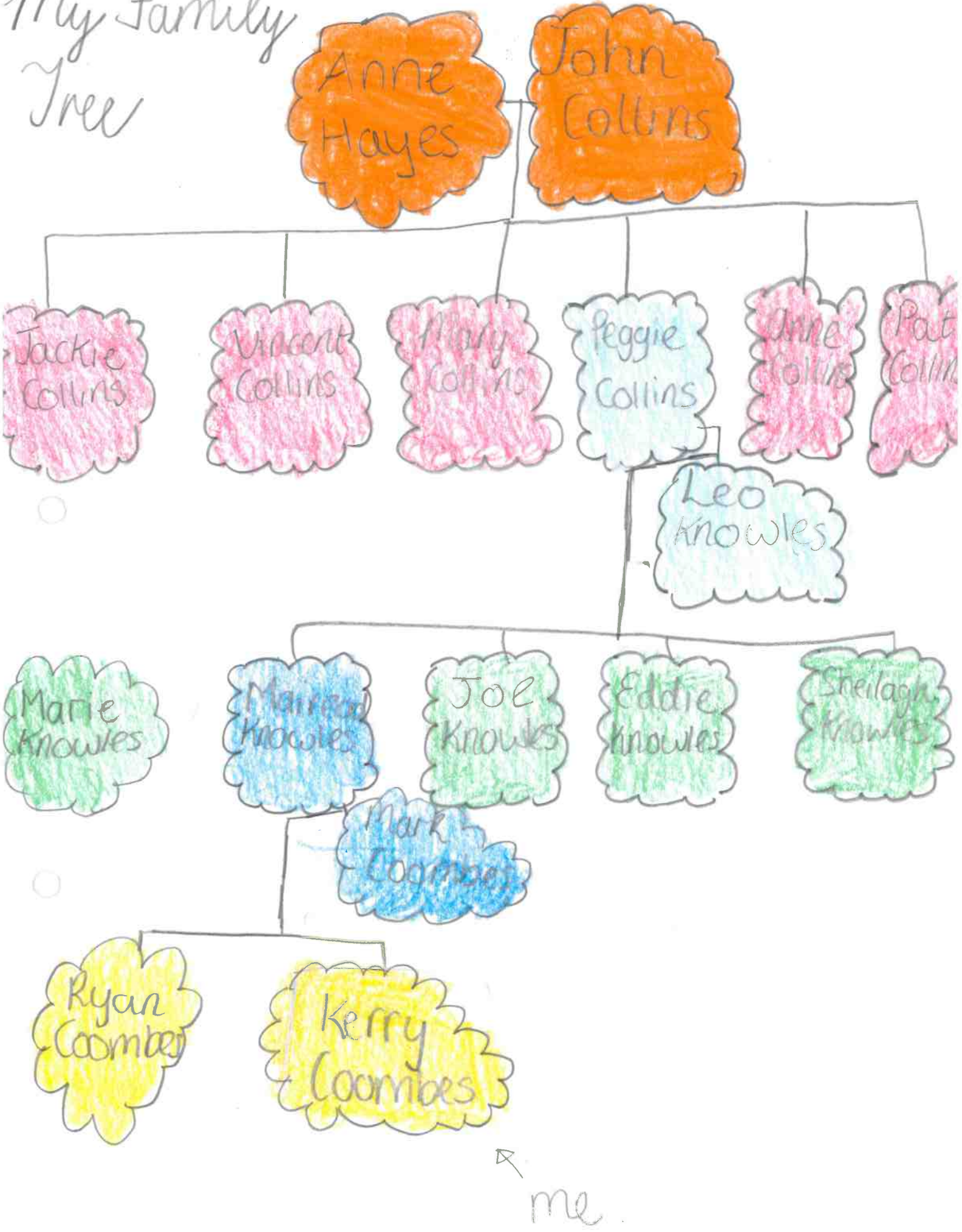


Anne Hayes
Story of the
Revolution

by Kerry Coombes

My Family Tree



My greatgrandmother Anne Hayes was born in Shannonvale in 1906. She had two brothers Jack and Mick, and four sisters Lera, May, Peg and Nora. She attended Knockreeagh N.S. where I am attending now. The Hayes family had a small shop attached to the family home, when Anne left Primary school she worked there. In the shop they sold bread, tea, milk and sugar. They also sold paraffin oil used in oil lamps as their source of light. During the times of the troubles Anne was an active member of the Cumann na mBan. She was only sixteen years old. My nanny told me that her mother (Anne Hayes) would cycle to Lyré to a safe house and deliver clean clothes and food for her brothers who were out on the run. Anne hid messages in her shoes to inform the men of the location of the Black and Tans. Anne recalled how fearful she was of being caught. She carried the food in her bag on her back and beneath the food the clothing was hidden. Anne found it very scary at night when the Black and Tans would shine their torches through the window.

Sometimes they would barge into the house to check to see if any men were hiding. A list of occupants was written over the door.



My great grandmothers
Cumann na nBán medals.

88

88



Anne can remember when her brother Jack got shot on his thigh in a bog between Lyne and Ballineer. Jim Hurley from Clonakilty another active member of the I.R.A. at that time carried Jack on his back on of the bog. Jack was taken to a safe house in Crossbarry. In the house he was dressed as a pregnant woman wearing a long black cloak and a head scarf to disguise him. Jack's first cousin John Corkery who was on the board of the North Infirmary Hospital organised for him to be taken in the back door (which was the kitchen door). The bullet was then removed from his leg.

Anne's brother Mick was captured by the Black and Tans. He was held hostage in the old St Mary's Secondary School Clonakilty for a number of days. He escaped along with others by knotting the bed sheets together. They used the sheets as a ladder to climb out of the building. They left their shoes behind them. Anne met friends that Sunday after mass who had informed her that Mick had escaped.

