

Gitxatin Totem Poles in Totem Poles

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Present Lower Nass Villages

1. Kingolix about 300 grew slowly from a small start
2. Greenville about 250

Population: This 550 is much less than when I was young. When I was young there were about 3 x as many, more than 1500. There may have been 4 x 1500 that lived at gitxadon. It was a large and powerful place. People lived long in those days. They were big people, hardly a small person among them, I have been told. Many fams have died out that used to be powerful and high families. [The whites brought diseases and small-pox] There was no smallpox until the whites came onto the country.

For the last 2 censuses the Nurge were the only BC Indians increasing. The flu of 1918 made an awful slaughter.

laxgaldzap is the older name for Greenville.

on [deserted] village [It is on the site of old laxgitxadon but was deserted before the mission started]

g.a means "nothing" or "used to be a village there"
i.e. deserted village

labagait dzədzɔx

daxan

wihən

1. ksa k₁ing.ɔlix (Kincoluth R)

Hunting Fur.

Fishing 3 salmon (coko, hump, dog) trout

Berries

House at mouth, same name.

ni'syu'st

g'ispa'wudwa'da

Beynon (Bolton)
1929

① ksədzə'əx

1R 11

mouth of nose
salmon, eulachonThis was a permanent village. He left it and
moved to g'it'yeks.② 'ənmaxtə'ol Mouth of Kwenamass R.
Obtained from txalaxətək

11-5650-f

gankha'da

- ① x matint 1R42
 caught in salmon ~~weir~~
 Dogfish Bight
 Between Portland C. and Obs. Isl.
 Fishing (house at mouth of Cr.) humps, coho, dogs
 Hunting
- ② kwilke'u "from downwards"
 Sknouk R.
 A hunting and fishing territory of the g-anhada.
 House at mouth, same name
 Salmon: humps, coho, dogs.
- ③ kwilke'om'nato' "down towards other side" or
 kwilgeo (Quilgaw R) sees across from Grenville
 Hunting: marten, mink, otter, etc
 Berries
 Fish: coho, hump, dog
 House has same name.

Bynum 1927
(Barton)

History of git'iks

This village was founded by gadaxex when he returned from among the Kaida. He had for a time lived among the gispawudwads at ksidzo'x. From there he started his own village at git'iks. He was later joined by nishust (gispaw) and nisdzo't (ganhada) who was originally of the Upper Ross. They were joined from time to time by others of tingit origin, and legex gave several feasts and iyak sther, as common with other laxsik's.

git'iks was very open to attacks by Kaidas and others, so they moved to gwonwax where at the time many of the Kage were living. At that time the head chief of gwonwax was gitxon. There were also many gispaw. led by nishiyos, and ganhadas, nisdzo't.

One day they saw the canoes of Iumsyan raiders coming to attack the village. watanluog and tsinteg. of the house of txalaxet attacked them, killing two warriors, and they gave up their attack.

gitxon (laxskik)

Byron 1929
a. Nelson

① gitxon owned all of Portland Canal (tsimxg.alen), sharing it only with the Tsetsaut.

The territory at the head of the inlet was t'og.alan. It included two large rivers:

a. Salmon River (g.alen or laxg.al-en, or more precisely kso'1aski)

Here he had a t'odzop, and fished for dog, hump, coho, steelhead

Fur animals: bear, marten, mink, otter, lynx, weasel, groundhog, mountain goat

Tsetsaut villages

→ b. Bear River (lax tsal'es) laxsqomg.'ons

Fish: dog, hump, coho, steelhead

These were hunting houses at

1. galt, k'odz1 George R. IR 17

2. 'onsetem place where obtained chalk
Donahue Creek

4. wigintg.amxt Halibut Bay (Hunting)

→ 3. ktmainxt a river (xmaing. in another place)
Zombstone Bay

5. tkuginxg.amxl Sandfly Bay

6. fmu'atk Maple Bay (Salmon)

When the house of gitxon became few, they gave sag.u'wen the privilege of using these territories

where Tsetsaut come down.

txalaxetk (laxskik)

Byron 1929
Bottom

- ① xən mēs "where red" Kwinamass R.
1R 16.

