



John Carmichael

VAGÒONLII: Jideendoo Ts'an 21, 1932

NIJÌN VAGÒONLII: Aklavik gwizhìt

VIYÙUGHWÀN KAT: Frank ts'at
Caroline Carmichael kat hàh

GWICH'IN: Ehdìtat Gwich'in

GOONJIK: Pearl Harrison v'azhìi,
Aklavik gwizhìt Divii Zrìi' 14, 1957 dàr'

VITR'IININ KAT: Dolly (Isabelle), Harry
ts'at Arlene kat hàh

BORN: December 21, 1932

BIRTHPLACE: Aklavik, NT

PARENTS: Frank and Caroline
Carmichael

GWICH'IN: Ehdii Tat Gwich'in

MARRIED: Pearl Harrison in Aklavik,
November 14, 1957

CHILDREN: Dolly (Isabelle), Harry and
Arlene



Njik danh gwìnjì' dük'àyahthat, dachaa Freddy ts'at deejii Elizabeth Blake kat hàh. Nits'oots'at dük'agahthat t'at jùk drin vàh shòh nili. Troo t'ih, lyuu eelil anjòo kat eenjit ts'at geet'ak lùh ch'uh tsal gùts'an ałtsau gòo nili gau tsal. "Duuyeh tsèed-hòh uudiid'akat," jùu nuh. Ezhik dàr' t'at g'gwadhan ts'at gwiye'e'oo gwunzi duy'ah gwik'it gwuid'andaih nuh. John zrit shik dachan tat khy'ah t'agwaa'u' dàr' usrits'at vàh gòonli gehkhee ts'at dahanh ts'at diti' hàh akòo t'eedi'in' geenjit gwunzi ganadh'andaih. Au t'ee chaa njòo nili dàr', anjòo kat hàh ddhah tat nahdadal, jiju Lazarus Sittichinli akòo ts'at Harry Harrison kat hàh geevanh ch'uzhii. "Gwunlet goov'ah guk'anadhilnjik," ahnuu. Lau hàh gwitr'it t'agwah'u, vàdzaih eenjit natr'aazrii, nuvyah zeh gwadhòh natr'inuntthau ts'at aih chilghat gehkhee ts'at than' t'unch'uu dàr' nits'òots'at adik'anahtu geenjit, jidii tthak anjòo kat guk'ighe' jùk gahshandaih nuh.

John zrit diti'anjòo Aklavik gwizhìt nihkh'ah nag'oo au t'ee Divii Zrìi', 1957 dàr' gòonjik Anglican Church danh. Ezhik dàr' kh'ah'ts'at atr'aadzoo gooveenjit gogw'atsau. Nihkh'ah jùk at'at tr'uinin tik gid'i: Dolly, Harry chan ts'at Arlene kat hàh t'agunch'uh. Jùk drin t'at John vichii neekau di'u; nich'it nili Edmonton gwizhìt gwandau ts'at chaa t'unch'uu jùu goov'ah gwich'in.

Jùk drin anjòo dhidlit zrit, John zrit nits'oots'at k'eejit kat dachan tat gogwandau geenjit ga'oonah'tan dhidlit ts'at shik dakauk'it gwats'at nagahdadal ezhik danh gagoonah'tan geenjit d'ujidizhit. "Jùk at'at chan tr'uinin kat sh'ah geedah,"

jùu nuh ts'at, "k'eejit drin tik gw'anoo gool'at kat sh'ah gich'uu'oo ts'at yeendo drin k'ideetak chan akòo t'ahish'aa t'ag'òonch'uh. Leu guk'agaanjih." Tthak nakhwakauk'it gwunzi nakhw'ah gòonli geenjit shòh nili ts'at tth'aih akòo t'agiheedi'yaa geenjit d'ujidizhit nuh. K'eejit kat ts'at chan gwandak goots'an ahtsu zrit, "Au k'eejit kat chan dachan tat t'agunch'uh dàr' shòh gunli geenjit ts'at shin dàr' jak tr'inahtsu geenjit khagilchi' ts'at chihvyah tr'inah'in dàr'." Digi'yùughwàn kat tth'aih ju tthak gagoov'oonah'tan zrit nundhan ts'at jidii tthak gook'yuu usrits'at goov'ah goonli geenjit d'ujidizhit.



John Carmichael was born and raised in Aklavik at a place called Peel River, with his one brother Fred and stepsister Elizabeth Blake. The way in which John was raised, is what he is most appreciative of today. He remembers cutting wood and hauling ice for the elders, and in return he would receive a small piece of bannock or drymeat. "We never asked for money," he says. It was simply "a better way of life." John reminisces on the days when he and his family would go out on the trapline, and specifically remembers trapping with his mother and hunting with his father. In his later teen years, John would go hunting in the mountains with his elders Old Lazarus Sittichinli and Harry Harrison. "I learnt so much from them," he says. From working with dog teams, hunting caribou, setting up camp,

learning to snowshoe and how to take care of himself if he was alone, John says he owes his survival knowledge to the elders of his day.

John met his wife in Aklavik and was married in an Anglican church in November of 1957. They celebrated their wedding day with a feast. Together, John and his wife had three children: Dolly (Isabelle), Harry and Arlene. Today, John has two grandchildren, his sixteen-year-old granddaughter who currently lives in Edmonton, and his 12-year-old grandson who now lives with John and his wife.

As an elder today, John is proactive in teaching young people how to live in the traditional Gwich'in ways by taking them out on the land. "I'm taking kids out right now," he says "I had one set out three days ago for five days, and I'll be taking more in the next couple of weeks. They learn quite a bit." John is pleased that the communities are getting along these days, and would like to see them carry on this way. And as for the youth, "The children like it out there, especially in the Spring when they can go berry picking and fishing." He hopes that parents will continue to teach their children what is vitally a part of not only their past, but their culture as well.