

The 'Decade of Centenaries'

All-island history competition for primary and post-primary schools

Template cover sheet which must be included at the front of all projects

Title of project:

Zara's Relations 1912 – 1922...

The First World war: To go or not to go!

Category for which you wish
to be entered (i.e. 'Decade of
Centenaries', biography,
local/regional, or national
(including social/cultural)
issue

National Issues.....

The First World war: To join up or not.

Name(s) of class /
individual student
group of students /

Senior Classes (IV – VI) The Model School,
Dunmanway, County Cork

submitting the project:

School roll number (this should be provided if possible):

05636A

School address

(this must be provided even
for projects submitted by a
group of pupils or an
individual pupil):

The Model School, Dunmanway, County Cork.

Class teacher's name

this must be provided even for
projects submitted by a group
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Zara's Family

1912 - 1922



Introduction

We are doing this project about a Zara's family because it is interesting. Was it a good decision for them to join up? Did it make life better / safer for their families? It is very difficult to write about some subjects without being biased. However if we don't try to understand History we are in danger of making the same mistakes again.

We looked at what it was like for Zara's family, during the decade 1912 - 1922, whether they stayed in Ireland or went away to fight with the British army in World War 1.

- Some fought in First World War, for various reasons.
- Some were republicans, working to thwart Great Britain.
- Some were neither republican nor loyalist but were nervous, being protestant in a mainly Roman Catholic country. They wanted to survive.

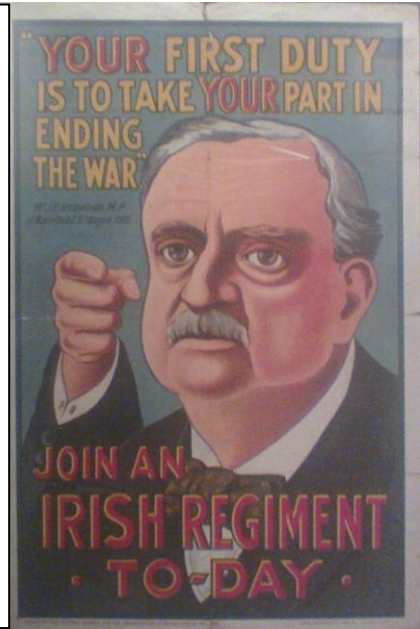
We researched and wrote down their stories using folklore and cross-referencing with books and internet when possible. We looked at artefacts which showed what it was like for them living then. We made a model of a First World War trench.

The Great World War:

"To go or not to go?"



We don't know for sure why they joined up...
...desire for adventure,
... the hope of Irish Home Rule
or ...loyalty to Great Britain....





Victor Henry Perrott

My great granduncle Victor Henry Perrott fought in World War One. He was the son of John and Sarah Perrott who were farming in Baurleigh, Bandon. He never married because he was only 20 when he became a soldier.

He joined the Leinster Regiment in 1914 and his service number was 1448. He was sent to fight in the French lines. He died from wounds on the 23rd of March 1918 at the age of only 24 and is buried in St. Saver cemetery in Rouen, France. There is a memorial plaque dedicated to him in Rathclaren church.

Although, sadly, my great grand uncle did not come home from the war his pocket watch and his Bible did. They now belong to us. In the back of his pocket watch you can see where he was scratching off the days.



