

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	9 th Feb 2011
Location	Mary's home, near Keady, Co. Armagh.
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Mary Traynor (née Arthurs). Also present Joe Jordan and Joe Traynor (Mary's husband).
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1943 Home County: Armagh
Education	Primary: St. Claire's Primary School, Keady, Co. Armagh. Secondary: St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel, Co. Armagh.
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers Current Family if Different: Joe (husband); 1 son and 2 daughters.
Club(s)	Dwyer's GAA Club, Keady, Co. Armagh.
Occupation	Retired
Parents' Occupation	Keady Town Clerk [Father]; Teacher [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Nationalist
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	23 rd July 2012
Period Covered	1920s - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Armagh, Cavan, Dublin, Americas, USA
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Socialising, Food and Drink, Purchase of Grounds, Economy/Economics, Media
Interview Summary	<p>Mary discusses her involvement in the GAA over the years. She talks about her father, Gerry Arthurs, a man instrumental in the development of the GAA in Armagh and who served on the Ulster County Board for 42 years. Mary discusses what it was like growing up in a family that was so involved in the GAA. She talks about the different roles her father had and how well respected he was in GAA circles. Joe Jordan and Joe Traynor are also present in this interview and they discuss the impact of Gerry Arthurs on the GAA in Ulster. They discuss the Keady fair, a large fair in her hometown in Armagh and the place that had in the community. Towards the end of the interview Mary describes what the GAA has meant to her over the years and the importance it holds in her life.</p> <p>00:25 Mary talks about her early life and growing up in Keady, a small town in Armagh, and what life was like there.</p> <p>01:55 Talks about a local factory making linen for the first airplanes.</p> <p>03:00 (Joe Traynor enters)</p> <p>03:20 Discusses how Keady was known as the town of tailors.</p> <p>03:58 (Joe Jordan) Mentions McDonald's tailors and Jimmy McCrudden's also.</p> <p>04:15 (Mary) Talks about Jimmy McCrudden. Mentions Eddie Loft. Mention's Charlie O'Neill Coachbuilders and Jimmy and</p>

