UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA

Anthropology and Historic Preservation
Cooperative Park Studies Unit

MEMORANDUM

TO: A.J., Jim, Bill, Linda
FROM: Jim
DATE: September 30, 1980
RE: A Chugach Place Name Gazetteer
The following gazetteer does two things. First, it cross references Native place names in Frederica de Laguna's *Chugach Prehistory* (1956) with those reported by Kaj Birket-Smith in *Chugach Eskimos* (1953), and, second, it attempts to provide an acceptable spelling for Native names originally reported by de Laguna in phonetic transcription. It is not surprising that place names found in each monograph should be complimentary, since, as we now know, de Laguna and Birket-Smith shared ethnographic responsibilities equally during the field work of 1933. The two works share approximately 43 names in common. De Laguna, however, reports 112 names, while Birket-Smith mentions 77, and a number of names, therefore, are unique to either monograph.

Jeff Leer of the Alaska Native Language Center took on the task of rendering these names in contemporary Chugach Alutiiq orthography. He would have preferred re-eliciting each of the names from Chugach Alutiiq speakers, but since this has not been possible, he had to rely on a number of clues for his final transcriptions, including the gloss mentioned by de Laguna or Birket-Smith and the recurrence of "roots" within names of like derivation, as well as the phonetic spellings themselves. Leer was not always successful in determining a probable transcription into Chugach Alutiiq, and in those cases where questions remained either in meaning or phonetic transliteration of the name, he so indicated with a question mark.

Some interesting observations emerge from this preliminary linguistic analysis of the place names. For example, it is believed that the name for Gravina Bay, *Isha*, may actually be an Eyak word, *išxah*, meaning "pot." Another name, *Trhatlaq* (Mummy Island), is rendered as *Etgallaq* ("always? shallow"), which is very interesting, since this name more closely approximates *Khtagaluk*, the Russian name for Hinchinbrook Island. If we can follow through with this
chain of suppositions convincingly, this determination would be of first rate historical importance, since it would clarify exactly who it was that the Russians first encountered during their early expeditions to Prince William Sound.

A Note on the Organization of the Names

Rather than alphabetically, I have arranged the phonetic transliterations with reference to where they appear in Chugach Prehistory. De Laguna's transcription is followed by her gloss or her brief description. Cross references to Birket-Smith are indicated in the parentheses following his name. Leer has found it useful to compare various names with examples found elsewhere in the list. He indicates this reference by the notation "cf p. 28.10," which refers to the tenth name appearing on page 28 of de Laguna.
1. **nutiymiut**  "Nuchek People"  **Birket-Smith (20):** Nutyirmiut  **Leer:** Nuucirmiut

2. **nut'ak**  "Nuchek"  **Leer:** Nuuciq, "Nuchek"

3. **i'qaqil**  (former name of Nuchek)

4. **nunat'iq**  Site 1. (oldest village in the Sound)  **Birket-Smith (145):** Nunatlaq  **Leer:** Nunalleq, "old village"

5. **paq'uaqaq**  (channel from Port Etches to Constantine Harbor)  **Leer:** Painguasaq, "small entrance"

6. **nujuq'uaqaq**  "Little Nuchek"  Site 2.  **Leer:** Nuucinguasaq, "little Nuchek"

---

1. **ucqil'uaqaq**  Site 3. from **ucqaq**—"winter" or "year"  **Leer:** Uksillenguasaq, "small one-who-wintered" (cf p. 30.6)

2. **qil-aq'gal-eq**  Site 4. (village or fort on refuge island at Johnstone Point  **Birket-Smith (139, 144):** Qilangalik  **Leer:** Qilangaleq? [Jeff not certain about this one; a similar word, qilangaq, means "tufted puffin"]

3. **xi-ydliaq**  Site 5. "Shining Bluffs"  **Birket-Smith (146, 160):** Qirhliaq;  (93, 113): Khikhliaq  **Leer:** Qirhliaq?, "gleaming, glistening"

4. **aq'il'iq**  Site 6. (village in Anderson Bay)  **Leer:** Ang'illeq?, "where there used to be grouse"

---

1. **txa'jaymiut**  "Shallow Water People"  **Birket-Smith (20):** Trhatlarmiut  **Leer:** Etgallermiut? Etgallarmiut?, "people of Etgallaq? or Etgalleq?"

