

of Git-si's territories

General:

The Git-si's owned two of the main tributaries of the lower Skeena River, the Kasiks and the Khyex, as well as sections of the main river itself. Furthermore, they extended their territory northward, apparently in fairly recent times and at the expense of Shingit groups, to include all of Work Channel and Khatzeymatun Inlet. Their summer villages were on the Skeena, and like the other Tsimshian they had winter villages at Nethlakatla and subsection fishing villages on the lower Nass.

Klinas, the fabulous outlaw of Lumhkin history was a member of the leading lineage of the Git-si's (I), and the separate villages of and territories he used used or temporarily occupied during his career are shown on the map. The Git-si's claims territories.

The Git-si's gained no territory in compensation (a small area on Eastall River) and lost some (Exchumaka River).

Village (see Map)

1. Konu

The main winter village at Nethlakatla

2. Tsawenaxet "point of shrubs" The main Skeena River village. The informant, Herbert Walker (in 1926) remembered this village. He listed ten houses, from upstream down, which belonged to the following families: 1, 2, and 3 were Laxkiba (VII and IX); 4 ~~and~~ and 5 were Ganha'dz houses of VI and V families; 6 was the only *qispruudwadz* house (IV); 7 and 8 were Laxkisk (V and VI); 9 and 10 were Ganha'dz (III). The chief's house had been washed away and he had moved to Port Simpson. The informant next remembered no outside Totem poles in this village, although there were four carved houseposts and at least one house had a housefront painting.

The informant stressed that this was regarded as their permanent village. The houses, for example, were better than the ones at Nutlakathla. The tribe moved to Fort Simpson "at the time of the smallpox," about 50 years ago. In 1926 some remnants of the village could be seen, but much had been washed away.

1926
30
1876

3. tsowan lo'ip "point of rock." The main village before they moved to 2. Here nidsyaganet, the chief, had a house called tku tinsimwip "valley house."

4. laxsg.chnions^{winter}, a separate, smaller village at Nutlakathla established by Haines so that he could be close to his father in the adjoining inaxang'ik village.* In later times this site was used by the gitxa'ta'gchips tsipyose'og group.

5. lax ka'nay'e'in "on excrement" The Nutlakathla winter village of the laxkibui house of asayalye'in.

6. laxwolya'ps "on high place" formerly belonging to the laxkibui gamludiles, this site ~~was~~ more recently occupied by the gitxi's under Haines.

7. k'no g. s'i "place of scalps", now Kincolith. A temporary village of Haines, where he held his "slaughter feast" and killed many of the Seminole ships.

* It is not always possible to locate exactly Haines' villages from the accounts. On the Nutlakathla area, for example, he is also mentioned as living in "Shelter Cove," and again "on a high bluff at the narrowest point of Nutlakathla Pass."

8. *K'ondz*

Hidden Inlet on Peace Canal,

where Haines and his followers went to escape revenge. He had a fort here, called *totsopm* *gana'o* "fort of frog."

9. *Lax'kay'dn* "in wild celery" Birnie Island, a village of Haines

while an outlaw.

10. *wol tki b'a'wan* "where down run deer", Deer Point,

south of Fort Simpson. While an outlaw, Haines lived here in a house on top of a high cliff.

After a battle, he moved temporarily to:

11. *tsomse'desk*

on Wales Island.

12. *k'tsomkt i:t* "in narrow inlet" Haines is said to

have lived briefly here, on Baker Inlet, Grenville Channel, and to have obtained salmon at Salmon

liver, opposite, *k'tsm'na x'b'o:n* "in getting salmon".

These places have different names to the *gitwalgits*, their owners.

13. *kin'me's* "place of red" Kwinanme River. During his

early career, Haines built a house here for a special feast. The house was called *tsomknemesam wə:p* "inside red house" from the red earth of the floor.

The *gitl'an* and Niska also have ownership claims on this site.

Haines is also said to have hidden at a place near Work Channel.

14. *kwag.a:p'a'*

The *gitlis* eulachon

fishery village at the mouth of the Nass at Red Bluff. Haines is said to have had a separate place just

however, but no separate name as given for it.

Territories (by house)

I House of n̄is̄yāyanēt (ḡan̄hād̄)

I₁. k̄x̄āid̄z̄oks

The Kanks River. In 1915

Wallace said that this valley was owned by n̄is̄yāyanēt.

In 1926 he added that it was used in common by all of the ḡitsi's.

I₂ t̄x̄akst̄ēl "low level lake" A hunting and fishing area used exclusively by this house.

I₃ k̄s̄'ts̄ē or m̄uk̄y? A hunting and fishing area on the Eastall River, belonging to ḡalk̄s̄ok (I_b) of this house. There was a fish house at the mouth of the creek.

