

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	12 th Jan 2011
Location	Interviewee's home, Belfast, Co. Antrim
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Gerry Barry
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1940 Home County: Antrim
Education	Primary: St. Kevin's PS, Falls Road, Co. Antrim Secondary: St. Malachy's College, Belfast, Co. Antrim Third Level: St. Joseph's, Belfast, Co. Antrim
Family	Siblings: 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married to Paddy
Club(s)	St. Gall's
Occupation	Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Cashier [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Republican
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	18 th July 2012
Period Covered	1900s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Antrim, Derry, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Ban on Security Forces, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Gerry talks about his involvement in the GAA over the years. He recalls his first introduction to the Association and how he became involved with the St. Gall's club. He talks about his early involvement in the administration side of the game and his work with the county board. He describes his various roles at county and provincial level and the work that was involved. Gerry discusses the history of the St. Gall's club and the main people involved in its development. He describes the club's facilities and how these changed over time. He talks about the GAA in Belfast and the prominence of clubs on the Falls Road. Gerry talks about the types of issues he faced while involved with administration and discusses the issue of the Troubles and the Hunger Strikes and describes how this was dealt with by the GAA at a club level and at a county level. He talks about the St. Gall's All-Ireland club football win and what this meant to the members of the club. Gerry gives his opinion on the various rule changes within the GAA over the years and towards the end of the interview he highlights the important role that the GAA has played in his life.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:24 Gerry talks about his earliest memories of the GAA. Recalling Antrim winning the 1951 Ulster football championship. He talks about his grandmother from Derry.</p>

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	<p>01:30 Talks about his school days and playing football. Going to St. Malachy's and playing in the MacRory Cup. Playing with St. Gall's and winning a minor title.</p> <p>03:00 Recalls his time playing for St. Gall's and the club's success. Playing football and hurling. Getting injured and getting involved with administration and coaching. Winning an Antrim championship and an Ulster title in 1983. Playing in the All-Ireland club semi-final in Ballinasloe. Mentions Tony McManus, Clan na nGael and Burren.</p> <p>06:20 Talks about the success of the club in the 2000s. Winning an Ulster title.</p> <p>08:30 Discusses his involvement in the club. Getting involved in administration at county and at Ulster level.</p> <p>10:05 Talks about the work of a manager. Recalls being nominated as the county secretary in 1963 but not getting the post. Elected as assistant secretary. Describes Antrim's fortunes during that period. Mentions Tommy Hall.</p> <p>13:35 Discusses the impact of the Troubles on the GAA in Antrim.</p> <p>14:37 Talks about the change in the structure of Antrim administration in the early 1970s. The relationship between and spread of hurling and football in the county. Working on the fixtures committee. Mentions Jack Rooney.</p> <p>17:00 Discusses being on the Ulster Council and the work involved. Interacting with other counties. Hurling in other counties. Mentions the Ards Peninsula.</p> <p>19:26 Recalls becoming assistant treasurer. Talks about Ciste Gael.</p> <p>20:55 Talks about becoming county secretary and taking over from Al McMurray in 1985. Describes how Antrim fared during that period and the success of the hurling team. Recalls the 1989 All-Ireland final against Tipperary.</p> <p>26:16 Recalls the people he worked with during his time in administration. Mentions Brian Moore, Sean Stinson, Tom Crummey, Jack Rooney, Al McMurray, Oliver Kelly.</p> <p>27:45 Talks about his work with Oliver Kelly to redevelop Casement Park. Mentions Joe Boyle, Eamon McMahon and David Grieve. Mentions the Maze site and Clones.</p> <p>29:50 Discusses the history of Casement Park and how it</p>
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	<p>came about.</p> <p>32:25 Talks about St. Gall's facilities when he first started with the club. Describes the facilities of rural and urban clubs. Discusses the make-up of the GAA in Belfast and the clubs on Falls Road.</p> <p>34:10 Describes the state of the GAA in Belfast in the past.</p> <p>34:50 Talks about Dominic Spillane / Brother Leopold and his influence on the success of St. Gall's in recent years. Setting up a youth club and the effort to get facilities for young people in Belfast. Mentions St Patrick's industrial school on the Glen Road run by the De La Salle. Highlights the work of Liam Stewart and Vincent Ward in St Gall's.</p> <p>40:00 Recalls the opening of St Gall's pitches in the late 1980s. How there were no social centres for the GAA when he was growing up. Setting up one in Casement Park and later for St Gall's.</p> <p>43:41 Discusses getting two presidents, John Dowling and Mick Loftus, to open facilities at St Gall's.</p> <p>44:20 Talks about the location of St Gall's on Milltown Lane and the history of the area. Describes the population which the club draws from and the importance of families in the club.</p> <p>50:00 Discusses the De La Salle school in the area and its relationship with the GAA. Describes how St Gall's were set up by a De La Salle brother, Albeus Ryan. Mentions how the club won the football All-Ireland and reached the Intermediate Hurling All-Ireland final. Recalls the club's centenary celebrations and the setting up of the club.</p> <p>55:56 Talks about the history of the club.</p> <p>58:23 Discusses his family's involvement in the GAA. Describes how there were teams rather than clubs in Belfast when he was growing up and the relationship between the GAA, the church and schools. His mother's role in the GAA.</p> <p>01:04:00 Talks about the role of the clergy in St Gall's and priests playing on the team. Recalls training to be a teacher with priests. Mentions Brother Leopold and Archbishop John Charles McQuaid.</p> <p>01:09:02 Recalls how he travelled to matches.</p> <p>01:13:13 Talks about the differences in playing for the county</p>
