



DAWSON CITY
CEMETERIES
WALKING
TOUR

DAWSON CITY CEMETERIES WALKING TOUR

During the height of the Klondike Gold Rush, Dawson City was a crowded, vibrant town of 30,000 to 40,000 residents. Many more lived and worked on the creeks and in the surrounding communities and accessed Dawson City as a service hub. Those who died were buried in the town's numerous cemeteries. There are Catholic, Protestant and Jewish cemeteries, as well as cemeteries for police and various fraternal orders. On your tour, you can visit graves of those Klondikers who contributed to life in Dawson City during the early 20th century.

In the early years, the only access to Dawson City was via the Yukon River, making it too costly to transport stone monuments. Instead, all grave markers were painted white, and names and information affixed with lead-based black paint. Creative local tinsmiths made and painted obelisks to resemble marble or granite. Unfortunately, the painted inscriptions have long since worn off.

Dawson City was a boomtown in its heyday, but as the original residents moved on, the population declined and the graves fell into disrepair. The town could not afford to maintain the cemeteries and so inscriptions, painted with names and dates, became too worn to read. By the 1960s when the population was fewer than 1,000, many of the original wooden markers had fallen to the ground.

Historic Sites

Thanks to careful research and restoration work done by the community with support from the Government of Yukon, most of the names are now known. Many crosses and markers have been restored and replaced. Visitors can now enjoy a leisurely stroll through the cemeteries to read the inscriptions.

By learning about members of the diverse population who gathered here during the gold rush, visitors can connect with the history of Dawson City.

Downtown Cemeteries and Gravesites

- A** Father Judge gravesite
- B** Third Avenue Cemetery
- C** Eighth Avenue Cemetery



Father William S. Judge, 1850-1899 “The Saint of Dawson”



A

Father William Judge is buried behind the church and the hospital he founded. To find his grave, go to the north end of Front Street and turn left on Judge Street. The gravesite is on the other side of a small, white building and overlooks the Yukon River.

Father William Judge was born in Baltimore, Maryland and raised as a devout Catholic. He was one of the first Jesuit missionaries in Alaska and he came to Yukon in 1894 to establish a mission at Forty Mile. When gold was discovered in the Klondike he relocated to Dawson City, arriving in March 1897.

Father Judge established Dawson City's first hospital, in a tent. It was quickly replaced by a log building, which soon filled to capacity. He arranged for the Sisters of St. Ann to travel to Dawson City to help run the hospital. Until they arrived in the spring of 1897, he worked tirelessly tending to the sick and burying the dead. Father Judge and the Sisters of St. Ann are credited with stemming Dawson City's 1898 typhoid epidemic.

Eventually a church was built next to the hospital, where Father Judge served as parish priest. He was well-loved by the community, particularly by miners, and due to his kindness and dedication to others, he became known as, “The Saint of Dawson.” Father Judge contracted pneumonia in January 1899 and passed away at the age of 49. His funeral was the largest in Dawson City's history and he was buried inside the church, with a gravestone erected in his honour. The church has since burnt down but his gravestone remains.



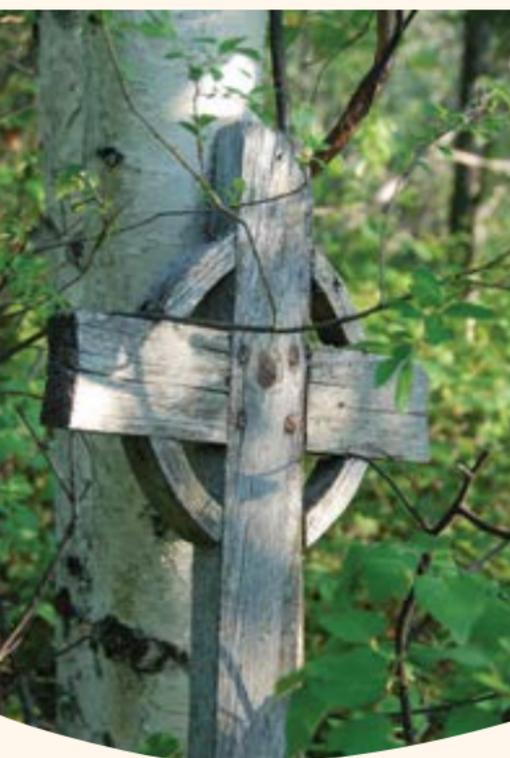
Third Avenue Cemetery



B

The Third Avenue Cemetery is located on the hillside immediately north of Third Avenue at Edward Street. The area is thick with spruce and poplar trees with an undergrowth of rose bushes.

This is Dawson City's first cemetery, with headstones dating back to 1897. The first burial was of Bert Stickney who died in May 1897, aged 26. Use of this cemetery ended in the early 1900s when the hillside cemeteries were built. Many of the grave fences and markers here are in poor condition and several graves are unmarked. However, if you venture a short distance north of Third Avenue, the remains of Dawson City's first cemetery are still clearly visible.



