

# Carrier Baby Names

By Bill Poser



CARRIER SEKANI  
FAMILY SERVICES

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# PREFACE

This book contains two kinds of traditional Carrier names. The oldest names are the native names, used prior to, and in the early stages of, European contact. Such names went out of use very quickly once the Roman Catholic Church arrived in the mid-19th century, so we have only limited records and memories of them.

In general, the native names were not gender-specific. A name could be born by either a man or a woman. There was, however, a type of name, always ending in -nan, that was reserved for women. We therefore list native common names (that is, common to the two sexes) and native women's names, but no native men's names, since there were no names born only by men.

Prior to European contact, a person typically had several names during his or her lifetime. At birth a child would be given a name, often a name that described the circumstances of birth, especially if they were unusual. A name like Ts'oocheh, "at the base of a spruce tree," would be given to a child born in the shelter of a spruce tree. As a child got older, he or she might be given a new name describing some characteristic of his or her appearance or behaviour. Still later, as an adult, a person might take a new name based on an experience in a dream.

Some of the native names are marked [prophet]. These are names that are known to have been chosen by prophets. In the first part of the 19th century, there was what is now called the "Prophet Movement," a religious movement led by native people who had had some contact with Europeans and had adopted certain ideas and practices of Christianity which they blended with traditional beliefs. One of the practices that the leaders, or "prophets," adopted was baptism, including the taking of a baptismal name. In general, these names have no known meaning, although some of them contain parts that sound like French or English words.

Note that there is no gender in Carrier. When we translate a name with "he" or "she," e.g. "his mind" or "she went hunting," this is only for the convenience of not having to write "he or she," and "his or her."

Although some native names were complex or of unknown meaning, almost any noun that seemed suitable could also be used as a name. Names of animals and birds were particularly common. We have therefore provided a list of nouns that seem suitable for use as names.

If you are tempted to use a name that you have heard that is not listed here, you should take care to find out whether it is an ordinary given name or an 'uza name, the title of a "hereditary chief" in a clan system. Some historical figures are known only by their 'uza name, or by a name of unclear status. It is not appropriate to give a child an 'uza name without the approval of the clan leaders and the appropriate potlatches.

With the arrival of the Catholic Church, the native names began to be replaced by the names of French saints given by the priest at baptism. These names were adapted to the sound system of Carrier. In addition to these names borrowed from French, a few names were borrowed from English.



**Blankets that were gifted to families at a Nadleh Whut'en Baby Welcoming Event, 2020.**

The suffixes -yaz ᑭᑦ “small” and -cho ᑭᑦ “large” can be added to any name. They can have a literal meaning, with -yaz applied to a small person and -cho to a large person, but more commonly, -yaz has an endearing sense and -cho is used to indicate that the person is important or respected. -yaz and -cho may also be used to distinguish two people with the same name, with -yaz added to the younger person’s name, -cho to the older person’s name.

The names in this book are, strictly speaking, only for Carrier in the narrow sense, that is, not including Babine (including the Takla Lake dialect) and Witsuwit’en. While Babine and Witsuwit’en are closely related to Carrier, their sound systems are significantly different from that of Carrier in the narrow sense as a result of which they are written in a different writing system. There are also some differences in the names themselves, especially in Witsuwit’en.

The words proposed as suitable for names are not always the same in all dialects. We have

therefore provided the various dialectal forms where they are known to differ. The system used for specifying dialects is based on the following family tree:

- Stuart Lake
- Southern
- Fraser-Nechako
- Cheslatta
- Stelako
- Nadleh
- Stoney Creek
- Lheidli
- Blackwater
- Ulkatcho
- Kluskus
- Nazko
- Red Bluff

There is one feature that cross-cuts this classification of the dialects, namely whether a word has a *a* or *o* in certain contexts. The dialects with *a* are described as the “Southwestern” dialects. These are: Ulkatcho, Cheslatta, and Stelakoh.