This house owned exclusively the whole valley
Their villages were at

1. gidzaxsen about 3 miles up, and
2. al'ax galdzap, one mile further "prominent village"
out standing village
3. sqao'wε

At these places they hunted: groundhog, beaver,
bear, marten, wolf and others (deer, goat)

Also fished:

: steelhead during tɔxs'iyε (May) and
tɔxs'iyε'ns (June, July)
moon golden leaves

: humps, dogs during tɔxs'ihɔ'n moon of salmon

: coho during tɔxs'gwiuk groundhog moon

At sqao'wε (3) they doed humps, coho, halibut,
shellfish, herring eggs.

Also berries, 'ax (fern roots), coabapples

A territory named 'ənmaxtε'ol "where over narrow"
near the mouth of the river, txalaxet gave to his
children of the family of ni'syust, gispaw.
as their own. They all lived together at
txalaxet's village.

- ② wəl məl'i't "where steelhead salmon" Pearce Island
Owned the whole island, and had hunting huts
at different parts. Two fishing stations:
1. wəl məl'i't
 2. səsiks'ət "the middle"

The txalaxet group were known as the gidzaxsen. From 'wən mēs they
moved to g'it'eks and made a permanent home there.

Totem Poles of Angede

1. Pole of gusq.εn McNeill Pole (Mrs Mc N.) farthest above
60 yrs old
2. Pole of kwaxsu , ksq.εg.εm kwaxsu (a former kwaxsu)
Very old
3. kinsadax post of Crane gasq.εs (top), liginis (base)
— pole lying beside this
4. kwaxsu pole, very old
5. Tall straight taxstik pole
6. Bear post
7. Pole of lusq.alaxe' (Eagle)
8. Pole of te'dax (laxkibu) in memory of la'i (laxstik)
neg.amg.ε't pole.
9. Pole of lu'yas (laxstik) Beaver
10. Pole of te'dax (laxkibu) uncarved play pole
11. Pole of kwaxsu xa.mi.n "wide base" (pole)
54 yrs old. [NATIONAL MUSEUM POLE]

ni'syεg. Re (1) above. Calls it pole of ni'sk'inwetk. Erected
1929 by Mrs McNeill wiyε' (laxkibu) ptsanəm smax
pole of bear

1. kwaxsu
2. lusq.alaxe'
3. laix
4. ni'slasyen
5. taxtkwεgaxs
6. kwaxsu short
7. kinsudεx

Pole of gwəsga'in, taxkibu, gitwənsitk
Beynon 1929 from Peter Adams gittaxdants

The reason this pole stands at tax'angide instead of gitwənsitk is as follows.

When the people were living at si'aks there were two groups, taxkibu and gankada. The main chief, gankada, gave a iya'ok, and gwəsga'in felt slighted at not getting a large enough gift. Their relationship became very strained.

One day, cleaning his gun, gūsga'in accidentally wounded a gankada girl. In fear, the taxkibu moved away, to taxangide, where gwəsga'in built a house.

Later, some 50 yrs ago, Mrs Mary McKell (wife of Capt Wm McKell HBC came north when ^{his brother} gūsga'in died and erected a pole in his memory).

Frank Bolton

txalaxεtk

laxstik, kwunwəq.

1927
1860
1867

Over 60 in 1927

Born after Bini revival

Mo: of family of

kitxon

txalaxεtk

g.ayεx

} the 3 laxstik chiefs of
kwunwəq.

Fa: of the family of nalaxε', gitgigε'nix
(this family have died off)

Charles Barton

used 191? in Ottawa, 1927 in Ross

Fa: tabəksk, chief of gitlaxtwanks at gitxadin

Mo: ganha'də

1. tsa:ksəbu'x
2. pa'at
3. neqtəm laxganks
4. widesəm səm'ɔigət
5. wiya''
6. niswa'lks
7. tɔ:iks [əm səm'ɔigət]
8. 'axtawal's

Lazarus Moody

wihon, gitxatin.

