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Read by Mike Dalton at Rampart, Alaska

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Summary created by: Varpu Lotvonen

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Notes: Original on 7-inch tape, master copy on CD

Mike Dalton is looking at a book that is 2.5-3 inches thick and about 12-inches wide and maybe 16-18 inches high. It's the earliest recording book in Rampart. Rampart gold was discovered in 1893 and the present Commissioner, Harry Havarlack, said that the earlier recordings by commissioners were done on separate creeks, so there are separate volumes for creeks like Ruby and Hunter, Big Manook, and Slate Creeks. The first entry in the book Mike is reading is dated May 25th, 1898. The book has been water damaged by flood that hit Rampart in 1963-1964. The first pages are difficult to read. The recorder at that time was J. P. Bouscaveu, or that's what it looks like to Mike since the text is difficult to read due to water damage. At a later entry the recorder's name appears to be J. P. Bouscaren.

An entry on July 5th, 1898 is signed by J. W. Blanks. It says that J. W. Blanks will transfer his right, title, and interest to lot 10 at block 9 to Sydney Cahen. Witness is C. H. Knapp. The recorder writes that he certifies the above to be a true copy of the original, signed by J. P. Bouscaren.

3:33 On 2nd of July, 1898, Alexander P. McDonell certifies that he has been given \$500 dollars by John Bach and John C. Palm for town lot no. 8 at block no. 6, situated in the Rampart City, Alaska. It's signed, sealed and delivered in presence of a witness, W. G. Pinecoffin.

October 1st, 1898 entry addresses Mr. J. P. Bouscaren, the recorder of Rampart City, Alaska. It's a letter that says that Garnet W. Cohen owes the writer of the letter \$118 dollars for wages that were guaranteed to the writer who was working for Mr. Cohen on 1 Above the Little Minook Creek at Minook Mining District. If Cohen's cabin on lot no. 14, block E is sold, the \$118 dollars must be paid for the writer before the sale can be made. Deputy Marshal certifies that the letter is a true copy of the original from July 29th, 1898.

At 6:04 there's an entry from July 30, 1898. F. H. Stickney appoints T. M. Crawford to be his true and lawful attorney to sell, transfer, and convey all of his title and interests to up river 1 ½ lot 2 in block B in town site of Rampart City.

On 28th of July, 1898 Harold Sidebotham writes that he was paid \$650 by John C. Paoul [sp? Powell?] who now owns the town lot no. 6, block no. 6 with cabin and a cache. Signed, sealed and delivered by Duke F. Baxter and the witness, the deputy recorder certifies that the above is a true copy of the original.

There is a document that is dated June 1st, 1891, but recorded later. It says that the writer gives the right to sell, convey and transfer any property that the writer may own in Rampart City, to Harold Sidebotham. Signed by George E. Coleman and witnessed by J. H. McGraw.

8:57 August 2nd, 1898 [Unclear] in the cabin and the lot no. 19 in block K in Rampart City sells it to J. H. Green for \$200 dollars. Witnessed by A. P. Ozouf, Sam Hubbard Jr., and Walter H. Adams.

4th of August, 1898 L. H. Male sells for \$1 dollar all his right, title and interest to the North Half of Lot 4 in block 4 in the town site of Rampart City, Alaska, to Neil M. Thornson. B. A. Oliver and M. C. Fleischman are the witnesses. This is certified by the recorder, J. P. Bouscaren.

At 11:30 Mike Dalton mentions a bill of sale that is recorded on 12th of August, 1898. Bill of sale is to certify that Duke F. Baxter sells his right and interest to lot no. 5, block L to C. J. Leersen for \$1 dollar. "For church purposes" is written in the parenthesis. Witnesses are C. H. Knapp and M. J. Williams and Colin Beaton is the deputy recorder.

In August, 1898 there seems to be a new recorder in Rampart City as the writing in the recorder's book becomes beautiful script writing. Mike flips through the book to see how long it goes and says the writing continues like that for some time. There is an entry that is dated August 17th, 1898. Mike notes that August 17th happens to be the discovery day at Dawson. In this entry, Thomas A. Marshal sells, conveys and transfers his lot B, Block C to A. K. Miller for \$1 dollar. Witnesses: R. C. Washburn and T. F. Grant.

