

## Dadens

<sup>Tadence</sup>  
Dadens (Tatence, Tartance) was a village on the south shore of Langara Island, halfway through Solide Passage, facing Lucy Island. Its importance was all in the distant past. According to tradition it was one of the main bases from which the Karijani took off for Alaska. In the days of the earliest traders it was often visited and described because of its <sup>two huge houses with</sup> totem poles, the "great wooden images of Tartance" of Douglas (Meares). But it was soon to become a minor fishing village, and finally be deserted entirely.

## Historical References

[1788?] The first trader to see Dadens, and as far as is known the first to set foot on the Queen Charlottes, was Captain William Douglas. In June 20 1789, <sup>in the Iphigenia</sup> he approached Langara Island from the east, anchored two miles from the east end of Lucy Island. <sup>1</sup> Here he was welcomed and exchanged names with Chief Kunia of Kiveta, who thenceforth camped near the ship to lend it protection. The following night, at anchor in Parry Passage, <sup>Douglas</sup> he was warned of an attempt to capture his ship, and fired over the heads of some approaching canoes. Kunia said there had been "of a tribe inhabiting the opposite shore" (p 224), presumably of Dadens. On the 23rd, Douglas took his ship into "Beale's Harbour, on the Tatance side" (<sup>now</sup> Henchling Cove), and recorded that "... the great wooden images of Tartance bore East, one quarter North; the village on the opposite shore [Kiveta] bearing South half West" (Meares p. 225).

There is no doubt that Dadens was occupied at the time. Douglas said that it was on a very fine spot of ground, which showed the appearance of cultivation, "and in one place in particular it was evident that seed had been lately sown" (p 227). Douglas thought

<sup>assuming</sup>  
① The journal errs in calling Lucy Island the home of Hakow-Connahow (24 pg )

Captain Gray might have planted this gardens, and he himself planted some beans and gave the natives more to plant (p 227) However what he saw were probably tobacco patches, such as were cultivated in Haida villages at the time. Gray had been into Cook Bay and had seen Kineta on June 6, but had not anchored and probably didn't see Dadens (Hawwell, p. 96)

John Bartlett's journal for 1791<sup>(June 23)</sup> contains a description and a sketch of one of the houses at Dadens, the earliest known sketch of a totem pole (Snow, 1925, p 306; sketch reproduced in Barbeau, 1950, II, p. 804) but wrongly attributed to Kineta).

"We went ashore where one of their winter houses stood. The entrance was cut out of a large tree and carved all the way up and down. The door was like a man's head and the passage into the house was between his teeth and was built before they knew the use of iron." (p 306)

Joseph Ingraham arrived on July 10 (1791), moored in Hensbury Cove <sup>(or the one just east of it)</sup>, and was greeted by a chief named Cow. Dadens was "Cow's Village" (shown as such on Ingraham's chart of Cunneyo's Straights), and Cow took him ashore to show him the totem poles:

"... to view 2 pillars which were situated in the front of a village about a quarter of a mile distant from our vessel on the north shore, they were about 40 feet in height carved in a very curious manner indeed - representing Men, Toads, etc. the whole of which I tho't did great credit to the naturall genius of these people, in one of the Houses of this village the door was through the mouth of one of the before-mentioned Images, in another was a large square pit with seats all round it." (p 107)

These descriptions leave no doubt that the large, excavated

Harda house with a large frontal pole erected well before 1790.

Only a few people were living in the village, but Cow told Ingraham "it was the usual residence of many more which were absent with Cunneyah at that time" (p. 108. Benia had been present, Cow absent, when Bartlett was there 3 weeks earlier). Ingraham also examined

This village, and Eao its chief, hold the key to much of the story of the move to Alaska. We shall later follow Gao's history more closely, for that reason.

(which he called Kappa Island on his chart)  
a fort on Lucy Island, and a large basalt rock with grave carvings and burials on it.

(1791)  
Marchand arrived in August, and apparently found Dadens deserted, or nearly so. The account of his voyage also contains descriptions of the fort on the west end of Lucy Island, and of Dadens. (Fleuvieu, 1801, pp 265-269). The fort or "pohiadu" was a large platform - they speculated on its use as a temple - and on it were two carved panels 8x5 feet, carved and painted.

The description of the houses is a composite one by the editor, and may contain some confusion. The excavated house, about 50x35 feet, was described as having two stories, one of which was underground, a cellar five feet in depth. This is the regular excavated house, but what is unusual is that the description indicates that the excavation was covered over with beams and planks at ground level. The cellar was said to be the winter habitation; possibly for summer occupancy it was planked over. (cf p 269).

The account also described the carved portal pole, <sup>of one of the houses</sup> and a carved and painted screen inside. The entrance was an elliptical hole about 3x2

feet in the portal pole. The opening  
"imitates the form of a gaping human mouth or  
rather that of a beast, and it is surmounted  
by a hooked nose, about two feet in length, ...  
Over the door is seen the figure of a man carved  
in the attitude of a child in the womb, and  
remarkable for the extreme smallness of the  
parts which characterize his sex; and above  
this figure, rises a gigantic statue of a man  
erect, which terminates the sculpture ...  
the head of this statue is dressed with a cap  
in the form of sugar-loaf, the height of  
which is almost equal to that of the figure  
itself. On the parts of the surface which  
are not occupied by the capital subjects  
are interspersed carved figures of frogs or  
toads, lizards and other animals; and arms,  
legs, thighs, and other parts of the human  
body ..."

