



Sarah Jane Firth

NIJÙK DÀI' VAGÒONLIH: Gwilyuu Zrii' 25, 1924 dài'

NIJÌN VAGÒONLIH: Chii Dèetak danh

VIYÙUGHWÀN KAT: Abraham ts'at Sarah Francis

GWICH'IN: Teet'it Gwich'in

VATR'ÒONJIK: (1st) Joseph Martin, (2nd) Bennett Firth

VITR'IININ KAT: John, James, Richard, Ken

BORN: May 25, 1924

BIRTHPLACE: Rock River, YT

PARENTS: Abraham and Sarah Francis

GWICH'IN: Teet'it Gwich'in

MARRIED: 1st husband: Joseph Martin (d. 1952), 2nd husband: Ben Firth (d. 2000)

Sarah Jane yi'eedak Chii Dèetak danh vagòonlii, May 25, 1924 dài'. Tr'iinin its'iteech'y' neekaii gòonlii tat goochit t'iinch'uu viyùughwàn kat Abraham ts'at Sarah Francis goonich'it t'iinch'uu gwàt vitsuu Annie Vaneltsi (At'oh Ts'aii) diik'iyahthat dài' goots'at tr'iinjik. Nich'it tsal nilii dài' shik dachantat gwà'an gwiindai', aii t'ee Hay River School gwits'at nitr'inyahchih, aii tthak gwàts'at vágwijaht'oh dhidlit. Ats'andòo School gihdè'tr'idiniintinh geenjit Teet'it Zheh gwits'ee chidhizhii dizhehk'oo ts'at.

1942 dài' t'at, Sarah Jane didinjii tr'oochit Joseph Martin vatr'òonjik. Teet'it Zheh danh nihkhat'agwàhnjik, lavàsdàa ts'at atr'aadzoo gooveenjit gogwàtsaii. Vitri'inin kat gwiinzii gogwiindai' gogòonlii dài', ninaach'uh srihee. K'eejit giinlih guuzhik gooti' 1952 dài' vakwaa. Tth'aih hee digizheh lòo gwiinzii gooveenjit gwàtsaii. Than' guk'anahtii geenjit geetak hee goodhii gòodlit guugaa zrit gooveenjit gwiinzii gagooniltinh geenjit shòh nilii. Tthak gahgiheedandaii geenjit diinjizhit ts'at gwitr'it tthak gagootr'oonahntan gwàt jidii tthak àhdàndaii giik'yàanjik.

1979 dài' gwànoo t'at, Sarah Jane zrit Ben Firth naonjik ts'at chaa neekaii gootr'òonjik ts'at diik'agiinjik, aii kat chan tth'aih vak'anahtii. Khanhts'at, September 2000 dài' Ben chan naniindhat. Juk drin Sarah Jane soogàii ts'ik hàh gwandaii gwàt geetak hee srugòonch'uu gogwahtsaii dài' gootee nidhizhii. Dalak kat chan geetak veenihee geenjit shòh nilii vicheii kat chan gook'anahtii, juudin geenjit yijnjigwichil'eh.

Sarah Jane akòo dinuu zrit shik k'eejit kat chan goots'at ginohkhii ts'at agadanh

nihts'at gigiinkhii aii t'at gwiye'eoo iisrits'at gòonlii. Viyùughwàn kat ts'at giinkhii geenjit shòh nilii akòots'ants'at diik'igijii ji' chan gwiheezaa. Geetak hee nakhoodahkat ji' iinch'its'at gwidii ginohkhii gwiheezaa. Juk at'at chan, diyùughwàn kat iinli' aii chan veenjit iisrits'at gidilii gwik'iit'uu gwiinlit àhdàndaih. "Khanaandaii geenjit giik'yàanjii gashuuniltinh ts'at dinjii kat ts'at ginihkhii geenjit chan," jùunuu, "shik aii geenjit ha' goovoojihnuh.

Sarah Jane Firth was born at Rock River, Yukon on May 25th, 1924. Sarah was the eldest of seven siblings raised by her parents Sarah and Abraham Francis, with her grandmother Annie Vaneltsi (T'oh Ts'aii) who played a special role in her upbringing. For the first nine years of her life she remained in the bush with her family, but was then sent to school in Hay River. Sarah considers both her years spent living in the bush and her years spent studying at school to have been an equally enriching educational experiences. The school she was attending in Hay River closed in 1937, after which she returned to live with her family.

In 1942, Sarah met her first husband Joe Martin, in Fort McPherson. They were married in the bush and marked their day with a feast and dance. Sarah bore four healthy boys, John (who passed away), Richard & James (twins) and the youngest boy, Ken. Although the boys' father passed away while they were still very young, he had provided them with a good home. Sarah recalls the difficulty

she encountered while parenting alone, she remembers working very hard to teach her boys everything they needed to know. She raised her children to be resourceful, and attributes all her life experiences to her capacity to teach such things.

In 1979, Sarah married Ben Firth and they adopted and raised two boys who still take care of her today. Sadly, Ben passed away in September 2000. Today Sarah is living with diabetes but still partakes in events in her community whenever she is able to. She still invites visitors into her home and its taken care of by her grandchildren, who she is very fond of.

Sarah believes in the importance of talking to children and engaging them to always communicate. She says that she was raised in such a way that she could speak candidly with her parents, and that that is how all parents should raise their children: by teaching them with words and answering every conceivable question. To this day, Sarah acknowledges her deceased parents as being her greatest role models. "They taught me how to make a living, and how to talk to other people," she recalls "I'll always thank them for this."