Food in World War 1

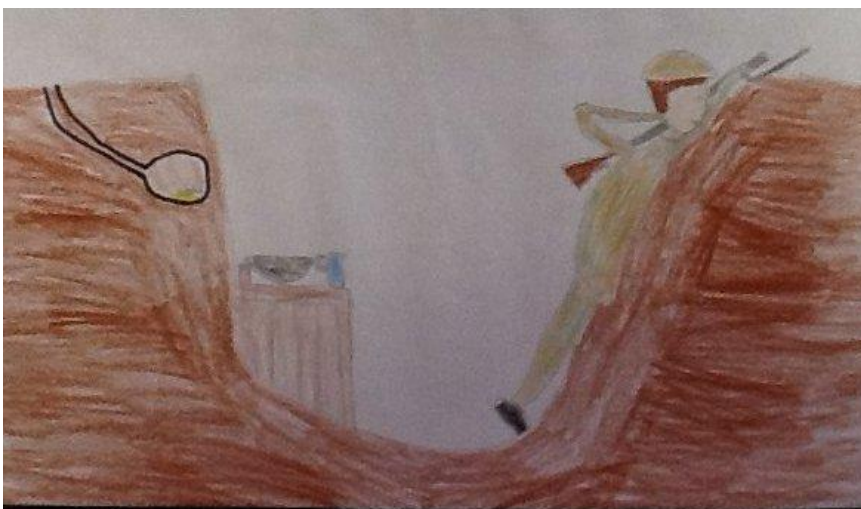
In World War 1, people at home didn't have a lot of different food stuffs like tea, bananas and oranges...because German U-boats often attacked ships bringing supplies to England and Ireland. It was in 1918 that the government set the law to rationing food. People were encouraged to grow their own vegetables.

'Don't waste it' was a common saying during the war. It meant that if you got food, only eat your daily ration. Some foods were rationed, while others you were allowed to eat freely, such as potatoes.

Although people at home couldn't eat some foods, soldiers in the trenches ate even less. If they had enough food to go around, they would have baked potatoes, coffee, tinned food, a little bit of meat. Families at home sometimes sent chocolate and cake.

However, if they didn't have enough food, they would shoot skunks, rats and any other animals along the way. Sometimes they would fry them or cook them, and sometimes they ate them raw.

Rats were a big problem in the trenches and they would steal food. Sometimes soldiers would put their food between two helmets and tie them together with wire because rats couldn't gnaw through metal. Dogs and cats were brought into the trenches to kill the rats.



Zara stout

!

Elizabeth Hosford m Nicholas Stout

!

!

Sarah Pat Perrott m Thomas Hosford

Elizabeth Nixon m Richard Stout

!

!

!

!

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Margaret
Ludgate
(Brothers)

Sara
Thomasena
Good

Sarah
Roycroft

Susan
Kingston

m

m

m

m

Reginald
Perrott

Benjamin
Hosford

Robert Nixon

Henry Stout

Joseph and Albert Ludgate

Joseph Ludgate was born in Castlemagher and lived in Lombardstown Co. Cork. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Ludgate.

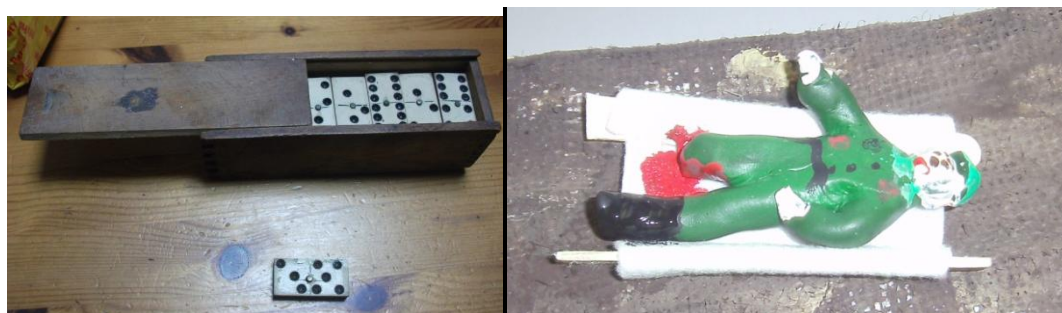
We found the family on the 1911 census, living in Gortbofinna, Ballyclough. He had two brothers Thomas (15) and Albert (16) and one sister Margaret Jane (20) who was Zara's great grandmother.

Joseph and his brother had joined a reserve regiment called The Southern Irish Horse, so when war was declared he was expected to join up. A lot of farmers' sons joined this regiment as they needed their own horses, but they had fun on manoeuvres and practicing war games!