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	<p>and for the club.</p> <p>01:17:02 Discusses his family's reaction to him playing for the county.</p> <p>01:17:54 Talks about the differences in play today in comparison to when he was playing. The type of training now.</p> <p>01:19:00 Recalls an Ulster semi-final against Donegal. Mentions Tom Daly. Talks about the championship that year and how players look after themselves.</p> <p>01:23:50 Talks about how modern day managers use psychology.</p> <p>01:25:20 Discusses the club's and county's songs. Mentions the Green Glens and Henry Joy as songs.</p> <p>01:27:17 Notes how he only played Gaelic games and talks about other sports. Talks about the sports played in Catholic and Protestant schools and the interaction between them.</p> <p>01:32:40 Recalls going to a soccer match in Birmingham with his school when he was teaching. Talks about having no interest in soccer.</p> <p>01:35:38 Discusses injuring his eye during a hurling match.</p> <p>01:36:32 Talks about running the 'accident fund' when he was county secretary.</p> <p>01:37:55 Discusses the success of St. Gall's ladies football. The expense of insuring teams.</p> <p>01:39:18 Talks about the type of fundraising the club has done in the past.</p> <p>01:44:20 Describes the effort by volunteers in the club.</p> <p>01:46:00 Recalls the old social centre or 'shebeen' the club used. Getting a license for the new centre.</p> <p>01:47:43 Discusses his early role in administration. Highlights the place of teachers in the GAA. Describes taking minutes at meetings.</p> <p>01:53:58 Talks about the types of issues that he faced on the county board. Describes the workload that he had. Discusses the ban on foreign games and the ban on security forces. Also the Troubles and the Hunger Strikes.</p> <p>02:00:40 Discusses the issue of the Hunger Strikes. How they</p>
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	<p>dealt with the situation.</p> <p>02:03:27 Talks about the British Army's occupation of Casement Park. Discusses the occupation of Crossmaglen's pitch.</p> <p>02:07:30 Discusses the work involved in being county secretary and his involvement with the county team.</p> <p>02:13:35 Talks about his work on the Ulster Council. Mentions Mickey Feeney. Representing Ulster at Croke Park at a national level.</p> <p>02:16:45 Describes how he made friends from all over Ireland through his work on the Ulster Council.</p> <p>02:17:45 Discusses working with the Central Council. Recalls an issue with appointing a referee for an Antrim match.</p> <p>02:20:20 Recalls the types of characters he worked with on Ulster and Central Council. Mentions Hugh Daly, Malachy Mahon, Gerry Arthurs, Mickey Feeney, Danny Murphy, Paddy MacFlynn, Christy Cooney, Sean McCague, Peter Quinn, Jack Boothman, Seamus Ryan, Con Murphy, Donal Keenan, Pat Fanning. In Antrim he mentions Gilly McIlhatton, Andy McCallin, Seamus Clarke and Sean McGettigan.</p> <p>02:27:17 Talks about the Ulster GAA presidents. Mentions Peter Quinn, Sean McCague.</p> <p>02:28:30 Recalls a story about Jack Boothman.</p> <p>02:31:39 Highlights the importance of volunteers in the GAA.</p> <p>02:33:27 Talks about the celebrations after St Gall's won the All-Ireland club football championship.</p> <p>02:37:15 Discusses the issue of putting up flags and banners around the area.</p> <p>02:41:00 Talks about the impact of emigration on the club.</p> <p>02:42:35 Discusses the availability of third level education for young people and the GAA in colleges.</p> <p>02:43:40 Chooses Sean O'Neill as the player he most admired.</p> <p>02:44:40 Highlights St. Gall's All-Ireland club championship win and Antrim's All-Ireland semi-final win in 1989 against Offaly as his best GAA memories.</p>
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	<p>02:45:47 Talks about his biggest disappointments in the GAA.</p> <p>02:46:49 Gives his opinion on the various rule changes in the GAA over the years, the ban on foreign games and the ban on security forces.</p> <p>02:48:52 Discusses the opening of Croke Park for rugby and soccer.</p> <p>02:49:35 Talks about the role of the GAA in his life and the support he receives from his wife.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p><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</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" 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 for 10 years. Won a Minor hurling championship, a minor hurling league and 6 Ulster championships.</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Has been involved in administration since 1960.</p> <p>Club: Secretary, Chairman, Delegate to Divisional Board, Delegate to County Board, Trustee of St Galls</p> <p>County: Assistant Secretary, Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, PRO, Ulster Council Representative, Delegate to Congress, Vice-President of Antrim</p> <p>Ulster: Ulster Representative to the Activities Committee at Croke Park.</p>
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 02:52:23</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: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____18/07/12_____