

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2011
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Kathleen O'Sullivan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1954 <b>Home County:</b> Kerry
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Aughatubrid NS, Co. Kerry <b>Secondary:</b> Technical School, Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 1 sister
<b>Club(s)</b>	Waterville; St. Mary's Cahirciveen
<b>Occupation</b>	Child Minder, Worked in Superquinn
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Drama; Charity Work; Cunamh Iveragh

REFERENCE NO. KY/1/25

<b>Date of Report</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1970s – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Kerry, Cork, Dublin, Kilkenny, Clare, Donegal, Armagh, Offaly, Great Britain, Americas, USA
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Celebrations, Fundraising, Media, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, All-Ireland, Impact on Life, Professionalism, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Kathleen recalls her earliest memories of the GAA. She discusses her first time going to Croke Park, and also her family's interest in Gaelic games. She discusses her routine on match days, explaining how supporters' attire has changed over the years. She also discusses travelling to matches. Kathleen describes the role of her club in the community. She also talks about her interest in other sports. She explains how she won the title of "Kerry's Greatest Supporter" and describes travelling to New York for a match. She describes following Kerry in Gaelic football, and talks about attending celebrations in counties that have won their first All-Ireland. Kathleen discusses her fundraising efforts for charity. She also talks about the role of women in the GAA. She concludes by discussing her GAA heroes and explaining what the GAA means to her, describing her best memories from her involvement in the Association.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:33 Kathleen recalls her earliest memories of the GAA. Mentions Micheál O'Hehir, a National League Final against New York in 1969. Mentions Mick O'Connell and Mick O'Dwyer, describes listening to match from New York on the radio. Also mentions Gaelic Park.</p> <p>01:53 Discusses family's interest in Gaelic games. Explains where she got her interest from. Mentions 1969 All-Ireland Football Final, Micheál O'Hehir, her cousin Eileen Lynch from Tullig.</p> <p>03:13 Recalls going to Croke Park in 1971. Mentions Kilcock, Maynooth and Kavanagh's Mills. Mentions seeing All-Ireland Final tickets in a Mothercare book. Recalls going to her first All-Ireland Final in 1971 between Offaly and Galway. Mentions the Hogan Stand, Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh's wife, and Willie Bryan collecting the Sam Maguire.</p>

	<p>06:22 Recalls growing up outside Cahersiveen in Ballard. Discusses the local GAA club, St. Michaels. Mentions working in Waterville and supporting the club. Mentions Maynooth and Dublin. Recalls living in Dublin from 1975-85.</p> <p>08:18 Describes routine on match days when living in Dublin and heading to Kerry matches in Croke Park. Recalls heading in to matches early to soak up the atmosphere. Mentions 1975 All-Ireland Football Final, Kerry v Dublin, and a John Egan goal. Mentions Leeson Street and a Sligo man's comments after Kerry defeated Dublin. Refers to Kerry's appearances in Croke Park – 1976 All-Ireland Final against Dublin, 1977 All-Ireland Semi-Final against Dublin, 1979, 1980 and 1981 All-Ireland Football Finals. Also mentions losing 1982 All-Ireland Final when going for five-in-a-row. Refers to Tipperary stopping Kilkenny's attempt at five-in-a-row in 2010. Mentions attending all Kerry matches during the “Golden Years” bar the 1984 National League Final in the Gaelic Grounds in Limerick. Mentions Jack O'Shea. Recalls Mikey Sheehy scoring goal and radio breaking.</p> <p>12:10 Describes the enjoyment she experiences from following Kerry football. Discusses involvement with GAA club in Cahirciveen. Mentions fundraising.</p> <p>13:15 Discusses changes in attire of supporters attending matches. Recalls influence of Dublin's Heffo's Army in 1974. Mentions 1974 All-Ireland Football Final between Dublin and Galway. Recalls being in Superquinn when Dublin won the 1983 All-Ireland and before the 1984 All-Ireland Final. Recalls Páidí Ó Sé marking Joe McNally in 1984 final. Mentions boss was from Mayo.</p> <p>16:05 Discusses her involvement in the GAA in Dublin. Mentions buying Gaelic Sport in Easons – refers to the writer Jack Mahon. Also mentions Con Houlihan in the Evening Press and his description of Mikey Sheehy's goal against Paddy Cullen. Mentions headline after 1982 All-Ireland Football Final, mentions Martin Furlong.</p> <p>17:40 Discusses travelling to matches. Mentions coming to live in Cahirciveen.</p> <p>18:31 Discusses her roles in St. Mary's GAA club. Mentions winning the All-Ireland Intermediate Football Final.</p> <p>19:28 Recalls changes she has witnessed in match days at Croke Park. Mentions Gerry Grogan from Cahirciveen working in Croke Park.</p>
--	--

