

**GAA Oral History Project**  
**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2011
<b>Location</b>	Columb's home, Aghalee, Co. Antrim
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Willie Grogan
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1939 <b>Home County:</b> Antrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Brankinstown, Aghagallon, Co. Antrim <b>Secondary:</b> Lurgan Technical College, Co. Armagh <b>Third Level:</b> Heidelberg University, Germany
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 4
<b>Club(s)</b>	Dalcassians [Antrim]; St. Patrick's, Aghagallon [Antrim]; Clann Eireann, Lurgan [Armagh]
<b>Occupation</b>	Accountant
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	None
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Lurgan Golf Club; Knights of Columbanus

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Sammie Campbell
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1937 <b>Home County:</b> Antrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. Joseph's PS, Brankinstown, Co. Antrim
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 1 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 9 sons and 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Dalcassians; St. Mary's GAC, Aghagallon
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Charlie Gallon
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1929 <b>Home County:</b> Antrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Aghagallon and Brankinstown
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 5 sisters
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Mary's GAC, Aghagallon; John Mitchels
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Singer

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Seamus Walsh
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1932 <b>Home County:</b> Antrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Brankinstown PS, Co. Antrim
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 5 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 4 daughters and 3 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	John Mitchel's; St. Mary's GAC, Aghagallon
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	St. Vincent De Paul

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Columb Walsh
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1967 <b>Home County:</b> Antrim
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. Mary's, Derrymore <b>Secondary:</b> St. Paul's Junior High School; St. Michael's Senior High School <b>Third Level:</b> University College of North Wales
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers & 4 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with one son and one daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Mary's GAC, Aghagallon
<b>Occupation</b>	Civil Servant
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	None
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1900 – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Antrim, Dublin, Armagh, Down, Great Britain, Wales
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Alcohol, Violence, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Members of St Mary's Aghagallon talk about their involvement in the GAA over the years. The group discuss their first introductions into the Association and how they became involved. They describes the make-up of the GAA in the area and talk about how there used to be three clubs in the parish, the Shamrocks, the Dalcassians and the John Mitchel's. They talk about their favourite players and matches they have been to. The group discuss the development of the three clubs over the years and the facilities available at the time. Columb talks about the formation of the St Mary's club in 1983 and how the other clubs reacted to this. They talk about the club during the Troubles and how the area was impacted by the conflict. They discuss their GAA careers, both in playing and in administration. Towards the end of the interview they recall their best and worst memories from their time in the GAA and highlight the importance of the Association in their lives.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>01:12 (Columb) Talks about his earliest GAA memories.</p> <p>02:05 (Seamus) Discusses his earliest GAA memories, seeing Cavan play Meath in the 1952 All-Ireland final. Recalls Peter McDermott playing with a cap for Meath. Listening to the 1947 All-Ireland in the Polo Grounds, New York on a wet battery radio.</p> <p>04:05 Talks about playing football in school. Mentions Kevin</p>

