

DOCUMENT C

GEORGE CARMACK'S ACCOUNT

NAME: _____



BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE

George Carmack was an American prospector in Yukon. He was married to Tláa Shaw (Kate Carmack). He was originally credited with the discovery of gold at Bonanza Creek in 1896 that set off the Klondike Gold Rush.

“[On the return journey from Henderson’s camp on Gold Bottom] we finally struck our creek at the head of the south fork. We followed it down to where the north fork came in, this branch I followed up for about a quarter of a mile. I could not get any gold in either of these forks, but in the north fork, out of a **pan** full of gravel I got a third of a pan of ruby and black sand. ...

After going a couple of miles further down the creek I began to get a little gold, then I became more careful in my **prospecting**, following around each bend in the creek.... About half a mile below the forks of the creek that we had followed up before, we were walking along a high bank on the right limit where the creek made a sharp bend to the right and hard up against the hill. I was ahead and about fifty feet up from the water’s edge. I stepped and looked down the bank [w]here I saw a long narrow strip of bed-rock, about a hundred feet and from ten to twelve feet wide. Now! Here was the very thing I had been looking for, so waiting until my two companions caught up to me, I pointed down to the strip of bed-rock and said, ‘Look down there boys. If this creek is good for anything at all, we surely ought to find gold down there.’

Throwing off my pack, I walked down to the rim. As soon as I reached it, I stopped and looked down ... my heart skipped a beat, I rubbed my eyes with the back of my hand to wipe away a misty film that enveloped my pupils, then I reached down and picked up a nugget about the size of a dime ... I put it between [my teeth] and bit it like a schoolboy who had found a quarter in the garbage can. I looked up at my two companions, who had discarded their packs, and were sitting on the bank watching me. I held up the nugget between my thumb and forefinger and shouted, ‘Hiyu gold! Bring down the pan and shovel, hi yak.’”

Source: Wilkie R., and the Skookum Jim Friendship Center (1992). *Skookum Jim: Native and Non-Native Stories and Views about His Life and Times and the Klondike Gold Rush*. Government of Yukon.

http://assets.yukonarchives.ca/Wilkie_Skookum_Jim_1992.pdf

WORD BANK

Pan: A small pan used to wash sand or soil in water to separate out small pieces of gold.

Prospecting: The act of searching an area for gold or other natural and valuable materials. A person doing so was called a prospector.

DOCUMENT C – GUIDING QUESTIONS

Who was George Carmack?

What was his purpose in giving this account?

What about the source makes it good evidence for answering the Essential Question?

What about the source might limit its usefulness as evidence for answering the Essential Question?

What information in Document C extends or supports information from Documents A and B?



What information in Document C is different from information in Documents A and B?

What is the main message of George Carmack's account?