14:26 Mike says there is a bill of sale from August 18th, 1898. In it Duke F. Baxter sells to Harold Sturges [possibly Sturgis] his half of lot no. 6, block 2 in Rampart, Alaska, for \$500 dollars. Witnesses are Samuel Hubbart Jr. [possibly Hubbard] and J. L. Muldooney. The recorder is T. M. Crawford.

The next day, August 19th, says that the deed of bargain considering lot no. 151 in block P was made in 6th of August [but as Mike notes, it was entered later] between B. W. Moore Jr. and J. J. Daly, who paid Moore \$25 dollars. There is a recorder's certificate with witnesses E. Bartlett and C. A. Packard. It's also recorded by T. M. Crawford.

17:25 Mike mentions two recordings by women in the City of Rampart. One was recorded on August 25th, 1898. The document was dated earlier, on May 24th, 1898. It concerns Kitty Pilkinton appointing T. M. Crawford her attorney in order to transfer and convey any mining property or town lots she possesses in Rampart. This was witnessed by W. E. Walch.

Mary F. Llewellyn transfer to George W. Stein her title and right to East 1 ½ lot on block 7 in Rampart City for \$1 dollar. 24th of August, 1898, signed by Mary F. Llewellyn. Witness is Mrs. Jenny Urgubart. [Break in the recording.]

19:20 September 15th, 1898 the recorder, T. M. Crawford held a public auction on properties that had apparently been abandoned or repossessed or condemned. First entry says that T. M. Crawford certifies that on 15th of September in 1898, after a public notice and waiting for 5 days, he held a public auction to M. A. Kimble for \$15 dollars [sold the auctioned items to Mr. Kimble?]. The lot no. 3 in block 2 below

was seemingly forfeited to the people of Rampart City due to the failure of the locator [possibly she means a failure to locate the owner]. Mike has trouble reading the passage. She explains that the person who bought the lot was apparently required to build a cabin there, but didn't.

Another entry on September 15th: T. M. Crawford says that he posted a public notice and after 5 days he sold in a public auction to C. R. Peg and J. I. Lewis for the sum of \$1 dollar, lot no. 1. The lot was forfeited to the people of Rampart City due to the failure of the locator. Mike says that the recorder's book goes on and on with foreclosed sales. [Break in the recording.] Mike says there were 19 sales of property on 15th of September, 1898. She says it would be interesting to read the minutes of board of trustees meetings [where the decisions to auction were made].

At 23:07 Mike finds an interesting name: Rex E. Beach. That was one of the sales on September 15th. On September 17th, Rex E. Beach and his attorney, Colin Beaton, hereby transfer a sing and convey [this section is unclear, possibly she means assess and convey] to David Brown and H. B. Kench his right, title and interest to Down River 1 ½ lot no. 4 in block 6 in Rampart City, Alaska for \$175 dollars. The entry is signed in presence of Rex E. Beach by his attorney, Colin Beaton. Recorder is T. M. Crawford and witnesses are Phoebe J. Hoover and Peter Jackson. [Break in the recording.]

On September 24th, 1898 the Rampart City recorder, T. M. Crawford held another public auction of properties in Rampart and sold 13 parcels of land to the highest bidder. Mike says it seems like people were pulling out in 1898. [Break in the recording.]

25:54 A man from Eagle City, Alaska, was recording in Rampart for a transfer of a piece of property. There is something on darker ink concerning summer time travel: The undersigned certify that A. Dunham, the first assistant engineer of steamer Rideout, has been found asleep while on duty and while the boat was on steam on several occasions. The Rideout was sailing from St. Michaels, starting on September 17th and arriving September 28th, 1898. The master of the ship has been notified. This was signed on 30th of September, 1898 by Alex Campbell, Frank Tucker, and M. W. Walbridge. Campbell is the steward of the Rideout, Tucker is the first mate and Walbridge was a passenger. There is a certificate that the above is a true copy, recorded by Mr. Crawford.

