

Hiellen

† Yagan

or Tow Hill

Hiellen or Hlielung (li'elən) was a village at the mouth of the Hiellen River (on IR 2, Hiellen), of which little is remembered, but one totem pole, a famous one, was preserved from it. The best description of the remains of the village is that of Dawson, who saw it in 1878:

"Just east of Tow Hill, on low ground on the east bank of the Hi-ellen River, a few much-decayed carved posts and beams of former houses are still standing, where, according to the Indians, a large village formerly existed. Its disappearance is partly accounted for by the fact that the sea has washed away much of the ground on which it stood.... (p. 165B)

Chittenden also mentioned ruins here, of what was "formerly a considerable village" (p. 23).

O.R. 1882 p. 103 "... formerly the site of a large village, as indicated by the number of old houses and posts..."

Swanton's informants could only remember the names of three of the houses here. ^(p. 289) The village belonged to a Raven lineage (R 14), as did two of the houses. ^{Point Town people, who later moved to Masset #87} The third house belonged to the famous Eagle chief AE Edenshaw, and before it stood a massive frontal pole. This pole (see Barbeau for illustration (p. 210) and description (p. 218, 220) was taken to Prince Rupert about 1923 where it is still preserved, and has been said to be the oldest Haida pole preserved, dating back perhaps to 1820. According to Barbeau's informant, Edenshaw had moved here from Kiusta. ^{source?} The village did not belong to him; possibly he maintained a house here as well as in his home village and at Masset.

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Hiellen receives no mention in the early journals. Possibly ^{by that name} it is a town with a short history, not very old, yet not lasting into very recent times. Dawson was of the opinion that this was the "Necoon" of Work's 1841 census, but I think the latter was a different village on Rose Point at the time.

Yagan

Yagan (IR 3) was a temporary fishing village at Yagan Point near Tow Hill, which was made an Indian Reserve for the Masset Indians. There were about half a dozen houses and a few potato gardens there in 1878 when Dawson passed by (p. 164 B). It is listed as an old Eagle village belonging to a branch of the Stastas the same general lineage as Edenshaw (E 21c), and Swanton makes the interesting comment that the site of the old houses is now far back in the woods, for the shoreline has receded here (p. 281). (See also Barbeau, 1950, p. 218)

H.I. Smith 1929 (Kitchen Midden of the PC of C)

Midden near Yagan Pt. 1000 x 200 ft x 5 ft deep (p 1)

700 yds back from the sea, with huge spruce trees on it (p 5)

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