

---2011 MONTHLY CALENDAR---

X'EIGAA KÁÁ

The Tlingit term for a warrior is: *X'eigaa káa*, literally a "True Man." The Tlingit practiced "eye-for-an-eye" and if one side had more losses than the other, it would be evened-up taking someone from the other side of equal rank to settle the score. If an uncle was chosen, a nephew would, in the love for his maternal uncle, step in front of him and say he would die for his uncle. *Du káak* (the maternal uncle) was loved and respected that much that the nephews would die for him.



Anton Lindbak Bartnes, Jr. (1926-1960) served in the U.S. Navy 1944-1948, U.S. Marines 1948-1952, and U.S. Army 1952-1960. Like all who joined the military, he was ready to defend his country. An uncle I never knew and a member of the *Yanyeidí* clan of Taku, he truly stands out as a "warrior" to me. *Ax kaak áyá*. This is my uncle.

Objects of warfare including the *shadaa k'wat s'aaxw* (round head cover) or *l'oo shádaa* (wooden head cover) the "battle helmets" are never danced in or handled lightly, and even today the practice is made that only veterans handle such items as they are our warriors, especially combat veterans who know that these were designed for one purpose, "blood-shed." All "armor" is treated this way. Like pointing a gun at someone, don't do it unless you intend to pull the trigger. Our veterans today, know this well, and as with our warriors of old ready to die in place of their uncles, they were ready to die for our us doing symbolically what our old warriors did, "*shawdichín*", having tied-up-their-hair-in-a-knot, ready to do combat, in a sense for their own uncle, "Uncle Sam."

Women were never allowed to handle these items. Fasting was required before handling them, and the handling of them brings up the word "*kalidzixwaa*" or "something that is touchy or sensitive and only handled a certain way. One final comment: --A warrior, would never bow before anyone.--

Haa Kusteeyí Áyá- This is Our Way of Life

--*Harold Jacobs*

Cultural Resource Specialist, CCTHITA
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******* JANUARY *******
***T'aawak Dísee-* (Canada Goose Month)**



The Raven Helmet of the Sitka *Kiks.ádi* used in the 1804 Battle against the Russians in Sitka and “Katlean’s Hammer” which *K’alyaan* used as his weapon then, also handled carefully now. Housed at the Sheldon Jackson Museum (#I.A.131) in Sitka under disputed ownership. The clan has “access” to it for occasional ceremonial uses, but it is never worn, as shown here in 1999. It is often called “Katlean’s Helmet.”

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*******FEBRUARY*******
S'EEK Dísee - (Black Bear Month)



L-R: Katherine Benson (*Kookáxk'w*), Charles Benson (*Kaalgaas*), Nellie Aragon (*Shakéiwés*), Annie Dick (*Káasenák*), ***George Lewis, Sr. (*Anaatl'eeek*) of the *Kiks.ádi* Clay House wearing "**Katlean's Helmet**" and holding "Katlean's Hammer"***, Mary Williams (*K'asheech Tláa*), Mark Jacobs, Sr. (*Káshkwei*) wearing the *Kiks.ádi* Frog Hat, and Annie Jacobs (*Sxalgén*), in 1948. This was the last time this helmet was worn.

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*****MARCH*****

Héen Taanáx Kayaani Dísee- (Month When Underwater Plants Begin to Grow)

WRANGELL: Gaat Dísee (Sockeye Salmon Month)



Claimed by the Gaanax̣teidí, *Haaw Haaw* (the Sun Dog Helmet) was originally owned by the Thunderbird clan as part of their Children of the Sun history but in times past was turned over to the opposites as payment for a death. *Haaw Haaw* is literally “bow-wow”. –Private Collection

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*******APRIL*******

X'eigaa Kayaani Dísee- (Real Flower Month)

WRANGELL: *Atgadaaxeit Yinaadei Dísee* (Month Before Everything Hatches)



Gaanaxteidi at.óox'u inside *Yeil Hít* (Raven House). Among them is the *Haaw Haaw*, the **Sun Dog Helmet** situated in the middle-right on the Chilkat blanket.

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*****MAY*****

Jinkaataa aa Dísee- (Tenth Month)

WRANGELL: *Atgadaaxeit Dísee* (Month When Everything Hatches)



Ch'aak Shadaak'wat S'aaxw (Eagle Helmet). A warrior of the Dog Salmon Clan had this made because he wanted to fight (and possibly die) in his fathers' emblem. Erroneously said to have been used in Sitka in 1802-1804 in battle against the Russians, it was however involved in another skirmish there in the 1700's.

