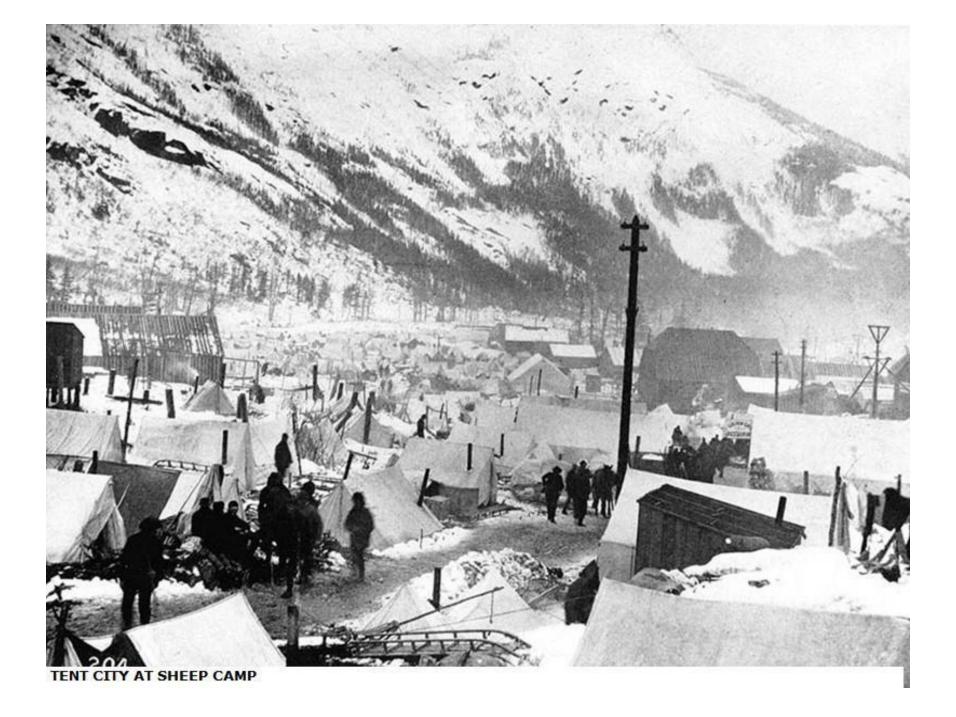




Klondikers with dogsled and supplies at Canyon, Chilkoot Trail, Alaska, 1897.

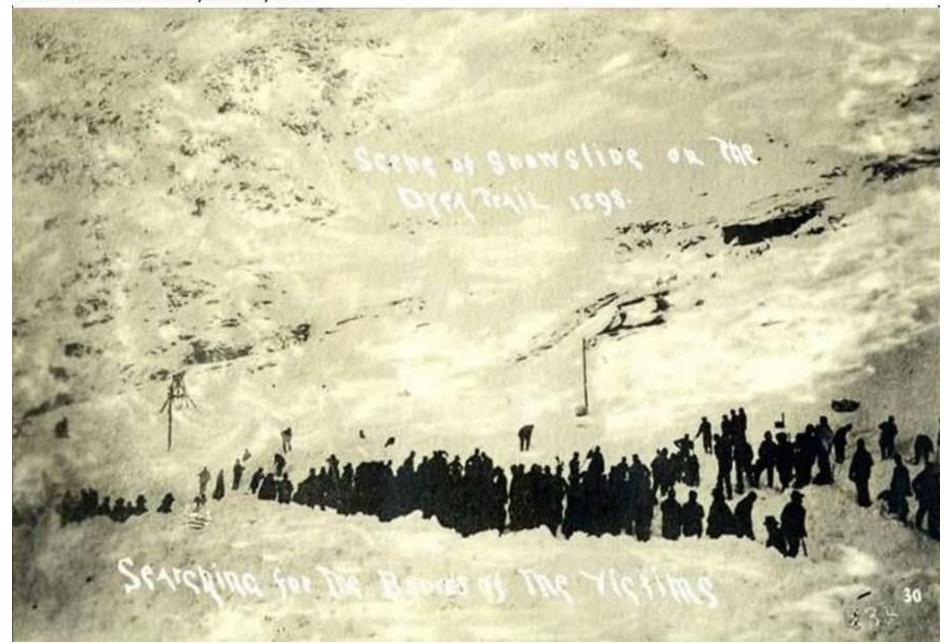


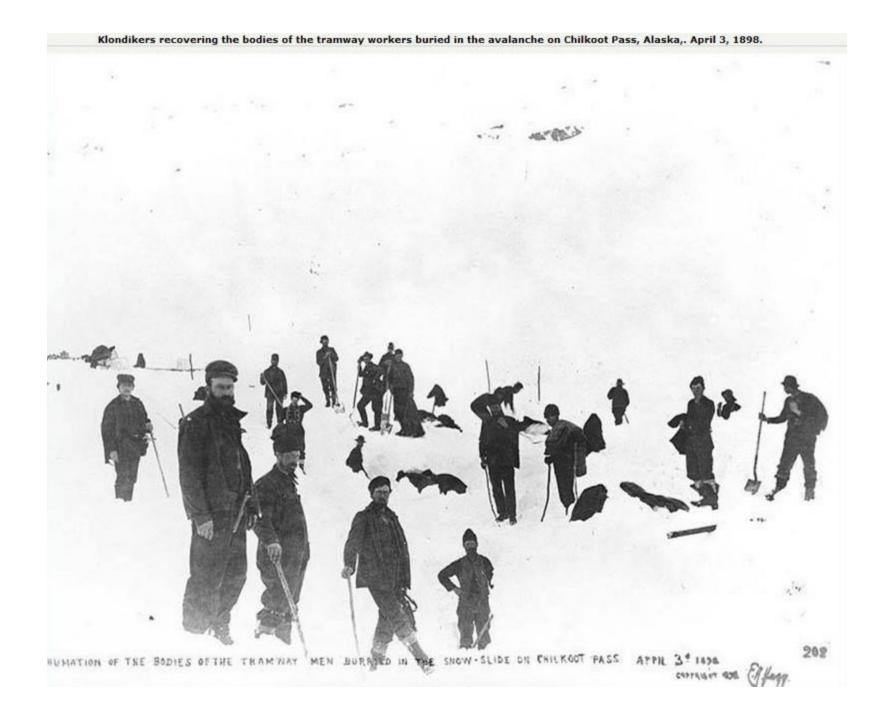
Klondikers with horse drawn wagons and sled at Canyon, Chilkoot Trail, Alaska, 1898. BUSICHT 1878 CANYON DYEA TRAIL



Klondikers and supplies at The Scales, looking south along the Chilkoot Trail, Alaska, 1898.









Summit viewed from The Scales, Chilkoot Pass, Alaska, September 3, 1898.



Klondikers and supplies at the Scales, foot of Chilkoot Pass, Alaska, 1897.

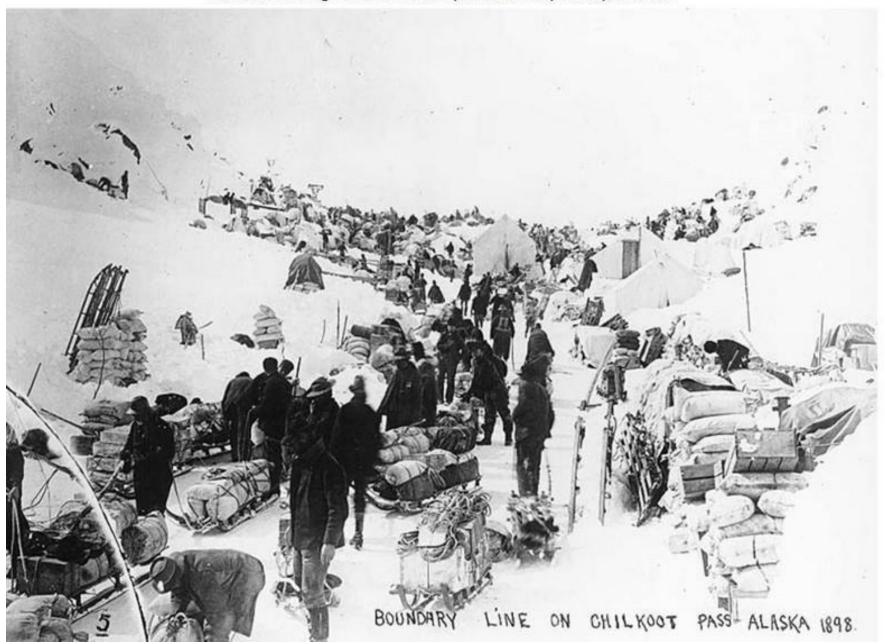


Klondikers at The Scales, ascending the Chilkoot Pass, Alaska, 1898.



## KLONDIKERS ASCENDING THE CHILKOOT PASS IN SINGLE FILE. THE MENT PROPERTY & PROPERTY AND ASSESSMENT OF THE PARTY NAMED IN THE

Klondikers waiting in line for customs, Chilkoot Pass, Alaska, ca. 1898.



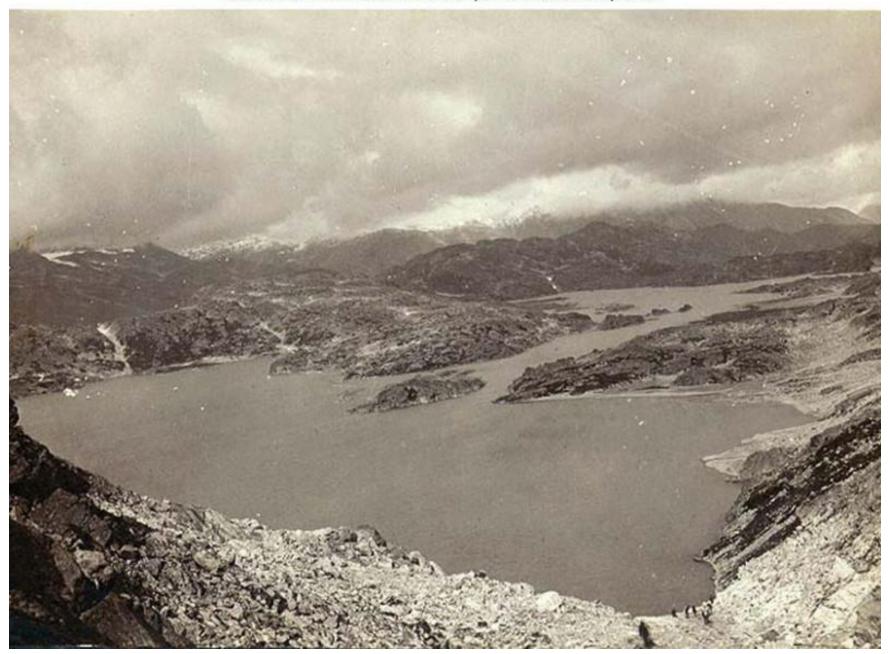
North-West Mounted Police and Canadian custom house on Chilkoot summit, Alaska, ca. 1898.





DESCENDING DOWN THE EAST SLOPE OF THE CHILKOOT PASS

Crater Lake on the Chilkoot Trail, British Columbia, 1897.



Interior of restaurant, Crater Lake, British Columbia, September 4, 1898.



Crossing frozen Crater Lake with sleds outfitted with sails, British Columbia, 1898.



