

## George Washington Aldous (1863-1956)

### Research Notes

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#### 1865

- Born in Erin City, Ontario
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#### 1885

- Similkameen Star, March 28, 1946, page 1: "He was with the Canadian Forces that quelled the Riel rebellion in 1885, came to BC in 1886, and has been resident in Similkameen since 1898."
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#### 1889

- 1889 Henderson's BC Gazetteer and Directory, page 76: George W. Aldous - cook, Vancouver.
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#### 1891

- Charter member of the International Order of Oddfellows, No. 16 in Nelson 1891
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#### 1895

- The Similkameen Star (1915) noted that Aldous had been in business in Nelson around 1895
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#### 1898

- Prospecting and making claims in 1898 in Similkameen
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#### 1890

- Stayed at the Colonial in New Westminster in May 1890
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#### 1891

- Stayed at the Columbia House in Revelstoke October 1891

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## 1892

- He joined his brother, Nelson W. Aldous, in business (City Grocery and Bakery) in Nelson in 1892. The company didn't last long.

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## 1893

- George was living in Nakusp (1893)

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## 1894

- His brother Nelson left Nelson, BC, to go east in 1894
- In 1894, he planned to build a laundry and bath house at the Silver King on Toad Mountain (near Nakusp). He was sued for 117.12 for washing by Yeong Ah Jee and the judgement was for 126.84 (August 1894)

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## 1896

- Also at the Silver King, he ran afoul of the liquor licensing laws and was fined 230.00 or 3 months in jail (1896)

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## 1897

- George transferred 1/2 of the Young Bird Claim to his wife for the sum of \$100.00 in early 1897
- Shortly after, in July 1897, Mary Jane brought a charge of trespass, on behalf of the Berlin mineral claim, against Hall Mines of Nelson, BC. Hall Mines argued that she had no proper claim because the only affidavit filed was made by her husband, George Aldous
- She was granted an appeal later that month (1897) and the case went to the supreme court in October 1897. The outcome of the case is unknown but in July 1898, she transferred the Berlin claim to Hall Mines, Ltd.

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## 1898

- he was prospecting and making claims in 1898 in Similkameen

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## 1900

- The Greenwood Weekly Times, February 19, 1900 ran their first advertisement for the Princeton Livery Stable - Geo. Aldous and J.C. Budd - whereas the Princeton Star "Budd & Co." (1900). The ad ran until May 12, 1900
- May 1900 - the Aldous-Bevans hotel - construction is in full swing. Col. Joe Adams had six men at work
- With his partner Bevans, he contracted Colonel Joe Adams to construct Princeton's third hotel (May 1900). The hotel - The Hotel Tulameen - opened in July 1900 with George Aldous as the proprietor and Mrs. W. Haegerman as the manager.
- May 1900 - the Aldous-Bevans hotel - construction was in full swing. Col. Joe Adams has six men at work
- Owned and managed the Tulameen Hotel which opened June 1900. Princeton's third hotel. At the corner of Bridge and Harold Streets where the liquor store was in 1945

In August 1900, Jackson, Mills, and Aldous signed bonds on the Copper Bluff and Copper Cliff claims (as did D.M. French owner of the Hold Fast). Aldous secured a contract for 100 feet tunnels to be driven on each of the three claims.

- Similkameen Star reported that he was fencing his ranch on China Creek (December 1900)

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## 1901

- He traveled to Nicola to get freight for Messrs. Cook & Co February 1901
- One of several delegates to argue the case for continued provincial government subsidies for the Vancouver, Victoria & Esquimalt Railway (March 1901)
- Applied for hotel licence March 1, 1901
- Picked up a load of freight from Spences Bridge for the opening of the Tulameen Hotel (March 1901)
- May 1901 - added a pool table to the Hotel Tulameen/Tulameen Hotel
- In June (1901), he was building a dam at the sawmill
- Mrs. Aldous critically ill November 1901
- Clearly moved in the best circles - "A whist party was given by the STAR staff on Wednesday evening, at which Mr. and Mrs. E. Waterman, Mr. and Mrs. Bell, Dr. and Mrs. Whillans, Mr. and Mrs. Aldous, Miss Black, and several others were present" (September 1901)

