



Jane Charlie

NIJÙK VAGÒONLIH: Gwilyuu Zrì' 3, 1930 dàì'

NIJÌN VAGÒONLIH: Nàgwìhootshik danh

VIYÙUGHWÀN KAT: Alfred ts'at Annie Bonnetplume goovàazhì

GWÌCH'IN: Teetl'it Gwich'in

VATR'ÒONJIK: June 26, 1949 dàì' Johnny Charlie vatr'òonjik

VITR'IININ KAT: Johnny Jr., Lorna, Alice, Alfred, Annie, Joanne, Jane, Andrew, Elizabeth, William, Paul ts'at Michael kat hàh

BORN: May 3, 1930

BIRTHPLACE: Mouth of the Peel River, NT

PARENTS: Alfred and Annie Bonnetplume

GWICH'IN: Teetl'it Gwich'in

MARRIED: Johnny D. Charlie, June 29, 1949

CHILDREN: Johnny Jr., Lorna, Alfred, Annie, Joanne, Jane, Elizabeth, Andrew, William, Paul (adopted), Michael (adopted)

“Zhik hee shagòonlii, uudi’ Nàgwìhootshik gwidi’ danh,” Jane Charlie àhnùu, May 3, 1930 hee gwànoo. Viyùughwàn kat t’at Alfred ts’at Annie Bonnetplume t’agiinch’uu, juudin kat t’at tr’iinìn ihłok jùutin geedi’i’. Jane khaiints’an’ nilii. Jùk drin t’at, vachaa neekaii hàh t’iinch’uh gwàt vichih gokwaa goghàii ihłak gwizrih giinli’, jùu William chan ts’at Paul goovàazhìh. 1932 ts’at 1933 dàì’, Tth’oh Zraii Njik git’ahnúu gwà’an dizhehk’oo hàh t’iinch’uh. Hee gwànoo, Jane ts’at veejii Elizabeth hàh, Tth’oh Zraii Njik gwits’at gogoontrii guugaa zrit ezhik gwits’ee gichuu’oh. Khaii leii gwichih ddhah ihłak gwà’an digiti’ nahadik dàì’ chan natr’inah’in’.

Jane vagwandaii zhìt jùu iisrits’at vaniinji’adhat giyyuudahkat t’at deejii Elizabeth vàazhìh. Elizabeth t’at Jane khaii ihłok gwijùutin veejii t’iinch’uh, ts’at vitsuu k’lighe’ diik’iyyahthat. Vat’àiì gòonlii vanałndaii nuu ts’at dinjii vigwitr’it hàh t’agwah’ii geenjit gàdhan iinli’. “Aa, vàgwijàht’oo iinli’!” Jane Elizabeth eenjit gwaandak jùu dilik kat nahaanzhok ganadhindaih. Dijùu kat ts’at dizhehk’oo tthak geenjit gwadàl k’e’jilkai’ vanaandaii ts’at “...too ihłak zrit uqhchùh choo nakhwats’an altsaii, khaii ik akòots’at kaiitrih akòo diinch’ii tthak diiy- eenjit k’e’jilkai’. Duuyeh vanadhildee.”

1936 dàì’ dijùu Maria hàh Carcross gwits’at gichuu’oo school geenjit. Nagwidàdhat ihłak t’ee Maria ełts’ik najàazhii ts’at vakwàa, khanhts’at digiti’ gootagwiniinlii. Aii t’ee Jane digidinyàhch’i’ Johnny Charlie vidrii’

òonjik ts’at nagwidàdhat ihłogwinli’ t’ee nihkhàtr’agwahnjik, June 1949 dàì’, Teetl’it Zheh vánh dàì’ akòo dagwidzhik. Vánh atr’iin’al ts’at atr’aadzoo vanałndaii nuh.

Jùk at’at chan Jane Teetl’it Zheh gwizhìt digii hàh t’iinch’uu, niinzhit dàì’ gana- dhindaii ts’at vigii ts’at vicheii kat niinzhit danh t’àngiinch’uu guugaa zrit guuveenjit k’e’jàhkaii, vakadhich’uu geenjit shòh nilii.

“I was born here, down at the Mouth of the Peel,” says Jane Charlie, on May 3rd, 1930. Her parents were Alfred and Annie Bonnetplume who together had ten children. Jane is the youngest of them. Today, she recalls having two other brothers younger than herself, but unfortunately they died at the tender age of one, their names being William and Paul. Between 1932-1933 Jane and her family lived around the Blackstone River. A few years ago, Jane and her sister, Elizabeth, went on an emotional journey and returned to Blackstone. They saw the mountain that their father used to hike some eighty years ago.

Jane mentions her sister Elizabeth as an admirable heroine in her life. Elizabeth was a decade older than Jane and she was raised by her grandparents apart from her other siblings. Jane remembers her as a strong woman, able to do what was typically a man’s job. “Oh, she was smart!” says Jane as she explains that Elizabeth had her own dog team

which she led herself. Elizabeth would make gifts for her younger siblings and family, “...one night she gave us a big bag, she had parkas made for us, shoes and everything. I’ll never forget that.”

In 1936, Jane and her sister Maria were sent to the Carcross Residential School, which they travelled to by steamboat. A year had passed and Maria had fallen fatally ill and died, hence Jane’s father got news of and came to bring her back home. Jane met her husband, Chief Johnny Charlie in 1944 in Fort McPherson and was married five years later on June 29, 1949. Together, Jane and her husband had nine children and adopted three more reaching a grand total of twelve!

Today, Jane spends her time at home with her adopted son reminiscing on her lifetime with her husband and continues to sew and cook for her children even though some are many miles away.