

Perry River Project

Taped at Gjoa Haven

September 2003

Sarah Ullikattaq

(English)

**Interviewer: David Pelly
Interpreter: David Qirqut
Transcribed by: Ben Kogvik**

Q He said that today is September 9, 2003, and he's going to say his name David Pelly. I'm David Qirrut who will be interpreting. We will be interviewing Sarah Ullikattaq, regarding the trip from Perry River to Gjoa Haven when they started moving because the store closed down. That's what we'll hear about from you.

Q First of all, he wants to ask about the consent forms that we signed, if you understand them clearly?

SU Yes.

Q Do you understand clearly?

SU Yes.

Q Before we start talking, do you have any questions?

Q He wants to ask you to say your name, your birth place if you know, also the day if you know, but if you don't know it that's fine too.

SU Over there, my wallet is over there?

Q Do you know where you were born?

SU At Ellice River, it's right here. This is Sarah Ullikattaq. Right here is the place where I was born.

Q Your parents names?

SU Matumiaq (Bobby) was my father. Aputainaq was my mother.

Q Who was your mother?

SU Aputainaq. Mary Aputainaq.

Q When you were a child, what do you remember about your parents and yourself, where did they live when you were a child?

SU Near Ellice River is where I spent my childhood. That's where I grew up, near there, during the winter, and we go here [inland] when it's summer time.

Q During the summer, when you went in-land, how far did you go?

SU We go very far in-land just by walking and having the dogs pack. We get very far in-land.

Q Do you remember the name of the place?

SU It was part of the Ellice River.

Q Did you reach the Back River section called Hanningajuq?

SU Yes, we reached Haningajuq.

Q Was it during the summer or winter that?

SU Both during summer and winter.

Q Why did your parents go that far south, to Back River?

SU To look for something to eat, to hunt for meat and fat, those things.

Q Caribou fat?

SU Yes, caribou and fish.

Q While you were a child, those stores where they bought and traded, did you know about these stores where they traded when you were a child?

SU Here at Perry River and Cambridge Bay here - those are the ones I knew about.

Q When your father had something to trade with, did he go to Cambridge Bay or Perry River? Which one? Or did he go to both?

SU He usually went to this one [Perry R.] when he had something to trade. It was closer.

Q When you stopped staying with your parents and got a husband, how and where did you move?

SU My father was the only parent that I had left, when we started staying here. When it was only us left, I stayed with him for a long time here just past Perry River. He wanted me to get a husband so he went here and brought me here.

Q Near Perry River?

SU Yes.

Q Do you remember how old you were when you got a husband?

SU I have forgotten though perhaps close to 30.

Q When you were getting a husband, if you were near Perry River, while there was still a store there at Perry River, did your husband go there to trade at the store?

Su Yes, he went there when we were close to there.

Q After you started staying there, did you get a child near Perry River?

SU Yes, when we were here near Perry River, just one.

Q Do you remember what year it was when your child was born? Do you know the number for the year?

SU No.

Q Where were you when you were told that the Perry River store was going to be closed, and then closed, when you heard about it?

SU Before we were really told, just the two of us came to visit here [Gjoa Haven], when it was getting warm out. After visiting, the store was no more, when we got back.

Q When you went to visit at Gjoa Haven? How did you go to Gjoa Haven and what month was it?

SU May? Or March?

Q During the spring when there was a lot of daylight?

SU Yes.

Q It was probably in May.

SU Yes.

Q Why did you go to Gjoa Haven, how did you travel to Gjoa Haven?

SU To go check to see how Gjoa Haven was, as apparently there would be no more white person where we were living.

Q By dog team?

SU Yes, by dog team.

Q At Perry River, before you started traveling, he was informed that there would be no more white person there?

SU Yes.

Q When you went to Gjoa Haven from Perry River how long did you travel?

SU Five days. We just camped five days before reaching Perry River traveling only by dog team, when we were going home the same thing.

- Q When you got back to Perry River, when there was going to be no more store, or if you got there after the store was already closed, what did you do after the store was closed?
- SU When the store closed we went to spend the spring here [Simpson River], making our trip to here [Gjoa Haven] a bit closer. After spending the spring there we went here by boat.
- Q The name of the place where you spent the spring?
- SU Simpson River.
- Q Simpson River?
- SU Yes, Simpson River, Simpson River.
- Q When it became summer you went to Gjoa... did you go to Gjoa Haven or did you go somewhere else?
- SU We went right to Gjoa Haven from Simpson River.
- Q Yes.
- SU This is what happened, without any white-man, without going into any store.
- Q For months?
- SU Yes, months from when we started from over there.
- Q You spent the spring at Simpson River then in the summer if you got to Gjoa Haven?
- SU We got here [Cam-2] in the summer.
- Q To the work site?
- SU Yes.
- Q Not to Gjoa Haven?
- SU Yes, not right to Gjoa Haven.
- Q How long did you stay at Cam-2?
- SU One month or two. We finally got here [Gjoa Haven] during Christmas.
- Q So, from over at Simpson River you went to Cam-2?

