

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	28 th Jan 2011
Location	John Montgomery's home, Coleraine, Co. Derry
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Joe McSheffrey
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1931 Home County: Derry
Education	Primary: St. John's Secondary: Coleraine Technical School
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister Current Family if Different: 1 son & 1 daughter
Club(s)	Eoghan Rua, Coleraine; Sean Mitchel's, Aghadowey
Occupation	Retired Branch Manager of an Electrical Wholesaler
Parents' Occupation	Post Office Engineering [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	SDLP
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DY/1/21

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Eddie Devenney
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1932 Home County: Derry
Education	Primary: St. Malachy's PS, St. Patrick's, Portrush Secondary: St. Malachy's, Belfast
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: 3 daughters & 1 sons
Club(s)	Sean Mitchel's, Aghadowey; Glenullin; Eoghan Rua, Coleraine
Occupation	Sales Manager
Parents' Occupation	Seaman (Merchant) [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Portstewart Golf Club

REFERENCE NO. DY/1/21

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Gaile
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1963 Home County: Derry
Education	Primary: St. John's, Coleraine, Co. Derry Secondary: St. Joseph's High School, Coleraine, Co. Derry
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: 1 daughter & 2 sons
Club(s)	Eoghan Rua, Coleraine
Occupation	Entertainment Manager
Parents' Occupation	Factory Workers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DY/1/21

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John A. Montgomery
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1949 Home County: Derry
Education	Primary: St. John's PS, Co. Derry Secondary: St. MacNissi's College, Garron Tower, Co. Antrim
Family	Siblings: 3 sisters & 1 brother Current Family if Different: 1 son
Club(s)	Sean Mitchel's, Aghadowey; Sarsfields, Ballerin; Eoghan Rua, Coleraine
Occupation	School Laboratory Technician
Parents' Occupation	BT Engineer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	SDLP
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	None

REFERENCE NO. DY/1/21

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Kevin Mullan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1954 Home County: Derry
Education	Primary: Gortnaghey PS Secondary: Dungiven Third Level: Aston University, Birmingham
Family	Siblings: 5 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married with 2 daughters and 1 son
Club(s)	Eoghan Rua, Coleraine; St. Colm's, Drum
Occupation	Civil Engineer
Parents' Occupation	Construction Foreman [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Portstewart Golf Club

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Date of Report	2 nd August 2012
Period Covered	1946 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Derry
Key Themes Covered	Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Five members of the Owen Roe club in Derry discuss the history of their club, and of the GAA in the wider community. They recall the early days of the club and building it up over the years, eventually securing grounds of their own and proper facilities. Along with the modernisation of the GAA came a more rationalised approach to structuring which helped the club to develop, especially at underage level. The Owen Roes members also discuss other matters in detail, such as the north/south divide within Derry football and the impact of the Troubles on GAA activity in the area. Through their stories it is possible to appreciate the strides that the Association has made to shed its image in some quarters as ‘the IRA at play’ and become an integral part of a society where trust between communities is much stronger in 2011 than it had been in the preceding decades.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>01:00 (Joe) Earliest memories. Interest in many sports. Playing at St. Malachy's pitch for Coleraine with Charlie McKeever.</p> <p>02:00 (Eddie) Earliest memories. Playing for Coleraine Shamrocks against Magilligan at Ballerin. How he fared. Marking John O'Hara. Dispute arising and what happened as a result.</p> <p>03:10 (Eddie) Learning to play GAA at St. Malachy's College in Belfast. Paddy O'Hara and Sean Gibson training them. Playing for Aghadowey, Glenullin and eventually Owen Roe.</p> <p>04:25 (Eddie) Making the Derry panel in 1958. Getting 6</p>