I₄ ḡāod̄z̄ōit (refers to "great food basket"). The whole upper basin of the Khyux River, belonging exclusively to the house (I_a). This area was given to the ḡitw̄iḡs̄its in compensation for performing the death duties of a former ḡalk̄s̄ok, and re,^{now} strictly speaking ḡitw̄iḡs̄its territory, but in practice it is shared.

I₅ k̄sūm̄dz̄ol̄axs

Exchange River.

This territory formerly belonged to N̄un̄as (I_d), but it was transferred to the ḡinaxanḡik as compensation for a death.

I₆ k̄ts̄omat̄īn for k̄ts̄om̄t̄kut̄īn "meade of valley":

Khut̄gymat̄en inlet and river. A large territory belonging exclusively to the "royal" ḡan̄hād̄, who had houses

there. In the division of territory by Kams's group, the *widzən'a'nsk* (a Yengettem), this area was given to *wa'mogwe't* (I^c).

I⁷ *k'onda* Hidden Inlet. This territory was taken by *g'alksək* (I^b). There were horses there.

II House of *wi'axε'* (isp., royal).

The informant knew of no territories belonging to this house, and thought they might use those of *wat'da'dax* (I^d)

III House of *tə'yəm* (ganha'do)

III₁ A small berry area in the same region as I¹.

III₂ *ktsəm ktu'n* "inside of walls". North arm of Work Channel and Loon River, where beaver were trapped by *tə'yəm* and *məkskəmbe'n* (III^a and III^b). There were two houses there.

III₃ *kla'xmaxl* "to go across" (from the fact that the trail from the Shuna to the head of Work Channel crosses here. It was owned by *kushayε'sx* in the *tə'yəm* group, and was a territory rich in fish, beaver, bear, goats, and berries. This area at the head of Work Channel is said formerly to have belonged to the Shungit. It was a former *gushayε'sx* who discovered it and led the attack on the Shungit occupants, after which he assumed it formally as his territory.

The names of the lakes in this territory are

təmkla'xmas (Lastman Lake), *kspayε'ks*: "water of living place or refuge" (Minerva Lake), *nikswiiks* "place of paddling" (Spout Mountain Lake?), and *ta'mən* 'lake of salt water' (Silverton Lake?).

gitsis (haimes) capture Wox & Khuzymatin
from the Shugut.

Abt Nov. The Haimes land of kton.

Chas Abbott to Bryan 19?

kton (Wox Channel) was formerly the property of the Laxkiba and Laxskik gidaagamits of laxe'sla. Kts'mad'in was the property of the gan'had's and spwadwa'ds gidaagamits who lived at laxt'sx (Fox or Foxes). The Tsimshian only passed the entrances of these inlets on their way to the Nass.

There was a village at the head of kton called Taxmax't, and it was only a short distance over to the Nass River. One day a party of gitsis hunters in the area heard a ringing sound and saw a gidaagamit man splitting wood with a strange wedge, made of copper. They killed the gidaagamit and took the copper tool. In retaliation the gidaagamits attacked the gitsis's village and killed several people.

The next fall the gitsis war leader haimes called a gidaagamit's feast and invited warriors from other tribes to join him. They carried their names over to kton and attacked the Shuguts at Taxmax't, killing many and ringing the village. They continued down the inlet to another village, which they destroyed, then went to Kts'mad'in and caught the Shuguts at their berry camp and defeated them. The surviving Shugut fled back to laxe'sla and Tongass, and these inlets became gitsis territory. The other warriors were paid in slaves, but were also given the right to fish here, which has been recognized to this day.

Comments

The original territories of the g'etsis were on the Skuna. K'nuks River was mostly the property of the royal gandads although Laxkiba and Gispowadwax each owned a tributary. K'nuks and Exchamiks Rivers belonged completely to the royal gandads.

G'edom's gandada group played a major part in the move into Work Channel, as traditions show.

The depredations of K'nuks resulted in the acquisition of K'nutzynatun and Hidden Inlet - but the loss (by way of compensation) of Exchamiks River.

The picture is one of gandada dominance

q'itsi's territories

Chas Abbott to Baymen, 1927

" On the saltwater the whole of Kton (Works Channel) and Kt23 and in and K13m's and all territories between these villages was the property of the q'dag. on its', who were in course of time become by different Guanche raids, mostly under q'itsi's leaders.

All of these new territories became the property of the q'ankhada q'itsi's, and many of these q'ankhadas were of q'dag. ante origin and became amalgamated into the q'itsi's tribe and retained their old rights on the saltwater territories

