

Dzantik'i Heeni

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Here is a brief history of the community. The clans that settled in this area are:

- Raven/Dog Salmon
- Eagle/Shark

These people became known as the Aák'w Kwáan. The Raven clan's name is L'eeneidí and the Eagle clan's name is the Wooshkeetaan.

Two other primary clans came and settled in the Taku Inlet area; these clans are:

- Raven/Whale
- Eagle/Wolf clan

The Raven clan's name is Gaanax.ádi and the Eagle clan's name is Yanyeidí.

Over time, other clans moved into the area.

The name of Gold Creek is Dzantik'i Heeni. This became the name of the community. The name interpreted is the Starry Flounder. It ranges in weight from 5 to 20 pounds and it is a very special resource to the Tlingit people.

Resources of this area included fur-bearing animals, numerous amounts of salmon, especially king salmon and dog salmon. In the spring, the waters were milky with herring spawn, so the fish were plentiful in what we now know as the Juneau area. There were plentiful deer, mountain goat and a lot of blueberries, salmon berries, Hudson Bay tea, clams, cockles, mussels, gum boots, seal and most importantly good water.

When guns became available, such as muskets, the Native men in this area used soft/yellow stuff for their shot. They would carry their shot in a belt that they wore around their waste and would hunt mountain goat, deer and seal with the soft metal stuff that they carried in their belts. This yellow stuff turned out to be gold, thus the name of the corporation "Goldbelt Incorporated".

The gold is what brought the miners into Juneau and eventually canneries, lumber companies and finally the State of Alaska.

The community is famous for the story of Gunakadeit (Sea Monster Story) and the Gunaxéekw.akw (The Lucky Lady Story) The stories predicted good fortune for this community at the end of each story and they are powerful predictions about the future of this community. This community is an ancient Tlingit community.

