



Caroline Kay

NIJÌN VAGÒONLÌ: Tr'atr'aatai Tshik danh

NIJÙK DÀ' VAGÒONLÌ: Jideendoo Ts'an 31, 1914 dà'

VIYÙUGHWÀN KAT: Robert ts'at Annie Shint'ee Ni'in

GWICH'IN: Teet'it Gwich'in

VITR'IININ KAT: Beatrice, Ruth (d), Mary, Edith, Esther, Selwyn, Ruth, Johnny, Annie, Charlotte, Lucy

BORN: December 31, 1914

BIRTHPLACE: Trail Creek, Yukon Territory

PARENTS: Robert and Annie G. Shint'eh Ni'in

GWICH'IN: Teet'it Gwich'in

MARRIED: John Kay on July 5, 1933

CHILDREN: Beatrice, Ruth (d.), Mary, Edith, Esther, Selwyn, Ruth, Johnny, Annie, Charlotte, Lucy



Caroline zrit yi'eenji' Tr'atr'aatai Tshik danh gwà'an vagòonlii December 31, 1914 dà', vahanh ts'at viti' Annie G. ts'at Old Robert Shint'eh Ni'in goots'at. Tr'iinin ihłok gwijùutin ts'at neckaii tat nilii, nits'òots'at digiyyùughwàn kat guk'ag'inahtii ganadhindaii. Dachantat diik'igiinjik geenjit gagoot'ooniltin ts'at aii thak geenjit shoh nilii. Nich'it nilii guuzhik kaiik'it geh'at danh diik'iindhat, thok t'angiinch'uu geenjit srugoodadhan ts'at jùk tth'aih akòo t'igidich'uu geenjit shòh nilii.

1927 dà' t'at, Caroline Hay River School gwizhìt nitr'inyahchih, digiyyùughwàn kat ehdan. Nagwidàdhat ihłogwinli' gahshùk ezhik danh t'angiinch'uu gwàt ezhik danh khanaandaii eenjit gayuuniltin geenjit haq' oojiinuu ts'at tth'aih jùk gweendoo akòo t'idi'ii. K'anadik t'ee, vaghàii vanchòh nàk'oh zhàk dhìtin guuzhik, John Kay k'adadhizhii, Dinjii khàihkài' Johnny Kay vidinji' t'iinch'uu zrit vatr'oonjik. "Inits'ù', gwiinzii," jùu t'inuu, atr'a'aa ts'at atr'aadzoo agwaandak, guuzhik William Firth iitsii adahii' ganadhindaii. Jùk tth'aih nihkhatr'agwàhnjik vagwank'òo di'ii. Nihk'atr'inahtii akòo t'ageedi'in'. Ditr'iinin làt gogoonlii kwaa guuzhik gokwaa guugàa zrit, Caroline ts'at John hàh, tr'iinin ihłok gwijùutin ts'at tik geedi'i'. Nagwidàdhat ihłok gwijùutin ànts'at John naniindhat, gwàt vah t'iinch'uu yiniindhan, gwik'it gwiheelyaa geenjit niinji'adhat kwaa vahanh k'it teelyaa vaghàii ihłok jùutin k'it diinili' k'it jùutin ts'at nihk'iitik guuzhik vakwaa! Geetàk hee vicheii kat

digitsii eenjit agwaandak ts'at veenjit tr'iinzhii goodhakhaii k'it gigiinkhii – "Ganagahaandaih!", jùunuh.

Vaghàii vanchòh nàk'oh zhàk dhìtin guuzhik dakaiik'it Èjeegwijàanaii danh shik t'iinch'uu gat'iinzhin'. Nankak ts'at agòondàii oonjii, dàlagàfii tyah drinh zhìt dzih ant'at k'anahtih. Geetàk hee, diyehs'i' veenidhijil, ts'at valàk kat chan. K'eejit kat chan digiyyùughwàn kat ts'at uutadhahch'yaa nuh ts'at dàgwinuu gwik'it akòo t'agidi'ii ts'at nihk'atr'inahtii chan, aii hàh niinzhùk gogwiheech'yaa geenjit diinjizhizit.

Caroline Kay was born at Trail Creek, Yukon on December 31st, 1914, to her parents Annie G. and Robert Sintenilyin (Shint'eh Ni'in). Being one of twelve siblings, Caroline remembers her parent's direct involvement in their lives. She remembers growing up in the bush, and states that she is grateful for the way in which she was raised. Being raised outside of town as a young girl, Caroline was always comfortable with the isolation of living on the outskirts of a community and chooses to do so even today.

In 1927, Caroline was sent to school in Hay River where she was separated from her parents. She was many that were sent away to attend school a great distance from her home community and those years away taught her skills that she still

practices today. Six years later, at the age of nineteen, Caroline returned and married John Kay, son of the Old Chief Johnny Kay. "Gee, it was good," she says, as she recalls the feast, the dance, and William Firth's fiddle playing. She still has a picture of her wedding to this day. John and Caroline took very good care of one another. Notwithstanding the babies lost due to miscarriage, Caroline and John persevered and had a total of thirteen children whom have many children of their own today. It's been over ten years now since John has passed away, and although Caroline wishes she were with him today, she is doubtful, seeing as her mother lived to be 106 years old! She says her grandchildren often say that they wish their Grandpa was here - "They remember him!" she says.

At 92 years of age, Caroline, remaining at her camp locally called Èjeegwijàanaii says that she prefers to stay there above any other place. She collects natural medicines from the land, keeping sticky gum in her coffee jar at home. Her daughters come to visit every so often, as well as the odd visitor. She hopes to the younger generations will listen to both their parents, heed their words and to take care of one another, ensuring them a long and prosperous life.