

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	15 th Jan 2011
Location	Parochial House, Gortahork, Co. Donegal
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Fr Seán Ó Gallchóir
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1946 Home County: Donegal
Education	Primary: Chnoc a Stolaire NS, Co. Donegal Secondary: Ard Scoil Mhuire, Co. Donegal Third Level: Maynooth
Family	Siblings: 7 brothers & 4 sisters
Club(s)	CLG Ghaoth Dobhair; CLG Chloich Cheann Fhaola
Occupation	Priest
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DL/1/7

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Séamus Ó Gallachóir
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1928 Home County: Donegal
Education	Primary: Lunniagh NS, Co. Donegal
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers Current Family if Different: Married with 2 daughters and 1 son
Club(s)	CLG Ghaoth Dobhair
Occupation	County Council; Crollly Doll Factory; Senior Store Man
Parents' Occupation	Tunnel Worker in Scotland [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DL/1/7

Date of Report	23 rd July 2012
Period Covered	1900s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Donegal, Americas, USA, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Violence, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Father Seán and Jimmy talk about their involvement in the GAA over the years. Jimmy describes what the GAA was like in Gaoth Dobhair when he was growing up during the 1940s. They talk about the development of the club over the years, its successes and its rivalries with other parishes. Jimmy recalls famous team and players, travelling to Croke Park during the 1950s and notes the amount of times he has been to an All-Ireland final. He talks about his involvement at county level and what the GAA was like in Donegal during this period. Father Seán discusses his involvement and how he became involved in the GAA upon his return from the priests' college in Maynooth. Jimmy recalls various stories about the GAA in Donegal over the years and highlights some memorable moments. Father Seán discusses his refereeing career and how he got into that side of the game. They talk about their favourite memories from their time in the GAA and towards the end of the interview they highlight the important role the Association has played in their lives.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:38 (Jimmy) Talks about his earliest GAA memories, moving back to Ireland from America. Mentions Lunniagh, and county footballers in the townland – the Coyle family of Gweedore, the Diver family, Tom Coll, Jim McFadden and Danny Gillespie. Mentions other footballers of the time like Big Tom O'Reilly, Tommy Murphy, the Delaney brothers, Bill Casey, Alf Murray, Kevin Armstrong, Paddy Kennedy, Joe Fitzgerald, Jimmy Joy. Mentions a range of local players he remembers from the late 1930s.</p>

	<p>04:20 Recalls going to his first Donegal championship final in 1945. Playing in a minor final with Gaoth Dobhair. Mentions Ballyshannon team and talks about the players who were there. Playing Glenties. Playing with St. Crone's at the same time.</p> <p>08:30 (Fr Seán) Talks about doing research for the club's juvenile teams. Mentions Lámh Dearg, Letterkenny, Declan O'Carroll and Charlie Murphy.</p> <p>09:30 (All) They talk about overage players on minor teams in the 1950s. Mentions Molloy's of the Rock.</p> <p>10:45 (Jimmy) Discusses the 1945 county final and the success of the Gaoth Dobhair (Gweedore) teams during that period. Jackie Páidí Óg, first Gweedore man to play for Ulster, he marked Joe Keohane.</p> <p>12:30 (Fr Seán) Talks about his earliest GAA memories and discusses his father's involvement in the Gaoth Dobhair club.</p> <p>13:20 (Jimmy) Discusses going to his first All-Ireland in 1951. Describes how they travelled to the match and what they did in Dublin the day before. Talks about how he has gone to 45 All-Irelands and highlights his favourite memories from these.</p> <p>21:00 Describes the atmosphere in Croke Park during those days and what the day was like. Talks about being there for Donegal's All-Ireland win in 1992. Mentions Frankie Mooney. Discusses Donegal's successes over the years. Talks about being a county selector. Mentions John Joe Brennan, Danny Boyle, Tom Farren, Eddie Heuston, Davy Brennan, Clement Sweeney, Francie McLaughlin, Danny McGlinchey, Paddy Gill, Barney Campbell and Frank McLoone. Picking the team in the Gallagher's Home. Jimmy lists the entire team.</p> <p>27:30 (All) They talk about the 1961 Gaoth Dobhair winning team. Jimmy talks about the different winning teams and how he can recite all the players.</p> <p>31:00 (Jimmy) Describes how he learned off the county teams. Listening to matches on the radio and reading reports in the newspaper. Using raw potatoes to stick up cut outs from the paper.</p> <p>33:15 Talks about the type of football he used when he was growing up.</p> <p>34:55 Describes the type of facilities available when he was growing up.</p>
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	<p>36:20 (All) They talk about the 1945 final. Had to bring a referee from Mayo. Talk about why a Hudaí Beag didn't play and discuss an army team that Gaoth Dobhair played. Mention Columba McDyer</p> <p>40:35 They discuss the impact of the Second World War on the GAA in Donegal. Travelling to the 1945 minor final on Mickey Gallagher's lorry.</p> <p>44:50 They describe the club's colours. They talk about a team being flown over from England known as the 'flying footballers'.</p> <p>47:40 They talk about Gaoth Dobhair boycotting the county team. Mention a Lagan Cup match.</p> <p>48:20 Mentions Peter Dillon from Mayo who played with Falcarragh. Fr Seán mentions the lack of a Gaelic tradition in Arranmore.</p> <p>49:50 They discuss the strength of the Gaoth Dobhair teams in the past and the role of Gardaí and soldiers in local teams. Mention Paddy Clarke, Frank White, Paddy Prendergast, Gerry Begley, Gerry O'Riordan all playing with Dungloe. Gweedore team was from Crolly bridge to Lunniagh. Mentions Owenie McFadden and the Cassidys. Gaoth Dobhair won a county final in the 40s with a full forward line from Gola Island – Hughie Roarty, Charlie Friel and Hughie Sweeney.</p> <p>52:25 Fr Seán mentions the way the county was divided into divisions and the rivalry between Gaoth Dobhair and Dungloe. Recall a controversial incident in a match in 1957 against Dungloe. Crowd rushing the field. Dungloe withdrew from the West. Talk about a bread boycott after the match. Mentions St. Eunan's and MacCumhail's rivalry.</p> <p>56:00 They describe the changes in the style of football over the years and the footballers they like.</p> <p>01:00:30 They talk about the issue of illegal players.</p> <p>01:01:43 They recall the Donegal panel staying in Gaoth Dobhair before the 1952 league final. Describes the type of training they did and the crowds at training.</p> <p>01:06:30 They describe the changes in the county colours over the years.</p> <p>01:07:00 They talk about John Joe O'Reilly training the team. Describe the issue of alcohol in the past.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. DL/1/7