56 in 1927

1. wibe'he
2. lax taxt
3. 'wio'oon
4. gwε'

laxkibum laxtiyoxt

neither laxkibu nor gisq. a hast

We are a single group and became amalgamated into the
Wolf, with that name, given last year

tiyog1 was village in vic of D. C. Sound. All trace lost.

Chief Mountain

English name Alfred Watson

"Mountain" is ~~is~~ translated from his nisq.ε name

sga'nisəm səm'ɔ'ɪqət "mountain chief"

Born at amgede but belonged to kwunwɔ'q.

1. kunε'se

2. qa'q

3. atta'a'batkibu

4. maxta sage'e'nax (haitlaxka's is Haida form)

5. sga'nisəm səm'ɔ'ɪqət

6. g.algag.əm ti'yɔ'n

His family is that of gaya'x (laxskik). The three chiefs of the house are gaya'x, kunex, and axwungis

This is not the same as gitxon. gitxon is another house.

Ja: hatksta'xt, gitlaxkwanks, laxkiba, angede

Tucka-Haida war.

Barton, 1927

At laxkitxatin, the laxkibu, laxskib, and gisp. warriors were absent. Hundreds of Haidas attacked. Only ne:xam laxgants (later taxtawals) and a few gankhada were there, and fought off the Haidas, saving the village. [when attacked, the gitxatin gathered on the island at angede, easier to defend] Many were killed and many taken captive, but the village was saved. A dirge commemorates it. 1im'oi

When the Haida left, ne:xam laxgants got together a party to attack the Haida village sanine. They went in 2 large canoes [gitwitku - going to another place to make war] They called themselves tkim't'ibon children of sea lion. They attacked sanine and defeated the Haida, got back captives. [before guns]

This is a history: ma'tasku in our family. It can be called ada'ox too, because it is repeated in public at a feast.

war co'sskⁿ

In another fight (post-gun) tedox^(angede) shot the Haida tewats at gunwog. gapgag's the most feared laxkib warrior came down from angede and cut the head off, put it on a pole. Haidas fled, and kuge canoes from angede, gitlaxans, gunwog harassed them all day, killing many, including the leading chief of the sanine named sanaxe't. He was shot by a gitlaxkwaks. Next 2 yrs Haida came back on raids, unsuccessful. Finally made peace.

g'itxat'in Territories (summary)

Seynon gives territories for the following houses:

laxkibu

1. nagwe'ən
2. kwarsu
3. kabksk
4. txatkugexs
5. xqəm'tk
6. kindzedax

What about

nisləsyən
~~kindzedax~~
niskinwetk

laxskik

1. g'itxən
2. txalaxetk
3. lai'i
4. lu'yə'as

Saganwen?

g'

ganhadz

1. nistsət
2. wihε

axtawals?

g'ispəwudwa'dz

1. labagait dzədzəx etc
2. srspagut, gamayam
3. nisyu'st

Baynon 1929

g'itxat'in Territories (general)

1. Observatory Inlet:

The kwaxsu laxkibu group have the right to use the whole north side, excepting private property of some other house.

Similarly, the la'i laxskik group use all the south side.

2. The territories of la'i and kwaxsu' have always been more or less associated, as they migrated south together and intermarried.

la'i owned Alice Arm (k'itso't), and when the family went extinct, a son, fidax of the kwaxsu group, paid funeral expenses and took the territory. Since then, la'i house has been revived, but the Wolf still hold on to the territory.

kwunwəg

✓

taxskik

I gitxo'n

- (b) cedε'ni'
- (c) ʔa'dzi
- (d) txamks'o't
- (e) kwage'ns
- (f) naxse·dzaks
- (g) ʔane'ʔ

II txalaxεtk

- (b) wətanlu·ləg
- (c) ha'we'
- (d) ni·skinwe'tk
- (e) hayu'xt
- (f) mo'u'

III sagauwe'n

- (b) ʔaye'x
- (c) gwunε'x
- (d) ʔuswilpxən

IV axata't

ʔispəwudwi'da

I ni·syu's

- (b) ni·xpaxt
- (c) lege'ns
- (d) na'gwe'

