

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	25 October 2008
<b>Location</b>	St Michael's Irish Centre, Liverpool
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Mary Cooke
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1943 <b>Home County:</b> Galway
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Aillebrack, Co. Galway <b>Secondary:</b> Convent of Mercy, Clifden, Co. Galway. <b>Third Level:</b> Nurse Training, Cherry Orchard Hospital, Dublin. Training in Walton Hospital, Liverpool
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 sisters, 4 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Husband and 4 sons.
<b>Club(s)</b>	N/A
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Nurse
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers and Fisherman
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A

<b>Date of Report</b>	17 September 2008
<b>Period Covered</b>	1940s - 2008
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Galway, Dublin, Great Britain
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	GAA abroad, Culture, Emigration, Socialising, Supporting, Travel, Opening of Croke Park, Media, Identity
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>00:10 Born in Clifton in Galway. Education. Early working life in pub and souvenir shop - moving to Dublin to train to be a nurse in Cherry Orchard. Worked as a fever nurse there.</p> <p>00:38 Moving to Liverpool to train in Walton Hospital</p> <p>00:50 Family not involved in the GAA but used to go and watch local matches in the village growing up. Going in the car with her uncle to Tuam to see Galway play. Going to Croke Park to see Galway if they were playing.</p> <p>1:40 Three sisters and four brothers. Playing hurling at home and at school - playing camogie at school. Hit by a sliotar in the eye.</p> <p>2.23 Moving to Dublin in 1965, left in 1967. Stayed in the Nurses Home. Had an aunt and uncle that lived in Dublin. Liked staying in the hospital. Getting bus over to Croke park. Excitement when Galway were playing, banter in the crowd - Meeting with people from home who were up for the match.</p> <p>4.10 Enjoyed watching Mick Reynolds play. He was a rep that used to come to the hospital where she worked.</p> <p>4.40 Moving to Liverpool to get training in general nursing. Had trained as a fever nurse and couldn't get a place in general training in Ireland so decided to go to Liverpool. Easy to get home from Liverpool. Arrived on 28 February 1928</p> <p>5:18 Sadness of leaving home. Always called into see her grandmother on the way back to Liverpool. Used to write home and visit home very often.</p> <p>5.53 Working in Walton Hospital with her two friends. Only started to go to the Irish Centre when the children grew up</p> <p>6.26 Liverpool in the 1960s – flew over, first impressions of the city, dingey, horrible, it was a dull day but has grown to like it. Used to socialise in clubs. Soon moved out of nurses home and rented a flat with friends near Anfield Football</p>

	<p>grounds. Lots of clubs around there.</p> <p>7.15 Friends were form Galway and Mayo. Walton was full of Irish people. Story of meeting her husband on a blind date. Husband is from Carlisle but lived in Liverpool since he was three. His parents were Irish.</p> <p>8:25 Has four sons. Had no car and so it was difficult to bring them to train for Gaelic Football. They follow Liverpool football club.</p> <p>9:00 Bringing her youngest son to the old Irish centre on Sundays to hear the Irish music.</p> <p>9.28 Description of the old Irish Centre at Mount Pleasant – show bands that would come – The Indians, Big Tom, Joe Dolan – starting to go to the Irish Centre. Taking her grand daughter to Irish dancing at the centre. Her sister and some of her brothers lived in London for a few years also</p> <p>10:42 Sometimes thinks about moving back to Ireland but most of her friends are in England now. Goes home frequently. Loves going home.</p> <p>11.20 Children and grand children aware of their Irishness and visit Ireland often.</p> <p>11:54 Remembers jumping off the bus when she saw someone she knew on the way to matches in Croke Park. Visited her uncle after the match, sometimes there were people from home there. Used to wear the Galway colours, rosettes and scarves.</p> <p>12.50 The GAA an important part of being Irish; listens to the matches at the Irish centre. Great crowds and a great atmosphere at the Irish centre on match days.</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 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><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>

**REFERENCE NO. GY/01/1**

(Positions held; how long for)	
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 13:55
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 17 September 2009