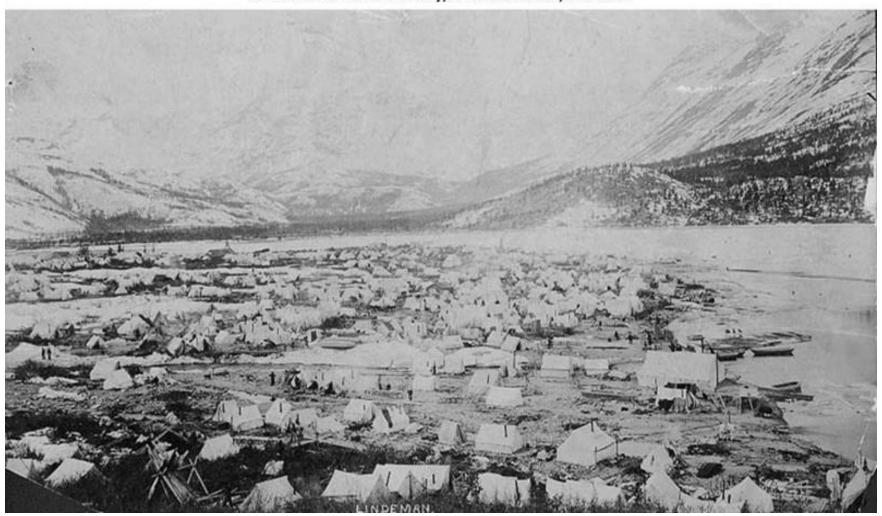
Klondikers unloading freight from pack horses, south end of Long Lake, Chilkoot Trail, British Columbia, September 4, 1898.

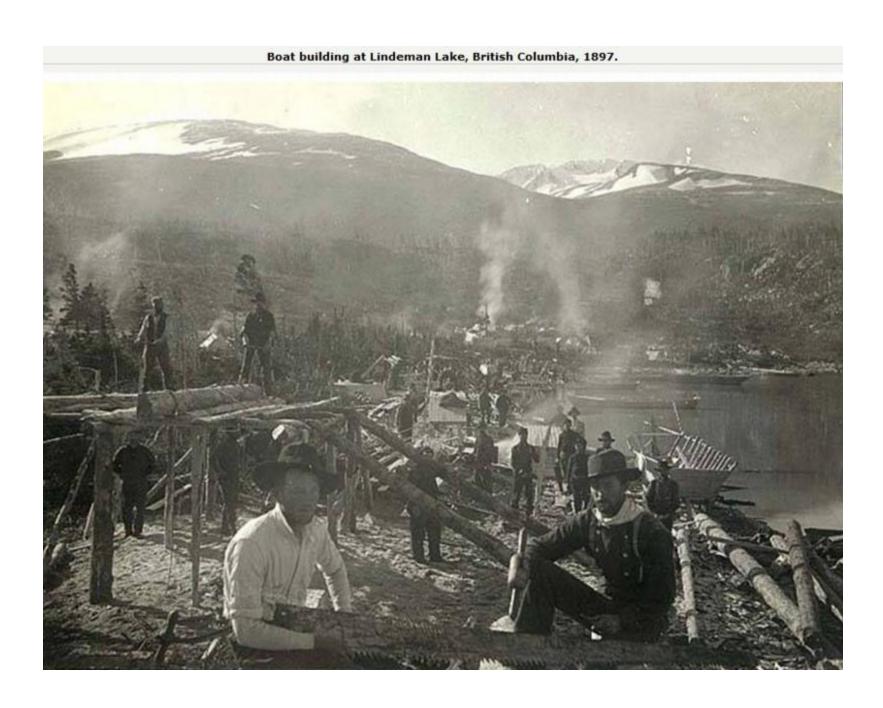
## LONG LAKE HOTEL, DYEA TRAIL



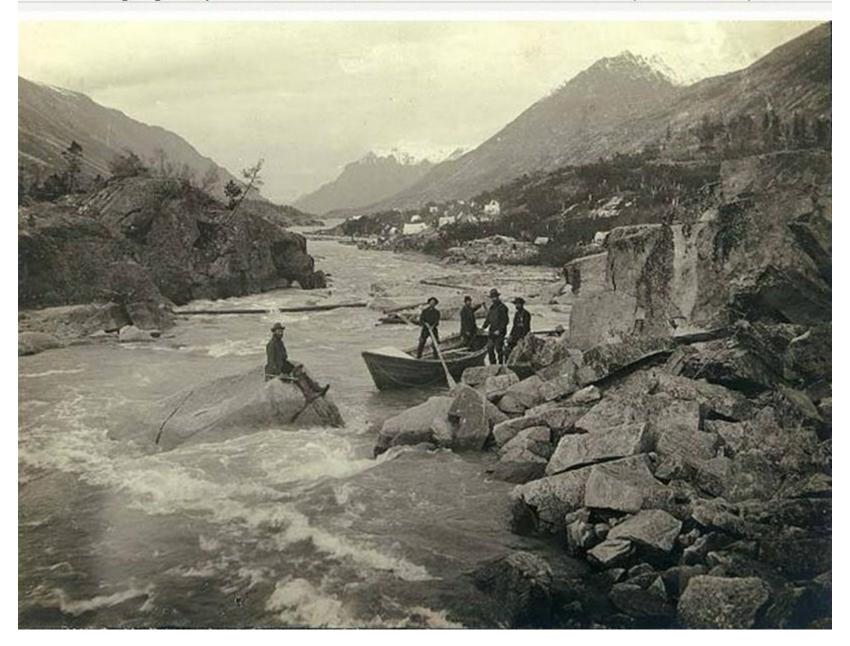
DEEP LAKE, JUNE 2000

Lindeman Lake with tent city, British Columbia, ca. 1898.

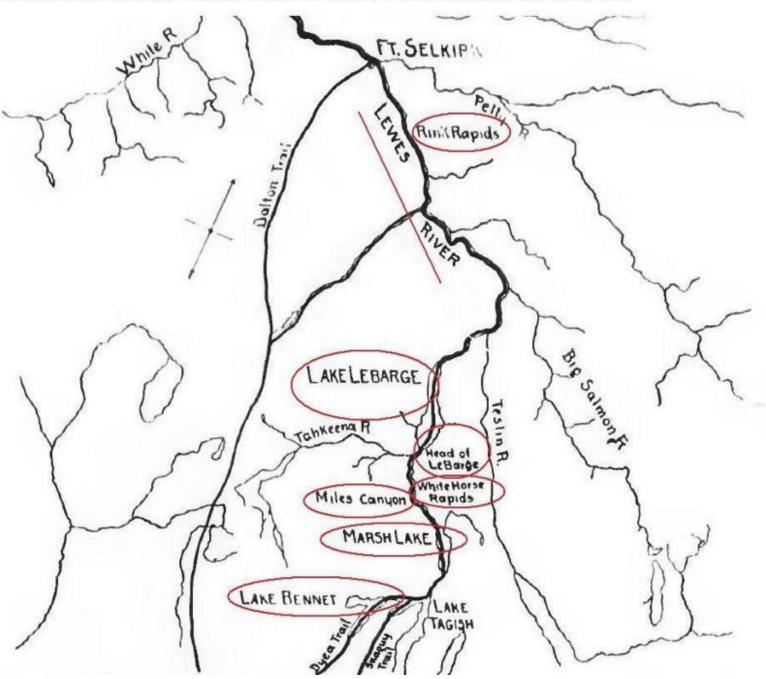




Boat navigating the rapids on One Mile River between Linderman Lake and Lake Bennett, British Columbia, 1897.



## END OF THE DYEA TRAIL TO LAKE BENNETT TO THE LEWES RIVER AND RINK RAPIDS



Panoramic view of Bennett on Bennett Lake, British Columbia, 1898







**BUILDING BOATS AT LAKE BENNETT.** 

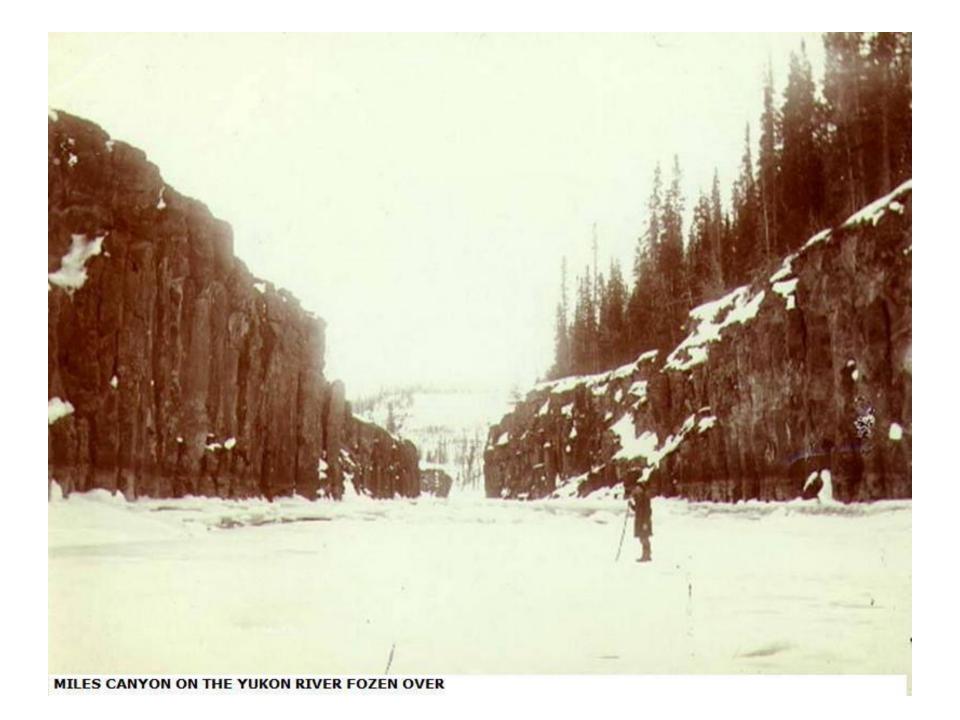
Klondikers with their boats at Tagish between Tagish Lake and Marsh Lake, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



Klondikers with their scows caught in an ice jam at Marsh Lake, Yukon Territory, June 9, 1899. SCOWS JAMED IN ICE AT LAKE MARSH. JUNE 91 "99

Four men in a small boat breaking through the ice on Marsh Lake, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.





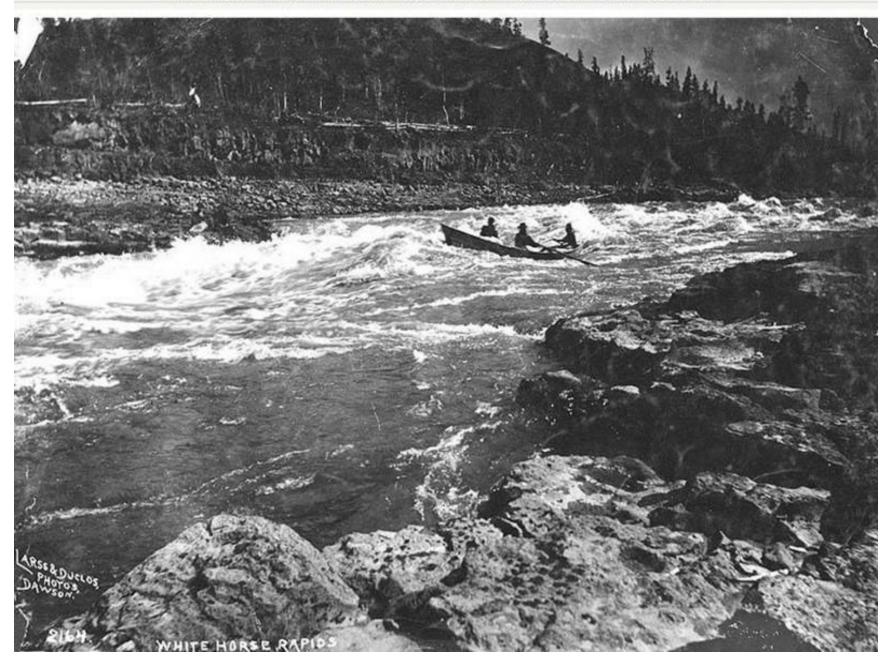


Dogsled, men, and supplies outside of log cabin at Sixtymile Post, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.





