

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	8 th Sept 2011
Location	Martin's home, near Bonnettstown, Co. Kilkenny
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Martin Mulhall
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1930 Home County: Kilkenny
Education	Primary: Bennettsbridge NS, Co. Kilkenny Secondary: St Kieran's College, Kilkenny City
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Wife, 2 sons & 2 daughters
Club(s)	Bennettsbridge GAA [Kilkenny]; Conahy Shamrocks [Kilkenny]
Occupation	Psychiatric Nurse in St Canice's Hospital, Kilkenny
Parents' Occupation	Hospital Attendant in St Canice's Hospital [Father]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	12 th June 2012
Period Covered	1930s - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Kilkenny, Tipperary, Offaly, Dublin, England, New York
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Playing, Training, Refereeing, Administration, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Violence, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Professionalism, Food and Drink, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Martin discusses his passion for Kilkenny hurling. He recalls his earliest memories of listening to matches on the radio and playing hurling with sticks cut from ash. He ponders the tradition of cricket in the county and the rise in popularity of the GAA. He describes hurling with St. Kieran's College, Bennettsbridge, Conahy Shamrocks GAA Club in Jenkinstown, and St. Canice's Psychiatric Hospital. In addition, he discusses the excitement of Kilkenny's All-Ireland wins. Martin also reflects on the skill of his hurling heroes and the changes he has witnessed in the sport over the years.</p> <p>00:25 Martin describes being born 1930 in Michael Street, Kilkenny, moving to Bennettsbridge. School in Bennettsbridge with his brother Michael. Memories of schooldays. Mentions Canon Drennan. Also mentions John Weedy and his wife and Ned Lyng who promoted hurling.</p> <p>04:04 Discusses scarcity of hurls: cutting ash out of ditch. Mentions Kilkenny hurlers Mick Kelly and Dick Carroll. Playing with tennis ball or rubber ball. Mick Kelly scoring winning point for Kilkenny in 1957 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final. Also mentions Ollie Walsh, Jim "Link" Walsh, John Maher, Johnny McGovern, Paddy Buggy, Mick Walsh, John Sutton, Mick Brophy, Mickey Kelly, Mick Kenny.</p> <p>06:25 Mick Kelly in school with Martin in Bennettsbridge. Walking to school, bottle of milk and bread for lunch.</p> <p>06:59 Recalls seeing cricket pavilion in 1939-40 in Maidenhall, Bennettsbridge. Former popularity of cricket in area. Lists players: Joe Crowe, Jim Crowe, Martin Crowe. Mentions McDonnells' land. Also mentions Church of Ireland families Butlers of Maidenhall, Butlers of Burnchurch, and the Mosses. Mosses' mill employing locals. Mentions Bill, Bob,</p>

