

GAA Oral History Project
Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	27 th Feb 2009
Location	Katie's Cottage, Yonkers, New York
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Dermot Mulholland
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1956 Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: Drumsinnott NS, Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan Secondary: Dundalk Technical School
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 6 sisters
Club(s)	Monaghan [New York]; Inniskeen Grattan's [Monaghan]
Occupation	Self Employed – owns a flooring business
Parents' Occupation	Truck Driver / Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Republican

REFERENCE NO. MN/1/3

Date of Report	12 th June 2012
Period Covered	1960 – 2009
Counties/Countries Covered	Americas, USA, Monaghan, Laois
Key Themes Covered	Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, GAA Abroad, The Troubles, Professionalism, Role of the Club in the Community, Grounds, Facilities, Club History, Alcohol, Violence, Playing, Administration, Celebrations, Role of Women, Refereeing
Interview Summary	<p>Dermot is originally from Inniskeen, County Monaghan and moved to New York in 1984. He has been involved with the Monaghan Club in New York as a player and administrator. He played for Armagh for a few years and he currently helps out with the Cavan Ladies football team. Dermot's family were all involved in the GAA with several of his siblings playing county football for Monaghan. His sister Mary is currently a referee. Dermot spent some time in Portlaoise Prison in the early 80s and he talks about playing football and handball while there. Dermot's discusses the role of the GAA in emigrant life in New York covering the changes that have occurred in his time there. He talks about paying players, getting employment for players when they came over and the impact of 9-11 on the GAA.</p> <p>0.00 Introduction</p> <p>0.30 Earliest memory is of being three or four and his older brothers had put up goalposts in the field at the side of his house.</p> <p>0.55 He's from Inniskeen, Co. Monaghan and his club is Inniskeen Grattans.</p> <p>1.08 His father founded Kilkenny Emmets in Co. Louth. His brothers and sisters played with Inniskeen and Monaghan. One of his sisters won an All-Ireland with Monaghan Ladies.</p> <p>1.40 Gaelic Football and Ladies Football were played in the club. Camogie was played, but it died out. It's now being played again and hurling has been introduced.</p> <p>2.05 Dermot came to America looking for work in 1984. He had to borrow £300 for his flight.</p> <p>2.40 Dermot arrived first in Long Island. His neighbour had</p>