[check - this  
is copied from  
Barbican]

Inside this house was a carved screen similar to  
those seen on the fort. It "occupied the head of the  
apartment", and was a complex carving painted in  
red, green, and black.

One additional account of the village, from the  
journal of the Eliza in 1799, will complete the early  
description of Dadens (quoted in Doucker 1948).<sup>①</sup> It  
refers to "Altatsee's village of Tatane" (Altatsee  
was another chief closely related to Cow). It "consisted  
of the large number of two Houses". A short distance  
from the houses were two images "which Altatsee  
told me were intended to represent two Chiefs, that were  
his relatives (or rather they were his ancestors for they  
looked as if they were upwards of a hundred years  
of age)..." Possibly these were the house portals  
of the two old houses, but perhaps they were  
memorial figures <sup>or monuments</sup> at the end of the village.

① Haswell, Hopkins and the others on the Columbia thought Kumea was  
chief of Dadens (Haswell 172 p 325, Hopkins, p 235) Harrison also had  
Dadens confused with Kumea, and had Edenshaw as chief at Dadens.

## Chief Gao

The history of this chief, called Cow, Kow, Kawe by the early traders, holds the key to a large part of the story of the migration of the Kaigani, and shows that it was completed only after historic contact.

Gao, according to Swanton, was <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ chief of the Yakulanas or Middle Town people (R19), a very powerful Raven lineage of the north tip of the Charlottes and Alaska, branches of which owned the villages of Dadens (Gao was town chief - p. 281), Kaigani, Klinkwan, and Koianglas (Yet <sup>ka</sup>'dji was town chief - Seltatae) (p. 282). The lineage also owned the territories in the vicinity of Kunsta, even though that ~~town~~ <sup>village</sup> itself was owned by the Eagle Stastas (p. 71).

It is evident from the early journals that Gao had moved across to Kaigani some time before 1790, although he returned frequently to his old winter village of Dadens. He was first encountered at Kaigani, by Captain Douglas in August 1788, when he discovered and named it Port Meares. He entertained three <sup>unnamed</sup> chiefs to dinner, two of whom (as is established from later journals) were Kunia and Gao. (Meares p. 165). In July of 1791 he was at Dadens, and made friends with Ingraham, as already described above. When Ingraham returned to Dadens and enquired about his friend Cow, he was told that "he had withdrawn his tribe from Cunneyahs and lived on the main at a place they called Kyeunnee ... (p. 208, July 6, 1792).

Check this

In 1794 he had wintered at Kaigani (as had Kunia), and returned with the latter to Parry Passage. "About the end of May, Cowe, Cunneah, Eldarge, and Shilkada the head tribal chiefs with their people arrived from Tattisco on Kaigahnee, ..." (Mayer in Howay

① In August the same year he was at Masset. Hoskins mentions him as "a chief named Kow belonging to Clegahny ..." p. 228

1930, p 89) The journal does not mention him again, however. In July of the following year, however, he was at Kaigani. Captain Bishop of the Ruby was trying to get into "Haines Cove in Port Mearns where are a sociable tribe of Indians whose Chief in 1793 was Kowe" (p 102) (In June 1889 Douglas had been in Haines Cove, where there were two villages on different sides of the cove. Mearns p 218) Bishop anchored 3/4 mile inside (Ioven (Muzon), the cape on which "the chiefs Kowe and Iltadze had their summer residence" (p 102). Iltadze was "a chief equal to Kowe and lived at the same place in another village"

"Kowe called the town  
Eye-Ganny"

"Kowe", whom Bishop described as about 36 years of age, and handsome, told of a smallpox epidemic a few years before, which had swept off two thirds of the people (p 105-6) He was planning a war on Chief Camshewa, on a fleet of 30 war canoes.

1795  
36  
1759

1760

"Haines Cove", with two villages on it, may be the same place as Tattisco (see Mazer, above). It is probably the Datzkoo Harbour of modern maps, also called South Kaigani Harbour. The latter was known in 1799 as Taddiskey, a native name, or Taddy's Cove (Dictionary p 342), and to Captain McNeill and the Hudson's Bay Men as Tatters Key. It is a long bay on Dall Island opposite the south end of Long Island, 5 miles from C. Muzon. In more recent times, the winter villages of these groups were at Howkan and Kornglas.

<sup>the missionary</sup>  
In 1829 Jonathan Green visited Kaigani and spent considerable time with the "sober and friendly" chief Kowe. (This was probably the successor of the chief mentioned <sup>above</sup> so far, who would have been about 70 by this date). Kowe considered going with Green to the Hawaiian Islands so that his daughter could go to school, but that was not done. Green advised the tribe to return to North Island, their old home, and cultivate the soil, and they said they would if he would come and live with them (p 71)

Kow was killed  
c 1810 by a Nereya

A niece of Gao married Albert Edward Edenshaw in the 1840's. Their son Edward Edenshaw of Masset told Dr. Newcombe that the single Totem pole which stood at Dadens in the 1880's (Dawson photo) and the house in front of which it stood, belonged to Chief Gao. (= Gasawak)

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