



# Tell Us Your Story

Alyce Deveau

I am a child of immigrants.

On my mother's side, both of my grandparents came from County Galway in Ireland through Nova Scotia, which was a common route at the time. They didn't know each other in Ireland; but met here and married.

My father, Joseph Connolly, came from a small town in Connemara also in Galway. He came through Ellis Island at the age of 23. The area that they all came from was very depressed at the time. They saw America as a way to begin a new and better life. He lived in Dorchester where most of his family had settled. There, he met my mother who, strange as it may seem, was Mary Connolly. They fell in love and married and settled in Lynn.

Their Irish heritage and culture remained very strong. My father brought my mother and sister to Ireland in 1947 to meet his parents and see where he had grown up. My father was a proud Irishman but nothing made him more proud than to say he was an American. The day he became a citizen was one of the happiest in his life.

He died when I was only seven so I never experienced seeing his homeland with him; but I have visited many times. When I am there, I feel a certain closeness to him and my heritage.