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	<p>Tommy Danns</p> <p>06:00 Describes how people went apple picking during favourable seasons. Mentions James Moan.</p> <p>07:00 Mary talks about her family's involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>08:35 Describes how there was 8 boys and 2 girls in her father's, Gerry Arthur, family and that the sisters played camogie in Kilkeel while the boys played with Keady Dwyers.</p> <p>09:07 Discusses how her father didn't go to secondary school but his brothers did and played Gaelic games in St. Pat's in Armagh.</p> <p>09:45 (Joe Jordan) Talks about Mary's father's involvement in Armagh GAA during the 1920s.</p> <p>10:30 (Mary) Talks about her father becoming involved in administration of Ulster Council. Mentions Eoin O'Duffy.</p> <p>11:40 Describes how the GAA was a big part of her upbringing. Listening to Radio Éireann. Mentions Seán Óg Ó Ceallacháin</p> <p>12:45 Moving from Keady to Drumderg. Talks about how her father had a little box office with a typewriter for his GAA work. Getting minutes ready and taking phone calls. Using a Gestetner.</p> <p>15:00 Recalls the different types of bags her father had for each county and men from Belfast would come to the house. Mentions the Argenta prison ship.</p> <p>16:13 (Joe Jordan) Discusses the Argenta prison ship and internment.</p> <p>16:40 (Mary) Talks about finance and taking money for matches. Counting gate receipts for her father and getting rewarded with sweets and ice cream.</p> <p>19:14 Recalls making sandwiches for Ulster finals.</p> <p>19:35 Describes the type of man her father was and the importance of the GAA to him.</p> <p>20:32 Talks about her father working in Keady town hall as well as being secretary of the Ulster Council and treasurer of the Armagh board. Mentions Mickey and Pádraic Duffy.</p> <p>21:51 (Joe Jordan) Talks about how revered Gerry Arthurs was in GAA circles and was instrumental in the purchasing of</p>
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	<p>Middletown field for the GAA.</p> <p>23:45 (Mary) Talks about her father's illness during the 1930s. Mentions Canon Brady. Recalls travelling to Dublin by train. Her father talking football with a Kerry doctor.</p> <p>26:05 (Mary and Joe Jordan) Discusses how her father umpired at the 1947 All-Ireland football final in the Polo Grounds in New York. Watching the highlights in the cinema in the town hall. Brining gifts home from America.</p> <p>28:00 (Joe Jordan) Talks about the Sam Maguire being presented at Dun Laoighre following the 1947 final in New York.</p> <p>28:53 (Mary) Discusses the meetings her father went to. Travelling to matches. Mentions P.J. O'Neill.</p> <p>30:30 (Joe Jordan) Describes how a radio service was set up between RTE and the BBC so priests in Africa could listen to All-Ireland finals. Radio Brasiville. Mentions Michael O'Hehir.</p> <p>31:34 (Mary) Talks about how her mother felt about her husband's involvement in the GAA. Mentions Tommy O'Neill.</p> <p>32:44 Discusses her time in boarding school in Killeel. Playing camogie in Lurgan and Newry. Mentions Sally O'Hagan.</p> <p>34:16 Recalls how her father was well known and talked to a lot of people about the GAA. Talks about how there was a lot of travelling involved.</p> <p>35:28 (Joe Jordan and Joe Traynor) Describe how bad the roads were at the time.</p> <p>36:25 (Joe Jordan) Talks about how when Gerry Arthurs joined the Ulster Council it was in a disorganised state.</p> <p>37:00 (Mary) Recalls a story about medals from a Dublin jeweller who was Jewish and was arrested.</p> <p>38:20 Describes her father going to O'Neill's to get jerseys. Players keeping jerseys after the Railway Cup. Mentions the McKenna Cup.</p> <p>39:35 (Joe Jordan) Talks about the McKenna Cup.</p> <p>40:08 (Mary and Joe Jordan) Describes about her father's administrative skills.</p> <p>41:00 (Mary) Recalls a story about her father and a band. An event in Casement park and in the Gaelic grounds in Newry.</p>
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	<p>Mentions Liam O'Connor and Fionnuala O'Connor.</p> <p>43:30 (Joe Jordan) Recalls the opening of Casement park. Mentions Sean McGarrigan. And his method of fundraising.</p> <p>44:50 (Mary and Joe Jordan) Talks about her father organising Scór.</p> <p>45:45 (Mary) Recalls the Troubles and a story about men robbing money.</p> <p>46:45 Talks about how the GAA gave a sense of Irishness and it was non-political. Describes how this changed during the Troubles.</p> <p>47:43 Discusses the reasons why her father became so involved in the GAA and how he had a vision for the Association.</p> <p>48:39 Talks about the legacy her father has left on the family in relation to GAA. Discusses her brothers' involvement and what her father would think of the modern GAA.</p> <p>50:30 (Joe Jordan and Mary) Believes Gerry Arthurs would have been proud of the state of the GAA in Ulster now. Mentions Cardinal O'Faich.</p> <p>51:47 (Mary) Recalls the Keady fair which used to happen every month and was known as 'Cow Fair'. Mentions Rosanne Nugent and her 'Meat Teas' and the Sunshine Café.</p> <p>54:37 (Joe Traynor and Joe Jordan) Describes how gamblers, smugglers, farmers and all types came to the fair. Mentions how John McKeever kept the fair going in later years.</p> <p>56:05 (Mary) Recalls counting money after matches and trying to deal with the two different currencies.</p> <p>56:40 (Joe Jordan) Describes how the banks wanted notes to be divided by bank type.</p> <p>57:20 (Mary) Describes what the GAA has meant to her down through the years and the relationship between the Association and a sense of Irishness.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</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>

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Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played camogie with St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:00:42
Language	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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 23rd July 2012