

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2010
<b>Location</b>	Ballygarry House Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jerry Savage
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1927 <b>Home County:</b> Kerry
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> O'Brennan School, Ballymacelligott, Co. Kerry <b>Secondary:</b> Tralee Technical College, Co. Kerry
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 3 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Maureen with 2 daughters and 3 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Ballymacelligott [Kerry]; Garryowen [London]; St Joseph's [London]
<b>Occupation</b>	Builder in England; Furnishing and Flooring Business
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Small Farmer [Father]; Farmer, Housewife, Worked in Creamery [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Sinn Féin
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Kerry Association, London, 1953; Drama Group; Ceoltas Singing Group; Charity Collector – St Vincent de Paul, Hospice, Friends of Kerry Hospital; Kerry's Supporters Club

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<b>Date of Report</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1910s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Kerry, Dublin, Great Britain, England, Donegal, Cork, Americas, USA, Offaly, Armagh, Tyrone, Down, Galway
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Jerry talks about his involvement in the GAA over the years. He discusses Kerry's involvement in All-Ireland finals from the early 1930s to modern times. He talks about the Kerry players who he looked up to and the teams that he used to go and watch, taking the 'ghost train' from Kerry to Croke Park. He describes his local club, Ballymacelligott, and their rivals. He talks about Kerry during the Civil War and the War of Independence and the impact of politics on the GAA in Kerry. Jerry discusses his role in administration with the club and with the Kerry supporter's club. He talks about the history of handball in his local area and his involvement with the game. He also talks about hurling in Kerry. Jerry describes the impact of emigration in the area and talks about how he left to work in England. He discusses the GAA in London and his involvement in the game over there. He recalls various stories about Kerry players and All-Ireland finals he attended. In the latter part of the interview Jerry describes the role of the GAA in his life and talks about the importance of the Association over the years.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:23 Jerry describes his earliest GAA memory. Going to Tralee to see Kerry play Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final in 1934 when he was seven. Travelling by horse and cart and parking beside Maurice MacGeraghty's house. Mentions Joe</p>

	<p>Barrett and Murt Kelly.</p> <p>01:35 Recalls the first time he listened to a radio during the 1937 All-Ireland final between Kerry and Cavan in Croke Park. Mentions Michael Doyle and John Joe 'Purty' Landers and the controversy in the 1938 final.</p> <p>03:14 Talks about meeting Roscommon in Croke Park during the 1940s and how the match was postponed due to a bad harvest. Recalls Antrim's type of football in the semi-final. Mentions Kevin Armstrong, O'Neill from Antrim, Bill Casey from Kerry and Jimmy Murray from Knockcroghery in Roscommon.</p> <p>04:38 Discusses Kerry's trip to New York to play Cavan in 1947. Talks about the referee, O'Neill from Wexford. Mentions Pat Garvey and Paddy Kennedy.</p> <p>06:10 Recalls Kerry's All-Ireland final against Armagh in 1953 when he was in London at the time. Talks about the size of the crowd. Travelling back to London and wearing green and gold paper hats.</p> <p>07:30 Coming home for the 1954 All-Ireland final against Meath. Mentions Dr Sean Murphy and Jackie Lyne.</p> <p>08:30 Discusses the 1955 All Ireland final against Dublin. Mentions Kevin Heffernan, Paddy O'Brien, Jim Brosnan, Jim Dowling, John Cronin, Eddie Roche and Ger O'Shea. Coming back from London and seeing a white horse on O'Connell street with Dublin colours. Country vs City. The rivalry between Kerry and Dublin.