

Origins of git'and>

gispax/ots gitwilksabe :

- (A)
- (i) sgagwet (laxskik)
 - (ii) giste'ku (laxskik)
 - (iii) laxs (")
 - (iv) gaye'lowx (ganhada)
 - (v) nias t'satlwano's (ganhada)
 - (vi) q's (gispaw)
 - (vii) halp (gispaw)

gispax'ot' / : (all gispaw)

- (B)
1. ge'otuk was some'igt (gispawudwad>)
 2. gasye'tk a lakaget ander (gispawudwad>)
 3. niasyaxiyunet (ganhada) some'igt of ganhada.
 4. txatkwetk as from some courts & myths ganhada
 5. laxlitkwa under but end of house. ganhada

gitwilga'xsu : (all gispaw)

In early times (A) the gitwilksabe, were subjects of legex of the gispax/ots, who treated them badly. The (B) group existed at the 2 named places (just gispaw and ganhada) under royal ge'otuk. (also subject to lege'x ?) (A) broke away and came and joined (B) and they formed the git'and>. Sgagwet became royal chief instead of ge'otuk.

Iaxskik history

A. Wellington 1915

git'ands': sgagwe't: was a boy's name in house of legex. He was a son of a woman of this house and a gatsi'as man. He was appointed as royal chief (this first) when the Iaxskian moved permanently to Port Simpson.

Origin of
git'ands'

At one time there were three tribes of which legex was recognized as chief: git'ands, gitwilk'asbe', and gispax'its. The git'ands were formerly a branch of the gispax'its, and split off from them.

legex's sister was going downriver to trade, when her canoe upset, and most of the people with her were lost. legex was angry at people in the village who had refused to accompany his sister, and he chased them from the village. They started a village of their own, about 4 houses, a mile downriver. Having no tools to build houses with, they took the gitksan people's weirs (d>') and made houses of them, so became known as git'ands: "people of the weirs".

They appointed as chiefs ge'atuk and nisyaqayunet. They multiplied. Later they took as royal chief gwax'ix (gwanhut Iaxskik, wext of legex) and the successive chiefs of this house were gwax'ix, txa'tsi'yusk, niswi'hask, and txa'axa'tk.

When this royal house became extinct they took sgagwe't from the house of legex and elevated him to be their royal chief.

git'ando' origins

I House of sgagwe't

(laxstik)

Wallace: were all from g'ispaxlō'ts origin, from house of legē'x

McKay: 1. k'wōlgē'x was the first royal chief 2. sgagwe't
3. ni's'wibēs, royal, independent house,
subdw. of house of sgagwe't.

: gwōlgē'x and sgagwets were brothers; they separated
when they were wealthy and were about to have
separate houses. They were of one origin. ni's'wibēs
was a nephew of sgagwe't, came out of his house and
formed an independent house.

Ross: House of gwōtgē'x [The present ni'shō't is supposed
to be a son of gwōtgē'x]. According to Mrs Ross, the house
of sgagwets is the older house. Is a branch of sgagwet.
Have the same myth of origin, they are gwū'ku'ēt, the
same as legē'x. They are wē'kēt (or blood relatives)
all three: legē'x, gwōtgē'x, sgagwet) Before
gē'ō'tuk was the head of g'it'ando'.

gwōlgē'x used the same names in common with
house of sgagwe't. Almost extinct, only one left now
(adopted from Mr Sudward)

See under gē'ō'tuk for story of how sgagwet got
chieftainship.

Why sgagwet had no territory Jos Morrison.

gētuk was chief. g'it'ando' and g'ispaxlō'ts lived
close and visited for gambling. sgagwe't (a prince of
royal house of g'ispaxlō'ts) sneaked in and slept with
gētuk's young sister. gētuk, angered, wanted to kill him.
With g'istē'ku as intermediary, the g'ispaxlō'ts gave
sgagwet an amhalait. sgagwet married gētuk's sister
and lived with g'it'ando'. When gētuk's house ran out
of male successors, the sister's husband was established
as chief and granted the privilege of using any g'it'ando'
territories but did not give him ownership of any.

I House of ge'otuk

(gispawudwa'do)

Wallace: original g'itands' The g'itands' were always connected with g'spaxl'ots, but had their own chiefs who were under the chief of the g'spaxl'ots. ge'otuk and gamayem were their chiefs, gamayem was a later name taken by house of ge'otuk; the : name was taken from gitxata royal house of tseyba'se. ge'otuk was of the laxmon group and used as a crest madiegan dzazomaks. The main crest of the laxmon group was 'next and next the madiegan dz - - aks.

