

MARGARET OGILVIE - Ottawa

Margaret Ogilvie is the granddaughter of William Ogilvie, chief surveyor of the Alaska Canada border (1894-98). Miss Ogilvie was in Dawson for the Discovery Day celebration in August, 1973. It was the 75th anniversary of the Aug. 17, 1896 discovery of gold in the Dawson area.

She lives at 448 Smyth Road, Ottawa KIA 5 A 4, Ottawa, Canada.

Interviewer is Mike Dalton (who did not have a microphone so is hard to hear). Two other voices heard occasionally on the tapes are Margretha and Elmer Gaundroue of Dawson, Yukon.

Miss Ogilvie was born in Ottawa on Oct. 30, 1903. She had two sisters (Helen and Mary) and a brother Gordy. The Ogilvie clan went to the Ottawa area in 1836 and settled Glen Ogilvie now called Cyrville, a community outside Ottawa.

William Ogilvie died in 1913. His second wife was the sister of Gen. Richardson, after whom the Richardson Highway in Alaska is named. Wm. Ogilvie died of pneumonia at James Bay. He first went to the Arctic in 1884, walking from the Arctic coast down to Taku in Southeast Alaska. He is credited with discovering the Edmonton Trail. Reported early oil seeps in Alberta.

Miss Ogilvie's father was W. Morley Ogilvie who married Flora Drummond. She mentions good accounts of the Ogilvie-Dawson history written in "The Klondike Nugget" by Russel A. Bankson; "Man and Maridinas" by Don Thompson; "Early Days in the Yukon" by Wm. Ogilvie.

Talks about the famous Dick Lowe Fraction on Discovery Creek. Wm. Ogilvie was the only person with authority at the time of the gold discovery, and since he was a surveyor he and his staff were responsible for recording all the claims. A fraction of land was discovered between two claims. Man by the name of Dick Lowe staked the fraction and found it to be the most valuable land on the creek. Ogilvie would not stake the land nor would he allow any of his sons to stake it.

Miss Ogilvie has two nephews who are mining engineers as was her father. Grandfather too. Wm. Ogilvie was appointed Commissionr of the Yukon (governør) from 1898 to 1901.

In the 1894-98 boundary survey Ogilvie used the stars for his survey sightings.

Ogilvie had four sons: Paul a civil engineer; Walter, died in 1900 or 1901; George who died as a child; Willima) Morley, mining engineer (Margaret Ogilvie's father).

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Miss Ogilvie's father went into the Cassiar and Stikine in the early days (gold activity). He went back into the Caribou Country. He died in 1938 of lung cancer in St. Louis.