

Detailed Account of Bessie Kangas Life & Travels from saved Cards and Documents

City	Date	Age	Notes
Pulkkila, Finland	05-09-1883	Born	Elisa KANGAS, born in Pulkkila, Oulu, Finland, 9 May 1883
Rock Springs, Wyo	1898	15	Came to Rock Springs to live with older sister, Maggie, and her 3 children
Yukon Territory	1898	15	Bessie went to Yukon with her sister, Greta, Matt & their 3 children
Oulu, Finland to Biwabik, MN	5-18-1901	18	Traveled on "Polaris" with her parents from Hanko, Finland to Biwabik, MN
Embarrass, MN	06-07-01	18	Antti & Maria KANGAS arrive in Embarrass, MN via Philadelphia, PA
Rock Springs, WY	04-10-03	20	Purchased 100 shares of the Black Bear Mining Co. for \$50.00
Portland, Oregon	06-01-05	22	Lewis & Clark Exposition 1905; Dad thinks that Bessie & Ed may have met there (June-Oct, 1905).
Grand Forks, Yukon Territory, Canada	10-27-05	22	Worked in German Bakery in Grand Forks, Yukon Territory, 1905-06
Grand Forks, Yukon Territory, Canada	05-22-06	23	May 11, Grand Forks: "The Bonanzaites have been doing a little pool making. The Gold Hill Hotel had two minute pools. The lucky guessers were Miss Bessie Kangas of the German Bakery and Walter Woodburn. Nearly every man, woman and child had a guess in on the big pool at the Bonanza Saloon in Dawson. The 1904 pool was won by a Grand Forks man, Dickey, the painter, now dead, and the Forks people try each year to land it again." (newspaper article not dated)
Dawson, Yukon Territory	09-30-06	23	Marked mining claim at Quartz Creek, Yukon Territory
Dawson, Yukon Territory	10-03-06	23	Filed and signed mining claim at Dawson for Quartz Creek claim
Embarrass, MN	10-23-06	23	(Parents and brother, John, lived in Embarrass, MN)
Embarrass, MN	11-27-06	23	Was in Embarrass, MN 10-23-06, 11-15-06, 11-27-06 (1 month)
Wakefield, MI	12-17-06 12-29-06	23	Was in Wakefield, MI 12-17-06 through 12-29-06 (two weeks)
Hancock, MI	01-19-07 04-29-07	23	Was in Hancock, MI, Suomi College, from 01-19-07 through 04-29-07
Valparaiso, IN	07-12-07 07-18-07 10-05-07 01-09-08	24	Valparaiso University, East & South Hall Girls (Photo); Valparaiso University, "E" Hall 6 months through Jan. 9, 1908
Chicago, IL	04-05-08 06-05-08	24	Chicago, Illinois April 5 through June 5, 1908 (2 months)
Valparaiso, IN	07-01-08	25	
Astoria, OR	09-15-08	25	With Ed Wilson, Bessie Kangas was a witness to the marriage of John Anderson & Annie Niemi (John (Pekuri) Anderson and Bessie were second cousins)
Astoria, OR	09-28-08	25	
Reedley, CA	10-16-08	25	