Klondikers crossing frozen Lake Laberge with boats and sleds outfitted with sails, Yukon Territory, 1897.

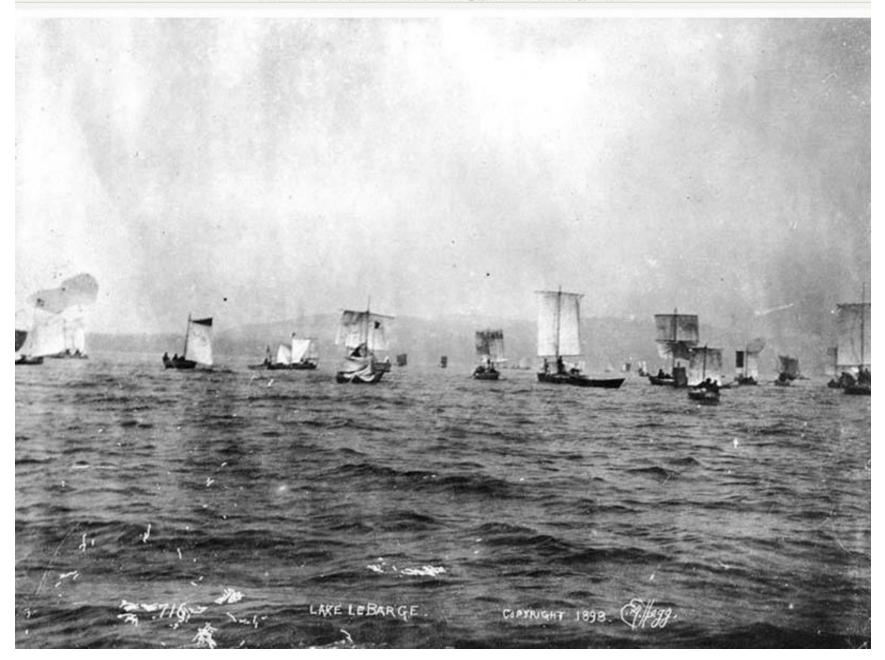


Small boat navigating the White Horse Rapids on the Yukon River, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.

