

## **“Across the Ages”**

By Mike Whelan

Submitted 2013

*“Dear Michael. At long last someone has written. We thought you were all dead. Please allow me to introduce myself I am your grand-aunt, Elley Whelan Lynch, your late Grandfather’s last living sister.”*

With these opening words, seventy-nine years from 1905, when my Grandfather Joseph Francis Whelan left Dungarvan, County Waterford, Ireland, to 1984, when this letter was sent to me, were erased. I had found my Irish family

My grandpa never went back, and none of my family here had gone over, until now. It was the beginning of an adventure that continues to this day.

Grand-aunt Elley was 83 when I met her at her home in Dublin, and was in perfect form, as this photo attests. She referred to herself as “the last of a bad lot”, kiddingly of course.

I do hope all of you who attended my summer and fall presentations (2013) at our HIS meetings enjoyed hearing about her, and hearing her words, as much as I did in telling you about her, and the rest of my family.

Slainte,

Michael Joseph O’Faolain (the Gaelic spelling of Whelan, meaning “of the wolf”).



Elley Whelan Lynch and her great-nephew Mike Whelan  
Ireland, 1984