

GAA Oral History Project
Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	20 th Jan 2011
Location	James's home, Pettigo, Co. Donegal
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Kieran McElrone
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1956 Home County: Fermanagh
Education	Primary: Bannagh NS, Co. Fermanagh Secondary: Irvinestown, Co. Fermanagh
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 3 sons
Club(s)	Pettigo
Occupation	Electrician
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Nationalist
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Chairman of Hall in Bannagh

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	James Gallagher
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1958 Home County: Donegal
Education	Primary: Pettigo NS, Co. Donegal Secondary: St Macartan's College, Monaghan
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 6 sisters
Club(s)	Pettigo
Occupation	Sub Postmaster; Shopkeeper
Parents' Occupation	Sub Postmaster [Father]; Shopkeeper [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Donegal Bluestack Ramblers; Cycling Club Ballyshannon

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Date of Report	30 th July 2012
Period Covered	1930s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Donegal, Fermanagh, Tyrone
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association, Socialising, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Kieran McElrone and James Gallagher, members of Pettigo GAA club, talk about their involvement in the GAA over the years. They discuss their earliest memories of the GAA and how they became involved in the Pettigo club. James talks about the history of the club and describes the type of facilities available when he was growing up. He talks about his family's involvement and how he became involved with administration in the club. They discuss the development of the club over the years and how the club fared during the times of the Troubles. They describe the isolated location of the club and what it is like being so close to the Fermanagh and Tyrone borders. Kieran talks about becoming involved in the club through his sons and discusses his role as chairman of the club. They talk about the importance of the GAA in a small community like Pettigo and towards the end of the interview they discuss the role of the Association in their lives over they years.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:30 (James) Talks about his earliest memories of the GAA, going to county matches with his father in Ballyshannon and Ballybofey. Playing football in a local farmer's field owned by the Moss family. Travelling in his father's car.</p> <p>01:21 (Kieran) Discusses his early memories of the GAA. Talks about his sons' involvement and how he became involved. Mentions the field at Aghafey and how it's very uneven.</p> <p>03:20 (James) Describes the fields they played in when they were young. Playing in the Craft field and the School field.</p>

	<p>Mentions Brendan McGrath, Jimmy Baird and PJ Flood. Having 9-A-Side Sports day. Mentions Monsignor McSorley. Moving to the Point field. Talks about the development of the school pitch.</p> <p>06:40 Discusses the history of the club. The amalgamation of the club with surrounding areas – Ballintra, Donegal Town. Having members of the Gardaí and Customs in the club during the late 1960s and during the Troubles. Mentions Foot and Mouth Disease and a guard called Costello from Galway playing with the club. Issues with illegal players.</p> <p>09:50 Talks about the development of the underage set up in the 1990s and the influence of Ken Newman.</p> <p>10:25 (Kieran) Describes what the club is like today.</p> <p>11:16 Talks about the impact of the current recession on the club.</p> <p>12:00 (James) They talk about the different sports in the club. Discusses hurling being played in the club and the role Tom Costello played.</p> <p>14:07 Discusses the club's rivals. Mentions Ederney and Aghyaran. Describe the club's location and how it is relatively isolated. The teams they played – Ballintra, Laghey, Dunkineely at underage and at adult level Glencolmcille and Glenties. Once the all county league started they had to play all over, sometimes as far away as Malin. Describe their routes through the North to get to Malin and Castlefinn.</p> <p>17:52 Recalls his playing days with Pettigo. The club folding in the early 1980s before reforming. Mentions Ardara, Glenties, Glencolmcille and Ballyshannon.</p> <p>20:20 Talks about his involvement in administration with the club. Discusses the fundraising done by the club and the issue of finance.</p> <p>23:20 (Kieran) Discusses his family's involvement in the club and growing up in the area. The club's relationship with Fermanagh. Mentions Kesh, Ederney and Boa Island.</p> <p>24:30 (James) Describes the layout of Pettigo parish and how close it is to the Fermanagh and Tyrone borders.</p> <p>26:20 (Kieran) Talks about how partition has affected the parish.</p> <p>27:30 (All) They discuss the impact of the Troubles on the area. Describes how the parish was in two counties,</p>
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	<p>Fermanagh and Donegal.</p> <p>30:17 (Kieran) Discusses joining the GAA late in life having had no involvement beforehand. Talks about the role of the club in the community. How he got involved with the GAA and becoming chairman of the club. Describes the work involved in the role.</p> <p>33:00 (James) Talks about the club's colours.</p> <p>33:43 Discusses the type of characters in the club in the past. Mentions Tony McGrath, Hugh Curran, Tommy Honey.</p> <p>35:33 (Kieran) Tells a story about Ken Newman and his Bedford Van going to Burtonport.</p> <p>36:20 (All) They talk about Jim Snow and how he has been to every All-Ireland since the 1930s. How he cycled to Croke Park.</p> <p>38:00 (James) Discusses going to All-Ireland finals. Talks about the good footballers in the club in the past.</p> <p>40:00 Talks about his brother (Michael Gallagher) playing for the county at Under 21 level and the Civil Service club in Dublin. Mention Garry Snow, Pat McCrea and Tony Dowd.</p> <p>41:00 Discusses how the club has fared in competitions in recent years. Talks about celebrations after they won a final when he was playing.</p> <p>42:30 (Kieran) Talks about his sons' involvement in the club.</p> <p>43:25 (All) They discuss the role of the clergy and teachers in the club.</p> <p>45:00 They talk about the role of women in the club.</p> <p>46:24 They discuss the club's involvement in the Scór competition and the role of the Irish language and culture in the GAA.</p> <p>49:00 They recall listening to and watching matches on the radio and television.</p> <p>51:31 They discuss the biggest changes in the GAA since they were involved. Highlight the improvements in the facilities.</p> <p>53:17 They highlight the importance of volunteers in the Association. Talk about the relationship with the county board.</p>
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	<p>54:59 They talk about their hopes for the club in the future.</p> <p>56:22 They describe the relationship between Pettigo and Ballintra and the amalgamation of the ladies' team.</p> <p>57:00 (James) Talks about his best memories of the GAA. Donegal winning the All-Ireland in 1992 and bringing the Sam Maguire to Pettigo.</p> <p>58:40 (Kieran) Discusses the ladies' team.</p> <p>59:04 (All) They talk about the visit of the Sam Maguire in 1992. Mentions Seán McEniff.</p> <p>01:00:48 They talk about their GAA heroes. Mention Brian McEniff, PJ Flood.</p> <p>01:01:52 They discuss their biggest disappointments in the GAA.</p> <p>01:03:45 (James) Recalls the strangest place he played football. Talks about a match in a local field.</p> <p>01:06:57 Talks about what the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>01:07:48 (Kieran) Discusses the role of the GAA in his life.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Kieran: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>James: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Kieran: N/A</p> <p>James: Played from the age of 12 to 32. Won a Divisional Shield and</p>

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	an All-Donegal Division 4.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Kieran: Has been involved in administration since 2007 as a member of the club committee. He is Club Chairman. James: Has been involved in administration since 1985. He has been club secretary, treasurer, delegate to the South Division Board and Delegate to the County Board.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:08:32
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: ___Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: ___30/07/12_____