

HISTORIES, TERRITORIES,

AND LAWS

of the

KITWANCOOL

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INTRODUCTION

The manuscript which follows represents one step in the fulfilment of an agreement between the people of Kitwancool and the Provincial Museum of British Columbia. It contains a statement of Kitwancool histories, territories, and laws as the Kitwancool want them stated. If this typed version is approved by the representatives of the Kitwancool, it will be published without alteration by the museum. It seems desirable to provide in addition this brief introduction describing the agreement and how it came about.

In the spring of 1958 Wilson Duff and Michael Kew, representing the Provincial Museum and the British Columbia Totem Pole Preservation Committee, visited Kitwancool to negotiate the removal of a small number of totem poles for permanent preservation. Discussions with representatives of the Kitwancool had been carried on in previous years, but up to that time no totem pole had ever been removed from the village. The Kitwancool chiefs did not consider it proper, under any circumstances, to sell their totem poles outright.

Accordingly, the museum officials made a new kind of offer: that for each old pole removed for preservation, a new and exact copy, carved in Victoria, would be returned and erected in the village. A meeting of the chiefs and people of Kitwancool accepted this proposal but added one further condition: that their histories, territories and laws were to be written down, published, and made available to the University for teaching purposes. The following agreement was then drawn up and notarized.

AN AGREEMENT

between

THE PEOPLE OF KITWANCOOL AND THE PROVINCIAL MUSEUM OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA CONCERNING CERTAIN TOTEM POLES OF KITWANCOOL

Whereas The Provincial Museum of British Columbia desires to preserve a number of the totem poles of Kitwancool for the use and benefit of future generations of both white and native peoples, and

Whereas The people of Kitwancool also desire to preserve their totem poles and furthermore desire that their authentic history, the stories of their totem poles, their social organization, territories and laws be written down, published and used in the highest educational institutions of the province to teach future generations of white and native students about Kitwancool,

The parties hereby make the following agreements:-

The people of Kitwancool hereby agree:

1. To permit the removal of three totem poles to Victoria, B. C. for permanent preservation. The three poles being:
 - (a) Chief Wiha's pole now lying beside the house of Mr. Walter Douse.
 - (b) Chief Wiha's pole now standing in the old village.
 - (c) Chief Guno's pole showing three frogs and now fallen in the old village.

2. To provide authentic information on their history, traditions, social organization and laws to properly qualified persons, so that the information may be written down, published and used in teaching students about Kitwancool. In future to provide such information as is required to properly qualified representatives of the University of British Columbia so that they may further clarify questions which may

arise in the course of studying and teaching about Kitwancool.

3. That the conditions listed below, to be undertaken by the Provincial Museum of British Columbia are acceptable to them.

We certify that these conditions are acceptable

Chief Wiha

Chief Gamlakyelt,
per subchief Leseq

The Provincial Museum of British Columbia hereby agrees:-

1. To cause the above described poles to be removed from Kitwancool, to transport these poles to Victoria, B. C. for permanent preservation, to have skilled carvers make exact copies of these poles, to transport the copies back to Kitwancool, construct for them suitable bases and erect them in places to be designated by the Kitwancool people, and to accomplish this by May 30th., 1959.
2. To provide funds to cover the expenses of a person acceptable to both parties to visit Kitwancool for a period of not more than two weeks, to write down the authentic stories of the totem poles and the history and laws of the Kitwancool people as dictated by them.

(As Mrs. Constance Cox has been named as a suitable person we agree to contact her and determine whether she is willing and able to undertake this work, and if so, to make arrangements for her to do so.)

It is understood that copies of the information so written down will be made available to the people of Kitwancool, the University of British Columbia, and the Provincial Museum of British Columbia.

3. To borrow the map of Kitwancool territory prepared by Mr. Fred Good, to copy it, and to

return the original map to Kitwancool.

4. To issue a publication which will embody the information and map referred to above, in sufficient numbers so that it may be obtained by all who are interested.
5. To provide the University of British Columbia with copies of all of the above information and map, and also sufficient copies of the above-mentioned publications for the use of professors and students. Furthermore, to recommend to the officials of the University that these materials be extensively used in teaching the coming generations of students about Kitwancool. And furthermore, to inform the officials of the University that the people of Kitwancool would welcome suggestions for the improvement of their legal position and welfare; and in future may ask the University and the Provincial Museum for information and advice on matters within their competence and concerning the people of Kitwancool.
6. To provide copies of this agreement, for permanent record, to the people of Kitwancool, the Provincial Museum of British Columbia, and the University of British Columbia.

Wilson Duff,
Provincial Museum of
British Columbia

Walter Derrick,
Chief Councillor,
Kitwancool Band.

Hazelton, B. C.
March 24, 1958

W. Baily
(Authorized under the
Indian Act to administer
oaths.)

Witness:
Peter Williams,
President.

In accordance with the agreement, arrangements were made for Mrs. Constance Cox to spend some time in Kitwancool during October, 1958, and to record the histories and laws as dictated by the chosen representatives of the Kitwancool people. The procedure to be followed was written down in the following statement, which was sent to all parties concerned.

To the people of Kitwancool:

According to the terms of the agreement signed in April, I now have the pleasure of sending to you your old friend Mrs. Constance Cox, who was chosen on your suggestion as the most suitable person to write down the Kitwancool history and laws. I am sure that you will give Mrs. Cox your full cooperation in carrying out the difficult and important task which we have assigned to her.

May I offer the following suggestions on how this work may best be carried out. As a general principle I assume the people of Kitwancool know what is important in their history and traditions. They know what should be written down and they know who the best speakers for each clan are. Therefore, the choice of topics to be recorded and of speakers should be left completely to them.

The first step, then, is for the people to decide what things should be written down. Presumably this will include the full stories of the three totem poles sent to Victoria, the full histories of each clan in the village, the stories of other totem poles, the story of the Tsetsaut war, and other information on Kitwancool history, laws, and customs. In recording a story, it is very important to get it as complete as possible, including even parts involving adultery or other things that are regarded as offensive. The whole story should be written down, and offensive parts can be left out at a later time if necessary.

The second step is for each clan or family to appoint a spokesman to sit down with Mrs. Cox and relate the histories. This must be done slowly enough so that she can write down a full and direct translation at the time. It will be slow work, but will ensure an accurate transcription.

When Mrs. Cox returns her notebooks to us, we will have the stories typed out and copies will be sent to the

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FIGURE 1

The Chiefs of Kitwancool Who Gave the Histories
October, 1958

Front row (left to right)

Chief Wee-kha (Mr. Ernest Smith), Chief Less-say-gu
(Mrs. Maggie Good), Mrs. Constance Cox, interpreter.

Second row (l. to r.)

Chief Gu-gul-gow (Mr. Peter Williams), Chief Gam-gak-
men-muk (Mr. Walter Derrick), Chief Gam-lak-yaltq
(Mr. Solomon Good).

Rear Row (l. to r.)

Chief Neas-la-ga-naws (Mr. Fred Good), Chief Wee-ks-
se-guh (Mr. B. W. McKilvington).

University and to Kitwancool. Preparations will be made for turning out a publication which will satisfy the terms of the agreement.

Mrs. Cox spent the period from October 10 to October 19 in Kitwancool, Her work was much facilitated by the generous hospitality and cooperation of Mr. and Mrs. B. W. McKilvington (Mrs. McKilvington being the school teacher in the village). As the appointed chiefs narrated the stories, Mrs. Cox translated them into English and Mr. McKilvington wrote them down, The narratives fill one hard cover notebook. On the last page appear the signatures of all the chiefs who were responsible for the telling of the histories. The list is as follows:

These are now the Signatures of all these chiefs who have been responsible for the telling of these histories:

Wolf Clan Chief : Wee-kha Mr. Ernest Smith.
 Wolf Clan Chief : Gwass-lam Mr. Walter Douse
 Wolf Clan Chief : Gam-gak-men-muk Mr. Walter Derrick
 Wolf Clan Chief : Neas-la-ga-naws Fred Good
 Wolf Clan Chief : Wee-ks-se-guh B. W. McKilvington
 Frog Clan Chief : Gam-lak-yeltq Solomon Good
 Frog Clan Chief : Less-say-gu Maggie Good
 Frog and Wolf Chief: Gu-gul-gow. . (President) Peter Williams

Mr. Peter Williams is the President of Kitwancool and has been given the power of attorney to handle this business concerning the Wolf poles of the double headed Gaa-quk-dik-giat and the Skim-sim, and the Frog pole of Chief Gwen-nu named Nee-gamks. Mrs. Constance Cox was the interpreter and Mr. McKilvington wrote the stories.

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Handwritten accounts taken down phrase by phrase from an interpreter require a certain amount of editing to transfer

them into an easily-read printed form. Often the punctuation and sentence structure have to be revised. Sometimes small misunderstandings which were not present in the original Indian version but arise through difficulties of translation can be cleared up. The spellings of Indian names can be standardized.

Care has been taken in the process of editing to preserve the original mode of expression and not to change any meanings. To a small degree the order of the material has been altered, for example, to bring all the laws and customs together into one section. Two maps have been drawn, based on the map of Mr. Fred Good (mentioned in the agreement). The photographs used are copies of the ones which were supplied to the narrators when the material was recorded.

The debt of gratitude which the people of Kitwancool and the Provincial Museum owe to Mrs. Cox and to Mr. and Mrs. McKilvington should also be placed on record here. Their efforts, generously and freely donated, have been largely responsible for the accomplishment of this task.

Wilson Duff
Provincial Museum, Victoria
October, 1959

HISTORIES

of the

KITWANCOOL



FIGURE 2

Wolf Clan Totem Poles

Left: pole of Skim-sim and Will-a-daugh

Right: pole of Gaa-quk-dik-giat

Historical Story of the Totem Poles of the
Clan of the Wolves, Gilt-winth, of Kitwancool

Recorded on October 11 and 13, 1958, from Chief
Wee-kha, Mr. Ernest Smith.

The figures on the first totem pole (left, in picture) are as follows. The bird on the top is the Woodpecker (Wee-get-weltku). The figures around the top of the pole are the house carvings. Next is the large bird, Skim-sim, the mountain eagle. Fourth is a row of carvings representing children or small people, the ones who fish through holes in the ice. (The holes may be seen in the front of the house). The figure at the bottom of the pole, holding the child, is the important figure Will-a-daugh.

The name of the pole is Skim-sim and Will-a-daugh. On these two depends the history of the pole. It holds many legends of the clan; one of which will be recorded as follows.