McKays. ge'otuk former leader of the g'itands', was of royal rank in former days; but no longer. ge'otuk lost his rank voluntarily or gave it away, and gave it to the house of agagwe't when he married into that house. And he assumed the rank of chief lek'a'get.

: gamayem, indep. house; was not a subdw of ge'otuk. Same origin as ge'otuk. gamayem and ge'otuk were the former original? g'itands'

They think they were from t'omlax'am, not myth of gao'wa, not gitksadzox. They came from a place on the Skeena called tsom'w'w'box village on bank of river
in stupower bank

tsom'w'w'box

In ancient times that. Not the same myth as the g'iodzay gamayem had come out originally of ge'otuk house.

gisax'w'

(There was a group of gispewud. on the Skeena termed g'isax'w')

Bradley: ge'otuk; originally came to t'omlax'am from down the Skeena, they went up the river to t'omlax'am and became a gispewudwada. He was not a gisp. before hand. He does not know what he was before. He then became associated with tseybase'. After that he was always associated with t'omlax'am. ge'otuk from that time assumed the chieftainship of the g'itands' people but after gave up his rank voluntarily, and after having brought this gamayem name from t'omlax'am. he also

→ two indep. houses, were not closely related. The gamayem here was not a desc. of the original gamayem, but the name was given to them and privileged to use it. But these people (were) entirely of a different origin.

(brought) crests from Pomalaxam with him. (listed) x
: ge'tuk of the g'tand> Does not know what was his origin, but went to Pomalaxam and assumed the name of gamayem.

Johnson: origin: relative of li'm/axe', shares his myths and names.

McKays: gamayem was not his real blood relative. he had only gone with his house when ge'otuk had dropped his royal rank. It came about by marriage, the amalgamation of these houses, they think. To begin with they were two independent houses. Origin? Ancient g'tand>:

Ross: ge'otuk (Ia) subdiv. only lately when school started here, not formerly subdivided. Subdivs:
1 ge'otuk 2 gamayem
gamayem house uses same names.

Tradition of change of royal house:

"ge'otuk had a beautiful young niece. hadzaksne'x heard of her beauty, and he left his village on the Akuna to the place where ge'otuk loved to gamble. And he came to his house and said he wanted to gamble. At night he went to the young woman and laid with her, and in the morning ge'otuk saw them, and pronounced them married, and put robes on his back and presented them with valuable furs. And ge'otuk took his se'sa (chief rattle) and gave it to him, and took off the chief robe he wore, and his headdress, and put it on hadzaksne'x and said "You will become chief now." And from that time on they lost their royal standing because they had given it away. hadzaksnexs was an Eagle, a nephew of sqagwe't. sqagwe't was of royal family then, but was not recognized as head of the g'tand> until that event.

ge'tuk (cont'd)

Wellington ge'otuk was of the gispokts village before
the gitand^o came into existence. He was of the
gitwilg.a'x^usax, a gisp. [village?] of graveyard
point. This was a different origin from laxm^on &
Zmlaham, he belonged to the group named
tagigε'ni "further up the river" nislut and
wines (ginadocks) were not laxm^on, Zmlaham,
or tagigeni either. Their name was ginad^oiks,
a little below tagigε'ni.

II House of nixxtə

(laxskiak)

Wallace: from qilodzay house of ɔɔks

Johnson: from qilodzay

McKays, relatives: nixxəmə'a'ol (laxsk. qilodzay) They use the same crest (not sure). nixxə descendant from nixxəmə'a'ol house

Mrs Ross: These people are from qilaxkə'ls (Skema k) They have a myth in common with nixxəmədzis (qilodzay) and xio'p (qispaxlts)

Matthew Johnson: qilodzay origin from klaxkə'ls, from house of nixxəmə'a'ol, which was a subdivision of nixxəmədzis. The origin of nixxəmədzis: of klaxkə'ls, one of original qilodzay. Not of gwaxwət stock

[Long myth of nixxəmədzis - localized at Lakelee Lake, telling how he gave up chieftainship to nixxəwə' but retained territory. A crest of beaver went to 3 houses: nixxəmə'a'olk, nixxə, and nixxəmədzis]

"as to nixxə, he left after this, ashamed of being defeated. This is the reason why he left the tribe.

- nixxəmədzis, nixxə, and xio'p were originally one house.

Territory File: Morrison.