SU Yes.

Q How? By boat? How many boats were there when you moved to Cam-2? When you left from Simpson River to move to Cam-2, how many boats were there?

SU There were two.

Q And how many people?

SU Sarah Ullikattaq, Norman, Kanayuq, Magaknak Annie, Pinniq (Alice Siksik) – seven altogether.

Q Magaknak got over there by boat as well or did he get there later?

SU He arrived with the rest after freeze-up.

Q From over there at Perry River, when you moved to Simpson River to spend the summer there, those people, your relatives, Apiana's and Siksik's parents – also their adoptive parents traveled with you from Perry River – did you go to Simpson River with them?

SU Yes, we went to Simpson River with them. I said that we waited there for the ice to go.

Q During the summer, as you spent the summer at Simpson River, Apiana and Magaknak and Siksik went to Gjoa Haven. Was it before or after that, you went from there to Cam-2?

SU After we started staying here, at Ulivyaqniqtuuq, after we were there, Apiana and Magaknak and Siksik went to get food, after we got here.

Q After they started coming back did you go to Cam-2?

SU Yes. We missed each other here at an island, just us. Our traveling companions met them, but we didn't meet them.

Q So Magaknak just crossed paths with his wife and continued on, but saw her though?

SU Yes, we just missed them, we went like this.

Q So you didn't stop and see each other?

SU Yes.

Q When you left from Ulivyaqniqtuuq did you get to Cam-2?

SU Yes.

- Q Those relatives, you and your family, from there went towards Gjoa Haven when the store closed. There were other people that moved from there?
- SU Some of our relatives moved to Cambridge Bay, our older siblings. I have an older sister Alice Qaiqtaq.
- Q When the store was closing, were you informed before? Wwhen the store closed, were you given anything, even small items?
- SU They didn't even last a month, as they were small amounts of food for us. The tea didn't finish though but the lard and all finished. All the food stuff was gone because there wasn't very much. There were very many boxes as they were very small amounts.
- Q Was there flour?
- SU Flour was 50 pounds. It didn't last the summer.
- Q Was there also some tea?
- SU Yes, there was tea and sugar, there was everything all right.
- Q What about baking powder how much?
- SU Yes, those things were all there alright, with the lard and baking powder, there was everything for them all right.
- Q Those people looking after these at that store, when the store was closing, did they tell you that the store was going to close and why the store there was closing?
- SU We didn't even hear when we arrived home, except that those food items [waiting] for us that we were supposed to get, the white-man's food, when we got home from here [Gjoa Haven].
- Q Were you not informed about why the store was closing? Didn't even any of your relatives tell you why?
- SU Yes, our relatives told us. Magaknak said that there was no more white person and didn't say anything else.
- Q No more white person?
- SU Yes, no more store manager, that's what he said, but he didn't say anything else. If he did, I didn't hear it.
- Q At Perry River, before the store closed there, while there was still a store, did people receive family allowances?

SU Yes.

Q Before it closed, while you were still over there, did you receive family allowances?

SU Yes, they received family allowances. The issue of family allowances is what I was going to talk about first, but forgot, although I thought about it. There, past Perry River, while we were traveling in the winter, checking traps, the policeman came with Paniuyakkaq (David) as his interpreter to fill out my family allowance forms.

Q While there was still a store there?

SU Yes, while there was still a store. While there was still a store he came to fill out the forms for my family allowances.

Q While you were still at Perry River, how were you given the family allowances?

SU Those policemen seem to work on them, because they traveled, so they would bring them.

Q They would bring them by traveling?

SU Yes, they would bring them and drop them off at Perry River.

Q How did you would know when they brought them.

SU There was a store there, two of them, so sometimes they brought them and sometimes they would go pick them up when they were due to arrive.

Q To Cambridge Bay?

SU Yes, to Cambridge Bay and Perry River.

Q Were they picked up by the policemen or did you go pick them up?

SU They go get them and shop at the same time, my father went there.

