

Abstract: The Origin of the Iaxkibu' crest  
Mrs. A. Wellington to Beynon, 1915.

A chief of gitlaxdams on Kass River would not accept any of the suitors who wanted to marry his daughter. One day a group of strangers came to the village to gamble. The youngest of these was very handsome. To change his luck he took out his bag of red paint and painted his face. The girl, in seclusion, saw this paint and wanted it. At night, when everyone was asleep, the prince took the paint to her. He asked her to elope with him. She dressed in her finest robes and they left the house. He took her on his back, and accompanied by his party, went into the hills. They were wolves.

They arrived at the wolf village, took human form, and took her into the house of the chief. There were other women captives there. She married the chief's son.

Back at the village, when the girl was missed, they searched her sleeping place and found the red paint made of wolf dung and bones. They guessed that the wolves had taken her.

The young woman was told by a slave woman (former wife) of the wolf, who her husband was. ~~As~~ The wolves cannot stand the smell of blood, so that when <sup>she pretended that</sup> her menstrual period <sup>had</sup> arrived they made her a hut away from the village where she stayed with a slave woman. She planned to escape. The wolves kept their heads under cover for ten days, and during this time the young woman and the slave travelled on a single pair of snowshoes away from the wolf village. The slave woman almost



carried the girl. Sometimes they reversed the snowshoes to fool their pursuers. All of the wolves were now pursuing them. After three days the wolves caught up to them and devoured the slave woman, but the young girl saved herself by climbing a hemlock tree.

They tried to coax her down, without success. She made her nose bleed, and the human blood frightened the wolves away. She travelled on.

Her clothes and her hair were torn from her body as she wandered through the brush. After a long time she came to an old woman in a hut, who <sup>adopted her as a daughter and</sup> nursed her back to health. She was really a curlew, a ~~of~~ supernatural spirit of the lake. She cleaned, cured, and clothed the young woman, painted her face to represent sunbeams (a crest), and returned her to her village.

When she was found, across the river from the village, her face was too bright to look upon. They took her into the house and she washed her face, then told everything that had happened to her. Her father gave a great feast and she displayed her Sun face painting and took the name yolək. Soon she became pregnant and gave birth to a child with a sharp nose and a small tail. Because of this all of the people assumed the Wolf crest. This is the origin of the 'axkibu'.