This house originally was connected with nixxəmədzis, qilodzau. An open breach arose over a woman of the house, and nixxə moved to his wife's people, the qil'ands. He was given a territory. This house still admits its qilodzau ^{connections} relations; it contributes to the royal house's festivities and picks its wives among the qilodzau women.

III House of giste'ku

(laxskik)

Wallace: original gitanas'. No close relatives. The gispaxlats absorbed most of the gitwilksabε, he says, but does not know that giste'ku belongs to them.

McKay's origins?

Subdiv: (1) (2) gilaskε'meyan
they were close relatives, have same myth.

Johnson: subdiv: 1/ giste'ku 2/ gileke'max
3/ nlu'ax (gipegamtkwa was in this group)

Ross: not subdivided.

: they have a myth of their own. Thinks they are connected with Gwunhuit in some way.

: gilaskε'meyan descendant of house of giste'ku but have always been 2 separate houses.

Name best separate, but child comes in common

Johnson: not of the gwunhuit but of the gitwilksabε' gispaxlats

IV House of niasyaxiyun'e't : (g. anhadz)

Wallace:

have the same myth as toxom, and have the same crest of gaye't and same names. He does not know of their having been from the gispa'x'ots at any time, Always heard of their being g. t'andz.

McKays: (a) niasyaxiyun'e't - he was one of the old ganhadz gitandz group which lived on a tributary of the Akuna called kst'u's (property of the ganhadz) and used only by the ganhadz gitandz.

(b) house of g. aga'oktok - in former times was a subdiv. of (a)

(c) house of g. amksa'ge'k not a subdiv. of (a) but belonged to same group, same myth and crest

(d) tsaxamgish'e'its - originally from the house of (a); only lately formed a separate house.

: niasyaxiyun'e't and tsaxamgish'e'its were l'apwe'k'at (close blood relatives). g. aga'oktok at one time was the leader of this group. Nies became lead this way: All the male members of the group under the chieftainship of g. aga'oktok became wiped out, and only niasyaxiyun'e't was left, who was then a small baby. When he grew he assumed the chieftainship of the group.

: niasyaxiyun'e't was once recognized chief of the gitandz, ganhadz; was not royal for that. He has still a great deal to say about the government of the gitandz.

Ross. g. amksa'ge'k - subdiv. of IV, separated long ago

V House of gaye'lowax

(gankado)

Origins.

Wallace: same group as (IV) niasyaxiyunet; originated from
its house; and the same with lax/i' tkwa and
niss t's etlowanet's; they were of the same group and
from the house of niasyaxiyunet.

McKays: they seem always to have been independent house;
although belonged to same group as niasyaxiyunet.

Not subdivided, now extinct, ~~no~~ same myth as niasyaxi-

Johnson: She has heard he was from niasyaxiyunet;
and they had the same grandmother.

Loss: gaye'lgwax another subdiv of house of

IV. long ago. Mainly same names.

VI House of laxlittkwa

(g. anhadz)

Wallace: -

McKay: - had a different origin [from two above?]; originated from the Oxtall river, from the gitzaxtet, house of niaski'we or gam dzo'p. He was their close relative. Extinct.

The laxlittkwa name was assumed by a man of a different crest. Albert Wesley, and was assumed by his son to perpetuate the name (laxskick, g'ispaxl'et)

Johnson: originated from niasyayayunet house. Not of gitzaxtet origin, that she knows

Ross: a subdw of house of niasyayayunet. The same names and crests in common. Subdw. long ago.

From territories file.

This house was originally a branch of niaski'we, gitzaxtet on the Ksto'l. An invasion of gidaxanits caused him to flee and he came to the gitands village of Ksto's to his wife's bro. hal'p (g'isp. XI), using his territories as guest, still regarded as a gitzaxtet. The male line of niasyayayunet was down to one small boy. laxlittkw supplied the elk skin to claim his body. In compensation the head woman of nias. gave him a territory at the head of the river (10). He declared himself a gitands and stayed.

VII House of niss t's 2 + lewano's (ganhad)

McKays: same origin as nissyayayunet and have same myth; independent standing, not subdiv., extinct.

Johnson: were a very small house. Same group ^{& crests} as nissyayayunet but independent.

Ross: subdivision of house of nissyayayunet in former times. Use name in common w. IV.

VIII House of txatkwé'tk

(ganhado)

Wallace: of nuge origin from village of gwunwó'x
He killed the gispwudwado chief Sispogu't and
for this reason left the Nass and came and lived
with the git'ando.

Johnson: a subdiv of house of nist's'etewano's.

