

AE's biography

Background: Old Edinburgh
Cannock
Teme

-1815 born Cathlamet
Harrison on youth
W Matthews on move to Kyueta
CFN on Sijiao

1834 Pt Simpson - lived 2 yrs -
Wars?

1842

1851 Bola story

1852 Mican Murogra

1853 May - Portland & Virago
Aug - Vancouver
Sept - Visago

move to Kung

1859 Torrens

1860 Pt Simpson
Alert

1861 Victoria (Colonist)

1862 Smallpox (Colonist)

Smallpox
Douglas on Totem pole

1875 Carved Stilt's pole

1876 Collison arrived
E made peace with Weah

Collison

1878 Yatza (Dawson)

1879 Colhem baptised George

1882 moved to Masset

Masset

Had names AE & C
in 1884 - not before
marriage

1883 Lwan

1883 Harrison married George and Matilda

1884 Chittenden

Engineers?

1885 Dec 27 Harrison married AEE 70 to Amy
CE 31 to Isabella

Marriage

1889 Death of George

1894 " " AEE

old man (O'Hull)

Rank

Family - bro-in-law sons "nephews"

Marriages (3)

Florence reminiscences 1967

The earliest mention of the name appears on the log of the ship "Hamilton" in 1809, where it is written as Odensu (Barbeau, HM, 156)

Barbeau (1939 Indian Blacksmiths on the Pacific Coast TRSC Sect 23)

mentions the three generations of Edenshaws as craftsmen.

p25 "The first of them, called "Old Edenshaw" (Idansu) is still remembered as a "great blacksmith and coppersmith"; ^{so} ~~was his nephew Albert Edward Edenshaw, who was known mostly as a copper or huyets-smith.~~ Old Edenshaw, who was a famous steel knife and copper maker, seems to have learned his art in the north, presumably among the Tlingit, and indirectly from the Russians.... His nephew followed in the trail which he had blazed and enlarged it by making huge coppers, decorating them with incised crests, and selling them at a high price....

Mackenzie 1891 (TRSC 1891) confirms the association of coppers and the Edenshaw lineage. Referring to two small coppers

p52 "These are the only two antique coppers known among the people of Macsat, and were made before the natives procured sheet copper from the Russians in Alaska. They have been in the possession of the same family through a long line of chiefs who displayed them on festival occasions. A chief named Edensaw, now long deceased, used to wear them bound one to each side of his headdress (tsilk) on occasions of ceremonial dances, etc."

Swanton 1905 p293 list of houses of Kinista includes one called "house pole reaching the sky" owned by "a man who went by the name of "Old Edensaw" of the Stactas lineage.

Old Edenchaw
Green 1829

HR F5804.1 G79

Apr. 23, 1829 anchored at "Kigalei" in barque Volunteer, capt Charles Taylor

"The Kigalei tribe is a small one, consisting, probably, of five or six hundred men, women and children.

p 65 They formerly belonged to North Island, a small island separated from Queen Charlott's only by a narrow strait. Their language is the same. The Maset Indians, who now occupy North Island, are here at present on business. Eadinshee, one of their chiefs, with several Kigalei men, was seen on board. After learning my object, he gave me an apparently hearty "Kell-sly" (salutation), and entreated me to go to North island, which he assured me was a much better country than this."

p 70 Monday May 4 "In answer to some of my inquiries, Eadinshee, chief of the Maset tribe, acknowledged that he knew nothing of the destiny of the soul, ... but he said he greatly desired instruction."

29 Aug 1818 p. 88 HR F5816 R6 1823 *at Masset, anchored opposite the large village (Etawac)*

Itemchou the head chief of Masset came in a handsome canoe, accompanied by his three wives. His face is long, a little morose and savage, and has something of the Swiss character. A zig-zag red line on his forehead was continued to part of his nose. He wore, by way of a mantle, a white blanket, with a blue stripe at the extremities, open before, and fastened by a cord: his hat was in the form of a truncated cone, in the Chinese fashion. He would not come on board, till we had promised that an officer should remain as a hostage in his boat.... We conversed by means of an Indian of Skidigats, named Intcharge. Having asked the name of the chief, telling him my own, he thought I wanted to change names with him, which, among these people, is the most inviolable pledge of friendship. He eagerly acceded to this proposal, which seemed to flatter him. The exchange was made, notwithstanding the difficulty the chief found in pronouncing his new name, which, to oblige him, I softened into Roki; we made each other some presents, and parted good friends.

