



Diaspora Stories

Ancestor's Name: William Scannell McGrath
Place of birth (if known): Bantry, West Cork
Your Name: Marie Dunbar and Michael Cole
Contact (optional): mrdnbr@yahoo.co.uk

William was born in Chapel Street, Bantry on 27.9.1898. His parents were John McGrath & Catherine Scannell who married in Killeenterna on 2.8.1883. John came from Castle Island and Catherine from Dromoltan. We knew very little about our Irish family, who seem to have come to Scotland in the early years of the 20th Century. They died before we were born. Michael and Marie are first cousins, their mothers being 2 of the 5 daughters born in Scotland to William and his wife Mary McKinley. It has taken us some years to trace our grandfather's place of birth and to try to understand the reasons for his family's emigration to Scotland. It seems that may have been due to our great-grandfather John's occupation - given the difficult times that were taking place. William, unfortunately, experienced a hard life in Scotland with his mother dying when he was only 12. His wife too, died young and he was left to bring up our mothers and their 3 sisters on his own. We would dearly love to hear from any relatives - particularly from William's brother's descendants & or from any of Catherine Scannell's descendants. Ireland is for us a very special and important place. We are proud of our heritage.

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

Signed: Marie Dunbar + pp Michael Cole

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