

Gambell - Homes made from sea trees

by Grace Slwooko

As a child, when I first realized, the first people I remember seeing were my grandmother Aghmaghaghpak and Igmaluga, my grandfather.

Grandpa Igmaluga use to have a house like every people had. Those houses were made with logs for the walls and walrus hide for the top, with logs sticking out on top but closer to over the door or entrance way. The logs for the walls were put standing up side

by side all around. Even these are no trees on the island, we have logs and wood. These are logs and wood that come ashore all around the island from the sea.

Some places along the beach there are piles of wood, that come ashore, some are about a mile long of them, underneath even rotten.

So even there are not trees on the island, we have wood, the wood that come ashore from the sea. Sometimes there be a log or large tree that come ashore from the sea, waves drift them in. Some-

times, we even find paint from the drift wood. Some wood have parts that is red, that paint we use to paint skins from seals and reindeer and make red leather, too.

This time of the year, during November, Aqumuq in our language, the wind usually blow so hard from southwest, at times causing waves to strongly come ashore. Sometimes they come so close to the village of Gambell, one time two houses were washed out, years ago! And people had to run to the mountain there, until the waves got farther out!