

There is a Grammar of the Haida Language

by Rev. J. H. Keen

Contact Rt Rev E G Munn,

Bishop of Caledonia

Bishops Lodge

Prince Rupert.

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Haida - Territories

Little to lands (resource areas) and territories was vested in the lineages (families) among the Haida, not the local tribe. A lineage would own salmon stream, clam beaches, berry patches, and camping sites, where they would move seasonally to get food.

The actual site of a winter village was also owned by one ~~lineage~~ ^{or other} of the lineages that lived there - though a different lineage might own the territories surrounding it.

It is too late now to record in detail which lineage owned which ~~was~~ territories on the Queen Charlotte Islands. The decline of Haida population was so severe and so abrupt that the families of a dozen winter villages had all congregated in two by 1900, and the old lands and old territories were forgotten or never recorded.*

The movement to Alaska also obscures the old pattern of ownership. As groups left Skowhegan Gosham Island and others moved in and ~~to~~ took over their old sites there must have been a succession of ownership and a frequent conflict of claims between the former owners and new ones.

* The closest thing is Swanton's list of 'houses' which tells the family that owned each of the sites.

A. The North Coast Group.

1. Dadens
2. Kussta
3. Yaku
4. Kung
5. Musset
6. Narkun

Called by Skidgate gao xā'idaga-1 Inuit people
Tsamshian gitga'o

The departure of the Kaigani to Alaska was like a drop of water falling from the tip of an icicle, soon more water began to run toward the tip to form a new drop. The trend of movements at the time of first contacts was from Rose Spit west (and also south) along the coast. The native traditions reveal this trend. Most of the Raven families of the above villages claimed to have moved from Rose Spit - they were created there. The most important Eagle families said they came from the same direction (one, the Stactas of the famous chief Edenshaw) even claims to have come from the mainland, partly Klingit, partly Tsamshian. They were treading west, occupying ^{sites} ~~villages~~ ^{formerly occ.} left vacant by people who had gone to Alaska, or mixing with remnants who were left behind and coming to dominate them.

Edenshaw family apparently moved from Thellen → Kussta → Kung [→ Musset].