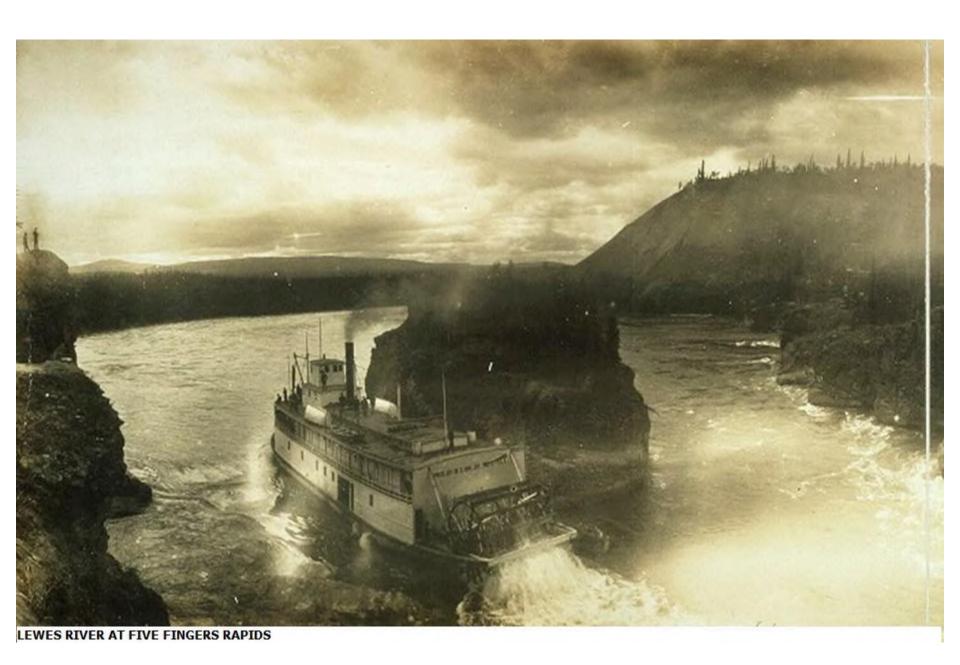


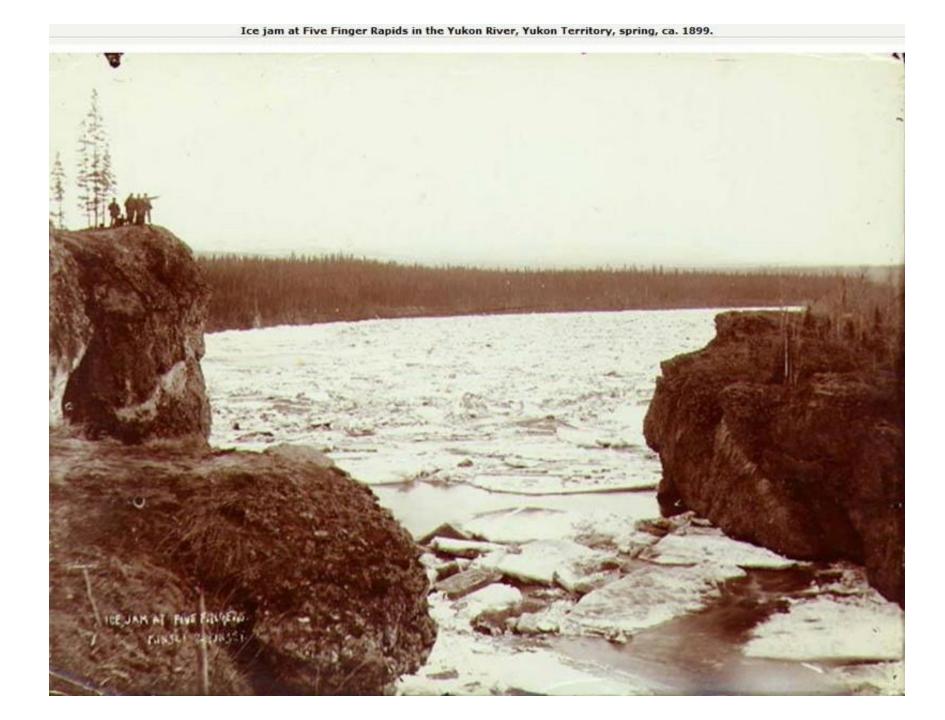


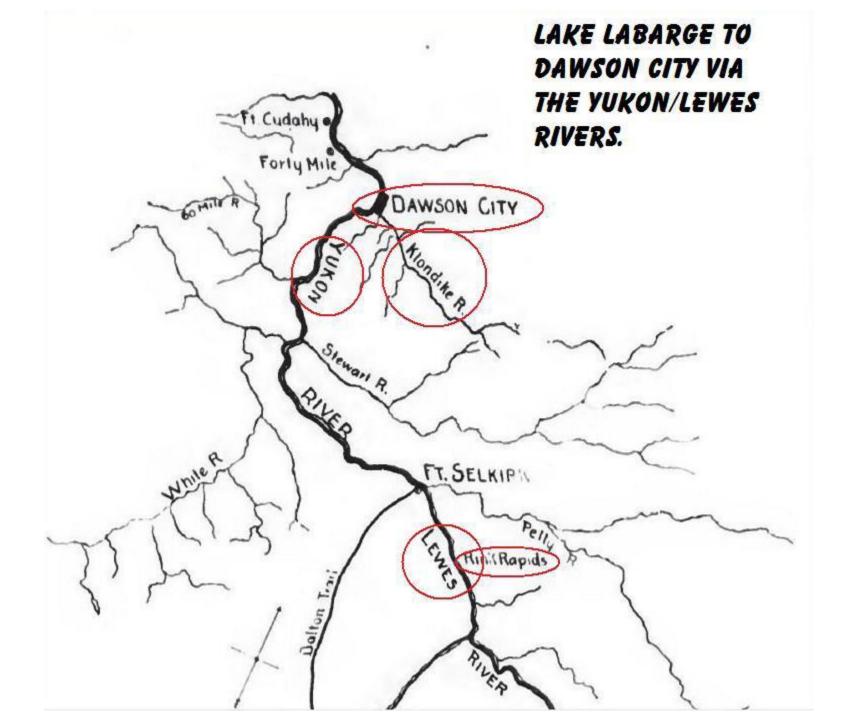


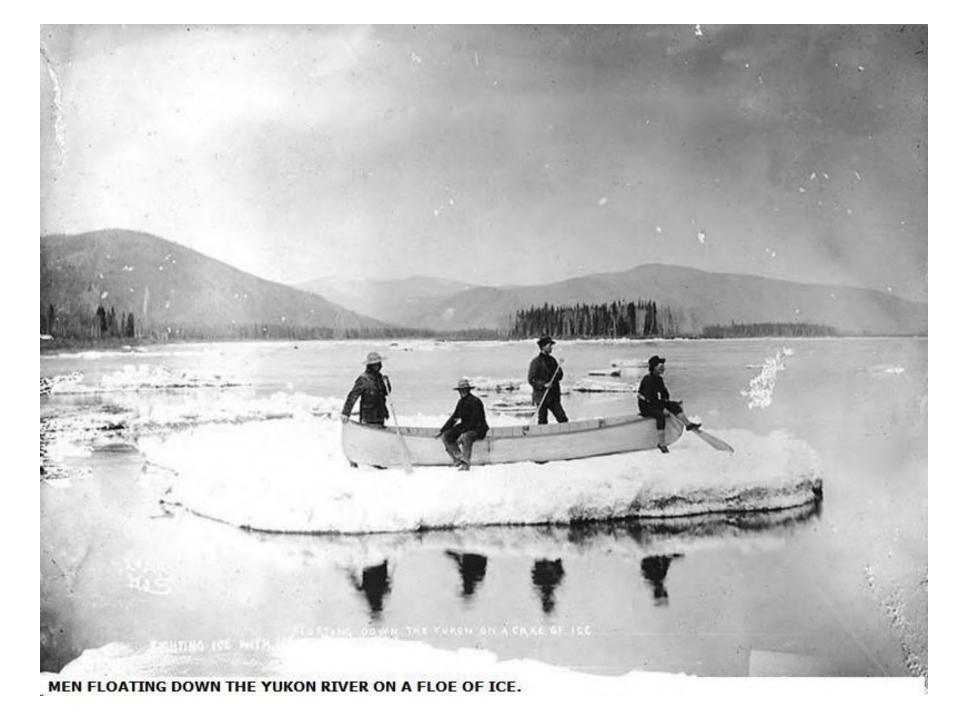


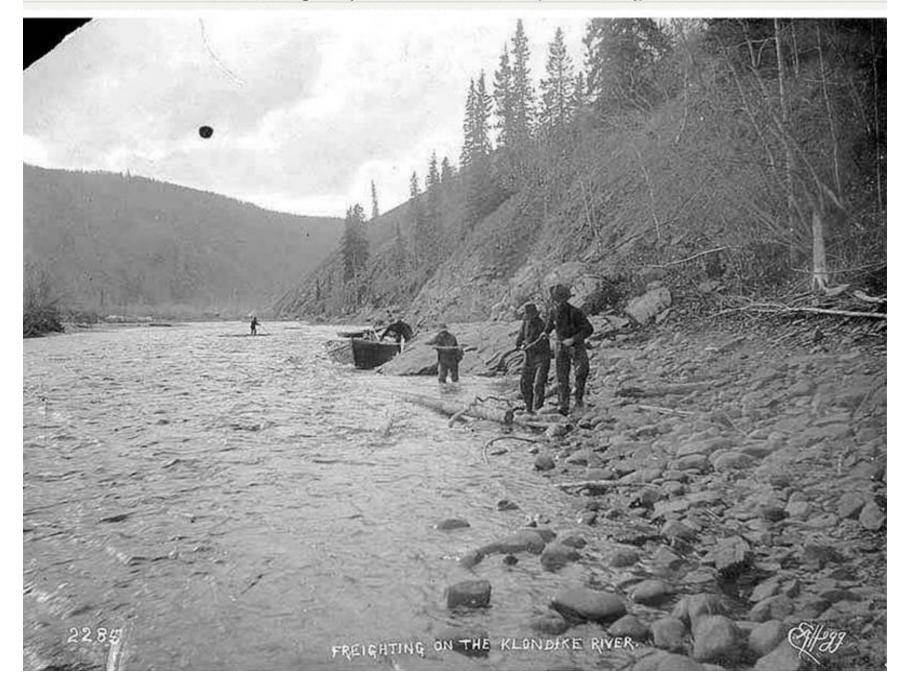








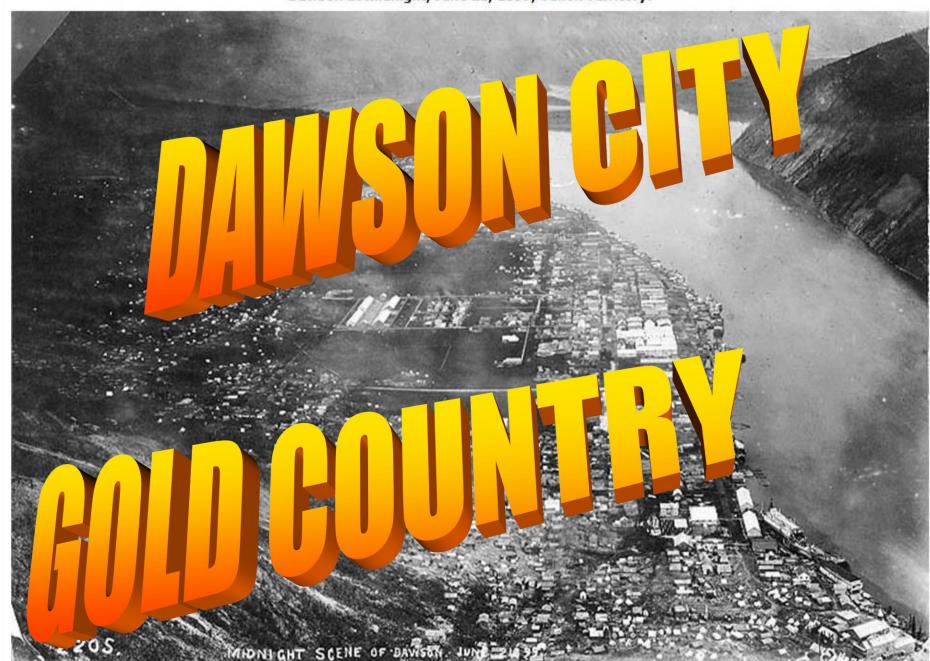








Dawson at midnight, June 21, 1899, Yukon Territory.



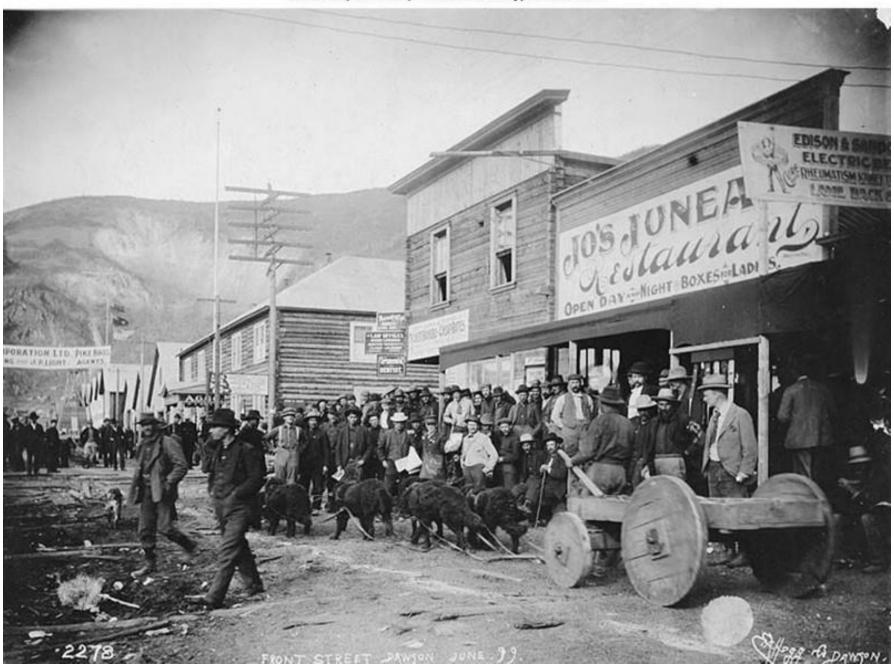
Dawson at midnight, June 21, 1899, Yukon Territory.



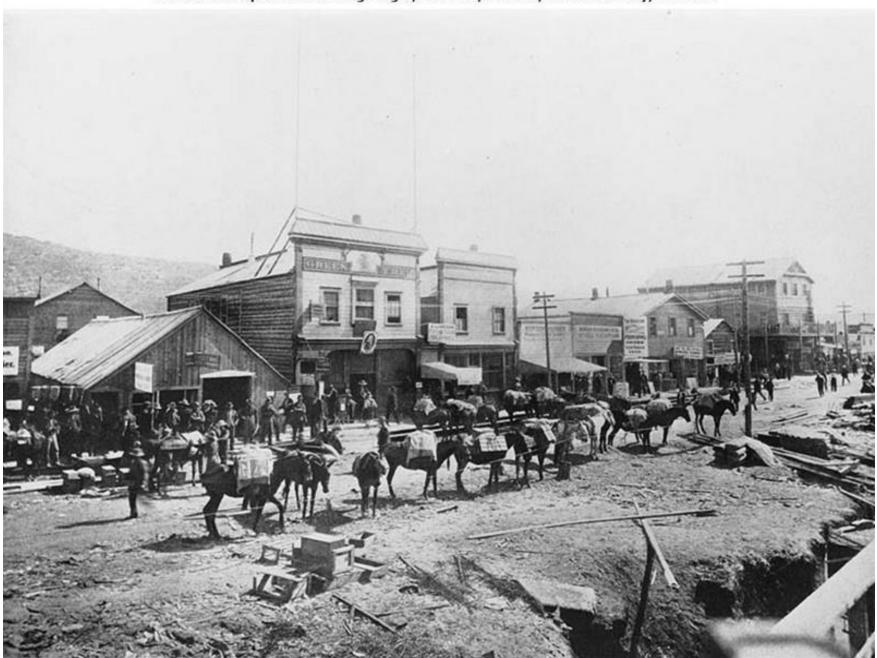


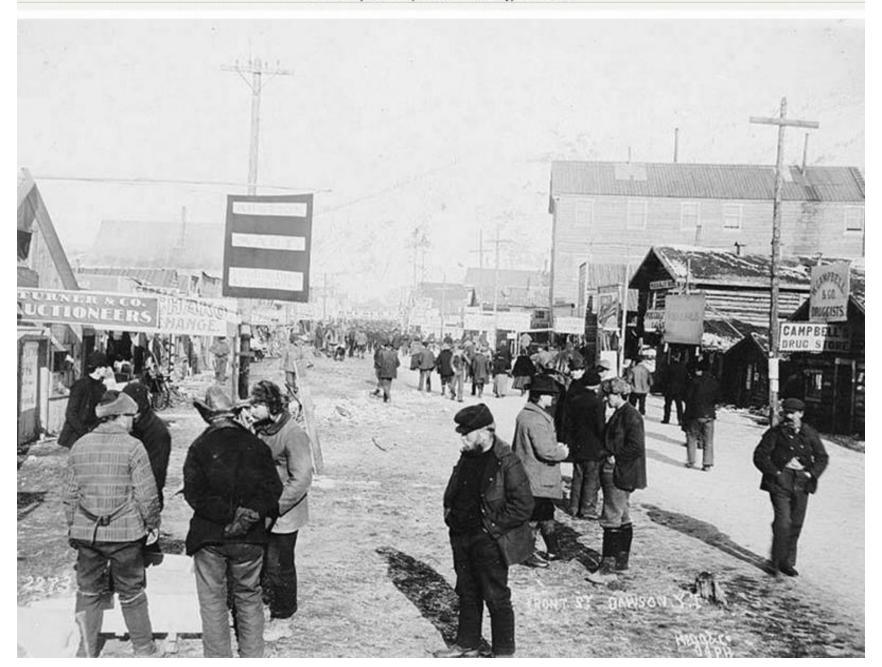
DAWSON CITY SHOWING SUSPENSION BRIDGE OVER THE KLONDIKE RIVER LEADING TO KLONDIKE CITY.

Front St., Dawson, Yukon Territory, June 1898.

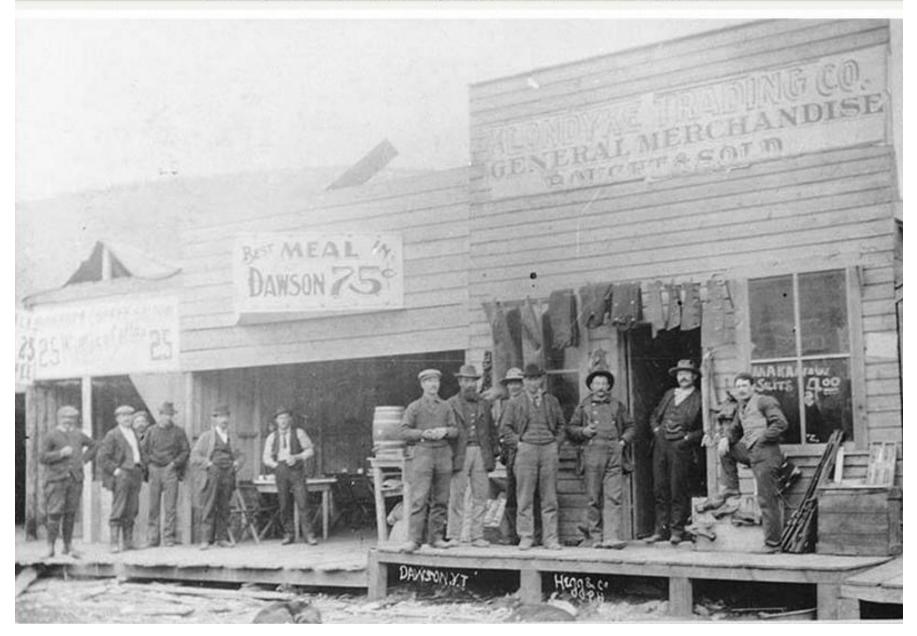


Bartlett Bros. packtrain hauling freight, Front St., Dawson, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.





Men standing outside of Klondyke Trading Co. store, Dawson, Yukon Territory, ca. 1899.



OMGE GORSA, Inus E LARRY PRINTERS STREET SCENE, DAWSON CITY

One and one half tons of gold bricks and dust inside the Alaska Commercial Co.'s store, Dawson, Yukon Territory, June 9, 1901.



Aftermath of a fire in Dawson, Yukon Territory, October 14, 1898.



