

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	4 th Nov 2010
Location	Delia's home, Charlestown, Co. Mayo
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Delia Henry
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1910 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Barnacogue NS, Co. Mayo Secondary: Convent, Swinford, Co. Mayo Third Level: Craiglockhart, Edinburgh, Scotland
Family	Siblings: 3 sisters & 3 brothers Current Family if Different: Married to Tony (RIP) with 3 sons
Club(s)	Swinford; Charlestown Sarsfields
Occupation	Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	ICA, Active Retirement Association; Western Care

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Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Cathal Henry
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1941 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Charlestown NS, Co. Mayo Secondary: St. Joseph's College, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny Third Level: Hotel Training College, Athenry, Co. Galway
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers Current Family if Different: Married to Angela Sweeney with 1 son
Club(s)	Charlestown Sarsfields [Mayo]; Moohane [Clare]
Occupation	Hotel Merchant and Car Hire Manager at Knock
Parents' Occupation	Merchant and Taxi Driver [Father]; Teacher [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Golf Club; An Taisce, Navan; Sports Complex

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Date of Report	10 th July 2012
Period Covered	1920s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Mayo, Dublin, Americas, USA
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Religion, 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, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Violence, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Delia, aged 100, and her son Cathal, aged 68, give an account of their experience with Gaelic football in the Charlestown area of Mayo. Delia gives an account of her experience of Gaelic football in the 1920s and 1930s. She discusses the influential people she knew during this time and comments on the affect that historical upheavals had on the GAA, such as the War of Independence, the Civil War and World War Two. She describes the atmosphere in Mayo before and after the 1936 All-Ireland Senior Football Final. Cathal describes how Gaelic Games in the area of Charlestown and Swinford has progressed since he was growing up. They both discuss in detail people they know and have known in the area who have been influential in the GAA. A key theme throughout this interview is the role of the GAA in the community and the improvement of facilities for clubs nationwide.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:35 (Delia) Describes her earliest memory of the GAA and talks about her brothers kicking sods of turf on the farm.</p> <p>00:57 Discusses how the GAA grew in strength after the war of independence. She discusses going to Craiglockhart College to train to be a teacher. She mentions Patsy Flannelly, Padraig Kelly, George Ormsby, Tommy Regan, Paddy Quinn and Henry Kenny.</p> <p>02:56 Discusses going to a match in Roscommon. She talks about Patsy Flannelly and fights occurring at matches.</p> <p>03:47 Discusses the affect World War Two had on the GAA. She mentions Tommy Regan from Charlestown, Purty Kelly,</p>