— 3: independent house of nuge origin no
close relatives here

X
IX House of gasye'tk

(gispawudwa'da)

Wallace: local gitand>. Their village was called
gitwilgasu' where middle of river was that it was situated
in the centre of the river ksaksye'nks Shamus R.

McKays: of the gispax'oi group. (Subdiv)
(a) (b) q'oi - this house of q'oi came from
the extinct gitwilksabe' and was adopted by
gasye't. They had a different origin

Bradley: He does not come from t'om lax'am at all.
He lived at the ancient place of the gitand> on the
Akuna. The gitand> were formerly an independent
race; they were not an issue of the gispax'oi's.

gispax'oi

The gispax'oi were a very small tribe, which amalgamated
with different other tribes. The 4 crests were
represented (in) this tribe.

hal'oi is an old tribe of the gitand> not related
to gasye't.

gasye't is a branch of the gamaye'm gitand>
not the t'om lax'am.

Wallace: q'oi was gitwilksabe, came directly to the gitand>
In former days one of the gitwilksabe chiefs was a relative
of leg'e'x, who eventually became hadzaksn'e'x
who became chief of the gitand>. When he did, most
of his people followed him in the gitand> tribe.
1 q'oi 2 'ndzadzoi't (gispud) became amalgamated with
gasye'tk. They were blood relatives, two independent
gitwilksabe houses. No others went to the gitand>, the
others joined the gilodza.

Johnson: q'oi was of gitwilksabe, gispud, gilodza in origin

g.asyε'tk (contd)

M. Johnson

The term $g.spax^{2>1}$ applied to the group of $g.asy\epsilon t$ and $g^{2>5}$ but not to $hal^{2>p}$.

XI House of laxs (laxskiak)

Wallace: original g'tands, not g'itwilkəb'e', not related to gisteku

McKays: former g'tands not a subdw of g'ist'e'ku. has own myth and crest

Ross: not subdw. laxs and gisteku have always been 2 houses

IX. House of hal'ɔ'p

(g'ispawadwa'dɔ)

Wallace: from house of ni²snɛ'¹s which was the former head name of this house, are of t'əm tax'am origin. They use the same myth as the royal chiefs, but they always remained of the lekakeget, they never were of higher rank.

McKays: of g'ispax'² group, not a subdw. of IX with səlo·q a'²tənmə -- 'a house.

Subdw: (a) hal'ɔ'p (b) t'ka witiyet

Johnson: same myth and origin as ləp¹ dzinst

Ross: House of səlo·q a'²tə z hal'ɔ'p and not an independent house.
(Same house, different name?)

Matthew Johnson: He claims relationship to the nagunake, as if he were descended from them. His crests:
g. aɪ dəm ɔ nɛ·x t
sɛ'təm haɣwɛlɔ'x (spoon)
4 layers lanəm g. aɪ t

Origin of git'ands'

Informant Sam Lewis. giving origin of house of
dzaxamgisha'itks [x1] ganha'da of gitxata.

In former days the git'ands' people were more like
the servants of the gispax'ts, and when legex became chief
after niswamak he even made slaves of them. Whenever he
went he always took the git'ands' people with him. The git'ands'
at that time had getuk, gisp. as chief and he was not a big
chief, not recognized as chief by the whole people. After
legex had been defeated in war by the gitsilasu, the git'ands'
took a royal chief from the gispax'ts and he was gutxex
of the house of niswamak, laxsik and he was made
chief of the git'ands'. Then they started down the river and they
made a new village which was known as gispax's'l. Some
of the people went away, including the members of this
dzaxamgisha'itks house of git'ands' and they came down
farther until they reached salt water and at Metlakatla
they found the village of gitxata and here they settled. They
took the name dzaxamgisha'itks as their chief name. They
have no other foreign relatives in any other tribe and are
nearly extinct in the gitxata tribe.

branch of extinct?

[sic?]

Vol IV p 39, also Sam Lewis.

: "When the git'ands' separated from
the gispax'ts some people stayed with the git'ands', others went to other Tsimshian
tribes and this one came to gitxata and became the bkogot house of this tribe. After
legex had been defeated by the gitsilasu, the git'ands' who had as their chief getuk
gisp and the people under the chief gutxex laxsik separated and started
the git'ands' people and made a village known as gispax's'l, and when they
got there they fought among themselves over hunting fowls and then
dzaxamgisha'itks nephew dzaxamiyelgelthk went away taking his sisters and
broo. until they came to where the gitxata were living, became members of
the tribe. An (older) uncle with him, dzo-wil'aks. They started indep. houses.