	<p>Armstrong.</p> <p>05:29 (Charles) Recalls his earliest GAA memories. Going to see the Railway Cup final in Croke Park. Talks about the players who played that day and how it was snowing heavily that day. Discusses playing for Mitchel's and the type of gear available at the time.</p> <p>08:30 Discusses travelling to Croke Park by train for the Railway Cup. Getting food in McHugh's. Talks about the players who played.</p> <p>09:59 (Samuel) Recalls his earliest GAA memories. Walking to a Shamrock's match in 1944. Playing football in school.</p> <p>11:00 Talks about being in Croke Park in 1960 when Down won the All-Ireland football final. Breaking into the ground and getting into Hill 16. Recalls how the stand was overcrowded and dangerous.</p> <p>12:35 Listening to All-Irelands on the radio.</p> <p>12:55 Discusses being part of the Dalcassians team. Talks about the amalgamation of the two teams in the parish. Listening to Michael O'Hehir during the 1944 All-Ireland final.</p> <p>15:10 Recalls what Hill 16 was like during the 1960 All-Ireland final. Mentions James McCartan.</p> <p>16:27 (Willie) Discusses his earliest GAA memories. Listening to the 1947 All-Ireland Final on a wet night in Mallon's of Brankinstown. Mentions Father Sloan.</p> <p>17:40 Watching the Shamrocks play Aghagallon, David Heaney breaking his leg. His father becoming treasurer of the Dalcassians when they reformed.</p> <p>19:15 Recalls first playing in Brankinstown in Davitt Park. Talks about his first senior match against the Sean Russell's club from Lurgan. Mentions Fr. Ferris. Playing in the championship final in Casement Park in 1956.</p> <p>22:30 Talks about his first visit Croke Park in 1958 to see Derry play Dublin and the crush of the crowds. The Hogan Stand was knocked down at that point. Mentions not being able to put on a raincoat with the crush. Recalls meeting Sean Gibson and being given a wooden pen and bowl.</p> <p>24:50 (Samuel) Discusses the 1958 All-Ireland final and gives his opinion on the referee's (Simon Deignan's) performance. Mention Marcus Wilson and Jim McKeever.</p>
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	<p>25:15 (All) They talk about various matches they've been to.</p> <p>26:18 (Willie) Chooses Mick O'Connell as his favourite player.</p> <p>26:50 (All) They talk about their favourite players.</p> <p>28:00 They recall a story about Bill Doonan from Cavan. Mention PJ Duke, Owen Roe McGovern, Phil 'the Gunner' Brady.</p> <p>30:00 (Seamus) Talks about his favourite GAA players. Mentions John Doyle, Chirsty Ring, the Rackards, Ogie Moran, Mick O'Connell, Pat Spillane, Jim McKeever, the Gribben's, Iggy Jones, Frank McGuigan, Joe Keohane. Recalls a story about Chirsty Ring.</p> <p>33:00 (All) They talk about the Chirsty Ring and DJ Carey, Jack Lynch, Jimmy Barry Murphy, John Joe Reilly, Bill Doonan, Peter Canavan, Kieran McGeeney and Jack O'Shea.</p> <p>35:55 (Columb) Recalls going to Croke Park in the 1970s and seeing Jimmy Smyth play. Training with him in St Paul's. Describes his favourite players – Jimmy Keaveney, Brian Mullins, Ogie Moran, Mikey Sheehy, Tony Hanahoe.</p> <p>36:55 (All) They discuss the history of the GAA in the area and playing in carnival seven a side tournaments. Parish had three clubs, Shamrocks, John Mitchel's and Dalcassians. Describe the area in the past.</p> <p>42:08 They recall how they travelled to matches, cycling and getting the bus.</p> <p>44:04 They discuss the three clubs' grounds in Gowdy Bridge, Derrymore Park and Gawley's Gate Park. Recall another team in the area called St Patrick's.</p> <p>46:00 (Samuel) Talks about the opening of the John Mitchel's pitch. They all describe what happened to the three teams. They talk about the Johnson brothers and Noel Russell.</p> <p>49:07 They describe the clubs' colours. Buying jerseys from McGlade's of Belfast. Talks about winning the championship in 1956 and not getting medals until 1958.</p> <p>51:18 (All) They talk about making shorts out of 'early riser' flour bags.</p> <p>52:40 They discuss the type of balls they played with.</p> <p>53:55 (Seamus) Recalls playing with a 'sponge' ball.</p>
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	<p>54:20 (All) Describes playing with cloth balls and how hard it was to get proper balls. Playing with a pig's bladder ball and a turnip.</p> <p>55:43 (Willie) Tells a story about his brother using a bicycle tube to make a football.</p> <p>56:20 (All) They talk about the type of training that was done.</p> <p>57:00 (Willie) Recalls practicing kicking with his brother Pat.</p> <p>57:57 (All) They talk about the role of the clergy in the GAA in the area. Recall how Father Malachy Murphy was shared between the clubs. Willie recalls a story about his brother Mickey, Eamon Lavery and Father Murphy at a match in Davitt Park.</p> <p>01:00:23 (Willie) Discusses his brother breaking his leg and his return against John Mitchel's.</p> <p>01:01:12 (Columb) Talks about the development of the GAA in the area in the 1980s. The formation of St Mary's Aghagallon in 1983 and the objection from John Mitchel's. Discusses the development of the club.</p> <p>01:03:55 Discusses why the team was called St Mary's and the rivalries that still exist. Describes the development of the club over the years and how the club has struggled for numbers.</p> <p>01:08:55 Talks about ladies football and camogie in the club and the impact of football on camogie.</p> <p>01:10:48 (All) They discuss hurling and camogie in the area in the past.</p> <p>01:11:52 (Charles) Recalls hearing stories about camán / commons being played.</p> <p>01:12:30 (All) They talk about Kevin Armstrong.</p> <p>01:12:52 They discuss the club's biggest rivals.</p> <p>01:14:00 They talk about playing in the North Armagh league / Lurgan and District. Mentions Alf Murray.</p> <p>01:16:25 They talk about the rivalries between the three clubs in the parish and how brothers played on different teams.</p> <p>01:16:55 (Charles) Discusses playing on John Mitchel's while his brother played for the Shamrocks. Mentions Joe Finnegan. Recalls his first match for John Mitchel's. Mentions</p>
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	<p>Joe Doran.</p> <p>01:19:40 (Willie) Recalls a story about Sammy Doran and suspensions. Mentions Alf Murray.</p> <p>01:21:59 (Columb) Talks about his playing and administrative career in the GAA. Playing with Antrim minors and in school with St Michael's. Winning the All-Ireland 'B' and playing in the MacRory Cup. Talks about going to university in Wales. Discusses the relationship between Protestants and Catholics in the GAA.</p> <p>01:29:30 (Seamus) Discusses his involvement in the GAA both playing and in administration. Talks about the developments in the club while he was chairman.</p> <p>01:32:26 (Charles) Talks about his involvement in the GAA. Recalls playing against Iggy Jones. Getting involved in administration. Mentions Sammy Doran.</p> <p>01:37:48 (Samuel) Discusses his playing and administration career. Recalls building a clubroom. Going to an All-Ireland semi-final and sitting beside Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh.</p> <p>01:41:41 (Willie) Discusses his involvement in the GAA both playing and in administration. Discusses playing for a number of teams in Belfast at the same time. Recalls playing against Coalisland. Collecting money for the Mater Hospital in the 1950s.</p> <p>01:47:00 Recalls having a heart bypass in 1980 and his doctor Hugh O'Kane who played for Antrim. Mentions Paddy O'Hara.</p> <p>01:51:20 (All) They talk about the impact of the Troubles on the club. Columb recalls being stopped and searched by the British soldiers on many occasions. Willie recalls how Sambo McNaughton told him he was always stopped because he carried hurls in his car.</p> <p>01:56:45 (Columb) Recalls his best memories from the GAA, winning the All-Ireland with St Michael's and playing for Antrim. Talks about the matches he has played in. Discusses his worst memories during his time in the GAA. Talks about what the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>02:00:11 (Seamus) Talks about his best and worst memories during his time in the GAA.</p> <p>02:01:16 (Charles) Chooses Down winning the All-Ireland final as his best memory. Describes Antrim losing the 1989</p>
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	<p>All-Ireland hurling final as his worst memory. Discusses what the GAA means to him.</p> <p>02:02:52 (Samuel) Recalls playing in Casement Park in 1956 and how this is his best memory. Talks about his worst memories and what the GAA has meant to him over the years. Discusses his family's involvement.</p> <p>02:05:26 (Willie) Discusses his best and worst memories from the GAA. Recalls people walking to his house to listen to matches on radio. Talks about breaking a leg in a match. Discusses his son winning an All-Ireland medal coaching the Abbey school.</p> <p>02:09:20 (Charles) Recalls a story about a match he played in.</p> <p>02:10:20 (Seamus) Talks about Down winning the All-Ireland in 1960.</p> <p>02:11:05 (Columb) Discusses playing in the MacRory Cup in Omagh and the match being televised.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>Willie:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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  <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><b>Sammie:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward  <input 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><b>Charlie:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward  <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p>

