

gitsala'sa

Summary of

The Beaver Poles of Neeskawdeks

Two beaver poles (one on ^{Fortress} island) belong to niasg.ə'dəks of git'sən group of laxskik.

The people lived at git'aus. A short distance above there, there was a lake where the hunters got beavers. One morning kwangat of the laxskik house of niasnagwəlk was found dead with an arrow sticking in him. After his cremation, while the people were gambling, a stranger in a beaver robe came and took the arrow "of his brother pəlhəngwə'a, dove in the lake and became a beaver. The people decided to wreck the dam, and two laxskik lakakiget named laxaya'aux and haxsu'mksk killed the Beaver Chief. The house of niaski'isəp took this Beaver as crest, and it is represented on their pole (the tallest one on the Fortress).

The older pole was erected ^{by} old niasg.ə'dəks
The newer " " ca 1886, haitkam stəl
restored 1929

After the lake was drained the people moved from git'aus to the Fortress (better fishing). The git'xtsex, who had lived at the edge of the beaver lake, moved down to the canyon also, other side. gitlax tsət ta'x "people on edge of lake" is a qanəmx term. gitlax dʒəx "people on ravine" is (the group at Fortress)

Summary of "Origin of the Beaver Crest"

One morning kwēn'y did not get up from his sleeping place, and he was found to be dead, a wonderfully carved bone arrow in him. His nephews gave a feast, at which the arrow was passed around, and two strange men said it was the arrow of bālamgwē. They left with the arrow, and pursued, jumped into the lake and became two large beavers.

kwēn'y
killed by
beavers

The people prepared poles to break the huge dam.

Break dam

nīshaiwexs, gitxʷn, gʷm stayed on one side, kwēn'y, nīstəxʷy, sɛdzan on the other. When the dam broke and the ordinary beavers were killed, the huge beaver with human heads on its back appeared. sɛdzan (gan) speared it first, then gitxʷn, and gitxʷn got it. (Monster beaver's wife escaped to a whirlpool kwɛdʷgʷn)

Movements of
2 groups

kwēn'y, nīstəxʷy, and sɛdzan went up to the edge of what was then the lake, and were known as gitlaxtsette
abbr. gitk̄tset
people on edge of lake

nīshaiwexs, gʷm, and gitxʷn (on railroad side) made their village on a high hill right above first tunnel known as laxgalwelp

Then all moved down to ʷandudun and the beavers undermined the village.

Then gitk̄tset moved up to ktsəm'nahusk and the others⁴ to a place on a precipice gitwəlmɛ'y (people of falling leaves). (above the canyon)

Then for protection both groups moved back to the canyon, the gitlaxdʷ "people at edge of precipice" to tsɔlom tɔdʷp and the gitlaxtset to the site of their original village.

And gitxʷn became afterwards the head of all the gitshalas houses . . .



A II qo'm

(g.anha'də)

Simon Wallace (qo'm)

- (1) q a' x Raven
- (2) g a n a' o Frog
- (3) g. a m e' t s Starfish
- (4) t x a' k o' l k whole being carved as a house post (hai'dəsk) holding a paddle between hands.
- (5) g. a' u s ə m d e' l ə - a monster with hair on tongue.
hair on tongue

It was carved on the frontal pole of the house, a figure with hooked beak (~~paternal crest~~, [?] laxaxni'ts).

{ (6) The front corner post of this house (outside) was
4 corner posts { kwəg.ε.it for txa ge.it "all hat", a crest of
laxaxni'ts. (4 corner posts the same)

(7) t a' a x , a terraced house, 4 terraces, on the t'a'ədzəp. was a crest of this group.

(8) g. a n s u' c , also called hal' i l e' t k a t g. a' x
pole shake on top of slept raven
"sleeping place of raven"

(9) g. a l ə p l i b ə m w e' l p "Thunder House"

(10) h a y e t s k ə m w e' l p "Copper House" belonged to
n i ʔ s' a o l k s of same group.

Totem Poles II, p. 468 The laxaxni'tsk poles were restored in 1928 that is, the four outside corner posts [5 above], the 4 inside corner posts of gayet [4 above] and the frontal pole.

A III nizshaiwz'xs

(gispaawudwa'də)

B II nizsdəxciy

W. Wright:

(1) nex't h'painting, robes.

(2) g'emk (sun) h'f painting

(3) maxai (rainbow) "

(4) mədiyəm dzao'aks on pole still standing

TP. in gitxtsex village

(5) g'alk mədi:k h'address of grizzly bear

Nass laxkiku also use it because they
are of Temlaxam origin also.(6) gutkuniyoks owl, used as a naxnəx
rather than a crest. Property of all gispaw.

Grouse, used by gibksen gisp., not used here.

Crest.

B IV gaga'otskan (laxskik)

Salmon (house) ridge pole.
See myths.

A I gitxən

(laxskik)

Sam. Wice

(1) txa^ckɔlk or wɪtxa^ckɔlkəmget
large whole personused on amhalait plaque and on pole at ta^cdʒəp.

(2) xskik Eagle

(3) tsɔlaxgxa'wəns "chief woman of the Frog"
Used as a robe and as a hat (ga'it) with 10
layers dec. with abalone

(4) stʃɔl Squatting Beaver (on Poles) and robes.

txa^ckɔlk "whole being" headdress amhalait was the cause of much strife with the gispaxlɔ'ts, as legex wanted it. It caused them to move onto the todzəp, and a woman was all ready to take it into the hills in event of an attack. It was the only amhalait in the tribe at the time. Many attacks were made.

B I niashagwelk

(laxskik)

Agnes Hudson

Beaver Pole of niasha'ax of house of niashagwelk

Erected about 60 yrs ago at time of plague, as were all
the poles at gitxtsex.

B v tax haye'

(q'ispzwudwa'da)

Agnes Hudson: Related to niastaxix.

(1) mediak of the hills

(2) 'next

She speaks of a pole of madiq.mg.an : grizzly on
 the tree on a dax house belonging to niastaxik
 group at gitx tse'x.

b III sedzan

(ganha'da)

Agnes Hudson: 1. naksuə g. dəm g. ax "housefront painting of raven"

2. g. aye't bullhead.

Totem Pole ganəm g. aye't, pole of bullhead, at
gitx'tsə'x.

at base is a frog, then a bullhead tail up.

Carved 55-60 yrs ago by laxaxnits gispaw gispax'ets
in memory of ga bə t g. an who died during smallpox.

3. g. ana'ə Frog, on pole

4. g. ax Raven.

b II niastaxɔk

(gispawudwa'dz)

Wm Brown

- (1) ne·x t Blackfish, on poles and blankets
- (2) mɔdi·egəm dzawi'aks grizzly of the sea.
(has fins). Used on totem pole
- (3) lu'aya'u x "the advisor" a wooden man
on the totem pole.
- (4) gut kwinu'ks owl, on pole.

AI gitxən

(laxskik)

Rosa Herring mentioned

p t s e ' n ə m l ɔ ʔ p totem pole of stone, on t a ʔ s ' d z ə p.

It was supposedly erected by a lone woman survivor of
 gitxən called g a w ɔ ʔ g ə n t k in memory of gitxən, at
 a time when they borrowed people of the house of l ɔ ʔ g ɛ x
 to revive the house.

Totem Poles at Kitzelas

TP. II
pp 461-

1 nishaiwex's Foreweed Pole. Fortressed
long, plain.

2 Iaxaknitsk's 4 outside corner posts
4 inside " " gayet.
1 totem pole Hat