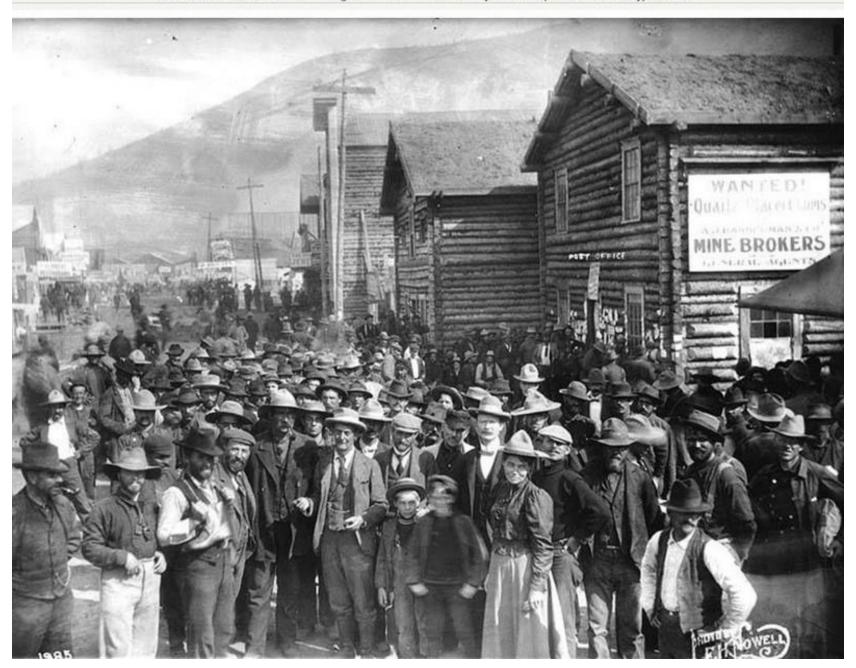
Crowds gathering at the ruins of the Opera House on Front St. after a fire, Dawson, Yukon Territory, April 26, 1899





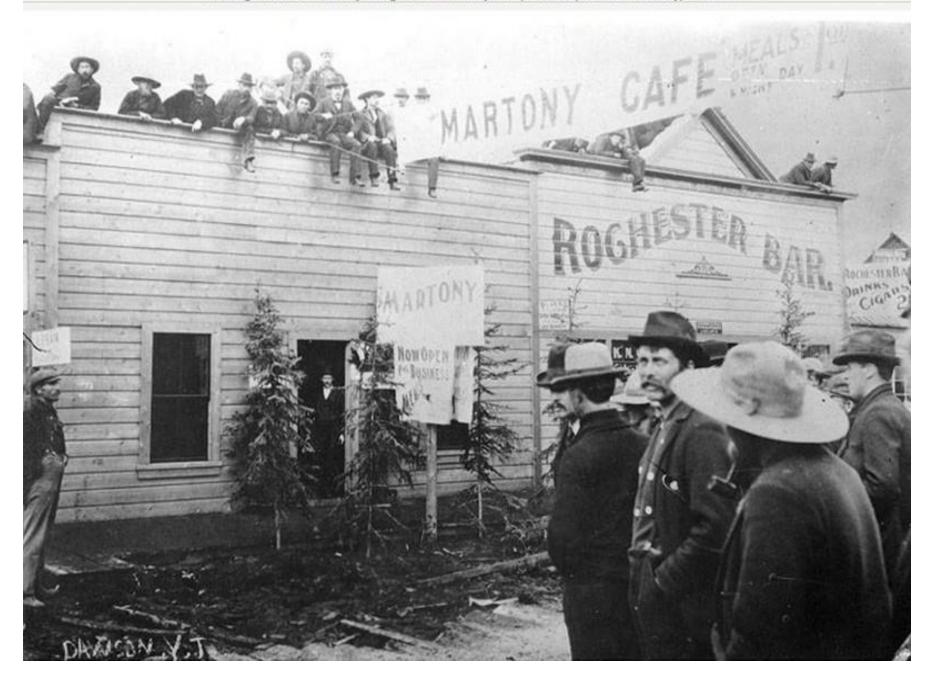
MIDNIGHT HOUX OSHIWORA, OR WHITE CHAPEL OF DAWSON,

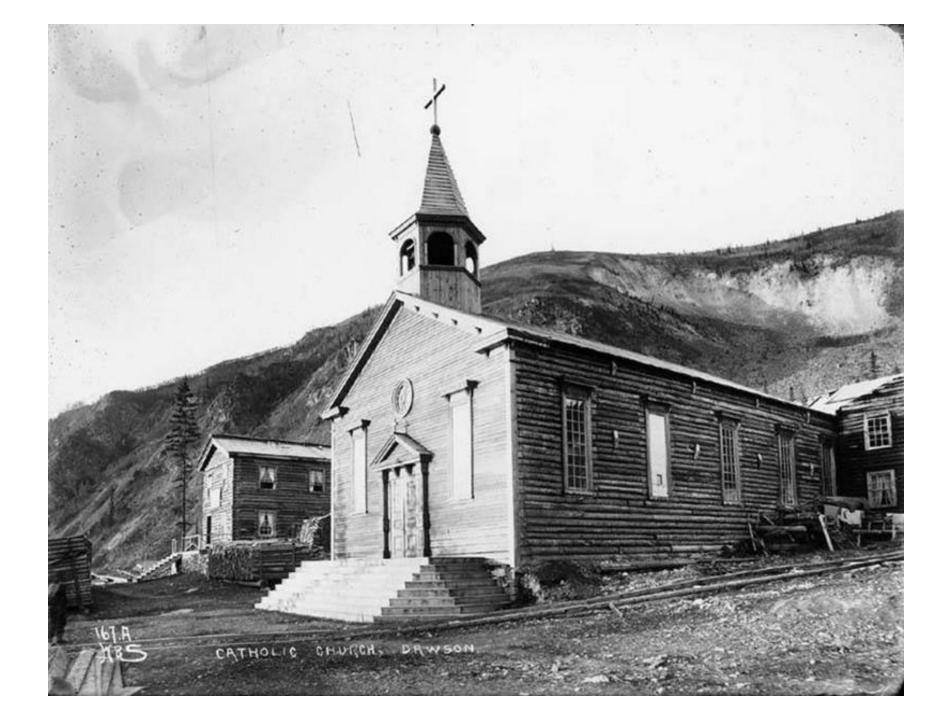
Crowd of men and women waiting for mail at the Dawson post office, Yukon Territory, ca. 1899.



Parade with brass band marching down Third St. looking north from the corner of Harper Street, Dawson, Yukon Territory, ca. 1899.







Miss Lind and students of Dawson's first school, Yukon Territory, ca. 1899.



Two women seated next to piano in Esther Duffy's house, ca. 1898.









Captain Jack Crawford and group of people at social event, Dawson, Yukon Territory, ca. 1899.





First masquerade ball for the benefit of the fire department given by the ladies of Dawson, Yukon Territory, October 23, 1898.





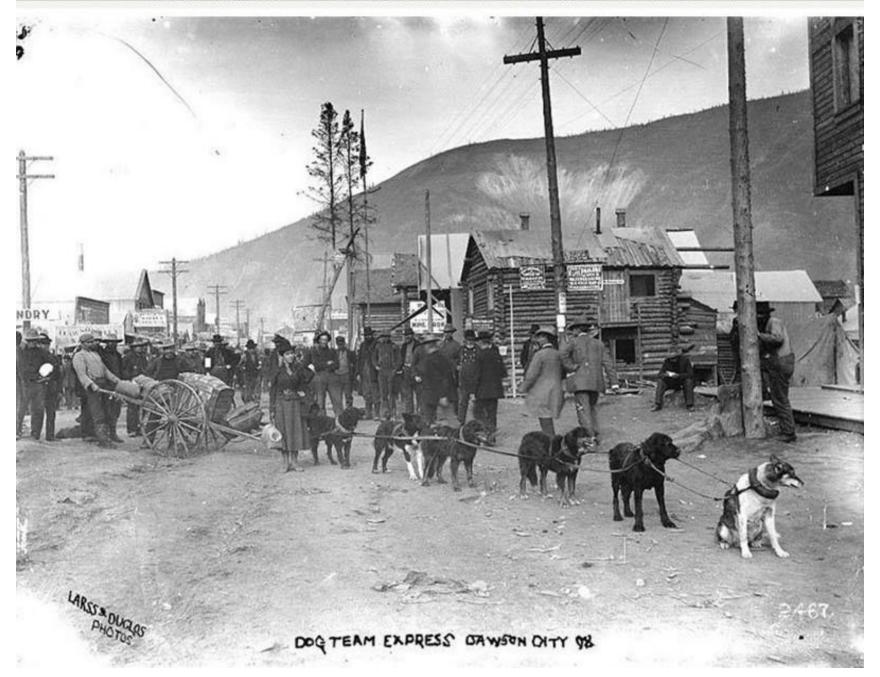


Men and women at the bar of the Monte Carlo, Dawson, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



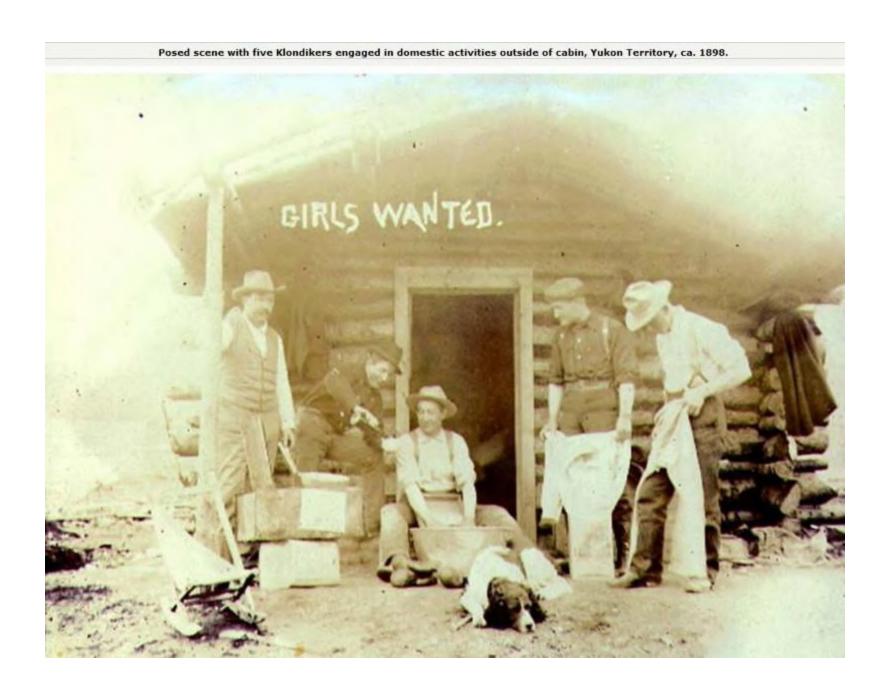
Bar at the grand opening of the Opera House, Dawson, Yukon Territory, July 4, 1899.







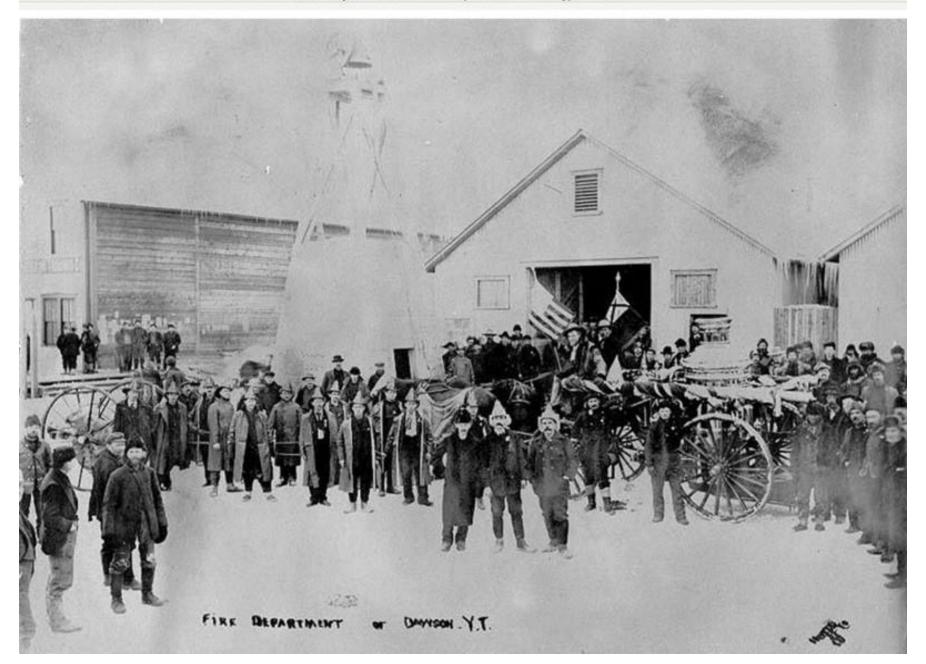




Dogsled team in front of steamboat NEW YORK frozen in the ice on the Yukon River, Dawson, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.