# Borrowed Women's Names

[illegible]

Lozali	ᠯᠵᠠᠯᠢ	English Rosalie
Luwiz	ᠯᠤᠠᠪᠢᠵᠢ	French Louise
Madil	ᠮᠠᠳᠢᠯᠢ	French Mathilde
Mali	ᠮᠠᠯᠢ	French Marie
Malin	ᠮᠠᠯᠢᠨ	English Marlene
Mandin	ᠮᠠᠨᠳᠢᠨ	French Clémentine
Mari	ᠮᠠᠷᠢ	French Marie
Marluwiz	ᠮᠠᠷᠯᠤᠠᠪᠢᠵᠢ	French Marie-Louise
Melya	ᠮᠡᠯᠢᠶᠠ	French Amélia
Melyan	ᠮᠡᠯᠢᠶᠠᠨ	French Marianne
Salat	ᠰᠠᠯᠠᠲᠤ	French Charlotte
Sela'	ᠰᠡᠯᠠ'	English Sarah
Seli	ᠰᠡᠯᠢ	French Julie
Sisel	ᠰᠡᠰᠢᠯᠢ	French Cécile
Sisilya	ᠰᠡᠰᠢᠯᠢᠶᠠ	French Cécilia
Soofi	ᠰᠣᠣᠫᠢ	French Sophie
Soozamni	ᠰᠣᠣᠵᠠᠮᠨᠢ	Blend of Susan and Annie
Zeza	ᠵᠡᠵᠠ	French Francisca
Zodi	ᠵᠣᠳᠢ	English Jody or Judy
Zooli	ᠵᠣᠷᠢ	French Julie
Zoolyet	ᠵᠣᠷᠢᠶᠡᠲᠤ	French Juliette



Bekom	ᐃᐃᐅ
Belnar	ᐃᐃᐅᐅ
Bida'	ᐃᐃᐅ'
Bidal	ᐃᐃᐅᐅ
Bidalin	ᐃᐃᐅᐅᐅ
Biyer	ᐃᐃᐅᐅ
Bola	ᐃᐃᐅ
Chali	ᐃᐃᐅᐅ
Chalus	ᐃᐃᐅᐅᐅ
Dabit	ᐃᐃᐅᐅᐅ
Damya	ᐃᐃᐅᐅᐅ
Debin	ᐃᐃᐅᐅᐅ
Dogun	ᐃᐃᐅᐅᐅ
Dominek	ᐃᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅ
Domus	ᐃᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅ
Donek	ᐃᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅ
Duma	ᐃᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅ
Edwar	ᐃᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ

Fraswe	frᐱsᐅ	French François
Gasbar	ᐸsᐱ+	French Gaspard
Gasya	ᐸsᐱ	French Gracien
Goosdada	ᐱsᐱᐱ	French Constantin
Handali	ᐱᐅᐱᐅ	French Henri
Ibo	ᐅA	French Yvon
Ibolet	ᐅAᐅᐅ	French Yves Paulette
Imel	ᐅᐅᐅ	French Emile
Izidor	ᐅᐅᐅ+	French Isidore
Jimus	ᐅᐅs	English James
Joozef	ᐅᐅf	French Joseph
Kiom	ᐅᐅᐅ	French Guillaume (William)
Kuyom	ᐅᐅᐅ	French Guillaume (William)
Leyo	ᐅᐅ	French Léon
Leyon	ᐅᐅᐅ	French Léon
Lorun	ᐅᐅᐅᐅ	French Laurence
Lubya	ᐅᐅᐅ	French la pierre (the stone)
Luwi	ᐅᐅᐅ	French Louis
Luzar	ᐅᐅᐅ+	French Lazare
Majas	ᐅᐅs	French Mathias
Majaz	ᐅᐅz	French Mathias
Mak	ᐅᐅ	French Marc
Mishel	ᐅᐅᐅ	French Michel
Molis	ᐅᐅs	French Maurice
Moris	ᐅᐅᐅs	French Maurice
Moyiz	ᐅᐅz	French Moïse
Nuwe	ᐅᐅᐅ	French Noë (Noah)
Ogis	ᐅᐅs	French Auguste
Oozen	ᐅᐅᐅ	French Eugène
Plaswe	ᐅᐅᐅsᐅ	French François
Salamo	ᐅᐅᐅ	French Solomon
Simo	ᐅᐅᐅ	French Simon
Siza	ᐅᐅᐅ	French César
Unadol	ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ	French Anatole
Za	ᐅᐅ	French Jean
Zafiluk	ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ	French Jean-Félix
Zamari	ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ	French Jean-Marie
Zambadis	ᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅs	French Jean-Baptiste

Zammari	ᑕᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ	French Jean-Marie
Zan	ᑕᑦ	French Jean
Zanfiluk	ᑕᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ	French Jean-Félix
Zapiluk	ᑕᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦᑭᑦ	French Jean-Félix
Zooda	ᑕᑦ	French Judas
Zoolyan	ᑕᑦᑭᑦ	French Julien
Zoosda	ᑕᑦᑭᑦ	French Justin



