

gispax lots

Byron 1927


Wm Byrnes, 1829


Hunting Territories & Privileges  
on Skeena. of Gispa-lots.  
Informant. Chas. Abbott. —

The royal and lakaset houses  
of the Gispa-lots, were privileged  
to use the whole of the Skeena River  
as their hunting territories and had  
no especial tributary as their  
own exclusive property. They  
were privileged to trade in fact  
had the prior rights over the other  
two tribes to trade with the ~~the~~  
upper Skeena tribes the Gitksan  
tribes. The reason for this was  
the Gispa-lots tribes were the  
original people of the Skeena

(x)

(3)

River and were the owners and 9  
had a village opposite. The Gitants  
village called <sup>in region from</sup> Waxsgadent, and  
they had as a former village one  
right across from this  ② on  
plan, and was called wilaxs  
+ sigidanshananov - They

moved away from this village  
because it always used to  
be flooded over during frost  
seasons and moved to waxsga  
dent, and the mountain  
in the rear of this village was  
the hunting territory and used  
in common by all the Gispants  
people, and was called ③  
sganissom/gispants.  
mountain/ .. 

This territory was used to hunt  
martens: mats & groundhog.  
There being no creeks there were  
no beaver and also a berry  
territory.


Q Who owns the land? Ans. The  
land is owned by the  
village council. The  
village council is  
an elected body. The  
members of the  
council are elected  
from the village.  
The council is  
responsible for the  
development of the  
village.


Q Why is the land  
not being used for  
agriculture? Ans. The  
land is not being used  
for agriculture because  
it is not fertile. The  
soil is very poor and  
the water is not  
suitable for irrigation.  
The land is also  
not being used for  
agriculture because  
it is not suitable for  
the type of crops  
that are grown in  
the area.

(x) Informant states that is  
why in late years 1964  
gave to the H.B.Co. this territory.

Q What is the  
reason for this?  
Ans. The land is  
not being used for  
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it is not fertile. The  
soil is very poor and  
the water is not  
suitable for irrigation.  
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it is not suitable for  
the type of crops  
that are grown in  
the area.

on up the river at the lower  
 end of the Kitsolas Canyon marked  
 #<sup>4</sup> was a fishing village of the  
 gispaxlts people, and the  
 village was known as gitoot.  
 This was used only  
 during the time of the year  
 when the gispaxlts people  
 went and dried their salmon  
 a dip net being used. There  
 were no other hunting villages  
 of the gispaxlts on the Skana  
 and at larko (Pearl Harbour)  
 #<sup>5</sup> was also a camping village  
 of this tribe and from time to  
 time they gave iyooks there and  
 then another village at dzim  
 sqa/wen #<sup>6</sup> (Port Simpson) and these  
<sup>across Teeth</sup> the salt water villages being as  
 well as fishing stations were  
 the base for seal hunting for  
 the entire tribe. ⊕

There was also another village  
near where Greenville is now and  
was known as {lav'neks  7  
on slide.

This village was further up than  
Greenville and on its opposite  
side of the river and after  
a war with the Nass people  
the Gispaxlts people not  
wanting to be in so exposed  
a place moved to git'yeks  
 and then they {people?   
moved further down the river  
to lav'atol as this was a better  
on (permanent) side upon which to  
gather the oolichans.

The Gispaxlts were the traders  
of the termsyen and took furs  
and salt water products to the  
interior tribes and traded this  
for the products of the interior  
people.

The largest house of tents and  
 tents having only migrated to  
 the gispaxlats people had the  
 privilege in common with other  
 gispaxlats to the common  
 use of the Skeena River and  
 had as their exclusive Territory  
 that which was in use in common  
 with other gid'astan gispawndew  
 of the same group. Marked. 1  
 known as ksə/kən'on.

South

(wətsi visible (wətsi)

and then another village and island  
 known as lax/kəgas  
 on /plə/ war club - (wətsi)

This was an island on which  
 was gathered sealull and other  
 fowl eggs from ducks etc.

Known on Haycock Island 2

and also the island of nu  
 gun'akis which is used as a  
 hunting station for the seal  
 both hair (olə) and fur seal gun

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and also used as hunting ground  
for sea otter (p. 202)