



Welcome to our 1st edition!

November, 2000

A Little History...

The Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation (KHHF) is a federally recognized nonprofit (501 (c) 3) corporation officially incorporated on April 14, 1999 after years of discussion among those on the Board of Kavalco, Incorporated and the many descendants of the original Kasaan Haida people. The concern was clear that an effort should be made to document and preserve those things that make the Kasaan Haidas unique. In 1971 Andrea Laforet published a reference book that was a compilation of interviews of Walter Young, William Burgess & Lydia Charles as a part of a Historic Preservation project sponsored by the National Parks Department. Many years later, in 1998 Willard Jones organized the first gathering of Kasaan Haida Elders in Ketchikan. Fred Olsen, Jr. assisted with videotaping the participants, including Erma Lawrence, Harriet McCallister, David Peele, Norman Charles, Catherine Kerrstetter and Julie Coburn.

The KHHF would like to continue and expand on this work so that today's generation and our future descendants will have a valuable resource to draw upon when the elders are no longer with us. The KHHF Board consisting of Kenneth Gordon, President; John Campbell, Vice President and Jeane Breinig, Secretary/Treasurer, have held regular meetings in conjunction with Kavalco Board meetings since the Foundation was incorporated. There have been many lengthy discussions about projects important to the cultural heritage of Kasaan Haida people, including clan house and totem pole restorations, Haida language perpetuation, repatriation of Kasaan artifacts, videotaping and interviewing our elders, and cleaning up the creeks near Kasaan for the return of salmon runs. Because of the increasing age of our elders, KHHF has decided to prioritize its energies and work first towards generating funds for an Elders Interview and Oral History Project. The aim of the work will be to interview elders, with both videotape and audio tape, then produce written transcripts, videotapes, and Compact Discs. Eventually a website will be developed so that interested Kasaan descendants and scholars researching the culture could easily access the information no matter where they may live.



Newsletter

Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation



Kasaan Haida Elders Speak:

Ga'saa'aan Xaadaas Guusuu

Currently the KHMF is working on applying for a grant from the Alaska Humanities Forum for funds to begin the interview project entitled Kasaan Haida Elders Speak: *Ga'saa'aan Xaadaas Guusuu*. The project will be interviewing Haida elders who grew up in Kasaan, one of the last two remaining Haida villages in Alaska. From these interviews they will gather information about culture and language and how the rapid socio-economic changes affected their lives.

Willard Jones has offered to be the Project Director. He has worked hard for many years prior to and during the time KHMF was being formed, at his own expense, on cultural preservation issues including repatriation and genealogical research. Mr. Jones is the hereditary (in line for) Taaslaanas Raven clan leader, one of two leading Kasaan Haida clans, and is one of the few remaining cultural experts.

Fred Olsen, Jr. has offered to contribute his filming expertise as the Media Specialist. Fred has worked for the past 7 years in New York City for an international broadcast studio. He has spent the past 4 summers photographing in Kasaan.

Eleanor Hadden has agreed to act as the Lead Interviewer, drawing on her experience working for Sand Point Tribe's oral history project.

Jeane Breinig will be acting as the Administrator, keeping the paper work flowing.

The application was submitted in October. It is what is known as a "Challenge" grant. This means KHMF must raise matching funds in order to qualify. Project funds will be used to pay for elders travel to the interview site, audio/video equipment rental, editing, copying and production fees, project supplies, and a small honorarium for the elders participation. As you can see from the list to the right, we have only had 6 people make donations so far. The Organized Village of Kasaan (OVK) has also donated \$1,000 and they will be holding periodic raffles on behalf of the project! What we need very much are more donations, so if the grant is awarded we can meet the challenge. The Alaska Humanities Forum does consider the donation of time, as well as money, as a part of KHMF's matching funds. If you would like to donate your time to volunteer, perhaps to interview the elder in your family or in any other capacity, please contact Willard Jones, the Project Director, or one of the KHMF Board members. If you can not spare your time, we hope that **YOU** will consider making a *tax deductible donation* in an amount that is within your financial ability. Donation information is on the right. *(continued on last page)*



The following is a list of those most generous individuals that have donated to this project. We thank them all very much!

Donor's List:

Della Coburn

Kenneth Gordon

Chris & Jean Breinig

Caroline Hendrixson

Julia Coburn

John Campbell

OVK



To Make Your Donation:

Make your check payable to:

Kasaan Haida
Heritage Foundation

and mail it to:

600 University St.,
Ste 3010
Seattle, WA 98101

IRS code 501(c)(3),
EIN 92-0169568



Your
Artwork
Pictured
Here

Are You An Artist?

If you are an artist or you know of one who might be interested in donating a piece to the OVK raffle, please let us know by calling 1-800-786-8953, or by contacting the OVK in Kasaan at (907)-542-2230.
Thank You!

Aunt Mary continued...

couldn't imagine my aunt traveling from Seattle to Pennsylvania on a train. She was only a little girl", Mary Jones said. I think we became determined to find something. It became an obsession to find out what was done for her and the other children. She sees Carlisle as a far away place where her aunt was sent to lose her culture, as mandated by the United States Government, and where she became sick, died and was lost in an unmarked or forgotten grave. "This is a part of history that we just don't hear" she said. "Its a missing link that needs to be added. There's a lot of horror, a lot of sadness and I guess we didn't want it to just be swept under the carpet and left there.

