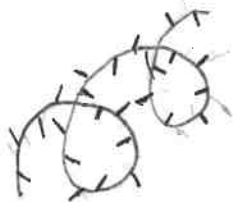


Stories

Of  
The

Revolution

By Noel Phair

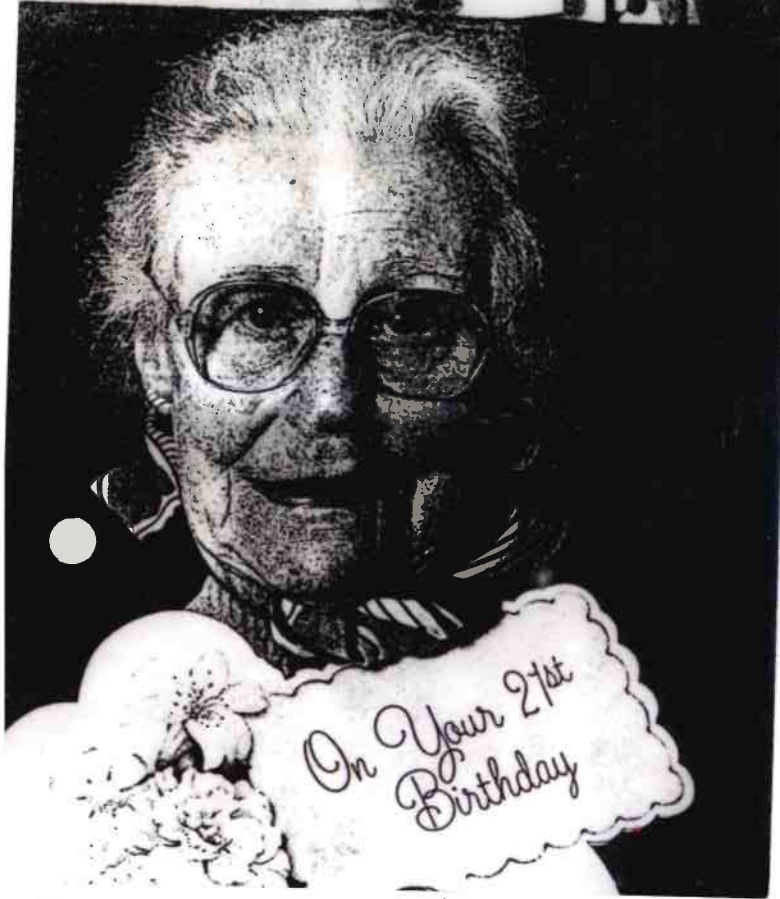


In 1851 Mr & Mrs. Doyle were living in a famine hut in Durrhaighaire, Dublin. They were expecting their first child quite soon. Mr. Doyle had fought against the Red Coats (the British Army) earlier that year. They had been sitting quietly in their little hut when screams & shouts arose from the village. Suddenly there was a loud crash as all the windows shattered. The Red Coats entered without warning, overturning everything, breaking furniture beyond repair. They grabbed Mr. Doyle, dragging him out of the hut. He was taken to Kimerick prison where he was later executed. Mrs. Doyle was thrown onto the roadside, leaving her all alone. That night she gave birth to a baby girl in a cornfield. The next morning the lady wife of the landlord was out on a walk when she heard the cries of a baby. She followed the noise and found the dying infant wrapped in its exhausted mother's arms. She brought them back to her house. She fed them & washed them and put them to bed. The baby was called Elizabeth. Mrs. Doyle lived there until the day she died. Elizabeth was educated to be a teacher. She married James Garland. In 1877, Elizabeth gave birth to a girl whom she called Mary Ellen. Elizabeth passed away in 1914 her husband James in 1936.

Mary Ellen trained as a nurse. She married Hugh O'Reilly with whom she had six children: Máire, Gerard, Anne, James, Patrick & Austin.

James, the 4<sup>th</sup> child when he was only 13 years old became an I.R.A. messenger as he was too young to be in possession of a gun. One day when James was running messages he was attacked by the Black & Tans in Blackrock. Other I.R.A. members came to his rescue. There was a shoot out between the two sides. Two I.R.A. members were shot dead & James was shot in the upper leg. The others carried him back to his mother's house in the middle of Blackrock village. When they arrived Mary Ellen saw her son's injury immediately. She ordered them to place him on the table. Mary Ellen was a trained nurse so she removed the bullet and stitched his leg back up. She ordered him to be put to bed. Mary Ellen had no fear of being with the I.R.A. because her house was a safe house. Her house was frequently searched because James was well-known by the Black & Tans. If any of the I.R.A. members happened to be in her house at the times they searched the house they would run out the back door & jump over the garden wall. Máire the eldest was a seamstress and sewed uniforms for the I.R.A. The eldest

boy of the the family, Gerard stood by Eamon De Valera while James stood by Michael Collins. The brothers hated each other for being on the opposite side. The two brothers never spoke again. When the war ended Gerard joined the Freestate army. He married Eileen Ferris and had three children. James & Margaret Reynolds married and had one son together. The strange thing was that James named his son Gerard after the brother he so hated. James started a company that built coal storage warehouses. Anne & Mairie were introduced to their brother Gerard's brothers in laws who they married. James would never visit his sisters in their houses because of the high chance of Gerard being there. James & Gerard always visited family members separately. James passed away in August 1975. Gerard passed away on December 1977. James' son, Gerard moved to Australia and only found out about the man he was named after when he was in his forties!