2. **Teggallermiut**  **Birket-Smith (20):** Trhatlaq,  (Mummy Island) or (135): Trhetla, (village near Taukhtyuik)  **Leer:** Etgallaq? or Etgalleq?, "always? shallow"

3. **nunak'iq**  Site 7. "Big Village"  **Birket-Smith (152):** Nunaqtyuq  **Leer:** Nunakcak, "big land, town"

4. **aq'ilatuli**  Site 8. "Windy Place"  **Leer:** Aqllatuli
5. napalageaq (largest Pinnacle Rock in Boswell Bay) Leer: Napaliryaq? (possibly reference to having trees on it)

6. napalageqa'iq (2nd largest Pinnacle Rock in Boswell Bay)

7. qa'lluviqat Site 9. (camping place in Boswell Bay)

8. tu'qjilak Site 10. (cave in Boswell Bay) Leer: Tuullegliq? (based on word for 'loon') Tuullegalek(?)

9. Napalriangasaaq small one

1. tik'xtayuqaq Site 11. (summer campsite on Strawberry Point) Leer: Cikurtaruaq, "kind of icy"

2. qucugñi Site 12. "High Place" Leer: Quswarli(q)?, "elevated place"

3. qiq'luqqaq or qiq'luqqaq
Englungraq? Unglunguaraq
Leer: Englungraq/Unglunguaraq, "small babarara" or "den??"?; "small nest" Englungraq/ Unglunguaraq, "like a small ..."


5. tulug'uaq Site 15. "Camping Place" Leer: Culurtellenguasaaq, "small beached one" (cf p. 25.5)


1. q'avyuk Site 17. "Where Someone Cries" Birket-Smith (134): Qiyarvik, "Crying Place" Leer: Qiawik, "place of crying" (cf p. 30.3)

2. ang'ik Makarka Point Leer: Ang'ik?, "grouse?"

3. naga'ulik Site 18. (Devil's Rock) Birket-Smith (138, 144): Nagaualik or Naraualik(?), refuge rock at NW end of Canoe Pass

Naga'ulek

TC Naga'ulek
de Laguna, page 19 (cont.)

4. nun-aq Site 19. (camp or village on an island off Windy Bay)
   Leer: Nagaa'ulek, "one that has a standing rock island"

   Birket-Smith (154): Nunaq
   Leer: Nunarraq, "hardly a village?" or Nunaq, "village?" (cf p. 21.2)

5. ictam uqciJa Site 20. (village on SW end of Mummy Island)
   Leer: Iqtem Uksilla, "the den's wintered-one" or Aiggarta(a)let, "...hands..."

   Birket-Smith (158): Aikhartalik
   Leer: Igtem Uksilla.

de Laguna, page 20

1. u-nil ngq Site 24. (name for tiny grassy islet)
   Leer: Um'ilnguq, "one which has no fog"

2. vi-va-k'ik Site 25. (name of little island off S Point of Mummy Island)
   Leer: probably Wiiwalleq?, "old vertebra"

3. nan-a Site 26. (name for large island off Mummy Island)
   Leer: Nangen'a, "its thumb"

4. dxilnguq Site 27. (Grass Island)
   Leer: Ettallam (or Etgallem)

5. txalam Site 28. "Behind Mummy Island (Flats?)"
   Leer: Ettallam "behind Ettallam" (cf p. 15.2)

   "Behind Mummy Island (Flats?)"

   Kella, "behind Ettallam" (cf p. 15.2)

de Laguna, page 21

1. alukarmiut "Sheep Bay People"
   Leer: Alukarmiut
   Birket-Smith (20): Alukarmiut
   Leer: Aalukarmiut (cf p. 21.3)
   Kangirmiut from Kangiq, "people of the head of the bay"

2. nun'qam vaq?ia Site 30. (a village site)
   Leer: Nunaramaam Waggila
   Birket-Smith (161): Nunaramwaqilla, "below Nunarraq"
   Leer: Nunaramaam Waggiila, "place toward mouth of inlet from Nunarraq" (cf p. 19.4)

3. alu-kaq Site 31. "Namesake"
   Leer: Aalukaq, "namesake"
   Birket-Smith (20, 138): Alukaq
   Leer: Aalukaq, "namesake"
   (cf p. 21.1)

4. uqciJa Site 32. (winter settlement?)
   Leer: Uksilleq, "one who (which spent the winter"

   Birket-Smith (20, 138): Alukaq
   Leer: Aalukaq, "namesake"
   (cf p. 21.1)
1. ukumiqtuli (village to which Raven brought fire?)
   or
   uqumiqtuli
   Birket-Smith (164): Urumiertuli
   Leer: Uqumiqtuli or Uqumyagtuli, "lots of quartz/flint"??