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*****JUNE*****

Xaat Dísee- (Salmon Month)

WRANGELL: *Shaa xee'yí Dísee* (Comes Down From the Mountain, Month)



William Nelson, Sr. (*Tahín, Gastáa*) of the *L'eeneidí* Clan, wearing the **Eagle Helmet**. Rarely worn, days of preparation and fasting are required before one is actually worn. At ceremonies they are only held over the head of someone and never worn, and even then it is rarely done because of their sensitive nature.

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*****JULY*****

Át Gadaaxeit Dísee- (Month When Animals Give Birth)

WRANGELL: *Át Gatá Dísee* (Month when everything fattens)



Shark Helmet of carved leather and wood, inlaid with abalone, operculum, and human hair, belonging to the Bear House of the Chilkat *Kaagwaantaan* , now in the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, IL (#7920-11). Part of a “coin armor” coat is visible in the upper right.

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*****AUGUST*****

Át *Gata Dísee* [and] *Shaa xeeyi Dísee*

(Month When Everything Fattens) ½ - (Comes Down From the Mountains) ½

WRANGELL: *Át gata dísee* (Everything Fattens, Month)



On the left wearing the Brown Bear Chilkat Shirt is Kudeinaháa ("Chief Kadenaha") of the Bear House of the Chilkat *Kaagwaantaan*. Standing next to him an unidentified man is holding the **Shark Helmet**.

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*****SEPTEMBER*****

***Dis Yádi-* (Moon Child or “Young Moon”)**



(Examples of different types of daggers, some of which were used in dancing, except the “combat” daggers)

TOP: *Keet Gwálaa* (Killer Whale Dagger) used in “ceremonial killings but never in “combat”—*Dakl’aweidí*

CENTER: Double bladed type called *shakáts*, a type of “combat knife” that swung a blade both directions, unless it was used to do the actual “slave killing” along with the “ceremonial blade” then it was known as *goox du een* (wth the slave)—*Yanyeidí*

BOTTOM: *Gooch Gwálaa* (Wolf Dagger), this type was also called *x’aan.át* or “something kept close by.” This one was used in 1853 in Sitka during a massacre at a “peace party”—*Kaagwaantaan*

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*****OCTOBER*****

Dís Tlein- (Big Moon)



Lkudawaat (Coudawat) of the *Gaanaxteidi* clan on his deathbed, surrounded by his fathers' *at.óox'u* (plural of *at.óow*) including the Murrelet Hat, Bear *Shakee.át*, and ***Gooch Gwálaa*** of the Star House of the Sitka *Kaagwaantaan*. Death was the “final battle” and other historical photographs show such scenes.

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*****NOVEMBER*****

Kaxahaa Dís- (Digging [snow] Month)

WRANGELL: *Át koowu Dísee* (When Animals Return to Their Dens, Month)



At the 2007 memorial party for Mark Jacobs, Jr. (*Gusht'eihéen*), a WWII Navy combat veteran, three helmets were present; one remained on the table but two were held over the heads of his nephews Edwell John, Jr. (*Woochxkaduhaa*) US Army, ret., and Dennis Barnes (*Hín lasáa*) USN-ret. Held by guest Raven moiety veterans, this is how the helmets are used today, still handled by veterans only, and not danced in.

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*******DECEMBER*******

Shaanax Dísee- (Valley Moon)

WRANGELL: *S'aax Tláa Dísee* (Marmot Mother Month)



Xáa (War Party, or Flotilla of War Canoes). "Raven Warrior" painting by renowned artist Bill Holm depicts a flotilla of canoes, a warrior dressed in a Raven Helmet along with its visor, carrying a dagger and holding a rifle and wearing armor (*saank'ei*). Other warriors dressed in armor are in other canoes. All known "battle helmets" of this type are documented as Tlingit.

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PHOTO CREDITS

JANUARY— Raven Helmet, personal photo collection

FEBRUARY— George Lewis photo, personal Collection from the Sitka Photo Shop, 1948

MARCH—Private Collection

APRIL— Alaska State Historical Film Library, Winter & Pond 87-161

MAY- Eagle Helmet, personal photo collection

JUNE— William Nelson Photo, personal photo collection

JULY-- Shark Helmet, personal photo collection

August—Blankenburg Photo, Sheldon Museum Haines, AK

SEPTEMBER-- Dagger types, personal photo collection

OCTOBER—*Lkudawaat* (Coudawat) photo by G.T. Emmons, American Museum of Natural History

NOVEMBER— 2007 Memorial Party, personal photo collection

DECEMBER—“Raven Warrior” by Bill Holm; used by permission
(This was cropped to fit the format of the calendar)

NOTICE:

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