# Native Women's Names

Carrier Name	Syllabics	Meaning
'Aiteḡnan	'ᐱᐢᐅᐃᓂᐤ	Unknown
Bulhk'editnan	ᐅᐤᐱᐅᐤᐤᐤ	For the love of sleep
Bulhnasatnan	ᐅᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	She went down with the sun
Bulhtayitnan	ᐅᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Amidst dreams
Ditnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Thundering
Dohghatantnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	"Tree moss" + unknown
Dulhladitnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Buds
Dunoontnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Unknown
D zulhnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Mountain
D zulhyoanan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Interior of a mountain
Gebitnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Unknown
Goonan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	A point up against some-thing
Ihtnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	She got diminished
Katiḡnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	She went hunting
Koniḡnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	She went through
Kw'ust'ah'atnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	In a cavity under the clouds
Lhaḡnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Unknown
Lhtacheintnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Scales of a beaver tail
Naḡnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Surrounded by
Nediḡnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	She picks berries
Neghooḡnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	She is called after everything
Nilhnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Mind
Slanbenuḡnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Unknown
Tantnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Being amidst
Tinch'uditnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Out of the way
Tootantnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	She left it among the waves
Toots'unatiḡnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	She returned to the water
Tunashundiḡnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	She dived singing
Tsi'teḡnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	That good for nothing person went off
Tset'ainan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Under a rock
Tsihditnan	ᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤᐤ	Ochre



# Native Common Names

Carrier Name	Syllabics	Meaning
Adona	ᐱᐅᐱ	Unknown
Anani	ᐱᐅᐱ	Unknown
Awhulhts'ih	ᐱᐅᐱᐱᐱ	Unknown
Basbo'	ᐱᐅᐱ	Unknown
Bedincha	ᐱᐅᐱᐱ	It (container) is large
Beni	ᐱᐅᐱ	His mind
Bulhtsazul	ᐱᐅᐱᐱᐱ	With him the heat of the sun
Bulut	ᐱᐅᐱ	His smoke [Southern, not Stoney Creek]
Bunawhudilhsih	ᐱᐅᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ	It appears in the distance
Cha'ez	ᐱᐅᐱᐱ	Trampled over his ribs
Daya	ᐱᐅᐱ	Unknown
Deba	ᐱᐅᐱ	Unknown
Dich'ohniya	ᐱᐅᐱᐱᐱᐱ	He walks by himself
Dich'ohnuyeh	ᐱᐅᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ	He grows by himself
Dulchun	ᐱᐅᐱᐱ	Unknown
Dushih	ᐱᐅᐱᐱ	Unknown
Dzon	ᐱᐅᐱ	Unknown
Elmok	ᐱᐅᐱᐱ	Unknown
Gulboo	ᐱᐅᐱᐱ	Unknown
Guminal	ᐱᐅᐱᐱᐱ	Unknown
Guzi	ᐱᐅᐱᐱ	Unknown
Hol	ᐱᐅᐱ	Unknown [prophet]
Kaosdli	ᐱᐅᐱᐱᐱ	Unknown
Keba	ᐱᐅᐱᐱ	Edge of the foot
Ketoo	ᐱᐅᐱᐱ	Foot water
Khulcho	ᐱᐅᐱᐱᐱ	Their feet are as big as one another
Kw'eh	ᐱᐅᐱᐱ	Unknown
Lalah	ᐱᐅᐱᐱ	Unknown
Lataniyelh	ᐱᐅᐱᐱᐱᐱ	It grows on the hands
Leno	ᐱᐅᐱᐱ	Unknown





Zamedloo	ᑕᑭᑭᑦ	Unknown
Zamejal	ᑕᑭᑭᑦᑭᑦ	Unknown [prophet]
Zamol	ᑕᑭᑦ	Unknown [prophet]
Zamtula	ᑕᑭᑕᑕᑕ	Unknown [prophet]
Zamza	ᑕᑕᑕ	Unknown [prophet]
Zantula	ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ	Last among the Johns [prophet]



