

# From the Stavrosian Library Archives Family Register

## Iosif Papanov

In 1950 Iosif Papanov, born 1910, arrived in Fairbanks Alaska to become a gold miner. Iosif was 40 years old. He already had a life as a Russian coal miner. He left his home on Spitsbergen Island of Norway where he, his father and grandfather worked. Life was hard at Grumant coal mine, yet it was where they made a living. Iosif's father Gavrill Papanov was born at the Grumant mine site in 1885. He worked there 49 years until they all moved to Alaska.

Iosif's grandfather Demetrios Papas kept his Stavrosian name, his son Gavrill changed his last name to Papanov. In order to fit among the Russian miners. Demetrios left Greece, age 25, around 1880 to work in Grozny in the southwest region of Russia. Here, Gavrill had a son Iosif. Due to declining coal deposits, the Grumant mine closed.

Iosif was 39 years old when he heard about the Gold Fields in Alaska. Demetrios Papas was 95 years old in 1950. He lived with his son and grandson until 1952 when he passed away at 97 years old. Gavrill Papanov with his son Iosif went to work for the Fairbanks Exploration company. It was also called the United States Smelting, Refining and Mining Company. It was the major gold mining company in the Yukon territory.

Gavrill's age, 75, slowed down his ability to work in a mine so he found work as a crewman on the Riverboats. They carried the miners back and forth to the gold fields. By the end of 1969, highways were built ending the need for riverboat travel. Three years later Gavrill Papanov passed away at 102 years old. With both father and grandfather gone, Iosif moved into the housing at Gold Stream at 69 years old was out of work. He moved to Whitehorse, Alaska where he opened a Camp just 12 miles north of Fairbanks. The 1970's came with Open-Pit mining also known as strip mining. By 1979 there was no longer a need for individual gold miners. Iosif shop in 1979 selling Alaska Intuit primitive jewelry. He sold mostly to visitors coming into Whitehorse. The shop was located on Steele street. By 1982 the shop was gone to make way for the City Hall complex.

Iosif was 72 years old when he left Whitehorse. He moved south into British Columbia to a town called Kitimat. Iosif opened a small store where he sold goods to fishermen and hunters. He worked and lived here for 26 years. He married an Indian girl in Kitimat. They had a son James named after his grandfather Demetrios. Iosif was a quiet solitary man. Records indicate he died in 2008 at 98 years old. Last recorded entry shows James had moved to the West Coast of America. His blood line is being investigated for any leads that could find his family.

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<http://stavrosianalienancestry.com/stavrosianarchives.html>