

# gitwilgots villages and territories

## Villages and Camps

1. t'pu'nəm galt'sap "village of plenty" "whale <sup>village</sup> fort" The main winter village  
at Pitlakatla laxgitwilgots
  2. laxtsuwanəm ta'ədzap "fort on point" a former An old village  
on point fort on the Skeena a short distance  
below the gitsi's village.
  3. dupswəx The village on the Skeena to  
which the gitwilgots moved from 2.
  4. t'ə'ə'tsəp "fort" a former eulachon fishing village  
on the Nass, from which they moved to
  5. laxtə'sx , then, after a fight with the  
gispa'łə'ts, they moved once more to
  6. luk'wut t'ə'.  
ksgandzə'xət (shrub, berry) ksg.əxt
- There follows a list of villages or camps on the island (Stephens) and Porcher Islands which were used in common by all the gitwilgots. Many of these could be located only approximately on the map, because in the field notes only a simple sketch map was provided.
7. kwəldzədzi't "continually spouting" (referring to the clams on the beach here). North end Stephens Island. A hunting village from which they hunted sea otters.
  8. lax'ə'tə "on eyebrows" on an island off 7.
  9. laxkmangaləp "on spruce saplings" Another island  
on above saplings of spruce village used by gatherers of seaweed.

10.  $t_x a x k_i' n t$  "to give to all" (because of the plentiful supply  
 all given of sea foods). A village from which they  
 fished halibut, hunted sea otter, and gathered herring  
 eggs and seaweed.
11.  $l a x s p \bar{o} s u' n t$  "summer place", on an island, where  
 on place of summer they gathered seaweed and fished.  
 (Between here and Dundas Islands was the best area  
 for gathering seaweed and for hunting seals.)
12.  $k g a x k_i' n$  (same meaning as no. 10?) Another general  
 hunting and fishing village.
14.  $t s \bar{a} m k u n \varepsilon n \varepsilon' t$  "place of mallards" A ~~creek~~<sup>site</sup> on the  
 in about mallard North shore of Porcher Island,  
 where salmon were gathered (no creek). On *gitxata* frontier.
13.  $t s \bar{a} m s k g \varepsilon' g \bar{a} n$  A creek on the north  
 in thick undergrowth shore of Porcher Island  
 where sockeye salmon were caught and herring eggs  
 gathered.
15.  $k w \bar{o} g \bar{a} n x s k_i' k$  "Place of Eagle" *Useless Creek?*, a  
 place of eagle village where they fished for  
 sockeyes, humps, and cohoes.
16.  $k l \bar{o}' i k t$  "muddy beach", a site on the edge of  
*gitxata* territory
17.  $w i l \bar{a} s p \bar{a} s k \bar{a} g \varepsilon' t$  "where person lies backwards", (referring  
 to an adventure of *t x e' m s \bar{a} m*). A seaweed gathering camp.

## Territories

The preceding list of villages and campsites at Metlakatla, on the Skeena and Nass, and on the outer islands, were shared by the whole tribe in common. Other territories were owned by individual houses (though often shared with related houses). These were a short distance up the Skeena at Khtada and Kwinitsea rivers, at the very mouth of the Skeena, and a short distance north and south on the coast. ~~These~~ In addition, one offshore seal rock was claimed by a single house (XV). These are shown on Map.

The field notes give rise to some confusion over the very mouth of the river. In 1926 Wallace stated that Kennedy Island (la x'og aswe'n), Smith Island (kpe x t), and De Korseley Island (n t e' l a k s) were the common property of all the Isimshian tribes, as presumably was the coastal area in the vicinity of Metlakatla, farther north. His 1915 information however indicates that a number of houses claimed territory on the north bank of the river at its mouth, and even perhaps the islands named. Confusion exists, therefore, on the boundary between gitwilt's territory and the "common" territory to the north. The fact that the gitwilt's owned Gap Point suggests that they were the original owners of this whole part of the coast.

I House of saxsa'a'xt (gispawudwa'də)

1210 Khtada  
1R " Scottsop

I, k'te:t (referring to blanket of snow)? Khtada lake, river, and the <sup>south</sup> banks of the Skeena up to Alder Creek. Used by this entire house. There were hunting lodges at the mouth of the river.

II<sub>2</sub> at the mouth of the Skeena. ~~In~~ Roughly speaking in this area, the gispawudwa'də had the inland areas, the ganha'da had the islands, and the laxski'k had the most downriver area.

III<sub>3</sub> k'met'ku' "towards sandbar" Jap Point, the territory of this royal house.

II House of iyol'əns (laxski'k)

II<sub>1</sub> kwanst'si:l "place of beaver" Kwintsa river. The exclusive territory of this house. The village (3) was on this territory.

II<sub>2</sub> An island at the mouth of the Skeena (?).

III House of la'dəx (ganha'də)

III<sub>1</sub> kmi'lan Kumealon Islet and lake. Used for general hunting, fishing, and berry picking. There was a lodge at this place.

III<sub>2</sub> An island at the mouth of the Skeena (?)

IV House of hali'tkwa (laxski'k)

May have shared an area <sup>near</sup> ~~at~~ the mouth of the Skeena with VII and XI. (See VII<sub>2</sub>)

V House of wut'si'nt (gispawudwa'də)

Shared Alder Creek with VIII. (See VIII)

VI House of ałgəm xε' (ganha'də)

ks'naks (?) A creek opposite Kennedy Island, the property of gamsne's (VIb). There were fish houses here.