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## 1902

- The Copper Bluff and Copper Cliff claims were purchased by the Ashnola Smelter Co. in 1902
- He also owned (with Budd and Roberts) the Joe Dandy and Lone Star group of claims near Aspen Grove (1902) as well as the Spoke, Red Bird, Gold Bug and Snowshoe (1902)
- March 1902 his 22 year old dog, Slip, died
- Donated 5.00 to the fund to cover the cost of the carpenters for the school building (1902)

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## 1903

- The Aldous family attended the dance at Jack Thynne's, January 1903
- April 1903 elected director of the newly-formed Princeton branch of the Provincial Mining Association
- Owned a ranch August 1903
- Chair of the Liberal meeting at the Tulameen Hotel October 1903)
- Mrs. Aldous seriously ill in December 1903
- Member Board of Trade December 1903

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## 1904

- Mrs. Aldous was recovering in January 1904
- January 1904 he added a cold storage building at the rear of the Tulameen Hotel
- Member of the temperance society February 1904
- His hotel burned in March 1904 with a \$7,000 loss to Aldous
- April 1904 George went to Vancouver to visit wife seriously ill
- Horse selling to Alberta: July 1904
- July 1904 planted 200 pounds of seed potatoes
- Aldous returned from the coast with a load of supplies for his new hotel, The Tulameen. The Tulameen was three stories tall and opened in 1902, it burned on March 2, 1904 - no source

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## 1905

- He sold some of the land that the hotel sat on before the fire in April 1905 to P.D. Macdonald for \$1500.00
- April 22, 1905 dissolved his partnership with J.C. Budd
- December 1905 to Vancouver wife seriously ill
- December 1905 while he was gone to visit his wife in Vancouver, John Swansborough attempted suicide at the Aldous house on the Aldous ranch (1905)

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## 1906

- He negotiated with Spokane financiers to develop the Ada B. (1906). He completed his assessment work on the Lone Star and Red Bird (at Aspen Grove) in June 1906
- Mrs. Aldous was a patient at the coast from 1904 to 1906
- Victoria Day horse races came in second in two races 1906
- 1906 executive committee of the newly-formed Princeton Liberal Association

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## 1907

- Aldous and Jack O'Neill were partners on a promising group of claims on Blue Ribbon Mountain (situated on the divide between One Mile and Summers Creek). During the summer of 1907, they completed a 36-foot shaft on the claim, showing a good body of ore.

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## 1908

- July 1908 "J.O. Coulthard has bought from George Aldous, Miss Bevans and J. Budd, the west half of lot 8, block 3, and lot 9, block 3, corner of Harold Avenue and Bridge Street, the old Tulameen Hotel site. The price was \$2500, cash. Mr. Coulthard will erect a residence on a portion of the ground."
- W. Wilson was building a hay loft on the Aldous ranch in July 1908

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## 1910

- In September 1910, he staked a claim on Steamboat Mountain
- 1910 Henderson's BC Gazetteer and Directory Part 1:  
Aldous, George W., miner; Aldous, George M., prospector

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## 1911

- He planned to sell his claim on Steamboat Mountain to Vancouver investors in March 1911. Sold on a “bond proposition” for 3,000 (1911)
- 1911 census miner, no son, no wife; John O’Neil and James Pollock living with him as lodgers
- Later that year (1911), he was prospecting and developing properties along the Hope Range. He also was working on his claim on the Roche River (1911) as well as working the Silver Dollar on Copper Mountain (1911)
- Ever the entrepreneur, he was also contracted by the BC Copper Co. to drive a 100 foot tunnel at Voight Camp and to build a cabin to accommodate a gang of miners (1911)

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## 1912

- he was in charge of the work on the Ada B. and Silver Dollar claims (BC Copper Co.) (1912)