	<p>month suspension for playing soccer.</p> <p>05:30 (Joe) Patsy Breen ringing him to propose a 7-a-side for the opening of the Newbridge grounds. Eddie playing soccer-style in a game. Opponents objecting.</p> <p>08:50 (John G) Earliest memories. First Owen Roes match. Impressions. Going to tin huts at St. Malachy's afterwards.</p> <p>09:35 (John G) Playing for the first time. John Montgomery coaching them.</p> <p>10:15 (John M) Earliest memories. Big Jack Hickey from Kerry delivering vegetables and discussing football.</p> <p>11:25 (John M) Playing for Aghadowey in 1969, then Ballerin.</p> <p>12:05 (John M) Helping others revive Owen Roes.</p> <p>12:30 (Kevin) Earliest memories in Gortnaghey. Playing for junior club Drum. Father and brothers involvement. Going to carnivals.</p> <p>14:00 (Kevin) Derry winning the All-Ireland minor final in 1965. Eugene McCaul and Seamus McCloskey from his cub playing. Watching on television.</p> <p>15:40 (Kevin) Working and settling in Coleraine.</p> <p>17:05 (John G) Portrush using Owen Roes name for a while in the 1950s. Sammy and Jackie McNally good players. Mentions Magilligan and Casements. Secretary Brian Noonan wishing good luck to new teams set up at the time.</p> <p>18:20 Hurling in the area.</p> <p>19:10 (Eddie) Sean Mitchel's a hurling club in the area before Owen Roes. Became Coleraine Gaelic Football Club first.</p> <p>20:00 (Joe) Going to England for a while in the 1950s.</p> <p>20:55 (Eddie) Starting playing Gaelic football for St. Malachy's in 1946. Why he took it up. Playing in the Ranafast Cup team and the MacRory Cup team.</p> <p>21:50 (Eddie) Setting up a soccer team at the school. Issues with the name of the team because of GAA concerns. Calling themselves Carlisle Circus.</p> <p>22:40 (Eddie) Benefits of playing GAA at the school.</p> <p>23:10 (Joe) Going to Coleraine technical school and playing soccer there.</p>
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	<p>23:50 (Eddie) Going to Magilligan to play both soccer and GAA.</p> <p>24:30 (Eddie) Playing soccer for Larne intermediate. Financial incentive.</p> <p>25:40 (Joe) GAA facilities when they were younger.</p> <p>26:05 (Eddie) Car being sent for him to play for Glenullin.</p> <p>26:25 (Eddie) Home ground they used was near St Joseph's school.</p> <p>27:15 (Eddie) Playing with Harry Creelman and benefits of that.</p> <p>28:30 (Joe) Their opinions on hurling when they were young. Differences in how the game is played in 2011. Admiration for Cork hurling legend Christy Ring.</p> <p>29:45 (Eddie) Colours Seán Mitchel's played in, and later Owen Roes.</p> <p>30:20 (Eddie) How they ended up playing in maroon and white. Expedition to Clery's in Dublin for jerseys.</p> <p>31:00 (Eddie) County borrowing their jerseys.</p> <p>31:35 (Joe) Seán Ó Síocháin visiting the area. Mentions Glen Maghera.</p> <p>31:55 (John M) Playing Glen Maghera and a player called Pickles Mullen heading the ball. Reaction to that.</p> <p>32:35 (Eddie) Patsy Gormley playing for Claudy. His approach to playing.</p> <p>33:25 (Eddie) Playing for Aghadowey when football in Coleraine folded. Glenullin recruiting him.</p> <p>34:10 (Eddie) Being selected to play for his county and what it meant to him. Roddy and Owen Gribben playing for Derry and how they received him. Playing with Jim McKeever in college. Fr McNally a county selector.</p> <p>35:50 (Eddie) Getting suspended and impact that had on him.</p> <p>36:40 (Joe) Publicity GAA gets in 2011 and how it compares to when they were younger.</p> <p>37:45 (John M) Getting match reports in the newspapers.</p> <p>38:15 (Kevin) Rob Nallen the sports editor at a newspaper. Calling the county 'Londonderry'. Ringing him up to complain</p>
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	<p>and how he responded.</p> <p>39:55 (Eddie) Why there is a strong soccer ethos in Coleraine. Peter Doherty and Bertie Peacock legendary local soccer players.</p> <p>41:00 (Kevin) GAA more concentrated in rural areas in Derry.</p> <p>41:45 (John M) Coleraine a predominantly Unionist area. Sam McFeely a non-Unionist councillor.</p> <p>42:35 (Joe) Why he ended his involvement with the GAA as a player.</p> <p>43:15 (Joe) How the Owen Roes club was founded.</p> <p>44:10 (Eddie) Patsy Breen spearheading the drive to establish the club. Getting into the North Derry League.</p> <p>44:50 (Eddie) Going to play in Swatragh and what happened there. Gamesmanship.