

AUNT DOROTHY DOWNES TOLD ME (PEGGY), THAT DURING THE DEPRESSION ERA, HER MOTHER ("MOM DOWNES") INVESTED IN THE STOCK MARKET ON MARGINS—SHE USED A MORTGAGE ON HER HOUSE, AND INSURANCE, IN ORDER TO DO SO. SHE WAS, EVENTUALLY, QUITE SUCCESSFUL WITH THIS.

HER CHILDREN, EVEN WHEN GROWN, LIVED AT HOME UNTIL THEY MARRIED AND GAVE HER THEIR PAYCHECKS; SHE GAVE THEM EACH AN ALLOWANCE OF \$5 PER WEEK. AUNT DOROTHY NEVER DID MARRY, THOUGH SHE WAS ENGAGED, AT ONE POINT. HER MOTHER TOLD HER THAT SHE HAD TO STAY HOME, SINCE SHE WAS THE LAST GIRL; AUNT DOROTHY SAID, WHEN I ASKED HER WHAT SHE THOUGHT ABOUT THAT, "WELL, SHE WAS MY MOTHER."

OUR DAD, J.F.D., AND AUNT DOROTHY TOLD ME THAT GRANDPA FITZ (MICHAEL FITZGIBBON) HAD A BAKERY IN GLIN, IRELAND, WHICH SUPPLIED BREAD TO A NEARBY ORPHANAGE. HE INSULTED THE KNIGHT OF GLIN ONE DAY (AUNT DOROTHY SAYS THAT GRANDPA FITZ WAS A STRONG SINN FEINER, WHO YELLED, "YOU SON OF A BITCH!" AT THE KNIGHT OF GLIN AS THE KNIGHT RODE THROUGH TOWN)—AND LOST THAT COMMISSION. SOON AFTER, THE FITZGIBBON FAMILY LEFT IRELAND. THEY'D PLANNED ON BOARDING A SHIP TO AUSTRALIA. BUT THE SHIP FOR NYC WAS DEPARTING SOONER, SO THEY TOOK THAT ONE. GRANDMA FITZ WAS PREGNANT; MARGARET (OUR GRANDMOTHER) AND HER YOUNGER SISTER MARY WERE WITH THEM.

"TWO OR THREE TIMES," SAID AUNT DOROTHY, THE SYRACUSE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS ARRANGED FOR GRANDPA FITZ'S RETURN TO IRELAND, WHERE HE WAS A LEADER IN MEETINGS OF SINN FEIN.

MARGARET FITZGIBBON DOWNES, OUR GRANDMOTHER (B. 1876), WOULD, AS A YOUNG GIRL, RECITE "DAWN ON THE HILLS OF IRELAND" FOR HER FATHER AND HIS FRIENDS AT THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS MEETINGS. (THIS POEM IS ON NEXT PAGE.)