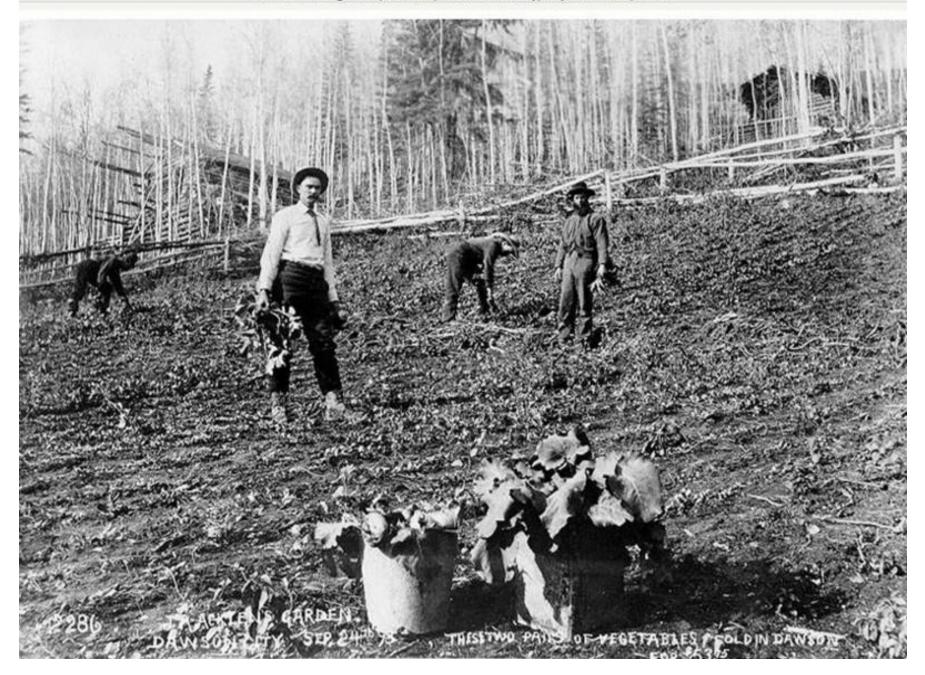


North-West Mounted Police and woman with dogsled team, Dawson, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



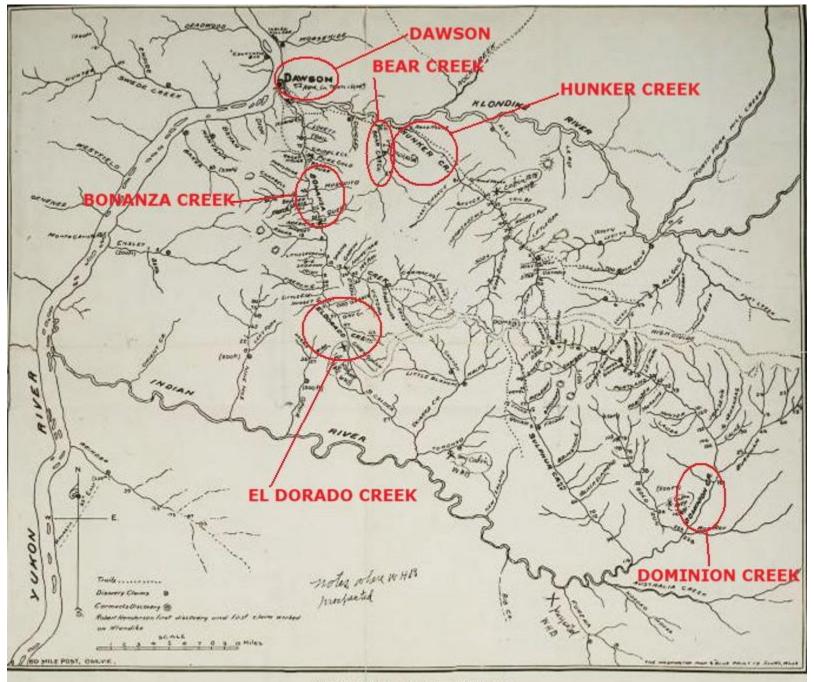
North-West Mounted Police officers carrying rifles guarding wagon loaded with gold, Yukon Territory, ca. 1899.



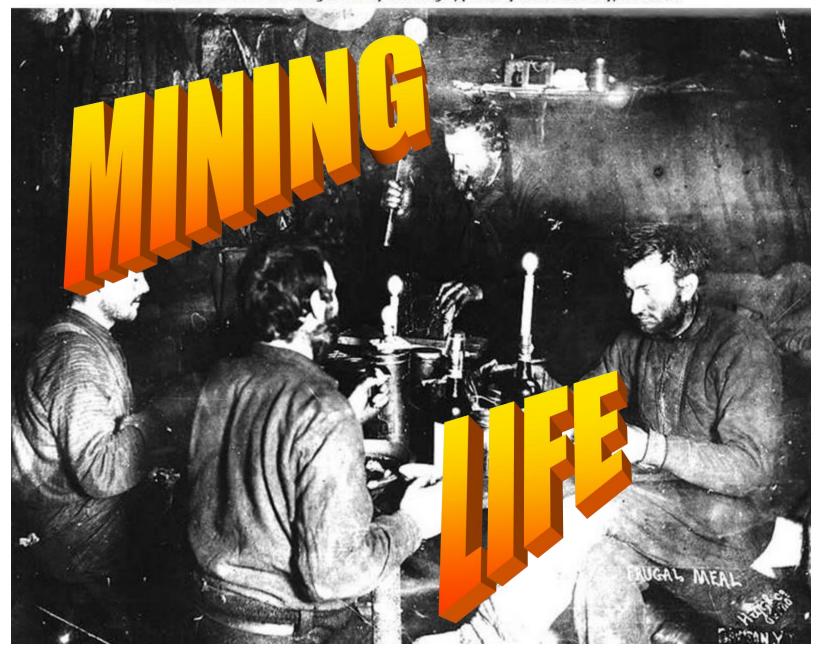




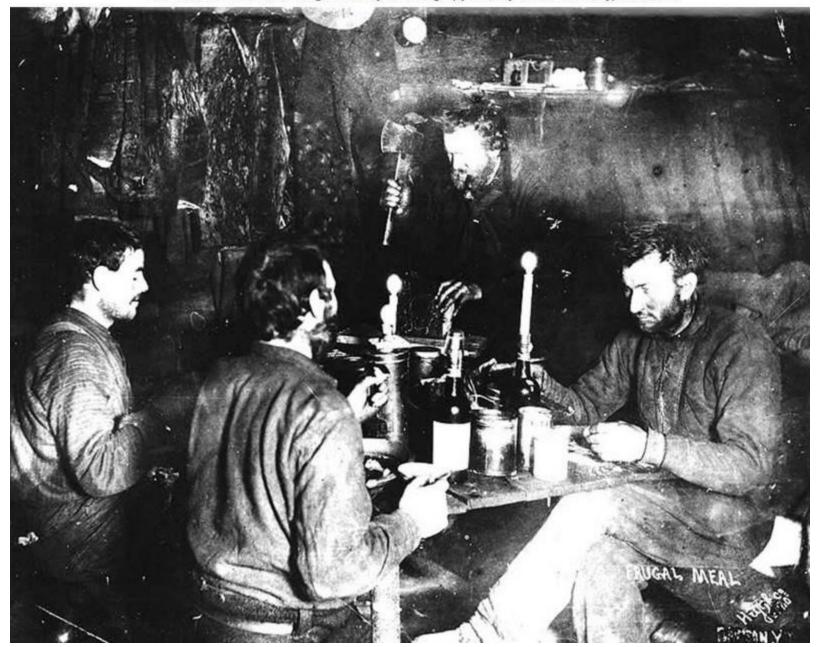




Four miners in a cabin eating dinner by candlelight, probably Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



Four miners in a cabin eating dinner by candlelight, probably Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.





Two miners inside of cabin sampling dirt for gold using mining pan, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898



Sifting gold in a cabin, 13 Eldorado, Yukon Territory, 1898.



Klondiker washing clothes with bucket and washboard in front of tent, Dawson, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.

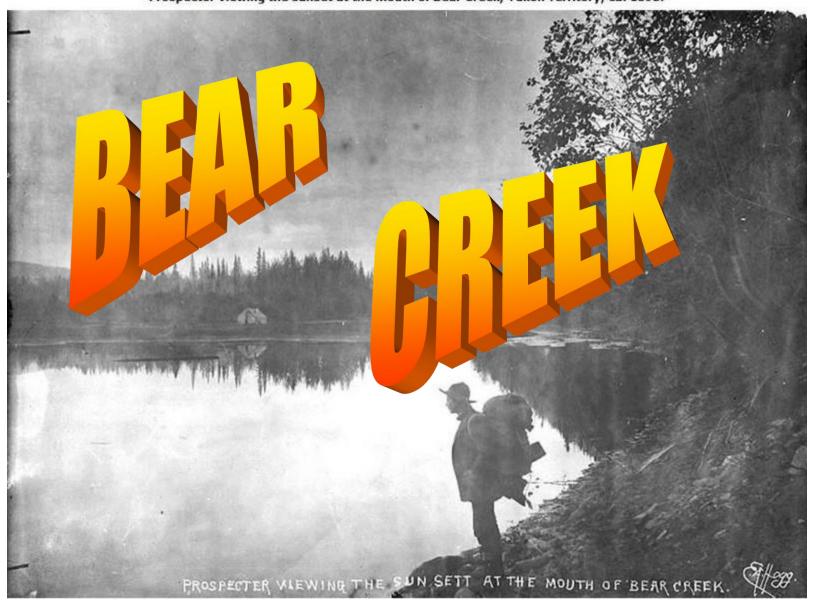


Disappointed gold seekers selling their outfits along the Dawson waterfront, Yukon Territory

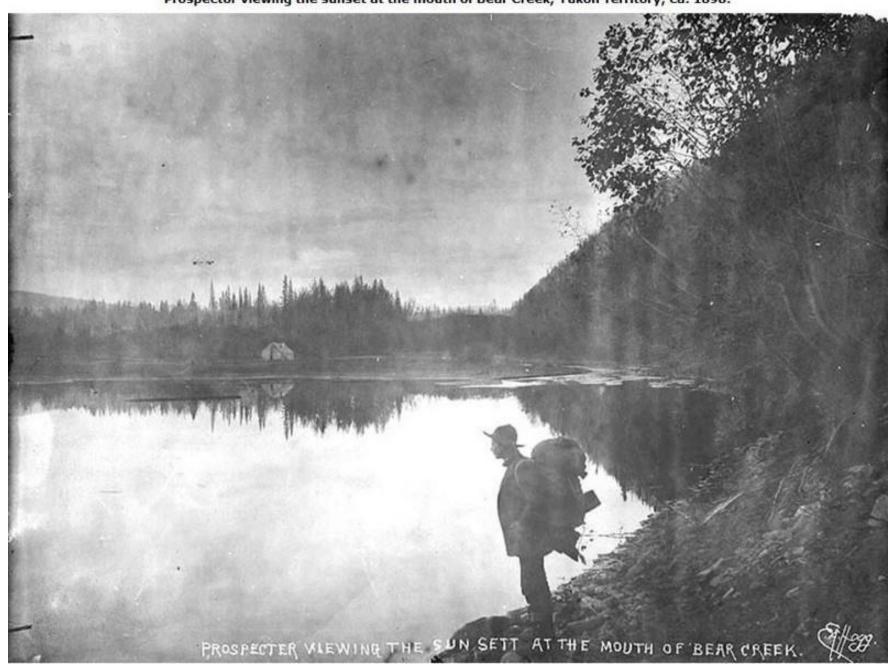




Prospector viewing the sunset at the mouth of Bear Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



Prospector viewing the sunset at the mouth of Bear Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



Mining operation on Dominion Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



Mining operation on Dominion Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.