</p> <p>46:20 (Joe) His impressions of the trip to Swatragh.</p> <p>47:20 (Eddie) Decision to reform Owen Roes. Himself, Joe, Patsy Breen and Charlie McKeever involved.</p> <p>49:15 (John M) Playing for Owen Roes in 1965 when he left school. Leaving the club and returning again.</p> <p>51:00 (John M) Paul Boyle getting a transfer to Kilrea because of a promise he was made. Transfer completed when John M's back was turned.</p> <p>52:25 (John M) Struggles the club went through.</p> <p>53:00 (John M) Strong representation local clubs had on the county team in the 1980s. Club strengthening as a result.</p> <p>53:35 (Eddie) Reason for his involvement with the club in 2011.</p> <p>54:10 (Kevin) Bellaghy and Newbridge strong teams in the 1970s. South Derry and North Derry leagues. Divide between north and south.</p> <p>56:30 (John M) Derry minor players in 1960s made up of those from either St Columb's College or south Derry.</p> <p>57:00 (John M) South Derry people not happy about having to go to Celtic Park to watch the county team play.</p> <p>58:50 (John M) Fundraising and how it has changed over the</p>
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	<p>years.</p> <p>59:40 (Eddie) Financial struggles they had at the beginning.</p> <p>01:00:05 (John M) Importance of having good facilities.</p> <p>01:00:45 (Joe) Facilities they had when he was playing.</p> <p>01:02:45 (Kevin) Camogie introduced to the club and impact of that.</p> <p>01:03:05 (Kevin) Needing a home of their own.</p> <p>01:04:25 (Kevin) Fortunes of club improving with introduction of hurling and camogie. Working to get better underage structures.</p> <p>01:05:45 (Kevin) Constructing a ground in 2006 and winning an intermediate championship the same year, before reaching an All-Ireland final in 2007.</p> <p>01:07:05 (Kevin) Derry winning the All-Ireland SFC in 1993 and the impact of that.</p> <p>01:07:20 (Kevin) Coleraine player's house burned down. Reason for that.</p> <p>01:07:50 (Kevin) Flying flags during the run-up to the All-Ireland final. Reaction to that. Mentions Castlerock Road.</p> <p>01:09:00 (Kevin) People openly declaring their affiliation with the club in 2011.</p> <p>01:10:05 (Kevin) Getting a lot of publicity when they got their new pitch. First game against Greenlough in 2007.</p> <p>01:11:20 (Kevin) Families happy to send their children to play with the club.</p> <p>01:12:25 (John M) Moulding a winning championship team from underage level.</p> <p>01:12:50 (John M) Increase in number of club members since 1993 All-Ireland win.</p> <p>01:13:40 (John G) Why buying a pitch at St. Malachy's did not work out. Mentions Fr McConnell and Fr Lohan.</p> <p>01:15:15 (John M) Problems with relying on other clubs' pitches.</p> <p>01:15:40 (Kevin) Using a pitch owned by the local university. Trying to get the use of one of their more suitable pitches.</p>
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	<p>01:16:45 (John M) Process of finding land that was suitable for a pitch. Access issues. A Developer offering land in 2003.</p> <p>01:18:10 (Kevin) Putting a proposal to the local council. Unionists apprehensive.</p> <p>01:20:25 (John M) Equality legislation meant they had a strong hand when it came to dealing with the council.</p> <p>01:20:50 (Kevin) Grants they got from the Northern Ireland Sports Council. Local community assisting their fundraising efforts.</p> <p>01:21:30 (Kevin) Dissatisfaction with GAA's contribution.</p> <p>01:22:15 (Kevin) Breakdown of monies received from different bodies.</p> <p>01:23:10 (John M) Unionist Coleraine Mayor William King holding a civic reception when they got to an All-Ireland final in 2007.</p> <p>01:23:25 (John M) Civic reception for Derry's All-Ireland junior winning camogie team.</p> <p>01:23:55 (Eddie) Cross-community representation at the official opening of their new grounds.</p> <p>01:26:20 (Kevin) Issue of flying the Tricolour and playing the national anthem at their ground. Their thoughts on that.</p> <p>01:28:35 (Joe) Impact of The Troubles on the community in Coleraine.</p> <p>01:28:55 (John G) A player Brendan Doherty shot dead after a dance. His brother blinded.</p> <p>01:29:50 (Joe) People assuming a GAA funeral was the same as an IRA funeral.</p> <p>01:30:20 (Kevin) The fact that they had no ground during the Troubles making them less of a target even though other GAA people were being attacked.</p> <p>01:32:25 (Kevin) People trying to burn the nets and the dugouts at their grounds.</p> <p>01:34:40 (Kevin) People being attacked for being members of the Owen Roe club. A club member, Fergal Gailey house attacked</p> <p>01:36:00 (John M) Cross-community aspect of the club. Not</p>
