

**READ HIS OWN  
TOMBSTONE**

**Thrilling Experience of  
James Palmer.**

**Was Lost While En Route Up the  
Chandalar From Dawson  
to Koyukuk.**

It has been given to few men to read their own tombstones, and of these to none who are a better life insurance risk than James Palmer. He is as fine a specimen of the young men of the north as can be found in a day's march.

It was Dan Cadzow, who mushed in from Fort Yukon yesterday, who drew attention to this tombstone business this morning. He said in regard to this: "Yes, Jim Palmer was given up as lost, and when he returned to camp he saw his whole family history written on a tree. He calls it his tombstone. I saw it as I came through."

James Palmer has been here several days, and when jokingly twitted about his tombstone he said:

"There wasn't much joke about it at the time, I can tell you. It happened in this way. I went from Dawson with a party for the Koyukuk. On our way up the Chandalar we camped, and I thought I would put in a couple of hours before dinner in shooting something. I wandered into the brush without seeing anything, but still, as I thought, keeping a general direction, for I am not a tenderfoot in the woods, mind you.

"Well, evening came on and I started back for the camp. Through the brush I caught a gleam of water and, thinking I had made a mistake in my reckoning and that that was the Chandalar, I went for it. It turned out to be a small lake. This was a corker, but I thought the lake must necessarily empty into the Chandalar so I started to walk around it. I walked and walked until I got back to about the same place I first struck it. I could not, of course, see where I had come in, as there was no snow on the ground.

"So I had to conclude that I was lost. I then counted my cartridges and found I had only six. I knew I could not be far from the camp so I fired off three of them as a signal. I got no reply, so I started to make a fire and spend the night there.

"It was then I found that I had only four matches, and, wonderful to say, not one of them missed fire.

"The next day I started with a good resolution that I would make camp somehow, but the evening came again and I was still lost. And, mind you, I had had nothing to eat all this time. I saw a goose but before I shot I counted my cartridges. The next morning I drew this chart in my pocket book (producing a sketch of the points of the compass in a circle) and that leads me to conclude that I was by that time very nearly insane. I recalled all the other cases I had ever heard of about men going insane when lost in Alaska.

"Having taken the points of the compass by the sun, I started south-east at a brisk pace. I had an awful thirst on me owing to having had nothing to eat, but there was plenty of water in the country and every time I came to a stream I could not resist taking a drink. Presently I saw a rabbit and shot at it. It managed to scramble into its hole and I felt more hungry than ever. Some time that afternoon, however, I managed to get a meal by luck. There was a mix carrying off a duck, quite as much of a load as he could manage. I started in chase and the mix tried to lug the duck into a hole but failed. Then I made a fire and roasted part of the duck. I cannot say it was cooked to a turn, as I was a little too impatient about the cooking.

"The third night passed, and there is no doubt but that the next day I was only about one remove from absolute insanity. In the afternoon I saw a red glare in the sky and thought it must be an Indian camp. I dragged myself wearily toward it and came out on the banks of the Chandalar. Right opposite was our camp. The boys had set fire to a timber jam in the river.

"I had to wade to my neck to get across, but I was desperate enough to do anything. I had a great greeting in camp, and the first thing the boys showed me was a big tree they

had barked, on which they had written my name and where I belonged, and how I had strayed from camp, got lost and was dead."

**"Chief Isaac" Ledge.**  
Dawson, Feb. 22, 1902.  
Editor of Klondike Nugget:

Concerning the new strike or discovery of quartz ledge called the "Chief Isaac" mineral claim on the Yukon river opposite the Moosehide Indian village, I will say that this is beyond any question of a doubt the continuation of the ledge staked by the Dawson City Quartz Mining Company, just back of Dawson, from which I have received assays of \$9.92, \$14.00 and \$85.40 in free gold.

This is undoubtedly one of the strongest ledges in the Klondike, and it can be traced the full length of Bonanza creek to the head of Victoria gulch, crossing the Klondike river at the mouth of Bonanza creek, and from thence northwesterly through the Dome back of Dawson, thence across Moosehide creek to the right limit of the Yukon, thence across the Yukon to the "Chief Isaac" discovery, and four miles beyond in a continuation of the same trend.

It will be but a short time in my opinion till the stamp mills will be in operation on this ledge, and the increase of the gold output of the Klondike will be doubled by the developing of this gigantic quartz proposition.

The finding of this well defined fissure vein with a wall of porphyry 50 feet thick on one side and a heavy slate wall on the other contact, at least 2000 feet lower than the Dawson City group, proves conclusively to my mind that the ledges on the summit towned by the Dawson City Quartz Mining Co. are at least 2000 feet deep, and will no doubt furnish work on a large scale for a hundred years to come, before reaching the water levels of the Klondike and Yukon rivers.