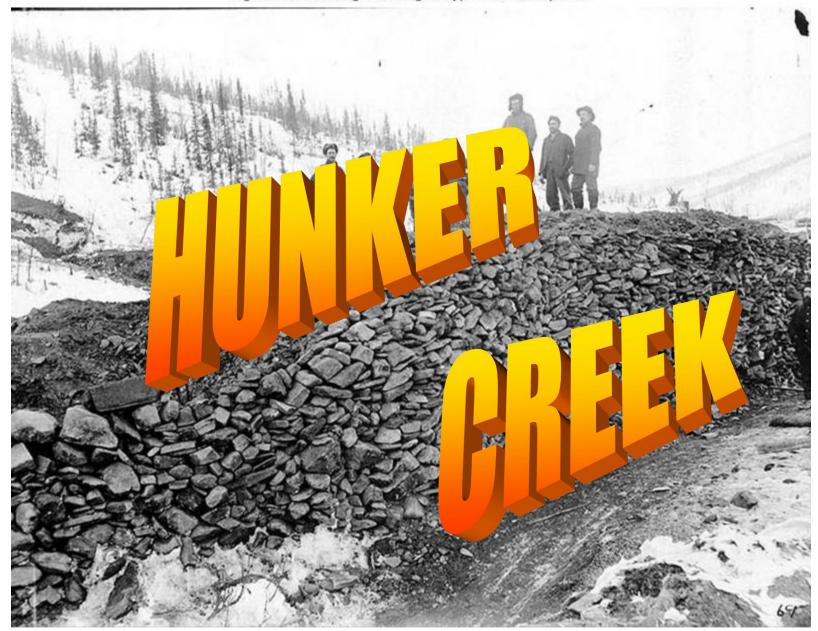


Dogsled crossing bridge over Dominion Creek during winter, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



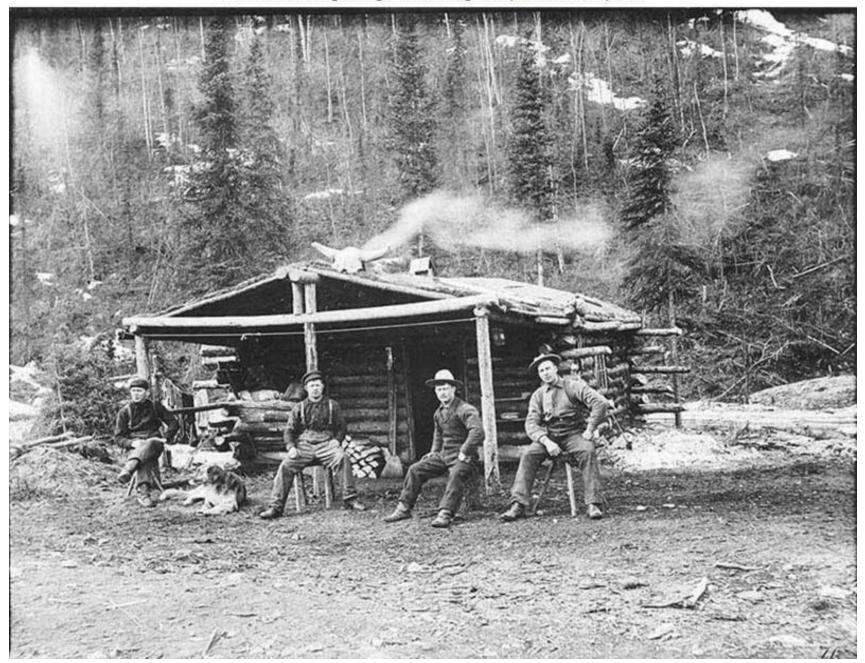
Four miners in front of log cabin on Dominion Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



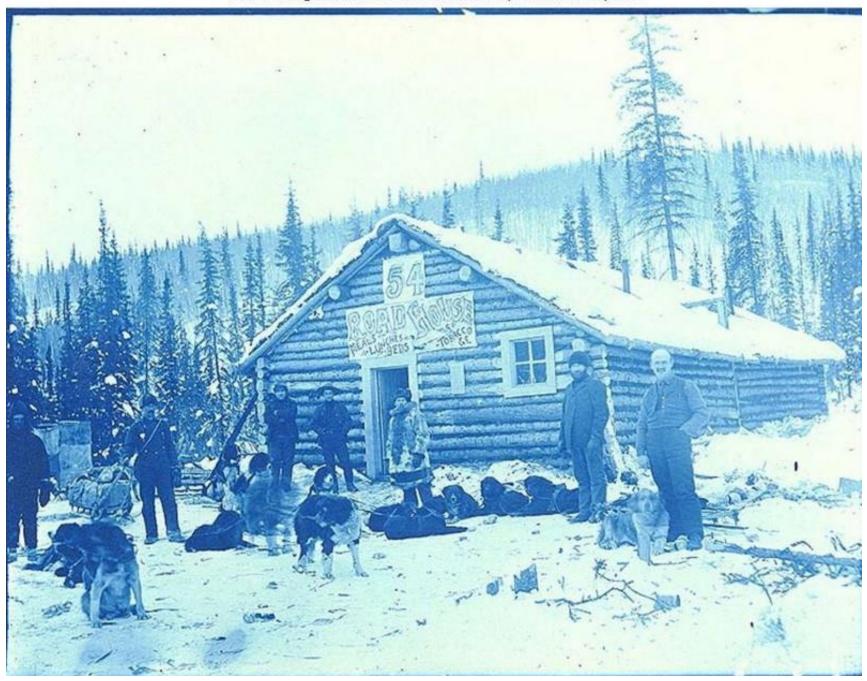




Four men and dog sitting in front of log cabin, Hunker Creek, 1899

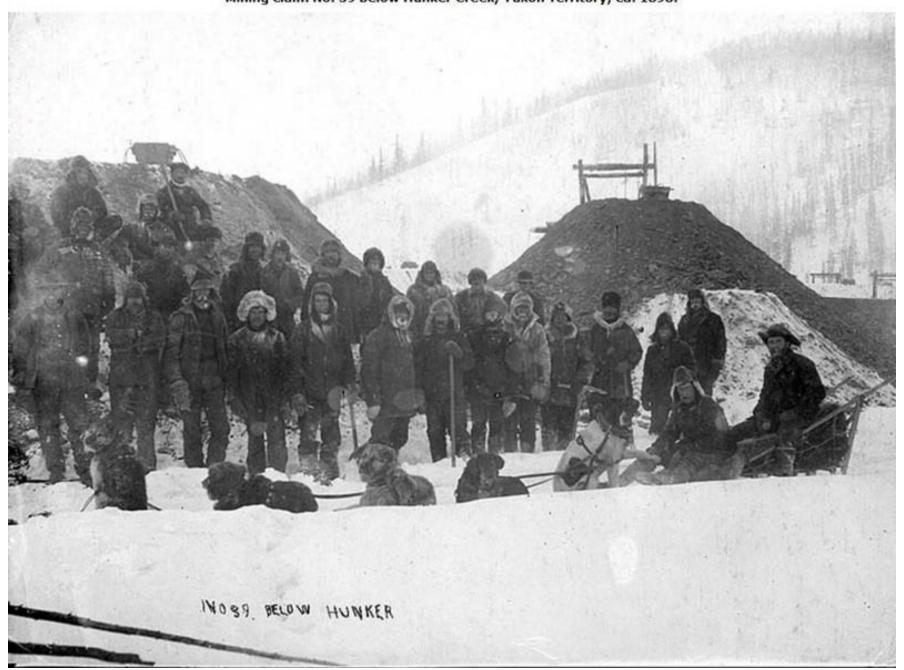


Men and dogsleds in front of 54 Roadhouse, Hunker Creek, 1899





Mining claim No. 39 below Hunker Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



Gold miners operating sluice on claim No. 39 below Hunker Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.

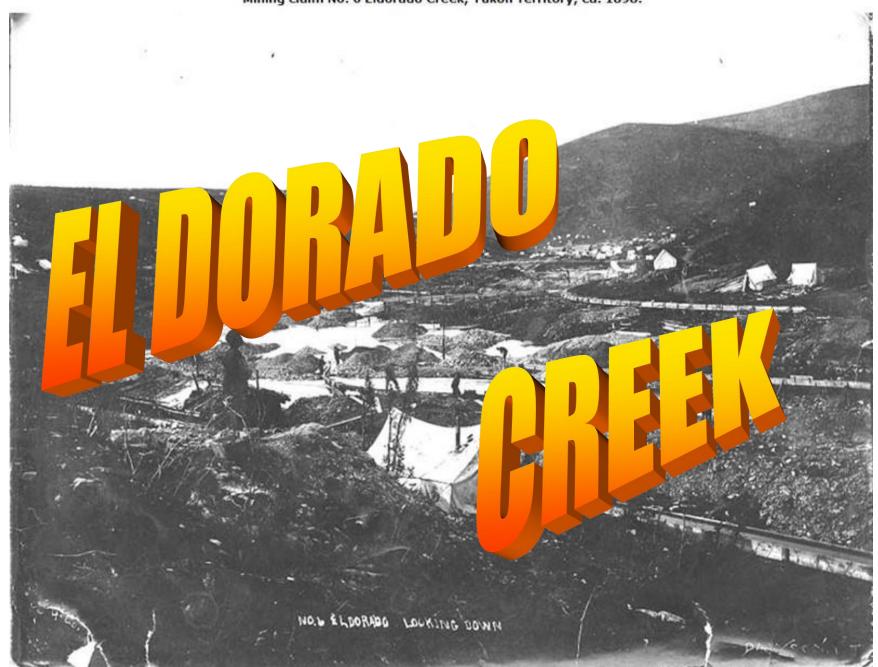






Miners working the No. 35 bench claim below Hunker Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.





Mining claim No. 6 Eldorado Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.