2. atiaq-miut
   or
   icaq-miut
   Atyarmiut
   or
   Isharmiut
   Birket-Smith (20): Atyarmiut or Isharmiut
   Leer: Aciarmiut? (cf following)
   Is'armiut?, "people of waking-up"?? (cf p. 28.10)

3. atiat
   [Aciat]
   Site 33. "Underneath"
   Aciartguarmiut
   Birket-Smith (20, 137): Atyat
   Leer: Aciat, "underneath them"

4. nua
   Nuua
   Site 34. "Cache"
   Leer: Nuua(q), "hiding place" (cf p. 28.4)

---

de Laguna, page 24

1. kayak
   Qayarllit
   Leer: Qayalleq?, "old kayak" or Qayarlluk?, "bad kayak"

2. matan kan
   or
   taniyam
   nuyuk
   Leer: Macangqanaq?,
   possibly Tanyarram Nuguik

3. iqalvq
   (island named after man buried there)
   Leer: Iqalleq, "one that got dirty" or Iqalluk, "fish"

4. cala:J
   or
   tumyqialvq
   (unverified village in Gravina Bay)
   Leer: Salalleq?, "old clam" or Sala'alleg, "old cannery"
   Temngialek, "one that has geese" (cf Birket-Smith, p. 125)

5. atiat
   (site near Hell's Hole)
   Leer: See p. 22.3

6. gioryolvq
   (old settlement on lagoon near Hell's Hole)
   Leer: Igmuun, "throat"

7. igamdn
   (site at Humphry's Hole)
   Leer: Igmuun, "throat"

8. tati/yaqmiut
   "Tatitlek People"
   Tatitlekarmiut, "people of Tatililaaq"
   Leer: Tatilillaarmiut, "people of Tatililaq"

9. tati/yaq
   (Tatitlek)
   Tatililaq,
   "Windy Place"
   Leer: Tatililaq, (has to do with wind condition)

10. mam/taq
    "Smokehouse" (former name of Tatitlek)
    Leer: Mamtaaq, "smokehouse"
1. aimqiaq (village in Irish Cove)  
   Birket-Smith (137): Aimqaiq  
   Leer: Aimqiq
2. axtuqackcu-miq  
   Site 37. "Anybody Could Touch Me"  
   Fish Pt. in Fish Bay  
   Birket-Smith (137): Arhtuqashkshumiq  
   Leer: Agtuquaasqesuuniq, "wanting to tell someone to touch one lightly"
3. Ilusiti  
   Site 38. (village in Landlocked Bay)  
   Leer: Ilutii?, "interior of it"
4. kani'taurluq or nanuqghaniq  
   Site 39. (village or Boulder Bay)  
   Leer: Kangiraurluq?  
   Nanwarnalek, "one that has a lagoon"
5. quituxua or tuluxtaq  
   Site 40. (former settlement on island in Boulder Bay)  
   "Island" or "Camping Place"  
   Leer: Qikertaruaq?, something like an island; Culurtalleq, "used to be a beached (animal)" (cf p. 17.5)
6. palutaq  
   Site 41. (Busby Beach)  
   Leer: Palutaq?
7. keinu  
   Site 42. (Busby and Bligh islands)  
   Leer: Palutaq?
8. kagaqila or kani'am  
   Site 43. (small island between Busby and Bligh islands)  
   Leer: probably Kinguqilla, "the one following it"? Kangiyam Kelua, "upland from the bay"  
   Birket-Smith (21): Kangirtlumiut
   Leer: Kangirllugmiut?, "people of Kangirluk" (cf p. 27.9)
9. flock of
10. Site 44. (Palutat Cave)  
    Leer: Ciktarwik, "place for dunking heads/leaning over"? or Ciktaarwik, "place for trying to beat"? Ciktaruaq or Ciktaaruaq
6. makeli (small village in Unakwik Inlet) Birket-Smith (140): Makeli Leer: Maqili? (having to do with heat or steam bath)

7. Unakwik Inlet Leer: Un'a kuik, "that river down there")

8. nanuq'naqv Site 46. (old village in Unakwik Inlet) Leer: Nanwarnalek (cf p. 25.4)

9. kaqix'tvq "Corner" (village near mouth of Wells Bay) Birket-Smith (151): Kangirlluq Leer: Kangirlluk, "head of bay" (cf p. 27.2)