Yukon Order of Pioneers (Eight Avenue Cemetery)



The original Yukon Order of Pioneers (YOOP) Cemetery is located on Eighth Avenue between Queen and Princess streets.

This is the Yukon Order of Pioneers' original cemetery. The YOOP is a charitable, fraternal organization founded at the Forty Mile gold camp in 1894. For many years, its focus was to look after the welfare of "old-timers." YOOP Lodge No. 1 continues to meet monthly in Dawson City and to help those in need within the community.

Thomas W. O'Brien, 1862-1916



Photo credit: Dawson City Museum, 1998.22.686

Thomas W. O'Brien's white marble marker is located in the first row of graves, directly to the right of the entrance. Born in Barrie, Ontario, O'Brien arrived in Forty Mile in 1887 after completing military service. He went on to become a Dawson City entrepreneur and pioneer. He worked as a brewer for the Klondike Brewery, a railroader, a member of the Yukon Council and became owner of the Yukon Sun newspaper. He helped to found the Klondike/Dawson City Lodge of the Yukon Order of Pioneers and was its first president. He died in St. Mary's Hospital at the age of 54. His pallbearers included fellow community members C.W.C. Tabor and "Jack" Tremblay.

Frederick Washington Harte, d. 1897

Frederick Washington Harte's grave is the earliest known plot in the cemetery. It has a large stone obelisk and is located two rows from the front entrance, on the left side. The faded inscription identifies him as, "One of the earliest pioneers of the Yukon Valley." Harte was born in Ireland and was a graduate of the University of Dublin Medical College. After immigrating to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania he came to Yukon in 1873 and was among the first parties to prospect for gold. A charter member of the Pioneers, he worked for Jack McQuesten, Arthur Harper and Al Mayo, independent agents for the Alaska Commercial Company.

C.W.C. Tabor, d. 1917

Charles William Clifton Tabor's marker is a white marble cross, third row from the back of the cemetery. Tabor was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick. He studied law in the office of George Black, who later became Commissioner of the Yukon and Yukon's member of Parliament. Tabor was a lawyer to a large clientele of miners and mining companies. He also served as a Dawson City councillor and a member of the Yukon Legislative Assembly. Tabor married dancer Gertrude Lovejoy, known as "Diamond Tooth Gertie". Tabor Lakes in northern Yukon are named for him.

