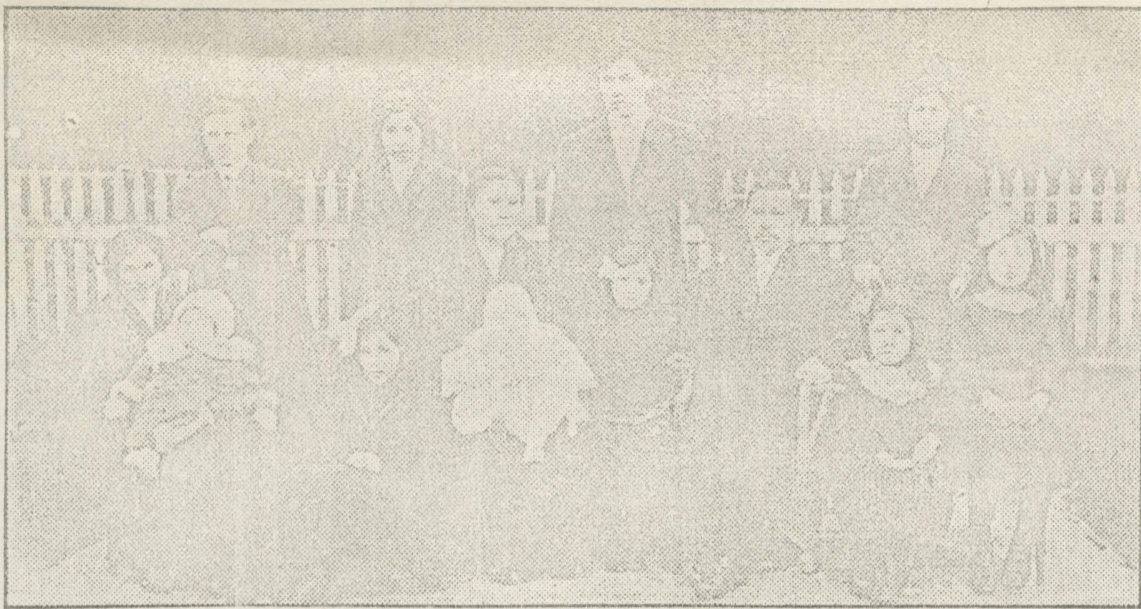


Family of Chief Edenshaw (1923)



IN the illustration shown in this article "The Descendants of Chief Edenshaw" are shown. The stocky Indian sitting in the front row is Henry Edenshaw, the boy who mischievously threw overboard the first basket-loads of ore brought down by his father's men when they went to make their first exploration of the find of yellow metal. The young man in rear row at left is a white civil engineer, who became son-in-law to Henry Edenshaw and resides now in the Interior successfully practising his profession.

He - that was George

On examining the table of the Haida population as referred to in the last article it will be seen that the villages are grouped together under the common names in most instances, as for instance, the people in the different villages in and around Massett Inlet seem to be included in the population referred to as being located at Massett, although we know definitely that there were several other villages in existence at that time, such as the Yen, the Yakoun and the Mammon. In some instances also it is very difficult to recognise the Haida places referred to according to the spelling of the Haida names by Mr. Work. As already stated the total number of the Haidas living on these islands at that time was 6593, but the entire Haida Nation, including those living in Alaska, amounted to 8328 at the time Edenshaw succeeded his uncle as chief. As the population decreased, the smaller villages were abandoned by the survivors, and at the present day all the Haidas on the islands are now located either at Massett or Skidegate, the two principal towns that were in existence in 1841 when Mr. Work made his estimate of the Haida tribes. Ne-coon is probably Ne-kwun or Rose Spit of the present day, and is credited by Mr. Work with five houses and a population of one hundred and twenty-two all told. Owing probably to exceptionally heavy storms the Indians finally abandoned it, but quite recently I have seen the ruins of this ancient village. When I first saw Rose Spit, no sign of any village could be seen, everything was covered with a broad-bladed grass growing on a sandy soil. The cattle having destroyed this grass exposed the bare sand again to the elements and the wind has now blown the sand further inland, and thus laid bare again the remains of the Ne-coon or Nekwun village. Rose Spit is the most dangerous point connected with these islands, and in bygone days many Indians have come to grief in trying to sail around it either in going from Massett to Skidegate, or from Skidegate to Massett. Two vessels belonging to the Hudsons Bay company have been wrecked there, also a large canoe manned by six Haidas while attempting to take Mr. Williams, the Hudsons Bay company's factor back from Massett to Port Simpson. Doctor Kootay, our last