	<p>gone over before him so he stayed with him for a few weeks and then he moved to the Bronx to friends and now he's living in Yonkers.</p> <p>3.10 Dermot's first memory of the GAA in America is 'Going to Gaelic Park of a Sunday ... there's where we met, we got work, and we got to know people and friends, and it was good, it was great actually, only for Gaelic Park, it was a life saver.'</p> <p>3.40 GAA is very much part of the Irish community. 'It helps, even today the young students comes out for the Summer and they depend on the GAA to get them work and get them jobs... all sorts of works, doormen downtown, construction mostly, anything you can think of, all sort of works.'</p> <p>4.15 In 1990 they started off a junior Monaghan team. They got to the junior final and they won the senior final in 1992.</p> <p>4.35 He's been with Monaghan since, but played for a number of years with Armagh as well. He was playing up until last year (2008), out of necessity. They didn't have a team so he played in goals 'but at age 53 it gets a little bit hard'. He was glad to have the opportunity to play on the new pitch at Gaelic Park.</p> <p>5.20 Initially he was involved with Monaghan as a player, but then he became a county board delegate. They had meetings every Thursday night and he held a number of positions, including chairman one year.</p> <p>5.40 His friend Kevin Keegan coaxed him into playing for Armagh who only had four or five players for seven or eight years. He's still a delegate to the county board for the Monaghan club.</p> <p>6.10 It was hard to play for Armagh. The club was going through a hard time but they did win a Junior A Final. When Armagh won the Sam Maguire there was a massive dance out at Queen's.</p> <p>7.00 Rivals: 'Teams change so much here you know, you've people coming and going all the time so you don't really have that much rivalry. After the game is over, it's left on the field and we all go for a few drinks in the bar afterwards.'</p> <p>7.40 GAA functions are a big part of the social scene. Today they're promoting the underage scene and trying to get the Irish-American children involved.</p> <p>8.15 Emigration during the Celtic Tiger has affected the GAA</p>
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	<p>in New York. Since 9-11 it's more difficult to come to America illegally and that sent a lot of settled emigrants back to Ireland. You can't get a driving licence now unless you're legal.</p> <p>9.10 They're trying to keep team on road, trying to get jobs for new people coming out.</p> <p>9.25 There are players that get paid and get well taken care of, other than that there's not much of a difference between the GAA in New York and at home.</p> <p>9.55 Paying Senior Players: 'Not all of them now you know, if you want to transfer, if you want to entice a player from one club to another, you have to put up the money. I even actually heard of one of the Ladies Players being offered \$5,000 to go from Cavan Ladies to Donegal / Kerry / Donegal team.'</p> <p>10.20 Dermot is not in favour of paying players, but he does think they should be looked after and given better jobs etc.</p> <p>10.55 The GAA should be kept voluntary as much as possible, but some administrators do need to be paid.</p> <p>11.15 Dermot thinks the changes in rules in the GAA are all positive and for the better.</p> <p>11.40 Biggest changes since Dermot arrived – the new pitch in Gaelic Park is the biggest. As junior board chairman he had to erect the fields for junior and some senior matches in Van Cortlandt Park for ten years. Now all the games are played in Gaelic Park and they have flood lights now too.</p> <p>13.00 Everyone wants to play in Gaelic Park. There's a history with Gaelic Park that makes everyone want to play there.</p> <p>13.30 Van Cortlandt Park was like a dustbowl. It had a very hard, sandy, uneven, difficult surface. 'We didn't have anything else. We had to play from the middle of April, right up until almost the end of August we'd play two nights a week and we'd have two games each night so four games and sometimes Ladies games as well.'</p> <p>14.25 Role of Women: Rosie O'Reilly is chair of the Cavan Club – men and women. Dermot thinks it's great to see everyone involved.</p> <p>15.05 Nationalities in Club: Mostly Irish and Irish-American. Some Spanish are involved in young Gaelic for Girls.</p> <p>15.50 The TV and Radio didn't play a big role for Dermot.</p>
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	<p>They can watch most games lives from Ireland now, but people still haven't really started watching the matches in their own homes – 'it's just like going to a game at home you go to meet your friends and have the craic and maybe a few drinks after the game, sometimes during the game.'</p> <p>16.50 GAA clubs are mainly made up of first generation Irish people. The American's are more into their baseball and American football.</p> <p>17.10 Dermot is the delegate for the junior Monaghan Club, but they had been Senior for a long time before that. 'It's that much harder to get players, there's no emigration these days, and no players coming out.'</p> <p>17.45 The club used to bring players over from Ireland, when they won the Senior Title they had a few county footballers over.</p> <p>18.00 'It's nice to see a county footballer in Gaelic Park, but then you have to think of the guy that's been training all year, he's dropped and that doesn't go down too well.'</p> <p>18.25 His best memories are meeting new friends, going to Gaelic Park and being in two finals in the one year. He's also involved with Cavan Ladies and they've won 13 of the last 16 championships.</p> <p>19.00 He got involved with them through his friend Rosie O'Reilly. He helps out and prepares for training and helps in any way that he can.</p> <p>19.20 The atmosphere at matches in New York was better in the 1980s when there were bigger crowds going, but it's still pretty good.</p> <p>19.45 'When we came here there was an unspoken rule that if you didn't play football, you wouldn't get a job, that helps too.'</p> <p>20.05 His GAA heroes are the Armagh winning team – Joe Kernan and Kieran McGeeney.</p> <p>20.25 The best game of football he ever watched was Armagh beating Kerry in the All-Ireland final.</p> <p>20.35 Match Day Traditions – Dermot doesn't really have any, but everybody has their own local pub. Pubs sponsor teams and that's where they would go after the game to support them.</p>