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	<p>being able to claim money for that. Why.</p> <p>01:36:35 (Kevin) Policy of not asking new club members what their religion is.</p> <p>01:37:50 (Kevin) His view of the GAA as a 32-county non-sectarian organisation that welcomes all people.</p> <p>01:39:20 (John M) Coaching an Under-16 team in the 1980s. Player asking him if his Protestant friend could play. What happened then.</p> <p>01:40:00 (Kevin) Running a fundraiser based on the English Premier League. Reactions to that.</p> <p>01:40:45 (Kevin) Perception of the GAA as 'IRA at play'.</p> <p>01:41:40 (Kevin) Playing soccer.</p> <p>01:42:20 (John M) Dougie McCarthy, a MLA councillor, winning a prize. Complaining when his name appeared in the paper.</p> <p>01:43:15 (Joe) Best GAA memory.</p> <p>01:43:45 (Eddie) Best GAA memory is his MacRory Cup involvement. Why it meant so much to him. Mentions Jim McKeever.</p> <p>01:44:30 (John G) Watching coach Sean McGoldrick.</p> <p>01:44:55 (John M) Highlights of his GAA involvement - Owen Roe at Croke Park and winning a Derry championship. Why that was such a big deal.</p> <p>01:46:05 (Kevin) Best GAA memory. Playing Foreglen in an intermediate final. How the game panned out. Club winning Derry championship and joy that brought.</p> <p>01:48:20 (Eddie) His memories of the day Owen Roes won the Derry championship final.</p> <p>01:48:40 (Kevin) Club success bringing the communities together at Croke Park. What that day was like.</p> <p>01:50:20 (Eddie) Being congratulated by Ballinderry after beating them in the final.</p> <p>01:50:35 (Kevin) Significance of beating Ballinderry.</p> <p>01:51:55 (Eddie) Admiration for former Kerry player Eoin 'Bomber' Liston.</p>
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	<p>01:52:50 (Joe) Admiration for Patsy Breen.</p> <p>01:53:05 (John G) Admiration for Derry player Kieran McKeever</p> <p>01:53:25 (John M) Admiration for club managers Sean McGoldrick and Sean McLaughlin. Mentions Malachy McAfee.</p> <p>01:53:40 (John M) Admiration for former Kerry player Maurice Fitzgerald.</p> <p>01:54:15 (Kevin) His enjoyment of Gaelic games in general and Kerry team in particular.</p> <p>01:55:50 (Kevin) Disappointment of losing an All-Ireland final to Ardfert.</p> <p>01:57:25 (John M) Disappointing losses with Ballerin and Owen Roe clubs.</p> <p>01:58:00 (John G) GAA as a rollercoaster. Not playing enough GAA at school.</p> <p>01:59:05 (Eddie) Disappointment with GAA officials after controversial Leinster SFC final between Meath and Louth in 2010.</p> <p>01:59:50 (Joe) Greatest GAA disappointment.</p> <p>02:00:40 (John G) Obligations on them with regard to younger generations.</p> <p>02:01:20 (Kevin) How GAA in Northern Ireland has changed over the years.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Joe:</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>Eddie:</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 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>John G: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" 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>John M: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" 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>Kevin: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" 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>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Joe: Played for 3 years.</p> <p>Eddie: Played for 10 years.</p> <p>John G: Played for 12 years.</p> <p>John M: 3rd Division Title with Owen Roe, Senior and Ulster championship with Ballerin, 3rd Division Title and Junior Championship with Aghadowey.</p> <p>Kevin: Neal Carlin Cup Medal</p>

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<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Joe: N/A</p> <p>Eddie: N/A</p> <p>John G: Committee member for 20 years. Vice-chairman, 2011.</p> <p>John M: Has been with Owen Roe since 1980 as a committee member and has been chairman for 16 years.</p> <p>Kevin: Has been club secretary for the last 20 years. Was chairman for 1 year.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 02:04:05</p>
<p>Language</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: _____02/08/12_____