

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	19 th April 2011
Location	Seán and Kay Flynn's home, near Ferbane, Co. Offaly
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Seán Flynn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1937 Home County: Offaly
Education	Primary: Ferbane Boys NS, Co. Offaly. Secondary: Vocational School, Ferbane, Co. Offaly
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Wife (Kay) & 2 children
Club(s)	Ferbane GAA [Offaly]
Occupation	Builder
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Tidy Towns Committee, Ferbane.

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Kay Flynn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1941 Home County: Offaly
Education	Primary: Castlejordan NS, Co. Offaly. Secondary: Edenderry St John of God, Co. Offaly
Family	Siblings: 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Husband (Seán) & 2 children
Club(s)	Ballinabrackey GAA [Offaly]
Occupation	Bookies Clerk
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Ferbane Senior Citizens; Ferbane Ladies Club.

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Date of Report	23 rd August 2012
Period Covered	1940s - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Offaly, Meath, Laois, Dublin, Roscommon, Clare, Kerry, Galway, Kilkenny
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Media, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, All-Ireland, Family Involvement, Impact on Life, Sacrifices, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Opening of Croke Park, Professionalism, Relationships, Economy/Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Seán and Kay discuss their backgrounds in the GAA. Seán discusses his playing career and recalls his GAA heroes. They both recall listening to matches on the radio. Kay also recounts the first and only time her father went to a match in Croke Park. They recall how they met and married. Both discuss their love for the GAA and recall bringing their children to matches around the country. They also discuss the economic circumstances in which they reared their family, detailing how they brought their children to matches. They reveal the effect of their commitment to the GAA on their family life. Seán recalls his administrative roles in the GAA and discusses the inception of the Offaly Supporters Club. Seán discusses the future of the GAA and recalls his highlights from the GAA.</p> <p>00:53 Seán recalls family's involvement in GAA. Mentions Coole and Ferbane. Also mentions postman Jimmy Dolan and his role in Gaelic football in Ferbane. Recalls carnivals involving inter-county tournaments, mentions Galway and Sean Purcell.</p> <p>03:20 Seán recalls first time he saw Offaly play, against Westmeath in Tullamore.</p> <p>03:50 He recalls playing on school and underage teams. Mentions his brother PJ Flynn and Jimmy Dolan.</p> <p>05:47 Seán recalls playing on pitch at Ballycumber Road.</p> <p>06:29 He describes state of GAA when he was growing up.</p> <p>06:51 He discusses his family and recalls moving to live with his aunt.</p> <p>08:17 Recalls his GAA heroes - mentions Pat O'Donnell from</p>