Jack Hayes was a CIE milk lorry driver.



Jack Hayes with my grand uncle Vir in Bantry Station



Mick Hayes on his motor bike with his
sister Nora.

Anne's sister May was also an early active member of the Cumann na Mban.

She travelled to Dublin with Leslie (Price) Barry in a charabanc to an early Cumann na Mban convention. May became a very close friend of Leslie (Price) Barry's.

May attended Leslie's wedding to Commander Tom Barry. May enjoyed being in the company of famous 1916 dignitaries, Countess Markievitz, Eamonn DeValera, Sean Males, Harry Boland and Michael Collins at the wedding.

Hockey

Anne Reuys enjoyed playing hockey.

She was actively involved in the local Mill Hockey team in Shannorsvale.

Her sisters Nora and May also played on the team. The club was formed by Thomas J. Bennett. He was a former

President of the Hockey Club of Ireland having had the distinction of being the only playing President. They travelled to their matches on the back of the Mill lorry.

Jack Hayes told my grand uncle Pat that under the bridge at Ballycummer there was a loose stone where they used to hide a key underneath, a motorbike was left in a ditch close by. This was for a quick getaway. Looking up from Shannonvale the stone was on the right. My grand uncle Pat found this stone in recent years. He would always bless himself when passing the bridge.

Anne Hayes dated John Collins from Dromgarriffe, Ballinascarty. He emigrated to America in 1927. Anne followed him in 1929 where she worked as a nanny. John worked as a delivery man with Borders milk. They got married in 1930. Their sons Jackie and Vincent were born. Anne and John returned to Ireland in August 1935. They lived in Clonakilty and had four more children Mary, Peggy (my nanny), Anne and Pat.



This is a photo of my great grandmother
Anne, my granny Reggie and my grandun
pat

A letter sent to Anne Hayes



Miss Anna Hayes.

% Mrs R. J. Newman.

116 Winter Ave,

New Brighton

States Island.

New York.

My great grandmother always
said

"The present IRA were different
to the IRA of her time.

I got my information from . . .

Peggie (Collins) Knowles.
my granny.

Mary Collins
married to my grand uncle Pat