II ʔamayem

- (b) liksnε'ts
- (c) pilkʔa'n
- (d) hawe''

III 'wiyan

- (b) ta'xən
 - (c) ni·stegwale'
- } taxtiyə'x/

ʔaaha'də

I ʔε'məsəg

kwunwəq - rank

laxskik

- I gitxo'n
- cede'nɪ
- q'a'dzi
- txamks'o't
- kwage'ns
- naxse-dzəks
- qane'q

II txalaxe.tk

- wstənluləq
- ha'we

nɪskɪnwe'itk In old times belonged to this family. The name has gone to q.tlaxda'mts. The father gave his own son that name, long ago.

hayu'xt - extinct. It was an old family, pre-gwunwəq, informant had name for a while. No one succeeded to the name.

mɔ'u' extinct. Family decreased and name was dropped years ago. A big family in old days. Bolton's own family.

III sag.au'wɛ'n

- gayɛx
- gwunɛ'x
- guswilpxən

} Had 3 houses, before informant's time. That of gwunɛq was lost in the row, below axata't. That of gayɛx was gone before his time

IV axata't (only one of that family)

q'ispawudwi'da

- I nɪs'yu's
- nɪs'xpa'xt

lege'ns house stood between above 2
na'gwɛ " before his time

- II q'a'na'yɛm
- liksnɛ'ts
- pilkqa'n
- ~~hawe~~ hawe's

laxtiyoxl III

- 'wi'yən
- ta'xən
- nɪs'jegwale'

} laxtiyoxl is a place outside Kivers Lakelet. They went there from the Nass because of war, and after many years came back to Nass. People at R.I. called wiq'i'nɔ (wike'nɔx) that is what they called themselves

g.anha'ds

I g'e'masq

The only house

angede' ranking

laxkibu

- I 1. nis'las'ye'n (their head)
- 2. xatkwoqaxs equal power with 1.
- 3. kinsa'dax
- 4. kwa'xcu'
- 5. tabokskⁿ
- 6. le'dzaks
- 7. kkuwasa'n
- II 1. nis'kinwεtk another family

laxskik

- 1. la'i'
- 2. 'artiksi'skⁿ

ganha'da

- 1. 'axlawwa'ls Barton's family
- 2. wiyε'



angede'

laxkibu

I nis'las'yen

(b) xatkwoq.aks

(c) Kinsa'dax

(d) Kwaxcu'

(e) tabaksku

(f) le'dzaks

(g) tkuwasan , um

II nis'kinwetk

laxski'k

I la>i'

? II 'axtiksisik

g.anha'də

I 'axlawal's

wiyε'

II? nüstst

gitxad'in

This includes both angede and gwunwog houses

List of houses, ranked
kwaxsu to Beynon.

gisgahest: 1. labagait dzadzox

- (a) taxan
- (b) wihon

2. nisyust

no lakaget
origin is from saltwater, coming here first where they lived at kinmes with laxstik at this place and then from there to ksidzox and from there to gitxad'in. They were related to nispiis, giludzan.
This house had no lakaget.

laxkibo: 1. kwaxsu

- (a) nis/asinyen
- (b) txatkugexs
- (c) taboksk (lakaget)

2. kindzadax

3. nagwa'on

4. hom lakaget for the kwaxsu group

5. witsam'ilax " " " nagwe'on "

6. wutzi'apwiltk " " txatkugexs

7. lxmex (extinct) lakaget for kindzadax

This last house was of gitksan gisgaga'as

ganhada: 1. wike

2. nisdzot

3. attagoxs

laxskiak: 1. la'i

2. saguwen (mountain)

3. gitxon

4. lu'iyas lakaget for la'i

5. axtiksisk " " "

6. galg'amtiyon " " saguwen and gitxon

7. gadaxex (git'iks) (Chief) These were of Tumeysan origin and belong to the same group as legex, having same names, myths, crest, songs

Boston, 1916
Ottawa

1916 study when Barton & Mercer came with
delegation to Ottawa.

