



Doris Simon-Itsi

NIJÙK DÀI' VAGÒONLÌH: Nohjùu
Ts'an 9, 1924

NIJÌN VAGÒONLÌH: Teetl'it Zheh

VIYÙUGHWÀN KAT: James ts'at
Sarah Simon hàh

GWÌCH'IN: Teetl'it Gwich'in

VATR'ÒONJIK: Edward Itsi; Herbert
Blake, Sr.

CHILDREN: James, Maria (d.), John,
Charlie, Rose Mary, Annie, Mae
(d.), Paul, Richard, Kerry (d.), Larry,
Herbert, Ruth Anne (d.), Dennis



BORN: February 9, 1924

BIRTHPLACE: Fort McPherson

PARENTS: James and Sarah Simon

GWÌCH'IN: Teetl'it Gwich'in

MARRIED: Edward Itsi; Common-law
husband, Herbert Blake, Sr.

CHILDREN: James, Maria (d.), John,
Charlie, Rose Mary, Annie, Mae (d.), Paul,
Richard, Kerry (d.), Larry, Herbert Jr., Ruth
Anne (d.), Dennis

Diik'iidhat gwànoo, Doris zrit Teetl'it Zheh gehkhee ts'at dachantat gwà'an t'iinch'ù', diyùughwàn kat hàh James chan ts'at Sarah Simon kat hàh. Tr'iinin nilii guuzhik Hay River gwats'at digiyùughwàn kat chan gwats'at tohjàa gootr'àhnuu geenjit adanh ts'at dijùu Susie srihee yi'eenji' guuveevanh nàgoojil. K'anagahdadal t'ee adanh zraih aii gwats'at nitr'inyahchih, nagwidàdhat ihłogwinli' geenjit, k'anadik dài' tr'iinjòo k'eejit dhidlit. Ihłeh chan digiyùughwàn kat goovàh t'iinch'uu vatr'ooheendal vaghàii nilii dài' gwats'at. Tr'iinin nilii gweed-haa dài' tr'iinin kat gwiinzii guk'aginilti', duuyeh nihk'yùu natr'aangik, aii gwik'it diik'ayahthat. Aii gwik'it khè' vigii kat diik'igijii dài' guk'anilti'.

Tth'aih tr'iinjòo k'eejit nilii dài', viyùughwàn kat k'iighe' Edward Itsi vatr'oonjik gisriinagahnjik. Khanh ts'at t'ee t'at, tr'iinin vanchòh nàk'oh zhàk dhitinh eedi'i' geetàk hee vagògòontrih. Nagwidàdhat ihłok gwijùutin tat chan, didinyahch'i' gwidrihdòk ts'ik niint'arii hàh elts'ik najàanaii, ts'at Aklavik gwizhit Elts'ik Zheh geedi'i' ezhik danh nitr'inyahchih. Chan khè' digii eevanh nihk'yùu nidhizrii gòo khyàh t'ah'ii chan guk'agwiindai' gwat goolàt kat giits'at tr'iinjik, geetàk chan gwitr'it kadhizhii. Digitr'iinin kat làt chan gagootr'oonahntan ànts'at gwats'at nagoojil Aklavik gòo Inuvik gwizhit danh.

Ihłat t'at Doris akòo dìnuu zrit, jidii ganadhindaii ezhik dài' gwànoo dínjii kat nihk'atr'inahtii gwik'it t'angiinch'uu, gòodhaii nàgwidaadhat gòo gwiinzii gòo'arii dài' tthak nihk'atr'inilti' zrinuh. Tth'aih

jùk gweendòo akòo t'agidi'ii. Vahanh t'at viginjik làt k'iighe' gwiindai' zrinuu, juhts'ants'at adik'anaantii ts'at khanaandaii akòots'ants'at ginjih vats'an altsaih. Jùk drin tth'aih leii kat chan, digitsii gòo dig-itsuu eenjit gwandak giyuudahkat, juudin goodàazhii giinlii ts'at nijin gwats'at t'angiinch'uu geenjit srihee. Łyaa vigwizhi' gòonlii ts'at tth'aih elts'ik nilii guugàa zrit dalàk kat ts'at tr'iinjii vaghàii goonlii guuzhik aii geenjit łq q hàh haj' choo vaađinuh.!

Doris spent most of her early life in Fort McPherson and out on the land with her parents, James and Sarah Simon, her adopted parents. When she was still a child, her parents were asked to attend the Hay River School where Doris and her sister Susie attended as well. After returning, Doris was sent back to higher her education and after five years, returned to Fort McPherson a young woman. She lived with her parents and took care of elders whenever the need arose until she was of age to be married. Throughout her upbringing, Doris recalls that children were brought up in an atmosphere of strict discipline and she was no exception. Much of this would later become predominant in her life while she raised her own family.

Later on while still in her teens, Doris' parents, arranged for her to marry Edward Itsi. Soon after, she bore him nine children with a few complications throughout. Within ten years of their marriage, Edward took ill and was sent to the Aklavik All-Saints Hospital for medical attention for

tuberculosis. During this time, Doris was left to raise her children with some outside help and hunted, trapped and took odd jobs wherever she could. Her children, like many in those days, were sent away to Residential School in both Aklavik and Inuvik to further their education.

One thing that Doris recalls throughout her lifetime was how the people took care of each other through good and difficult times and she is proud that some people still do that to this day. Much of her teachings and words of encouragement comes directly from her mom, Sarah Simon. Today many people go to Doris when they wish to find out about their family ties and history of the community. She is a lady of much knowledge and continues to help out when she can, even though she is getting on years.