(The ship went aground in preparing to leave, and feared attack.)

...I was made easy by the presence of my friend Itemchou, who had come on board shortly after we had run aground, without requiring a hostage. (R. said all the canoes got in the way) p.90: He made no answer to this indirect solicitation, but, a moment after, when we were going to carry out an anchor, he took leave of us. After he had left the ship, He spoke some words in a loud voice, and, in about five minutes, there did not remain a single canoe alongside, and not a single man on board, except the interpreter. This Indian told me, that he stayed only with the permission of his chief....

(Got afloat by noon on the 30th)

My friend Itemtchou came back in the morning, like a man certain of being welcome, and expressed much joy at our success. I gave him, besides several trifles, a double-barrelled gun. This man, has a feeling heart, and this, perhaps, prevented all hostile attacks from his subjects. (left)

June 7, 73

"Old Edenshaw" c. 1780 - c. 1845

My interpretation is that he is CFN's "No 3", "who as a boy saw Douglas". If he was 9 then, he was born 1780. He was a nephew (?) of Sqilao of Hellen, and he is the one who "succeeded Cunnew" as chief of Kineta.

In historical journals he appears first in 1808⁹ (Barbeau) when he would be 28. De Logueferil in 1818 (38) saw him as chief of Masset, and traded names with him. Green, 1829, knows him as Itemchou, a chief of the Masset Indians, who now reside at North Island. So he apparently moved to Kineta between 1818 and 1829 (say, 1825).

Swanton's list of houses at Kineta has one said to have belonged to "Old Edenshaw". (Long memory, as he must have died before 1850). If he lived to 1850 he would be 70.

Barbeau's information, presumably from Alford Adams, has been an ironsmith and copper-maker. Could be he taught AEE.

Presumably he claimed Kineta (although there is McL. Stearns information that Itini of Dawas claimed town chieftainship). He must have claimed the name "Douglas", because he passed that on to AEE who was so proud of it.

Succession to AEE

AEE born c. 1815 Cathlametum (his father's home there?). Grew up Hellen (Sqilao's house?). There for "Vancouver" incident.

Moved to Kineta to succeed Edenshaw c. 1842 (Harrover). Willie Matthews says Edenshaw died when AE was 26, and they sent for him and his mother. Then, when he was c. 32 (WM)

1853
35
1818
26
1824

1842
1815
27

1844 + 6 = 1850

Started 1852

they started to go to Victoria [too early].

Stearns' story might apply to AE's arrival at Kiveta.
7 Iktini had pretensions as town chief, but AE came and built Myth House and assumed top rank.

By 1851, 1853, (Urogo), 1852 (Sturgeon), etc. he was established chief of Kiveta. 1853, planning to move to Kung. 1860, Aleat found Kiveta overgrown, AE on way to Victoria. 1860 earlier (Feb) Ft Simpson journal mentioned him. Douglas on totem pole at Kung. 1862 smallpox, AE in Vict.

1876 Collier saw him make peace with Whah.

1883 (Swan) he had house at Masset, where CE lived too.

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The Discovery of AE's individual style

a) General

- Barbican & Florence, no date or silver
- working dates 1820-70

1) Totem poles

- Barbican, Florence - introduction to Totem poles CE notes?
- Pathways: the problem of 2 carvers
- Dadens
- Kyusta
- Berlin
↓
PM 1 & 2 (and others?)