The story begins a thousand years ago, more or less, at Ke-an (the present Prince Rupert), where the clan had its village. The chief had many nephews and nieces. One of the nieces of the chief went out to gather wood. She found a wood grub of the kind that eats pines. She had a child from this grub, and she put it in a wooden cradle and stood it up against the wall. She sang the baby a lullaby (lim-ath-a-now); about its little hands which were moving all the time. The child was of course supernatural, and the hands moved all the time as a human child.

Unknown to the mother and the chief, the grubworm child had eaten its way through the wood of the house and had reached underground to the next house, where it was eating the walls, boxes, and everything of wood. It went underground to house after house, and the people could not understand what was eating everything up. Just a part of this "child" was doing that.

The people in the last house at the end of the village decided to keep a watch on their wooden boxes. They heard a gnawing noise in one box and found that it was a huge wood

grub. They stabbed and stabbed it, and dug a trench following its huge body, stabbing each part as they uncovered it. They followed it right back to the baby in the cradle leaning against the wall. The trench they dug can still be seen near Prince Rupert, by anyone who knows the story.

The mother felt very sad at the loss of her child. She went down to the edge of the water and cried over its loss. She made a wish that the water would rise and flood the village. However, the only person drowned was herself, Will-a-daugh.

The people got together, and the chief decided they would move. They moved to the Nass River and made a village which they called an-lath-gauth-u, which means to see in both directions. After the village had been established, the chief and his family went up on the mountain to hunt groundhogs (gueaku). On the mountain, a groundhog spoke to one of the young hunters, saying "hea-uk, hea-uk". It was telling him that his wife was being unfaithful to him; the word "hea-uk" means "she is at it again". The young hunter left the people on the mountain and secretly went down to the village. He arrived late at night when it was very dark, and found his wife asleep in bed with another man. The boards of the wall were only tied on with roots, and he pushed them aside, entered, and killed the man.

He looked at the man he had killed, and saw that he was a prince, the son of a chief. He wore chief's clothes made of marten fur trimmed with ermine and fringed with unborn cariboo hoofs. He took the robe off the dead man, with the intention of keeping it, but as he stood holding it he heard a voice calling to him.

It was the mother of the dead prince, weeping and asking for her son back. The son was really a wolf, the Prince of the Wolves, who was impersonating a human being. His name was Ga-ba-gam-kwen, meaning one who killed and ate ten deer at a time. He also had a second name, Gam-gah-min-muh, meaning one who bit off the ears of the deer and ate them. (Mr. Walter Derrick now carries this name. It is a very valuable name, worth many hundreds of feasts.) The mother kept crying and asking that her son be given back to her, "If you do not give my son back, something terrible will happen to you."

The figure of a large bird on the totem pole is the mother of the dead prince and holds the history of the pole and also the funeral song of the Wolf clan. As this bird flew over the village she was crying "Give my son back", and singing the death song:

"Qu-see-tu-ar-lqu-lqul".

Then the bird spoke:

"If you do not give me back my son something dreadful will happen to the village."

The chief spoke:

"Give her back the robe of her son, the robe you kept."

She would not take it from their hands. They put it on the roof, but still she would not take it. She kept flying over the village singing the funeral song. Then she sang a funeral song calling for heavy rain (ho-hi-wis) to punish the village. It began to rain very hard, until streams ran through the village.

The chief decided they would have to move again. They moved farther up the Nass River and made a new village on the bank of a small river called Zam-an-lu-tool; "protected river", (the name compares it to a head covering). The chief and members of his household examined the hills, valleys and mountains to see if it was a suitable area to live. During this inspection of the country they camped by a beautiful spring of clear water.

The chief's name was Gwass-lam, "borrowing a shin bone". His niece was Zo-gam-doa-gasqu. His nephews were Lu-lo-gam-hud; "in went the frogs", Gan-na-um-zem-qwanks "frogs sitting in the spring of water", and Za-gam-yousqu.

They saw something strange at the bottom of the spring, like a box with figures carved on it. The chief sent his three nephews to bring it to him to examine. They examined it but could not understand what it was, except that it was a square-looking box with figures carved on it.

After examining the box they again heard the voice crying "Give me back my son or something dreadful will befall

this village". The dirge was repeated again and again.

The chief took the box and examined it more closely. He found that it represented a house, which was built as though it had a basement of rock (dhak-gam-loab). In each of the four corners was a carved bear. All this time the bird was crying, "Give me back my son. If you don't, something dreadful will come to all of you." He held the box up over the fire. She stopped crying and spoke: "Nothing will happen to you, as I have got my child." She did not take the box. The chief kept it and passed it on, along with its name dhak-gam-loab, to the present day as a coat of arms or crest.

The chief decided they would move again. He gathered his household and travelled until they reached Git-an-yow. That was the first name given to this village, and means "village of many people", or "big village". It was fifteen miles long, extending from nine miles below the present village up to the lake. Later, they began having wars, and after the wars there were very few people left, and they changed the name to Kitwancool, which means narrow valley.

Regarding hunting and trapping grounds of the Kitwancool, Chief Wee-kha (Mr. Ernest Smith) explained:

They travelled around to find a place where there was much food: meat and fish in the forests, lakes, and rivers, so they could live there forever. They found the place Git-an-yow, and found it to be very wealthy in game and fish. When other nearby villages learned of the good place the Git-an-yow had found, they came and joined the village also. They decided that the proper thing to do was to build houses, and three were built.

The houses they built were so big that two smoke holes were made in each house. The small figures shown on the totem pole (in the picture) were used as house carvings. The name of the house was An-wi-sin-zock, which refers to its large size. A visitor entering the door had so far to go to the back of the house that he was ashamed or embarrassed (zock).

The two totem poles (in the picture) both belong to the

same crest and have the same stories. The crests on the second pole are the same crests brought from Prince Rupert as the design for the totems to be carved at Git-an-yow. These were the crests used in Prince Rupert a thousand years ago by the Wolves.

Monday, October 13

(Continued) The History of the House of Skim-sim, the Mountain Eagle

This story begins from the creek of Kse-gen-daa-hin.

On top of the pole is the double-headed man called Gaa-quk-dik-giat. The death song of this pole must be sung at the time of the erection of the new pole of this house. (Mr. Walter Derrick is singing this song. It will be recorded on a tape recorder at the time the new pole is erected.)

A "death song" is sung when a chief passes away. His body laid out ready for the funeral, the house is filled with people from all the different clans, and then the death song is sung. Until it is sung, the history is not completed. All the members of the clan pay money for this funeral. The honour and power are explained in the song, and it is sung in honour of the departed chief.

(Mr. Derrick says he feels quite sad when he sings this song, because it has the history of his family.)

The reason why these poles stand together side by side [?] is that the power and traditions and history of the family were given to Mr. Walter Douse (Gwass-lam) and Mr. Walter Derrick (Gam-gak-men-muk). Their uncle, Mr. Ernest Smith (Chief Wee-kha), is still living and has the power of the poles. The power has been given to the two brothers, and they are asked to hold it until the death of this last uncle. When he

1 The meanings of some statements in this paragraph are not clear to me [Ed.]

passes, the power will go to the two brothers. There are always two chiefs to hold the power of this pole, as there are two heads on the pole.

In a chief's house you always sit in the same place, according to your stand or rank in life among the people. This house, unlike other houses, has two seats for the chiefs, in accordance with the two heads on the pole.

In feasts, many sit like a council for the chief. The chief will make a suggestion and they will decide on what the chief wants done. Hundreds of names belong to this house. It would take too long to write them down now, but we promise that when the poles are returned by the Government to Kitwancool, we will write all these names and have them ready to hand to the anthropologists at the raising of the new poles. In a council or meeting, if guests are invited from other villages they are seated according to their power and rank.

This pole (Number 1) was the first pole erected in Kitwancool by the clan of the Wolves. It had been erected about a thousand years ago near Prince Rupert. When a pole decays (a pole lasts about two hundred years), or at the death of a chief, a new pole is always erected in the same place. When these people migrated they took along duplicates of their totem poles and erected them in their new permanent villages.

When a pole is erected or changed it is erected at the same place. A feast is always given and the territories are discussed. They tell the people the size of their village, the mountains they own, their hunting and fishing grounds. They tell this so that each new generation will know what they own. The new chief and his council divide the land. They tell each clan which mountains they can have, and what areas they can hunt and fish in.



FIGURE 3

(far le ft) Nee-gank's Totem Pole of the Frog Clan

PART 2

Historical Story of the Nee-gamks Totem Pole Belonging to the Frog Clan

Recorded on October 13 and 14, 1958

Before the flood, (before Noah built his ark) Chief Gwen-nu built an ark (raft) and got on it with all his family. They left his village, which was eight miles or more in length and named Gid-da-gan-gh, and floated away on the flood waters. They drifted for months, and when the flood subsided they landed on the coast at a place called Git-ha-guns, north of what is now Ketchikan, Alaska, where there was dry land.

They camped there for some time, but did not like the place. They made up their minds to return to their original village. They had lost the route by which they came, and got lost by going up Alice Arm to a place called Kits-auth. Finding they had made a mistake they returned and camped at Kincolith for a while.

From this mistake they took a name, Lu-hiss-yel.

They kept on with their journey and went up the Nass River, which was called by them Liss-ims. At each place they stopped something would happen to them, and from it they would take a name. A boy's name, Galey-ges-gautqu, means travelling, then stopping.

Still travelling, they came to a place where people were living, called Lak-ha-ne-gul. As they came close they paddled very slowly, as they did not know who the people were, and were afraid of them. A man in the village did hear the dip of the paddles but did not investigate, and they passed quietly by. They made a girl's name from this: Galey-ksoatqu. A young girl was in the canoe and an old man gave her this name.

After they passed this village it became very cold, with ice on the river. They put aside their paddles and used poles, and from this they made a boy's name, Gwal-did-thou.

It means when they put the poles in the water, water froze to them.

Continuing on, they came to a place which they named Git-ha-guns, where they made a village of brush houses for the winter. When spring came the sister of the chief very mysteriously disappeared. The people looked for her, but could not find her. They stayed at this camp for a long time, and many babies were born there.

Frog children were also born, and two small ones carrying one another arrived at the chief's (their grandfather's) house. He came up the trail and as soon as the little frogs knew it was their grandfather they went to meet him. He picked them up in his hands and carried them to the step of his house. The little frogs would not leave, staying under the step. Later, the chief took them into his house. He sat down at the back, where the chief always sits, and they went and sat down beside him. The little frogs tried to crawl up on his lap, and he stooped down and lifted them up.