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## 1913

- He began to work on the Argentine fractional north of Voigt’s camp in March 1913. There was considerable snow in this section, which made it difficult for the road breaking
- He intended to apply for a Certificate of Improvements in order to obtain a crown grant for the Argentine Fraction Mineral Claim (1913). (See also 1922)
- September 1913 had a henery on his ranch. The horned owl he shot was displayed in Len Huston’s store
- November 1913 to January 1914 he had a notice in the Similkameen Star offering a 20.00 reward for the return of of a mare and colt - Bar U on right thigh

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## 1914

In October 1914, he planted 24 acres of fall wheat and rye on his dairy ranch

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## 1915

- In May 1915, the Similkameen Star reported that Aldous, of the Princeton Dairy, had 24 acres in wheat and rye

- June 1915, he sold horse(s) to R.F. Bevan the government purchasing agent for the war
  - August 1915 donated \$5.00 to the machine gun fund
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## 1916

- In 1916, he intended to obtain a Crown Grant for the Silver Dollar mineral claim at Copper Mountain
  - Donated a 2.00 a month subscription to the Patriotic Fund (1916)
  - In April 1916, he bought a “new to him” car to deliver milk to Copper Mountain
  - June 1916, he turned his white horse, Tracy, out to pasture and parked his yellow milk wagon. “While George does not yet handle the car as graceful as he did the white horse, he gets there just the same”
  - Hauled logs from the Aldous place to the sawmill at Canford (December 1916)
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## 1917

- 600,000 feet of logs taken from from the Aldous place for the Nicola Balley Pine Lumber Company at Canford (1917) the final amount was one million one hundred thousand feet to be shipped by rail to the mill at Canford (1917)
  - early July 1917, he had returned to delivering milk with the horse and wagon (serious accident on the road to racetrack). After the accident, Tracy was shipped to Alberta with a carload of horses in August 1917.
  - He was able to return to work in late November 1917
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## 1918

- He bought ten registered Holsteins from the Forsyth Brothers in May 1918
- He modernized the Princeton Dairy in May 1918 by purchasing a milking machine that could milk two cows at the rate of 20 cows an hour. One of these cows, **Mechthilde Ottilie KeKol**, produced 11,886 pounds of milk in 334 days.
- Princeton Star, July 19, 1918: installing a large concrete reservoir (10x10 feet and 6 feet deep and will hold 6,000 gallons “It will be seen that a tremendous quantity of water is required in the dairy business.”

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## 1919

- He was still struggling with his injuries (from 1917) in January 1919
- He had surgery at Vancouver General Hospital in February 1919

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## 1920

- In 1920, he purchased a Chevrolet Light Delivery Wagon for his milk business

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## 1921

- Summer of 1921 he hosted a children's picnic organized by Shorty Dunn
- Nov 1921 elected executive committee of the annual meeting of the National Liberal and Conservative Association of Princeton
- 1921 went into partnership with R.R. Steele and the new firm "Aldous-Steele Trust Co." Sons Ralph and Dick Steele to be employed by Dairy. Steele was the business manager for the Coalmont Collieries
- Improvements on the dairy farm October 1921
- In November 1921 Aldous and Steele ran irrigation lines from China Creek to their dairy farm

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## 1922

- The Argentine fractional claim was up for tax sale (amount owing 16.00) in October 1922
- President (October 1922) of the Princeton Local, United Farmers of British Columbia (U.F. of BC), and was a member of a deputation to Hon. Dr. Sutherland, minister of public works at Princeton
- Donated the March milk account proceeds (16.50) to the Hospital Fund May 1922

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## 1923

- Steel left the Aldous and Steele dairy business in January 1923
- Elected and installed as the Worshipful Master of the Princeton Excelsior Loyal Orange Lodge (L.O.L.), No. 2102, December 1923; elected to L.O.L. Hospital Committee
- A number of Ayreshire cows were seized "under judgement against" Aldous & Steele in October 1923

- April 15, 1923, George Aldous lost his barn and feed silo, 25 cows, 5 calves, a bull and 3 horses to fire. The barn and silo only had 1,500 insurance but the rest of the loss was covered by London & Lancashire Insurance.
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## 1924