Yours truly,  
WILSON FOSTER.

**His Nephew Arrives.**

Among the passengers arriving on the stage this morning was Mr. John M. Carson, of London, Ontario, a young nephew of Mr. Charles Macdonald, who has concluded to try his fortune in the far north.

**HOTEL ARRIVALS.**

Regina Hotel, Feb. 28, 1902.—O. Knox and wife, Oakland, California; Chas. Farren, San Francisco; P. E. Nelson, Seattle, Wash.; H. Williams, city; J. P. Roberts, Sulphur.  
Empire—G. M. Calligan, Dominion; F. J. McCormack, Dawson.

**THE LAST  
SAD RITES**

**Performed Over Thos.  
McMullen's Remains.**

**Buried Yesterday Afternoon in the  
Cemetery Overlooking the  
Klondike River.**

"His pride in all the pomp that fills  
The glory of a thousand hills,  
Is, that his grave is green."

So wrote the poet Bryant, and so will be the fact as to the grave of Thomas McMullen in the cemetery on the hillside. His friends today took steps to see that his last resting place was properly marked and kept in order until the end of time.

His friends in Toronto feared the re-opening of the sorrow occasioned by his death should the body be shipped home for burial, so they telegraphed instructions to have the interment here. This took place yesterday afternoon, at four o'clock, from the residence of the staff of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. A cross of immortelles was sent by his confidants of the bank, Mr. O. H. Clarke sent a broken anchor in flowers, and the Order of Eagles sent a wreath.

The funeral procession to the cemetery embraced all the employees of the bank, and a large number of prominent citizens. The burial service really took place last Sunday, when the A. B.'s also read its beautiful ritual over the remains in the A. B. hall, and afterwards, in procession, carried the body back to the undertakers. Yesterday Rev. Dr. Warren read the burial service of the Episcopal church, as the last rites were paid to the memory of Mr. McMullen and the sods were placed upon his grave.

Kelly & Co., Leading Druggists.

**ROGERS IS  
ACQUITTED**

**End of the Mortimer  
Fable.**

**Unsupported Evidence of the  
Complainant Insufficient to  
Secure a Conviction.**

The famous Mortimer kidnapping case against Jesse H. Rogers came to an end in the territorial court this morning, resulting in the acquittal of the accused. By mutual agreement between counsel the admission of the evidence taken at the preliminary hearing was allowed, beyond which there was no other testimony submitted other than that of Mortimer for the crown and Rogers in his own behalf.

When the case was first called Crown Prosecutor Congdon made a statement to the court in reference to the charge under which the accused was being prosecuted. The charge was that of assault, it having been committed by the defendant having induced the complainant to descend into an abandoned shaft in which meat was stored and after getting him down there he had cut the rope by which the descent was made and kept him there for a certain period of time in an attempt to induce him to confess to the theft of a can of gold dust. The attorney for the defence raised the question as to whether the act alleged to have been committed constituted an assault, arguing that it did not, that it amounted to no more than taking away his means of escape and as such did not constitute an offense, but more properly should be a civil action for damages. His lordship admitted the point raised was a nice one and declined to rule upon it until he had looked into the matter more freely, though he did not hesitate to inform counsel that the confining of a person in a room against their will may be construed as an assault.

The crown called E. E. Mortimer as its only witness, the man who first gave out the kidnapping story several months ago, the complainant against Rogers. Mortimer is now serving a two years' sentence and appeared in court under guard and clad in the regulation prison uniform. His story was substantially the same as had been told on several previous occasions. He said that Rogers had induced him to go down the shaft for the purpose of transferring the meat cached there to another shaft, one of their own. The shaft was between 40 and 35 feet deep. He descended by means of a rope and soon after reaching the bottom and while still hold of the rope he felt it quivering as though something unusual was happening overhead. He looked up and asked Rogers what he was doing, when the latter replied, "Dad, I am going to play a Yankee trick on you." At the same time the rope was cut and fell down to the bottom of the shaft. Mortimer stated he had gone down the shaft at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and it was 3:30 the following morning before he succeeded in getting out. No one helped him out, he had climbed up by means of the sides of the shaft, but had fallen twice before his attempt at escape was finally successful. He had suffered greatly from the cold and still suffers from injuries received in his back by the falls. The way the can of gold was stolen, where it was hidden and how recovered, as previously told in his confession, was also re-

counted by the witness. In his cross-examination by Mr. Hagle, Mortimer told of Rogers having made certain threats concerning what he would do to the thief who had stolen their gold were he but positive as to his identity. When asked why he had delayed making his confession as to having stolen the gold so long, Mortimer replied that he had already told one story which was not believed and he had thought if he told the truth it would be received in the same manner. The evidence was also brought out that when the stolen can of gold dust was recovered by the police there was sufficient left to pay Rogers and Fields, the other partner, their pro rata of the total cleanup, which was \$1469.