The chief, grandfather of the little frogs, called in all the wise men and wise women to try to find out why the little frogs wanted to stay with him. One of the frogs kept saying "Ze-weed, Ze-weed", and the one on the other leg kept saying "Ga-dath, Ga-dath". These were the names their mother had given them. The wise people could not tell what they were saying or why they were there.

They called a very very old woman from the village. She recognized the names the little frogs were saying, and then she knew that the chief's sister had been taken by the frogs and was married to one. One of the little frogs said "ha-libis", and the old woman said:

"Nee-gamks wants to borrow a ha-libis (awl)."

They gave an awl to the little frog. He took it in his mouth, took the smaller frog on his back, and went away. Their grandfather followed them a long distance to the lake. They looked back and saw their grandfather, then went into the lake.

The chief then knew where his sister had been taken. He gathered the men of the village and they dug a ditch and drained the lake. They stood ready to grab the sister as she came out

of the lake. Then a flying frog came out of the lake, and as it flew by a chief stabbed it. That man kept it as his crest. When Nee-gamks rose out of the water she was riding on the back of her husband, the chief of all the frogs, with her frog children in front of her. As she rose she sang the funeral song (which will be recorded when the Frog pole is raised in 1959). The song is called Lemk-ks-goax-qu. Nee-gamks, meaning "they floated out of the water". She is the figure shown on the top of the pole.

After she sang the funeral song, she gave it to her brother. It was impossible for her to return to her brother as she had taken on the form of a frog, and she asked to be left with her frog husband as he was very kind to her.

The Chief Frog was very nicely formed. His eyebrows and lips were the colour of gold, as were the nails on his hands and feet. The man was going to kill him, but his sister spoke:

"Do not kill him. I will tell you all the good things he has done for me."

She showed her brother her frog children sitting with her, one named Ga-dath, the other named Ze-weed. She told of all the kindnesses the Chief Frog had done for her. She said that she was never going to come back, as she was going to stay there with the Frog. She sang a song for her brother and gathered in her beautiful long hair, which floated on the water.

Her brothers then left and went home. They made a pole with her likeness on the top and the frog children below, and her father put up the pole in her honour.

They value the pole the one taken to Victoria very highly, as it represents the lost sister and the nieces and nephews of the clan. This pole was made by Chief Ak-gwen-dasqu, which means "it is forbidden to touch him", and is a name belonging to the grandfather of Mr. Rufus Good and his family.

These people headed in the direction of Kitwancool, heading for their own original village Dam-la-am "flat prairie place". They came to a place about three miles north of Dham-Kitwancool (Kitwancool Lake). Here they built a house

out of burnt logs, calling it Wilp-am-dauh, meaning house of charcoal.

They travelled on very slowly, camping for several months in some places, but always back towards their original home. They sent the young man on ahead to look over the country, and they found it good.

Finally they came to Git-an-yow. They found people living here (which brings the date to several thousand years later). When they arrived in Git-an-yow they made a great feast and invited all the surrounding villages, then erected this pole in memory of their sister Nee-gamks. That is the name of the pole. Thus they have always used a frog as their clan crest.



FIGURE 4

(left) Ha-ne-lal-gak Totem Pole of the Frog Clan

PART 3

History of the Totem Pole Ha-ne-lal-gak

"where the Raven sleeps with its young"

This history was recorded on October 15, 1958. Present were:

Chief Wee-kha (Mr. Ernest Smith)
Chief Gu-gul-gow (Mr. Peter Williams, President of
Kitwancool)
Chief Neas-la-ga-naws (Mr. Fred Good)
Chief Gam-gak-men-muk (Mr. Walter Derrick)
Chief Less-say-gu (Mrs. Fred Good)

Chief Less-say-gu was the only one with the power to discuss the history of this pole and she signed over this right to the male members present. Chief Gam-gak-men-muk said that he was honoured to be given the opportunity of telling the history of this great pole.

This pole, standing in front of Albert Douse's house, is one of the most important in the village and is the pole that ties the other poles together. It holds the power for the other two poles [in the photograph], in other words it represents all three poles, and is the pole of the Raven.

Now begins the story of this most important pole. Shen-del was the name of the chief and Zem-an-lu-sqaks, meaning "wading in water", was the name of the place they came from. In their travels they reached a grassy mountain named Sga-nest-sum-habausq, "mountain of grass". They went along the top of the mountain to the other end, which had timber, and gave it the name Lak-wee-yep. When they left the mountain they came to a river flowing south named Anuk-gemelik-nagag or Wolverine River. They camped by this river. Looking back, they could see the grass mountain and they felt a great deal of sorrow in their hearts and they sang their first funeral song, Gam-lu-gai-dal-good, referring to the heaviness of their hearts. They sang it

because they were leaving that country and felt very sad.

They came to another river, Aks-na-galga, meaning river of poor water. They asked Chief Galga if he drank this water, and he said yes, and that is why they gave the river that name "waters of Galga". They had a ceremony and put their power on that river and land, which meant that it belonged to them as they had found it first.

Again they travelled on and reached Wens-gal-gul, a long, very narrow valley. When Chief Shen-dil had taken the land there and had left their power there they travelled on again. They reached another river which they named Ks-gay-net, meaning "river above". It was a good salmon fishing river in a good country; they built a permanent village here and put their mark on the river, thus claiming ownership of it. Then they thought they would move on and see more country, so they fastened up their homes and left.

They found another place and built another village, at Lak-getk-ks-dzozqu, meaning place of the sea-gull hunter. The name of the sea-gull hunter was Shin-gewin; his mother's name was Aks-lak-amks, meaning "clear waters at a nice prairie-like place". The chief built a house and on the door (which was suspended by a thong) was carved a Frog, the crest of the people. The name of the door is Gan-naw-om-lak-ptaw, "frog on the door".

Once more they moved, leaving their power and mark which made this country theirs, and returned to their former village Ks-gay-net. The reason they were travelling so much was that they were making their map, and on each piece of land when they stopped they had left their mark and power, making it theirs. Still travelling, they arrived here at Git-an-yow (now Kitwancool) by following what is now the Cranberry River, Kse-ya-ga-skid "river that descends gradually". When they arrived the clan of the Wolves was already here. The Frog clan decided to build a house close to that of Gwass-lam; it was built in the same style as the first house they had built at Zem-an-lu-sqaks "place of wading", and was given that name as a house name. The chief was Shen-dil, whose name refers to the frayed clothing of those who had travelled so long and far.

On the top of this pole (on the left in the picture) is the nest of the Raven, showing the young ones sitting on

each side. It is called Ha-ne-lal-gak "where the Raven sleeps with its young".

The carving at the foot of the pole is the mountain eagle. It was loaned to the children of Wee-kha and Gwass-lam (Wolf chiefs), and carved on this Frog clan pole to give them some honour. If this house should be built again, or the pole replaced, they would not carve the mountain eagle on it.

This history is taken from a picture (see photograph) belonging to Chief Gam-gak-men-muk, who kindly loaned it for this purpose. In the same picture is a pole with carvings of some men on it. The name of this pole is Gaidem-gan-alah, meaning pole resembling smoke. It is taken from the second pole belonging to the house with the frog on the door.

The chiefs established themselves at Git-an-yow and raised their poles. The poles gave them their power or coat of arms and gave them the right of ownership of all the lands, mountains, lakes and streams they had passed through or over and camped or built villages in. The power of these poles goes unto the lands they had discovered and taken as their own. The power from the house of this chief and his council goes as far as Getk-kse-dzozqu, the place of the seagull hunter, and includes Ks-gay-gainet, the "upper fishing station". The power of the pole still goes on and belongs to Shen-del. Belonging to him also, as a gift, is Wens-ga-lgul "narrow place".

History of the Lands Belonging to
Chief Neas-la-ga-naws (Mr. Fred Good)

or

the History of Mah-ley and Ak-gwen-dasqu of the Wolf Clan

Recorded on October 19, 1958, from Mr. Fred Good.

These are historical stories which were handed down to us by our fathers and great-grandfathers. The names of the two chiefs are Mah-ley, meaning something that was crazy (however nothing was really wrong with the man), and Ak-gwen-dasqu, meaning not permitted to be touched. These two chiefs held the power; when they gave out orders they were obeyed. A chief holds the power over each household, and a household is not just one family but may include as many as thirty families.

This household originated from the house of Spookqu at Get-an-maks (Hazelton), the great-grandfather of Mr. Fred Good. They left this house and travelled up the Kispiox River. They came to a place called Geth-sqan-snaid and camped there for many years.

One year, when the season came around for the hunting of beaver, two brothers went hunting together. They were Ak-gwen-dasqu and Galey (meaning outside noise). As they were opening a dam the force of the water knocked Ak-gwen-dasqu down and he was killed. The other brother did not understand what could have caused this misfortune, and returned to Geth-sqan-snaid. Since he was the bearer of bad news he did not go right into the camp. He went around to the back of the house where his brother's wife slept. When he got close to the wall, although it was in the middle of the night, he heard voices, a man's and a woman's.

When he heard the man's voice talking to his brother's wife he knew what had been the cause of his death. He was so upset that he went back into the woods. No one in the village yet knew what had happened.

The next day at mid-day he went back to the village and entered his house. His mother asked him why he had come home

alone. He did not tell her that his brother was dead, but answered: "He liked the place where he was. He was having good luck and he didn't want to come home." His mother then gave him a meal. Later, when they were sitting by themselves, he told her in a whisper that his brother was dead. He did not want the rest of the household to know the bad news and he told his mother not to cry or the others would find out.

When night came and all had gone to sleep, the mother went to sleep as well. All of a sudden she burst out crying. Her son Galey asked her, "Why do you cry?"

"I had a bad dream", she answered. "I dreamt that your brother was knocked down under the dam by the force of the water and is dead."

"He is having good luck hunting," Galey said. "It is not right for you to think these things."

Everyone was asleep in the household except Galey. He was listening for something. Then he heard the two voices again, talking together. Soon the voices stopped, and they too went to sleep.

Very quietly, Galey crept over to where the man was sleeping with his dead brother's wife. He killed this man and left the body lying in the woman's bed. When daylight came and the household woke up the killing was discovered. The dead man was a relative of Galey's, and this fact made it very difficult to settle the trouble.

