

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2011
<b>Location</b>	Danny's home, near Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Danny Kirwin
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1916 <b>Home County:</b> Waterford
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Currabhala, Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford. <b>Secondary:</b> Castleknock College, Dublin
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 3 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Louie), 1 son & 5 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Kilmacthomas GAA [Waterford]
<b>Occupation</b>	Grocery and Bar Trade
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Grocery and Bar Trade
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fine Gael
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

<b>Date of Report</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1890s – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Waterford, Kerry, Cork, Great Britain, England, Kilkenny, Dublin, Tipperary, Limerick, Clare
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Irish History, Family Involvement, Childhood, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Economy/Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Danny recalls growing up in Kilmacthomas and the business that his family ran. He recalls the troubles in Ireland in the 1920s, having been born in 1916. He mentions the changes that took place in Kilmacthomas during the troubles. Danny recalls his father and his athletics career. He recalls his father travelling to championships in England, and how the British wanted his father to compete for them. He provides details of his father's training regimes and the travel arrangements that he experienced. He speaks about his uncle who played on the Kerry teams that won the county's first two All-Ireland football championships. He discusses going to Dublin to attend school in Castleknock. He describes attending his first match in Croke Park in 1931, and recalls the stadium as it was at that time. Danny recalls his father attending matches, before concluding by discussing the changes he has seen in the GAA in his lifetime.</p> <p>00:25 Danny recalls growing up in Kilmacthomas. He was born in 1916. Mentions the amenities that were in the area. Recalls a butter market that was in the area, recalls going to Cork. Flahavans were based in the area.</p> <p>02:41 Discusses the family business, they ran a bar and grocery shop.</p> <p>03:39 Recalls going to school in Currabaha.</p> <p>03:51 Describes living through the troubles in Ireland in the 1920s. Recalls the IRA being in charge of the village, before the Free State Army and then the Gardaí came in.</p> <p>05:33 Talks about his father and his background. Born in Clonea in 1881. Played inter-county hurling and football for Waterford and was on Railway Shield team with Munster, the only non-Kerry player on the team. Was a member of the NCA for most of his life, competed in Rome in 1908 at the Papal Games and met Pope Pius X, along with Jim Burke. Recalls his father's training programme, took place in</p>

	<p>Kilcanavee. Recalls an English Championship that his father won at Stamford Bridge. Describes his father's family's interest in sport. Competed in England from 1910-12, at Stamford Bridge. Competitors from other countries such as France, Germany, and Finland. Mentions his father sailing to England to compete, sailing from Rosslare to compete in London. Mentions British Prime Minister Lloyd George.</p> <p>13:33 Recalls British attempts to get his father to compete for them.</p> <p>13:57 Describes athletics events in Ireland that his father competed in and recalls his successes. Discusses his father training athletes. Mentions injuries his father sustained through athletics.</p> <p>15:40 Recalls his uncle who won two All-Ireland football medals with Kerry in 1903 and 1904. He worked in a bank in Castleisland. Mentions book about Kerry football in which his uncle is featured.</p> <p>17:33 Recalls story his father told him while heading to sports meeting in Dublin. Father was talking about his own athletics days. Mentions "Flying" Fanning, 1948 London Olympics. Mentions Kilkenny, Cork, Rosslare, Mallow, Fermoy. Mentions rail train he took, Limerick Junction, man from Kilmacthomas called McGrath who met the rail train in Fiddown, Co Kilkenny.</p> <p>20:26 Recalls the longevity of his father's life. Born in 1881, died in 1969.</p> <p>20:47 Discusses his father's involvement with GAA clubs. He hurled with Clonea and played football with Rathgormack.</p> <p>21:29 Discusses the situation regarding sport when he was attending national school.</p> <p>21:55 Discusses attending school in Castleknock, Dublin. Mentions rugby and athletics. Mentions travelling by train to Castleknock.</p> <p>23:09 Recalls attending his first match in Croke Park – 1931 All-Ireland Hurling Final, Cork v Kilkenny. He attended the first drawn match (there were two replays), which Cork won. Also mentions 1938 All-Ireland Hurling Final in which Waterford appeared. Also mentions 1948 and 1957 All-Ireland Hurling Finals. Mentions 1959 All-Ireland Hurling Final which Waterford won. Also mentions 1963 National League Final, and an All-Ireland Final when Kilkenny beat Waterford.</p>
--	--

**REFERENCE NO. WD/1/16**

	<p>24:47 Describes attending the 1931 All-Ireland Hurling Final between Cork and Kilkenny. Mentions Kilkenny's Lorry Meagher and his attributes. Mentions attending the first match of what turned out to be a three game contest.</p> <p>25:40 Describes Croke Park in 1931. Mentions a cycling track. Recalls the cost of entry to the ground.</p> <p>26:21 Discusses his father attending matches. Mentions following the Clonea hurling team and Rathcormack football team. Mentions rivals such as Stradbally and Kilrossanty.</p> <p>28:25 Recalls the changes he has seen in the GAA in his lifetime. Mentions change in substitution rule. Mentions Cork, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Waterford, Limerick and Clare. Mentions when The Ban was removed, naming Pat Fanning.</p> <p>29:46 Mentions his father representing Ireland at athletics.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input checked="" 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>
<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> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio   <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p>Length of Interview: 00:30:48</p>
<p><b>Language</b></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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2012