	<p>20:42 Describes getting All-Ireland Final tickets. Mentions 1992 All-Ireland Final and acquiring a ticket.</p> <p>21:36 Discusses role that the St. Mary's club plays in the community. Mentions Maurice Fitzgerald.</p> <p>23:08 Discusses her interests in other sports. Mentions soccer and rugby. Mentions Manchester United, Munster rugby and the Irish rugby team.</p> <p>23:27 States that Gaelic football and hurling are her first loves. Recalls the number of All-Ireland football and hurling finals that she has attended. Mentions Kilkenny and Offaly.</p> <p>24:20 Recalls visiting Offaly years after they won the 1982 All-Ireland Football Final against Kerry. Mentions Christy Riordan and a DVD on Kerry captains launched in Cáitlín's Pub. Mentions Seamus Darby and Willie Bryan. Mentions getting train to Tullamore, meeting Willie Bryan, Johnny Cooney, Tony McTeague, Murt, Richie and Matt Connor and Eugene Mulligan. Recalls story regarding match against Waterville. Mentions Valentia and Mick O'Connell. Recalls the 1972 All-Ireland Football Final replay between Kerry and Offaly. Also met Offaly hurlers – Mark Corrigan, the Whelehans and Richie Connor from the 1982 All-Ireland Football winning team. Also recalls trips to Carrickmacross and Crossmaglen. Mentions the McEntee's mother. Mentions Crossmaglen's issues with the British Army and also mentions trip back to Dublin with Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh.</p> <p>29:41 Describes travelling to New York to support Kerry in Downing Stadium for National League match against Cavan. Mentions Leinster Hurling Final. Explains how she won the trip to the match. Mentions Clare FM, Bank of Ireland, Radio Kerry. Won two Munster Football Final tickets, went with Liam O'Conner and her nephew Colm. Mentions competition at half-time in minor final. Mentions meeting DJ Carey's uncle and travelling to Gaelic Park. Recalls winning another trip to New York, mentions the RDS.</p> <p>34:13 Explains what it is like to follow Kerry in Gaelic football. Mentions 1988 Munster Final against Cork in Páirc Uí Chaoimh and Maurice Fitzgerald and Dinny Allen. Compares Kerry to Manchester United.</p> <p>35:26 Recalls travelling to counties when they win their inaugural All-Ireland titles. Mentions travelling to Donegal prior to the 1992 All-Ireland Football Final. Mentions Anthony Molloy coming into Ballyshannon with the Sam Maguire and Margo singing "Walking tall in Donegal". Recalls being in</p>
--	--

	<p>Ennis in 1995 when Clare won the 1995 All-Ireland Hurling Final. Describes the atmosphere at that final. Mentions Cahirciveen man Tim Dennehy.</p> <p>37:02 Describes training for marathons. Describes walking around South Kerry – Foilmore, Kells, Ballinskelligs, Valentia, Portmagee, Waterville, Caherdaniel, Sneem. Recalls Fr Jack praying for her the day of the mini-marathon. Did the marathon for charity – cancer research and the Cahirciveen Church Fund and Cahirciveen Social Services. Mentions the College Arms in Cahirciveen. Mentions Canon Crean and Fr Niall.</p> <p>42:53 Describes being known as “Kerry’s Greatest Supporter”. Recalls incident in Sneem.</p> <p>43:52 Discusses how the role of women in the GAA has changed. Mentions Kerry ladies football team and Mary Jo Curran. Mentions never having attended a ladies football All-Ireland final.</p> <p>44:56 Discusses what she feels are the biggest changes in the GAA.</p> <p>46:08 Discusses professionalism in the GAA. Mentions Mick O’Connell.</p> <p>48:11 Describes her best memory from her involvement in the GAA. Mentions Munster Final days against Cork in Killarney and Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Also mentions winning All-Ireland finals. Recalls 1997 All-Ireland Football Final, and league match in New York.</p> <p>49:28 Discusses her GAA heroes. Mentions Mick O’Connell, Mick O’Dwyer, Brendan Lynch, Pat Griffin and Liam Higgins. Also mentions Pat Spillane, Mikey Sheehy, Jack O’Shea, Sean Walsh, John Egan, Ogie Moran, Jimmy Deenihan. In modern times mentions The Gooch and Declan O’Sullivan.</p> <p>50:30 Discusses her biggest disappointment with the GAA. Mentions the cost of All-Ireland Final tickets.</p> <p>51:00 Describes what the GAA means to her. Recalls friendships made. Mentions friends in Cahirciveen, Dublin, Maynooth, Breeda Ward, Gerry Grogan. Mentions travelling to New York, Ruislip in London, Ballyragget in Kilkenny, Casement Park in Belfast. Also mentions Dungannon, Ballyshannon and Carrickmacross. Mentions being in Eamon McEnaney’s pub.</p> <p>54:59 Discusses her future hopes for Kerry football. Mentions</p>
--	--

**REFERENCE NO. KY/1/25**

	<p>Cork.</p> <p>55:50 Reveals what her involvement in the GAA has meant to her. Mentions places such as Cahirciveen, Valentia, Waterville, Portmagee, Ballinskelligs, Foilmore, Kells, Killoe, Glenard.</p> <p>57:34 Thanks Willie Bryan for her trip to Offaly. Mentions Kerry winning 1972 National League Final and losing 1972 All-Ireland Final replay to Offaly. Recounts her respect for Offaly. Mentions Sean Evans. Also mentions the people of Donegal.</p> <p>59:18 Recalls her meeting with former Offaly footballer Seamus Darby. Mentions 1989 All-Ireland Final, bus to Dublin, Glenbeigh. Recalls the disappointment of Kerry losing 1982 All-Ireland Final to Offaly. Recalls the great Kerry team of the “Golden Years”. Mentions Pat Spillane and Mikey Sheehy.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer   <input type="checkbox"/> Referee   <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): ___Fundraiser_____</p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Didn't play.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Club Fundraiser and “Kerry Greatest Supporter”</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio   <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:01:30</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>

**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: \_\_\_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_18/08/12\_\_\_\_\_