

December 3, 1900

Dawson City, Yukon Territory

Dear Abigail,

I hope this letter finds you well in the warm climes of Seattle. The winter has been unrelenting here, with temperatures plummeting to  $-50^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-45.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) at times. The harsh conditions have tested my resolve, but I remain optimistic that the rich veins of gold will soon yield to our efforts.

I am writing to you from the Moosehide Native Village, where I have been stationed as a missionary. The villagers are resilient and determined, despite the unforgiving environment. Their knowledge of the land and its secrets has proven invaluable in our search for the elusive pay dirt.

Our expedition has been meticulously planning and mapping the terrain, utilizing the latest techniques in surveying and cartography. We have employed the use of theodolites to measure the angles and distances between prominent landmarks, ensuring an accurate representation of the topography. Our team has also been employing the methods of prospecting, including panning, sluicing, and dredging, to analyze the geological composition of the area.

In my analysis, I have identified several key indicators that suggest the presence of gold. The presence of quartz, sulfides, and other minerals in the area's bedrock, as well as the occurrence of placer deposits, all point to the likelihood of a significant gold find. The data collected from our panning and sluicing operations has also revealed a notable increase in gold content in the samples taken from the area near the confluence of the Klondike and Yukon rivers.

Our measurements have been consistent with the following data:

- Gold content in samples: 23.4 grains/ton (average of 30 samples)
- Quartz content: 45.6% (average of 20 samples)
- Sulfide content: 21.1% (average of 20 samples)
- Placer deposit size: 12.5 meters in length and 3.5 meters in width (average of 5 deposits)

These findings suggest that the area is likely to contain a significant gold deposit, warranting further exploration and extraction. I have attached a detailed map of the area, highlighting the location of the potential gold deposit, which I believe will be of great interest to you and our investors.

I must confess that the isolation and harsh conditions have taken their toll on our team. The psychological strain of living in such extreme conditions, combined with the physical demands of the work, has led to several cases of scurvy and frostbite. However, I remain optimistic that our efforts will soon yield the rewards we seek.

I look forward to sharing our findings with you in person when I return to Seattle. Until then, please know that I am thinking of you and the family.

Yours sincerely,

Elijah Wilson

Missionary, Moosehide Native Village

P.S. I have included a small sample of the gold ore, which I believe will be of interest to