	<p>Paddy Quinn, Paddy Moclair and Richard Kearns, who trained the Mayo team on an island in Mayo.</p> <p>05:10 Discusses Pádraig Carney and his style of football. She talks about his family life in Swinford. Mentions Sean Flanagan, Sean Walsh, Billy Durkan.</p> <p>07:01 Describes the excitement around the 1936 All-Ireland Football Final. She discusses listening to Michael O’Hehir commentating on the radio. She talks about a photograph of herself at a match in Ballina. She mentions George Ormsby and Gerald Courell and going to dances.</p> <p>08:28 Discusses driving to a dance in the Astoria in Ballina and dancing with Gerald Courell. She tells how she was stopped on the journey home by a guard.</p> <p>11:08 Describes the celebrations after Mayo won the 1936 All-Ireland Senior Football Final.</p> <p>11:36 (Cathal) Describes 1920s Charlestown players such as Mick Henry, Jack Henry, Willie Parsons, and Andrew Welsh.</p> <p>12:47 (Cathal) Describes his earliest memory of the GAA and discusses going to matches with his father and Pádraig Carney. Describes the influence Pádraig Carney had on him.</p> <p>13:45 (Cathal) Describes the games he used to play as a child in the 1950s. He mentions Henry Dixon, Tom Langan, Pádraig Carney, Paddy Prendergast, and Tommy Regan. He mentions Eamonn Walsh who won a Minor All-Ireland in 1953.</p> <p>14:38 Discusses Brian Taylor, who played on the 1950s junior team. He talks about Michael O’Donnell, who was in charge of the Charlestown team in the 1960s. Mentions his sons Mikey and Paddy.</p> <p>15:26 (Cathal) Discusses the level of support for football in Mayo in the 1950s. Describes the affect Fr. Eddie O’Hara had on the town. He talks about the origins of Fr. O’Hara memorial park.</p> <p>16:06 (Cathal) Describes picking stones when he was at school.</p> <p>16:52 (Cathal) Talks about Colm Casey and John Casey, who won an All Star.</p> <p>17:24 (Delia) Talks about her son who lives in America and tells a story about her son and John Gallagher.</p>
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	<p>18:23 (Cathal) Describes the area of Charlestown where his mother grew up and the two clubs in the area, Charlestown and Swinford. He mentions Michael Lenihan.</p> <p>19:33 They discuss the level of organisation of the GAA and clubs when Delia was young and compares this to now.</p> <p>19:54 (Delia) Discusses Mayo getting to other All-Irelands.</p> <p>20:26 (Cathal) Discusses Mayo men who played on Sigerson Cup team in 1923. Mentions Jack Henry from Charlestown, Baller Lavan from Kiltimagh, and Mick Kilcoyne from Tubbercurry who were on that team.</p> <p>20:50 (Cathal) Wonders about a history of UCD Gaelic football players and the Sigerson Cup.</p> <p>21:09 (Delia) Discusses the level of secondary schools in the area in the 1920s. She mentions St. Nathy's in Ballaghaderreen.</p> <p>21:29 (Cathal) Tells how people in the area became involved further in football in College. Delia mentions Fr. Eddie.</p> <p>22:15 (Cathal) Tells a story about Fr. Kirwan and Fr. Eddie and describes Fr. Eddie's interest in Gaelic football.</p> <p>22:47 (Delia) Describes getting a new Bishop and tells a story about Fr. Eddie O'Hara and the Bishop's ordination.</p> <p>23:54 (Delia) Talks about Bishop Morrisroe and his grandfather playing Handball in Bushfield. Cathal describes Handball alleys in the region and talks about the first handball alley in Charlestown in 1931.</p> <p>24:23 (Delia) Describes Mickey Welsh and his career in Handball.</p> <p>24:29 Describes her experience in Swinford College and explains how the focus was on education and not sport. Cathal discusses Martin Carney, the vice principal in Swinford.</p> <p>25:30 (Delia) Tells when the first secondary school was established in Charlestown.</p> <p>25:43 (Delia) Describes the level of female supporters at matches in the 1920s and 1930s. She discusses different methods of transport.</p> <p>25:59 (Cathal) Mentions Andy Lacey, a relation from Swinford, and discusses how his mother was introduced to</p>
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	<p>Gaelic football in Swinford originally. He mentions George Ormsby, Gerald Courell, Paddy Moclair.</p> <p>26:38 They discuss Tom Tunney and his involvement in the 1936 Mayo senior football team. Cathal explains how the team travelled to America on a tour in the 1930s.</p> <p>26:53 (Delia) Recalls a dance she went to and describes an interaction she had with Tom Tunney.</p> <p>27:36 (Cathal) Comments on how the organisation of Gaelic games has evolved from when his mother was growing up, to when he was growing up, to the present.</p> <p>28:19 (Delia) Describes who travelled to the 1936 All-Ireland and Cathal talks about his father going to the match. He talks about his mother travelling in her car.</p> <p>29:00 (Cathal) Describes who travelled to the 1936 All-Ireland from the area and mentions Tommy Regan, Tom Tunney, Andrew Walsh. He tells how people got the train to Dublin.</p> <p>29:33 (Delia) Explains how some people decided to go to the 1936 All-Ireland. She talks about travelling to Castlebar by car and how that felt.</p> <p>30:05 They discuss the tradition of hurling in the area. Cathal describes the Swinford hurling club of the 1920s. He mentions the hurling club in Tooreen.</p> <p>30:48 (Delia) Recalls something her father told her about hurling being played on New Years Day on a turlough (disappearing lake) in Killaturley.</p> <p>32:00 Describes the level of football and handball played when her father was growing up. Cathal mentions Bushfield, Cully, and Swinford Ball Alleys.</p> <p>32:23 (Delia) Talks about people who played handball in Swinford.</p> <p>32:35 (Cathal) Talks about the organisation of football clubs in the area. Mentions that the Charlestown club was formed in 1888. Delia mentions that Swinford was the market town but her parish is Charlestown.</p> <p>33:29 (Delia) Talks about Willie Parsons, who played football in the 1920s.</p> <p>34:31 (Cathal) Discusses where the games were played when he was growing up. He mentions Lavey and describes the field there. He mentions Bishop Morrisroe, Joe Mahon,</p>