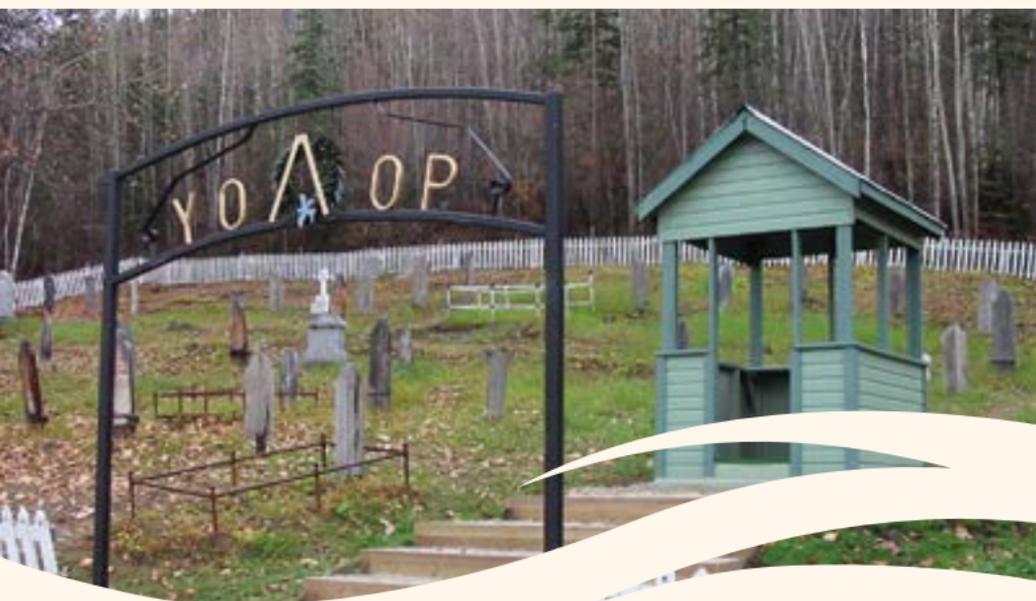




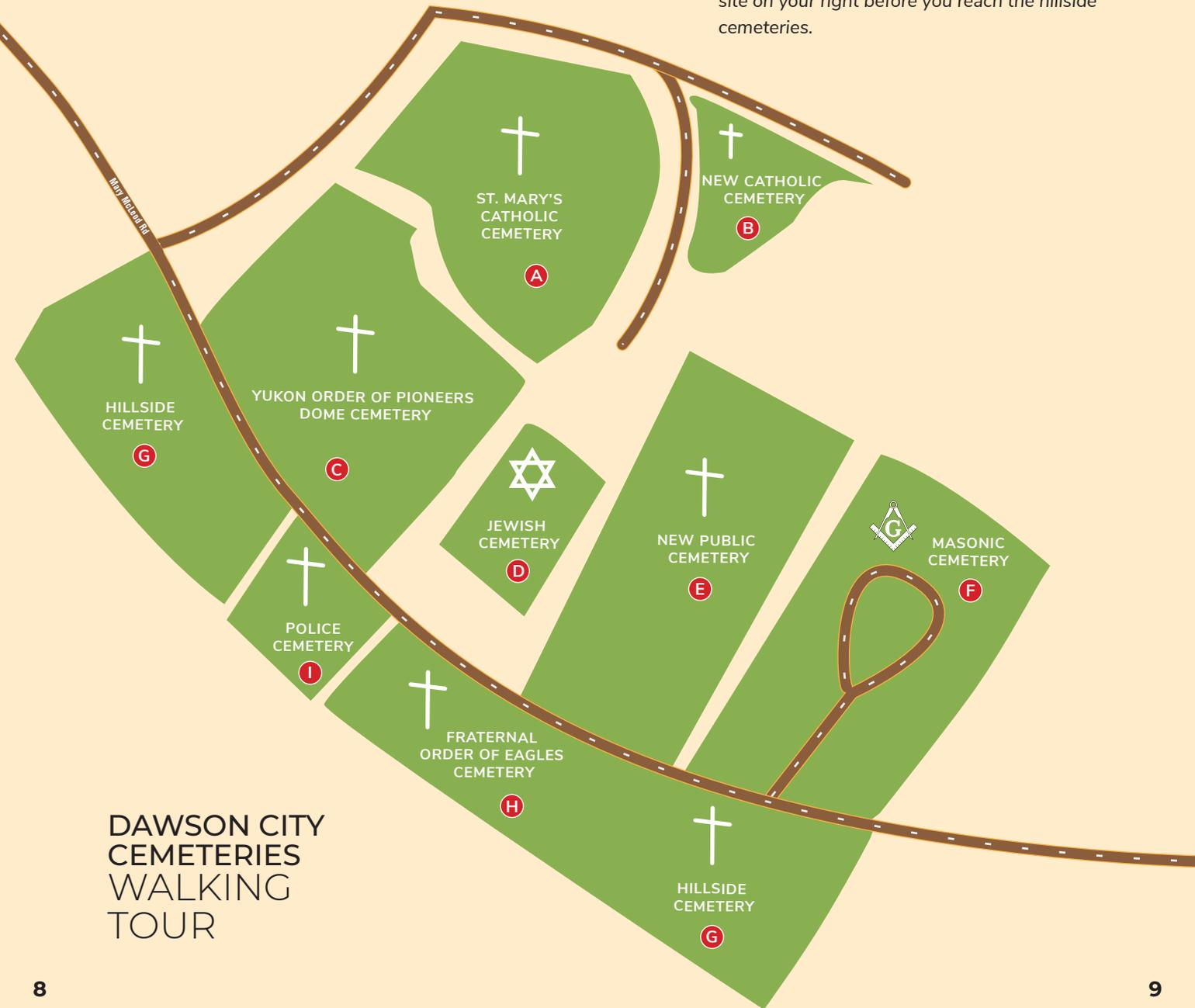
Photo credit: Dawson City Museum, 1998.53.1

The granite marker for George Brimston Sr. is at the very back of the cemetery. He is buried beside his young son, George Brimston Jr. who passed away only a year later. Born in Ireland, Brimston Sr. served at various times as a mail carrier, undertaker and sheriff. As a member of the Pioneers, he instituted the first Discovery Days celebration in 1915. Funded by public subscription, all the Discovery Day events and food were free and included taxis to and from the homes on the creeks for all the women and children. Discovery Days continue today and occur on the third weekend of August.



HILLSIDE CEMETERIES

As downtown cemeteries filled, burials were relocated to hillside cemeteries overlooking the town. To reach these cemeteries, walk to Seventh Avenue and turn north. Turn right on Mary McLeod Road and walk up the hill. The distance to the hillside cemeteries is approximately 2 km. You will pass Crocus Bluff recreation site on your right before you reach the hillside cemeteries.



DAWSON CITY CEMETERIES WALKING TOUR

➤ St. Mary's Cemetery ➤



To reach St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, take the first left off Mary McLeod Road. The large cemetery at the back with numerous crosses is St. Mary's.

The first recorded burial in this cemetery was of Charles Staley from Eureka, Utah, who died in 1898. The gravesite is the first on the left in Row I at the rear of the cemetery; the marker has not survived.

➤ Nolasque "Jack" Tremblay, d. 1935 ➤

"Jack" Tremblay's white marker with a green pipe is in Row XXI. An early Yukon prospector, Jack was mining on Miller Creek in 1896 when gold was discovered in the Klondike. He and his wife Emilie moved to Dawson City and mined successfully for several years. In 1915, as mining began to wane, Emilie established a shop where ladies could purchase the finest in French fashions and ribbons. The store stands today, under the care of Parks Canada, on the corner of Third and King streets.