# Words Suitable for Use as Native Names

Meaning	Carrier Word	Syllabics
Bald Eagle	Tsibalyan [Stony Creek, Stuart Lake]	ᑭᑦᑦᑦ
	Tsebalyan [others]	ᑭᑦᑦᑦ
Barrow's Goldeneye duck	Tl'albaiya [Stuary Lake]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
	Tl'albaiyaz [Stoney Creek]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
Beaver	Tsa	ᑦᑦ
Bee	Ts'ihna	ᑭᑦᑦᑦ
Belted Kingfisher	Tsich'ul	ᑭᑦᑦᑦ
Black Bear	Sus	ᑭᑦᑦ
Blue Grouse	Dihcho	ᑦᑦᑦᑦ
Blue Jay	Tehgoozih [Stuart Lake]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
	Tehgwuzih [Stelako]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
	Tehgwuzeh [Other Southern]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
Bumblebee	Tl'alhk'az	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
Butterfly	Tsangwelht'ah [Stuart Lake]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
	Tsagwelht'ah [Lheidli]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
	Tsagwulht'ah [Stoney Creek]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
	Tsagulht'ai [Cheslatta]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
Cariboo	Whudzih	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
Caterpillar	'Ut'angoo	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
Chipmunk	Solius [Stuart Lake]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
	Ts'uwhuljos [Southern]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
Coyote	Chuntulhi [Cheslatta, Nadleh, Stuart Lake]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
	Tintulhi [Others]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
Cricket	Nulhdai [Stuart Lake]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
	Nanduz [Southern]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
Crow	Datsan	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
Deer	Yests'e	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
Dragonfly	Nuk'atun [Stuart Lake]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ
	Tank'uztilh [Southern]	ᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦᑦ



Muskrat	<u>T</u> sek'et	ᑭᑭᑦ
Otter	Nulhdzook [Blackwater]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	tsis [Others]	ᑭᑭᑦ
Packrat	Dlooncho [Stuart Lake]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	Looncho [Lheidli, Stoney Creek]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	Dlimcho [Nadleh, Stelako]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	Dloomcho [Cheslatta]	ᑭᑭᑦ
Porcupine	Duck'ukw [Nadleh, Stoney Creek, Stuart Lake]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	Jats'un [Blackwater]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	Yats'un [Cheslatta]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	Ts'it [Lheidli]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	'Ujunih [Stelako]	ᑭᑭᑦ
Rabbit	Gah [Southwest]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	Goh [Others]	ᑭᑭᑦ
Rainbow	Ditnibilh [Stuart Lake]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	Ditnik nananguz [Cheslatta]	ᑭᑭᑦ
Raven	Datsancho	ᑭᑭᑦ
Robin	<u>S</u> oh [Stuart Lake]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	<u>S</u> ewh [Lheidli, Stoney Creek]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	Sooh [Cheslatta, Nadleh, Stelako]	ᑭᑭᑦ
Rose	Whuschun	ᑭᑭᑦ
Ruffed Grouse	'Utsut	ᑭᑭᑦ
Sandpiper	Wadlaw [Stuart Lake]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	Wedlew [Southern]	ᑭᑭᑦ
Sheep	'Uᑭbai	ᑭᑭᑦ
Skunk	Hoonliz	ᑭᑭᑦ
Snow Shower	Tulhjus	ᑭᑭᑦ
Spruce Grouse	Nat'ah [Southwest]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	Nat'oh [Others]	ᑭᑭᑦ
Squirrel	Tsaluk [Nadleh, Stelako, Stuart Lake]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	Nats'ildelh [Lheidli, Stoney Creek]	ᑭᑭᑦ
	Dluk [Blackwater, Cheslatta]	ᑭᑭᑦ
Star	<u>S</u> um	ᑭᑭᑦ

Sucker	Goosbai [Stuart Lake]	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
	Dugoos [Nadleh, Stoney Creek]	ᑭᑭᓄᑭ
	Goosibai [Blackwater, Cheslatta, Lheidli]	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
Sunflower	Sa'indai [Stuart Lake]	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
	Sa'isdak [Stoney Creek]	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
	Sa'indak [Others]	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
Swallow	'Uᑭᓄᑭ	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
Swan	Tᑭᓄᑭ	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
Water Lily	Khelht'aᑭ	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
Weasel	Nahbai [Southwestern]	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
	Nohbai [Others]	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
Whiskey Jack	Goozih [Stuart Lake]	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
	Gwuzih [Stelako]	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
	Gwuzeh [Other Southern]	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
Willow	K'uidli [Lheidli, Stoney Creek]	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
	K'idli [Others]	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
Wolf	Yus	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
Wolverine	Noostel	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
Woodpecker	Duchundult'o [Stuart Lake]	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
	Duchundulkw'uz [Stoney Creek]	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ
	Chundulkw'uz [Lheidli]	ᑭᓄᑭᐅ





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