

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> May 2010
<b>Location</b>	Lacken, Co. Sligo
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Mary Tuffy (Née Maher) Nickname: Lory Meagher
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1917 <b>Home County:</b> Sligo
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Moylough NS, Co. Sligo
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 sister & 2 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Husband, 1 son & 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Curry Camogie Club [Sligo]; Tubbercurry Camogie Club [Sligo]
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

**REFERENCE NO. SO/1/7**

<b>Date of Report</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1917 – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Sligo
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Refereeing, Officials, Celebrations, Fundraising, Education, Religion, Material Culture, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Mary recalls her days playing camogie in Sligo. She and her friends were involved in starting up a local club and they started playing, winning three county championships and travelling around the county for competitions. Mary was also captain of the first Sligo camogie team. She then went on to become a referee. Mary talks about the life of the community at the time, where technology was basic, dances were major social events and poor economic conditions forced many people to emigrate.</p> <p>00:20 Born 1917 in Curry and went to Moylough school.</p> <p>00:30 Father died before she was five.</p> <p>00:45 She had one sister and two brothers.</p> <p>01:00 Margaret Kilcoyne was a teacher of hers, she married Matt Devine and they lived in Tubbercurry.</p> <p>01:10 After school she went to a hall and learned Maths English and Irish, and then she went to learn cookery.</p> <p>01:20 Tells a story about encountering a sergeant who suggested starting a camogie team.</p> <p>02:00 They won three county championships.</p> <p>02:05 Recalls a tournament in Ballaghaderreen in 1935.</p> <p>02:20 Medals were presented in St Meitheal's Hall at 3am.</p> <p>02:35 There were few cars but the parish priest had a driver and they travelled with him.</p> <p>02:50 Recalls winning a county championship in Killumney,</p>

