

Wartime letter to Camlough, County Armagh

Umericam,
Silverbridge.

Dear ~~Bob~~ Ciss

Just as we note as I forgot
to give you the money & coupons to
get my skirt but maby you could
get it. I would like to leave it
with her before she gets busy
for xmas. hope you got the bus
O.K. how is Nuala this is all
for now hope to see you by the
week end.

Cheris for now
Eileen oxo

*P.S.
Excuse writing
as this Pen only
writes when ever
it likes*

Eileen Byrnes



Sarah Byrnes



Eileen Byrnes in Umericam is writing to older sister Sarah (Ciss) during World War 2. During the week Sarah is working in Gussy Kane's grocery shop near Camlough Lake and cycles 8 miles home at the weekend.

Due to wartime rationing, coupons were required for clothing such as Eileen's skirt. Nuala is Gussy Kane's daughter who Sarah often spoke affectionately about.

Sarah Byrnes, the subject of this family web site, married at the end of the war in 1945 and moved to England.

(This letter and photograph on page 2 are from the collection of Sarah Byrnes)

Gussy Kane outside the grocery shop



GUSSY KANE – HIS FAMILY AND THE CAMLOUGH SHOP

Gussy (Augustine) Kane ran a Provisions and Grocery store near Camlough Lake from the 1930's to the 1950s/60s. The nearby Bus Stop is still called "Kane's Corner".

He employed Sarah Byrnes from Ummeracam (1915-2011) in the store and later to assist him in his new venture of a mobile Grocery Van, delivering to rural south Armagh and county Louth during the 1930/40's.

Gussy was born in Camlough on 18 Sep 1895. His father David Kane, a Sergeant in the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC), was the son of a farmer in Castlebellingham, Co Louth. However David had been born in Co Westmeath (from the 1911 census).

David Kane had married Margaret Lynch in her home town of Ardee in 1881, where Margaret's father was a carpenter. They married in a Catholic church and later censuses show they were both Roman Catholic.

In 1901 David Kane was a Sgt in the RIC barracks in Camlough and Margaret was the mother of five children. The 1911 census finds the family still in Camlough. David, aged 57, has retired from the RIC and is a Grocer in Carrickcloghan townland. David Kane had taken over the shop in 1904.

(From Griffiths Land Valuation Revisions records: in 1897 the shop was built, rental £6 pa. It was built on the granite quarry land of Bessbrook Granite Co Ltd after the granite firm had returned the tenancy to the local landowner - Jas. N Richardson).