

A Nana Fehily Short Story

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Nana Fehily is in an amazing woman in her late 80's whom looks out for those she cares for, and always tries to help those she does not know.

She is the first at a party and the last to leave. When I sat down to talk to her she had a lot to tell, here is a bit of what she had to say.

Nana Fehilly talked about the things she can remember during the war against the British and Irish that started in 1939 and ended in 1945. She was about 14 years old then. She rembered playing skipping, Pickie(hop scotch) and a ball game against the wall while saying different rhymes. She played house out in the open field, using dog leaves as rashers and roots as tea. Mud pies was a favorite of hers, she loved decorating them with Daisys. There was no electricity then instead oil lamps with oil and a wick was used. During the war oil was scarce and candles had to be used, the candles were not the best quality and melted everwhere. This was one of Nana Fehilys job, to clean up the wax from all over the house. There was no water in the house and they had an outside toilet. She had to walk to the well for water and the well was about half a mile from home. The nearest shop was two and a half miles from her house and they had no horses so herself and her family walked everwhere. There were two rooms in her school, the small room and the big room. The small room was for infants, first and second. Third, forth, fifth and sixth were in the big room. There were two teachers and sixty kids in the school. The bathroom in school was a dry toilet, a long

wooden bench with holes in it and a hole in the ground.

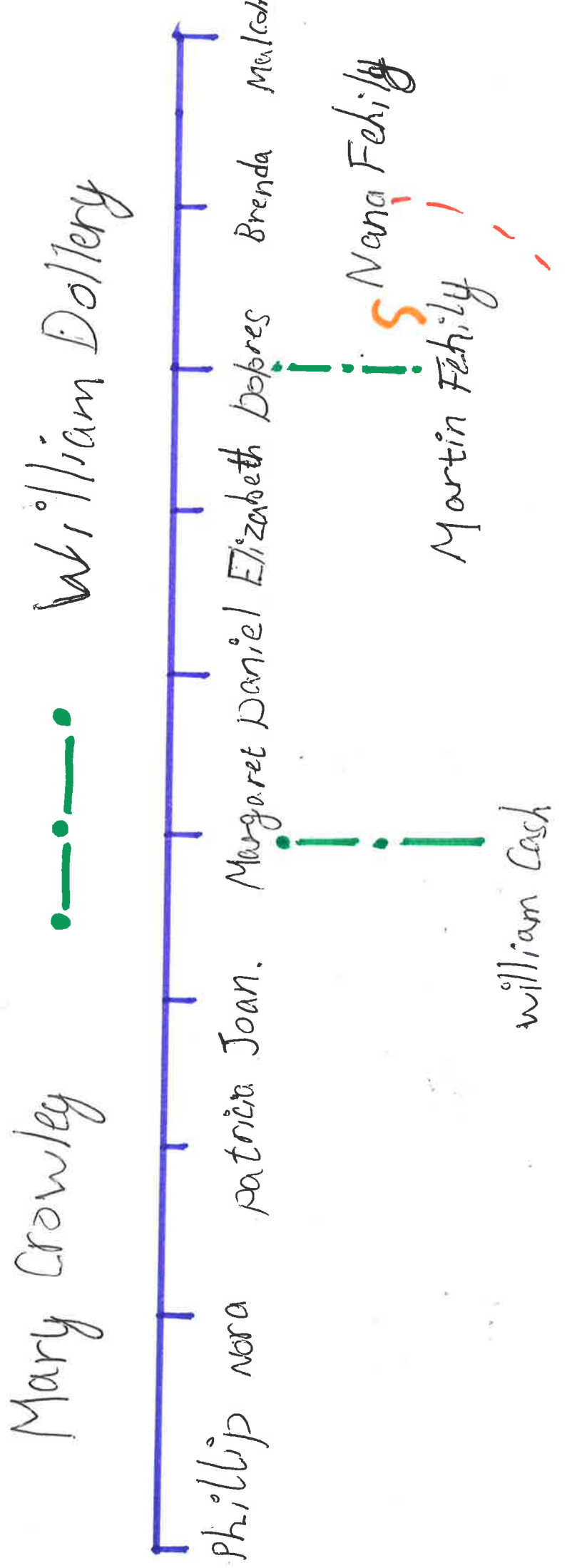
Nana Fehily also said that a lot of the things used in the home and food was bought using ration books. Tea, butter, sugar, soap, jam, coal was scarce. Each house would get about an ounce of tea per person. Although butter was made in Ireland it was still rationed. She had an Aunt in America who sent them parcels and that was the best. She talked about the ships that came into Cork harbour having a balloon covering to protect it from bombs.

Nana Fehily said she was afraid of any plane that flew overhead because of bombs. She remembered seeing a plane with the British colors flying overhead and running into her house crying because she did not want to die. There were parts of Ireland that was bombed not Cork but definitely Dublin and the midlands.

She cannot recall sites of ambushes or fighting as it did not affect her familys way of life and was far away from where she lived. There were places to hide out in case of bombing but was not used as there was never a bomb dropped in Cork.

Nana Fehily is currently living in Togher, Cork and I do not see her moving to anywhere else in Ireland. She loves where she is located and has remembers all about the area before it was as developed as it is now. It was nice talking to her and I will be talking to her again about her life.

A Partial Family Tree



- - - our connection
- ~ mother
- . - . married
- children