

When it came time for me to pick a topic to research for National History Day, I was baffled. Then, I remembered a story my mom used to tell about her experience during a junior year abroad in the UK. While traveling in Northern Ireland during the 1980's, she was stopped in a security line while entering a shopping mall because the container of lip balm in her coat pocket resembled the size and shape of a grenade. Prior to hearing the story, I had always perceived Ireland as a peaceful haven of rolling green hills. However, my mom's story opened my eyes to the century-old conflict that has ridden Ireland for generations. As I embarked on my research, I knew I wanted to focus on prominent women of the "Irish Troubles." In my preliminary research, I came across the work of Bernadette Devlin and Betty Williams. I had found two extraordinary women who came from similar backgrounds but subsequently formed distinct and conflicting views. I had found the perfect topic.

As I began my research, I was daunted by my ignorance of the Northern Irish Troubles. So, I started by educating myself on the details of the struggle through secondary sources. After becoming more familiar with the background information, I could begin to develop a sense of Williams' and Devlin's positions through the use of primary sources. In choosing a 20th century topic, I have had the advantage of access to a multitude of primary sources. Reading microfilm copies of newspapers from the 1970's allowed me to experience the same coverage of events that inspired Williams and Devlin. Video footage of Bernadette Devlin and Betty Williams has given me a fresh take on their demeanors, as well as their views. Lastly, I had the incredible honor of personally interviewing both Betty Williams and Bernadette Devlin through email. I was able to gather important insights into their personal accounts and opinions. I cannot begin to express the thrill of having the opportunity to hear a personal account of the events I share in my performance from the two women themselves.

The process of creating my National History Day project began with my choice of individual performance as my presentation category. I think that individual performance is a unique and effective way of recounting history. Over the millennia of human existence, the world has seen countless incredible stories of extraordinary people. By doing an individual performance, I have the honor and opportunity to share one of these stories with others; and that is why I chose to do an individual performance. I have been incredibly moved by the story of these two extraordinary women, and I feel that an individual performance is the optimal way to share it with others.

As I express in my script, the debate between Williams and Devlin is not in any way a literal debate in which the parties are given the opportunity to share opening statements and counter-arguments. Instead, "Podiums for Passion and Peace" tells the story of a debate which has marked the history of civilization for generations. In times of conflict and war, populations have been faced with the decision to act on behalf of peace or justice. Betty Williams and Bernadette Devlin are just one pair among many great characters in history who have played an active role in this debate. They stand alongside Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, along Nelson Mandela and Steven Biko as heroes who have made their arguments for nonviolence and justice.

Works Cited

Primary Sources

Bernadette Devlin; Young Hooligan? Youtube. 1798Greenflag1916, 1972. Web. 10 Mar. 2011.

<<http://www.youtube.com>>.

Bernadette Devlin is addressing a group of reporters in this video. She is speaking about the riots in the Bogside and defending the Nationalist forces. I used this video to better understand Devlin's demeanor and to perfect my accent.

Betty Williams: Students' Peace Prize 2009. YouTube. StudentTV, 27 Feb. 2009. Web. 11 June

2011. <<http://www.youtube.com>>.

Betty William's speech to a group of students in Finland in February of 2009 gave me more insight as to her motivation for peace, her understanding of the role of women in the fight for peace, and guidance for her accent.

Cashinella, Brian, and John Chartres. "March ends in shooting." *The London Times* 31 Jan.

1972: Microfiche file.

This article describes the build up to and the moments during the actual first armed conflict between soldiers and rioters on Bloody Sunday.

"Children Turn their Milk Bottles into Petrol Bombs." *The London Times* 13 Aug. 1969, late ed.:

1. Microfiche file.

This article shows how large the riots had become, that even children were becoming involved in the violence.

Devlin, Bernadette. *The Price of My Soul*. New York: Knopf, 1969. Print.

The Price of My Soul is Bernadette Devlin's autobiography. It was helpful in the development of Devlin as a character as well as an understanding of her motives and methods.

"Eire call for joint action rejected." *The London Times* 16 Aug. 1969: 1. Microfiche file.

This article describes the efforts of Ireland's Minister for External Affairs to have a peace force from the UN or an Anglo-Irish peace force to go to Northern Ireland to help calm the riots. This shows the international attention that the riots received as well as the scale of violence that they reached.

