

## The Migration of the Kargani

The date at which the Kargani Harda moved to Alaska has not been established very closely.

Dawson estimated that it may have occurred about 1720, and Swanton accepts that but suggests that it may have occurred more recently, because the explorer Douglas found Dadeus occupied in 1789, and the Harda maintain that Dadeus was not regularly occupied after the movement took place (Swanton p 88)

What started the movement, according to a version recorded by Swanton (p 89), was a dispute which led to the murder of the chief of one of the Eagle lineages (E 23), and to war among the lineages. First to move were the Yadas (E 219), who settled at Tatchenic (east side of Prince of Wales Island at entrance of Cholmondeley Sound). The Targess ("Santa-people") Targit, who occupied the area attacked and killed this group, then set off to <sup>make</sup> war on the rest of the Harda. All the North Island Harda met them in battle near Houkan and defeated them, then captured and destroyed Subkwan which was <sup>at that time</sup> a Targit village. After that all the North Island lineages moved to Alaska.

Swanton suggests that the North Island area had become over-populated. "The Harda seem to have been moving in this direction for generations, and the next step to Alaska was only a little greater than some of the previous ones. . . . An occasion was ~~the~~ the only thing needed to induce the people to move northward." (p 90) (In this view, the movement of the Kargani was like a drop of water falling from the tip of an icicle.)

Targit references to the same movement are given on pp. ———.



Historical references about 1790 make it clear that the Harda were firmly established on the Alaskan side by that time. However they had not deserted their territories on the Queen Charlottes, but commuted back and forth between Langara and Dall Islands each year. It was to be some time before they remained permanently on the northern side of Dixon Entrance.

One group of Karigami Harda, recently of Kasoan, settled far around on the east side of Prince of Wales Island. These were the Tchatcheenie People of Swanton's story (see above), who are said to have been the first to leave. Hoskins' narrative of the Columbia's voyage, for August 7-9, 1791, mentions two villages in this area, Sushin and Cahtha (pp 218-19). A chief of Sushin was named Sinkait (Sanaxet) Sā'nxet. chief of EZIG) a name well known at Kasoan until modern times.

Sushin was otherwise known as Chasin or Chasina. It was shown on a map copied from a Kasoan chart of 1853 as "Chasin tzeff Settlement." This old village was located on the south side of the entrance to Cholmondeley Sound. From here the people moved to Old Kasoan on Skowl Arm. In the late 1880's, one house and the stumps and remains of mortuary columns were all that remained (Nelson p. 387)

Chasina

The Hudsons Bay census of Work included Chat-chee-nie with a population of 267 in 18 houses.

The village of Cahtha mentioned in 1791 by Hoskins is likely to have been a fishing village on Kasta Bay at the head of Kasoan Bay.

The rest of the Karigami occupied the west side of Prince of Wales Island and Dall Island