

gitsala'say territories

The gitsala'say lived in two villages on either side of Kitselas Canyon. They owned territories upriver on the Skeena some 15 miles to the vicinity of Pacific, and also a short distance below the canyon. In addition they claimed territories up the Zymoetz River and farther south almost to Kitimat. Unfortunately there is no information on Kitimat territorial claims against which to check our impression that the Kitselas owned most of the Kitimat River drainage.

The field data has some gaps in it, but the general picture of the territories is as follows. The gitsala'say Eagle territories are all to the south; ^{Lower} Zymoetz, Lakelse Lake and branches of the Kitimat River. This is consistent with the supposed Kitimat origin of this group. The gispawdwaide, upriver people from Imlaham, claim the upper parts of the Zymoetz River (presumably they could claim ~~the~~ its whole vast drainage, as they ~~do~~ ^{claim} to have discovered it from Imlaham - and no other group seems to claim it), and Legate Creek up the Skeena. The gankhads seem to be of two groups. gism, from the coast, stayed close to the canyon and the lower Zymoetz, but sedzan, from ~~up the~~ the upper Skeena, had territories up ~~that~~ ^{the} river (and had recently obtained the Wedene branch of the Kitimat river). The Wolves, derived from a gilotzai house, have territories on Lakelse Lake. They also owned Chundimash Creek, a short distance up the Skeena.

One gains a strong impression that parts of the vast territory of this tribe were unclaimed and probably unused. Sections of the Skeena valley, some of its tributaries, and parts of the large Zymoetz drainage seem not to be claimed mentioned by the informants. This impression is quite apart from the gaps in the field notes.

Villages:

There are two main villages, occupied in recent times. In addition the traditions mention a number of earlier villages in the canyon area. These are listed below.

The Kitselas people deserted the two ^{main} canyon villages some time between about 1870 and 1890. They established a new village called New Town (i.k. 4. Kshish) below the canyon on the west side near Kitselas (Vanaredol) station on the railway. In 1913 this was the main village. Also, a number of the people moved down to Port Essington at the mouth of the Skeena, and lived there with ~~the~~ some of the gitsonga'lam until recent years.

1. laxta'>dza'p "on fortress", the gitlaxdzaks village in the canyon, west side of the river. This group are said to have moved here as protection against raids by the gispax'>ts.

2. gitxtsex

Continue

Old Villages

(Sam Wai)

1. lax 'a' wé'lp
on empty house
an old fishing village on railroad side
between the 2 tunnels, just above first
tunnel. (One of the tunnels is right underneath
a site).
2. lax sən' t's'a'wəl "where they gutted the salmon", in the
gap between the two tunnels. The railroad now runs on it.
3. lax gitw'il ma'k - right at top of canyon
4. ks i'g i'ng.é'et "where they got walking staffs", a small river
water of canes running into the river miles above the canyon
near Lone Creek.
5. gitkwandiyetku - two days by canoe above canyon on same
people of the thunder side as tahdzop.
6. ~~kwans~~ kwans'ke'ku - a little below 5.
7. kwetə'gən the next rapids on creek below 6.
8. 'wils'gatkul
where it's narrow
9. lax tsəm'ls or klu'yux "place of hiding" Ask
10. tahdzop, where the tribe moved for safety from gispax'ets
raids.

Place Names

1. lisk. May be tsamnah^o'sk "place of clearing"
There was a little qitxstex village there (q>m)

2. 'ndudu:n Formerly known by the names of the two creeks
which bounded it: the upper one ^{ks^o}ks^o'ansi:s and the
lower one ksado.atsk waters of black. In times more recent
than the beaver-undermining it was used as a
temporary camp, and the hollow reverberations caused
by their footsteps gives rise to the name "where
reverberates".

House locations:

Informants gave lists and locations of houses, presumably as they first remembered them.

A. *gitlaxdzaks*: Rosa Herring listed ~~the~~¹⁵ houses on the Fortress as follows:

From the north (upstream end) ~~also~~ proceeding south along the west side: IIc, Vb, Va, Ib, Ia, Id (below which was the stone totem pole), IIIb, IVa, IIIa (the last two on the highest point of the island). Down the east side of the fortress were IIb, IIa, VIa, IVb. Two houses Vc and Vd were not located.

Of the 15 houses, ⁷~~8~~ are *ganbada*, and are grouped at the north end of the Fortress. Five are *laxskik* and 3 *gispswudwa'da*.

B. *gitxtse'x* Agnes Hudson listed 19 houses on this side; 7 *laxskik*, 5 *gispswudwa'da*, 4 *ganba'da*, and 3 *laxkibu*. If I understand the field notes correctly, they were arranged in two rows, a short front row of 6 houses, and a second row of 13. From south to north, the front row included: Va, IIa, IIb (an excavated house), IIIa, Ib, Id. The second row included Vb, VIb, III d, III c, II d, Ic, Ia, III b, IV b, IV a (the latter two had the salmon poles), IV c, VI a, VI c.

Work Muts

Kitseles Indian Reserves

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|----|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | Kitseles | Intermittently occ. | Old Village |
| 2. | Chindimach | " | graveyard |
| 2a | " | " | fishing |
| 3 | Ikshenigwolk | unocc. | " |
| 4 | Kshish (New Town) | occupied | Village, Church, School, Council. |
| 4a | " | Int | fishing |
| 5 | Zaimoetz ktsamhu ^{tsamhu} | Un. | " |
| 6 | Kulspai | " | " |
| 7 | Ketoneda | Int | " |