Mary Jones, husband Willard Jones and their daughter Eleanor made the trip again in May, to attend *Powwow 2000: Remembering Carlisle Indian School* to participate in the cemetery ceremony to honor and pay tribute to these deceased children.

Some records have been found over the years of Mary Kininnook. A copy of the application her father signed for her to attend the school was obtained from the National Archives. Medical research files from the Bureau of Indian affairs indicates she died from tuberculosis or pneumonia. The Presbyterian Church archives in Philadelphia had a copy of the Saxman Presbyterian Mission baptismal registry showing that Mary died December 28, 1908. A review of the Carlisle School's news letters at the Cumberland County Museum turned up an entry showing that M. Kininnook was assigned to an Outing Program at a farm in Gap, Penn.

Several who attended Powwow 2000 reported that their ancestors who attended Carlisle had fond memories of the time they spent with

Seeking Aunt Mary

On 7/15/00 the Ketchikan Daily News ran an article about Mary Jones' search for information about her maternal Aunt Mary.

The story goes that at the age of 9 Aunt Mary Kininnook was sent by her father, William Kininnook, from Saxman, Alaska where she lived with her family, to the first indian boarding school in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. At that time, the Native community leaders were encouraged to send their children to the boarding schools to be converted from the traditional to the American way. Mary died at the age of 14 at Carlisle.

Eleanor Hadden, Mary Jones' daughter, lived in Chelmsford, Massachusetts from 1982-85 and traveled to the site of the old school hoping to find some record of Mary Kininnook's life there and to answer the many questions the family has about her life and death.

For 10 years Mary Jones continued searching for information from every source she could think of. Three years ago they traveled to Carlisle. "We thought we could just stop and pay our respects" Mary Jones said. "It was so alarming to find no grave marker amongst the approximate 200 graves. Then we started looking, we kept running into a stone wall. I



Give Us YOUR Suggestions & Contributions

If you have any suggestions or if you would like to submit an idea to our new newsletter about cultural heritage activities you think others might be interested in, please send them to:

Charisse Dwyer
c/o Kavalco, Inc
600 University St. Ste
3010, Seattle WA
98101



Aunt Mary continued..

the friends they met there. Many remember Carlisle as the school that produced Jim Thorpe, one of America's most famous athletes. His daughter Grace told the Powwow attendees that Thorpe once said his years at Carlisle were his happiest. Eleanor Hadden said some good came of the may trip to Carlisle. "I felt that there were other people who cared" she said. "It was good to meet others who acknowledged that something wrong happened."

One never knows when a document or other shred of evidence may be discovered. "I almost think its worth another trip down there" Mary Jones said.

Willard Jones supplied the following information to supplement the Ketchikan Daily News article:

Several children with roots in Kasaan attended the Carlisle Indian School. With the help of Barbara Landis, a Carlisle Indian School research historian and writer who works for the Cumberland County Museum in Carlisle, the Jones' were able to obtain a list:

Walter and Robert Young, who were brothers. Walter remained single throughout his life, and contributed to the history of the totem poles. Robert was father to Caroline Hendrixson, Eleanor Berger, Betty Williams, Evelyn and Roberta Young Campbell who served on the Kavalco board until her death.

William Burgess, who came from Old Kasaan. He was very involved with the totem pole retrieval & restoration. He contributed the history of the Haida poles that are now in our local Heritage Center (Ketchikan).

Cecelia Baronovich Balenti, is Erma Baronovich Lawrence's paternal aunt.



Haida Word of the Week

We encourage you
to use these words
in as many ways as you can.

Week 1

Haida Word	Haida Letter	English Translation
áal	aa	Paddle or oar

(*a" as in father)

Week 2

Haida Word	Haida Letter	English Translation
Sablii	b	Bread

(*b" as in boat)

Week 3

Haida Word	Haida Letter	English Translation
Chiin	ch	Fish

(*ch" as in church)

Week 4

Haida Word	Haida Letter	English Translation
duus	d	Cat

(*d" as in dumb)

Week 5

Haida Word	Haida Letter	English Translation
diáamaal	di	Licorice Fern

(*d" & "i" combined)

Week 6

Haida Word	Haida Letter	English Translation
gawiiit	g	Bead

(*g" as in good)

Week 7

Haida Word	Haida Letter	English Translation
inuu	i	Rutabaga or Turnip

(*i" as in pin)

Week 8

Haida Word	Haida Letter	English Translation
iinaang	ii	Herring

(*ea" as in bean)

Thanks to Julie Coburn for helping
to select Haida words from the
Verb Dictionary compiled
by Erma Lawrence.

Elders continued from page 2...

In addition to the four individuals that are listed on page 2, we have had many others offer their time and services. Here is a complete list of the Kasaan Haida volunteers that have offered to contribute their time to the Oral History/ Elder's Interview project: Della Coburn, Brian Coburn, Amy Craver, Mike Jones, John Campbell and Laird Jones. We thank them all. Again, if you would like to offer your time, please contact us.

President:
Kenneth Gordon

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Charisse Dwyer

Editors:
Kenneth Gordon, John Campbell,
Jeane Breinig, Laird Jones

Thanks to the Ketchikan Daily
News for allowing us to reprint in
part their article "Looking for Aunt
Mary".

Thanks to Willard & Mary Jones
and Eleanor Hadden for their
contributions to the "Aunt Mary"
article.

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