

A VIDEO TRILOGY OF EMEMBRANCES

IRELAND TO NEW YORK

BY NONA PLESSNER LYONS

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1. BEGINNINGS: FINDING BALLYNONEEN: RECOVERING THE LIVES OF ANCESTORS: THOMAS & MARY NOLAN GRIFFIN MY GREAT GRANDPARENTS

Ballynoneen, Co Kerry, in the west of Ireland, 27 April 2001

If you came in spring to Ballynoneen from the south along the main road, passing through a part of the stark Derrynasaggart Mountains...you would come to the crossroads at Lisselton....We had come to Ballynoneen today, searching for Mary Nolan Griffin and her husband, Thomas, my great grandparents.

>> [WATCH BEGINNINGS: FINDING BALLYNONEEN](#) [13 minutes]

2. LEAVINGS: My grandmother from Co Kerry, Ireland

My mother always remembered the way her mother told the story. It began with the passage on the ship, the City of Chicago, in the terrible winter that followed the great blizzard of 1888. Kate Griffin, my grandmother of County Kerry, Ireland on the eve of her 20th birthday was going to New York.

>> [WATCH LEAVINGS](#) [5.08 minutes]

3. HAUNTED BY GHOSTS IN THE MICROFICHE

Tralee, IRELAND. March 2001

The slightly blurred microfiche of the 1901 census slowly rolled before my eyes revealing townland names in the Barony of Raghticonnor, that ancient division of northern county Kerry that still organized the lives of the peoples there in 1901...We were looking for my family, especially for records of the life of my grandmother, Catherine Griffin, who had come to America out of County Kerry in 1889.

>> [WATCH HAUNTED BY GHOSTS IN MICROFICHE](#) [9.26 minutes]