

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Nora McCarthy Walsh
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1914 <b>Home County:</b> Donegal
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Carrowcannon NS, Falcarragh, Co. Donegal and Meenderry NS, Falcarragh, Co. Donegal <b>Secondary:</b> Loretto Convent, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 7 sisters & 1 brother <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to George Thomas (RIP) with 1 daughter (RIP)
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Finian's Camogie Club
<b>Occupation</b>	Hairdresser and Guesthouse Owner
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Ordnance Survey and Land Commission [Father]; Milliner, Dress Maker and Shopowner [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Golf Club, Bridge Club, Badminton Club, Active Retirement Association, Choir

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<b>Date of Report</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1917 – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Donegal, Dublin, Americas, USA, Galway
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Celebrations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider’s Perspectives, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Nora talks about her involvement in the GAA over the years. She discusses growing up in Falcarragh in Donegal and describes the area in the 1910s and 1920s. She talks about the War of Independence and the Civil War and the impact on normal life during that period. She discusses her family’s involvement in the conflict and talks about her father’s imprisonment. Nora talks about the Black and Tans and how they were received in Falcarragh. She describes her family’s involvement in Cumann na mBan and her mother opening up a shop in the area. Nora talks about setting up a camogie club with her sister, discusses her playing career in camogie and the facilities available at the time. She talks about her family’s politics and meeting Eamon de Valera. Towards the end of the interview Nora sings a number of songs and talks about the role of the GAA in her life.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:52 Nora talks about her early life. Recalls a concert in a school in 1917 and describes her childhood. Talks about the 1918 election and a man called Sweeney who stood for Sinn Fein.</p> <p>05:30 Talks about how her father was fired from the Ordnance Survey for not joining the British Army in the First World War. Discusses her mother and her family. Recalls how there was a serious flu in 1918 and how many people died. Mentions being in a church choir.</p> <p>14:28 Discusses her father and his work in the Ordnance Survey and then Land Commission. Recalls her school days</p>

