



Dorothy Alexie

DOROTHY (VITTEKWA) ALEXIE

VAGÒONLII DRIN: Videetoh
Goojıdhat 30, 1938

NIJÌN VAGÒONLII: Teetł'it Zheh

VAYÙUGHWAN KAT: William ts'at
Mary Vittekwa hàh

VÌTSII TS'ÀT VÌTSUU: William ts'at
Veronica (Merika) (Ditì' ts'aa), Jemina
Kendi ts'at Esau Josie (Dahanh ts'aa)

GWICH'IN: Teetł'it Gwich'in

VATR'ÒONJIK: Robert W. Alexie,
Teetł'it Zheh gwızhìt Videetoh
Goojıdhat 9, 1961 dàr'

VITR'İININ KAT: Edna, Ellen,
Clarence, Ricky, Shirley, Roberta,
Elaine (vatr'òonjik), Troy (vatr'òonjik),
ts'at Cheyenne hàh



BORN: July 30, 1938

BIRTHPLACE: Fort McPherson

PARENTS: William and Mary Vittekwa

GRANDPARENTS: William and Veronica
(Merika) Vittekwa (paternal), Jemmia
Kendi and Esau Josie (maternal)

GWICH'IN: Teetł'it Gwich'in

MARRIED: Robert Alexie in Fort
McPherson on January 9, 1961

CHILDREN: Edna, Ellen, Clarence, Ricky,
Shirley, Roberta, Elaine (adopted),
Troy (adopted) and Cheyenne

gwà'an dı́k'ıyáhtat, Dorothy zrit
gwıtr'it gwıınchıı gwadhàatsau ts'at
shòh gwıınlı' jıdì hàh dha'au ts'at
gwichıılàgwidhı'ah nuh. Vıyùughwàn
kat William chan ts'at Mary ısrıts'at
ga'oonahntan gıınlı' nuh. Dachan tat
gwà'an adatr'agwadaandau geenjit
loo hàh gat'ıınızhın'. "Shin dàr', chıh-
vyàh chı́chuh ts'at łuk kà'ıdì'in' ts'at
ddhah tat naıdajıl," jıu zrit nuh. Dıtì'
nılzrıh dàr' duulèh dı́njik gòo vàd-
zalıh dhàłkhalıh, ts'at łau hàh gweenoo
nahaanzhok. Dahanh t'at nıts'òots'at
nılı hàh dha'au ts'at nılı ahgau geen-
jit gàyıunılın vanadhındau. Dorothy
veejıı, vıjıu kat, vachaa kat gòonlıh hàh
nhk'ıdaankat gıdılıh.

Dorothy zrit, Videetoh Goojıdhat 9th,
1961 dàr' vatr'òonjik vanadhındau ts'at
dı́k Mission kat goots'at gıntł'á'ahchuh.
Dıgidınyákh'ı' hàh tr'ıın nıhk'ıtik
geedı'ı', neekanh kat chan gootr'òonjik.
Drin gwıtak gwınyàanch'uu gwıtr'it
t'agwah'ıı vanadhındau ts'at shoh hàh akòo
t'eedı'in' nuh. "Ezhik dàr' ııtsı vàh troo
t'ıh gòo ııtsı dachan vał gòonlıh kwaa, vàh
troo t'ıh hàh troo t'agwa'ıı ts'at łau hàh
gwıtr'it t'agwa'ıh," jıu t'ahnıu.

Jık gweendòo zrit, dıcheı kat ts'at
ıgidınt'eh dachan tat gwà'an adagog-
wahaandau geenjit gık'agahaandal
goovàh gwaandak, yeendòo jı' adanh
ts'at anjòo kat duuyeh gwaa'an shik

t'ıhıdich'yah. "Agadhan zrit dachan tat
gwıts'at natr'ıheedaa ts'at kheenjit gwıtr'it
t'agogwahah'yaa khanagaandau geenjit
jıu gòovaınuu. Jıı thak kheenjit akòo
gık'agahqındal gwızrıh goovàh gwal-
ndàk," jıu nuh. Jık gweendòo jıdì thak
àhdàndau goovàh gık'àhaandal nıındhan
jıdì yeendoo jı' gahgıheedandau geenjit
dıınjıdızıt.



Born in Fort McPherson and raised
in Three Cabin Creek, Dorothy Alexie
remembers her childhood being: full of
strenuous work, great accomplishments
and joy. Her parents William and Mary
Vittekwa were her greatest teachers.
Living out on the land, was something
that Dorothy loved. "In the summer,"
she recalls, "we would fish with nets and
travel all across the mountains." When her
father would go hunting, he would return
with either caribou or moose, which was
hauled in by their dog team. Dorothy's
mother taught her how to work with
the meat and how to dry meat as well.
Dorothy had eight siblings, five sisters
and three brothers.

Dorothy was married on January 9th,
1961 where she remembers wearing
a dress that she had been given to by

the Anglican Mission staff. Together,
Dorothy and her husband, Robert, had
six children, two of whom were adopted.
She remembers working each and every
single day and enjoying it. "Back when
there were no chainsaws or skidoo's,"
she mentions. Dorothy would have to
cut her own wood with a saw and bring
it back home by dogsled.

Today Dorothy tells her grandchildren
that they themselves will have to learn
how to live off the land, because Dorothy
and other elders won't be around forever.
"I tell them that one day, they may have
to go back on the land; that they'll have
to work and gather their own food,
and water. They'll have to learn to do
things on your own," she says. Dorothy
hopes she can teach her grandchildren
today what they may not have a second
opportunity to learn in the future.