They enlisted in Mallow Co. Cork. Joseph joined the 7th Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment. His rank was acting Lance Corporal and his serving number was 25501. Joseph died of pneumonia (a complication of Spanish Flu)

on the western front on the 30th of October 1918 age 25. He was buried in Pont de Nieppe communal cemetery Nord France.

Joseph's brother survived the war. As a young man he didn't drink and while in France he would always give away his rum rations, but after the war he took to drinking as a way to forget the horrors of his experience. He didn't speak of his time abroad but alcohol caused him and his family a lot of problems for the rest of his life.



Living in the trenches

Trench warfare is probably one of the most brutal forms of warfare. It was incredibly dangerous and many men died simply because of the poor living conditions.

Many horrible things lived in the trenches including rats the size of tomcats and lice that liked to live on you but one of the most horrible things about the trenches were the diseases that many soldiers caught such as

trench foot which was when your feet swelled and began to rot. The soldiers caught this because they had their feet in the muddy water for too long.



Another disease that soldiers often caught was phenomena which is a disease you catch if you get really cold. At the end of the war soldiers suffered from a pandemic disease called Spanish flu. This very bad flu often came with pneumonia in young people, especially when they were in bad physical condition anyway.

In the trenches the soldiers could hear the sound of bombs going off and shells being fired so some soldiers did things to take their minds off the sounds some of them wrote letters or poems. Some looked at pictures of their loved ones that they had taken from their home. Some made jokes and some played games like dominoes and dice.



Some soldiers suffered from shell shock which made them shake and things. Even after the war many people had nightmares and took a long time to get over the awfulness they had experienced.

Going over the top was an order that most people feared it literally meant going over the top of the trench to fight and you could not stay in the trench once you were ordered to go over the top unless you wanted to be shot for cowardice. It was cruel and unfair to shoot men who refused to go over the top. Sometimes men refused to leave the trench because it was a stupid order and they would probably get shot by Germans anyway.

Many soldiers died of their wounds because there were no anti-biotics In 1914 Marie Curie bought vans and equipped them with x-ray machines so

doctors could see if a soldier had shrapnel in his wounds. She, her daughter Irène and military doctors drove to the front and x-rayed wounded soldiers. It saved many lives.

Men didn't get much sleep in the trenches because of the sounds of war and they didn't have a bed they just had to sleep on the ground with the rats. So the men were often exhausted when they were expected to fight.



Robert William Nixon

According to the 1911 census the Nixon family lived in Hospital, County Limerick. John Dunbar Nixon had come to work with the RIC in Dunmanway and had fallen for a local girl. The young couple were relocated to Limerick by the RIC so as not to work too near family.

There were John Dunbar (83) born in Tyrone an RIC pensioner, Anne his wife (73), daughter Elizabeth Frances (43) a postmistress and Robert William a grandson (13). According to the census the other two of his three children had died Robert William's dad had been a doctor, but now Robert

(Zara's great grandfather) lived with his grandparents and unmarried aunt. He too had been born in Cork.

Robert enlisted having spent some time studying to be a vet. It seems that he suffered badly from shell shock and was sent home from the war with a brown paper tag on him, like a luggage label.

While he had been away the post office had been let to someone else and in the changed atmosphere in Ireland the family wasn't allowed to take up the post again. He was unable to concentrate to continue his studies as a vet and having been demobbed a couple of days short of any entitlement to an army pension he suffered at all hands. His grandparents sent him to stay with cousins in Scull as they didn't know how to stop his nightmares. He did recover eventually (many didn't) and went on to marry and have family.

At some stage, on his return to Ireland, IRA members came to the house asking for his old British army uniform. He quietly burned it in a barrel so they couldn't get it. The IRA also insisted that he give some small arms training to IRA trainees since he had knowledge of the weapons.



The Hosford Family

At the time of the 1911 census Zara's great grandfather, Benjamin Hosford lived at Cappaknockane, Enniskeane. (now called Cappa) Jane Hosford (61), his mother, had had ten children the eldest of whom, Joseph had been killed in the Boer War.

