



Diaspora Stories

Ancestor's Name: MARY O'DRISCOLL (1920)

Place of birth (if known): CLOUGH NA CLINA BALTIMORE

Your Name: RUTH GORD

Contact (optional): 07785 997850

My mum, Mary O'Driscoll is 97. She was born one of eight children in Clough-na-Clina Baltimore, the 5th child of Gerald O'Driscoll + Mary-Ellen Connolly. She cycled to school, St Theresa's School for girls, 8 miles there and back a day in all weathers. She was very good at Irish and went to England to study as a nurse. Within a few years, she began nursing as a theatre sister in Africa. Later she worked in Malaya and married my father, John Hemphill, from Sheffield. My parents had 3 children in Batu Gajah and then moved back to London, where 3 more children were born, the youngest being me, born in 1963. My parents then moved to Kilmarnock Scotland where mum was an Ear, Nose + Throat nurse in Kilmarnock Infirmary for many years. Mum is 97 today and the last of her siblings to still be living. Recently mum went into Nazareth House Care Home in Glasgow. Although she has dementia, she talks very fondly of life in Baltimore and Skibbereen in the 1920's. Mum was a pioneering woman and we are all very proud of her and our Irish roots.

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I agree to submit this story for publication by Skibbereen Heritage Centre.

Signed: Ruth Gord

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