10. pukitum qu'qua (island in front of "Corner") Leer: Pukitum (?) Qungua

---

de Laguna, page 28

1. kanix'tvq (Kiniklik) Birket-Smith (21): Kangirlluq Leer: (cf 27.9) Kangirlluk

2. napalageaq (refuge island off Point Pellew) Leer: (cf p. 15.5)

3. axatiut Site 48. "Cormorants" Leer: Agayuut, "cormorants"

4. nuq'qaq Site 49. (summer camp N of Point Pellew) Leer: possibly Nuuwaruat, "something like hiding places" (cf p. 22.4)

5. uqciuvit Site 50. (a village in Esther Passage) Leer: Uksiwit, "places to spend the winter"

6. nanuq'naq (village site inside Harrison Lagoon) Leer: Nanwarna(ngua)saaq?, "small lagoon"

7. oqotu or tuxtaq (camping place at head of Passage Canal) Leer: ? probably Tugcaaq, "portage"

8. tuxtaq (Passage Canal) Leer: (cf preceding)

9. tani'miut "Chenega People" Leer: Canirmiut, "people of the side"?

10. ica (village in Hidden Bay?) Leer: Isha, (Gravina Bay) Birket-Smith (21): Tyanirmiut

11. ica pugjani Leer: Eyak word: išxah, "pot" (cf p. 22.2)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Leer</th>
<th>Birket-Smith</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11. naxqua'ag 53.</td>
<td>(site on island at mouth of Ewan Bay)</td>
<td>Nagkwalleq, &quot;one that was burned&quot;</td>
<td>Leer: Nagkwalleq, &quot;one that was burned&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. ajeqvik</td>
<td>&quot;Good Weather Place&quot; (summer settlement in Jackpot Bay)</td>
<td>Leer: Asiqulek?, &quot;one that has continuous good weather&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. napalageaxqam 54.</td>
<td>(site on small island off mouth of Jackpot Bay)</td>
<td>Leer: Ing’im Acia, &quot;below the mountain&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. i’g-im at’-ia</td>
<td>&quot;Under the Mountain&quot; (Chenega Village)</td>
<td>Qiawik (cf p. 19.1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. q’layvik</td>
<td>Site 56. (a summer camp near Chenega)</td>
<td>Leer: Qiawik (cf p. 19.1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. akiqqaq</td>
<td>(summer camp on east side of Chenega Island)</td>
<td>Leer: Akiqqaq, &quot;opposite side&quot;?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. judyun</td>
<td>(summer camp on the west side of Chenega Island)</td>
<td>Leer: Liuy’un?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. uqciiluqacaq</td>
<td>Site 57. &quot;The Village Where They Used to Spend the Winter&quot;</td>
<td>Leer: Uksillenguasaq (cf p. 14.1)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. tayyulik</td>
<td>&quot;Silver Salmon Place&quot; (summer village near mouth of Chenega Bay)</td>
<td>Leer: Caayulek, &quot;one that has silver salmon&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. wiyik</td>
<td>Site 60. (village on N shore of Bay of Isles)</td>
<td>Leer: Werngayik or Wegngayik??</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. agiaktunit</td>
<td>Site 61. (village site on Bainbridge Island)</td>
<td>Leer: Anyartulit or Anyartunit?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. panxat</td>
<td>(site on Bainbridge Island)</td>
<td>Leer: Painerraat?, &quot;recently formed mouths (of creeks, etc.)&quot;</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
de Laguna, page 31 (cont.)

4. cuqluŋmiut  "Montague Island People"
   Birket-Smith (21): Shuqlurmiut
   Leer: Sukllurmiut, "people of Suklluq"

5. cuqluŋq (Montague Island)
   Birket-Smith (21): Shuqluq
   Leer: Suklluq

6. maŋ-kkanat Site 63. "Sunshine TC. Macangeeqaq , Macam
   Birket-Smith (135): Matyangknat
   Leer: (cf p. 24.2)

de Laguna, page 32

1. ṭayuanaq Site 64.  
   Leer: Carwaneq, "current"

2. uqciŋq Site 65.  
   Leer: Uksilleq, "one who spent
   the winter" (cf p. 14.1, 21.4)

de Laguna, page 33

1. atxaq (unverified village in Stockdale Harbor)

2. nunatähraàq  
   Leer: Nunacungaq? or Nanacengaq?, "(cute) little town"

de Laguna, page 34

1. puyuŋnit (unverified site at Point Gilmour)
   Leer: Puyurnit, "nagoonberries (wineberries)"

2. qauggia Site 67. "Gravel"
   Birket-Smith (148, 149): Qaugiaq
   Leer: Qauggia(q), "gravel"

3. uqci-uvnit "Winter Place" (name for Wooded Island)
   Leer: Uksiwiit (cf p. 28.5)

Birket-Smith: names on Hinchinbrook Island

Shapulut  p. 45; creek into Constantine Harbor
   Leer: Sapuulut, "weirs"

Nanuaranarait p. 161; village below Nunaqtyuk
   Leer: (has to do with nanwarnaq, "lagoon")

Qilagat  p. 154; mountain above Constantine Harbor
   Leer: Qilagaat?, "roof of their mouth?"
Birket-Smith: names on Hinchinbrook Island (cont.)

