

## SANYA

The Sanya, Sanyagoan, or Cape Fox tribe, at the <sup>early in the</sup> beginning of the historic period had their principal winter village, Cape Fox Village (Swanton: Gāc) on the north side of Kirk Point, on the 55th parallel, about 20 miles north of Cape Fox. This was the main totem pole village they left for posterity, when they moved to Saxman and Ketchikan about 1900 or shortly before. Some of the old totems have since been moved to Saxman and to the graveyard on Bennock Island off Ketchikan, and restored.

Cape Fox Village is a place prominent in Tsimshian traditions, under the name of Laksail (Barbeau: Laksail, "on ocean"?) It was from here that the dominant segment of the Eagle phratry, known as Lunkoot or Lwenkoot claim to have migrated. Of this more below.

The HBC records refer to the Sanya, often as not, as Port Stuart Indians. Port Stuart is a bay on Behm Canal, farther north. James Douglas' 1840 list includes the "Sanioquanay" of "Port Stewart", with 100 fighting men, and doesn't mention Cape Fox. His 1853 list, however, lists both "Cape Fox Indians", or "Lugh-si-le", of Cape Fox, with 9 houses, 45 men, 177 popn. And also "Port Stuart Indians" or "A-he-alt" <sup>①</sup> of Port Stuart, with 10 houses, 50 men, 186 population. It is not clear whether there were two winter villages, a summer distribution, or what. The Behm Canal area may have been the summer territory of the tribe. In 1867, the Sanya had three villages, Cape Fox, Loring and Yes Bay (the last on Behm Canal north of Pt Stuart) but it is not clear ~~whether~~ <sup>which</sup> they were winter villages. Loring, or Naha Bay, is also prominent in the Tsimshian Eagle traditions mentioned above.

The name Sanya appears in Tsimshian Eagle stories mentioned, as Sarina (sarine) in connection with the story of the Giant Rock Oyster, which

① for  
suvoor

Krause equated Ahealt with Klawak (p 83). Another possibility is that they were the Hetl or Foam People who according to Swanton inhabited this area of Loring & Reval Island as a separate group until they joined the Stikine at Wrangell.

①  
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is localized by the Nexadi on Kasam Bay.  
The tribal name may therefore have the same root as  
Kasam, and the tribe may have been displaced  
from the Kasam Bay area by the invading  
Haida. (The Haida named the opponents of the <sup>Chackini</sup> Kasam  
group as <sup>DAGOADES.</sup> Tegeade, which was a Wolf Clan found  
in both ~~the~~ Sanya and Tongass tribes.  
Swanton, p 89 Haida )

One of their traditions, which is localized at their former village in Kasaan Bay, tells how a young man who was hunting develfik at low tide got his hand caught by a giant rock oyster, and was drowned by the rising water. (Garfield p 41). The same tradition forms a prominent part of the history of the Kwenhoot Eagles of the Tsimshian.

(Mountains version: TP. 1, pp 25-28)

6 canoes outside Klawak, moved down the coast (seeking way home after flood). Landed at Sanine, where Aiti (a.i.t) had adventure above. Moved on, got Halbut & man-Underneath crests, settled with the people who lived at Laxce'it. Moved on to Tensas (then called Laxtoiq). Proceeded on to Nass.

Menalek ~~and~~ referred to sɔnax'e't village, Kanda, at Sanine

## The Nexadi

The Sanya are the only Tlingit tribe having three phratries. In the usual Tlingit fashion they have Ravens and Wolves (represented by Kiksadi and Tegoedi clans, resp.), but in addition they have an Eagle group called Nexadi. This <sup>third</sup> group is of extraordinary interest ~~to me~~ because of its close relationships with Tsimshian Eagles.

<sup>of traditional</sup> The origin of the Nexadi is described by Karpfeld (p 44)

"The Nexadi were once a part of the Kagwantan [an important Wolf clan among the northern Tlingit<sup>WD.</sup>] living in the vicinity of Kinier Island. For some reason now unknown, a small group moved south, stopping for a time on Kasaan Bay, above New Kasaan. Some of them again moved southward, stopping at a bay called Nahgath or Nakat. This group took a new name from the bay and became known as Nexadi or Nakat Bay People, though they continued to claim the eagle of their ancestors as their main crest. After many years they settled at Cape Fox Village near Kirk Point. All of the people who lived there - of whom the Nexadi were only one group - became known as the Cape Fox tribe."

Their chief was Kashakes, and their main crests were Eagle, Beaver, Grant Rock Oyster, and Halibut. [In the 1880's or 90's, they moved to Saxman.]

The Nexadi were not a very large or important group among the Tlingit: a "small group outside of both phratries whose members could marry into either. (Swanton 398). However, among the Tsimshian they formed the dominant segment of the Eagle (Lakskeek) phratry, and were generally known as the "Ewenhoot" (Fugitives)

Swanton (Tlingit, p 409) "Their name means simply "people of Nex, a creek in this country. Along with many other clans, they are supposed to have come from "below Port Simpson", but on the other hand it is possible that their origin is connected with an Athapascans tribe, which formerly occupied the shores of Behm canal just northward and intermarried with the Tlingit to a considerable extent in ancient times." (Remnants of these Ath. now live at Kincobeth)

# Cape Fox Village

1908 chart shows "Cape Fox Village" on n. side Kirk Pt.

Douglas Seary 1853

Cape Fox Indians	Indian name	Reside	
	Lugh-si-le	C. Fox	9 houses, 177

Karfield  
p44

Nexadi - one part of Kaywantan or Kurin Island, moved south → Kasaan Bay for a time → Nahgath or Nakat bay [is this Nakat Bay or Naha Bay?] After many years they settled at Cape Fox Village near Kirk Point. They and others who lived there became known as the Cape Fox tribe. Eages Kashakes a chief. Moved to Saxman in latter part of 19th Century.

p4720 pole set up at Cape Fox in 1894 moved to Saxman in 1939

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