Jack and Emilie were well loved and served as godparents to many local children. Jack was known in his later years as the "Grand Old Man." Although a place next to Jack's grave was left for Emilie, she was buried in Victoria, British Columbia.



Joseph Walter Kavetski, d. 1921



The grave marker for Joseph Walter Kavetski is in Row XVI and consists of an old wooden fragment and a flat, newer marble stone. Joseph was born in Poland and, as a youth, immigrated to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He arrived in Dawson City just after the Klondike Gold Rush at the invitation of his cousin, Andrew Rystogi, a local entrepreneur. By 1909, Kavetski had purchased the Harness Shop on Third Avenue where he lived and made fine harnesses for horses and dogs. Today, a facsimile of the Harness Shop can be found at the original location; it serves as the territorial agent's office.



Emma Woods, d. 1914



Upon her death, friends of Emma Woods honoured her by marking her grave with a large cross and metal surround. You can find it in Row XIII, on the right side of the cemetery. Originally from Kentucky, Woods was living in Helena, Montana when she heard news of the Klondike gold strike. She hiked over the Chilkoot Pass, registered in a passing boat at Tagish Post and arrived in Dawson City by 1898. She became a member of Dawson City's sizeable Black community and was employed in the household of the Dell Bundy family. Originally a Baptist, she converted to Catholicism prior to her death.



Alexander McDonald, 1856-1909 "King of the Klondike"

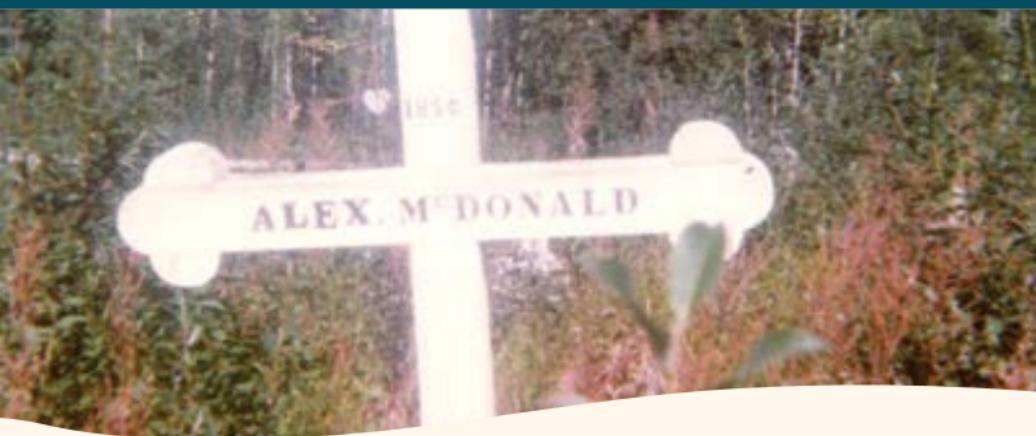


Photo credit: Dawson City Museum, 1998.22.405

Alex McDonald's wooden marker is in the middle of Row VI with a silver pipe surround. At one time, McDonald held more claims in the Klondike than any other individual with a total yield of \$8 million in gold, earning him the title "King of the Klondike". He was a very generous man and when Father Judge's church was destroyed by fire in 1898, McDonald donated all the money needed to rebuild it, earning him a knighthood from the Vatican.

McDonald, like many other miners, thought his money supply would never end. However, he died in poverty and alone while chopping wood near his cabin in the Clear Creek area.

Merilda Pepin (née St. Pierre), 1881-1909



Photo credit: Dawson City Museum, 1984.147.3

Merilda Pepin died in childbirth aged 28. An elaborate wooden marker was painted to resemble marble and was placed at her grave, in Row V, bordered by a fence. The marble marker has since been replaced by a white cross. The Pepins belonged to Dawson City's large French-Canadian community. When Merilda died on March 2nd, 1909, over 100 people attended her funeral at the Catholic church. The coffin was carried to its final resting place in a horse-drawn glass sled hearse.

Arthur and Albert Mainville, d. 1906

The grave marker for baby twins Arthur and Albert Mainville is in Row III, with pipe surround and a striking heart-ornament. Tragedy struck the family when the babies died within a few days of each other of “summer complaint,” then a common euphemism for dehydration or heat-related illness. Their grieving parents had lost another young child just 17 months earlier. The faded marker is difficult to read but states in French, “They loved each other in this world and death would not separate them”.

The Vaglio Family, d. 1912



Photo credit: Dawson City Museum, 1990.54.28

The Vaglio family's large stone marker is in Row XI. On July 4th, 1912, in one of Dawson City's most shocking crimes, Eugene Vaglio killed his sister, brother-in-law and two nieces. Vaglio then turned the gun on himself. The killings occurred after Vaglio's advances toward his 16-year-old niece were rebuffed. The Vaglio family are buried together here, while Eugene was buried without a funeral and in a public grave.

