



# Ruth Furlong

RUTH (GREENLAND) FURLONG

**VAGÒONLII:** Vananh Adaghoo 3, 1931 dàr'

**NIJÌN VAGÒONLII:** Aklavik danh  
**VIYÙUGHWÀN KAT:** Joe ts'at Bella Greenland

Vitsii ts'at Vitsuu: Kenneth ts'at Annie Stewart (vahanh ts'aii)

**GWICH'IN:** Ehdıtat Gwıch'in

**TR'oonjik:** 1951 dàr' Arthur Furlong vatr'oonjik

**VITR'IIININ KAT:** Charlie, Joe, Rita chan ts'at Robert kat hàh



**BORN:** June 3, 1931

**BIRTHPLACE:** Aklavik

**PARENTS:** Joe and Bella Greenland

**GRANDPARENTS:** Kenneth and Annie Stewart (maternal)

**GWICH'IN:** Ehdii Tat Gwıch'in

**MARRIED:** Arthur Furlong in, 1950

**CHILDREN:** Charlie, Joe, Rita and Robert (adopted)

Nıch'ıt tsal nılıh dàr', Ruth zrit Aklavik gwızhıt duk'agghthat, yiyùughwàn kat Joe ts'at Bella Greenland kat hàh. Nıızhıt dàr' gwànoo zrit Teetf'ıt Gwıch'in ts'at Gwıchyàh Gwıch'in kat Aklavik gwats'at tàdhàkaiı ts'at lùh tr'uu kak goonııvyah zeh gwadhòh nàgıınıtthaiı ganadhındaiı. Anjòo kat chan jak ts'at nılı ganı geedı'in' ts'at nıkhkan akòo divıtr'ahnıı zrit goovàh nagwııı'aiı kwah. Shik ats'ainıagwahchıt geenjıt t'ıdı'ıı ganaanjik. "School gwızhıt chan shadhtroo ts'at shik goovehtee chıdhılgık vanalndaiı!" jüü àhnııh.

Aı t'ee nıch'ıt njòo dhıdlıt dàr' 1949 danh dıgıdınyàhch'ı' yak'adadhızhıı guugàa' zrit Srıtsoo kaiı'ıt gıtr'ahnıı gwınjı' gwats'at t'ııch'ııh. Nagwıdàdhat ihlak nıkhkàh t'agııch'ıı t'ee nagwınah'ıı k'ıt nıkhkàh goothınjik zrit nuh. 1950 dàr' Roman Catholic Church gwızhıt vatr'oonjik. Khaınts'an' gwıtak gwınyàanch'ıı dàr' dıdınyàhch'ı' hàh dıgızhıeh dachan gwats'at nagıınıjıl ts'at drın tsal gweenoo k'anagadadaı, lık zheıı, lık k'in' ts'at geh ghàa hàa tthak. Jük at'at Ruth dıdınyàhch'ı' nahgwan gwànoo nakhwehłat chııııı zrit ts'at, "Geetàk hee gwıııt'òh veenjıt tr'ınıızhıı shadhakhkaiı!" jüü zrit nuh.

Gè'tr'oonahıan zehıh danh khaiı leıı

nàgıınındhat, dınjıı zhıh k'yüü gagoonahıan eenjıt ga'oonahıan ıınlı'. Jük gweendòo zrit dachan tat duuyeh nıkh'yüü nahadık kwah, dızhıeh danh gwızrıh t'ııch'ııh, doctor nahgwan ts'at, duulèh kxanh ts'at vagwıdıınjik eenjıt. Tth'aiı hee jük gweendòo shıh zheıı hàh dha'aiı guugàa' zrit dıcheıı uıınjıt zhıı ah k'ıt t'agııch'ııh. Duulèh aiı tr'ıııın kat ts'at gıteekhyah jı' juu t'avataljah nuh, "Nıtsıı ts'at nıtsıı kat hàh guuk'ıt gòhndaiı gıjuht'aiı, "jüü nuh guuzhık dlòk nuu'aiı..



As a child, Ruth remembers being raised in Aklavik, by her parents Joe and Bella Greenland. She recounts her memories of when the people from McPherson and the Arctic Red River would all travel to Aklavik; setting up their white tents along the sandbar. The elderly women would have berries and drymeat, and Ruth was told on many occasions not to bother the elders. Being something of a troublemaker was one of Ruth's specialities. "I remember getting the strap at school, and running away so many times!" she exclaims.

Ruth met her husband in Aklavik in 1949, though he was originally

from Yellowknife. They spent a year together and secretly eloped. They were married in a Roman Catholic Church in 1950. Every Fall her husband would take her to spend time at their cabin, they would return for Christmas with loads of white fish, fish eggs, and rabbits. Ruth's husband has now passed on, "I miss him so much sometimes," she says.

Ruth was a Gwıch'in teacher for many years and remembers passing on her knowledge to the children she taught. Today she no longer goes out on the land, she remains at home, close to a doctor, just in case. She continues to make traditional foods, even though her grandchildren may prefer pizza. If there was one thing Ruth could tell the children of today, it would be to "Try to live a good life like your grandparents," she smiles.