

The Origins of Kitwanga.

Chief Smedik and Alfred Sinclair, 1923, Kitwanga.

Fiddler's
Creek

The first village where the people lived was g, t'ang.ε't "people of the walking stick", on the creek kseg.ung.ε't (named from a rock at its source which looks like a walking stick or cane).

? The place where they had come from was Fiddler's Creek (west side of Skeena about 25 miles below Kitwanga). Part of this village spoke Tsimshian, the other part Kithsan, but the village had only one chief, my ancestor, liginε'tε. There were in g, t'ang.ε't some laxski'k, some laxkibu, some ganha'dε, and some g'isq.a'st. The people killed some animals: bears, beavers, and took them as adε'xε and iye'ts [?] The g'itsamge'lεm killed a beaver; he cut it down the middle and they took a part and my forefather took a part. They also killed the white marten. galnu' was a laxkibu, second in rank to liginε'tε.

Some of the people drifted (moved?) up river and started the village of laxantge'is, across the river from Kitwanga, near the slough. There were five houses of samgiget and others of lekaxkiget. The houses, in order from downriver upward, were

laxantge'is

all
laxski'k

There are
laxkibu
!!

1. gεqε (headchief)
2. tewalasu
3. sqa'yε'n
4. tkilawε
5. mεsg.ana'εε
6. tenεnge't
7. tε'ts (witε'tsu)

samgiget

lekaxkiget

The people then moved across here to kse'tax (Kitwancool Creek) where salmon were plentiful

At a later date they moved to the tɔ'ɔdzɔp to live with neqt. The first tribe to join him there were the eagles of laxa'tge'is. There were five houses on the tɔ'ɔdzɔp:

1. qɔq (laxskik)
2. tɔwa'las (")
3. tengwax (laxse'l) same as neqt
4. taxtsa'x (") another family
5. tenəmget (laxkibu)

he tenəmget: "This family of laxkibu joined with the laxskik; they were only a few. They helped each other. The laxkibu could not marry a laxskik here, only the g.ankadɔ. That family was not quite laxkibu, only half. The laxskik and laxkibu here were named differently: lax'na'dzɔ, only one name for the two. (This term is in the old language, it has the same meaning as laxskik, in the old gitksan language long ago lax'na'dzɔ meant laxskik)

Wolf & Eagle together

lax'na'dzɔ

The people moved from the tɔ'ɔdzɔp and lived along the creek. There were 11 smokehouses:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| 1. tengwək s'axgot | laxsel. | |
| 2. qɔq | laxskik | 7. hal'ε'ist (laxsel) |
| 3. tɔwa'las | " | 8. ha'ε'ku " |
| 4. tenəmget | laxkibu | 9. wixskε'k " |
| 5. ha'las | laxsel | 10. ci'yε'iti " |
| 6. lε'it | " | 11. ludaxa'it " |

They built two t'in (wiers) and 4 galiaq (hanging ?) which belonged to

1. wixskε'k
2. qɔq
3. lε'it
4. hal-ε'ist

The Kitwancool also built tiorrs and had
to galiaq.

As the wars were finished the tiorbi moved from
the creek to the present site of Kitwanga.
(Interpreter Sinclair said his grandfather lived on the
to'odzap when he was young. He died about 1888)

They built new houses along the Akena, where
Sanper's house now stands. The river cut away
gitwong.ε' the bank, and they had to move farther down. The
village was called gitwong.ε' The houses were:-

1. q>q
2. te'ngwax
3. tewal'asu
4. ha' lus
5. le. ita
6. sqayen
7. q. lawo'
8. 'ax q. > t
9. ha' ku
10. tenonget
11. to. ts
12. ta ku

There were no q. isq. a. st here at that time

When the people moved again (because of the river eating
away the bank). Some moved back to the creek.

The song, get families had a fish camp at andemo'. 1

Others, the q. anhadz went down to q. isq. > ks, accompanied
by the q. isq. a. st family of haxpəgwətu from q. itsəgukla.

About 25 years ago they built their houses where
Kitwanga now stands. They built two rows of houses

then one near the poles and the other at the present place.

14 houses

- | | |
|----|-----------|
| 1 | gog |
| 2 | tengwax |
| 3 | tewalasu |
| 4 | lilt |
| 5 | sgayen |
| 6 | 'axg.ɔt |
| 7 | gilawɔ' |
| 8 | te'nəmget |
| 9 | tɔts |
| 10 | t'ɔ haku |
| 11 | halus |
| 12 | nig. anye |
| 13 | lɔ'. lɔg |
| 14 | haku |

Kutwanga laxski'k

1. qo'q.
2. sqa'yen
3. te'wal.asu
4. qilawo'

All same origin, downriver.

gitwəng.ɛ' laxskɪ'k

I q > q (somadi'k)

Crests

xpəsemi
Eagle
stəget half person
Halibut
gədəmanut
məshət White martin
Beaver
Bear
qənu Dog salmon
məksit wood

Qayen

<sup>Judda Cr?
Doreen</sup>
gitwəng.ɛ't ksq.ung.ɛt
Chief liginete

↓

lax ant kɛ'is

↓

Kitwəwəł Creek kse'tax

↓

tə'ɔ'dzəp

↓

Kitwəngə

③ poles.

II sqayen

As above plus special
palxumskik split eagle
spəsamɪ of their own

gitwəng.ɛ't (Doreen)
liginete Chief.

↓

ant kɛ'is

↓

gitswəł below tədzəp.

↓

Kitwəngə

② poles.

III təwəlasu

Above + tsɔntɪ'k (squirrel)
etc from 2nd affiliation

② poles

IV qɪlawə

Much the same

① pole

Story of chief choosing own
pteq when moved from
gitanget to antkɛ'is.