They decided to divide into two groups, which would go to different places. The head man himself headed for Kis-ga-ga-as. The other group went to Get-an-gwalq, about sixty miles from Kispiox, at a canyon. The name means you are always thirsty there. Five chiefs were in this group: Mah-ley, Ak-gwen-dasqu, Galey, Haiz-emsqu, and Lega-gal-well. When they reached Get-an-gwalq they made a permanent camp there. They had left some of their people at their last village, Geth-sgan-snard.

After they had built their permanent village at Get-an-gwalq two brothers went out to hunt bear. Their names were Galey and Ak-gwen-dasqu (a boy had taken the name of the previous Ak-gwen-dasqu, who had died at the beaver dam). They were at the place where the two rivers met, the Ks-wee-den and Ks-get-an-gwalqu, watching for bear. A very large grizzly bear with two cubs appeared and entered the water. The cubs sat on her shoulders, one on each side of her head, and the mother bear swam across towards the men.

In the middle of the river she got into very swift waters. One of the cubs fell off her shoulders and was drowned. When she reached shore in front of the men with one cub she turned and looked into the water and cried, almost like a human, for her drowned baby. After she cried she sang a death song.

A totem pole still standing in Kitwancool has the picture of this grizzly bear and this pole holds these stories.

(Mr. Fred Good sang the song.)

After the brothers learned the song they shot the bear with their bows and arrows. After that they sang the funeral song.

The place where this happened is the boundary of the upper part of the Kispiox River, which belongs to all of Mr. Fred Good's people. They marked this boundary by singing this song at the place where the two rivers meet. This boundary adjoins that of Gwass-lam of Kitwancool. The lower part of the river belongs to the Kispiox people.

These lines run northwest. The proof of ownership of these lines dates back thousands of years, to include all the lands, mountains, rivers, creeks, lakes, ponds, valleys, timber, minerals, and oils.

Then two more boys, nephews of Chief Haiz-emsqu, went out to hunt. They went to a mountain called Lip-ha-head-tqu, which means standing alone or independent mountain. Up this mountain the two brothers shot a caribou. It was very cold and a blizzard was blowing. The older boy, Zex-al-al-gak, was skinning it and the younger boy stood looking on. It was so terribly cold that he froze to death. When the older boy found that his brother was frozen he too sang the death song. (Mr. Fred Good sang the song at this point.) This death song proves the ownership of this mountain belongs to Chief Haiz-emsqu and his whole household. Haiz-emsqu stands below Chief Mah-ley, who is the high chief, but they stand together.

The time had come to divide the lands. They were all camped at Get-an-gwalq and deciding on the hunting grounds. They put a head man on each piece of land.

Maze-go-gat Lake, now called Swan Lake, is the headwaters of the Kispiox River. Another river is called Ks-we-loabet.

On further was a piece of land called Gwen-ha-ges-tuk (meaning lakes). Chief Ak-gwen-dasqu was put in charge of this place and of Low-ha-gholl-gag-gat. (It must be remembered that Chief Mah-ley was still head chief over all the rest.)

On another piece of land was a lake named Ned-del-law-did. This name means two close together; in this case two lakes. Mah-ley put Galey there as head man.

Chief Mah-ley, the head chief of all, was in charge of Get-an-gwalqu and also of Mah-gan-geest, which was the stream where the man got crushed under the beaver dam when it broke. The headwaters of this stream came from the mountain where they hunted goats and ground hogs. At this place they built a house which they named after the mountain Gaha-k-la-lmatik, which means the chest of the goat.

Then Mah-ley called two young men and told them to climb the mountain Gahal-la-lmatik to look over the land and see what was at the back of the mountain. When they reached the top of the mountain they looked down and saw a river, and smoke coming from houses away down below. When it was getting dark they went down and came to the village of Gwass-lam. They saw also the brush huts of the girls who were forbidden to walk about during the fishing season. They threw stones at these huts.

The names of the two boys were Uks-gam-dham-mass, which means just hugging (the frog), and Ghaw-gweah. The men of the village told Gwass-lam and he called out in a loud voice that they were to come to him.

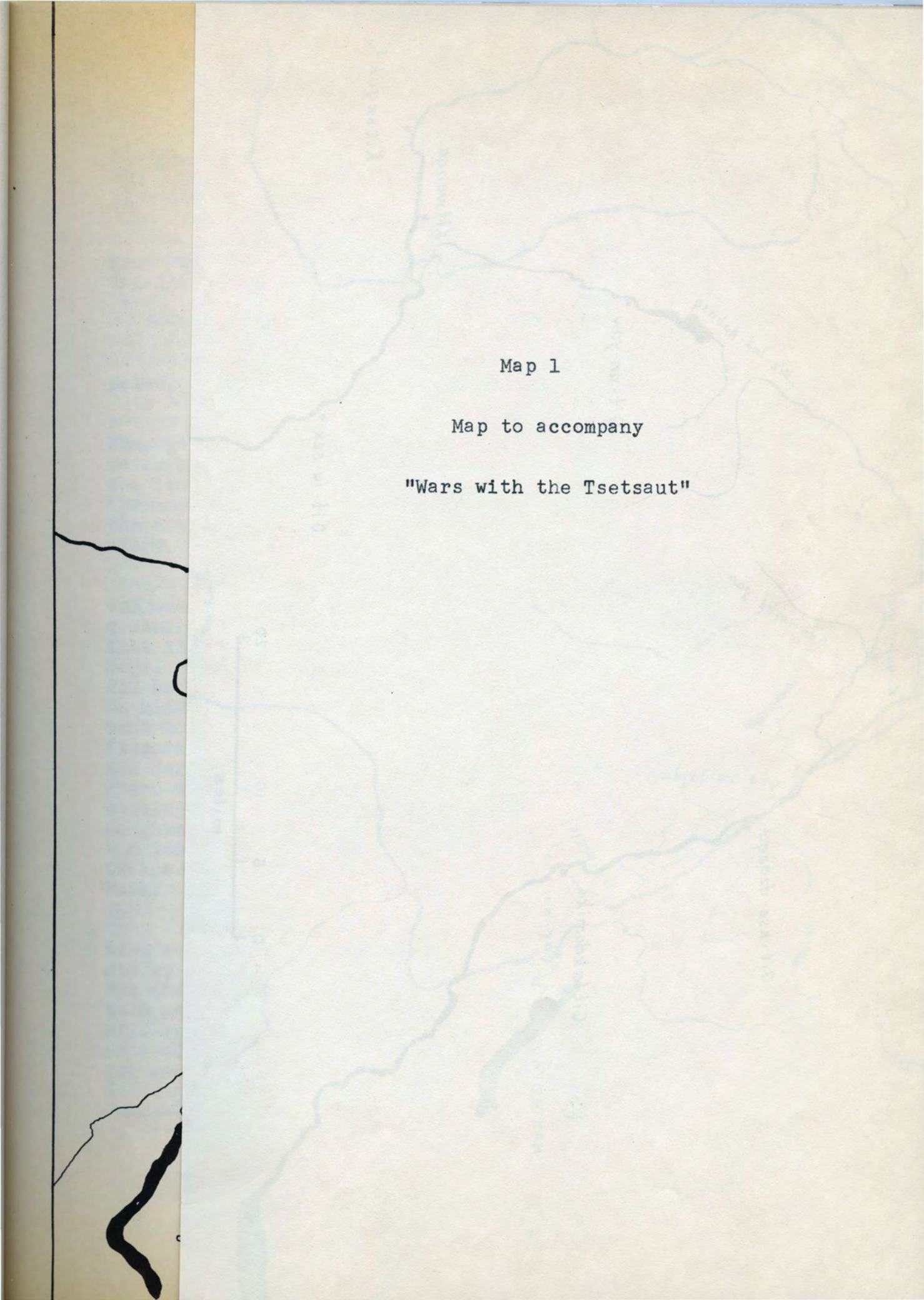
They went into the house and Gwass-lam gave them seats and food. They told him that they had been sent by Chief Mah-ley to see what they could see in the way of other lands. Then Gwass-lam remembered the words of Spookqu: "If you happen to see any of my people, call them to you." That is the reason he called these two young men.

So Gwass-lam sent back word to Mah-ley to come and stay with him. When the word came they at once packed up and went to where Gwass-lam was living, a place called Ghax-bak-skid, at the fifty mile point from Kitwanga up the Kitwancool valley, past the lake. The two houses of Gwass-lam and Mah-ley joined together and became as brothers and Gwass-lam was very pleased. He told the newcomers that he had a large permanent village at Get-an-yow and invited them to join him there.

The whole village then went and when they arrived in Get-an-yow Gwass-lam showed Mah-ley where to build his house, beside his own, on the east side. They built the house there. They were very grateful to Gwass-lam for his kindness in asking them to come and live with him as brothers.

After the house was built they decided to have a feast. They invited all the chiefs of Kitsegukla and Kitwanga, and they came with all their relations. When the guests arrived they were shown a pole which had been erected. It was called Spe-leg-en-esqu, meaning grizzly bear's den. On this pole was shown the grizzly bear with her cubs as was seen at the junction of the two rivers when the mother grizzly lost her cub. This is the coat of arms or crest of the house of Mah-ley.