Q While you were still over there, did you receive welfare payments?

SU We didn't get welfare while we were over there, but just by using some foxes my father and my husband, those two, after I got a husband, didn't receive welfare as there was none over there. The only other source was family allowances that they got.

Q How much were those family allowances? Do you remember how much they were, while you were still over there?

- SU They may have been one hundred dollars, as he would buy a lot. There would be so much, because the items were cheap at that time.
- Q When you moved to Gjoa Haven, when you started staying in Gjoa Haven, how long did you have to wait before you got family allowances in Gjoa Haven?
- SU After we got there, they seemed to have come in very early, but I didn't notice them.
- Q You received family allowances as well?
- SU Yes, we received family allowances as well.
- Q Before you mentioned about 8 months that you traveled from Perry River to Gjoa Haven. When you got to Gjoa Haven, and got your family allowances, were the family allowances any bigger or were they still the same amount?
- SU They were a little bigger when we got here.
- Q From Perry River towards Gjoa Haven, when you traveled together, while you were still traveling, who amongst acted as leader, directing, which one of you told people what they should do?
- SU My old man and my brother-in-law directed what should be done.
- Q While you were at Upliyaniqtuuq, those three men only went to Gjoa Haven and you moved to Cam-2. Why did you split up from there?
- SU Halluqtalik, Halgiuhi's (Emily) husband, left so we just followed and moved. When he started out by boat we moved with Halluqtalik. It was like we moved because he followed his brother-in-law, so we moved close to there.
- Q Did he work there?
- SU He didn't work alright.
- Q He wanted to move there?
- SU Yes, he wanted to move to get closer by boat.
- Q There were no problems to travel by boat to Cam-2 when you moved, and no ice?
- SU There was no ice. This part though, by here, was a lot of ice, so we would stay still for long periods. But when we got here, there was no problem, there was no problem at all.
- Q Those men had already gone to Gjoa Haven, or was it before that?

- SU After they left for Gjoa Haven it was quite a while afterwards that we left from there. It was around here somewhere that we missed each other, although we did not want to miss them, but it was difficult as we couldn't see each other, and John Ullikattaq wanted to find shelter from the winds, from an island, so we missed them. Apparently our traveling companions saw them though.
- Q From Upliyaniuuq, you moved from over there by boat, how long did it take?
- SU It was windy so we spent long days where it was too windy for us, then reached our destination right from there.
- Q Do you remember how many days you camped?
- SU Perhaps two days.
- Q Were there two boats?
- SU It was only us alone, the only boat from where we camped two times, when we moved.
- Q There were two boats when you left from over there. Did you camp at separate places?
- SU Yes, we got left behind, so we separated.
- Q When the store closed at Perry River and you started moving to Simpson River, you said that you had to keep stopping. It seems that you would be hunting for food. Were there difficulties around there?
- SU We always had food between there and Perry River. We always had plenty of meat. While our relatives went by boat, we would walk, we'd be on land walking with the dogs.
- Q Was there any hunger during that trip?
- SU No hunger, except the kids seemed hungrier around here [Upliyaniuuq]. They had no more white-man's food only when we got around here.
- Q Country food wasn't hard to get?
- SU It wasn't hard-up for country food.
- Q From Upliyaniuuq, when you got to Cam-2, how long did you stay at there before moving to Gjoa Haven?
- SU For two months.
- Q So during the summer you got there and during the winter you went to Gjoa Haven?

- SU Yes, two months. At that place my husband traveled and hunted.
- Q When you got to Cam-2, how many buildings were at Cam-2, and how hard was it to get white-man's food at the site?
- SU The cook would bring us food and also the station chief from the cook there.
- Q When you were at Cam-2 were you okay there while you waited there before getting to Gjoa Haven?
- SU Yes.
- Q Why did you spend two months there before moving to Gjoa Haven?
- SU My husband liked the close shore-line. He enjoyed not having to bring gear very far and wanted to wait until the Christmas season. He wanted to go during that month and he did what he wanted. For that reason they waited a long time there, but when we just arrived here [Gjoa Haven] we got welfare, as we arrived just before the month was over.
- Q When you left Cam-2 to move to Gjoa Haven, how did you move, was it by dog team or by boat?
- SU By dog team, traveling all the way. It seems like I had my eyes closed as I didn't know the land. John would tell me what the places were. I didn't know the route. I kept thinking that the land would be high as we went over land coming here. Each time we came close to the land it was very low. There would be no high terrain, only low-lands.
- Q Thank you.