

**DAVÀAZHÌ:**

Mary (Frank) Firth

VAGÒONLII DRÌN:

December 23, 1935

VAKAI': Frank Firth (d.)**VITR'IINÌN KAT:** Dwayne,
Jeannie (d.), Darren, Shirley**BORN:** December 23, 1935**BIRTHPLACE:** Yukon**PARENTS:** John and Rebecca
Modeste**MARRIED:** Frank Firth**CHILDREN:** Dwayne,
Jennie (d.) Darren

Mary (Frank) Firth

Mary chan yi'eenji' Yukon ts'aii gwà'an vagòonlii gwàt nijìn gwà'an lòo gàhdandaih kwàa December 23, 1935 dòi' zrah. Adanh lòo tr'iinin ihłok gwijùutin ts'at ihłak tat nilii gòo viyùughwan kat chan John akòo Rebecca Modeste giinli'. Dahanh ts'aii ditsii ditsuu hah t'at Robert George, Annie G. goovàazhii iinli'. Diti' ts'aii ditsii ditsuu kat hàh chan Old Modeste Ts'idehdi'(Tsetetti) ànts'at Macrena kat hàh giinli'.

Nich'it zhuu nilii dòi' t'at dachan tat diyuughwan kat ditsii ditsuu kat hàh gogweech'in' ganadhindhah nùh. Vaghài nihk'iitik goozhik School yi'eedi' Aklavik gwizhìt nèetr'inyahchih chan nùh. Khaii nihk'iitik gahshùk nihk'eedilak, khaiints'an ts'at shin dòi' gwàt khaii tthak ezhik gwizhìt gweech'in'. Shin dòi' di-yùughwan kat hàh gweech'in' aii t'ee school gwits'ee nìdhìzhìh nùh Tr'ihchoo Distributor gitr'ahnùu k'iighe'.

School gwichìilàgòodhat t'ee, dakaiik'it gwits'ee k'adhìzhii ànts'at ddhah tat gwà'an fàiì hàh nahanzhok ganalndaih nùu. Shin dòi' uutsik tr'ahgàiì yi'eenji' han nji'.

July 6, 1962 dòi' t'at Mary zrit Frank Firth vatr'òonjik, William chants'at Mary Firth goodinjì' iinli'. Agadanh t'at tr'iinin tik geedi'n': Dwayne, Jeannie (d.) ànts'at Darren kat hàh. 1960s tat chan yi'eedi' Inuvik nàginii'òo ezhik danh inihłik gwà'an Frank khanaan-daii geenjit gwitr'it kàdhìzhii Inuvik nàgogwiintthaih dòi'. Aii t'ee 1970 t'at chan Teet'it Zeh gwits'ee nagichìthìjil aii gwàts'at chan gwà'an gogweech'in'. Jùk gweendòo aii niveh t'ah'ii geenjit khà'oodaa'in nilii ànts'at geet'ak hee gool'at kat geenjit k'e'jàhkài'.

Tr'iinin nilii dòi' t'at Dinjii Khàihkai' giyiinjiigwichil'e' ts'at dànùu gwijizii giyuudhìlch'eih. Ezhik dòi' gwànoo guk'adagwidaadhat nilii ànts'at tthak adagwidaandaii khanagaandaii geenjit.

Yee'òk nits'òo nàgwij'ee geenjit giłkhii dòi' t'at tthak ejùk gòodlit gwinah'in' nùu gwàt niizhit dòi' gwànoo t'at gwiendoo ak'oh gweedhàa gogwinah'in nùh. Nin chan ejùk gòodlit, jùk gweendòo nin diitat nàhaa'oo gwàt adài' gwànoo aii gwik'it elit akòo t'àgwiinch'ù'.

Jùk gweendòo aii k'eejit kat chan nits'òo diik'agootr'ahnjik t'at ejùk chan goovàh gòonlih. Adanh k'eejit nilii dòi' t'at k'eejit kat chan gwijizii diik'agilnjik ànts'at duuyeh too goozhik nihk'yùu natr'ahdadal kwàa. Tr'iinin kat googinjik gagoovooahtan niindhan ànts'at nakhwek'yùu tthak chan ànts'at jidiì tthak łòq hàh gik'agahaandal geenjit gwiheezàa geenjit niindhan nùh.



Mary was born in the Yukon Territory (exact location is unknown) on December 23, 1935. She was one of 11 children born to the late John and Rebecca Modeste. Her maternal grandparents were Robert George Sintenilyin and Annie G.(Martin) and her paternal grandparents were Modeste Ts'idehdi' (Tsetetti) and Macrena.

As a child, Mary recalls living on the land with her parents and maternal grandparents. She was sent to All Saints Anglican School in Aklavik at the tender age of six. She spent the next six years traveling back and forth, spending the summer with her parents and in the fall returning to school from Fort McPherson via the Distributor and similar boats.

When she completed her education, she returned home to help her parents and used to travel by dog team throughout the mountains as far as the Yukon, where she spent the summer fishing.

On July 6, 1962, Mary was given in marriage to Frank Firth (d), son of the late William and Mary (Wilson) Firth. She bore Frank three children: Dwayne, Jeannie (d) and Darren. In the early 1960s they moved to Inuvik and Frank worked at various jobs while Inuvik was being built. In the mid 70s the family moved back to Fort McPherson. Today, she spends her time as a matron, guarding for the local RCMP and sews, to make a living.

She remembers the Chief when she was a child and how the people respected him and listened to what he had to say and the decisions he made. That was their government and everyone made their own living.

Mary says she has seen a lot of changes and recalls the winter weather was a lot colder in the past than it is today. The animals have changed as well, she thinks there are more animals around and in the community than when she was younger.

In her opinion, today's youth are being raised in a whole different way than when she was a child. Back then, children were well behaved and children were never out late as you see today. She would like to see children being taught their language and culture at an early age and for more to be spent on that than other subjects within the education system.