Cross the lane to visit the
New Catholic Cemetery



B

Sisters of St. Ann – Mary Lidwine, d. 1909
Mary John Damacene, d. 1923
Mary Antonia of Jesus, d. 1935
Mary Gédéon, d. 1950

In the shade of a large tree, this single gravesite is marked by a white cross and a grey granite stone. You can find it three rows from the back and two rows over from the woods. Father Judge recruited the Sisters of St. Ann to work at the new St. Mary’s Hospital in 1897. They were remembered for their hard work and care for Dawson City’s elders. Many of the sisters died from illnesses contracted on the job, while Sister Mary Gédéon died in the fire that destroyed the hospital in 1950.



Mathilde “Ruby” Scott, d. 1974



The gravesite of Mathilde “Ruby” Scott, the last woman to run a brothel in Dawson City, is located in the fourth row from the top, and the fourth plot from the road. Scott arrived from Paris, France, in 1935 and took over a boarding house on Second Avenue. She ran Ruby’s Place for almost three decades until a federal decision on prostitution forced her to close in 1961. While Scott’s grave marker has not survived, the building which housed Ruby’s Place still stands, next to Bonanza Market.

Walk down the lane to the rear entrance of the YOOP Dome Cemetery



The hillside Yukon Order of Pioneers Cemetery is surrounded by a white picket fence and is situated on the corner of the Old Dome Road and Mary McLeod Road. A metal archway over the entrance at the south end of the cemetery, displays the letters YOOP.

Percy DeWolfe, 1877-1951

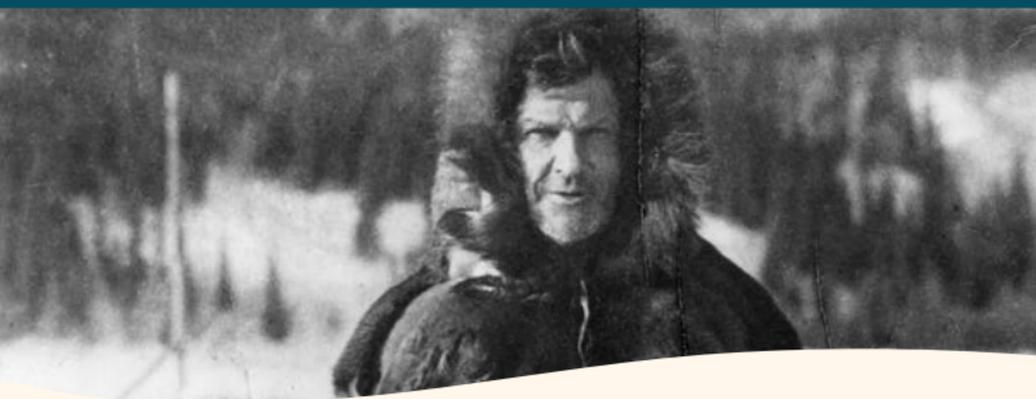


Photo credit: Dawson City Museum, 1998.22.673

Percy DeWolfe's grey granite marker is located in the back row, east side of the cemetery. DeWolfe arrived in Dawson City in 1898 with Peter Anderson, his friend and partner. They established a summer commercial fishing enterprise and a winter freight hauling business using horse and dog teams. From 1910 to 1949, DeWolfe carried the mail between Dawson City and Eagle, Alaska. The dangerous work on the Yukon River ice earned him a silver medal for outstanding service from King George in 1935. DeWolfe was known locally as "The Iron Man," for his physical endurance. Today, the Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Race celebrates his accomplishments. This 338 km dog sled race begins outside his former workplace at the Old Post Office on King Street and follows his mail route to Eagle, Alaska and back.



