



Diaspora Stories

Ancestor's Name: JOHN COUGHLAN
Place of birth (if known): BUNALUN
Your Name: CRYSTAL SWALENS (NEE COUGHLAN)
Contact (optional): CrystalSwalens@gmail.com

JOHN COUGHLAN, SON OF DANIEL COUGHLAN (1876-1966) AND JANE SULLIVAN (1889-1980), WAS BORN 8TH APRIL 1925 IN BUNALUN (LURRIGA) AND ONE OF SEVEN CHILDREN. GROWING UP HE REMEMBERED STEALING BOILED SWEETS FROM HIS GRANDMOTHER, BUYING HIS MOTHER CIGARETTES AND WHEN HIS FAMILY HOME WAS INSTALLED WITH ELECTRICITY. JOHN MOVED TO LONDON AND MET HIS FUTURE WIFE AT A DANCE IN KENSINGTON. HE MARRIED MARY LINSKEY (BORN KNOCKSAXON IN CO. MAYO 27TH APRIL 1930) ON 26TH DECEMBER 1951 AT THE OUR LADY OF THE HOLY SOULS IN KENSINGTON. THEIR DAUGHTER ANNE WAS BORN JANUARY 1953 IN HAMMERSMITH, FOLLOWED BY SEAN ON APRIL 1956 IN KENSINGTON AND DANIEL ON NOVEMBER 1961. THEY ALL LIVED IN WEMBLEY, LONDON. JOHN WORKED FOR LUCAS CAV AND WAS A PROMINENT UNION MEMBER. HE HAD A KEEN INTEREST IN POLITICS AND ALWAYS SUPPORTED "THE UNDER DOG". HE WAS A STRONG CATHOLIC AND WOULD ATTEND THE IRISH CLUB IN WEMBLEY EVERY SUNDAY TO DRINK GUINNESS WITH HIS FRIENDS AND LISTENED TO THEM SINGING IN GAELIC (IRISH). HE WAS A KEEN GARDENER AND GREW TOMATOES AND RHUBARB. JOHN SUFFERED A FEW HEART ATTACKS AND STROKES TOWARDS THE END OF HIS LIFE. HE DIED 10TH AUGUST 2013 SURROUNDED BY FAMILY. - WRITTEN BY JOHN'S GRANDDAUGHTER CRYSTAL, DAUGHTER OF SEAN COUGHLAN.

Page _____ of _____

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

Signed: CRYSTAL SWALENS

Date: 15/06/2018

SKIBBEREEN HERITAGE CENTRE
Old Gas Works Building,
Upper Bridge Street, Skibbereen,
West Cork, Ireland, P81WK06
T: (353) 28 40900
E: info@skibbheritage.com
W: www.skibbheritage.com