

*Chicken Hawk Town?*

whether this was simply a summer site or whether it was an earlier village. Most likely it was the latter. On August 4, 1791, Ingraham was opposite the village of chief "Kliew", but he did not anchor, because it "was situated in a place where we had no harbour or place of shelter from the wind or sea...". On July 14, 1792, he was "close in with the Islands off Kliews village" and traded with the chiefs "Kliew" and "Kushwat". This village is almost certainly the one listed by Swanton as town chief Kloo Ek!ia, and shown on Newcombe's map at the mouth of a creek on the east side of Lyell Island (p. 284). According to the traditions these Eagle lineages originated in Cumshewa Inlet, and "several towns were occupied successively before they finally 'slashed the bushes' at Kloo (T! ana). One of these, called Chicken-Hawk-Town..., located on the outer side of Lyell Island, seems to have been occupied very recently. The town chief had such an immense house there, that he had separate names for the two halves. Its house-pole was covered with abalone-shell." Accordingly, "Kloo would seem to be a very modern town" (p. 97).

The Hudson's Bay Company census of 1841 gave "Cloo" forty houses and a total population of 545. By that time the village was most likely at its present site. It seems likely that some of the Eagles of Chicken-Hawk-Town went to Skedans, and the rest to Tanoo.

In 1862 Robert Poole began a two-year, abortive copper mining

venture in Skincuttle Inlet, in Kunghit territory south of Tanoo. He was accompanied from Victoria, however, by the chief of Tanoo, "Kitguen", who took an interest in the venture and lent it his protection. Kitguen was about 35 and had but recently assumed the head chieftainship and the title "Chief Klue", on the death of his older brother. He retained Kitguen as his familiar name. (Poole, pp. 104-5) When Poole gave up in 1864, this chief took him back to Victoria in his huge state canoe; 37 people made the trip in the canoe. During his stay on the islands, Poole visited Klue's village, "at a place which the Indians called Laskeek", that is, at the present site of the village. (pp. 105, 113)

Another chief called Skidegatees (not Skidegate) set up a camp near the mine workings on Burnaby Island, and Poole considered this group to be a separate tribe. The name does not appear in the early fur trade journals, but Swanton identifies "Skitgade's" as a chief of the second, lower ranking division of the Eagles of Skedans and Tanoo, the Djigua-Town-People (E4) (Swanton, p. 273). Obviously this chief was out of his own territories at the time, as this was clearly Ninstints territory.

Swanton's informants listed 26 houses at Tanoo (not all, of course, were contemporaneous), of which 16 were Eagle and 10 Raven. (p. 283). Only three belonged to the lineage of the town chief Gitkun (Klood), the "Those born at Skedans" (E3). That

lineage, "a later-developed, aristocratic division" of the Djigua-Town-People (E4) (p. 96), was numerically stonger at Skedans, and in fact "By a curious arrangement the future chief of Kloo lived with his people at Skedans before attaining his majority and succeeding to the chieftainship of Kloo" (p. 96). The largest lineage at Tanoo was the Djigua-Town-People (E4) with 13 houses. The Ravens, in 10 houses belonged to a single lineage which was confined to this village, the Qadasgo-People (R3).

In May, 1873 Judge J. G. Swan of Port Townsend, Washington was visited by "Kitkun, Chief of the Laskeek village" and "Captain Skedance, chief of the Koona village". Kitkun was a well-spoken young man, and showed the judge how to play a <sup>Handa</sup> gambling game. He gained for himself a certain lasting fame by allowing the judge to photograph and sketch the tattoos he wore: Dogfish on his chest, and Wasako on his back. These are reproduced in Swan, 1874, pp. 5, 8, pl. 4 and also in Niblack, 1890, pl. IV and V). Niblack's caption says of him that "The rank which he held in 1873 was that of a petty chief of the village, his brother, Chief Klue, being the head chief. On the death of his brother, Kitkun became head chief of the village, assuming the hereditary title, Chief Klue". If Niblack is correct, this could not have been the same Gitkun known to Poole in the 1860's.

Dawson, in 1878, called it "Klue's Village, properly called Tanoo, or by the Tsimshians Iax-skik, " and added:

see also  
Collection for  
later pictures  
?

Dawson shows a  
totem being carved.

"There are about thirty carved posts here, of all heights and styles, with sixteen houses. The village, extending round a little rocky point, faces two ways, and cannot easily be wholly seen from any one point of view, which causes it to look less important than [Skedans], though really possessing a larger population than it, and being in a more flourishing state than any elsewhere seen in the islands. There were a considerable number of strangers here at the time of our visit in July, 1878, engaged in the erection of a carved post and house for the chief....

Gitkun's new house, with its extremely tall new frontal pole (and an even taller memorial pole with a shark at the base) may be seen in later photographs than Dawson's.

O'Reilly, in 1882, estimated the population at between 30 and 50. Swan visited herein August 1883, and mentions a new house of the old type, and preparations being made for festivities later in the fall. Jemmett Chittenden, in 1884 (p.24) found "Tanoo or Laskeek" second in population to Masset, with about 150 natives, 20 houses, and 25 carved poles. Jemmett the Reserve surveyor in 1887 called it a small village, "very clean and the Indians civil". It must have been in the same year that they moved to New Clew (below).

In 1953 I could make out traces of 20 houses, although only one complete frame still stood (the only one on the islands). An average house was 30 feet wide by 33 long; three were excavated, and the largest of these was 40 feet wide and 47 long. The excavations were in two steps, each 2'6" high. Parts of nine totem poles still remained, and in 1954 we removed three

frontal poles for preservation. The site showed no evidence of archaeological deposits which would indicate any antiquity.

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