

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF WINCHESTER GROUP OF CLAIMS,  
GOODNEWS BAY DISTRICT, LOWER KUSKOKWIM, ALASKA,  
August 12, 1937.

Introduction:

This group of claims consists of restaking an old discovery made prior to 1912 by early prospectors searching for placer deposits in this region. Its location has been retained by the Eskimoos, whom upon the increased activity in this region, decided to restake and hold as their own, assuming the ore to be rich silver-lead ore. Discoveries of placer gold on the Eek and upper Togiak Rivers, with drilling operations, prompted the writer to make an investigation in this section. Several families of Eskimoos were encountered camped on the northwest end of Kagati or Quinhagak Lake on and near the head of the Kanektok River. Statements as to their recent staking of a 25-foot lead-silver vein, discovered by early white prospectors, lead the writer to the location of the realgar-stibnite-quartz veins.

Location and Accessibility:

The Winchester group of seven claims is located across a glacial cirque which forms the very head of Atmugiak Creek. This creek is approximately 10 miles long and flows southwestward, emptying into Kagati or Quinhagak Lake on the east arm. The lake lies approximately 60 miles airline inland east from the shore of Kuskokwim Bay. The glacial cirque extends east-west for some distance and joins with another and swings southwestward, forming the valley of the creek. The claim group extends across for six claim lengths, northwest, following the strike of the veins. To reach the location of this group necessitates either the use of airplane or river boat. Planes can land under favorable conditions on Kagati or Quinhagak Lake from which the valley of the Atmugiak Creek is followed a distance of 10 miles to its head. Another landing is a newly constructed aviation field, 1200 feet in length on the right limit of Eek River 5 miles above the mouth of Rainey Creek. Thus a hike overland to Kagati or Quinhagak a distance of 12 miles and thence 10 miles to the property. The river boat route is up the Kanektok River from the village of Quinhagak a distance of nearly 100 miles by river.

Owners:

The seven claims named as placer claims, but staked as lode claims, with representative measurements, are known as Discovery Claims Nos. 1 to 4 Above Discovery and Nos. 1 and 2 Below Discovery. These claims were staked and are owned by Willie Keseyulia, Guy Tegylre, Kilila Wessilie and Phillip Keseyulia (all native Eskimoos). They live at Quinhagak and Akiak villages.

### History & Development:

The year of discovery by the early prospectors is not known, but the natives stated it was during the early placer days of the Arolic River area which was prior to 1912.\* It has been known by them over 25

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\*Maddren, A. G., Gold Placers of the Lower Kuskokwim; U. S. G. S. Bull. 622, p. 301.  
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years and has been staked several times. However, only a few opencuts have been the total amount of work done on the veins.

### Geology and Showings:

Two veins occur on parallel shears of a shear zone in a massive granitoid type rock approximately one mile north of a shale and slate contact. This granitoid formation is grayish in color, medium grained with a composition of augite and white feldspars. Only occasionally is quartz noted and mica rather rare. Phases approach, megascopically, the augite-syenite class, while others weather as a monzonite.

The veins occupying the shears are 25 feet apart and can be traced by trenches and outcrops from its lowest outcrop, El. 2200', a distance of 4500 feet to an elevation of 3200'. The strike is N. 30° W. and the footwall vein dips 76° W. The hanging wall vein has a more vertical dip and intersects the footwall vein at its lowest outcrop, El. 2200'. Other shears were noted east of the footwall vein, but these apparently contained no visible ore.

The footwall vein has a width of nearly 2 feet and contains a banded bluish quartz that varies from 6 to 12 inches in width. The walls are decomposed, consisting of altered wall minerals, and they are highly oxidized. It shows, with its banded nature and quartz and stibnite crystal growth, several re-openings and periods of crystallization. Occasionally small lenses of nearly massive stibnite occur and others mainly of quartz. Some realgar and orpiment occurs with the stibnite. Barite was noted associated with the quartz in some localities. The hanging wall vein has a width of a foot to 18 inches with four to eight inches of mixed quartz, realgar, orpiment and some stibnite.

Two samples taken at the intersection of the veins gave the following assay returns:

Sample No. 254 - dump sample, grab of quartz pieces from cut - gold 0.04 oz. per ton; silver trace; antimony 6.3 per cent; mercury none.

Sample No. 255 - same location from cut oxidized portion of vein, width 18 inches - gold 0.40 oz. per ton; silver trace; mercury none. These were not assayed for arsenic.

While this deposit is not important as an economic venture at the present time, it is important in its type and mineralization in connection with similar types of lode deposits associated in many placer districts in Interior Alaska.