2) Chests

- Introduction to chests - where were they made?
- 1) ROM - the Edenshaw chest MM and familiarity
- 2) NMC - Kyusta and Mighty Mouse with end designs,
- 3) Billabilla - MM & which established a
- 4) Kocner style of painting
- 5) Gibbs 1857
- 6) Muzya (on pole)
- 7) Nyda 1864
- 8) Producers chest
- 9) CE chest } porphyry: CE, TP, and Bella Bella derivatives
- 10) TP }
- c) The Chest and the Copper: association of E. with copper
- d) Summary: a reconstruction. "Meaning" of chest designs
a list of published chests
- e) Chests and boxes - the Maunet box factory

3) The innovation boxes

- a) Introduction - a different problem - a cluster from one hand
- b) UBC box - black & white
- c) Elbow box - black and white
- d) AMNH box - low and Colour, large
- e) Interpretation:
 - innovations from the one hand
 - style like chest cases
 - link to CE through his interpretation } link to AE
 - what does it mean? a preliminary analysis

4) House screens

- a) Introduction
- b) The Raven Screens: links with box
use Billkude drawings? Colours?
- c) Bear Screens
- d) Chilkat Whale
 - e) House front
 - f) Canoe

Summary: an audacious staking out of territory, pleading someone else's better interpretation

: provincial not deterministic when Edenshaw stirs

: forms yet unrecognized: 3d frontlets, spoons, poles, masks, ^{stone} ~~arter~~

: 2d dishes, paddles, models, coppers

: individual or school? (CE)

daggers, dishes, boxes, canes, rattles, charms

AE's Artistic Biography

an exercise in personal style

{ Barbeau recorded that "..."
Florence Davidson remembered that "..."
The only documented piece is Dawson model canoe + $\frac{4}{5}$ totem poles

{ The method: to learn his ^{personal styles} style, forms, and agendas. There is no proof.
and trace to him directly or indirectly
I have done this with poles, chests, ^{boxes} dishes, and mural paintings
and these attributions will be controversial
It is enough to establish him as the pre-eminent artist of his generation, but
still remains to see his hand in other forms
{ Could he have been an artist? Could he not have been?

Totem Poles - the byproducts of a corpse

1. Pitt-Rivers (the question of 2 carvers)
2. Dadsena pole (Swan, Newcombe) Dawson photo
3. Kyiasta pole (drawing by Swan)
4. Broken pole
↓
5. PM 1
6. PM 2
Suggest more, including Weid's pole

Edencharu Chests

1. Establish the type, age, and distribution
(see notes)
2. Close in on where made
3. Relate to AE's travels
4. Show range; CE & "TP" other styles
5. A selection of chests: Kooner, Bella Killa
ROM, NMC, Riddick
6. Meaning: the copper
7. Derivative boxes - storage units of boxes

Innovation based: a speculative attribution - 'style' from ends of sheets

1. AMNH box
2. UBC box
3. Glenbow box

The place of the AMNH box in NWC art history

- Emmens Chilkat Seal

- Boxes: 1897 with CE

CE's explanation

how did CE know?

Arts of the Raven

Predecessors: UBC - heavy black formline

Glenbow - red on black

AMNH (color) - a finished masterpiece

- what is it about?

Raven Screens style and similarity to boxes

Provenience and history

4 episodes... (related to box?)

Bear screens

Pt Simpson housefront - style

on basis of style

∴ Kluckwan screen

∴ Bella Bella canoe

Conclusion

a) a great artist

b) forward to meaning.

Edenclaw chests
(see notes on file)

1. Establish the type
2. " its distribution of provenience Khukwan to Ruby Creek.
not Bitteran

3. Where were they made?

Thungat? No

Salich - Kwakwaka'wakw - No

Mehga - Insean Kwaxen

Brian Paul

Mueyog - Wudunen

- Barbeau's 'Emblems ...'

Masset - Kineta - many collected these none said to be originals
- CE notes to CFN on how to make them
- CE to CFN quote - Not CE, we know his style

AEE - cf detⁿ with his travels during same time
indeed it was his stock in trade

Question: Bella Bella? Holm 1975

I consider BB derivative centre where someone
learned AE's style

4. Catalog of published AE's (my attribution)
5. Non AE's - the Skidegate one
6. What do they mean?
a Relationship to Copper

Could he have been an artist?

Recap. aspects of his life:

1) Nomadism

^{to}
area of travel

2 yrs Ft Simpson spoke Tsimshian

Victoria and wayports like Bella Bella

1860 Sitka reference in 'Alest' ms.

Thought forbeass

2) Implications: - need of a job - economic alternatives

Precedent of argillite, but he didn't take that route

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