



# Diaspora Stories

Ancestor's Name: MARY THERESA WHOOLEY

Place of birth (if known): LEAP, CO. CORK

Your Name: MAUREEN THERESA CROWLEY

Contact (optional): 087 2351556

MARY T. WHOOLEY (MY MOTHER) WAS THE ELDEST OF EIGHT CHILDREN BORN TO MARY COLLINS WHOOREY DENIS WHOOLEY, 20/03/10. ON LEAVING PRIMARY SCHOOL SHE WAS SENT TO WORK AS A KITCHEN MAID (AGE 14) TO BOON'S, RIVERM. MY GRANDFATHER WAS ALARMED THAT SHE WAS DEVELOPING AN "ENGLISH TONE" (HE HAD HIMSELF HIR ARMS FOR THE IRA) AND IT WAS ARRANGED FOR HER TO "GO TO" AN UNCLE IN BOSTON. MY MOTHER'S FIRST TRIP TO SKIBBEREEN WAS TO ARRANGE THE PASSAGE. ANOTHER RELATION TO HER TO COBK. SHE ACTUALLY WORKED AS A MAID FOR ~~HER~~ UNCLE'S WIFE (AN UNKINDLY SOUL) TO PAY BACK HER PASSAGE. MY GREAT UNCLE SENT HER TO NIGHT SCHOOL WHERE SHE GAINED A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND ALSO LEARNED TYPIST SHORTHAND. THE GREAT DEPRESSION FOUND HER IN FOOD LINES + DESPAIRING AT THE "NO IRISH WERE NEEDED" SIGNS. LUCKILY, SHE PASSED HER GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAL EXAMS AND WENT TO WASHINGTON D.C AS AN EMPLOYEE OF THE SECURITY & EXCHANGE COMMISSION (NOWLY FOUNDED). EARLY LIVING FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS IN A "WOMEN'S HOTEL" (VERY SAFE) SHE MOVED AS A LODGER TO THE SHANAHAN HOUSE AND THERE MET MY FATHER.

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

Signed: Maureen J. Crowley

Date: 28/07/17

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