

Some of them were said to have come more than one hundred miles to exchange their pelts and to trade with tourists on steamer-day. If they are Athabascans and not Thlinkets, it must be conceded that they are equally keen in making bargains, though they show less good-nature and eagerness to trade.

The Thlinkets occupy the whole of the Alexander archipelago (in South-eastern Alaska), as well as the mainland from Yakutat or Bering Bay to Portland Inlet, the southern boundary of the territory. Though distinctly one people, having the same physical characteristics and speaking the same tongue or closely allied dialects, they are divided into several tribes, which seem to regard themselves as independent in origin. The Yakutats occupy the narrow coast area from Yakutat Bay almost to Cross's Sound or Icy Strait. The Chilcats dwell at the head of Lynn Channel, their chief village being several miles to the north of the head of that bay; they hold themselves aloof from the Whites except for commercial purposes, and resent any intrusion upon their village. The Sitkans occupy the large islands of the Alexander archipelago, except the southern portion of Prince of Wales Island, where the Hydahs have some villages. The Stahkin, or Stickeen, tribe occupy the strip of coast from Lynn Channel southward, and are especially numerous at Juneau, Wrangel, and Fort Tongas on Portland Inlet, as well as at some other places along the coast. The Sitkan and Stahkin tribes are divided into sub-tribes, which are generally recognised by the Indians—Sitkan among them seeming to refer only to those living on Baranoff Island, whereas the Sitkans of Chickagoff Island, immediately to the north, are called Hoonah.

The relation of the Hydahs, Haidas, or Kyghani to the other Thlinkets is not fully made out; only a small number of them are found in Alaska, their domain being in Queen Charlotte Island, British Columbia. They are unquestionably the finest of the coast races. Two of them, seen at Sitka, were readily distinguishable from the Sitkan Thlinkets by their more sharply-cut features. The Chimsyan tribe, formerly adjoining the Stickeen Indians on the mainland, occupied the peninsula of the same name, in British Columbia, until their disagreement with the religious authorities of that province led them to abandon their home and to seek another on Mary's Island, just within the limits of Alaska. They are closely allied to the Thlinkets.

Dall's estimate of Alaska's population, in 1879, was that it consisted of 25,704 natives, and 1800 to 3000 of Whites and "Creoles," varying with the seasons of the year. He estimated the Thlinkets at 5550, the Hydahs at 300. In 1880, the census agent, Mr. Ivan Petroff, who has given us one of the best descriptions of Alaska, divided the Thlinkets into eleven tribes with a total population of 6347.¹ This subdivision is more in accordance with the native practice than that of Mr. Dall, though the latter may represent the actual relationship. Mr. Petroff found 788 Hydahs. The number of Thlinkets seems to have changed little since it was first estimated in 1819.

¹ *Tenth Census of the United States. Report on the Divided Population, Industries, and Resources of Alaska.* By Ivan Petroff, Special Agent.