David Ballentine, 1874-1956

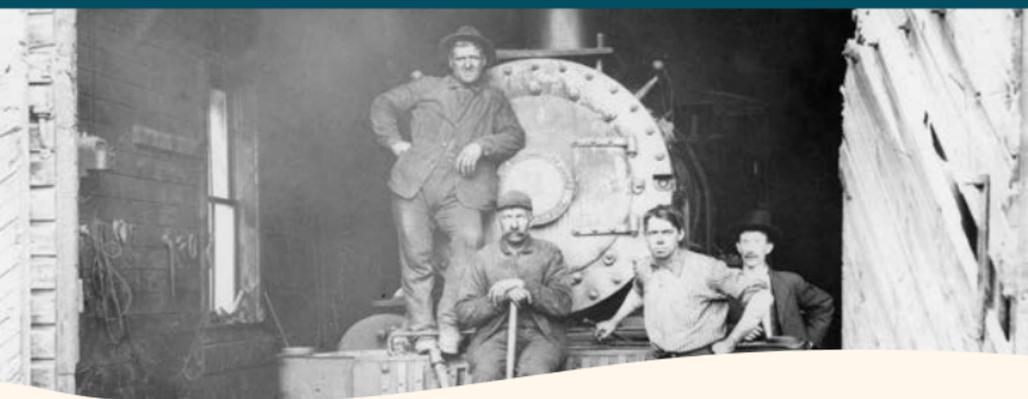


Photo credit: Dawson City Museum, 2005.450.1

David Ballentine's gravesite and granite marker are located in the third row from the back of the cemetery. Born in Saint John, New Brunswick, Ballentine came to Dawson City during the gold rush of 1898. While he never found gold, he worked as a carpenter and helped construct the original Palace Grand Theatre for "Arizona Charlie" Meadows. The lot was purchased from Joe Ladue, a founder of Dawson City, and the lumber came from two wrecked steamboats. When Parks Canada reconstructed the theatre in the early 1960s, a beam was found with Ballentine's signature. He went on to become fire chief for Dawson City and, at the time of his death, he was the last resident member of the Arctic Brotherhood, a fraternal organization of members who came to the Klondike during the gold rush.



Shosa "Sam" Kawahara, 1881-1971



Sam Kawahara's flat marker is white marble and is located in front of the spruce tree. One of several Japanese immigrants who came to Dawson City after the big rush, Kawahara worked as a camp cook for many years. He was well-liked and lived to 90 years of age.

Jack Meloy, 1894-1973 and Hazel Meloy, d. 1983



Photo credit: Dawson City Museum, 1998.22.354

Jack and Hazel Meloy's black marble marker is on the east side of the first row and has the epitaph, "Life's Work Well Done." This pioneer couple epitomized the spirit of rugged independence and self-reliance. Hazel was a descendant of John Hunt Morgan, a Confederate officer who terrorized the American Midwest during the Civil War. Jack, born in Yakima, Washington, ran away from home at the age of 12. They met in the Chisana district of Alaska, where they both worked packhorse trains supplying miners. The couple came to Yukon in 1913. They married at Fort Selkirk, lived on the banks of the Yukon River and operated trading posts at Coffee Creek and Thistle Creek. Later, they settled at Kirkman Creek. In the mid-1960s they moved to the corner of Harper Street and Eighth Avenue in Dawson City to be closer to medical care. A creek in the Dawson Range is named for Jack Meloy.

Immediately beside the YOOP Cemetery to the left (as you face the road) is the Jewish Cemetery, surrounded by a white picket fence. It is set in from the road and marked by the Star of David.



D

The Baron de Hirsch congregation established the Bet Chaim cemetery in 1902. At that time, Dawson City's Jewish congregation had nearly 200 members. There are five known burial sites here, but the only identified grave belongs to Solomon Packer. Several other members of the congregation are buried in the Hillside Cemetery.

— † — Solomon Packer, 1861-1918 — † —

Solomon Packer was a popular merchant who owned a hardware store on Front Street. He was born Aaron Yehudah ben Pekler in the Ukraine and immigrated to North America in the late 1880s, arriving in Dawson City during the gold rush. Packer passed away suddenly at the age of 57 and has the only identified plot in the small cemetery. As indicated on the marker, he was a member of the Yukon Order of Pioneers, but chose to be buried in the cemetery of his faith. His good friend, Harry Pinkiert of San Francisco, likely erected the grave marker. Pinkiert was a Dawson City businessman and president of the Baron de Hirsch congregation.

— † — Louis Alton, 1861-1901 — † —

The first burial at Bet Chaim was for Louis Alton, on February 8th, 1901. A Russian immigrant, he came to Dawson City to work as a merchant. His well-known cousin, Louis Sloss, was the general manager of the Alaska Commercial Company. Alton died from pneumonia; his grave is unidentified.



Beside the Jewish Cemetery is the New Public Cemetery, with a white picket fence in front.

The Town of Dawson cleared land for the New Public Cemetery in 1977 when the older Hillside Cemetery was full.



Elwyn “Taffy” Williams, d. 1978



Elwyn Williams' gravesite is on the far left side of the cemetery. It has a white picket fence, and a dark brown headboard; it is almost totally obscured by trees. “Taffy” was originally from Wales. He worked for the Yukon Consolidated Gold Company and maintained a small log cabin on Queen Street. He shared vegetables and flowers from his beautiful garden with friends and strangers and entertained visitors with his substantial record collection. The inscription on his marker, a “gentle gentleman”, reflects the high regard in which he was held by the community.



❖ Francois Perret and Zdenka Snajberk, d. 1977

Francois Perret and Zdenka Snajberk were buried together with a joint headstone, which you can find on the left, surrounded by a picket fence. When 76-year-old Perret became gravely ill in their cabin on Upper Bonanza in December of 1977, Snajberk, then 65 years old, set out on foot in extremely cold weather to seek help. Her frozen body was found on the trail, and when the search party arrived at the cabin, they found Perret also had died.