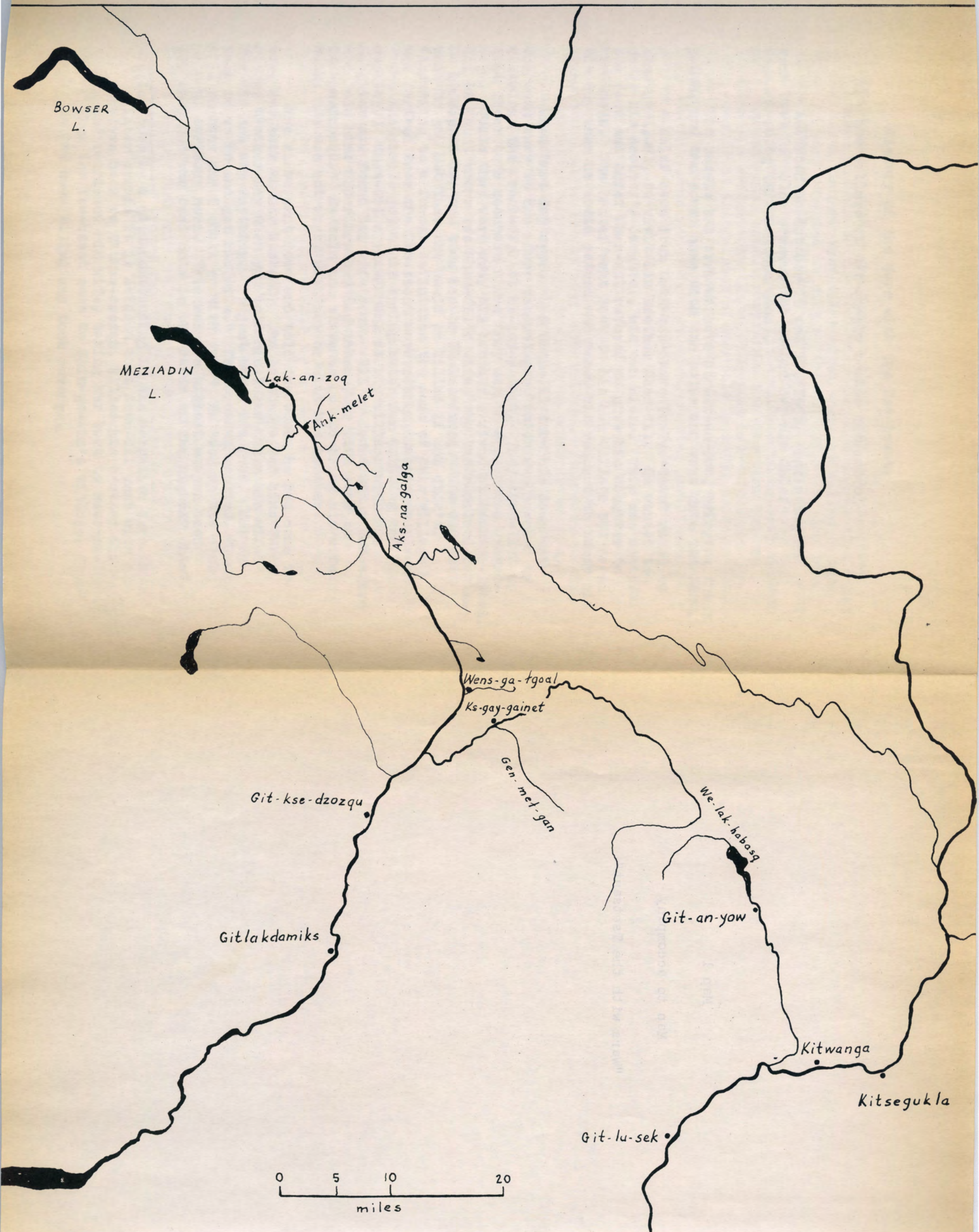
The feast was to show all the surrounding tribes that the house of Mah-ley now belonged to Get-an-yow. Chief Gwass-lam got up and told the assembled people that the house of Mah-ley was now accepted by him and that all were now Get-an-yow people. In front of all these people Mah-ley then spoke and said he would honour this and accept the grizzly bear as his crest, honouring it as the prince of all bears. The grizzly bear totem pole stands at the end of the village of Kitwancool. (Mr. Fred Good now sang the song of the sitting grizzly of stone near the south end of the village.) At the ceremonial dances the chiefs wore grizzly bear skins to honour the memory of this grizzly bear.



Map 1

Map to accompany

"Wars with the Tsetsaut"



History of the Wars with the Tse-tsaut:

How the village of Git-an-yow became Kitwancool

Recorded on October 16 and 17, 1958, continuing on from Part 3. Also present the second day was Chief Gam-lak-yaltq (Mr. Solomon Good).

The people had arrived here at Git-an-yow, bringing their poles, and the power came with the poles and went unto the land.

A chief came from Getk-kse-dzoq (a Tse-tsaut name) to Wens-ga-lgoal, to visit his brother Shen-dil. He wanted to marry his brother's daughter, his own niece. This was against the laws and Chief Shen-dil refused to give his daughter to her uncle. The latter went back to his own village but named the day when he would return and renew his request to marry his niece.

When that day approached Shen-dil took his daughter and went away to the river Gen-mel-gan, which was reached by crossing [the Cranberry] at Ks-gay-gainet. They travelled up that river to a mountain where they camped and hunted ground-hogs. While they were away his brother arrived at Wens-ga-lgoal. All he found there was Shen-dil's wife, who had remained behind. He kidnapped her and took her to Tk-kse-dzoq. She did not want to go, but knew she would be killed if she didn't. (According to a former definition the name of this village was derived from the Tse-tsaut word zohzqu, meaning a place where the people got their spring water for drinking and cooking.) Shen-dil arrived back at his village with his daughter and found his wife gone. All he found was a man slave who told him: "Your brother has taken your wife away to Tk-kse-dzoq." He told the slave to go and bring his wife back. He was not angry with her or with his brother.

The slave went down and told the woman he had come to take her back to her husband. The brother asked him: "What did my brother say when you told him I had taken his wife?" "He did not say anything. He just bowed his head. But he told me to go and get his wife." The brother replied, "You will go back and I shall go with you." He took up his club made of caribou horn. This was the highest weapon used for war, and was used only in the hands of the highest chief.¹

1. There is a misunderstanding in the narrative here. From later events it is evident that Shen-dil went with his slave back to Gitkse-dzoq, killed his brother Shin-ge-win and retrieved his wife, taking her back to Wens-ga-lgoal. Then the Tse-tsaut came to Shin-ge-win's village, found he had been killed and took revenge.

When Shen-dil opened the door he stood with his head bowed. His brother hit him on the head with the club and he died right there. Then he took Shen-dil's wife, who went willingly with him. As they departed he sang a "weeping song" for the loss of the brother he had killed. (The name of this [type of] song is lem-mik-oie. Chief Walter Derrick chanted this song for his brother who was dead.) A little farther on he sang another song, lem-mik-oie. (Both songs have the same name but one is sung in a sadder way. Every Frog pole has this song; it will be sung at the raising of the pole in 1959, as has always been the custom when raising a Frog pole.) Just as he was nearing Wens-ga-lgoal he sang the third and last song, lem-mik-oie, which is named Ghed-lqul-hel-len, meaning loneliness in memory of the ancestors. Then they reached their village, Wens-ga-lgoal, and lived there.

Every year the people of neighbouring villages would come, and they would laugh and dance. The visitors were Tse-tsaot people, and when they got to the hill they would dance and yell to see if they were welcome. Then Shin-ge-win, a head chief in the village, would go up a ladder on to the roof near the smoke hole. He wore a headdress filled with eagle down, which represented peace and friendship. (If someone fights with you he will come next day and put eagle down on you and you must not fight anymore.) He would send out a lot of eagle down on his visitors. Then they exchanged presents, the Tse-tsaot people giving furs in exchange for food, which was very scarce with them. This custom was kept up for many years.

But on this occasion when the Tse-tsaot came to exchange furs for food they got a very cold welcome. Only a very small amount of eagle down was blown upon them, and when they saw so little eagle down they knew there was trouble in the village. They went down to the chief's house. All they found was an old woman, Oks-lak-amks, the mother of Shin-ge-win. "Has our brother died?" they asked. "Yes", she replied, "He has been killed by his brother Shen-dil."

They asked her how the lines went so that they could follow the people who killed their brother. They asked the way to Git-an-yow so that they could go there and kill them off. The old woman told them, and when she had finished they killed her. They put her upon a roasting stick and prepared her for roasting and left her there. They then decided to make war against the Git-an-yow people and became wild and belligerent. Then they went back to their own country beyond Meziadin Lake and waited for the time the old woman had told them the people would be coming to their village.

They planned to attack in March, which was called Ha-owalq "forbidden", because that is the month when black bears are born and it is forbidden for a mother-to-be to look at a bear at that time or else her child might be disfigured.

The Tse-tsaut started out on the war path in March, when there was much deep snow and came by the routes told to them by the old woman. They came along the ridge of the mountain We-lak-ha-bas-qut. Looking down they saw the (Kitwancool) lake and smoke was rising from the houses along the edge of the lake. It was the smoke from the fires of the Git-an-yow people, who were on their way to their hunting grounds. Two of the Tse-tsaut warriors put on wolf skins and came across a short distance on the ice. The Git-an-yow people were camped on the southwest side. They looked over at these animals, watching their movements, and knew they were not real animals. It was getting dark, and the Tse-tsaut kept in hiding.

Just as it was getting light the Tse-tsaut made their attack on the sleeping camp. They knocked down and burned all the brush huts and killed everyone. One young girl escaped across the ice at this end but they chased her and killed her. They left her there with the arrow sticking in her back.

A young man named Ze-gho-zee from the village of Git-lu-sek (near Cedarvale) was engaged to this girl and he was coming to the village to see her. When he found that she had gone out with the hunting party, he did not stop to camp but kept on to try to catch up with them. When he reached the lake he saw something dark on the ice. It was a body, and lifting it up he found that it was the body of the girl he was to marry. He examined the snowshoe tracks, (Tse-tsaut snowshoes were different from theirs) and found that the Tse-tsaut had attacked the Git-an-yow. He crossed the lake to the burned camp and saw what had happened there.

He went back to Git-an-yow, where only the old people had remained, and told them that their people had been killed. Then he went home to Git-lu-sek. The young man's father called a meeting, and nearly all the people who came were from Git-an-yow or had relatives there. They decided they would wage war on the Tse-tsaut and avenge those who had been killed. These relatives lived at Kitwanga, Kitsegukla, (Skeena Crossing) and Git-lu-sek. To the able bodied men who were to help them in the war they gave their young women, out of gratitude. These three villages banded together under the orders of the big chiefs, and the git-an-yow chief agreed that this should be done, thus making it lawful. This was done very soon after the massacre, as they camped

on the shores of the lake.

The avenging party followed the snowshoe trail of the Tse-tsaut. The captain of the party was Ze-gho-zec and his father also went as a warrior. As they travelled they saw where the Tse-tsaut had camped, with four (horizontal) poles around the fire on which it was the custom to rest their feet and dry them. Before they camped the captain would go out to see if the enemy was near and they were careful not to make any noise until he told them that the enemy was a long way away. At last they caught up with them at a place called Lak-an-zok, which means place for fishing village. Far ahead they saw the smoke of their enemies' fires. They made war clubs and other weapons and planned a night attack. They knew they would find the Tse-tsaut asleep with their feet up on the racks and planned to break all their legs as they slept. They went on without eating or sleeping to catch the Tse-tsaut during the night.

The captain went on ahead to see what the enemy was doing. He returned and told them he had found them camped at Lak-an-zok, asleep. Just before dawn they made their attack, and killed them all and won their battle. During the battle they had bands playing music. Then all returned to their homes.

