

git'andz'

Villages

1. 'a l'ax tɛ'p Winter village at Metlakatla
2. ksaxay'u'm Winter village at Metlakatla
3. gitwilyaxsɛ "people where daylight appears". A large village on the Skeena at the mouth of Shames river, used until a short time ago (from 1927)
4. ksto:s The gispwudwa'dz village on the Estew near its mouth. Some references in narratives suggest it may have been a tribal village.
5. 'atkuss'xs The common git'andz' ulachon village at the mouth of Nass River

Territories

The territories of the *gitandō* on the Skeena were the Estew and Shamus rivers and a small area opposite the mouth of the Estew. The Estew belonged almost completely to the *ganha'dō* (see below). The Shamus was used in common by the whole tribe, who had a village at its mouth. The small area south of the river belonged to the *gispa'wudwa'dō*.

Some of the *gitandō* had the privilege of fishing at the Kwenamass river near the mouth of the Nass, although they did not own it. Two women of *gisteku's* house (IV) married into the house of *Exalaxetk*, the Niska who owned the territory, and fishing privileges came to be extended to their relatives among the *gitandō*.

The division of the territories on the Skeena is described in ~~the~~ a tradition, a digest of which is given below.

Subject. narrative

Hunting Territories of the qit'ands.

Joseph Morrison 1927 (IV, qit'ands) Recorded by Bygones.

The hunting territories of the qit'ands were all on the Ksto's (Exstew) River, ^{and directly opposite its mouth.} This river was first found by three men in a canoe: in the bow was 'niasyaxiyunet' the head of the large ganha'da group in the tribe, in the middle sat qista'ku the head of the only laxskik house, and in the stern was qe'tuk the gispawudwa'da royal chief of all the qit'ands. They discovered ten "territories", listed below in their order upriver. The first was given to the chief qe'tuk, the second to the laxskik qista'ku, and all the rest were claimed by the ganhada for the use of all their houses. The reasons niasyaxiyunet claimed so much territory ^{were} that he was the leader of the expedition and the ganha'da were so numerous. ^{It is also stated that they were the original qit'ands.} Two of these territories (8, 11) have since changed hands, as described below.

1. ksado'otsk "black water", the first creek, at the mouth of which a gispawudwa'da village was located. The "territory" (same name) was good for beaver, martin, musk, groundhog, bear, and also wild crabapples and berries.
2. haikdin "standing salmon ^{water?} trap", the second stream, taken by the laxskik. The area yielded salmon, berries, and game.
3. galwalgats "empty where flows" a stream which had the appearance of being a large former river bed. Claimed exclusively by niasyaxiyunet.
4. wil'am'amthokks "where good balsam", also exclusive to niasyaxiyunet.
5. kspeseni, another creek. This and the following two ^{territories} were reserved for the use of the ganha'da houses led by niasyaxiyunet (namely, V, atod, VI, VIII, and IX).

They yielded the animals mentioned above, also salmon and many kinds of berries.

6. ksa lɔlgət "rotten wood stream"

7. nigitiye "walking from side to side"

8. pi swando'n . This territory, originally ganha'do, was passed to the laxski'k house of ni sxtɔ after they ^{came from the g'ilopzan} joined the tribe, through marriage and as compensation for performing death duties.

9. ne xət kəm lɔp "dam of stones", ganha'do.

10. t xalegi and wɛlba lɔp, two ~~at~~ creeks making up a territory of the ganha'do group.

11. me gɔnkstɔs, the headwaters of the river. This territory, formerly belonging to the same ganhada group of houses as the others, was transmitted to laxlitka (VII, ganhada) in the following manner:

laxlitwa was a member of the ganhada group of ni sxiwɛ of the gitxaxtɛt tribe. As a result of a Tlingit raid on the Ecstall river, he fled to the Exstew River and lived with his wife's brother, ha lɔp (XI), as a guest. At the time, the male line of ni sxiyaxiyunɛ't was almost extinct, consisting of only one small boy. A raiding party of Tlingits ambushed a canoe load of young git'ands men, ~~and~~ including this young successor to ni sxiyaxiyunɛ't and killed them all. When the git'ands found these bodies and brought them home, each household came down to the canoe with an elk skin on which to carry up the body of their nephew. But there was no one to claim the young boy's body.

laxlit'kwa, being a ganha'do, arose and placed

an elk skin for the child. The next winter when the dead were being remembered and compensation was being paid for those who had assisted in the burial rites, the head woman of the group said "laxlit'kwa, you will have m^og^onksto's as your territory to remember your brother by." laxlit'kwa proclaimed himself a q^oit'ando and assumed control over this territory.

The hunting, fishing, and berry territories of the q^oispawudwa'da houses of q^oasye'tk (I) and ha'lo'p (II) were across the Skena opposite the Exotw river.

12. Ktsamgot on the Skena adjacent to q^oina'do'iks territory, belonging to the house of q^oasye'tk (I). This was also claimed by the q^oina'ang'ik royal house.

13. wilgandastolt "where 3 of beaver", the territory of ha'lo'p, adjoined 12.

Territories of g.t'ando' houses

laxski.k

I sg.agwe't

Actually owned no territory, but used the lower Exstew and the Shames River parts of the tribal territory, as a privilege given as a result of marriage with g.anha'do group.

III niəsxto'

Obtained piəwəndo'n (8) up the Exstew River from earlier g.anha'do owners.

IV giste'ku

Owned haitk'din, the second territory up the Exstew.

XII la.xs

No territories specified

gispəwudwa'do

II ge'.tuk

Owned ksədo'.ətsk, the first creek above the mouth of the Exstew River.

I g.asye.tk

Across the Shema from the Exstew, at ktsəmgət (12)

XI hal'ə'p

Adjacent to the preceding, a territory called wi'gandəstət.

g. anha'dz

V niasyaxiyunet

VI gaye'lowax

VIII nias'tsətəwano's

The original group of g. anhada, under niasyaxiyunet, who ^{originally} owned all the upper Exstew (territories 3-11 on the above list).

VII laxlitkwa

Was given meq.ənksto's (11), the headwaters of the Exstew.

IX tka tke'tk

~~In 192~~ Informant Morrison (1927) included this house with the original owners of the Exstew listed above, but Wallace (1915) said that he actually owned no territory ~~but~~ because he was of Niska origin, but used that of ~~the~~ his g. anhada relatives here.