</p> <p>11:00 Talks about the 1962 final against Roscommon. Mentions Gary McMahon and Gerry O'Malley.</p> <p>11:30 Playing Down at the opening of a pitch in Listowel in 1960. Playing again in the All-Ireland later that year. Going up on the ghost train. Mentions Maurice Hayes, Tony McAuliffe, Mick O'Connell, Jarlath Kerr. Reaction to Down and Armagh wins.</p> <p>13:30 Recalls the 1969 final against Galway. Johnny Culloty captained Kerry. Talks about the amount of All-Ireland Kerry have won.</p> <p>14:10 Describes the cost of going to All-Ireland and trying to get tickets for matches.</p> <p>14:30 Talks about Jackie Lyne taking over Kerry in 1970. Mentions Mick O'Connell, Mick O'Dwyer, Seamus Murphy</p>
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	<p>and Johnny Culloty.</p> <p>14:57 Discusses the period of the early 1970s and how they described the Kerry team as the 'bachelors' because they were all Under 21 bar Brendan Lynch and John O'Keefe. Mentions Pat Spillane, Mickey Sheehan, Páidi Ó'Sé. Talks about the 1975 and 1976 final against Dublin. Mentions Brian Mullins and Anthony O'Toole.</p> <p>17:08 Recalls the 1978 All-Ireland final against Dublin. Mentions John Egan, Paddy Cullen, Mikey Sheehy, Eoin 'Bomber' Liston and Robbie Kelleher.</p> <p>18:50 Discusses Kerry's attempt at the five-in-a-row in 1982. Losing to Offaly and Seamus Darby's goal. Mentions Tommy Doyle and Matt Connor.</p> <p>20:08 Talks about the 1983 Munster final against Cork. Mentions Seamus Murphy.</p> <p>20:55 Discusses the centenary final in 1984. Kerry captained by Ambrose 'Rosie' O'Donovan beating Dublin. Winning again in 1985 and 1986 against Dublin and Tyrone. Mentions Pat Spillane, Mikey Sheehy and Timmy O'Dowd.</p> <p>21:44 Talks about Kerry's 1997 All-Ireland win against Mayo. Mentions Darragh Ó'Sé, Maurice Fitzgerald, the O'Sheas from Killorglin.</p> <p>22:25 Recalls the 2000 All-Ireland semi-final against Armagh. Mentions Maurice Fitzgerald, Billy O'Shea, Michael Frank Russell. Beating Galway in the final. Being beaten by Meath in the semi-final in 2001.</p> <p>23:25 Discusses losing to Armagh in 2002. Facing Tyrone in 2003. Winning in 2004. Losing in 2005. Winning back to back in 2006 and 2007. Losing to Tyrone in 2008. Beating Cork in 2009.</p> <p>24:14 Talks about being involved in ladies football and handball. Won nine All-Irelands in a row. His work in handball. Winning a championship in London and refereeing there. Mentions McEllistrim's.</p> <p>24:55 Talks about his connection with Micheál Ó'Muircheartaigh and the horse and trap to Dingle and Killarney for a match. Mentions Paddy Burke, Weeshie Murphy, father of Dr Con Murphy, father of John O'Keefe, Paddy Kennedy, Joe Barrett.</p> <p>26:30 Recalls being chairman of his local club,</p>
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	<p>Ballymacelligott. Writing to the Land Commission about a field in 1960. Talks about renovating it.</p> <p>27:40 Talks about how his parish has produced many footballers. Mentions the Baileys, the Slatterys, the Cliffords. Notes that five players from the parish were on the Railway Cup team in 1927.</p> <p>28:25 Discusses the club's chairman, Joe Bailey, who served from 1918 to 1952.</p> <p>28:40 Discusses the Kerry team during the Civil War and War of Independence in the 1920s. Mentions Joe Barrett, Con Brosnan, John Joe Sheehy and Phil Sullivan from Tuosist.</p> <p>30:24 Talks about the GAA in the area during the 1920s and 1930s. No formal club again until 1940s. The work of Joe Bailey.</p> <p>31:36 Discusses the formation of the club in 1945. Mentions Jack McEllistrim, Din Joe Bailey, talks about the Archbishop of Cashel, Clifford who is from the area.</p> <p>33:29 Talks about handball and Kerry ladies'. Mentions the Toomey's, Bridget Lyne, Mary Toomey, Mary Joe Curran. Notes his grandson played in Croke Park, Gearoid Sheehan and plays hurling.</p> <p>35:20 Discusses Din Joe Bailey and his involvement in Kerry football. His brothers Jim and John also involved. Secretary and chairman of the club. Mentions Pat and Con Clifford, John Gall Slattery, Eddie Dowling, Mick Finucane, Gus Cremin.