

Cookies, Games, & Family

Great Aunt Mary and Dolores... you would have thought they were the twins. It turns out my Great Aunt Mary and my Grandmother, Anne were the twins. I only found this out when I was ten years old. It's strange because I always thought Mary and Dolores looked and acted more alike. Mary was born in 1921 and Dolores was born in 1924. They lived together for 90 years, sharing a bedroom with twin sized beds their whole life. They worked at AT&T together for 45+ years. They traveled to over 20 states together for various vacations with their nieces and nephews, aka my dad and his eight siblings.

Mary and Dolores never married or had families of their own, so they were a part of my grandmother's family. It was like I had three grandmas! Growing up, we had at least five family parties a year: St. Patrick's Day, Mother's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. This didn't count birthday parties or other small parties. Anytime there was a family event there was sure to be Mary's homemade chocolate chip cookies. The cookies were always in her white cookie container and usually still warm from the oven. Dolores was always behind her camera or video tape recorder capturing all the laughs and memories. Another great thing about Mary and Dolores was if you were around them you were sure to play games, and lots of them! They always tailored the family parties to the grandkids. We would spend all day playing games like Left-Right-Center, Sorry Charlie, and Farckle. If you were a Cummings, you learned those games practically when you could talk & walk.

Mary and Dolores are two people my family will cherish forever. I know they are both up in heaven with all their "card lady" friends drinking mudslides and playing cards, waiting for my grandma to join them. I know they are also watching down on the rest of our family, especially at our parties, watching the family videos and carrying on their traditions to the great-grandchildren.