- In April 1924, he leased his ranch to Lambert Fielding (brother of Mrs. H. Suggitt) and Clarence Suggitt. Fielding took over management of the Princeton Dairy
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## 1926

- director of the Princeton Local of the United Farm Workers of British Columbia (1926)
  - On December 1, 1926, "situated about two miles west of Princeton" house and dairy building and bottling shed (that he had used when he ran the Princeton Dairy) were destroyed by fire. He was only partially covered by insurance
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## 1927

- Member of the planning committee for the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in May 1927
  - he (and Kit Summers and W.S. Garrison) helped plan horse racing events; also 1930
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## 1928

- 1928 selling livestock: pigs, heavy horses, Holstein cows
  - led the Orange Day parade, mounted, in 1928
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## 1932

- Delivered the L.O.L. "travelling gavel" to Hope in September 1932
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## 1935

- He was still farming in 1935 - list of electors, 1935 Princeton

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## 1936

- He returned to prospecting and mining - working above the north fork of Granite Creek with Charlie Gordon in 1936

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## 1937

- Found some success working above the north fork of Granite Creek with Charlie Gordon (1937)

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## 1939

- In June 1939, he moved into his nephew, Albert's, house in town and his nephew took over the ranch

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## 1940s

- He was in and out of the Princeton Hospital in the 1940s

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## 1940

- In April 1940, he and George Broderick were made lifetime members of the Orange Order, Lodge 2102
- in further Orange history, he fell and brought in the original flag pole in front of the Orange Lodge (source: Similkameen Star, May 1944)
- Farming - 1940 List of electors

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## 1941

- He was still mining in December 1941 as the Similkameen Star reported that he intended to live in town for the winter.

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## 1942

- He headed back to camp with Andy Gordon in April 1942

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## 1943

- He was back on his claim, July 1943

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## 1944

- He turned 81 on April 27, 1944
- He was riding his horse “snaking” logs and his horse fell, injuring his “good leg” in December 1944

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## 1945

- He must have still had a hand in the ranch, as in February 1945, he was selling a Yorkshire Boar pig

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## 1946

- He had some connection with Belcarris and Regina, visiting with family and friends from May 16 to June 17, 1946

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## 1947

- The Similkameen Star reported in 1947 that George Aldous was the driver on the last trip from Penticton to Princeton - he drove the same Welby stage in the Rodeo parade in 1947.

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## 1948

- 1948 British Columbia and Yukon Directory (Sun Directories Ltd.):  
Aldous, Geo. W., farmer
- Death registration says he moved to North Vancouver in 1946 think it was likely 1948
- He was still in Princeton in 1948
- He retired at “The Coast”

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Planning committee of the Dominion Day celebrations **1908 1919 1928 1930** May **1901** this committee decided to celebrate July 1 - Dominion Day

May **1901** - new organization organized at the Hotel Tulameen - Racing and Athletic Association - appointed director; subscriber to the fund-raising efforts of the Princeton Racing & Athletic Association to purchase ground suitable for race meetings, sports, and agricultural exhibitions (**1912**); appointed to the Board of Directors in May **1927** to fill the vacancy left by the death of James Gellatly

### **Knights of Pythias**

Installed as K. of R. And S. (Secretary?) Knights of Pythias, Lodge No. 50 January **1915**; installed as O.G. (**1917**); Prelate (**1918**); still a member in Nov. **1923**; delegated to convention in Penticton in May **1927**; described as ex-chancellor, attended conference in Vancouver, May **1928**; boxed at the Knights of Pythias smoker, November **1928**; installed **1937**

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### **No source:**

He was a shareholder for the Similkameen Hotel, slated to be built in Similkameen City, which was never developed, just west of the village of Hedley. No source.

He had a butcher business with one of the Allison boys around the 1900's. (No source)

### **Related?**

There was an Aldous Mining Co. registered at Penticton for incorporation but no indication if the company had any connection with the Princeton Aldous' (**1929**)