</p> <p>37:36 Talks about his family's involvement in the GAA. Played with his brother Sean. Played with Castleisland and Mitchell's in Tralee. Paid five shillings a week to use the football field. Only having one football.</p> <p>39:20 Recalls collecting a penny a week for the field. Recalls buying his first football boots in Tralee from Michael Doyle. Paid four shillings for them.</p> <p>40:18 Discusses collecting boots and jerseys for matches. Renting a field off a farmer for Mitchell's club. Playing the Kerryman's Shield on the pitch.</p> <p>41:54 Recalls his parents talking about the GAA and the Civil War and the War of Independence. Looking at the photographs in the Irish Press. Watching people getting on the train to go to Dublin for the match. Watches Eugene</p>
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	<p>Powell. Making illegal match programmes. Going on the ghost train.</p> <p>43:55 Talks about the 1937 All Ireland final. Mentions Purty and Roundy Landers, John Joe Sheehy. People talking politics.</p> <p>45:00 Talks about the 1903 final. Mentions D. Curran from Ballyseedy and played with Tralee Mitchels, Dinny Breen, Tom Costello, Dick Fitzgerald.</p> <p>46:10 Discusses the 1930 All-Ireland final against Monaghan. Mentions Con Brosnan and Bob Stack. Issue of politics. Also mentions Dr Jim and Jerry Brosnan, Paddy Quinn, Johnny Riordan. A trip to America in 1927 on the Queen Mary. Tells a story about Johnny. Mentions John Higgins.</p> <p>50:00 Talks about county football in Kerry during the Civil War and the War of Independence. John Joe Sheehy was on the run. Could play for Kerry.</p> <p>51:17 Recalls going on the ghost train to Dublin. Started in Valentia Island. Drinking on the train. Recalls a story about a man doing an errand for his wife and going to Dublin on the train instead. Cheering while going through Kildare. Going for a meat tea. Going into O'Connors pub and Barry's Hotel. Describes the food they ate. Mentions Brendan Reidy.</p> <p>55:50 Recalls his first trip to Croke Park in 1951, Kerry against Mayo. Talks about the economic situation and emigration during the war years and after, the harvest of 1946.</p> <p>58:00 Discusses leaving for England in 1952. Talks about the journey and fathers leaving. Arriving in Fishguard. Getting the train to London. Mentions John B. Keane. Talks about the songs they sang.</p> <p>01:00:00 Talks about a pub in Cricklewood and how dangerous it was. Recalls a shooting there. Talks about the Galtymore Dancehall. How rough the area was.</p> <p>01:02:05 Discusses his involvement in the GAA in London. Playing with Garryowen in Hammersmith. Mentions New Eltham, Ruislip, the Kingdom club, Gus Cremins, Mick Walsh, Johnny Connor. The role of the clergy.</p> <p>01:04:29 Talks about why he got involved with the GAA in London. Recalls going home to Kerry for a parish league final with his own club. Went home for six weeks.</p>
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	<p>01:05:54 Describes the Garryowen club in London. Talks about the dance halls around London. The amount of Kerry people in London.</p> <p>01:06:42 Talks about the differences in the GAA in London and in Kerry. Recalls various stories about the GAA in London.</p> <p>01:08:30 Talks about Martin Diggins from Ballyduff and his field near Ruislip. Going over with the Kerry ladies. Talks about the sense of community among the Irish in London.</p> <p>01:10:08 Discusses the Kerry Association / Irish Association in London. Mentions John Byrnes. Talks about Eaton Square.</p> <p>01:11:23 Talks about how St. Mary's were Garryowen's biggest rivals in London. Mentions Pat McCarthy, John Moriarty, Father White, Kilburn Church. Taken over by the Kingdom.</p> <p>01:12:30 Discusses his involvement in the London county board. Shooting of Sean South.</p> <p>01:13:15 Talks about coming home from London. Worked in the furniture business. Working in Limerick University and Cavan Hospital and various parts of the country. Mentions John Tracey.</p> <p>01:15:15 Discusses his involvement in the GAA when he came back from England. Working in Tralee.</p> <p>01:16:20 Talks about the community hall in Ballymacelligott. Recalls a sports day for fundraising and a story about a band playing. Mentions Dermot O'Brien, Master O'Connor and the Begley's.