

# From Redruth to Oregon

Hello Cornish Cousins! I am Kevin Reilly and my wife is Ann Reilly nee Fairhurst. It has been such a joy to research back to my Cornish roots. A few years ago, Ann and I had the opportunity to visit Redruth and tour areas around Cornwall. Ann was born and raised in Dorset, UK and we had the privilege of taking her Mother, who still resides in Dorset, on our weeklong holiday. What fun! Nothing like trudging through old cemeteries looking for family names with it pouring down good Cornwall rain! Not really much different from Oregon.

We have traced our Cornwall roots back several generations, however, the stories I heard came primarily from my Grandparents, my Grandmother was born just outside Butte, Montana where her Grandparents, John and Elizabeth Doble nee Nancarrow, ran a boarding house for miners.

Back to Redruth, the Doble family were primarily miners (no surprise there!) and the stories I have been told had John Doble and his brothers working the mines at an early age. One of John's younger brothers died in the mines at the age of 16, the year was 1859 and John & Elizabeth had just been married. Elizabeth's family was also dependent upon mining; however, her father was an accountant and attorney for the mining company. They lived with the Nancarrow family for the first year of their marriage before immigrating to the United States in search of the rich mining deposits in Nevada. John and Elizabeth made their first home in Gold Hill, Nevada. They had four children while living in Gold Hill, the oldest son died at the age of 2, I have yet to discover the cause. The youngest daughter, Francis Isabella (Belle) my Great-Grandmother, was born in Virginia City, Nevada in April 1876.

I don't have an exact date when the Dobiles moved to the Butte, Montana area, but have a record of them living in Meaderville, MT on the 1900 Census. It is there that my 2x Great Grandparents began the boarding house for the miners in the area. I recall my Grandmother telling about her Grandmother being very strict and stern with the miners. They never were allowed to sit down for the evening meal without washing up. I and my siblings we encouraged to do the same when getting ready for a meal at my Grandparents home.

My Great-Grandmother met and married a young man whose family had come to the mining fields from Ohio. His family had primarily been farmers and it wasn't long before Bert & Belle were moving their young family to the fertile orchards of the Hood River Valley in Oregon. They made trips back to Montana on occasion. I have discovered newspaper articles that talk of Grandma Belle going to take care of her aging mother and helping with the boarding house. At some point the boarding house burned down. Needless to say, we continue to reside in Oregon. We make frequent trips to the Hood River and Parkdale areas, especially around Memorial Day to visit the gravesides of my Grandparents, Bert & Belle, Belle's older sister Beatrice and many other family members. We look forward to the day we can visit Butte, Montana and visit the area where the Dobiles made their home.

