

Stories of the Revolution Project

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Class: Sixth Class

Interviewee: My Grand-dad

Interview with grandad about what life was like for his parents in 1920's Ireland.

Q. What did your parents work at?

A. My Mother worked as a housekeeper until she was married. My Father worked as a mechanic in O Sullivans Sawmills in Dunmanway. There, they also had cold room, where they stored packed butter and eggs for exporting. He started work when he was only 12 years only.

Q. How did they travel?

A. They had to cycle or some people had a donkey and cart. Very few people had cars back then.

Q. What did they do for fun?

A. They used to visit houses where stories were told by the sheanchai and played cards. They used to go to dances at the weekend.

Q. What did they eat?

A. They used to grow potatoes and veg. They had chickens for eggs, cows for milk and reared turkeys for Christmas.

Q. What did they use for fuel in the fire?

A. They went to the bog for turf and cut down trees. Coal was too expensive!