</p> <p>01:18:57 Describes how Castleisland were their local rivals. Recalls playing them in the county championship. Castleisland team made up of other parishes like Knocknagoshel, Scartaglen and Cordal. Friendship with the Mitchell's in Tralee.</p> <p>01:20:18 Talks about hurling in the area now and in the past. Kerry won an All-Ireland in 1891. Prominent in Abbeydorney, Lixnaw, Crotta O'Neills, Ballyduff, Ballyheigue and the Rock. Losing to Clare in 1914. Mentions John Joe Sheehy and Joe Barrett.</p> <p>01:23:28 Discusses the history of handball in the area. The prominence of the game in Ballymacelligott. The role of Father Griffith. Working in the quarry. Building the handball</p>
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	<p>alley. Mentions Jimmy O'Brien, Georgie Groves, Jack Brick.</p> <p>01:27:30 Building a second handball alley. Involvement of FAS. Mentions Maria Daly winning the World Championship, Aileen Toomey, the Prendevilles and the new chairman Sean Walsh.</p> <p>01:29:24 Talks about the setting up of the supporters' club in 1989. Sean Kelly was chairman. Launched by the Archbishop Dermot Clifford. Mentions Donie O'Leary, Gerry O'Leary, Eileen Lawlor and Cormac O'Leary.</p> <p>01:31:00 Becoming chairman for ten years. Recalls a trip to Donegal and staying in Ballyshannon. Mentions Paddy Quinn. Talks about trips to All-Irelands. Collecting money and fundraising for the county.</p> <p>01:33:27 Discusses the role of politics in the GAA over the years. Talks about Kerry players being arrested. Mentions Austin Stack and the IRB, Purty and Roundy Landers, Mick Raymond, Sean Ryan, Sean McCaughey dying on hunger strike and Gortaglanna.</p> <p>01:34:46 Talks about the impact of the Second World War on the GAA in Kerry. People emigrating to England for work. Mentions the McAlpine Fusiliers, the Murphy's, Wimpy, George, John Long.</p> <p>01:35:48 Describes how Mick Walsh from Currow mortgaged his house to help buy a field in New Eltham for the GAA in London. Mentions the Kerry Association nominating a Kerry man as man of the year.</p> <p>01:36:48 Discusses the Kerry men who were interned in the 1940s because they were Republicans.</p> <p>01:37:20 Recalls a story told to him by Purty Landers after the 1937 All-Ireland and professionalism. Mentions Bracker O'Regan and Micheál O'Rourke.</p> <p>01:38:30 Talks about the role of non-Catholics in the GAA. Mentions Jack Guiney from Brosna.</p> <p>01:39:15 Describes his best memory of the GAA. Chooses the 1955 All-Ireland final. Chooses the 1982 All-Ireland final as his biggest disappointment. Mentions John Dowling, Jim Brosnan, Páidi Sheehy.</p> <p>01:40:12 Chooses Mikey Sheehy as his GAA hero. Talks about the players he has seen play, mentions Keohane, Boris, Paddy Kennedy, Mick O'Connell, Jack and Darragh</p>
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	<p>Ó'Sé.</p> <p>01:41:09 Talks about watching football in New York, the furthest away place he has watched a game.</p> <p>01:41:49 Recalls the Kerry trip to New York in 1997. Mentions Eamonn Horan, Tom Kane, Nuala, Colm O'Rourke and Jerry Brosnan.</p> <p>01:44:07 Describes what the GAA has meant to him over the years.</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input 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): _____</p>
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Played from the mid-1940s until 1957 / 1958. Won a district league and reached the final of a London junior county championship.</p>
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<p>He has been involved in administration since 1958. At club level he was chairman (1959 – 1962/63); fundraiser and delegate from the club to the county board. He has been involved with the Supporters Club since 1989 and was chairman from 1991 – 2001.</p>
<b>Format</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<b>Duration</b>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:44:59</p>
<b>Language</b>	<p>English</p>

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**To be filled 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: \_\_\_\_\_05/07/12\_\_\_\_\_