	<p>Kerry who later played for Cork.</p> <p>09:13 He recalls going to Offaly and Kildare match in Portlaoise by train, mentions Banagher and Geashill. Mentions Danny Flood of Kildare and Mick Casey of Offaly.</p> <p>12:06 Recalls match days when he was young. Recalls 1947 All-Ireland Hurling semi-final between Kilkenny and Galway in Birr. Discusses the effect of television on the GAA. Mentions Terry Mahony and Jim Langton.</p> <p>13:19 he recalls listening to matches on the radio.</p> <p>13:32 Kay discusses her background. From Castlejordan, between Edenderry and Kinnegad. Mentions club Ballinabrackey. Talks about living on the Meath/Offaly border. Recalls her father's interest in Gaelic football. Mentions radio coverage and Mícheál Ó hEithir. Describes neighbours coming to house to listen to match. Mentions listening to matches from Railway Cups on St Patrick's Day. Recalls listening to sponsored programmes on the radio. She also describes the effect of Mícheál Ó hEithir's commentaries.</p> <p>18:59 Recalls bringing her father to Croke Park in 1968 for Under 21 All-Ireland semi-final between Offaly and Derry. Mentions Seán Ó Síocháin, Eugene Mulligan and the song "Boys of Barr na Sraide".</p> <p>22:38 They discuss local club marches – mention Rhode and Edenderry. Seán recalls his father cycling to matches in Boyne Park in Ballinabrackey.</p> <p>23:34 She recalls a school tour to Croke Park.</p> <p>24:02 She discusses attending local matches.</p> <p>24:46 She discusses newspapers they read for GAA coverage. Mentions the Irish Independent, The Irish Catholic and the Leinster Leader.</p> <p>25:42 Discusses culture of her household.</p> <p>26:13 Recalls Peter McDermott collecting their hens' eggs. Mentions Peter Moore also and her townland of Killowen.</p> <p>27:38 Seán discusses his playing career. Mentions hurling with Belmont.</p> <p>28:30 Seán discusses influence of ESB and Bord na Mona on the area.</p> <p>29:17 They discuss club teams in Offaly – mention Rhode,</p>
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	<p>Tullamore, Clara and Ferbane. Seán mentions Lowrys and Grogans, Tony McTague and Sean Grogan.</p> <p>30:55 Kay recalls how she and Sean met.</p> <p>32:40 Seán recalls their wedding day. Mentions All-Ireland Minor Football Final in 1964, Offaly v Cork, the day before wedding. Mentions Sean Grogan and Tony McTague. Kay recalls the wedding day. Mentions the Spa Hotel in Lucan and Fr Sean Carey.</p> <p>38:03 Seán discusses economic circumstances when they got married. Recalls excursion from Banagher to Portlaoise on train to match.</p> <p>40:25 Seán discusses Gerry O'Malley of Roscommon. Recalls going to matches with him and discusses his playing abilities.</p> <p>44:20 Seán recalls Ireland v Combined Universities series.</p> <p>45:16 Seán discusses Gerry O'Malley playing hurling with Connacht. Also mentions 1962 All-Ireland Football Final in which he Gerry O'Malley appeared. Also mentions Peter Moore and Seamus Leyden.</p> <p>47:00 Seán refers to injury suffered in Boyne Park. Mentions Peter Moore.</p> <p>47:41 Kay discusses lodging houses. Mentions Gerry O'Malley, Christy Higgins and May O'Brien.</p> <p>48:46 Kay recalls working as a substitute teacher.</p> <p>49:38 Kay discusses their family. Recalls bringing their children to matches. Seán discusses his granddaughter's involvement in the GAA and gymnastics.</p> <p>51:03 They discuss raising a family in Ferbane.</p> <p>51:19 They discuss the Ferbane GAA team. Seán recalls their successes.</p> <p>52:55 Kay recalls buying 10 year tickets for Hogan Stand in 1970s. They mention the 1982 All-Ireland Football Final between Offaly and Kerry. They also mentions Tony McTague, and Peter and Margaret Guiney. They recall the 1971 and 1972 All-Ireland finals and mention Paddy Fanning.</p> <p>55:30 They discuss their highlights in Offaly GAA. Seán mentions 1998 All-Ireland hurling semi-final refixture against Clare in Thurles. Recalls sitting on pitch in Croke Park in</p>
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	<p>protest after premature ending to replay. Mentions Paudie Mulhaire. Also mentions Kerry v Kildare hurling match being cancelled due to protest on pitch. Mentions Mick Brehan stopping member of Offaly County Board from hacking up the pitch. Also mentions GAA PRO Danny Lynch.</p> <p>1:03:04 Seán discusses formation of Offaly Supporters Club. Mentions Joe Hanamy and Danny Edwards. Discusses relationship with county board in the beginning.</p> <p>1:07:48 They recall match day routine when they had young children. They mention Ella and Packie McGarty. They also recall a Railway Cup game on St Patrick's Day in Croke Park when there was snow. They mention Gerry O'Malley, Packie McGarty, Paddy McCormack and Des Foley and venues in Tullamore, Galway and Hyde Park in Roscommon.</p> <p>1:11:45 Seán recalls milking cows at night after coming back from matches.</p> <p>1:12:30 They recall bringing children to matches in back of car.</p> <p>1:13:13 They discuss their children's interest in the GAA.</p> <p>1:13:52 Seán recalls his administrative career in the GAA. Mentions Jimmy Dolan and recalls "coup" in the club.</p> <p>1:16:10 They recall effects of GAA commitments on family life.</p> <p>1:17:32 Seán talks about positive influence of GAA on young people's lives.</p> <p>1:18:06 They discuss what has kept them interested in the GAA.</p> <p>1:19:10 They recall celebrations when Ferbane were successful.</p> <p>1:20:20 They discuss changes involving supporters over the years.</p> <p>1:22:34 Seán recalls facilities in his playing days.</p> <p>1:23:24 They discuss changes in spectator facilities. They also discuss women going to matches. Seán mentions Erin Rovers Pullough, recalls supporters arriving in pony and cart. Kay discusses all-ticket matches and Seán talks about the price of tickets.</p> <p>1:27:38 They discuss the biggest changes they have seen in</p>
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	<p>the GAA.</p> <p>1:29:00 They discuss the opening of Croke Park to other sports. Seán mentions the Troubles.</p> <p>1:30:10 Seán discusses his grandchildren's involvement in Gaelic games.</p> <p>1:31:28 Seán discusses his thoughts on the future of the GAA. Mentions the parish rule and professionalism.</p> <p>1:32:52 Seán discusses the GAA and pride in the parish. Also discusses “outside managers”.</p> <p>1:34:25 Seán recalls his happiest moment in the GAA. Mentions Offaly winning 1981 All-Ireland Hurling Final. Mentions Tipperary and also mentions 1994 All-Ireland Hurling Final against Limerick and 1985 All-Ireland Hurling Final against Galway.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Seán:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>Kay:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Seán: Played from 1950 – 64 for Ferbane. Played at junior, intermediate and senior level. Won Offaly U12 County Championship; won 1954 Offaly Minor Football championship; Won 1957 Offaly junior hurling and football championship; won 1959 Offaly Intermediate Football Championship; won 1964 Offaly Junior Football Championship.</p> <p>Kay: N/A</p>

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Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Seán: Vice-Chairman of Ferbane GAA age 20yrs. Kay: N/A
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 1:37:07
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

I hereby assign the copyright of the content of the above to the GAA Oral History Project on the understanding that the content will not be used in a derogatory manner. I understand that I am giving the GAA Oral History Project the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 23rd August 2012