

Kung

"slipping" (Curtis)

Just inside the entrance of Naden Harbour, on the north side, ^{near the point} is the site of the former village of Kung (IR 11, Kung). If the facts were known, we would find that most Indian villages were not inhabited for very long periods at a time; in this case we are able to say quite definitely that it was occupied from about 1853 to 1878. HM Steamer Virago was here in 1853, and some of the observations made by GH Inskip at that time were reprinted in the North Pacific Pilot, 1870. They used the famous chief Edenshaw as pilot. His village was then Kiusta, on Parry Passage, "from which he intends moving to Virago sound" (p. 309). There, "The village is to be built inside a point on the western side of the narrowest part of the entrance. Some ground near it is cleared for potatoes, which are much used by the natives, and form one of their principal articles of food" (p. 309).

Dawson saw the village in 1878, and the Indians were then moving away. Kung village "...has been a substantial and well constructed one, but is now rather decayed, though some of the houses are still inhabited. The houses arranged along the edge of a low bank, facing a fine sandy beach, are eight or ten in number, some of them quite large. The carved posts are not very numerous, though in a few instances elaborate." (p.163B). See Dawson photo. (Dawson quotes Imray, not very accurately)

In 1882 O'Reilly found Kung almost deserted when he laid out the reserve there. Chittenden, in 1884, found it abandoned, the 15 houses all, in ruins except 2, in one of which he spent the night. He says there were 20 poles. (pp. 23, 46). It continued to be used intermiitently as a seasonal site in later years.

From Swanton's information, it does not appear that Edenshaw was actually chief of the village. Of the 12 houses listed by his informants, 3 belonged to Edenshaws's lineage. The remainder (except for a single Raven house) belonged to a different Eagle lineage, of which Gulas was chief (pp. 281, 292-3)

Raven?
Work's 1841 census lists "Nigh-tan" with 15 houses and 280 people. Perhaps this was the Kiusta group?

*kup = sleep. also a substance
" " "sleep-brood"*

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