The Second War:

Not long after this war the Tse-tsaut made another war attack. There were now enough people left in Git-an-yow to make up an army. Some of them lived at Ks-gay-gainet, about sixty miles from Kitwanga. Several years had passed and the Tse-tsaut were continually giving trouble, trespassing on the Git-an-yow hunting grounds.

The Tse-tsaut came down and made an attack on the people of Ks-gay-gainet. These were Low-khone and his wife, who was the daughter of the chief of Kit-se-gukla and a sister of Kook-shan. They had a son Gham-logh and a daughter Na-gay-el. These two children had been told what to do in case of an attack: if they saw the village in smoke they were not to join in the battle but to run away and go right to Git-an-yow and report what was happening. In this attack Chief Low-khone and Chief Gam-lak-yeltqu were killed. The children returned to Git-an-yow and told the people of the attack and that the two chiefs had been killed.

It was decided to have another war on the Tse-tsaout people. Chief Gwen-nue made the plans and asked the same villages as before to come and join them. He invited all the strong young men from these other villages and they had a council and a feast. They were given clothing for the battle, and also were given young women of the village as a reward for coming out to go to war. A young warrior may be unwilling to go to war, knowing that he may lose his life, so they give him something to fight for. The arrangements were completed and two captains were picked out to lead them: Chief Gwen-nue of Git-an-yow and Chief Ks-shue of Kit-se-gukla, nephew of Kook-shan. They set out to find the enemy.

The Tse-tsaouts had taken as a captive the wife of Gam-lak-yaltqu, named Low-tkal-dhow, meaning frozen in the ice. She was a sister of Mah-ley. Knowing that the Git-an-yow warriors would chase them, she left a trail of pine branches on the hard frozen snow. When she could not find any brush she chewed alder bark until it turned red, to mark the way for her rescue. When she had no more bark or branches she used grouse feathers.

The Git-an-yow war party had two men on guard always, and when they stopped to camp these men went on ahead as scouts to see if the enemy were near. If they saw no sign, they returned and made camp. They travelled on and knew they must be very close to the enemy. The scouts went on ahead, through open country, and came to a hill below which was a big lake called Meziaden Lake. They saw smoke and saw the enemy camp on the lake. It was approaching evening and they stood still on the hill, looking down on the enemy camp, their arrows crossed in front of them to resemble branches. The enemy saw them but thought they were trees. When it was quite dark they glided away and went back to their own camp to report what they had seen. When they came into the light of the campfire they carried their arrows in a special way and the look on their faces was the same as when they had found a grizzly bear's den. They told their story to their father and described the enemy camp.

Chief Gwen-nue, who was also a powerful medicine man, talked to the party and told them what they must do. They were to do just as in the previous war, and use just the same weapons to hit the enemies over the head. Captain Gwen-nue gave orders for them to sing, and while singing to rush with their spears towards a big hemlock tree and hit it. If it fell down it was a sign that they would win the war against the Tse-tsaout. This was done to give encouragement to the warriors, and they were strong enough to knock the trees down. They started out to face the enemy. The captain told them to have strong hearts, for they were going to win. They reached the hilltop from which the scouts had seen the enemy camp, but kept among the trees. Gwen-nue said, "We will now sing a song wishing for a fog to come down thick enough to hide us

from our enemies." The fog did come down, like a smoke screen, and everything was dark. The plan was to attack under cover of the fog. If the enemy discovered that they were surrounded, Gwen-nue was to give a loud shout and they were to attack immediately.

Gwen-nue led his warriors across on the ice and they began to surround the enemy camp. The Tse-tsaute had strung a line around the camp, hung with things that would rattle at a touch and wake them up. Not knowing this, Gwen-nue brushed against the line and it rattled. The Tse-tsaute chief began to sing and shake a rattle to waken his warriors. Gwen-nue shouted out to attack at once. The battle was fierce, but the Git-an-yow people finally won.

The Tse-tsaute head man, Gein-ne-glai, was like a witchcraft doctor and they could not kill him. Every time they stabbed him he rubbed his hand over the wound and made it well. He had a magic spear which lengthened so that he could reach anyone he was stabbing at. He could not walk, as the bones of his legs had been broken in the battle, but he sat and thrust his spear. He did not kill anyone, but he did wound badly An-nak-aws of the Git-an-yow Wolf clan, the son of Ne-gah-gah-lugh and a relative of Gam-lak-yaltqu.

Back in their home village the women of the Git-an-yow fasted and put on mock battles every day while the warriors were away, to bring good luck and success to the war party. Only one woman in the village refused to join in these mock battles. Her name was Gaks-dee-modqu, the wife of An-nak-aws, and because of that her husband died in the battle.

Just before the witchcraft Gein-ne-glai died three black bear cubs appeared most mysteriously about him, no one knew from where. Then he died. Captain Ks-shu from Kitsegukla was also very severely wounded in the battle. He wanted to show the people that he too had power. He asked them to mix some mud with water in a bucket and he drank it. Asking them to be very quiet, he told them that if they heard a noise from his stomach like a beaver slapping the water with its tail, he would survive.

The battle was over, and the Git-an-yow people had won. Their reward was the lands in the region of Meziaden Lake; this was the price of the Git-an-yow blood lost in these battles. On their return home after this battle they changed the name of Git-an-yow to Get-wini-qoul. With the great losses they had suffered they found they had few people left and their village was not large any more. That is why they

changed the name to Get-wini-qoul, which refers to the smaller number of people. (The white people cannot pronounce this name and it is now pronounced and written Kitwancool.)

It should be noted that the father and grandfather of Chief Wee-kha (Mr. Ernest Smith) fought in the war between the Tse-tsaut and the people of Git-an-yow, and his grandfather was killed in the war.

The Tse-tsaut:

The Tse-tsauts came from beyond Meziaden Lake. They were people who never had a permanent home, and when they found a land or something they wanted they at once made war to get it. As we see, they warred many times against the Git-an-yow people. They now have a village one hundred or more miles beyond Meziaden Lake, near what is now Cariboo Hide on the Stikine River.

Peace Ceremony and Later Incidents:

After the war and the renaming of the village they gathered together with the Tse-tsaut and swore an oath to make peace. The name of such a gathering is Gha-wa-gharney. The Tse-tsaut people promised they would never make any more attacks on the Kitwancool people. Any violation of this law was unpardonable. All was now peace among them; they all went out on their hunting grounds and the young men went out to hunt for furs.

By this time the white people had arrived in Telegraph Creek and the Hudson's Bay Company had a store there. The Tse-tsaut bought gunpowder from the Hudson's Bay and came down and met the Kitwancool at a place called Lak-an-zok. Up to this time the Kitwancool had used only bows and arrows, spears and war clubs, but now they bought guns from the Tse-tsaut, with whom they were at peace. A band of Nass River people came to this meeting at Lak-an-zok. The Stikine people did not have a very kindly feeling for these people because a few years before the Nass people had killed one of the members of the Stikine band of the Tse-tsaut. The Stikine people felt as though they should take revenge. They told the Kitwancool people: "You had better leave. Our hearts are not very kind towards the Nass people. Do not stop to camp, just keep travelling to your own village." The Kitwancool chiefs were Tka-waakq and Hai-zimsq, and their nephews were Aw-will-yep and Alga-gams-getqu respectively, all of the Wolf clan.

After warning the Kitwancool to hurry back home, the Tse-tsaout helped them to cross the Nass River below Meziaden Lake. The part of the river that runs through the lands of the Wolf and Frog clans is called Ks-tkhem-sim. On their way homeward they came to a stream with many steelhead salmon, called Ank-melet. When they saw the fish they were tempted to camp and catch mel-let (steelhead). They camped here only one night but the Nass people caught up to them and camped beside them. These were the people against whom the Tse-tsaout were planning revenge, and unknown to them the Tse-tsaout surrounded the camp during the night and were sitting around on the hills watching. In the morning the Kitwancool people left their camp and went on towards their own village. A short time later, a gun was fired off towards them by the Tse-tsaout and the two chiefs Tka-waskq and Hai-zimsq were killed. The other members of the party, including the two nephews Aw-will-yep and Alga-gam-getqu, kept travelling on as quickly as possible, running away from trouble.

They came to a very large pine tree and hid in a hole underneath it. Another nephew named Oowelkqu slid down into a canyon and hid among the rocks near the water. The Tse-tsaout were watching and called out where the young men had hidden. One Tse-tsaout man named Shan-neik walked along the tree with a spear in his hand, jabbing it down among the branches and brush and listening. He heard the two boys crying. He was also of the Wolf clan (the Tse-tsaout Wolf clan). "Don't cry, no harm will come to you. I will guard you here," he said. The other Tse-tsaouts went down into the canyon where the third boy had gone. As they looked down the boy rose up to look around and they saw him. They shot, and the bullet hit him slightly on the chin. He fell into the water and floated a short way downstream, then got out again and escaped.

The Nass man against whom the Tse-tsaout wanted revenge had meanwhile slipped away and hidden. He travelled back to his own village safely.

The two boys who had hidden under the pine tree escaped and headed towards Kitwancool. They arrived safely after dark, and brought the word to the relatives of Tka-waskq and Hai-zimsqu of what had happened. The people went back and cremated the bodies of the two chiefs. When they reached the place they found the bodies laid out with bear skins over them, which showed that the Tse-tsaout were sorry for having killed chiefs with whom they were at peace. The Kitwancool people so appreciated this act of kindness that they did not retaliate for these murders. After the cremation they returned to their village.

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About a year later the Kitwancool were again at one of their camps, called Ks-gay-gainet, when a body of Tse-tsaut including many women appeared. They again wanted to make peace as was done before and invited the Kitwancool people to go with them to Lak-an-zok, in the land of the Tse-tsauts, for the ceremony. The invitation was accepted, but when they got to Lak-an-zok there was nobody there and the Kitwancool became a little suspicious. Then the Tse-tsaut said the peace talk would be at Aw-wee-zah, near what is now Bowser Lake. They sent four young men to lead the Kitwancool to this place. Aw-will-yep and Alga-gams-getqu planned to accompany two of these Tse-tsaut men to Aw-wee-zah, but the big chief and the rest of the Kitwancool people stayed at Lak-an-zok along with all the Tse-tsaut women. The Kitwancool were told by one of the Tse-tsaut boys that if they went to that place of gathering they would have no chance of returning safely.