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	<p>21.15 Dermot hasn't had any disappointments with the GAA.</p> <p>21.30 Irish language and culture doesn't play a big part. One of the universities does and Irish language programme and on a Sunday at 2pm they have news from Ireland including results.</p> <p>22.20 The GAA has meant an awful lot to him. It's a very positive thing in his life.</p> <p>22.40 Back in 2000 Dermot was in the bar in Gaelic Park and two guys got into an argument, one of them pulled a gun. Dermot wrestled him to the ground and got the gun from him, but the gun went off and shot him in his little finger. The bar man and the other man involved were both very grateful to Dermot. The man was arrested, but Dermot didn't want to give evidence against him, because he was from the neighbouring village at home.</p> <p>24.10 'Back in the 80s there was that much work and money here that clubs used to bring out ten or twelve players for the final and somebody suggested that it was easier to play them finals back in Shannon Airport.'</p> <p>24.55 Ten in family 'eight of the ten of us were involved in sports.' The girls played camogie and ladies football.</p> <p>25.15 'Mary was more successful than the rest she won a couple of All-Ireland medals with County Monaghan and she also went on after retirement from football, she now referees men's gaelic football in County Monaghan.'</p> <p>25.35 All his brothers played, but Felix and Paddy played for County Monaghan.</p> <p>26.00 Felix was one of the best footballers he'd ever seen 'He was an all-round athlete, he was at St Macartan's College in County Monaghan and he holds the record for the long jump, 19 ½ ft, which has never been broken, he was also a cross country runner and he was unbelievable footballer.'</p> <p>27.00 He talks about Mary refereeing. 'Her big hope is that she'll come to Gaelic Park to referee a game ... she's strict she's told me that she's sent a garda off the field for bad behaviour, there doesn't seem to be a reaction.'</p> <p>28.15 He played in an over 35 game in the Bronx and he got man of the tournament. He was out practising and couldn't kick a point so he started practising goals. 'During the game I seen an opening and I was forty yards out and I larged the</p>
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	<p>ball and it went straight to the top of the net.’</p> <p>28.55 He was also involved with Cavan ladies – picking them up from the airport, trying to get them jobs and going away for the odd weekend for challenge games.</p> <p>29.25 The ladies scene is beginning to gather steam again as it comes through underage programmes. They have 100s of kids playing underage.</p> <p>29.55 The most unusual place he’s ever watched a match : ‘I’d say probably Portlaoise prison back in the 80s, during the troubles, I was there for a couple of years and there was over a 100 fellas there and most of them played football and we used to play football three or four nights a week, evenings actually. One particular day we were playing and the ball went over the wall into an adjoining yard and I jumped up onto the fence to ask the prison officer to throw the ball back in and a soldier on the roof mistakenly thought I was trying to escape and fired a couple of shots.’ He wasn’t injured.</p> <p>30.45 They ran a championship of 9 teams on a league basis. ‘It was only 7-A-Side with the small yard, and we didn’t have points - you couldn’t kick points because if you kicked a point it would go over the wall, so we based it on goals only and I played with South Ulster team, and we had a mid-Ulster team, we’d Belfast of course they were very strong and Dublin was strong, but we did win it one year. Probably my most prized possession is a medal that Nemo Rangers, a club from Cork sent in.’</p> <p>31.40 They also played handball, they had a handball alley and had competitions. They had a make-shift gym and they could run in the yard at certain times of the day.</p> <p>32.05 ‘It was like going to the All-Ireland getting out into the yard at five o’clock in the evening to play your games and even the prison officers would be looking in and they followed the games as well ... it broke the monotony.’</p> <p>32.40 Not much administration – just player managers.</p> <p>33.00 Thought it was a good idea to allow the police in the North to play and also the opening of Croke Park.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p>

REFERENCE NO. MN/1/3

	<input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played from the age of 13 to the date of interview. He won a Senior B title with the Monaghan Club in 1992 and played with Armagh club in New York for 7/8 years.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Dermot coached Cavan Ladies for 1 year; managed Armagh for 1 year and has worked as a steward. He was Chairman of the Monaghan Club in 1990; a Financial Officer, Custodian and Junior Division Chairman on the New York County Board.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:33:29
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____ Arlene Crampsie _____

Date: _____ 12/06/12 _____