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	<p>Andrew Walsh, and Mike O'Donnell.</p> <p>35:09 (Cathal) Talks about being trained by Mike O'Donnell, Packie Joe Brennan, Pa Joe Honan, and Ernie Salmon. He describes Ernie Salmons involvement in the GAA in the area.</p> <p>36:08 (Cathal) Describes the facilities when he was growing up and recalls where they changed and washed.</p> <p>36:31 (Cathal) Explains how the club acquired the club grounds. He mentions Mulligan's Field and Pat Andy's Field. He discusses Fr. Eddie O'Hara Memorial Park. He describes how the facilities have changed since he was young.</p> <p>38:15 (Delia) Describes why the facilities improved after the 1940s.</p> <p>38:46 (Cathal) Talks about the opening of the Park. He mentions Cannon O'Connor, Joe Mahon, Joe PA Mulligan, Joe Morris, Mike O'Donnell, and Jack Donohue.</p> <p>39:40 (Cathal) Describes a carnival fundraiser in 1940. He mentions the journalist John Healy and tells how he was asked to write a piece about the fundraiser. He discusses other forms of fundraising that were undertaken. He mentions Andrew and Eamonn Walsh.</p> <p>41:05 (Cathal) Tells how much it cost for the new development for the Fr. O'Hara Memorial Park. Describes the changes in Charlestown club when Fr. Eddie O'Hara came to the town.</p> <p>41:58 (Cathal) Describes what the players did before there was an organisational structure of a club.</p> <p>42:16 (Delia) Discusses teams run by priests in the midlands. She mentions Archbishop Croke and talks about Croke Park.</p> <p>42:43 (Delia) Discusses Mayo players she knew during the 1930s. She talks about Henry Kenny and Paddy Quinn and mentions that they were teachers.</p> <p>43:41 (Cathal) Recalls his cousin who played for St Eunans in Donegal in the 1960s and won a county medal. Describes how people learned to play football when he was young.</p> <p>44:21 (Cathal) Discusses the availability of jerseys and football boots.</p> <p>44:35 (Cathal) Tells a story about his mother sending him and his father down to Gerald Courell's to get football boots. He</p>
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	<p>talks about the importance of school involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>45:10 (Delia) Describes how she met her husband in the late 1930s. Cathal talks about his involvement in the GAA and describes how his father brought him to games all over. He mentions handball.</p> <p>46:40 (Cathal) Discusses his father's brother's involvement in the GAA. He tells how his uncle Jack played in an All-Ireland final in 1925. He mentions Terry Reilly. Discusses why Galway objected.</p> <p>47:30 (Cathal) Discusses the amount of medals his uncle Jack had and comments on the importance of medals.</p> <p>47:58 (Delia) Tells how he went to Maynooth College and how he was in the same class as Kevin Barry. They discuss a letter written by Kevin Barry to his classmates from jail the night before he died.</p> <p>49:34 Discusses Kevin Barry and his involvement in hurling and rugby. Delia comments on his relationship with Jack.</p> <p>50:12 WEB ADDRESS: http://charlestown.mayo-ireland.ie</p> <p>50:35 (Delia) Comments on the affect the War of Independence and the Civil War on Gaelic Games in Mayo. She talks about getting jobs and the Gardaí Síochana.</p> <p>51:25 (Cathal) Describes his family's political loyalties. He mentions the Nationalist MP John Dillon and Cumann na nGaedheal. He discusses the Civil War and how this impacted on the Charlestown Club. He mentions Andrew Walsh and his uncle Jack.</p> <p>52:03 (Delia) Comments on how political affiliations could get people a job with the Gardaí Síochana.</p> <p>52:17 (Cathal) Mentions Cumann na nGaedheal and Fianna Fáil. Describes how political affiliations affected membership of local clubs. He mentions Henry Kenny.</p> <p>53:09 (Delia) Describes how teachers were involved in the college football.</p> <p>53:28 (Cathal) Recalls some of the stories his uncle Jack told him about Andrew Walsh and discusses political hatred in that era.</p> <p>54:47 (Cathal) Describes his best memory of his involvement in the GAA. He mentions Andrew Walsh's son, Michael</p>
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	<p>Byrnes, Fr. O'Hara Memorial Park, and the Sports Complex.</p> <p>56:03 (Cathal) Discusses the Charlestown football club trip to America in 1980. He tells a story about playing a match and mentions Michael Byrnes and Johnny Duffy. He talks about the development of the club's facilities.</p> <p>57:47 (Delia) Describes her best memories of the GAA and discusses going to many GAA dances.</p> <p>58:45 They list their GAA heroes. They mention Pádraig Carney, Tommy Regan, Tom Tunney, Eamonn Walsh, Willie Parsons, and James Parsons.</p> <p>59:34 (Cathal) Discusses how the Sam Maguire Cup was in the town when he was a child and tells how he felt about this.</p> <p>01:00:00 (Cathal) Describes how he feels about the rumour of the 'curse' on the Mayo football team. He talks about where it originated from.</p> <p>01:00:52 They describe their biggest disappointments in the GAA. Cathal mentions John O'Mahony. Delia talks about the level of fitness of players when she was young compared to now.</p> <p>01:01:46 (Cathal) Compares the facilities when he was growing up to the facilities available now. He mentions John O'Mahony, John Mahon, John Maughan, Mickey Moran, and James Horan.</p> <p>01:02:39 (Cathal) Describes travelling from Navan in Meath with Harry Watters from matches. He mentions Purty Kelly, Paddy Quinn, Henry Kenny, Pádraig Carney, Jimmy Laffey, Flanagan and Conway from Foxford. Discusses country lads playing in the backs and townies playing in the forwards.</p> <p>01:04:50 (Delia) Describes how she thinks the role of women in the GAA has changed. She mentions working being in the ICA and playing football. She gives her opinion on women playing football and discusses women playing soccer.</p> <p>01:05:51 (Cathal) Talks about ladies football and gives his opinion on women taking part in boxing.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Delia:</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>

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	<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>Cathal: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <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 type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Delia: N/A</p> <p>Cathal: Played for 25 years. Won an East Mayo Minor (1957) and a junior championship and loser championship with Moohane (1961/1962).</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Delia: N/A</p> <p>Cathal: Has held a range of roles in the club. Secretary from 1983 – 1990; PRO; Chairman; Park Committee. He was also involved as treasurer and is secretary of the Charlestown, Bellaghy and District Sport’s Centre.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:06:30</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

To be filled in by Interviewer:

To be filled in by Interviewee:

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Signed: ___Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: ___10/07/12_____