❖ Doris Vogler (d. 1992) and Joseph Vogler (d. 1993)

Doris and Joseph Vogler's gravesite is surrounded by a white picket fence, located adjacent to Perret and Snajberk's headstone. Joe led a movement for a "free Alaska" seeking secession from the United States. He advocated for the creation of a separate country by joining a free Alaska with Yukon and part of northern British Columbia, with laws favourable to miners. Although an American, he vowed never to be buried in Alaska until it was "free". An Alaskan flag marks this gravesite; followers visit each year.



Michael “Black Mike” Winage 1869-1977



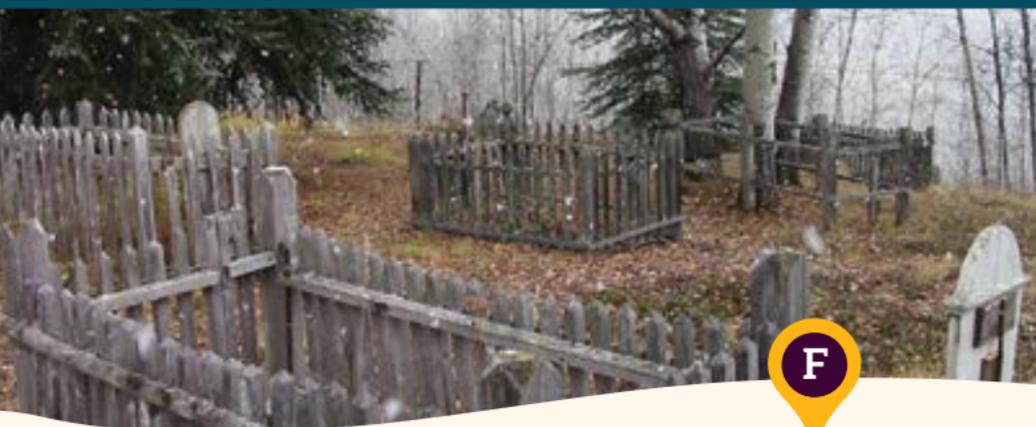
Photo credit: Dawson City Museum, 2005.455.3

“Black Mike” Winage’s marker is located in the fourth row from the back, and is the third from the left. It is a flat black stone found between two graves with picket fences. Winage was born in Serbia, and after immigrating to Canada, he moved north and took a variety of jobs, which spawned his many nicknames.

He was named “Big Mike” for his height and “Sawdust Mike” for his work in the lumber industry. Finally, coal shovelling earned him the name “Black Mike”.

Winage had many memorable adventures including, at the age of 98, successfully panning for gold in the dirt beneath former gold rush bars. He was 107 years old when he died and he was featured in National Geographic as the epitome of the hard-working, and often eccentric, personality of the North.

Beside the New Public Cemetery is the Masonic Cemetery, which has a blue and white picket fence.



F

Although a Masonic lodge was organized in Dawson City in 1901, the land for this cemetery was not acquired until 14 years later. The first burial here was recorded on April 4th, 1915. Two tall trees mark the entrance.



Adam Mackay, d. 1921



Photo credit: Dawson City Museum, 1984.107.9

Adam Mackay's flat, black marble marker is located on the left side, next to the fence. Mackay had moved from Ontario to Nebraska, then to Oregon before joining the Klondike stampede in 1898. His wife and their daughter arrived in the Klondike the following year when Mackay obtained a "lay" (the mining rights) on a claim. Mackay later gave up mining, worked for a sawmill, and then established a dairy farm. The couple's daughter, Lucile Hooker lived in Dawson City until 1931. Hooker died in Vancouver in 1999 at the age of 107.

Thomas Firth, 1867-1941

Thomas Firth's marker is on the right side, close to the fence, and is made of raised granite. Firth arrived in Dawson City in 1898. He mined on Little Blanche Creek and Mint Gulch, and in 1906 he left mining to establish an insurance company on Queen Street. With the financial security this provided, he was in a position to propose marriage to Delia Warrilow of Owen Sound, Ontario, with whom he had been corresponding for 17 years. Their home on Seventh Avenue still stands. In the 1930s, their son Howard joined the family business and in 1941 he took over the firm. In 1954, TA Firth & Son Insurance Ltd. relocated to Whitehorse where it continues to be operated by family members.

Cross the road from the Masonic Cemetery and you will be in the old section of Hillside Cemetery.

Hillside Cemetery



This cemetery was established in 1898. It encompasses two other smaller cemeteries: the Police Cemetery and the burial plot of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. The Hillside Cemetery is also known as the Public Cemetery or the Protestant Cemetery.

In the oldest part, at the east end, there is a plot with graves of several children.

❖ Aino Ida Kaakinen, d. 1905 ❖

Aino Ida Kaakinen's grave is at the east end of the cemetery, surrounded by other graves. The grave marker has been mounted on a tree to ensure its survival. Aino Ida was the 11-month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Kaakinen of Finland. She was one of three Dawson City children to die within a 24-hour period of unknown causes referred to as "dysentery, summer complaint, or fever," or possibly malaria. Her parents had a fence constructed around the site and over the past 100 years a huge spruce tree has grown in the middle of the grave.