The passenger who filed the complaint apparently was at Rampart to stay because Mr. Crawford has recorder entry where he says he rented to M. W. Walbridge a log cabin that's on lot no. 2, block 3 for 7 months with rent being \$30 dollars a month.

There's a name Mayo on recorder's book. It's recorded on October 1st, 1898, but the document was authored on September 24th, 1898. There's beautiful script writing that Mr. Crawford used when he had time for it, writing less beautifully on other occasions: Undersigned citizen has claimed 160 acres of coal lands in district that is 250 feet above Mike Hess Creek, but on opposite side of river. There's a notice of location: running upstream for 2640 feet there's a left angle, 2640 feet, another left angle, and yet another, leading to the point of discovery. It's dated September 24th, 1898 and signed by L. H. Mayo, and recorded by Crawford.

30:51 Recorded on a same day, on October 1st, there is one by H. W. Cantwell. Cantwell sells to Jean Sullivan [possibly Gene Sullivan] his right, title and interest in west or lower 1 ½ of lot 14, Block B and all building improvements from there on for \$250 dollars. [Recording becomes inaudible.]

At 32:56 the recording resumes. Mike says that on 7th of October, the city of Rampart had another public auction of properties that had been forfeited by their former owners. About 7 of those were sold.

On September 9th, 1897 there is a letter that authorizes Frank Staley to sell lot 10 in block M. Signed by Helen M. Healy and witnessed by J. H. Bouse. On November 6th there is a contract of marriage in recorder's book: The marriage was entered in 6th of November, 1898 by Robert Craven and Ida Sachsi. [The whole vow was written in the recorder's book.] Witnesses were: Thomas D. Drew, Mrs. Bessie Raymond, Archie Mitchell and P. A. Lester.

36:07 Rampart City, November 25th, 1898 lot 8 on block B is claimed for building 4 houses by M. N. Kibmle [Kimbel? Kimble? Kimmel?]. Another one sentence entry is from November 25th and lot 7, block B2 is claimed for building 4 houses by John J. Crowley. In both cases houses are spelled "hoses".

On December 10th there was another public auction of properties where 14 parcels were sold. Mike says she will read a typical entry in the recorder's book which was by the order of 1st Lieutenant Edward Bell. She says she's not sure who the Lieutenant Bell is. There was an Army base in Alaska, but Mike isn't sure if Signal Corps was in at the time. In the entry, the recorder certifies that on 10th of December, 1898, he is following a request of First Lieutenant Edward Bell. After 5 days of public notice he sold lot no. 8 in block B2 in a public auction to David Johnson for \$35 dollars in the town site of Rampart City. Said lot was previously declared by Edward Bell and it was forfeited to the people by reason of failure to build according to the laws of Rampart City.

December 14th, 1898 J.F. Cryder of Dawson City, NW-Territory, Canada, sells in lot 8, block 10 to John J. Healy. Witnessed in September 15th, 1898 G. H. Grant and M.S. Eads.

39:53 In an entry from April 3rd, 1899, J. D. McDonald gives a notice that the Rampart City Hospital owes him money [?] for work done by J. D. McDonald, the foreman, on said buildings. Total value of work is \$576 dollars upon which he has been paid \$232 dollars, leaving the rest be due.

There is another contract of marriage in the record books. It's dated April 3rd, 1899 and it's between S. A. Judd and Bessie Raymond. It was witnessed by J. E. McGraw and D. E. Blackman.

43:31 On April 17th there appears another lien against the City of Rampart Hospital that is signed by two medical doctors: Edward R. Gregg and Frederick Gerald. Mike says it's hard to read, but that she'll do the best she can. Drs. Gregg and Gerald give notice of their intentions to claim a lien. Rampart City Hospital owns them for working as physicians for the value of \$155 dollars upon which no dollars have been paid. It was witnessed and recorded by Mr. Crawford, the city recorder. [Break in the recording.]

