

Interviewed - Grandma (Mom's mom)

Gama (mom's mom)

- I'm from Ireland and Prussia.
- Her mom (Great Grandma) immigrated to the USA during WWII and a lot of her family died in the war.
- She left Poland in 1942 because she was Jewish and was fleeing for her life. She was grown up (in her thirties). She left while her family was being killed. She hid from the Nazis for a year under a grocery store and stole food from the store at night. She stole a little bit of money at a time from the cash register and once she got the money she needed, she snuck on a bus to the coast and took a boat to the US.
- The boat went all the way round the bottom of South America to Washington state. Add details
- She spoke no English. My great grandpa found her and taught her to speak English.

I interviewed my grandma on my great grandma's survival of WW2 and immigration in 1942. I interviewed her in person, and she didn't want to be recorded. She experienced a horrible immigration journey. She felt like she lost everything including her family and her house. She thought everything was hopeless when she got to America. Her family was Jewish and were all detained and sent to Auschwitz to be executed for being Jewish. She also had a difficult time hiding and surviving in Poland during ww2, along with experiencing a very long boat ride. Her survival story is very extraordinary.

"She saw her family being taken onto a bus with a Nazi logo and the words "Auschwitz" on it." My great grandmother knew that her family was going to be executed. She ran away and hid in her house initially and then sprinted to hide in a hole near a grocery store. Her nephews, cousins, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts, mother, and father were taken.

My Grandma said "She (her mom) said that she was the dirtiest she had ever been in her life." She was hiding underneath a grocery store in order to survive the Nazi's from taking her to Auschwitz. She chose to hide under the grocery store so she could steal food to survive. There were bugs and animals in a hole underneath the

grocery store that was created by a bomb. She put debris to cover the hole so no one could find her. She left a crack in order to see what was going on and also for air. It smelled horrible in the hole. She stayed in the hole for three days.

When my grandma interviewed my great grandma, she said "I lost hope". She was on a boat ride emigrating from Poland to the U.S. She took money from a cash register from the grocery store she was hiding under, which allowed her to take a bus to Portugal, and buy a boat ticket to America. The boat journey was very long, many weeks long, which took her below south america to washington state. She lost count of the days during the journey. She couldn't sleep for a long part of the journey due to the boat moving.

"Even when life is the hardest, you still need to have hope"