

**BORN:**

March 20th, 1929

BIRTHPLACE:

*Around Eagle River,
Yukon*

PARENTS:

*Annie Martin and
Robert George*

GRANDPARENTS:

*(Maternal) Old Martin
and Jane; (Paternal)
Julie and Old George;*

GWICH'IN:

Teetl'it Gwich'in

MARRIED:

*Angus Firth, July 13,
1955, in Fort McPherson*

CHILDREN:

*Wilbert, Ernie, Edna
Rose, William George,
Jimmy,
Alexander (d).*

the traditional skills by watching her mother. She loves to eat her traditional food and remembers how good caribou head roasted to the stove was.

Mary and Angus spent the early years of their marriage at their bush camp above Njuu Kak. She taught her husband how to make dryfish and everything about bush life. After their children were born, they built a log cabin down on the Middle Peel where they stayed every summer.

Mary now spends most of her time at Eight Miles (Nataiinlaii). She remembers her parents teachings and says, "I learned our way of life since I was child.

Today I live alone and I do all the traditional things that my ancestors did. This is the way I like it. This is what makes me happy. By living the traditional lifestyle as a child growing up, I know what to do for myself now. I can live alone and survive on what I get off the land. I can set a net, check my net and make dryfish. I can knit nets and have all the floats and sinkers. Then I can go down the hill and get in my canoe and set the net. I always did that.

Now you see me. I stay alone. My sons come and help me with the heavy work. But I am still able to see my net and set a fish net. Then I make dryfish out of the fish I catch. All this I do myself."

Mary Firth

**MARY MARTHA
(ROBERT) FIRTH**

As a child, Mary travelled the land with her parents. She remembers in September they would go up the Peel River and stay at their bush camp, returning to town only for a few days at Christmas. After New Years they would travel to the mountains to hunt caribou. Spring was passed hunting muskrats in the Mackenzie Delta and after June 15th, they would return to town, visit and then in July, go to the fish camp and make dry fish for the rest of the summer. At the end of August the Mission

boat would come and take them to All Saints Anglican School in Aklavik where they would stay until the following summer when they could return to spend summer with their family. Mary stayed in school for only three years and was so sick from loneliness that she was sent back home to her parents.

When travelling the land with her parents Mary remembers that everyone had chores to do. There was no time to be lazy. She learned