45:46 On April 22nd, 1899, there's a group of 9 foreclosures that were signed by the city recorder. Mike reads one in which 1st Lieutenant Edward Bell's property was sold to L. H. Mayo for the sum of \$5 dollars. Lot no. 13 in block AA had been previously declared by Lieutenant E. Bell, but forfeited to the

people of Rampart City as the lot was not built on. There was another one Mayo bought with \$11 dollars and another one for \$10 dollars.

On April 14th, 1899 there's a note that is hard to read because it's written in 45-degree angle. It says the note "has been satisfied and paid". The recording says that on or before July, 1899, J. M. P. Fleischman promised to pay to D. W. Johnson \$265 dollars with interest on mortgage of north half of lot 8 in block 2 and a cabin.

April 3rd, 1899 there is another lien against Rampart City Hospital. It says that Pa. K.D. & M Company [?] hold and claim lien on the Rampart City Hospital. The lien is for lumber that was furnished by Pa. K. D. & M Company for \$135.19. Due is unpaid. [Break in the recording.]

At 50:20 Mike tells about another entry that is signed by R. E. Beach. He sold his property, cabin and groceries inside the cabin from Up River front half of lot 4 in block 6 to Denis Iverson for \$400 dollars. This was sealed in 8th of May, 1899.

51:58 20th of May, 1899 there was another public auction of properties. There are around 10 of those entered in the book. Lieutenant Edward Bell's property at lot 9, block H was sold in a public auction to M. R. Sellinken for \$8.50. It was forfeited due to Bell not having built to his property.

53:16 Mike reads a one sentence short entry that is signed by E. C. Houston and dated May 22nd, 1899. It says that E. C. Houston transfers all his interest in the above lot to Mrs. Othol [sp?]. The recorder's book doesn't give an exact location of the lot. The document might be filed somewhere else with all the information.

Lieutenant Bell is in the recorder's book again, this time for performing a marriage ceremony that is recorded on May 29th, 1899. The marriage took place on December 4th, 1899 and it was performed by Lieutenant Bell. Marriage was between George William Burrs and Sydia Susan Raymond. Lieutenant Bell writes that he is from 8th Infantry and is commanding U.S. Troops at Rampart City, Alaska. [Break in the recording.]

55:39 On 27th of May, 1899, Fred Jenkins of Rampart issued his power of attorney to W. E. Mack and the entry is concluded with Mack signing with an X that has two witnesses. It's the first X Mike has seen in the volume [indicating inability to write his name].

56:46 Another entry is about 4 pages long and is certified by J. C. McCook who is U.S. Consul in and for the Yukon Territory, Canada. It concerns purchase of coal mining properties near the Rampart District. Mike notices that there are almost 10 pages about the transfer of title of a certain coal mining properties.

On July 13th, 1899, Mr. Crawford records a copy of a letter he received. [Mike reads the letter.] The letter is addressed to Mr. Crawford and John Ginonx asks him to sell his properties in Rampart: Lot 12, block 4 with a cabin. Block HA, lot 1 with a cabin. Block EA, lot 16. Blocks K, lot 4 and 3. It's recorded August 28th, 1899.

59:24 June 5th, 1899 there is an entry signed by W. S. Beach. He got \$300 dollars for 1 ½ of lot 1, block B2 with all improvements from M. S. Farks and Stemen [sp?].

Last entry from 1899 was dated September 12th, 1899, but it was recorded on November 15th, 1899. Mike is not sure about the dates [hard to read]. It was a power-of-attorney where Crawford is giving his power-of-attorney to Mr. Maybridge. Mike isn't sure about it, since the entry is hard to read.

1:01:56 On January 1st, 1900 there is another power-of attorney by J. C. Risdon who gave it to O. C. Nelson. Mike notes that the last entry from 1899 and the first from 1900 were power-of-attorneys.

On September 18th, 1900 L. H. Mayo has an entry in the recorder's volume where he gives his power-of-attorney to Herman Webber. The entry takes a whole page and goes into minute details. Mike suspects that he had a good attorney who covered everything. The document was witnessed by F. M. Crawford and D. R. DeWolf. [End of the recording.]