"Fear is cause of war, Nobel meeting told." *The London Times* 11 Dec. 1977: n. pag. Microfiche file.

The London Times article is about the views of Betty Williams that she shared at a peace conference held after she was awarded with the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize. I will use this article to show how much influence Betty Williams had through her winning the award.

"Five are killed in new Ulster Riots." *The London Times* 15 Aug. 1969: n. pag. Microfiche file.

This article describes the continuation of the Battle of Bogside. I will use it for information and details of the deaths that occurred to obtain a better understanding of the violence that inspired Bernadette Devlin.

Jessel, Stephen, and Julian Mounter. "Child dies in 'little war.'" *The London Times* 15 Aug. 1969: n. pag. Microfiche file.

Stephen and Mounter's article details the death of a child during the Derry riots. This is an example of the kind of violence that inspired both Bernadette Devlin and Betty Williams.

“Judicial inquiry on Ulster battle: Miss Devlin and Mr. Maudling.” *The London Times* 1 Feb.

1972: n. pag. Microfiche file.

The source is the actual parliamentary records from the day the Bernadette Devlin attacked Mr. Maudling. The record was taken on January 31 then printed in the Times on February 1st. I will use this source to understand the exact details of the exchange.

McAliskey, Bernadette Devlin. E-mail interview. 7 June 2011. I had the opportunity to interview

Bernadette Devlin. I reached her through the organization she now works with called STEP. By answering the questions I asked of her, Devlin helped me better portray her character and understand her actions.

Moyes, Hugh. “Miss Devlin strikes Mr. Maudling in Commons.” *The London Times* 1 Feb.

1972: n. pag. Microfiche file.

This article gives the details of Bernadette Devlin’s violent response during a session of Parliament towards Mr. Maudling. I may choose to show this scene in my performance.

“90 policemen hurt, tear gas used in Derry rioting.” *The London Times* 13 Aug. 1969, Royal ed.:

1. Microfiche file.

From the London Times, this article is from the first day of the Battle of Bogside. Devlin was a key character in the Derry Riots. These riots marked the beginning of the troubles.

The article will allow me to understand the violent approach the Devlin used.

“Petro stock seized from GPO depot.” *The London Times* 13 Aug. 1969, Royal ed.: 1. Microfiche

file.

This article is about the petrol stock that the rioters used during the Derry Riots. Petrol bombs are an example of the dangerous weapons Devlin used to make her point.

“Shooting in Ulster as rioting spreads.” *The London Times* 14 Aug. 1969, late ed.: 1. Microfiche file.

The detail of the Derry riots continue in this article as the Battle in the Bogside continues for the third day.

Staff Reporter. “Miss Devlin says boy, age 8 was killed.” *The London Times* 1 Feb. 1972: n. pag. Microfiche file.

This article was printed in the days following Bloody Sunday. It shows Bernadette Devlin’s passion and role in the riots and her reaction to the violence she witnessed.

- - -. “N Ireland ‘injustice’ threat to Britain.” *The London Times* 14 Jan. 1972: n. pag. Microfiche file.

About 2 weeks prior to the events of Bloody Sunday, this article was printed, explaining the possible dangers of the instability in N. Ireland. I will use the article as proof of an unstable environment.

“13 Civilians are killed as soldiers storm the Bogside.” *The London Times* 31 Jan. 1972: n. pag. Microfiche file.

This article gives an account of the events of Bloody Sunday the day after the riots. This source will be used for information and interpretation of Bloody Sunday.

“Troops use tear gas after petrol-bomb attack.” *The London Times* 16 Aug. 1969: 1+. Microfiche file.

The article details the events in the days that followed the break out of the Battle of Bogside. It describes in detail the measures that troops went to in order to disperse rioters.

“The violence continues in Londonderry.” *The London Times* 14 Aug. 1969: n. pag. Microfiche file.

A short blurb about the continued riots in Derry accompanied by a series of pictures of the riots, the pictures allow the viewer to feel a part of the chaos and violence that was occurring in Londonderry during the riots.

Williams, Betty. E-mail interview. Mar. 2011.

