

**March 10, 1898**

Dear Emma,

I hope this letter finds you well and the children thriving. I'm writing to you from Dawson City, where I've been stuck for weeks trying to resolve a peculiar issue. As you know, I've been running a small operation here, with a handful of men working for me on a percentage basis. We've had some promising finds, but the recent influx of new claim stakers has made it difficult to keep our operation running smoothly.

My main concern is that some of these newcomers seem to be staking claims on land that's already been mapped out by the Dominion Mining Regulations. Specifically, the area around the 16 Above Bonanza Creek claim seems to be attracting a lot of attention. I've spoken to some of the local officials, but no one seems to be willing to take action to prevent these unauthorized claims.

My question to you is: have you heard anything about these new regulations from outside? Are there any changes that I should be aware of that might be affecting the way claims are being staked? I've tried to research this myself, but the information is scarce and often conflicting.

Another issue that's been plaguing me is the supply of equipment and provisions. With the number of miners increasing, the prices for goods are sky-high, and it's becoming difficult to keep our men supplied. I've tried to negotiate with some of the local merchants, but they're taking advantage of our desperation.

Lastly, I've been having some trouble with one of our men, a young fellow named Jack. He's been acting suspiciously and has been seen talking to some of the gamblers in town. I'm worried that he might be getting in over his head or even involved in some of the local scams.

I'd love to hear your thoughts on these matters, Emma. Your insight and common sense are always invaluable to me. If you have any advice or suggestions, please share them with me.

Take care, and write back as soon as you can.

Your loving husband,

James

P.S. I've included a small sketch of the area around the 16 Above Bonanza Creek claim. Please take a look and see if you notice anything unusual.

**Investigation Objectives:**

1. Clarify the recent changes to claim staking regulations and their implications for existing claims.

2. Identify the source of the unauthorized claims around the 16 Above Bonanza Creek area.
3. Determine the root cause of