Tribe kitxat'i'n 'people of traps'

Villages 1. king.o'lix place of drying scalps
2. laxg.alt'sap

Families according to rank: (Kincolith)

laxkibu

(a) laxkibu, also called sam laxkibu

1. ni.sna'mo'ksk Headchief
2. kin't'sa'dax
3. ligwuni'sku
4. kwaxcu'
5. txatkug.e'gs
6. hadine'k'
7. ga'inamks

(b) it'sak'ama'c (gisg.ansna't laxkibu, rel. of gitlaxtamaks)

2. xak'a'ni
3. wilpam haya'tsk'

c. 1. 'wila'c (laxkibu related to oye'
2. 'naya'it gitwinksitk'
3. meks kumg.e't

D 1. tu'g' (laxkibu, rel to kexk gitlaxdamks,
2. ga'dax

laxskik'

- E 1. gitx'o'u
2. saya'uwe'n
3. cidini'

Tribe: lax'o'kst

There is a story that they are from a Haida woman stolen by the slave of a Haida chief from laxskik will. near Skidegate, a prince woman for a wife for chief.

203 same family, same ancestor

- F.
1. k'olo.cam'ɔ'igət chuf. / his name is l'e'i
 an lag.al'tʂap
 2. sam'ɔ'igidəm xk'ε:k
 3. lu.sq.alaxε'.
 4. l'e'i
 5. kitake
- These are the gitlaxwice't
 (sandbar) Their old village was
 laxt'səm'lɔ'p, back of angledi,
 now inhabited. They and
 tsa'amac (laxkibu) have g.t'sɔ't the am.

- G.
1. l'e'i'ix, t'e'dɔx
 2. wiget
 3. luyal'as
 4. g.adε'lap
 5. nisnext
- These are the g'isg.abene'xt
 l'e'i'ix was head chuf, now dead out,
 (and name used by others at lagal'tʂap)
 Now wiget is head of this family of
 laxskik. Formerly he was 2nd.

- H.
1. kwun'wɔ.tk^u
 "The name of the chuf formerly was wax'ɔ'ɔ' and ha'wε'.
 2. g.adaxε.x^k
 3. t'xalaxε.tk
 4. tɔ'ɔs
 5. xp'ɔ'ɔlak
- These are the g'isg.d'aks
 "people living at the wet place"

g.anha'dɔ

- I
1. hadiya'igwɔx
 2. wiye'
 3. la'dɔx
- } others live at lagal'tʂap

- J.
1. 'at tax.g.ɔ.k'st
 2. 'meski bu'
- } These are the tribe gitg'ig'ε'nix
 - people of up the river.
 nagwa'ɔn, laxkbu at lagal'tʂap. as
 gitg'ig'ε'nix too.

- K.
1. k'adɔmg.al'dɔ' - came from k'it'an'ɔ'ma'ks a
 generation ago.

gispuwutwida

- L. 1. ta'xon headchief - formerly the owner of Kinkoloth R.
- 2. g.ane'ts

named laxxawε'dix, general name of the gispudwida.

The name of ta'xon's family is laxt'iyō'xt
(same story of t'iyō'xt)

- M. 1. t'sebase' rel. of tsebase' g. twinkcitt^u. ^{Entirely} Diff. gispaw. from ta'xon. He was a successor of te'dax his father who was head chief.

git laxkwa'ns laxkibu (died out now) were one of the most powerful families on the Koss. They were the 'angede' people. Their village was laxtsamkōp back of 'angede'

- 1. ta'bōksk^u headchief
- 2. cōn'a'lgax
- 3. txa'ō'ks
- 4. 'aksta'q t

tabōksk^u was my father's family
I am the only relative of this family

- N. g.a'xō' (Wolf) & t'set'sa'ōt.

They were always among the nisg.ε. They speak the Koss language, but were from the interior. The nisge always mixed with them in the summer time; in the winter they used to go to the interior to hunt. They still occasionally do so. Not related to other Wolf families here, but couldn't marry them."

- O 1. 'axtime nε'dzōx laxkibu. Have relatives at
- 2. tkwug.ε'isōnk gitlaxdanks.