



Joanne Snowshoe

NIJÙK DÀI' VAGÒONLÌH: Vananh Gwidichuu 7, 1939

NIJÌN VAGÒONLÌH: Teetl'it Zheh gwizhit

VIYÙUGHWÀN KAT: Abraham ts'at Lucy Vaneltsi

GWICH'IN: Teetl'it Gwich'in

VATR'ÒONJIK: 1978 dài' William Snowshoe vatr'oonjik

VITR'IININ NAT: Lillian, Gina, David, Roberta, Ruby, Merna, Benjamin

BORN: July 7, 1939

BIRTHPLACE: Fort McPherson, NT

PARENTS: Abraham and Lucy Vaneltsi

GWICH'IN: Teetl'it Gwich'in

MARRIED: William Snowshoe, Sr. in September 1978

CHILDREN: Lillian, Gina, David, Roberta, Ruby, Merna and Benjamin



Joanne Snowshoe zrit viyùughwàn kat chan Abraham chan ts'at Lucy Vaneltsi t'agiinch'uu, Teetl'it Zheh gwizhit vagòonlii, July 7th, 1939 gwànoo. Veejii ts'at voondée kat làt chan gwidrihdok ts'ik niint'aai k'iighe' nàniinjik, t'agwàhchii t'at ihłok gwijùutin ts'at ihłak gidilii. Ichyàa gòo Nàatsaii geenjit giyyu-udahkat, gwàt Joanne akòo dinuu vitsuu t'at Ichyàa iidàlii zrinuh. Teetl'it Zheh geh'at danh 1947 hee gwànoo gwàts'at ezhik danh t'àngiinch'uu, gwàt diti' elts'ik najàanaai geenjit Aklavik Elts'ik Zheh nitr'inyahchih geenjit gwàt agadanh Teetl'it Zheh nagidindih ch'uu. Aii t'ee Nàgwichootshik gwidi' danh dizhehk'oo kat gichùundi' ts'at ekhè'tàdhich'it.

1958 dài' Joanne didinjii hàh t'iinch'uu aii t'ee jùkwàa hee 1978 dài' nihkhàt'agwàhnjik. Agadanh zrit nìch'it ihłògwinli' geedi'i' ts'at chaa neekaii chan geedi'in'. 1966 dài' Van Choo giyyàhnuu gwits'at gichùujil ts'at khaii tthak ezhik danh t'agiinch'uh khyàh t'agah'ii geenjit veenjii iisrits'at gòonlii eenjit ganadhindaii nuh.

Juudin kat chan veenjii gwiinzheii gòonlii t'at veek'aai kat àhnùu; Caroline, Alice, Rebecca, Mary, jii kat chan gogwizhi' gòonlii aii geh'àn goots'at chan leii giik'àndhilnjik. Nits'òots'at anjòo kat ts'at ginohkhii ts'at guuk'ànàatii chan gàshuuniltin, gwidii giniinkhii kwaa, iizuu goots'at ginihkhii kwaa geenjit ts'at shik goots'at oodhidhilch'eii chan

shagàhnuu. Vahanh chan iisrits'at iinli' chan nuh, jidii tthak chan àhdàndaii nuh jidii jùk gweendòo duuyeh akòo t'ishi'ii zrinuh. "Jidii tthak akòo t'èedi'in'," gana-dhindaii, "k'e'jìkai' srihee, nàgwiniltsi' kwaa guugàa, nindhòh ts'at adhòh ahshii gòo gàadha'ài chan àhdàndaii. Gwiintl'òh gwitr'it t'agwah'in'....!!



Abraham and Lucy Vaneltsi's daughter Joanne was born in Fort McPherson on July 7th, 1939. Though many of Joanne's siblings died of tuberculosis, they were once eleven in their entirety. When asked about her family and whether they were of the Wolf or Crow clan, Joanne remembers her grandmother telling her that they were Ichyàa (Wolf clan). Her family lived in a cabin outside Fort McPherson until 1947 when her father fell ill and had to be hospitalized in Aklavik. Her family then stayed around "Mouth of Peel" until the early fifties

Joanne lived with her husband-to-be for many years before they married in 1978.

Together, Joanne and her husband had five girls and two boys. She recalls one of her fonder memories when she and her family went trapping at Hungry Lake in 1966. They stayed there from mid-September until the end of May, she recalls the beauty of the land, rich with caribou, "There were a lot of good fish on

that lake," says Joanne, "lots of berries, ptarmigans and beavers."

Her aunties Caroline, Alice Blake, Rebecca, and Mary, to name a few, were the women who inspired Joanne to become an incredible Gwich'in person herself. They taught her how to treat her elders, not to talk back or to be mean to anybody and to always listen to others. Her mother was also a heroine in her life and she remembers her ability to do things that Joanne says, she herself couldn't do today.

Joanne is known by many in the Gwich'in community as a knowledgeable person when it comes to reading the Gwich'in Bible. Most of what she has gained over the years is because of her mother and other dignified people within her community, many of whom have passed on today. Joanne continues to volunteer her time when needed and makes a note of attending the Gwich'in Church Service every Sunday and the Gwich'in Bible Study Circles on weekdays.