

Stories of the Revolution

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My great grandfather was Micheal Clohessy, he lived in Limerick city. He was born in 12/1/1908 and he lived with his mother and father. When he was young his mother died in child birth with his sister. Michael's father sent him to live with his aunties in England as he felt it would be too difficult to raise Michael and work. Michael's father sent money to England in order to support Michael.

After a few years when Michael was a little older he returned to Ireland to live with his father in Dublin. This is where he played his part in the 1916 rising. Michael was only 8 years old but he became a runner in the 1916 rising. The Easter Rising took place on Easter Monday April 24th 1916, when a group of Irish Nationalists proclaimed the Republic and staged a rebellion against the British government in Ireland. A runner was someone who passed on message from people involved in a war or conflict to an officer. This ensured that the information was kept safe as it would have been very sensitive information that the Irish involved in the rising didn't want the British to know. I can only imagine how scared my grandfather was as a child to be involved in a revolution like this. I think he was very brave to do such an important job in a very dangerous event. Although the rebellion was eventually put down by the British after a week and my Great Grandfather was unharmed and it is something he remembered for the rest of his life and told his children and grandchildren about.

Michael went onto meet my great grandmother when he was twenty eight and they married two years later when he was thirty. They met when she was working as a nanny which was a person who minded children for wealthy people. My grandfather didn't get involved in politics or revolutionary activity again but he was an active boxer. He and his wife went on to have twelve children three boys and nine girls and lived in Limerick City. One of his daughters is now my nana Angela and she told me this story about my great grandfather.