

Coast Indians are undoubtedly Thlinkit, forming a series of contiguous and more or less closely allied bands or tribes, between which the diversity in language is small. The inland Indians, on the contrary, belong to the great Tinné family. On the Stikine, as explained below, a certain overlapping of these two races has occurred; and to the north, the Tagish, a branch of the Thlinkit, extend a considerable distance inland into the basin of the Lewes, as now first ascertained. The interior Indians are collectively known on the coast as "Stick Indians," and the fact that this name is also applied to the Tagish, in consequence of their situation and habits being like those of the Tinné, explains the circumstance that they have heretofore been confounded with that people.

Tinné.

Respecting the Thlinkit of the coast I am unable to add anything of value to what has already been published. In what follows regarding the inland Indians, the several tribes are taken up in the order in which they were met with on our line of travel.

The region included between the Coast Ranges and the Rocky Mountains, to the south of that here reported on, and in which are the headwaters of the Skeena, Fraser and Peace rivers, is inhabited by two great divisions of the Tinné people, designated on the map before referred to, as Takulli and Sikani. These main divisions comprise a large number of small tribes or septs. Since the publication of the map, I have ascertained that these divisions are known to the people themselves as Tah-khl and Al-ta'-tin respectively. The division of the Tinné met with on ascending the Stikine is named Tahl-tan, and consists of the Tahl-tan people proper and the Taku. These Indians speak a language very similar to that of the Al-ta'-tin, if not nearly identical with it, and, so far as I have been able to learn, might almost be regarded as forming an extension of the same division. They appear to be less closely allied by language to the Ka-ka, with which people they are contiguous to the eastward.

Tahl-tan
Indians.

Their territory.

The Indian village near the Tahl-tan or First North Fork of the Stikine, is the chief place of the Tahl-tan Indians, and here they all meet at certain seasons for feasting, speech-making and similar purposes. The Tahl-tan claim the hunting-grounds as far down the Stikine, coastward, as the mouth of the Iskoot River, together with all the tributaries of the Iskoot and some of the northern sources of the Nass, which interlock with these. Their territory also includes, to the south, all the headwaters of the main Stikine, with parts of adjacent northern branches of the Nass. Eastward it embraces Dease Lake, and goes as far down the Dease River as Eagle Creek, extending also to the west branch of the Black or Turnagain River. It includes also all the northern tributaries of the Stikine, and the Tahl-tan River to its sources.