

Abstr. Narr. Origin of the Kitnagunaks  
E. Maxwell to Bevan, 1915.

Myth of the gitnagunaks: ti'eban, leptidzi'ust, wudime's (gitl'e'n); d'e'mks (gispa'x'ls), and wutsint (gitwilg'ots).

At gidostsu' there was a conflict over the ownership of the crest medi'g'am we'lp. wutsint claimed he had the right to use it since he was a member of the party taken down by the monster of naganaks. But tsag'amse'gisk, who was the chief, and leader of the party, would not give his consent. wutsint built the house anyway, and there was a fight. tsag'amse'gisk and d'e'mks defeated wutsint, leptidzi'ust, wudime's, and ti'eban and the latter fled north.

They stopped at gitxa'ta and lived at the gitl'e'n village of laxk'l'e'n. Later, wutsint went to saxsa'axt at the gitxata [gitwilg'ots?] village and offered to give him the crests godzaxtk we'lp and mesal'p "red rock" (the name of a house of the Kitnagunaks), if he would permit him to join that tribe. When the other Kitnagunaks heard this they killed wutsint, and his family took refuge with the gitwilg'ots. A nephew later assumed his name.

wudime's, leptidzi'ust, and ti'eban went to the Skeena River and settled on a point called qil'axgwe'nks "people of springs", near Kitsumkalum River. After 'aksk defeated the Dingit and the Tsimshian moved to Metlakatla, this group moved there with the (other) gitl'e'n.

The crests of the Kitnagunaks were:-

1. mɛdig,əm dzaum'aks "grizzly of the sea".

A grizzly with fins on its back, carved on the four inside house posts, painted on the housefront, and used as a war garment by all the Pitnugunaks.

2. wusənq,ə'ɔ'skənəm nɛ'ex 'nɛ'xt "two finned blackfish. Another monster seen in the house of nugunaks. Used on a robe worn in assuming a name.

3. tɔatku nɛ'ɔ's (blackfish with) fins all around". Another monster from the myth. Used as a housefront painting, carved on poles, and on robes.

4. 'nɛ'xt common blackfish used by all qispəwudwads as a war headdress.

5. liqɪdadu'ɔls - a seated figure of a woman with human faces in her eyes, representing the wife of the monster of nugunaks. Shown on housefronts, poles, and robes.  
Exclusive to house of dɛ'mks.

Maxwell cannot remember others.