

A. Wellington, 1915.

laxskik history.

gispaxlɔts:-

The first chief of this tribe was lɛ'ɔt, a gispaw. who had moved from Imlaham to ksadzɔx on the Nass. Later, waxa'it (also gisp) became head chief and lɛ'ɔt became secondary.

xpi'ɔk (laxskik) became chief, as waxa'it didn't have the wealth to maintain his position. (At first, AW says xpi'ɔk came long before the ni'swa'amak gwunhoot. Later, he said that they came at same time. But xpi'ɔk seems to have a different story :-) From Imlaham originally, they had drifted north to Alaska in the Hood. They fought among themselves ^[not with laxkibw] because of a woman who was married to an Eagle and had another Eagle as lover, and some fled south to nɛ'ɛ (identified as Kasan on map, on other side of Port Chester). At nɛ'ɛ they fought with some tribe over fishing weirs, and split up (now in mixed groups): some to Nass, some to Alaska, some to Skeena; some got as far south as Kitimat. xpi'ɔk was head of the Skeena group, which eventually settled at Metlakatla, (and became head of gispaxlɔts. Subdivs: 1 xpi'ɔk

2 tkwil'axɛ'

3 wut'a'gɔp

4 nisne'x

ni'swa'amak :

When the gwunhoot came they did not have this name. ni'swa'amak was a nephew of xpi'ɔk, ^(name created then too) created a chief to ~~replace~~ succeed him as he was the wealthiest. The other branches of xpi'ɔk's house still retained their royalty, and after ni'swa'amak's death, xpi'ɔk again became head chief.

legex'x

ni:spɛlɛ's was a gwunhoot who had an independent house since Alaskan days. He was of royal rank, but below xpi:lk and ni:swamak. He was a headchief of the gispax/bts between waxait and ni:swa'amak. Only wul:ɛ'isk to ni:swamak. When legex came he amalgamated with this house.

Rank of royal chiefs when legex came:

1. legex (ni:spɛlɛ's)
2. ni:swa'amak
3. xpi:lk
4. ka'anak (of 2.)
5. gastu'ini (of 2)

legex came from wudste. "In former times the gispax/bts had a battle and the mother of legex went over to kutimat. From there she married to wudste, and legex was her son. When he had grown up, he was taunted and told the directions to ^{his} grandfather's land. Taking some wudste friends with him, he came to Metlakatla, was recognized as royal laxskik, and was taken into house of ni:spɛlɛ's. On the death of the chief, ni:swa'amak, he became chief.

sg.agwet:

In former times legex was the chief of three groups, the git'ands', the gitwilksobe' and the gispax/bts. sg.agwet was a boy's name in the house of legex. He was only adopted by the git'ands' as their chief when the Tarnsham moved permanently to Port Simpson.

See Origin of git'ands'.