	<p>beating Skreen.</p> <p>03:15 They got the medals in a hall in Charlestown.</p> <p>03:40 There were six of them from the village on the team and they practiced twice a week.</p> <p>04:15 The camogie team was started in 1933 and in 1934 a county board in Kilmoney was started.</p> <p>04:40 Mentions an objection about the championship.</p> <p>04:55 When World War II started a lot of the girls went to England and camogie suffered.</p> <p>05:15 There was a camogie team in Charlestown and they had a great rivalry.</p> <p>05:30 Recalls playing a game against Charlestown and people placing bets on it.</p> <p>06:15 There was a team in Bunanadden in Gorteen and in Riverstown, and in Ballisodare, and in Culaire.</p> <p>06:45 Recalls getting a phone call and being told she once saved somebody's life, he was Fr John Finlay.</p> <p>08:10 They got great exercise and used to run a lot.</p> <p>08:35 Recalls playing Mayo in Tubbercurry with the county team.</p> <p>09:05 They always lost to Galway.</p> <p>09:25 They thought the idea for a camogie team was great when it was first mooted.</p> <p>09:40 A man from Kiltagan used to give her tips, he was a priest named Fr John Marron and died in Africa.</p> <p>10:20 Her family supported her when she played.</p> <p>10:35 Both men and women trained them, especially the Henrys.</p> <p>10:45 Recalls playing in the coves of Kesh.</p> <p>11:10 Recalls a great goalkeeper, Fitzpatrick from Ballisodare.</p> <p>11:20 Their outfit was black and white.</p> <p>12:05 On Sundays they played a game, often against Charlestown.</p>
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	<p>12:20 Recalls being very sore the day after a game.</p> <p>13:05 Paddy Collins was a teacher and trained them with Harry McKeown.</p> <p>14:00 When they won their first county championship Tubbercurry won the football and they got tickets to the big presentation dance at St Brigid's Hall in Tubbercurry - who also had a camogie team.</p> <p>14:50 They got their first set of medals in Walsh's Hall in Charlestown.</p> <p>15:25 Recalls playing in Ducastle and doing a lot of walking.</p> <p>15:55 Lots of people used to watch the games.</p> <p>16:00 Recalls playing a final in Ballaghaderreen and Fr McCarrick was there.</p> <p>17:55 Paddy Collins, Harry McKeown and an O'Connor man ran the club.</p> <p>18:25 Mary and her friend Molly Gallagher cycled to Ballina to see Sligo play.</p> <p>19:50 They went to local matches and the Martins were very good footballers.</p> <p>20:15 There was a big population at the time until the war years.</p> <p>20:20 Recalls going to England on the boat the day after the All-Ireland final and everyone had a great time.</p> <p>21:00 She used to visit her sister in England.</p> <p>21:10 She did a lot of farming.</p> <p>21:40 Recalls a meeting in Ballinay with officers from the Camogie Association.</p> <p>22:15 She has three medals.</p> <p>22:35 She and her friend Molly went to dances a lot and Mary met her husband at one dance in Tubbercurry.</p> <p>23:05 Stephen Garvey and other big bands used to play at the dances.</p> <p>23:20 Recalls her first dance in Tubbercurry.</p> <p>23:45 There weren't many foreign dances held at the time.</p>
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	<p>24:25 Her village used to stage a play every winter.</p> <p>25:00 There were house dances in an old man's house to raise funds for the camogie.</p> <p>24:40 Her neighbour Michael Gilmore was a great fiddle player.</p> <p>26:20 They bought material and got their playing outfits made.</p> <p>26:40 She was captain of the county team, the first camogie team that Sligo ever had.</p> <p>30:15 Her nickname was Lory Meagher after the Kilkenny hurler.</p> <p>30:50 There was 12 on a camogie team.</p> <p>31:30 Being able to lift the ball was important, and taking frees.</p> <p>31:45 The men got the hurleys, they were made in Kilkenny possibly.</p> <p>32:10 They travelled all over Sligo and Mayo playing.</p> <p>32:15 She got on very well with her teammates and they would cycle home together.</p> <p>33:25 She played with Tubbercurry for a while and they also cycled to Skreen.</p> <p>33:50 Mentions a McCarrick man who was a butcher did a lot for camogie.</p> <p>34:00 Recalls being in his van and the lights went out.</p> <p>34:45 Mentions folklore of a horseshoe mark from St Patrick's horse.</p> <p>35:15 There were never bad injuries.</p> <p>35:25 She refereed matches as well in the 1940s.</p> <p>35:45 There weren't many fouls so refereeing was not that difficult.</p> <p>35:55 She refereed a Galway match in Tuam one day and went to a dance afterwards.</p> <p>36:30 Dublin always had a good camogie team and there was a Cody girl who was very good.</p>
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	<p>36:40 She always watches hurling on television.</p> <p>36:55 The Western and The Sligo Champion always covered their games and a man from Tubbercurry reported on games, a man named Price.</p> <p>38:05 Her father had money saved before he died so that helped the family to cope financially.</p> <p>38:25 Her sister moved to England.</p> <p>39:40 They spoke a little bit of Irish growing up, although the older generation spoke it a lot more.</p> <p>40:30 Her grandfather was a shoemaker.</p> <p>40:45 The 1920s was a hard time, she knew a family and their father was shot by Black and Tans.</p> <p>41:20 More people followed football than camogie.</p> <p>41:35 Recalls the day of their first championship match and Tubbercurry were playing nearby and Mick Kilcoyne was playing with them.</p> <p>43:00 After she got married there was no team anymore.</p> <p>44:20 Electricity came in 1950.</p> <p>45:00 They got water from a well and that made a huge difference.</p> <p>46:05 They listened to games on the radio and there were often arguments.</p> <p>46:35 The modern game is similar to the way it's always been.</p> <p>47:20 There was a feminist element to playing camogie.</p> <p>48:05 Her mother was interested in how she did on the field.</p> <p>48:30 Great players included Kathleen Fitzpatrick from Ballisodare, a top goalkeeper.</p> <p>49:05 A lot of her former teammates are dead.</p> <p>49:35 Her daughter Marietta played with the convent in Tubbercurry.</p> <p>49:55 Playing camogie helped her to lose weight.</p> <p>50:25 Sean O'Duffy was a great camogie man.</p>
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	<p>50:55 There weren't other sports for women at the time.</p> <p>51:15 Her husband was secretary of the local club for a while. They have a good pitch and fundraise a lot, helping to pay off the church debt.</p> <p>51:45 Gaelic games are important for the community.</p> <p>52:05 Her daughter-in-law is secretary for the football.</p> <p>52:25 There are more women in the GAA now.</p> <p>52:45 They talk about Gaelic games a lot in the house.</p> <p>53:25 Pitches have improved over the years. Her team used to tog out before leaving home. The men togged out at the side of the pitch.</p>
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Played club camogie, 1933 – 1950. Won 2 Sligo County Championships, 1934 &amp; 35. Captain of the first Sligo Camogie team, 1935 – 1938.</p>
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<p>N/A</p>
<b>Format</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<b>Duration</b>	<p>Length of Interview: 54:22</p>
<b>Language</b>	<p>English</p>

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**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012