

**BORN:**

June 6, 1915

BIRTHPLACE:

Fort McPherson

PARENTS:

*Eliza Bonnetplume and
James Firth*

GRANDPARENTS:

*(Maternal) Andrew
Nisheh and Maria
Bonnetplume; (Paternal)
John Firth and Margaret
(Maggie) Stewart*

GWICH'IN:

Teet'it Gwich'in

MARRIED:

*Karl Gardlund,
September 1937 in
Aklavik*

CHILDREN:

*Astrid, Agnes, Walter,
James, Diane, Hazel,
Julia, Marilyn, Billy,
Randy, Leslie, Mervin,
Inge, Maurice Lloyd
(adopted grandson).*

remembers how many berries there were and that she would make pies for her husband. She remembers passing spring in the Mackenzie Delta hunting muskrats. "My birthday is the 6th of June. That day my husband came home after hunting all night with 150 rats. That was my Happy Birthday present! After about two hours I would have them all skinned. I just love working in the bush. I had a fish net and made dry fish too," exclaims Sarah Ann.

Sarah Ann has worked hard in her life. She remembers her first paying job at the fur shop in Aklavik. She was very proud of her first pay cheque for \$9.00. Later, because Sarah Ann speaks her language, she worked for many years as an interpreter for the CBC as well as on the Gwich'in radio program. She also worked as an interpreter at many meetings with the oil companies and as a Gwich'in language teacher in Inuvik at the elementary school.

Sarah Ann says that her parents and elders taught her to have respect for others and her elders.

Today she would like to see the young people do the same. Her advise is, "Introduce yourself to elders, visit them, ask if you can be of help. Then the elders will like you and know you. Learn to pray. Wherever you travel, ask God to take care of you. When you have a family, you will have good family life with healthy children. Teach our children our language everyday and they will learn it."

Sarah Ann Gardlund

**Sarah Ann
(Firth) Gardlund**

When Sarah Ann was a child, her parents spent the winter trapping and hunting caribou. The family passed the spring hunting muskrats in the Mackenzie Delta and summer was passed at their fish camp. After her mother and father were married, her father worked for the Hudson's Bay Company in Fort McPherson. In 1921 they moved to the Mouth of the Peel village where her father built a big house. Her father made his living off his trap line in the winter and fishing in the summer.

They stayed there until 1928 when one of Sarah Ann's brothers died. The family then moved to Aklavik.

When Sarah Ann was seven years old, she started school in Hay River along with her sister. Three years later her sister became ill and they returned home. Sarah Ann remembers that she learned how to read and write at school.

After they were married, Sarah Ann and Karl spent a year at Caribou River up the Peel River. Sarah Ann