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Berkeley, CA	12-23-08	25	Sent Christmas Card to Ida Saari in Astoria
Berkeley, CA	01-14-09	25	She sent registered mail to J.E. Pönttjä, Reedley, Calif; she was at 1506 Euclid Avenue, Berkeley, Calif.
Reedley, CA	01-25-09	25	Signed with Ed Wilson, a promissory note to Jacob E. Pönttjä for \$2800; Jacob Pönttjä paid \$1200 for 30 acres on Williams Tract, Sec 9-15-23, aka, the River Bend property.
Berkeley, CA	03-10-09	25	Bessie sent \$60.00 money order from Berkeley, Calif.
Berkeley, CA	03-11-09	25	Bessie sent registered mail to Ed Wilson in Astoria, OR; she was at 1506 Euclid Ave, Berkeley, Calif.
Berkeley, CA	03-26-09	25	She was in Berkeley, Calif. From Dec. 23, 1908 through March 26, 1909
Fairbanks, AK	07-29-09	26	Bessie possibly worked a bakery in Fairbanks 1909-1911; it was also noted that she might have been a waitress at the Shaw Hotel. (See 1910 Feb. Census notes below)
Fairbanks, AK	09-21-09	26	Sent \$100 money order from Fairbanks
Fairbanks, AK	10-23-09	26	Sent \$100 money order from Fairbanks; mortgage was transferred to Reedley National bank Oct. 22, 1909.
Fairbanks, AK	01-17-10	26	Sent \$100 money order from Fairbanks
Fairbanks, AK	01-20-10		Enumerated in the 1910 Fed. Census for Fairbanks City, 6 th St, "Bessie at Shaw" **See explanation below table.
Fairbanks, AK	07-07-10	27	Sent \$300 money order from Fairbanks
Fairbanks, AK	10-25-10	27	Sent \$460 money order from Fairbanks
Fairbanks, AK	01-17-11	27	Sent \$275 money order from Fairbanks
			Where was Bessie between January 17th and Oct. 25 of 1911? No correspondence was found for those dates.
Berkeley, CA	10-25-1911	28	Ed sent a card to Miss Bessie Kangas at 2321-10 th St, West Berkeley, Calif. "Got your letters as we were going to town. Will write when I get home. Fred & Alfred are here. When do you think you can come down or shall I come up there. We have been busy for some days shocking corn. But every afternoon we go up to the city. Ed"
Berkeley, CA	11-06-11	28	married John Edward WILSON in Berkeley, CA
Reedley, CA	06-04-12	29	son, Howard Edward WILSON, born 4 June 1912 in Parlier, CA at 3 pm
Reedley, CA	12-27-13	30	Satisfaction of mortgage from Reedley National Bank, Dec. 27, 1913
Embarrass, MN	06-20-14	31	Bessie's father, Antti KANGAS, died 20 June 1914 in Embarrass, MN
Reedley, CA	04-19-18	34	Property in Parlier sold to Y. Yoshikawa representing Fairview Ranch for \$15,000; recorded June 30, 1918.
Reedley, CA	Summer 1918	34	Left Parlier farm for extended vacation trip to

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			end in Astoria, OR.
Astoria, OR	Fall 1918	35	Arrived in Astoria, OR after extended vacation in California.
Portland, OR	1919	36	Leased Empress Hotel in Portland, OR; this must have been for the full year 1919; 308 1/2 Stark Street, between 5 th & 6 th Streets
Astoria, OR	January 1920	37	Fed. Census shows Bessie & family in Astoria, OR living with Ed's parents.
Beaverton, OR	Fall 1920 Nov. 6, 1920	37	Bought land in Beaverton, OR; it was purchased from a Catholic nun, Sister Mary Barnard.
Beaverton, OR	April 2, 1930	47	Bessie & family on Baseline Road in Beaverton, in 1930 Fed. Census.
Embarrass, MN	03-11-33	49	Bessie's Mother, Maria KANGAS, died in Embarrass, MN, 11 Mar 1933
Beaverton, OR	04-08-1940	57	Fed. Census, 1940, Pct. 39, Baseline Rd.
Beaverton, OR	04-04-1950	67	Fed. Census, 1950, Pct. 39, Baseline Rd.
Beaverton, OR	12-03-1963	80	Bessie died in Beaverton, OR 3 Dec. 1963, age 80; her cemetery marker incorrectly lists her age as 77 years.

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Regarding "Bessie at Shaw" in 1910 Fed. Census

Date: Fri, 17 Nov 2000  
 From: "Connie Bradbury"  
 To: "JB Wilson" <designs@hevanet.com>  
 Subject: Re: Bessie Kangas – 1910 Fed. Census, Fairbanks, Alaska

I finally found Bessie in the census. I don't know if it was just a bad day for seeing what I was looking at, if you know what I mean, but I finally found her on the third time through the censuses.

The FHC has Olin's book so I looked at the entry and other entries to see if I could figure out what he had extracted. There was no clue in the entry as to where in the census she was. Shaw was a bit of a clue but it turned out to be misleading. Shaw could have been Shaw Creek, Shaw Roadhouse (both down by Delta in the Tanana River area) that would give one reason why she wasn't in the A-Y Gazetteers. Or, it could have meant the Shaw Hotel.

I first tried to find Shaw Creek or Tanana River and its tributaries. She was not there. I also discovered the Fourth District (Fairbanks) is intermingled with other districts. The census actually says "Bessie at Shaw" as a marginal comment which just means she was not in Fairbanks even though she was enumerated there. Her occupation was waitress. She was probably rooming someplace on Sixth Avenue and that person gave the information to the census taker. In Alaska the census was taken in January, of all times, and people were requested to go into the census office and make their report. Or, in some cases the census taker would advertise that he would be at a trading post or roadhouse on such and such a date and everyone was to come in and make a report.

The fact that she was here for such a short period of time eliminates the possibility of there being any other records. And if there are it will take considerable digging to find anything that might contain some information about her. It wasn't that unusual a single woman would come here especially if she was from Finland. Finns were highly acclimated to living in colder regions and seem to have adapted better.

Hope this helps. Connie