

Mary



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(Talking about where she was growing up in Cardiff) "It was very, very easy; it felt very safe we always had someone watching out for us. As I said earlier we always had friends, family, the doors were never locked. Can you imagine that? Leaving your front door open, not open but not locked. If you needed anything you could always go across the road or down the road. Everyone all the neighbours were really friendly, most of them were my family anyway but even those that weren't, you know, they were friends, very friendly, very neighbourly, good community spirit, very good. I was just saying earlier to the other groups that we didn't have television but I remember the first television that was actually on our street and it was a guy called Terry Walsh and everyone wanted to be his friend because he had a television and we ended up queuing up outside his house, a long line of us, and he'd let so many in at a time and once you'd had a little watch then they'd go out and the next lot would go in, it was really quite good fun."

(Why did your family originally come to Cardiff?) "That's a very good question. There was a famine; you know you hear famines today? The potato famine and that's why they came over. People came over from Ireland to finish building the docks in Cardiff and they lived in houses in Newtown so, not only did I live there, but my Mother was brought up there and so was my Grandmother so it was all those years ago and we were still living in those houses."

ary's grandmother worked in the docks, unloading potato sacks off the ships. She used to take part in the Corpus Christi celebrations in Cardiff.

(What was it like when you came to Cardiff?) "I was born in Cardiff but when my Grandmother came to Cardiff, my Grandmother was the first one that came to Cardiff, yeah? It was quite different, that was a very good question because when the Irish came over to work on Cardiff dock, because the people already working on them had gone on strike, so when these new people, Irish people, came over... Well the people that were already here weren't very happy about that, they were very annoyed so they didn't give them a very good welcome and don't forget they also thought these people, coming over in 1840 don't forget, they were very, very dirty, some of them had diseases so they weren't very pleasant. It was a bit like today when you see people migrate, you know, immigrants coming in and people saying "oh no we don't want these we got enough here." It was just like that then, 150 years ago."

