

gidzaxkɛt territories

Narr: The Gupew. on the Ocetall River (Abstract)

The ganhada and the gispawudwada had a contest to see which were the better hunters, up the kstl river.

The ganhadas came out on top, and a gispaw. chief

gamgalgigēni in shame went over the falls in his
(suicide because of shame)
canoe and drowned. In compensation for this death,

n125108 the chief said " We will divide this territory on the Ocetall. The lower half will go to the ganhada while the upper half on the right bank going down will be the property of the gispawudwade."

Name

Nelson:

q'ε:l is gansux for the top of a terrace
or plateau

q'it sam q'ε:l om "people of the plateau"

Villages used by whole tribe in common

1. g, adu' or kg, ado' The winter village at
Mithakatta
2. lax'tsala'sax "on waterfalls", at the junction of Ecstall River and Big Falls Creek, was the main summer village of the tribe.
3. spaksu't a village at Post Essington at
the mouth of Ecstall River.
4. kamhan.a'ox the entechon fishing
village, at Red Bluff on the Nass River.

There follow a number of village or campsites on Dundas Islands. These were all used by the whole tribe in common. They can be located only approximately on the map, since in the field notes only a crude sketch map is shown.

5. ksq,ax'tɛ't : across shore, an old village on North Dundas that had been used by the whole tribe, and was destroyed by the wudstɛ'.
6. laxkwilwa't "on where yellowcedar", A camp where seaweed (tagas) was gathered.
7. t'punəm ta'ɔdzəp "whale fortress" (from its resemblance to a whale) was the fort close to 6. which N125/05 made.
8. 'max'tndzag'p "through waves" (where the waves run across to the Nass). A camp where clams were dug.
9. laxkənwe'ts A village and da'ax
(stepped house) of the Thagit chief g, age

- x6
10. laxwiluks pi'ns "on where ^{seaward} outward wild celery" Place of wild-celery. A village used by all for sea mammal hunting.
- x7
11. tkwildamlentk "ready canoe bow" (the formation here resembles the bow of a canoe). A village used in obtaining sea foods and hunting. In recent times it has been used by all the Tsimshian.
12. wiluga'nis "where in dog salmon". A fishing village used by the g' dzaxtet for dog salmon (only).
- x9
13. xpε'ldə "dup precipice". A fishing village where sockeye, dog salmon and humpback salmon were caught in traps ('mst). Formerly belonged to g'amdzo'p of the gankh'ada house of niɔs k'iwε'.
14. laxki'i Green Island. A camp ^{for} seals, halibut, and gull eggs. The name derives from a call (kihiki) used when approaching a seal. The same call was used in certain performances of the secret society.
- x11
15 lax'wi-nagago'k "on great formation", a camp for seaweed gathering. They also used to hold dances here, and some of the motions in the dance resemble those used in sexual intercourse, which gave rise to the name.
16. lax'wigale'ims "on great wild roses" A hunting village
17. lax'tsamhε'εs "on in stumps". Hunting and fishing village.

14

18 ksag o'tsa "waters of fluid taken from the bladder of porcupine". A common fishing station for humpbacks, steelhead, and dog salmon.

The gitza x tet spent only the coldest months of the winter at Metlakatla. In spring they moved to the pass for eulachons, then to the Ecstall river village (some stopping over on Dundas Island). The salmon season ^{July - mid-Oct} was spent on the Ecstall and ^{later} at spaksu:t, until it was time to move to Metlakatla again.

Territories:

I House of 'niashot (ganha'da)

I₁ kwi'aks "big waters" Hayward (Beaver) Creek.
Reserved for 'niashlo'as, this valley yielded beaver,
bear, goat, groundhog, martin, ^{and} musk.

I₂ kto'mdzo / Madeline Creek and vicinity.
The ^{exclusive} berry ground and hunting territory of 'niashot.

I₃ tkutsi'on "small river" Scotia River. A fishing
station and berry ground belonging especially to
'niashpale'x [Ic], who had a house there, but also used
by the rest of the house of 'niashot.

I₄ tkwa'a'ots "small wild carrots" A creek on Pearce
Inlet belonging ~~to~~ exclusively to 'niashlo'as (Ib) and
now used by the Ingit 'niashlo'as. The creek yielded
sockeye salmon, and the surrounding area was a
general hunting and gathering place.

I₅ samknahon "Place of salmon?" An area on South
Dundas Island reserved to the royal house for berries
and fishing.

