



Hannah Alexie

VAGÒONLII: Vananh Dì'ilii 15, 1939

NIJÌN VAGÒONLII: Tr'atr'aatai Tshik, Yukon ts'aii

VIYÙUGHWÀN KAT:

Abraham ts'at Bella Alexie kat hàh

VÌTSII TS'ÀT VÌTSUU: Martin

Shanahkhyà' ts'at Jane kat hàh (Vahanh ts'aii), Alexie ts'at Angela (Viti' ts'aii)

GWICH'IN: Teetl'it Gwich'in

BORN: September 15, 1939

BIRTHPLACE: Trail Creek, Yukon

PARENTS: Abraham and Bella Alexie

GRANDPARENTS: Old Martin and Jane Martin (maternal), Old Alexie and Anzel Alexie (paternal)

GWICH'IN: Teetl'it Gwich'in



ts'at Bella Alexie kat hàh yi'eenji' Tr'atr'aatai Tshik gwà'an dük'agàththat. Nìch'it zhuu nìlìh dàì' School gwits'at heehah geenjit dizehk'oo hàh tthak Aklavik gwits'at gichùundì'. Tr'oochit school nìhdànünzhìh dàì' uunjit k'yùu àhdàndaih kwaa gwàt veeju k'ìghe' kxanh ts'at gùk'àanjik. Nìhkhan Tr'atr'aatai Tshik gwits'ee nagoojil chan Hannah ganadhindaih. Ezhik danh zrit tthak ts'at geenjit gwitr'it goovàh gòonli zrit nuh. Aii guuzhik diti' chihvyàh nanaa'ik eenjit ts'at tr'ünjik gehkhee ts'at dahanh hàh gyah digoot'üi chan ganadhindai nuh. Tr'atr'aatai Tshik gwà'an jidüi ganaanjik lòo shìk shòh goonlih hàh ezhik danh t'ünch'uh dàì'.

Dük'ündhat t'ee, inìhlik gwà'an gwitr'it t'agwah'in' ts'at nagwidàdhat 1979 dàì' dakhao hàh kheenjit gwitr'it t'agwit'ah'in' tr'igukhii zheh geenjit ts'at gùkhii ts'ànüu gùnli'. Jidüi eenjit t'agidi'üi, nìkhàtr'agwàhchih dàì', tr'ünin guuk'òo tr'igünjii, k'eejit kat guuk'òo tr'igünjii, nan zhìt tr'ahchih dàì', ts'at jidüi tthak geenjit nìkhàh gwitr'it gogwàtsaii. Hannah viyùughwan kat ch'anuh hàh gwitr'it t'agogwah'in' aii guuk'ih zrit Hannah akòo t'idi'üi ts'at jùkwàa hee zhik gweedi' tthak geenjit gùkhii dhidlit. Aii t'ee Yukon College gwits'at chùuzhii ts'at diginjik adant'oo eenjit gagoonitün ts'at gi'gwadhan kwaa akòo ts'at

shìk hàh gwitr'it gwünchii gwizhìt gwünli' zrit nuh.

Fort Smith gwizhìt Gwich'in Gijnjik eenjit Gà'onahtan dhidlit, Hannah zrit tr'ünin kat ts'at nits'òots'at dinjii zhuh k'yùu atr'adant'oo gayuunìtün. Jük gweendòo aii k'eejit kat gwünt'òh school gwizhìt gwitr'it t'agogwah'üi ts'at jidüi tthak geenjit gùk'agahaandal geenjit dúnjìdizhìt.



Hannah Alexie was born in Trail Creek and raised by her parents Abraham and Bella Alexie. When Hannah was old enough to go to school, she and her family moved to Aklavik. Hannah went into school not knowing any English whatsoever but caught on very quickly thanks to her older sister. Hannah remembers returning to Trail Creek several times throughout her childhood. She and her family would stay in the bush, where she can remember there being plenty of work for everyone. She recalls helping her father fish and her mother set rabbit snares. Her memories of Trail Creek are abundant and filled with happiness.

As an adult, Hannah began working on her own in 1979 with her niece for the church. They would work together for weddings, baptisms, confirmations,

funerals and for many other church gatherings. Both Hannah's parents were very spiritual and Hannah followed in their footsteps by means of working for the diocese of the Arctic and was ordained in the 1990's. Later in life, Hannah attended the Yukon College to learn how to write her native language which she admits was not only difficult but entailed lots of work.

Upon becoming a Gwich'in Language Teacher in Fort Smith, Hannah had the opportunity to teach children how to write Gwich'in. She encourages children of today to work as hard as possible when going to school and to learn as much as they can.