

School in the 1950s

My Nana says that school in the 1950s was a little like going to war! It was a constant battle for education between the rich and the poor. If your family had a lot of money, then when you went to school the nuns would treat you really well. You would get the best parts in the play and hardly ever get ignored. They even avoided being hit by the dreaded stick. School was different for poor children, school was so horrible that they often dropped out. But not MY Nan.

My great grandparents believed that education was the most important thing in the world. So everyday my Nan walked 7 miles to school and back again. That's 14 miles every day!! My Nan often talked about how mean the teachers were to her in school, but she never gave up.

When she finished primary school, she went to secondary school. She always dreamt of becoming a nurse. So when she finished secondary school, she moved to London to attend nursing college. My Nan knew that it would be a great sacrifice, as there were no mobile phones or internet back then, and she was leaving her family. She wrote to my great grandparents every week and told them about her adventures in London.

One night at a dance she met my grandad, and the rest is history. I am so glad my Nan followed her dream, because when I am not feeling well, my Nan is always there encouraging me to never give up and follow my dreams.

Written by Dathig Finnerty

Told to me by my Nan, Breda Manning