medicine man at Massett, once told me that when in that neighborhood his marine spirit could see the souls that haunted that place and could hear their wailing and lamentation. From the earliest times even down to the present day the Haidas have always exercised extreme caution when in that vicinity. The old Haidas fully believed that the waters were full of all kinds of strange fish and animals, and I have listened hour after hour to their traditions of the different things that have occurred here, and have even been told to be

on one side as the ship now was in his water, and that he intended to do as he liked with the ship and the crew. Edenshaw maintained that as he had volunteered to act as pilot the ship was in his charge. Finally it came to blows and even to the use of knives, and for seven hours Edenshaw stood with his back against the cabin door in which the white men had sought refuge, and dared anyone to kill or even injure them. By this time the schooner had either been sailed by Weha's followers or had drifted with the current until she struck the beach in front of the old village of Yen, the headquarters of the Stling Lennas. Finally an arrangement was made by Edenshaw that Weha should take possession of the white men on the distinct understanding that they were not to be either injured or killed, otherwise they would be revenged by Edenshaw and his people. Weha agreed to this and the white men were firmly secured and sent by canoe to Weha's house at Massett, and there as I have been told they were treated as slaves. I met one of these men near James Bay bridge, Victoria, about eighteen years ago. He was then a gray-haired noble looking

Chief Edenshaw

very careful myself when in that neighborhood, as if a man laugh but ever so little when sailing around the point these strange spirits and animals that inhabit the waters would be sure to work him evil before the year was out. Although Ne-coon had its own local chief, yet he and his people were subject to the authority of Edenshaw. Edenshaw happened to be there in the year 1852 exacting his dues, and from there he went to Skidegate. Whilst at Skidegate an American schooner named the Susan Sturgess came into the harbor to trade with the Indians. After purchasing all the skins in that locality the captain desired to go to Massett and from Massett to North Island. Edenshaw volunteered to act as pilot. He and his wife went on board with their children and the Susan Sturgess sailed up the Straits towards Rose Spit. The day being calm she did not make much progress and before she rounded the point three of Edenshaw's men from the Ne-coon village went on board. Having rounded the Spit and when half-way between Tou Hill and Massett a large number of Haida canoes were seen approaching the ship. All these canoes were manned by the Massett Haidas under command of their late Chief Weha. As soon as they reached the ship, without asking permission, they swarmed aboard and took possession of everything, in fact they captured the ship. The captain and crew went into one of the cabins for safety and locked themselves in, as they felt assured that if no one interfered on their behalf they would all be killed. Edenshaw, although only supported by two or three members of his tribe, interfered on their behalf. Chief Weha told him to stand

man. Knowing that I had come from Massett he asked me if Chief Edenshaw was still alive. I said yes. He said that Edenshaw was a perfect gentleman every inch of him; but as for that other chief (referring to Weha) the old scoundrel, if ever he saw him again he would shoot him down as a dog for the way he and his mates had been treated by him whilst in his house at Massett. I told him that Weha was already dead, and this seemed to take a load off the old man's mind. After the whites had been sent off in custody to Chief Weha's house all the Haidas in the vicinity of Yen set to work and pillaged the schooner. They took everything that was useful and ornamental out of her and then burnt her on the beach in front of the village of Yen.

Must be by Harrison