II House of niaskiwe' (ganha'da)

II₁ kiwa'ns Brown Lake and vicinity.
Exclusive to niaskiwe' for hunting.

II₂ tsamsye'k "in walking?" (Where they walk, cannot
use canoe), the whole upper part of the Ecstall

watered. This large area was shared by all the ganhada of the houses of *niaskiwe'*, *ge'ni* and *xpanho'ntk* (II, V, and IX).

II₃ *galakstol* "along the Ecstall", the territory along the west side of the Ecstall from Post Essington up to II₂, was used by the same ganha'do groups as the latter.

II₄ *xpe'ldo*, a salmon stream on Dundas Island, was also mentioned as belonging to *gamdzop* (IIb)

III House of *gamgalgige'ni* (*gispawudwa'do*)

III₁ *t x a | m z c o'* "rocky crowded against each other" Big
against rocky Falls Creek

III₂ *kstol* "the other side". This included all the territory along the east side of the Ecstall up to III₁, except that which was otherwise claimed.

III₁ and III₂ were formerly ganhada territory, and were given to the *gispawudwa'do*:

niaskiwe' and his brother-in-law *gamgalgige'ni* had a contest to see which was the better hunter. *niaskiwe'* won. In shame, *gamgalgige'ni* committed suicide by going over the falls in his canoe. To compensate the *gispawudwa'do* for their loss, the ganha'do gave them the east side of the Ecstall (III₁ and III₂)

A tributary of Big Falls Creek (Chetow Cr.?) was owned exclusively by *gamgalgige'ni*
It was called *knaxm'loks* (for berries)

III₃ *kwidzomho'dzo* "big stream". A stream ~~given to~~ which belonged to *gamgalgige'ni* but was given to the *gitwilgot's* house of *saxsa'axt* in compensation for a member of that family who was drowned here in the company of a *gitzaxtet* man.

IV and VIII

Houses of 'niɔskɛ' and 'niɔsmɛ'ts (laxkɪbu')

The laxkɪbu' houses had no territory of their own, being a later addition to the tribe. They used the chief's territory with his permission.

V and IX Houses of gɛ'ni and xpankɔ'ntk (ganha'də)

These houses shared the territories II₂ and II₃ with the house of 'niɔskɪwɛ'.

VI and VII tkagan.ɛ'ɔtɔk and q'ɛ'ɪst (gɪspɔwudwɔ'də)

These houses shared III₂ with gɔmɔalɔɔɛ'ni, having intermarried with that house. They owned no territory.

One territory on the east side of the Ecstall belongs to the gɪtsi's. This is ksə'ɔdzə. gɔmdzə'p killed a white man, and the whites in retaliation killed a gɪtsi's man. To compensate the gɪtsi's for their loss, the gɪtzax'tɛ't gave them this territory.

General:

It is evident that all of the Estall territories belonged originally to the ganha'do. They claim to have been the first to occupy the area (again, call it their place of origin). The way in which parts of the east side of the valley were given to a gispawudwa'do ^{house} (III) has been described. Other gispawudwa'do and ganha'do who joined the tribe shared the territories of their relatives, but the laxkibu families ~~used~~ had to depend on the generosity of the chief in allowing the use of his lands.

The territories of this tribe were ^{entire} along the Estall River (ksto'l "river on the other side?") and on the islands of the Dundas group laxkwaxt "on beaver tail". The islands were also used (or had been earlier used?) by Thngets under a chief called gage (a ganha'do). The river territory, though originally ganha'do property, was divided among the houses of the tribe. The island sites were used in common, except for two areas which were owned by the two leading ganha'do houses (I and II).

In addition, of course, the tribe had a common winter village at Metlakatla and an eulachon fishing village on the Nass.

Why the qispawudwa'do took the eastern side of the
Estall River.

H Wallace. 1926

There was a competition between the g. anha'do and the qispawudwa'do over which were the better hunters, which the g. anha'do won. In shame the qispawudwa'do chief gamgalqig'eni decided to commit suicide by going over the waterfall at the head of the river. His crew saved themselves, but he made no effort to do so and was drowned. Now the qispawudwa'do were angry, holding the g. anha'do responsible for the death, and to pacify them the chief nislos said: "We shall divide the territory on the Estall. The lower half will go to the g. anha'do, but the upper half, on the east side, will be the property of the qispawudwa'do."