Qathukhtuli p. 161; village near Boswell Bay  
Leer: possibly Qat'egyugtuli, "having lots of ptarmigan"

Qangaillik p. 145

Napalarianguashaq p. 130; Little Porpoise Rock  
Leer: Napaliriyanguasaag? (cf de Laguna 15.5 and 15.6) -ngusaag, "small"

Iram-Qadlir-uvarvia p. 134; Devil's Whistle (rock in Double or Anderson Bay)  
Leer: Iiraaq Qal'iruarvia, "Devil's kind-of-yelling place"

Atunguaq p. 134; hill above Nuchek  
Leer: Atunguaq?, "little song?"

Adlium-Shturnera p. 134; mountain above Constantine Harbor entrance  
Leer: ? Sturnera, (stretching of legs)

Birket-Smith: names on Hawkins Island

Iralik p. 144; lagoon near Makarka Point  
Leer: Iiralek?, "having devils?" or Iraliq?, "moonshine"

Nugaq p. 144; North Island  
Leer: Nug'aq?, "something threaded through"

Paungnaruat TC? p. 134; brown bears?  
Leer: Paungnaruat or Paungnaruat, "something like the bears?"

Laqlaruat p. 134; "brown bears" two stones at Paungnaruat  
Leer: Laqlaruat, "something like brown bears"

qitxu·k p. 134; "frogs?" two stones north of Paungnaruat  
Leer: Qetgayuuk?, "two frogs"

Qagiat-Ingriat p. 134; Seal Cr. Mountain; so. of Laqlaruat  
Leer: Qaigiyat Ingriat, "Seals' Mountain"

Shukluruni-linguq p. 144; beach above Makarka Point  
Leer: possibly Sukllurniilnguq, "not a good place for Suklluq (Montague Island)" (cf p. 31.5)

Arhuartulik p. 144; head of Cordova Bay  
Leer: Arwartuliq, "one that has a lot of whales"

Arwartuliq Onca Inlet & Cordova Bay
### Birket-Smith: Miscellaneous Names

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aguitlkuraq</td>
<td>p. 145; &quot;Impossible to Cross&quot; (rocky headland on mainland)</td>
<td>Leer: Agqiillquruaq, &quot;something like...&quot; Agwiillquq, &quot;impossible to go over&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nashqulinguarwik</td>
<td>p. 128; &quot;Headache Mountain&quot;; north side of Valdez Narrows</td>
<td>Leer: Nasqulngunarwik?, &quot;place that gives one a headache&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigaruvik</td>
<td>p. 39; &quot;Snaring Place&quot;; bare rock off Port Gravina</td>
<td>Leer: Negarwik, &quot;snaring place&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tingmialik</td>
<td>p. 125; smokehouse site on beach in Gravina Bay</td>
<td>Leer: Tengmialek, &quot;one that has geese&quot; (=Temngilek: cf p. 24.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulukaq</td>
<td>p. 156; &quot;Looking Like a Tongue&quot;; village on Knight Island</td>
<td>Leer: Ulukaq (from Kod. 'ulu')</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YurhtyuTik</td>
<td>p. 118, 129; dangerous place near Chenega</td>
<td>Leer: (same as above?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalukat</td>
<td>p. 21; former village of Tyanirmiut</td>
<td>Leer: Kalukat, &quot;wooden bowls&quot;? &quot;parties&quot;?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalugat</td>
<td>p. 156; small islands near Chenega</td>
<td>Leer: (same as above?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidlujun</td>
<td>p. 163; village near Chenega</td>
<td>Leer: possibly Keluiyun?, &quot;way to go behind (village or natural obstacle)&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyaniraq</td>
<td>p. 21; &quot;Woodless Place&quot; or &quot;Across&quot;; a point east of Chenega</td>
<td>Leer: (candlefish?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qutyuaq</td>
<td>p. 155; Middleton Island</td>
<td>Leer: (candlefish?)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>