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	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p><b>Seamus:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person  <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p><b>Columb:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" 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  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p><b>Willie:</b>          Won an Antrim Junior championship, 1956; various 15- and 7-a-side tournaments and a Lurgan and District Senior League, 1956.</p> <p><b>Sammie:</b>          Played from 1948 – 1966. Won a county championship and a Lurgan District league, both in 1956.</p> <p><b>Charlie:</b>          Played from 1945 – 1965. Won a Feis League and 7-a-side tournaments.</p> <p><b>Seamus:</b>          Played for 22 years. Won leagues and 7-a-side tournaments.</p> <p><b>Columb:</b>          Won South West Antrim Minor league; County Minor; Armagh Vocational Schools Under 14; 2 Herald Cups; 1 MacLarnon Cup; 1 All-Ireland B Colleges; 2 Irish News Cups.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p><b>Willie:</b>          Club Chairman (1959), Secretary (1959 – 1966)          South West Antrim Official (1959 – 1962).</p> <p><b>Sammie:</b>          Was involved in administration from the late 1940s until 1962.</p>

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	<p>Club: Secretary, Treasurer, Delegate to South West Antrim Divisional Board and North Armagh Board.</p> <p><b>Charlie:</b> Got involved in administration in the 1940s and was a committee member up to 1970.</p> <p><b>Seamus:</b> Club Chairperson (1992 – 1998).</p> <p><b>Columb:</b> Club: Secretary (1990 – 2000), Registrar (2008), Treasurer (2009), Chairman (2010+) Division: South West Antrim Secretary (2000 – 2007).</p>
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 02:11:56
<b>Language</b>	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: \_\_\_\_\_ 18/07/12 \_\_\_\_\_