NO. & LOORADO LOUKING DOWN

Mining claims on Eldorado Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



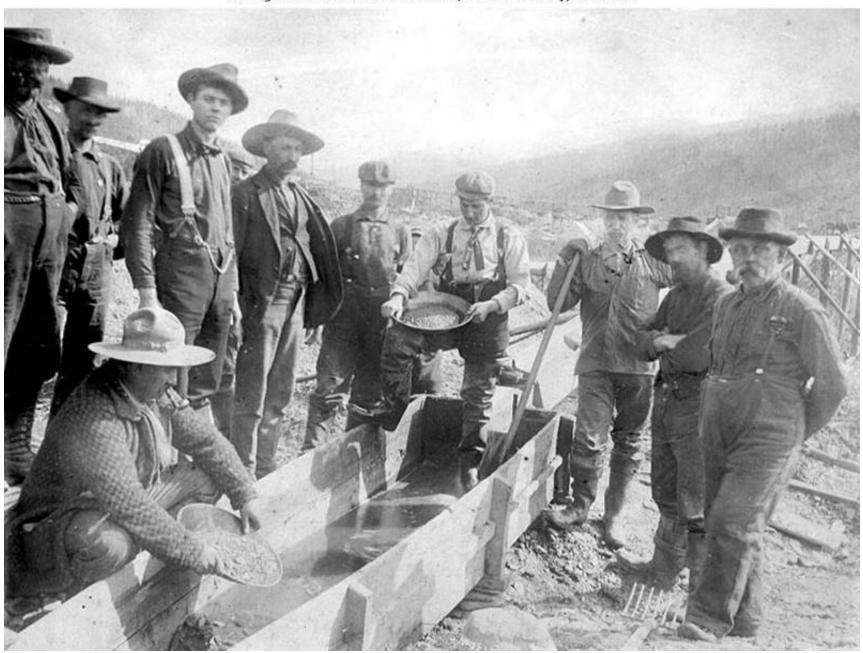
Mining claims No. 14 & 15 Eldorado Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



Mining claim No. 12 Eldorado Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



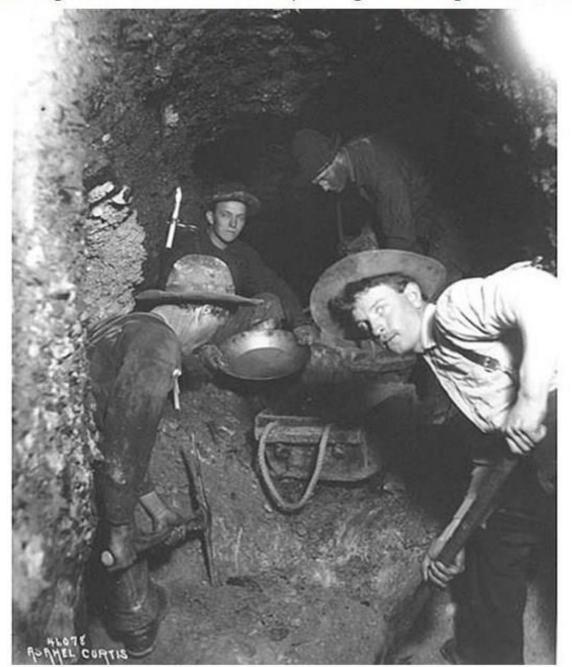
Mining claim No. 17 Eldorado Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



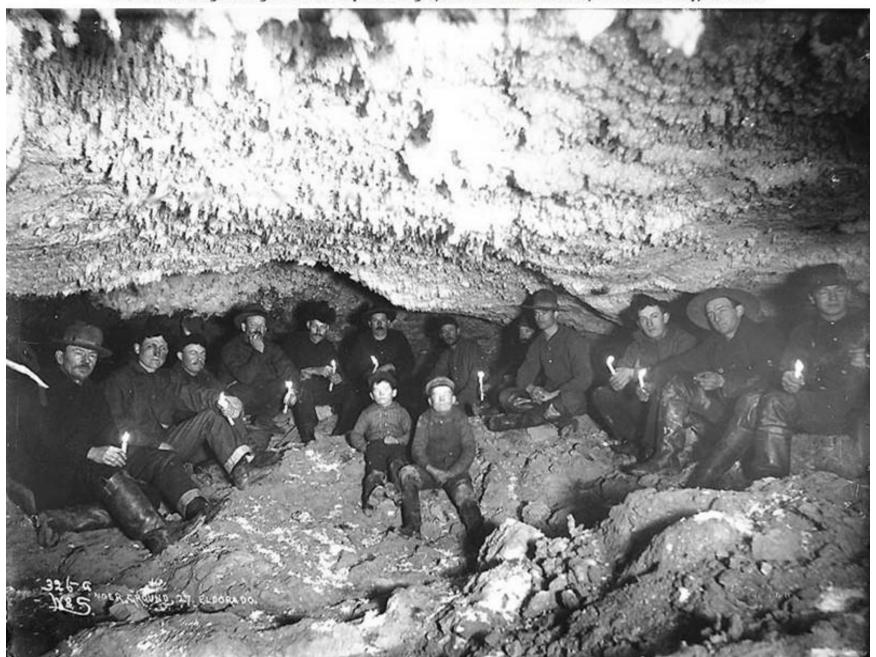
Mining operation on Eldorado Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



"Mucking thawed ground in a drift on 16 Eldorado," underground mining shaft in Yukon Territory.



Miners in underground gold mine lit by candlelight, No. 27 Eldorado Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



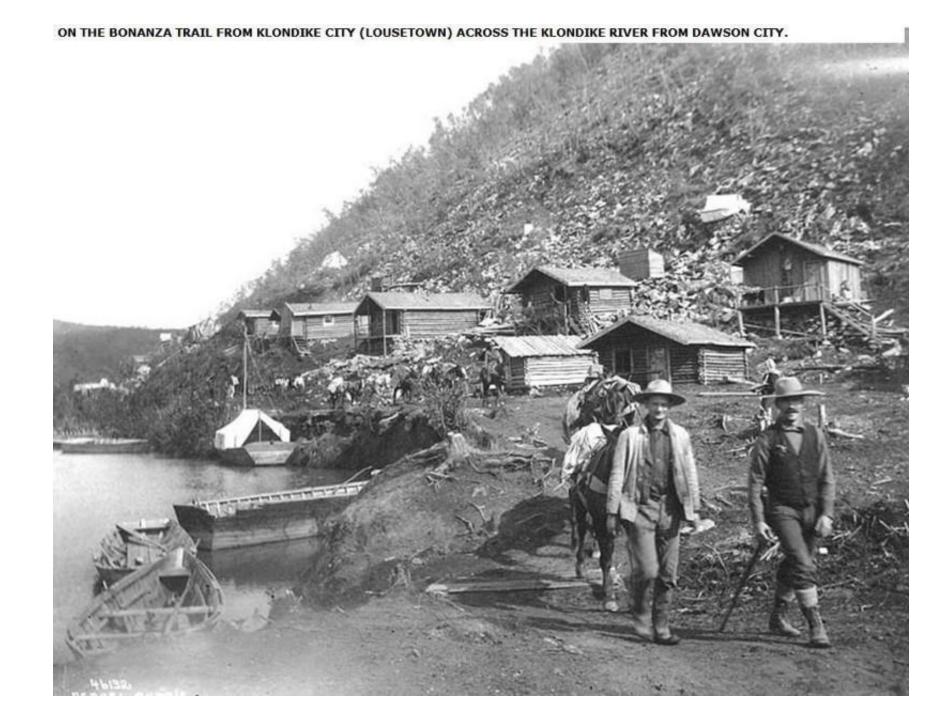
Winter dumps on Eldorado mining claims waiting to be washed in the Spring, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



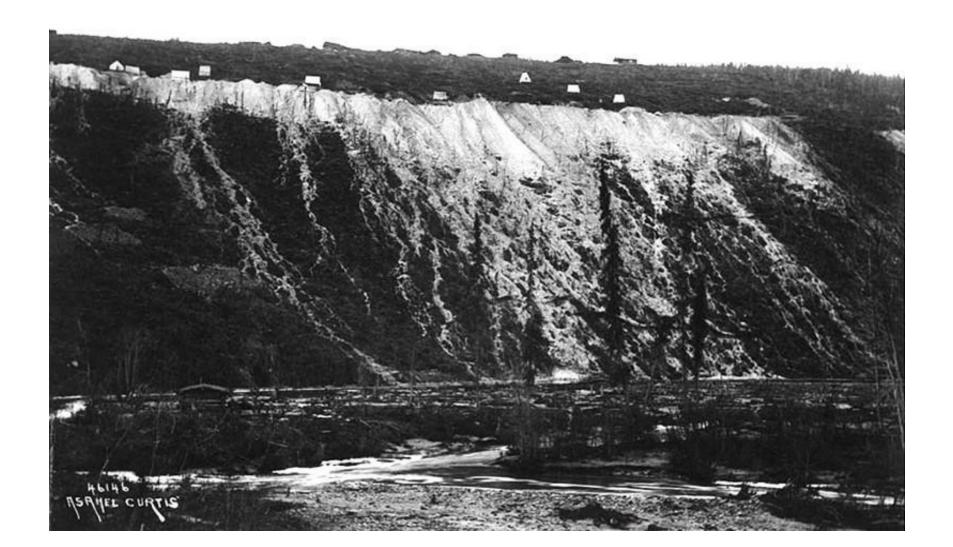
Panoramic view of Bonanza Creek and Gold Hill mining claims, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



Panoramic view of Bonanza Creek and Gold Hill mining claims, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



Klondiker with backpack and dog crossing Bonanza Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



Magnet Roadhouse, Bonanza Creek, 1899





Mary's Hotel at mining claim No. 20 below on Bonanza Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1899.



Franz cabin on mining claim no. 4 below Bonanza Creek, 1898



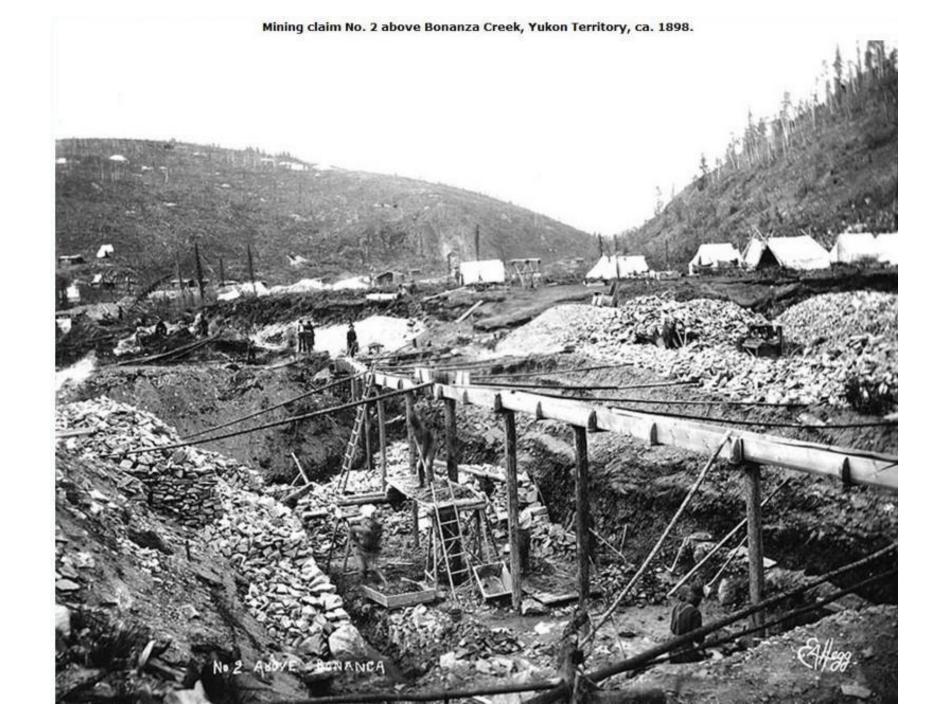
Klondikers in front of Ward's cabin on mining claim No. 4 below Bonanza Creek, 1899





Roadhouses and tents on mining claim No. 65 below Bonanza Creek, Yukon Territory, 1899





Gold mining operation on Bonanza Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1899. 65 58-59-60-61 BONANCE SELOW

Five men at mining operation, No. 5 below Bonanza Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1898.



Gold miners with a rocker at work on Skookum Hill, Bonanza Creek, Yukon Territory, ca. 1899.







Mining operation showing four men with gold pan and sluice, Bonanza Creek, 1898



Mining operations at the Yukon Goldfield Co., Bonanza Creek, 1899



Driving steam pipes into frozen tundra to thaw it, preparatory to dredging for gold; probably on Bonanza Creek, Yukon Territory, Canad



This ends the slide presentation of the Alaska Gold Rush of 1895 and the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897. Although none of the slides in this presentation depict Mr. Peter Decoto, the slides represent the trails he followed, the adventures he had seen and the locales he visited and worked. It gives us a local flavor to an epic global phenomenon known as the "GOLD RUSH DAYS."