

2125 Seal Cove Circle,  
Prince Rupert, B.C.  
October 20, 1965.

Professor Wilson Duff,  
Department of Anthropology,  
University of British Columbia,  
Vancouver 8, B.C.

Dear Mr. Duff:

I wonder if you will remember my visiting you in Victoria earlier this year, in the spring. It was in connection with background information for a Q.C.I. history - and at that time you were kind enough to give me a picture of Chief Weah's lodge. I wrote to let you know how much Chief Matthews appreciated that picture.

As I must have told you, my interest is primarily in the story of the white settlers, since this has not yet been recorded. And as my own parents were pioneers on the Islands, I felt that I might attempt this.

However, no history of the Charlottes can be written without the Haida's coming into it - and I would be most appreciative of your help with one or two items that have come up.

Chief Matthews (Eagle, of Old Masset), has drawn for me a map of Graham Island showing the various areas controlled by the different chiefs. And he has added who the current holders of these areas are. Two of these sections interest me very much, they are the one that stretches from the Yakoun to the Nadu, which he numbers No. 10. And the other area that goes from the Nadu to Skonun, taking in Masset - this is No. 11.

In the no. 11 area, I am wondering how permission was obtained for Alexander McKenzie to settle at the mouth of Delkatla in 1887, Rev Harrison to claim his huge tract of land in 1890 or for the Alexanders to farm on the north beach in 1889, when they took over 400 cattle to do this. I gather that reservations were not set up until 1910. Surely the lone white settler would have been too conscious of his minority to live on land that he did not have permission to. And Harrison made a townsite out of part of his.

1902, 05, 06 & 07 saw more settlers going into these areas, and all would be aware of Indian traditions - and I know that my own Dad had the greatest of respect for the Indians, and would not have gone anywhere without knowing that he could. But he pre-empted his land from the Canadian Government in 1908. It had nothing to do with the Haida people at all. When did the Canadian Govt. take over the giving out of this land?

*Reserves - O'Kelly 1882  
Jimmitt 1887  
Mar 1916?*

*BC Govt?*

Another item that I would value your advice about is the old Indian house at Tlell. Dawson mentions it on pages 33B and 165B of his "1887 Report on the Q.C.I." And Swanton refers to (Page 80) the fact that the Sea Otters ( R7 ) had a branch who may have had a town at Tlell. Would I be on safe ground to assume, from these two books, that :- "The Sea Otters, a branch of the Raven Crest, who later lived at Skidegate, may have built this lodge. And that it was given to the Skedans tribe in retribution for the killing or wounding of a Skedans woman by the Skidegates." And do you know the meaning of "Tlell". I have heard that it means "Big Surf", "Plenty Berries" both of which could easily apply.

Lodge at Tlell?

I wonder, also, if this lodge - which is supposed to have been huge - is the one that used to stand on the Richardson ranch. I remember seeing those huge logs that formed part of, what we were always told, was an old Indian lodge. Of course it has now been levelled off. But the site is easily found.

From reading these two books, Swanton and Dawson, I have tried to pin-point some of the old locations of the villages. Of course the main villages are well-known. But the summer ones are of interest to me, since they would establish ownership of a territory, presumably. Neither of these books mention anything of a village at Delkatla. Yet Mr. Jesse Bridden dug up boxes and boxes of artifacts from his potato patch - so there must have been some sort of village here. Then again, a few miles north from Delkatla, a spot known locally as the Blue Jackets, also has a huge midden there. I wonder if you have any information about villages of any sort at these two places.

Delkatla middens no data

Do Indian Reservations Nos. 19, 20, 21 & 22 on North Island refer to sites of villages. I have a picture of Dadens (I.R. 16) taken in the 1880's from Godfrey Kelly of Old Masset, with the first Mrs. Chief Weah in it, of that time.

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In Swanton's "The Haida", he says that Ut-ta-was was a Raven village, given to the Eagles. Mr. Matthews has put on his chart that this village was given to Chief Weah by Chief Seegay, and yet on page 113 of Swanton's book, he says that Seegay was considered of the Eagle crest. Can you help me here? By the way, Mrs. E.C. Stevens of Skidegate told me that her son Edmund is in line for Chief Seegay, now that Willie Russ has passed on - but Edmund, of course, couldn't care less it seems.

Seegay R16

My sincere apologies for interrupting your busy schedule, but as you are the very best person to ask about Haida history, I would indeed be most indebted to you for any help that you can give me.

I am not planning to go into tribal history to any extent, for obviously I am not qualified to tackle this at all. But when I

mentioned that Chief Matthews was preparing this map for me, I was surprised at the enthusiastic reception from the white people. They all seem to be most genuinely interested in learning of how the islands were before the coming of the outsiders. If you don't think that I am over my head, I would like very much to show a map with approximate village sites, and areas that were definitely controlled regularly by the appropriate tribe.

I can't see that it could do any harm, and it might go a long way to creating a better understanding. I know it was a revelation to me to know that I had grown up on land that belonged to old Ruben Spence - Mrs. Matthews father.

With very best wishes to you in your new position at U.B.C. and many, many thanks for any assistance you can give me -

Sincerely yours,

*Kathleen E. Dalzell*

Kathleen E. Dalzell, (Mrs. A.)