The two young men who had gone on with the two Tse-tsauts toward Aw-wee-zah camped, cut wood, and made cooking fires. The Tse-tsaut put some meat on to cook, but took it off before it was cooked, signifying that they were once more going to commit murder. The two boys knew they were going to be murdered that night. After they had eaten the half-raw meat they made a plan to save themselves. They decided to cook the Tse-tsauts a good meal and after the meal give them tobacco to smoke to stupefy them and put them into a heavy sleep. While they were asleep the boys would kill them and escape. They prepared a place for the Tse-tsauts to sleep near the fire and filled their smoking pipes again and again. Finally the Tse-tsauts fell into a deep sleep. Their guns were under their heads. Quietly the boys slipped the guns out from under the pillows, put the muzzles right on the chests of the Tse-tsauts, and pulled the triggers. One of the enemy, although shot, escaped and climbed into a tree. They waited until he came down, then killed him with a spear. This was how they saved their lives. They left the dead Tse-tsauts where they lay and returned to the big camp at Lak-an-zok. One of the boys went ahead, stood on the edge of the river and gave the call of the wolf. They crossed in a canoe, each carrying one of the ball and cap muskets taken from the Tse-tsauts. In the camp were the two Tse-tsaut chiefs and their women in addition to the band of Kitwancool people who had come to attend the peace meeting.

When they heard the call of the wolf, the people in the camp knew that all was not well. The Kitwancool people at once surrounded the camp. One of the Tse-tsaut chiefs, knowing he would have to die, asked permission to dress in

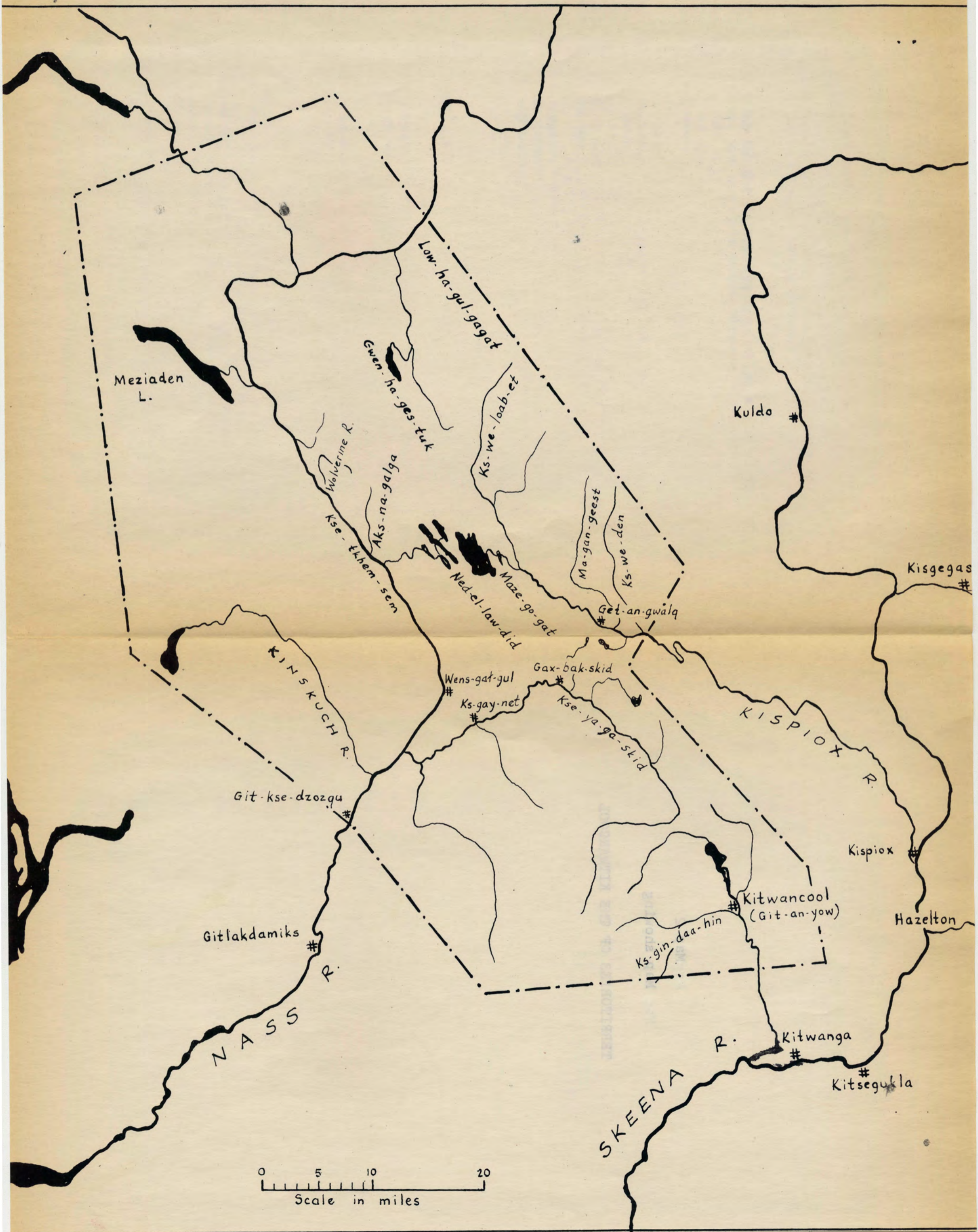
his chief's clothes so that he could die as a chief should. He dressed and then sat still, not speaking. The Kitwancool were hesitant about killing him; then a man from outside the circle leapt forward with a hatchet in his hand and split his head open. This man who killed the Tse-tsaut chief was Thgal-k-datqu, meaning one who unknowingly slept on a frog, of the Wolf clan. The other Tse-tsaut man was also killed, but the women were taken back to Kitwancool and cared for. One by one these women ran away. They were allowed to escape.

After this from time to time the Tse-tsauts people would come to Kitwancool. One time the wife of Gam-lak-yaltq was at a fish house with her four children when some Tse-tsauts saw her. One of them named Ar-zen-nah shot her. The bullet hit the strap of her pack and passed through her body, killing her. The pack fell to the ground and the baby was on top of the pack. A daughter, Tgax-dok, picked up the baby and fled, and a son, Ghaw-ghewh, ran away carrying the other baby, Gam-damas. (This Ghaw-ghewh was the grandfather of Mr. Peter Williams, Chief Gu-gull-gow.) As he ran Ghaw-ghewh tripped and the baby fell from his back. He jumped up and kept going, leaving the baby there, and coming to the river he jumped in and floated downstream. The Tse-tsauts found the baby and took it. They took the girl Tgaz-dok captive and made her carry the baby. Meanwhile Ghaw-ghewh got out of the river and went to a place called Gwanks-em-men-takqu, meaning spring below a hill. Here he found a man cooling himself off at the spring; it was Ha-dak-gam-yea, the man who had previously been hit on the chin by a bullet. The girl carrying the baby was very slow and it hindered the travelling speed of the Tse-tsauts. They made a rope of roots and hung the baby on a tree; then the girl travelled faster. This girl married into the Tse-tsaut people and had many children, who remember that they still belong to Kitwancool.

TERRITORIES

of the

KITWANCOOL



1. Territories of the Wolf Clan

(Recorded October 13, 1958, immediately after the histories of the Wolf Clan totem poles.)

The clan of the Wolves own nine miles south of Kitwancool along the road, the mountain named Wins-ged-du-masqu to the southwest of the village, and all the land, lakes, and mountains from nine miles south of Kitwancool to the boundary line formed by Ks-se-gen-daa-hin creek, which is west of the village.

On the east side of the Kitwancool valley the territory of the Wolves begins nine miles south of the village, including the mountain Gwen-ga-nik (meaning the sap of a tree, and so named because it is shaped like the implement used to gather sap), extending along the mountain approximately in a north-south line to the fifty-three mile post on the north.

The Cranberry River north-west of the village is the boundary line between the Wolf Clan and the Frog Clan. The Wolf territory belongs to Chief Wee-kha and Chief Gwass-lam.

2. Kitwancool Territories in general:

(Immediately following the above is a statement of the total territory of the tribe.)

There is a piece of territory that starts at Mile Fifty-three and goes on beyond the Nass River, following the mountain ranges. It includes all tributaries flowing easterly into the Nass River and (extends?) west of Kinskuch River and north-westerly to Meziaden Lake, thence northerly to the headwaters of the Cottonwood River near Bowser Lake, thence easterly beyond the Nass to the top of the mountain range, thence southerly to a point forty miles north of Kispiox on the Kispiox River (the mountain which is the boundary is called Lip-ha-hut-quk), thence southerly to the headwaters of Douglas Creek at the mountain called Gwen-ga-nik, and thence westerly to the point of commencement.

These boundary lines take in all the trapping and

hunting territory of the Kitwancool people. The united power and title of all this land belongs to the people of Kitwancool.

3. Territories of Mah-ley group of the Wolf Clan:

(References to territories are made in the "History of the lands belonging to Chief Neas-la-ga-naws".)

4. Territories of the Frog Clan:

(References to territories are made in the "History of the Totem Pole Ha-ne-lal-gak".)

LAWS AND CUSTOMS

of the

KITWANCOOL

1. Laws concerning Territories:

These are the laws of the lands and hunting grounds of the people of Kitwancool. The lands that belong to each clan hold the power for them. Another clan going on to these lands without permission would only make trouble. If a person of another clan was found on these lands without permission, his or her life would be taken.

Other people may be allowed to hunt there with the chief's permission, if they go in company with the clan owning the hunting ground. Anyone who marries into the clan may hunt there, with the chief's permission. If a woman marries out of her village she can go and hunt with her husband, but if she has children they belong to Kitwancool, even if born and living somewhere else.

The chief gives the power over his hunting grounds to his nephews and they are free to use them. They have been given the power to rule these hunting grounds belonging to their clan.

One of the strictest laws is that no hunting ground can ever be cut in half and given to anyone. No-one is allowed to make any such hunting ground smaller or larger, even if they own or have power over it. This also applies to all fishing grounds and all natural resources in and under the ground. This law is so severe and powerful that no one from another clan or without clan rights can come to hunt, fish, mine, cut timber or do any other thing on these lands without the consent of the head chief and his council.

These laws go back thousands of years and have been handed down from one generation to another, and they must be held and protected at all costs by the people owning these lands. These laws are the constitutional laws, going back many thousands of years and are in full force today and forever.