On Your 21st  
Birthday

Máire O'Reilly  
(1903-1991)

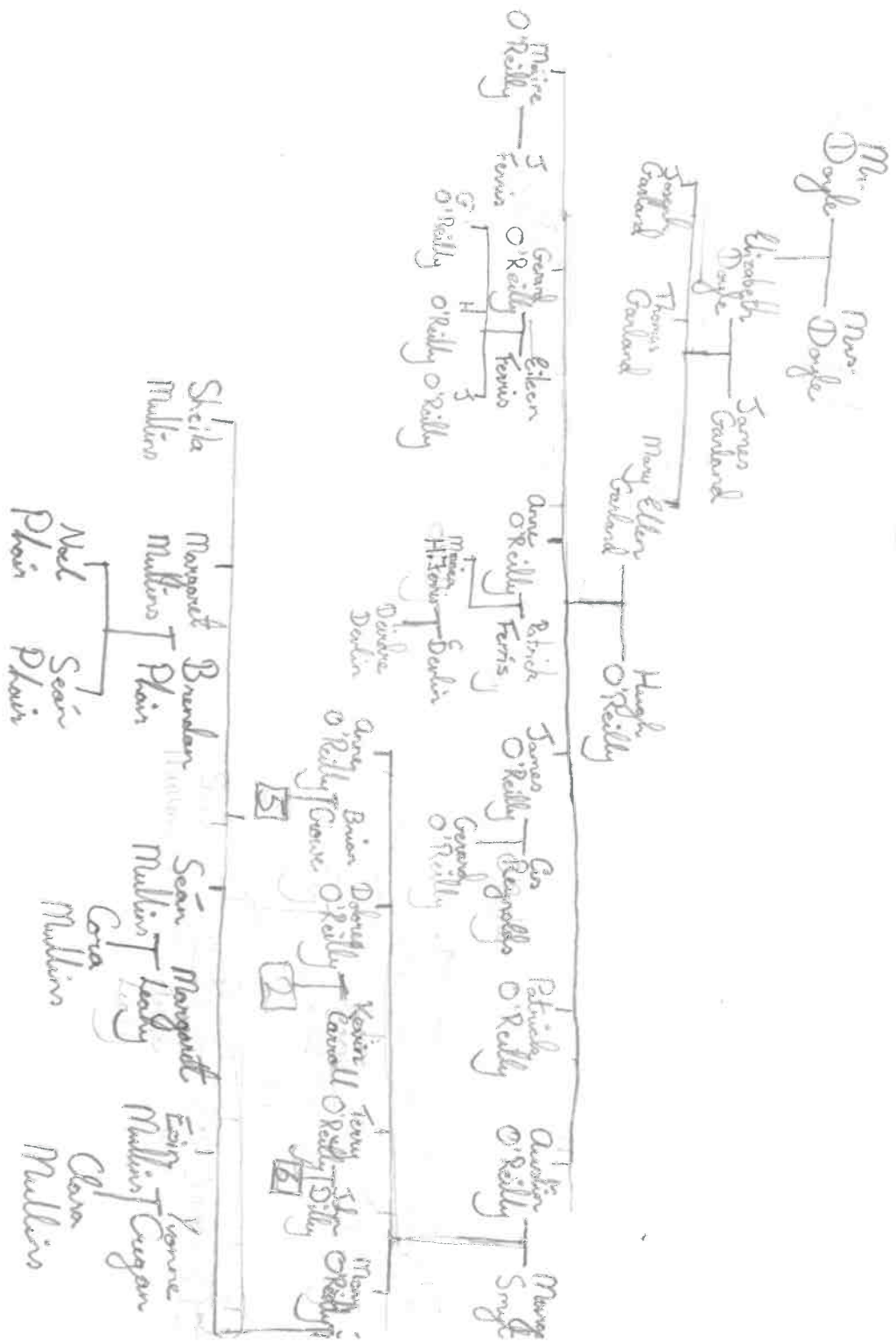


4th from the  
right: Austin  
O'Reilly  
(1915-1991)



Mary Ellen O'Reilly, Austin O'Reilly Margaret Austin O'Reilly

# O'Reilly Family Tree



searched the house they would run out the back door & jump over the garden wall. James' older sister was a seamstress and sewed uniforms for the I.R.A. The eldest boy of the family, Gerard stood by Éamon De Valera while James stood by Michael Collins. The brothers hated each other for being on the opposite side. The two brothers never spoke again. When the war ended Gerard joined the Freestate Army. He married a woman called Eileen Ferris who introduced her two brothers to Gerard's two sisters. Anne & Maire married Eileen's two brothers. James never visited his sisters either because of the high chance of Gerard being there. The strange thing is that James called his only son Gerard after he so hated. Young Gerard moved to Australia & only found out about the man he was named after until he was in his forties! Gerard passed away sometime around the seventies or eighties. James passed away sometime during the sixties.