Another son, Richard Hosford (20) was registered as a grocer's assistant, living alone in Bridge street Skibbereen urban. This son joined up

and became a motorbike dispatch rider. He remembered going behind enemy lines by mistake and leaving under a shower of bullets. Having survived the war, he returned to Skibbereen and started the first supermarket in the town.



They had a different attitude to British authority in Ireland however, because all through the troubles the Hosford yard was freely used by their workman for drilling IRA members. Protestant homes were less likely to be raided by the Black and Tans because they thought they would be more law abiding.

Many of that family emigrated, as did a lot of protestant people (about 60,000) around this time. They felt vulnerable, living in West Cork.

Reginald Perrott

On 15th February 1921, during the Irish War of Independence. The IRA set up an ambush on a train carrying British soldiers to Upton, County Cork. Three IRA volunteers were killed and two wounded. Six British soldiers were wounded, three seriously. Six civilian passengers were killed and ten wounded in the crossfire.

At the time one of Zara's Great Grandfathers was living at Little Silver, Bandon, just a few miles from Upton. Following the attack two men came into the yard on their way to a safe house across the river. One was injured badly and the other almost carried him. They asked Reginald to hide them. This he did. When an army patrol pulled into the place he said he'd seen no one out of the ordinary. Once the patrol passed they went on their way again. Because of this, word went out that the family were now

protected by IRA and they were not affected by the Bandon Valley Murder of 13 protestants in 1922.



Sam Maguire

Lots of people recognise Sam Maguire's name from the GAA cup named after him, and he is yet another one of Zara's relations. He was born in Maulabracka and went to school in The Model School Dunmanway. He then went to Ardfield to study under Master Madden for the entrance exam to the civil service in London. He passed and got a job in The London Post Office.

He then took a job in the British Civil Service in London. Maguire joined and captained the successful London Hibernians Gaelic football team to several All-Ireland finals between 1900 and 1904.

In 1907 he went into the administration of the London GAA, becoming the Chairman of the London County Board and delegate to the Annual Congress of the GAA. He is also said to have recruited Michael Collins to the republican cause at this time and become a spy for the IRA.

Sam Maguire became the centre of Scotland Yard's investigation into the assassination of Sir Henry Wilson. Maguire was tipped off and fled to Dublin in December 1923 where he got a job in the Irish civil service. Because of his political opinions and his sympathies to the Anti-Treaty forces, he quickly clashed with his superiors and was dismissed.

In 1924, he was sacked and deprived of his pension. The Irish Government gave him £100 and that was it. In 1925, he came back to west

Cork, developed TB and died in 1927 aged 48. They say that he died of a broken heart and penniless.

On 15 September 2002, a statue of Sam Maguire was unveiled in the plaza in Dunmanway. The Sam Maguire Cup was designed and presented to the Gaelic Athletic Association in 1928 in his honour after his death in 1927. Zara's family are Sam's closest living relatives. He was first cousin to Zara's great grandmother Susan Kingston.



Conclusion

With hindsight many of Zara's relatives might have lived differently.....but we can't change history!

We learned a lot about what happened in the trenches and that while the First World War was going on overseas, Ireland was also having its own struggle for independence at home.

We hope that people can learn from wars, realising that they cause pain and loss. We should make sure that they never happen again! They can tear families apart!

Research /Bibliography

We learned how to work as historians

- by researching information- reading different books and looking up different websites.
- by doing fieldwork and documenting stories- asking people to tell their stories and looking at artefacts

- by learning how to make sure our information was accurate.

Sources

Fitzgerald's Park Museum Cork: World War 1 Exhibition

St. Mary's Church, Dunmanway wall: Plaque / graves

Dunmanway Historical Society Centre and 2014 Journal.

"A Great Sacrifice- Cork Servicemen who died in The Great War" Jerry White and Brendan O'Shea Echo Publications 2010.

Primary School history books by C J Fallon and Folens

The Irish Times: The battle of the Somme Review 2014.

1901 and 1911 Irish Census.

Bandon Historical Society Journals.

Stories and memories collected from family members

Artefacts and photographs from the period.

Various websites including War Graves Commission Website and scoilnet