I have been corresponding with Mrs. Williams and her staff for several months. Over the course of these months I have gotten the answers to many of the questions I asked of Mrs. Williams. The interview gave me insights that helped me better craft my arguments and script better.

- - -. Noble Lecture. Nobel Peace Prize Ceremonies 1977. Oslo City Hall, Oslo, Norway. 11 Dec. 1977. *Gift of Speech*. Web. 8 Dec. 2010. <<http://gos.sbc.edu/w/bwilliams.html>>. This is the speech that Betty Williams gave on accepting her Nobel Peace Prize. I will use parts of the speech in my performance.

Secondary Sources

Buscher, Sarah, and Bettina Ling. *Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams: Making Peace on Northern Ireland*. New York: Feminist Press, 1999. Print.

This book is a biography of Williams and Corrigan, analyzing their involvement in the Troubles as well as their influence in founding The Community of Peace People.

Coogan, Tim Pat. *The Troubles; Ireland's Ordeal 1966-1996 and the Search for Peace*. Boulder: Group West, 1996. Print.

Coogan's book gives a detailed account of the events within during the Troubles. It focuses specifically on the time period between 1966 and 1996 to give a more detailed account than the sources that give an overview of the conflict. The source will be helpful in putting my performance in context.

Darraj, Susan Muaddi. *Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams: Partners for Peace in Northern Ireland*. New York: Chelsea, 2007. Print.

Darraj's book was helpful in crafting Betty Williams' argument due to the extensive background information and personal history it provided.

Hayes, Patrick, and Jim Campbell. *Bloody Sunday; Trauma, Pain, and Politics*. London: Pluto, 1988. Print.

This book is about the Bogside Massacre, or Bloody Sunday which was an armed conflict between Northern Irish and British Soldiers. The book analyzes the political and emotional aspects of Bloody Sunday. Bernadette Devlin witnessed Bloody Sunday so the book will allow me to understand how she would have felt.

McKittrick, David, and David McVea. *Making Sense of the Troubles*. Belfast, Northern Ireland: Blackstaff, 2001. Print.

McKittrick's book is a comprehensive account of the causes and course of The Troubles in Northern Ireland, as well as key events and people associated with the conflict. Going into the project I know very little about the Troubles so this source will be helpful in developing an understanding of the background information that I need.

Mulhern, Dara, and Martin Melaugh. "Nationalist and Republican Symbols." *CAIN Web Services*. U of Ulster, 14 Mar. 2011. Web. 9 June 2011. <<http://cain.ulst.ac.uk>>.

CAIN Web Services provides information to the public about the conflict and politics in Northern Ireland. I used the source to locate the IRA slogan which appears on my back drop as well as its meaning.

Mullan, Don, and John Scally. *Bloody Sunday: Massacre in Northern Ireland, The Eyewitness Accounts*. N.p.: Rhinehart, 1997. Print.

Mullan and Scally's book is a collection of eye witness accounts and commentary on the events of Bloody Sunday. This was helpful because Bernadette Devlin was an eye witness of the events on Bloody Sunday, so it gave me an idea of what she would have seen.

O'Dochartaigh, Niall. *From Civil Rights to Armalities; Derry and the Birth of the Irish Troubles*.

New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005. Print. This source is a history of the Troubles in Northern Ireland and specifically regarding the start of the Troubles in Derry, Northern Ireland in 1969. This source will be used for background information and also because Bernadette Devlin was involved in the Battle of Bogside, which took place in Derry in 1969 and marked the beginning of the Troubles.

“Peace People the Beginnings.” *The Peace People*. N.p., 2010. Web. 8 Dec. 2010.

<<http://www.peacepeople.com>>.

This source is the official website of The Peace People, the organization started by Betty Williams in hopes to establish a peaceful means of solving conflicts around the world. I used this website for background information about The Peace People as well as contact information

“Timeline: Northern Ireland’s Road to Peace.” *BBC News*. BBC, Jan. 2006. Web. 9 June 2011.

<<http://news.bbc.co.uk>>.

It was crucial that in addition to understanding the circumstances of Northern Ireland during the seventies, I had to understand the current situation in the region. This new timeline allowed me to see what has happened in the past decade during Northern Ireland’s road to peace.