❖ Otokichi Arami, d. 1901 ❖

Otokichi Arami's wooden marker can be found on the southern side, partially obscured by trees. It is inscribed in Japanese and English. Otokichi was born in Iyo, Japan. He died in 1901 aged 36 from liver cancer. His death was not reported in the local newspaper and little is known of him. But he was not forgotten; his marker was erected in July 1904 by H.U. Matsumoto, whose relationship to the deceased remains unknown.

❖ Stewart Menzies, d. 1910 ❖

Stewart Menzies' grave is commemorated with a steel marker. A spruce tree is growing in front of the marker, in the row immediately across from the cemetery entrance. Menzies was popular and well regarded for his considerate nature. He was born in Peru of Scottish parents, and as a young man, went to San Francisco as an apprentice shipbuilder. He worked his way to chief engineer at the Portland Power and Light Company, and chief of the steamer George W. Elder, a job that took him north. He was master mechanic at the Yukon Gold Company near Ogilvie Bridge before his accidental death at age 42. Menzies died when a loose wheel he was investigating fell on him. His intervention saved several other workers from injury.

➤ Josiah Perkins, 1843-1910 ➤

Josiah Perkins' white marble marker is located across the road from the Masonic Cemetery entrance, four rows from the road, and very close to Stewart Menzies' grave. Perkins died in 1910 aged 67. He was among those who had come to Dawson City during the gold rush via the Chilkoot Pass. He and Sharron, his partner, operated a store in the town. He had served in the "Grand Army of the Republic" in the New Hampshire Infantry on the side of the Union. This is the only American Civil War monument in Dawson City.

➤ Chester Henderson, 1918-1971 ➤



Photo credit: Dawson City Museum, 2005.450.1

Chester Henderson's gravesite is marked by a flat, grey marble stone within a white picket fence near the road, two rows in. He was the grandson of Robert Henderson, one of the first to discover gold on Gold Bottom Creek. Chester was a woodcutter and collector of fine guns and axes. He prospected each summer in the belief that the "motherlode" was yet to be found. He was a quiet man who lived in a log cabin, away from the bustle of town, on the banks of the Klondike River at Henderson's Corner.

✂ Fraternal Order of Eagles Plot ✂



H

Photo credit: Dawson City Museum, 1976.2.387

The Fraternal Order of Eagles plot is located beside the road with a large concrete marker in the background. The Dawson Aerie 50 was a popular and large organization that enjoyed a full social calendar and extended its charity to members and their families. With 35 founding members in March 1900, membership grew within a few months to over 225. There are 13 identified graves in this plot but only three names are discernable—Gus Gustafson, J.T. Mahoney and Owen Chapman.

✂ Police Cemetery ✂



I

The Police Cemetery is located in a fenced area immediately beside the road. There are 18 graves dating from 1896 to 1936 that continue to be maintained by members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



Charlie Rivers, 1894-1977



Charlie Rivers is buried beside his wife and infant daughter; their flat marker is located directly behind the police cemetery. Rivers lived to the age of 83. He was born at the Forty Mile gold camp and later moved upriver to Dawson City. During this time, it was common for First Nation men to be appointed special constables with the North West Mounted Police for their knowledge and skill in traversing the Yukon wilds. Special Constable Rivers was a member of Corporal Dempster's unit sent to find the famous Lost Patrol.



Edward Flett, 1879-1899



Edward Flett's marker is easily located at the south end of the RCMP markers. Flett joined the North West Mounted Police at age 19 on January 18th, 1898. As a special constable he earned, "Pay at a rate of \$30 a month with rations and a bonus of \$10 per month if found satisfactory" and signed an oath of allegiance to Queen Victoria. He died from tuberculosis on February 15th, 1899.





Photo credit: Dawson City Museum, 1981.58.1.15

A black iron cross and Czech flags mark Jan Welzl's gravesite just west of the police plots. Born in Zabreh, in what is now the Czech Republic, Welzl led a life of adventure and discovery across the North. He was known locally as "John Inventor" for his attempt to create a perpetual motion machine. He was also known internationally for his popular book, *Thirty Years in the Golden North*. His exploits inspired many, including an astronomer who in 1998 named asteroid 15425 "Welzl" in his honour. Each year small delegations of followers visit this site to conduct memorial services.

In Conclusion

There is not enough space in this publication to tell the stories of all the memorable Klondikers buried in Dawson City's cemeteries. The creek banks and hills of the Klondike also hold the remains of unknown men, women and children. The mining communities of Granville, Grand Forks, and Gold Bottom each had their own cemetery, though very few markers are legible or have survived.



The Dawson City Cemeteries Walking Tour was produced in conjunction with the Dawson City Museum.

If you have additional information, please contact Government of Yukon Cultural Services Branch at 867-667-3458.

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Unless otherwise noted, Government of Yukon photos.