In later years the title of President was bestowed on the man who was given the power to protect these laws. The first president under these laws was Chief Bee-yosqu (Christian name Mr. Albert Douse) who died more than forty-five years ago. After that Mr. Albert Williams (Ne-yas-yal-lart) the father of Mr. Peter Williams, was the second president of Kitwancool. The third president is Mr. Peter Williams,

(Chief Gu-gul-gow). He was given the power and the right to protect these laws.

The village chiefs have put on him the power to see that all these laws are carried out. Any government laws sent out to Kitwancool will have to be examined by Mr. Peter Williams prior to its being presented by him to the village in the presence of the chiefs of the village. If anyone comes from another village to discuss this land law, Mr. Peter Williams would have to examine it before it would be allowed to be discussed.

These laws cover the natural resources and the erection of dams for water power and the taking of any minerals or oil out of the ground, or in any way interfering with the naturalness of the country. In any such case, anyone wishing to do this even by the consent of any government body must arrange a meeting with the president of this village, Mr. Peter Williams, or other as the case may be.

On the fourteenth day of October, 1938, all the chiefs and all the young men held a meeting in Kitwancool. They created a pact or law of agreement among the chiefs of the village and this then formed a union between the Frog and Wolf clans. In other words, these clans united as one and under this agreement they swear to protect all the lands and natural resources belonging to the people of Kitwancool. This agreement still holds good and will remain in effect until it is changed again (if ever it is changed) by another meeting of the chiefs and the villagers.

2. Chieftainship, rank, and power:

(These laws and customs were recorded on October 14, 1958 and succeeding days. The editor has arranged them under topic headings.)

One man is the head one of the village, the wise man Gwass-lam. Wee-kha is the second man at the head of the village. These two men come out of the house of Gwass-lam.

The second house of power is Fred Good's house, Mah-ley. In case of trouble, war, or famine they send Mah-ley to the house of the two wise men to find out what is to be done, as they know how to handle it.

The chiefs are very particular about who wears their crests, ceremonial clothes, and masks and each clan takes care of its own. If a clan made use of another's clothes, masks, and such things it would always bring trouble.

When a clan raises a totem pole and puts their rightful crests on the pole it means a great deal to them, as every pole has a hunting ground. They are very particular; a Wolf cannot hunt or trap on a Frog's grounds nor can a Frog go on a Wolf's grounds. To help put on this feast the nephews go out to the territory and hunt. A chief who has many nephews and nieces is lucky. The rest of the clan also help. When the chief is going to his hunting ground he invites all his household to go with him, and also all the other households of the Wolf clan. They hunt only on the hunting ground of their crest, until they have enough for the feast. The head of each household is the head hunter over that house.

When the chief of a clan dies, he is laid out awaiting burial. All his clans are there as well as invited guests. They have a feast, called a feast to choose a new chief. They pick a young man whose life is clean and honest, a good provider, a man who is wise. This is done in the presence of the gathering at the big feast. All the chiefs agree that he is the right man to choose as a reigning chief. He takes the place and receives the name of the dead chief.

Seating (from story of Frog totem pole):

In this house they made chairs for the chiefs according to their rank, a lower chief having a lower chair and a higher chief a higher chair.

The head chief always sits in the middle and the other chiefs on his right and left according to their rank. These men that sit on each side of the chief are his councilmen. Guests of high rank must sit where the chief tells them. The chief never stands up, but has a man who stands up and talks for him. (In this house his name is Wee-dak-hai-yatzqu.)

Speaker:

The chief's speaker is also a chief, as a chief never asks a man of lower rank than himself to speak for him. The first speaker of this house is We-dak-hai-yatzqu "big copper" (a chief always has a copper shield with his crest carved on it, and the bigger the chief the bigger the copper.) The second speaker is Chief Goa-gash "one who speaks first". The chief himself never talks, he just looks at his speaker, who knows what to say, having been given his instructions before the council meeting.

If there is serious trouble in the village and the speakers have failed to bring peace they then ask the chief to speak and to settle the matter.



FIGURE 5

Kitwancool Chiefs in Costume, 1910

Left: Chief Gwass-lam. Right: Chief Wee-lezqu

3. Chief's Costume (see picture)

This is very important. Whenever there is trouble, the chief puts on his headdress called am-a-lite. It has a carved wooden crest on the front, it is trimmed with ermine skins, and its crown is filled with eagle down (mek-gaik). He bows his head over the people so that the eagle down falls on them and this means friendship and peace. Whenever mek-gaik falls on you you must be a peaceful person. When people of another village are invited to attend a feast, the chief dons his headdress filled with eagle down and dances a dance of welcome, spreading it over his visitors.

In the picture such a headdress is seen on Chief Wee-lezqu (right). His name means big blue grouse (the bird that is heard drumming on hollow logs and calling its girl friend, omh-omh-omh.) He carries his ceremonial dance rattle in his right hand. On the fringe around the bottom of his dance apron can be seen the hoofs of unborn caribou. His blanket is a button blanket trimmed with ermine skins. The neck piece he wears is made of woven cedar bark and is called a lov-ith. It is trimmed with sbalone shells (bla-aa).

The headdress on Chief Gwass-lam (left) is made of twisted cedar bark rope called gax-do-m-luk. Around his neck is a lov-ith, and over his shoulders is a black bear skin. His "rattle apron" is trimmed with unborn caribou hoofs and carries great healing power.

4. Marriage

A chief's daughter must always marry a chief, because when she has children she takes the name and power of that chief.[?] This same law exists in all the world among the whites of royal blood. The children of noble birth then become chiefs when the time comes. Indian girls are not allowed to marry until they are eighteen years old, as before that they do not know enough to be married.

It is a very strict law that a chief is not allowed to marry a common woman. She must be a chief's daughter. If he were to marry a common woman his children could never become chiefs.

If a man has picked out a girl he would like to marry, his family choose two or more women in good standing in their society and they take presents to the relatives of the girl. This is called mass-aws, meaning "decorations", and among the gifts are some decorations. They wait a few days, and if the presents are not returned they know the man has been accepted. After a few more days they give presents to all the girl's relatives. (The first time, only the father, mother, and aunts of the girl received presents.)

The man's relatives then approach those of the girl with more presents, and following that a marriage feast is held, with all the big chiefs in attendance. The couple sit prominently at the back of the house. One by one the chiefs rise and give the newly married couple their advice as to how to carry on all through their lives, explaining to the woman that she must leave all her old boy friends and to the boy that he must never look at another girl. They tell them never to commit adultery, explaining that to look into another man's (or woman's) eyes could mean death.

5. Naming of children

First ceremony: For the naming of children there is a meeting to which all the villagers are invited as witnesses. Then Frog or Wolf chiefs call out the name of the child and the father presents gifts to all those who called out the name.

Second ceremony: A boy has a hole pierced in each ear by his aunt; a girl has a hole put through the lower part of her lip. Before this ceremony a boy has a child name or na-muk. After it he is called Shak-gwee-qus. A little girl has a pet name called ark-gahs; after the hole is made in her lip she gets another name, na-argh. This is done only to chiefs' children, never to those of lower rank. These children who have the marks put on them will become chiefs later on in life.

Third ceremony: Now they will teach these children the songs and dances. The dance is called su-ha-lide. The chiefs file in and sit in their places of honour. Rattles are handed to them. The children are seated nearby. The chiefs stand and with motions of their arms throw their power into the children. Each chief shakes his rattle and dances. Then they put the ceremonial headdress on the child's head, with eagle down in it. Another high chief, who must be a relation of the child, places a little eagle down on each of the chiefs. The name of the performance is Su-ha-lide.

Fourth ceremony: When a boy has reached the age of maturity they again call the chiefs together to a feast, at which presents are given around. The chiefs then confer a higher title on this shak-gwee-qus (child). Thus having gone through all the ceremonies he is now a chief. He has the right to enter the feast house and can receive gifts. On the death of one of his uncles he is now qualified to take his place, provided he is found worthy and has the consent of the council of the chiefs.

6. Girls' Maturity

It is a law that when girls reach the age of maturity (about thirteen years old) they are put in little brush houses. These are a long distance from the fishing grounds. The girls must not look on the fish or it would bring misfortune to the village. They have three cedar bark ropes running to the fish house. One they pull when they want water, one when they want firewood, and the third when they want food. They are never given fresh salmon to eat, only last year's cured salmon. They are not allowed to cross water, as it would offend the fish. When they drink water it is always through a tube.

Men are not allowed to look at or pass near the huts, which are called welb-er-yep, meaning house of dirt, because it is dug into a hillside and has dirt on its roof. A grandmother always lives with the girls. If they have to go outside they wear a large hood so that they cannot see the mountains. It would stop the fish if the mountains were angry. If they had to go in a canoe their mouths were filled with stones to keep them from talking or laughing, else the spirits would fly away with them. Their condition makes them unclean; when they sleep they are not allowed to lie down, but must sleep sitting up. Other members of the household might have to lie there and the unclean spot would not be good for them.

That starts their womanhood. After one season or year of that they become women. Girls who followed these rules lived a long time, much longer than those who did not. They were always strong and healthy. They also had good luck, and were always looked upon as women of good morals, good character, honour and pride.

7. Divorce

Whenever a husband or wife becomes unfaithful, going out with someone of the opposite sex, it is no longer considered fit for them to live together. They separate at once, but neither is free to marry again until he or she fulfills another law called betqu, which means the same as divorce.

They must call the chiefs to assemble, as they did when they got married. The woman who is asking for the divorce (if it was the woman who called the chiefs together) stands at the back of the house in front of the chiefs. Sometimes she brings two or more relatives to stand on each side of her.

She sings what is called betqu, a divorce song, and dances. Then she gives presents, as much as she can afford, to all the chiefs who attended, and to all her attendants.

While the woman is still dancing, the man who desires her burns something of great value to himself, as an indication that he is the man who wants her after she is free.

After this ceremony she is free to marry again. A man asking for a divorce must go through the same ceremony.

8. Cooking

Cooking was done in a square box which had one seam in it, put together with wooden pegs. The fish or meat was put in it with water and cooked by dropping in red hot stones. It was a slow method of cooking but it was used for many generations.

They also had roasting sticks (an-yow). A salmon was roasted by sticking the sticks through it and into the ground and turning it once in a while before the fire. Meat was also done in the same manner. Up on the mountain when they kill a goat they make a trench, line it with stones, cover this with leaves, and light a fire on the top. In about two hours the meat is cooked.

A fishing-pole is called Maa-oo and looks like [three-pronged leister].