Rogers, the accused, was placed on the stand in his own behalf, and swore positively that he had not induced Mortimer to go down the shaft, did not know that he had done so, had not cut any rope as alleged, and, in short, denied in toto the evidence of the previous witness. He stated that he did not know at the time of the alleged occurrence that Mortimer was the thief who had stolen their gold, but he had suspected him. He says that he was accustomed to do the cooking, and on the day upon which Mortimer says he was imprisoned in the shaft he had gotten dinner as usual. Fields, the third partner, was fishing and as neither he nor Mortimer made their appearance when the meal was ready he ate alone. Mortimer did not return that night nor did he see him again until some weeks subsequent in Dawson. That night there was a boat stolen from the mouth of the creek and as footprints were found in the sand the following morning corresponding to the shoes worn by Mortimer, the witness then took it for granted that Mortimer had stolen the gold and taken the boat also to get away. A day or so later some stamperers arrived from Dawson and it was from a Dawson paper one of the party had that he first learned of the kidnapping story told by Mortimer. Rogers also stated that from August 6, the date of the alleged kidnapping, he had not been to the shaft in question and did not know if the rope had ever been cut or not.

Rogers gave his evidence in a very straightforward manner which possessed the ring of sincerity and his lordship in summing up the case evidently thought likewise, stating that he could not convict the man upon the uncorroborated evidence of the man Mortimer. The accused was accordingly discharged.

**Hartshorn's Claim.**

Ernest Hartshorn writes to a friend here that he has succeeded in locating a claim on Rosebud, No. 53 below discovery.

**LOST.**

LOST—From Dominion stage, about October 29, 1901, one Canvas Telescope, size 16 by 30 inches, marked "Knittle." Finder return to Orr & Tukey Co., Dawson.

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**KOYUKUK  
MAIL ROUTE**

**Should Be to Coldfoot  
Instead of Bettles.**

**Hard Trip of Carrier Coley Who  
Traveled on Snow Shoes  
Downing Successful.**

Dan Cadzow, who is just in from Fort Yukon, was saying this morning that the mail route from that point to the Koyukuk was subject to certain improvement. The route, he says, ought to be to Coldfoot instead of Bettles, as Coldfoot is the center of the mining development of the Koyukuk district.

Mail carrier Coley, he says, has had a very hard time of it this winter. There was no trail and he had to travel the whole distance on snow shoes. He traveled alone, too, which was a plucky thing to do in such a wilderness of a country. By the winter route he touched Coldfoot first, and left a sack of mail there, then a distance of sixty miles further. One time he was a whole month on the trip in, yet making the best possible time under the circumstances.

Mr. Cadzow says that the weekly mail from here and Eagle to the mouth of the Tanana has been carried with wonderful regularity all this past winter. This is the route carried by Ben Downing.

**Reducing the Force.**

Another reduction has been found to be necessary in the force at the gold commissioner's office and yesterday Mr. J. A. Longpre, who has been an assistant at one of the certificate

of work windows, was notified that his services were no longer required. Prior to entering the gold commissioner's office and before the arrival of R. J. Eilbeck, Mr. Longpre acted as deputy sheriff. He is the fifth in the gold commissioner's office to suffer in consequence of the necessity of reducing the force.

**Consul Saylor's Office.**

The United States consulate in Dawson is well known to the residents of the same corner of the N. C. building as before, but it is no longer a dingy and dingy corner. Consul Saylor has leased the adjoining room in the building and has made that the chief's office with counter and back of it and shelves for the documents and other papers that can be readily removed in case of fire. There is also a safe for the consulate seal and a larger fire-proof safe for the most important consular records.

Next to this the consul has a large room with a handsome rug in the center of the floor, a table and himself of the most modern style—a roll top desk for the secretary. This, in short, is now one of the most stylish offices in the city.

**Received Ten Years.**

From advices received from the side by the last mail a bit of news is learned which may pique the interest of Dawsonites. A character by the name of "Shorty" White spent a year or two in this city recently indulged in a little game hold-up in Nome, almost killing a victim before he finally received a paltry sum of \$21. He was sentenced, tried and convicted and sentenced to ten years at hard labor in the penitentiary.

**Gold Commissioner's Court.**

Before Gold Commissioner Saylor is being heard today the case Lars Netland et al vs. Mary Wilson and Robert Durney. The case is the result of a dispute in boundary lines between 232 and 233 below lower on Dominion and hillsides adjoining on the right bank.

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