VII House of lu'gə:l (laxski'k)

VII<sub>1</sub> kpe:t Pa-aat River on Pitt Island. One section of this territory was called txane'x "all hoofprints (of deer)". Belonged to xa'iget VIIb.

VII<sub>2</sub> ksən'i:l McNeil River. Belonged to lu'gə:l (VIIa) for hunting, fishing, and berry picking. Probably shared with IV and XII.

VII<sub>3</sub>

VIII House of 'nias'omaxε' (gispəwudwədə)

VIII ksagε's "water of slave woman" Alder Creek. Shared with V.

IX House of ləgɪsɣəgə' (ganha'də).

IX lax'nigwi:l An island in the Skeena near Alder Creek, since washed away.

X House of gɪlaxa'ks (gispəwudwədə)

An island near the mouth of the Skeena (?)

XI House of t'səməyamben (ganha'də). No territory, used that of chief.

XII House of kwus'axsε'ləks (laxski'k). No territory, probably shared that of II, and VII<sub>2</sub>.

XIII House of gwunbe't (g.anha'də) No territory.

XIV " " wi'nəmɔ'lk ( " ) No territory

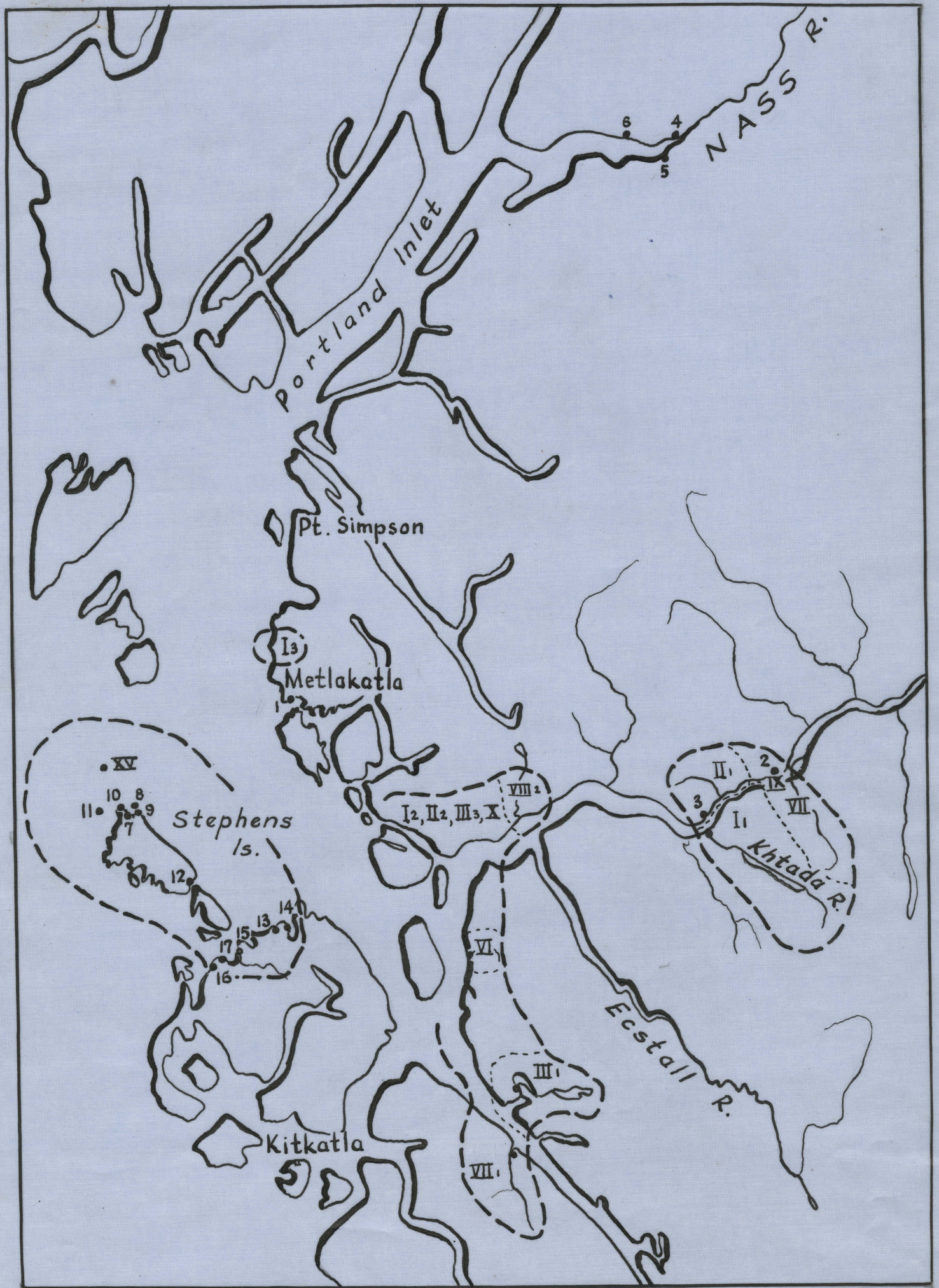
(These two houses came from g.əg'a'atə).

XV. House of gwus'awɛ'l (laxkibu)

lax'ampxan "island without trees" A seal rock north of Stephens Island, first found and claimed by waye' of this house. No one may go there without the consent of this house.

No territory on Skena.

XVI t'amqa'osəmtkwa (g.anha'də) No territory, used that of chief.



g, t, w, l, g, > ts place names

lax slo'lam t'o'dzap } villages set up by  
sya dzap } Saaxa'ant on way  
down Skeena

kat'otxa' | gidotxa' | at Metlakatla

g'ina xanep, k

dza yoyo'p on Skeena