



# Stephen Bonnetplume

**NIJÙK DÀI' VAGÒONLÌH:** June 6, 1936

**NIJÌN DANH VAGÒONLÌH:** Aklavik danh

**VIYÙUGHWÀN KAT:** Paul ts'at Sarah Bonnetplume (nee: Mitchell)

**GWÌCH'IN:** Teet'it Gwich'in

**GOONJIK:** Betty Kay

**VITR'IININ KAT:** Tr'inin eh'it kwaa

**BORN:** June 6, 1936

**BIRTHPLACE:** Aklavik, NT

**PARENTS:** Paul and Sarah Bonnetplume

**GWÌCH'IN:** Ehdiitat Gwich'in

**MARRIED:** Betty Stewart-Kay in 1969

**CHILDREN:** none

Stephen Bonnetplume zrit Aklavik gwizhit vagòonlii June 6, 1936 dài'. Viyùughwàn kat chan Paul ts'at Sarah Bonnetplume kat t'agiinch'uh. Viyùughwàn kat chan tr'iinin ih'ok gwijùutin ts'at ih'ak geedi'i'. Stephen zrit niinzhit dài' Teet'it Zheh gwà'an diik'igahthat nuh shik Aklavik gwà'an t'agiinch'uh łqò hàh ganalndaii nuh. "Yeedi' Aklavik River gwidi' chan," jùunùh, "zhik ch'eedii ànts'at han chan. Aii zrit Maring Han giyàhnuu, ezhiik danh theetoh gò'aih." Ezhiik danh Stephen diik'iyahthat. Niinzhit chan zheh gwidhòh gwizhit nagidindi', ts'at nahgwan gwànoo chan dachan zheh kheenjit nàgwiintthàih.

Dachantat ts'at agòondàii ooniidinjii chan shik ganadhindaii zrinuh. Ts'iivii gwàts'at agòondàii leii chan oodhiidinjik. Dzih ant'at agwaandak ànts'at k'ài chan gagi-inhe' vizhìt vanchi' dagàii tsal gòonlih. "Khadinoht'ii t'ee dhohvir," jùunuh ts'at aii jidii tthak nakat qht'ee gòo ookhwini. "Nà'aa aii k'ài tàgohnjii ts'at kaleeluk k'èh nihtanohkaih. Gwiint'òh gwiizuu gwaatsanh gwàt łqò hàh agòondàii nizii nilii.

1969 dài' t'at Stephen zrit Betty Kay vatr'oonjik ts'at nihk'atr'inahtih. Tr'iinin geedi'in kwaa gwàt shòh nihts'an gałtsaii jidii tthak ganadhindaih. K'eejit kat

ts'at ginjih tsal ekhè'oonuu geenjit gat'oodaanuu gwàt, "digiyùughwàn kat ts'at uutadhahch'yaa geenjit diinjizhit."

Stephen Bonnetplume was born in Aklavik, on June 6, 1936, to his parents Sarah and Paul Bonnetplume. Steven's parents had eleven children. Although Stephen remembers spending some of his childhood in Fort McPherson, he was primarily raised in the Aklavik area. "On Aklavik River," he explains "you go down this channel and there's another river there. They call that river Maring Channel, and there's a portage there." This was where Stephen was raised. Only years later did Stephen have a house built, but throughout his childhood they dwelt in a tent frame.

Collecting and using medicines from the land was one thing that Stephen could elaborate on as a personal experience of his. He stated that most of the natural remedies were derived from trees. Aside from the well known spruce gum, he makes mention of another type of willow containing small white seeds. "You cut it up into pieces and boil it," he says as he describes a compound that can be both

applied to the skin, or drunk as tea. "My mother picked that willow and mixed it with muktuk oil." It apparently smelled horrible but worked wonders.

In 1969, Stephen met and married his wife Betty in Aklavik. They didn't have any children, but shared many treasured memories throughout their married life. Stephen is hesitant to leave any advice for the future generations, as he himself didn't have any children of his own, but hopes that they, he quietly says, "Listen to their parents.