	<p>and her music teacher and the master of the school.</p> <p>17:11 Recalls her earliest memory of the GAA in Falcarragh. Mentions Gweedore. Discusses playing camogie in boarding school and starting up a team in Falcarragh. Playing against Letterkenny in the first game. Being picked for the county team. Talks about her sister moving to Dublin.</p> <p>22:30 Talks about how there was no sports in primary school. Started playing in the Convent school.</p> <p>25:00 Recalls a GAA team being set up in Falcarragh. Her father divided land out through the Land Commission in the early 1930s. Playing for different camogie teams.</p> <p>27:35 Discusses how the GAA got a pitch in the Ballyconnell Estate. Describes what the pitch was like, it's referred to as the Cloughaneely pitch because the Cloughaneely Stone is there. Mentions the preparatory school. Talks about the teams that played on it. Describes how everyone in the convent school had to speak Irish. Mentions Pat McCrudden and Dennis McGee.</p> <p>36:10 Recalls her first impression of camogie. Describes the team's colours and the gear that they used. Talks about her stick. Recalls hitting a girl with her stick in a seven-a-side tournament.</p> <p>42:13 Talks about setting up the camogie team in Falcarragh with her sister. Describes the building of an office beside her house and holding camogie meetings in the office.</p> <p>46:58 Describes the local community's support for the camogie team and the GAA in general. How they travelled to matches. Recalls a match against Dungloe.</p> <p>51:40 Talks about travelling to support the men's teams. Holding Céilís and events for visitors.</p> <p>54:28 Discusses the collapse of the club in the 1930s.</p> <p>57:05 Describes how camogie first started in Donegal in Letterkenny. Talks about the Gardaí playing with Letterkenny and how Dunfanaghy played on the local golf links.</p> <p>01:00:18 Discusses being charged by the men's team to use the field. Talks about the men on the football team. Mentions Neil Joe McGee, the Ferry brothers, McGinley, the Coyles. Talks about the camogie team.</p> <p>01:03:59 Describes the type of boots and gear they used.</p>
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	<p>Having their photo taken for the newspaper.</p> <p>01:05:08 Describes how Letterkenny were their biggest rivals. Mentions Sergeant Nevin. Talks about the type of training they did. Mentions an issue with a race and Amy Horgan. Recalls playing badminton with Protestants and having to go to confession.</p> <p>01:10:58 Discusses having a Protestant playing with them on the badminton team. Mentions Tommy White playing with them in the Catholic Institute.</p> <p>01:11:45 Talks about Protestants involved with the GAA.</p> <p>01:13:05 Discusses her role in setting up a county camogie team. Playing against Cavan in the 1940s. Mentions Mary McGee.</p> <p>01:16:38 Talks about the people involved in the county camogie team. Describes what it was like playing for the Donegal team. Playing in O'Donnell Park in Letterkenny.</p> <p>01:23:55 Discusses her involvement on the camogie county board. Being on the selection committee. Issues when she was on the board.</p> <p>01:25:50 Talks about a teacher who was in Cumann na mBan and was sent to jail during the Irish War of Independence.</p> <p>01:26:20 Discusses her father being in jail and her house being raided by the Black and Tans. Her father being shot at because he was in Sinn Féin. Gives her opinion on the modern Sinn Féin.</p> <p>01:28:00 Talks about football being played during the Troubles of the 1910s and 1920s. Mentions a priest called Father Tom Doherty.</p> <p>01:29:00 Discusses that period of Irish history the role of the Black and Tans. Recalls her father losing her job.</p> <p>01:31:03 Recalls an event for the Red Cross. Moving to Falcarragh when she was 2. Talks about the landlords who owned Ballyconnell, the Olpherts.</p> <p>01:34:30 Talks about her grandfather. Being evicted from his house. Discusses the house and relatives living in Philadelphia in America, the sale of the house.</p> <p>01:41:46 Recalls a story a woman told her about the Famine.</p> <p>01:42:20 Discusses the War of Independence and the Civil</p>
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	<p>War. Talks about the Black and Tans. Tells a story about her father being followed.</p> <p>01:50:15 Discusses her father being called to work for the Land Commission. Recalls how her father was arrested by Free State. Discusses her father's opinion on the Treaty. Mentions Annie Coyle. Talks about trying to speak Irish.</p> <p>01:56:20 Talks about her family's involvement in Cumann na mBan. Recalls a shootout in the town. Talks about their relationship with the Black and Tans. Recalls an accidental shooting of a soldier and her father being blamed for it.</p> <p>02:10:18 Describes a soldier that was mentally ill shooting in the streets.</p> <p>02:11:29 Discusses the treatment of her father in prison in Drumboe Castle and what it was like. Her family's politics and the support for the British in Falcarragh. Describes her family losing business when the Free State took over and the formation of the Fianna Fáil party.</p> <p>02:18:50 Talks about the government opening an Irish college in Ballyconnell.</p> <p>02:19:55 Discusses the relationship between people after the Civil War. Talks about the visit of Eamon de Valera and what he was like. Mentions Frank Aiken.</p> <p>02:23:48 Talks about the Congested Districts Board. Recalls how her father was appointed a judge during the War of Independence. Talks about her mother buying Brewster's bread from Derry. Describes what the shop was like and what's there now.</p> <p>02:30:00 Recalls dances and céilís in the area. Going to the cinema in Letterkenny.</p> <p>02:32:00 Talks about going to an All-Ireland football final from Rome in 1950. Recalls travelling in a car to Croke Park in 1943. Talks about the teachers' strike in the 1940s. Getting the train from Letterkenny. Going to the North Star Hotel after an All-Ireland final.</p> <p>02:35:54 Recalls going to rugby matches in Dublin. Discusses going to an RUC dance in Strabane and meeting her husband then. Going to a soccer dance.</p> <p>02:38:10 Talks about the ban on foreign games. Discusses politics and religion.</p> <p>02:40:19 Recalls a man dressing up as a woman to play</p>
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	<p>camogie.</p> <p>02:41:50 Sings a song 'Mo Shean Dún na nGall' about Donegal and talks about the history of the song.</p> <p>02:46:55 Talks about the development of the GAA and the Second World War. Describes her interest in camogie and when this ended.</p> <p>02:48:40 Discusses moving to Dublin. Talks about her husband's interest in the GAA and Irish culture. Talks about William Cosgrave and recalls a story about Peadar O'Donnell. Mentions Brian Cowen and Eamon Gilmore.</p> <p>02:52:55 Recalls her best memory of her time in Gaelic games. Talks about her interest in the GAA today.</p> <p>02:55:37 Discusses listening to the radio and King Edward VIII abdicating in 1936.</p> <p>02:58:16 Mentions Katie and Lena and a song called 'Cutting the Corn in Creeslough'.</p> <p>03:00:10 Describes their camogie club and why they called it St Finian's. Tells the story of St Finian.</p> <p>03:04:25 Talks about her biggest disappointment in the GAA.</p> <p>03:05:58 Sings 'Cutting the Corn in Creeslough Today'.</p> <p>03:09:49 Describes what the GAA has meant to her.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): ____County Camogie Selector____</p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played for 6 years between 1932 and 1938 and then the odd game until 1948. She won a county camogie championship with Dunfanaghy.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>She was involved in administration from 1932 – 1948. She was a founding member of her club and treasurer.</p>

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<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 03:10:20
<b>Language</b>	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:     \_\_\_\_\_ Arlene Crampsie \_\_\_\_\_

Date:        \_\_\_\_\_ 18/07/12 \_\_\_\_\_