

# My story of the Revolution 1916-1923

**BY: Niamh Langford**

## My Story of the Revolution, 1916-1923

The story was told to me by my Mum, Esme Langford,  
Scart, Ballinhassig, Co. Cork.  
She grew up in Birr, Co. Offaly.

This is a story about my Great-Grandmother, Minnie Ann Draper from Birr, County Offaly who was born in 1917.

My Great-Great Granddad, George Draper died when my Great-Grandmother was 3 years old. The year was 1920.

My Great-Great Grandmother had 2 younger children also. She could not care for all 3 young children. My Great Grandmother was subsequently adopted by her aunt (her father's sister) and uncle (Mr. Will-Tom and Mrs. Lizzie Bray).

Near the Bray's home, lived the Pearson family of Coolacree, County Offaly. During the Irish war of Independence, 2 sons of the Pearson family were shot by the IRA. This was in June 1921. Their home was burned and the family fled. My Great-Grandmother used to tell her daughter (my Granny) and also tell my Mum about the beautiful house and furnishings they had. They also had a lovely garden and beautiful young apple trees.

In 1922, my Great-Grandmother and her adopted parents were allowed to dig up these apple trees at Coolacrease and plant them at their home in Birr, County Offaly. This is the home where my Mum was born and grew up.

These apple trees grew and flourished for many years. They yielded many apples and my Mum has many lovely memories of picking apples and baking with them. My Mum says my Great-Grandmother loved making apple tarts!!! These apple trees got diseased and were dug up in 1992. They had yielded apples for 70 years at Birr, County Offaly!



Told to Niamh Langford, by her Mum - Esme Langford.