	<p>01:09:00 They recall the Donegal team of the 1960s and 1970s – mention players including Ferriter, McFeeley, Flood, Brady.</p> <p>01:10:07 (Fr Seán) Talks about his involvement in the GAA and being a priest in Falcarragh. Describe his work in researching the GAA in Gaoth Dobhair.</p> <p>01:12:10 Discusses the role of GAA in his school. Jimmy recalls a tournament between local schools and a team making shorts out of flour bags.</p> <p>01:16:45 (All) They talk about the first Donegal players to play with Ulster and to win a Railway Cup. Mention Hudaí Beag, Columba McDyer, Jimmy Doherty. Jimmy recalls attending a Railway Cup match in the 1960s.</p> <p>01:17:25 They discuss the popularity of county challenge matches.</p> <p>01:18:19 They describe pitches in Gaoth Dobhair and issues in the parish over its use – Páirc Mhíicí Hudaí in Stranacorkra near Crannóg, Páirc Kit, Magheragallon. Mention Frank White.</p> <p>01:20:32 They talk about the history of the club in Gaoth Dobhair and its relationship with Dungloe.</p> <p>01:24:00 (Jimmy) Discusses his family's involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>01:25:20 (Seán) Talks about the club in the early 1900s.</p> <p>01:26:15 (All) They talk about players travelling from islands off the coast of Donegal like Gola Island and Arranmore.</p> <p>01:27:55 (Seán) Discusses the role of GAA in school and in college. Talks about GAA in Falcarragh.</p> <p>01:29:28 Talks about the GAA in the priests' college in Maynooth. Discusses his involvement in the GAA in Falcarragh. Jimmy talks about the family's involved in the Gaoth Dobhair team. Mentions Killybegs, Glen and Glenties.</p> <p>01:33:40 (Jimmy) Discusses becoming a county selector. Selectors from the divisions, West, East, North West and South West. Talks about Gaoth Dobhair's relationship with Ballyshannon. Mentions Hugh Daly.</p> <p>01:41:30 Talks about being a selector for Gaoth Dobhair.</p> <p>01:44:35 Discusses the different selectors around the county.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. DL/1/7

	<p>Describes the division that Gaoth Dobhair is in. Talk about the transfer of Dungloe to a different division.</p> <p>01:46:45 Talks about the divisional meetings he attended.</p> <p>01:47:36 (All) They discuss the playing of camogie in Gaoth Dobhair in the past.</p> <p>01:48:48 They talk about hurling in the area and the people involved.</p> <p>01:50:28 Discusses the playing of handball in Gaoth Dobhair.</p> <p>01:51:40 (Fr Seán) Talks about his involvement in refereeing. Jimmy recalls refereeing one match. Recalls a parish league in the area.</p> <p>01:54:15 (All) They discuss people from Gaoth Dobhair being county chairmen. Mentions Johnny McGinley and Peadar Molloy who were county chairmen, Conall Ferry was county treasurer and the present county secretary Aodh Máirtín is his nephew. Mentions Fr McGettigan. Talk about the role of the Christian Brothers.</p> <p>01:55:39 (Jimmy) Talks about attending county board meetings and county conventions.</p> <p>01:56:43 (Fr Seán) Discusses his refereeing career. Jimmy recalls an incident involving the county board and a match against Killybegs. Talks about the type of training he did for refereeing.</p> <p>02:03:06 Talks about researching for his books. Mentions Hugh Daly. Recalls different controversies over the years.</p> <p>02:06:40 (All) They talk about the role of the GAA club in Gaoth Dobhair. Describe the rivalry with St Eunan's of Letterkenny.</p> <p>02:10:48 They discuss their best memories from their time in the GAA.</p> <p>02:12:28 (Jimmy) Talks about his GAA heroes. Mentions Paddy Kennedy, Mick O'Connell, Sean Murphy.</p> <p>02:13:43 (Fr Seán) Chooses his GAA heroes. Mícheál Ó Mhuircheartaigh.</p> <p>02:14:20 (Jimmy) Highlights the work that Fr Seán has done for Donegal.</p> <p>02:15:22 (Fr Seán) Tells a story about Frankie Gallagher.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. DL/1/7

	<p>Talks about different matches in the past.</p> <p>02:18:25 (Jimmy) Talks about the role of the GAA in his life and the friends he has made. Mentions Willie Casey and talks about the people he has made.</p> <p>02:20:21 (Fr Seán) Describe the importance of the GAA in his life.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p><input 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>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	N/A
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:21:39
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

REFERENCE NO. DL/17

the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____23/07/12_____

