

The Adooch of Kilar'aks

1915

a woman informant

The g. idaxants raided g. itxalta and took a cousin of he'l as slave. His name was 'aksk. wihɔn, spinɔn & g. ilaxaks went and ransomed him and wihɔn took him into his house as a brother (at g. twilgɔts). 'aksk fell in love with wihɔn's sister g. andɔx [same phratry, so incestuous relationship]. They arranged to fall captive to wudste, escaped, and went to ktkwint's i:en [Khtada or Alder] on Skena, up trib and built house on island. Four boys (g. amayem, naɔɔ'ɔt, ?, kɛ:ɔis), two daughters. Lived alone. He taught them to fight. gamayem became the foremost warrior and in his raids on the g. idaxants would cry gamayemxat (xat is I am on thought). He made a wooden decoy figure for his canoe which drew enemy fire.

An attack made them flee to another creek, xaidzaks, and made a house up on a plateau ^{laɔstɔ:lɔm tɔ:tɔm} _{on beaver plateau} or tɔ:tɔm sgani's plateau mountain. Attacked frequently. Finally defeated and fled up the Skena past swift water of g. tsi's terr. of kadɔsqɔ. To a little below the g. tsolas village, a place called sgaskini's where they settled. Planned revenge. Made pɛ'ɔ'm skini's - trapdoor of pitch (pine); moved down to kxe'n, made fortified da'ax and planned to kill Thngets [see narr. for details].

'aks wiped the g. idaxants out. Gave by yeɔk, gamayem showed his decoy g. ansehawe'l among straight arrow as a crest. 'aks aged, returned alone to g. itxata to his own relatives. Took the g. ansehawe'l (it afterward became the ligidit of niɔswɔ:xs).

This is origin of house of g. ilaxaks [??? name has nothing to do with 'aks].

Myth of crest 'asi'we'lgit (thunderbird) of house of
saxsa'a'xt, gispawudwa'dz, gitw'lg>ts.
Edmund Patalas to Bynon, 1948

ga'yε', a hunter in the house of saxsa'a'xt,
was hunting seals and sea lions near Dundas
Island. Sitting on a rock was a huge bird,
with several figures which resembled men beside it.
The bird flew away and waited. ga'yε' saw a
canoe come from Dundas Island to investigate
the human figures, and saw the bird return ^{amidst} with
thunder and lightning and seize the occupants of the
canoe. It shrieked 'ihi, 'ihi, and from this
the little island was named lax'ihī (Green Island).
The thunderbird was using the human-like figures
as bait to catch people.

ga'yε' returned home, told what he had
seen, and assumed the bird as a crest of the
house. He called it 'asi'we'lgit "accident to
people", and represented it as a giant eagle
with lightning coming from its eyes and thunder
from the flapping of its wings.

Myth of q.ansu' totem pole of saxsa'axt, q.ispawudwad,
q.itwiliqo'ts.

Jas. Wright to Beynon, 1915.

At Tenzelham, the people saw a strange madi'k (grizzly bear) with abalone shell on its eyes, ears, and breast. They set out to slay it, and saxsa'axt was the one who succeeded, so he adopted it as a crest. He erected a slanting pole, with a tkuwel'kskom madi'k (prince grizzly) at the base as though climbing, and another at the top. He called the pole q.ansu' "shaking stick" (when the bear climbed on it). He claims this exclusively although there is much dispute among the q.ispawudwa'do over who has the main rights to the grizzly.

At Mitlakatla was such a leaning pole. At Pt. Simpson, saxsa'axt and ni'si's erected one near the bandstand, but it was upright.

ni-si-s

Wallace on qisp crests:

mɔsq.a'it balhe' white breast abalone "pearly white breast" of grizzly bear. Shells are sewn on the breast of the whole grizzly skin used by ni-si-s.

TP. An his TP at Simpson, is a grizzly with its breast (belly) pulled open by a human figure. This belongs to him too. This is practically another crest, as it refers to a different myth.

Crests of qilaxaks

1915. Barbeau

See narrative "the Adornment of Gularsh'aks" and origin file.

1. ma'xe

2. tɛ'xtəm sgano'otk
a bird?
size of robin
well dressed

a bird like a chicken,
painted red and green.

A gispaxlts gisp. owns it too. Who?

3. 'next - the ordinary type with one fin.

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4. gɛmk on robe

5. xtseɲo'su caterpillar

gɛidəmxtseɲo'su with pearl
hat of caterpillar

6. mumsɛ'mi as headdress. Share with some other gispaw.
ears of bear
and also used by laxkibu house of wɛlsk (gitsis)

7. gansɛhawɛ'l decoy figure of wood for arrows. See
narrative. Exclusive to qilaxaks and within
At qitxata the name was changed to liqidit and
somehow nɪswɛxs got it.