	<p>and Dick Mosse. Divide between the churches in that era. Contribution of Church of Ireland families to the parish. Jumble sale to pay jubilee nurse's wages.</p> <p>12:06 Attending cricket matches in Maidenhall, Mount Juliet, Lesters' field in Dunbell. Mentions cricketer Pat Curran Darcy, Martin Crowe, Maurice Walsh, Mick Walsh, Packie Teegan. Also mentions Dunnamaggin. Popularity of GAA, ban on soccer. Kilkenny winning 1947 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final.</p> <p>14:22 Recalls hearing Kilkenny won the 1939 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final against Cork, with his brother and Liam Reidy. Also mentions Jimmy Kelly on hurling team.</p> <p>15:24 Mentions heroes Dan Kennedy, captain of 1947 team, hurling with Jack Lynch. Also mentions Mick Kelly, Jim Langton, Lory Meagher. Ned Lyng winning school league in 1944. Attending final in Nowlan Park, during war. Petrol shortage, driven to match in creamery lorry. Mentions stars Jim Dobbin, Johnny McGovern, Sam Carroll, Dick Carroll, Frank Murphy, Mick Kelly. Hurls rather than sticks.</p> <p>19:30: Describes his time at St. Kieran's College from 1943. Strict regime. Leaving after Inter Cert. Losing his vocation after mother's death. Popularity of hurling in college. Nickey Rackard past pupil, Billy Rackard in school same time as Martin. Mentions O'Neill brothers from Offaly, Mark Marrinan, Liam Egan, Shamie Egan. Also mentions skill of hurlers Fr. Tommy Brennan, Fr. Joe Dunphy, Neddy Wall. Also mentions Pat Dunphy. Also mentions Fr. Horgan.</p> <p>24:15 Recalls his own hurling career in St. Kieran's. Ciotóg. Starting at junior level, progressing to intermediate. Winning leagues. No training. Watching seniors playing. Mentions Ned Kavanagh from Urlingford on 1947 Kilkenny team.</p> <p>27:06 Discusses priests playing with their parishes. Mentions Liam Kelly, brother of Mick Kelly. Also mentions Fr. Mick Holden, related to current Kilkenny captain Brian Hogan.</p> <p>28:32 Reflects on playing handball in St. Kieran's. Reaching final of handball tournament. Mentions Fr. McGready. Playing against Lar Dunphy in final. Not allowed to play in final.</p> <p>30:03 Describes playing in junior hurling final in Carlow with St. Kieran's. Scoring 2 points. Not picked the following year for team because he played too much handball. Recalls matches between Munster and Leinster in 1940s, best hurlers from colleges in both provinces. Mentions Liam Egan and</p>
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	<p>Molloy from Laois. Finals played in Nowlan Park.</p> <p>33:52 Discusses listening to matches on radio in St. Kieran's. Listening to 1947 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final, Micheal O'Hehir commentating, Kilkenny winning by a point. Radio in priests' room. Didn't attend homecoming of 1947 team. Difficult economic times.</p> <p>36:10 Describes his return to his father's house in Jenkinstown after he left St. Kieran's. Playing hurling in the Polo Grounds. Martin's skill at hurling in Conahy Shamrocks GAA Club, Jenkinstown. Mentions Paddy Kerrigan. Also mentions Joe Dowling, secretary of club, and Dick Kelly on Leinster Council, referee.</p> <p>38:11 No other sports in Jenkinstown at the time. Impact of emigration on area in 1950s, people moving to New York. Team in Jenkinstown comprising farmers. Mentions Buggys leaving. Mentions Shem Downey, Tommy Walsh. Shem's daughters, Angela and Anne, camogie players.</p> <p>41:09 Recalls winning minor championship match with Bennettsbridge in 1947 in Nowlan Park. Describes his role in the semi-final. Mentions Mick Luckman. Also mentions Mick O'Neill from Gowran. Also mentions Mick Kelly, Dick Carroll, Paddy Kilroy.</p> <p>43:48 Discusses playing one season of junior hurling with Conahy. Playing against Castlecomer. Mentions Paddy Kerrigan. Late 40s, early 50s. Strong hurling clubs: Inisteege, St. Brendan's, mentions Fennellys on that team. Also mentions Billy Murphy. Recounts story about cycling, breaking his father's bicycle. Playing a match against Deansfort. Violence. Martin collecting money at stile. Also mentions game between Éire Óg and the army. Jim Langton, Liam Reidy, Vin Baston. Also mentions Jack Mulcahy, his cousin Johnny Murphy. Rivalry between parishes.</p> <p>49:26 Recalls travelling on bicycle to matches in Nowlan Park. A man minding the bikes under the railway bridge for money. Describes travelling to the 1950 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final between Kilkenny and Tipperary, with his brother, Seán Brennan in Austin 7 car. Slow puncture. Watching match from sideline. Mentions Jim Langton and Tom Walton on Kilkenny team. Beaten by a point.</p> <p>52:21 Reflects on intense rivalry between Kilkenny and Tipperary. Mentions Tom Walsh from Thomastown. Strength of rivalry near border.</p>
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	<p>53:32 Discusses team in St. Canice's Psychiatric Hospital. Playing match in Kilderry, scoring goals. Training before work. Living in nurses' quarters. Going to Croke Park with minibus driver Bobby Wimms.</p> <p>56:23 Discusses his work with secretary Joe Dowling in Jenkinstown. Meeting his wife at dance.</p> <p>57:32 Ponders the changes he has witnessed in the GAA over the years. Mentions Brian Cody. Martin's views on the need for physicality, clashes. More robust game in the past. Mentions Eddie Keher, DJ Carey, Henry Shefflin, Mick Kelly, Dan Kennedy. Mentions several characters, including The Bear Leahy playing hurling and cricket, Andy Murphy playing hurling and cricket, Johnny Dunne.</p> <p>01:01:02 Mentions Michael Cusack. Also mentions the Waltons, the Walshes. Love of hurling, no political aspect.</p> <p>01:02:08 Considers the popularity of hurling in the county. Victories increasing its popularity. Mentions Fennellys, Doyles, Jim Langton, DJ Carey, Hendersons, Billy Fitzpatrick, Pat Delaney.</p> <p>01:03:27 Mentions Frank Cummins, Liam Chunky O'Brien. Team from 1960s. Mentions Richie Hogan, Jim Hogan, Christy Ring. Railway Cup match. Martin White from Bonnetstown. Mentions DJ Carey and Noel Skeeahan, Duxie Walsh playing handball, raquetball. Also mentions Jack Mulcahy, Terry Leahy, Jack Donegan, Jack Gargan. Mentions Gerry Connolly, Jim Hogan. Describes skill of these players. Also mentions Sean, Jimmy, and Paddy Clohessy.</p> <p>01:09:15 Mentions Jack Rochford, statue to him. Lory Meagher museum in Tullaroan. Martin's brother bringing back photo of Paddy Larkin in 1935 All-Ireland final from New York, Martin bringing it to museum in Tullaroan.</p> <p>01:10:22 Discusses his favourite players: Henry Shefflin, Mickey Kelly, DJ Carey, Eddie Keher, Terry Leahy.</p> <p>01:11:34 Mentions the current Kilkenny team as his favourite. Describes recent goals. Instinct. Mentions Richie Hogan, Michael Fennelly, Eddie Brennan,</p> <p>01:13:18 His highlight: going to match with Paddy Hennessy, father of Joe Hennessy. Also mentions Paddy Buggy, Johnny McGovern, John Sutton, Mick Brophy, John Clohessy, Billy O'Dwyer.</p> <p>01:14:03 Reflects on the GAA as an organisation. Its</p>
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	<p>significance. Contribution of schoolteachers to training teams. Mentions Peadar Laffan training Ollie Walsh. Also mentions Pa Dillon, Martin Coogan. Also mentions Jimmy Doyle, hurler from Tipperary. Amateurism, comparison with money involved in soccer clubs.</p> <p>01:16:27 Recalls cycling to Portlaoise, Thurles for matches with his friend Eamon Horgan. Borrowing bicycle. Mentions Pat O'Neill cycling to Croke Park in his 70s. Physical strength of Kilkenny men in the past.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<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>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Played on Junior Hurling team in St. Kierans College and won a final in 1945. Won the Kilkenny Minor Hurling Championship with Bennetsbridge in 1947. Won a Kilkenny Junior Hurling Championship with Conahy in the late 1940s or early 1950s. Also played Handball in St Kieran's College.</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>N/A</p>
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 1:18:39</p>
Language	<p>English</p>

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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: 12th June 2012