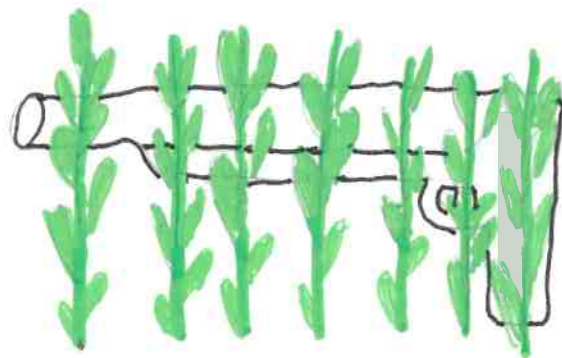


Stories of the Revolution 1916-1923

My Great -
Grandmother

was a gun-
runner.



My great-grandmother's name was Maureen Wade. Her parents were Patrick James (P.J.) Wade and Cathy Wade (nee: McEathery). P.J. Wade's profession was a barber. Maureen was born in the townland of Moyrighnagh in the parish of Kiltarney, Co. Kerry. She was one of the eldest of 7. Her brothers and sisters were: Kevin, Florence (Florence), Jack, Peggy, Frank and Sally. During the revolution, P.J. Wade's aims were to keep his family out of trouble and keep his business going. The family never openly supported sides and only chose one side when forced.

When the IRA needed to transport messages or guns, they used children. As Maureen looked sweet and innocent, she was the perfect walking disguise. She and her sisters carried guns under their skirts and petticoats. If, for example, one of the IRA received a tipoff that one of their safehouses was to be raided, they would notify the children of the village. Then the children would meander over, with various excuses. The children went in with missions, they came out with guns. Maureen never suspected a thing. She enjoyed the "game" and only found out when she was shot. She had the biggest adventure of her life, and didn't realise it.

By, Lúia Bradley.

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