

Liǵ^wiłdaǵ^wenoǵ^w
We are the Liǵ^wiłdaǵ^w
“unkillable thing” (Curtis 1915:308)

Narrative testimony clearly identifies Topaze Harbour, especially Tekya as a site of great historical importance for the Liǵ^wiłdaǵ^w. This is the place of our ancestors “disembarked after the great flood” (precis, p. 148; see also Boas 1969:37; Assu 1953; Assu and Inglis 1989:3-5).

In 1850, the Liǵ^wiłdaǵ^w controlled much of the territory on either side of Johnstone Straits and Discovery Passage, including Campbell River and Quadra Island, strategic points regulating access to the “Inside Passage.”

Whatever their relations with the other Kwakwaka'wakw tribes, the Liǵ^wiłdaǵ^w possessed a fearsome reputation among the Coast Salish of the Gulf of Georgia and Puget Sound area. Narrative testimony and comments by White visitors, dating back to 1825, make this abundantly clear (Scouler 1905:202). The Liǵ^wiłdaǵ^w's reputation was based upon a pattern of raiding and perhaps trading excursions, in which the capture of slaves played an important role.

Weka?yi Čəq^wəlutən (Cape Mudge)

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