

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2012
<b>Location</b>	Marian's home, near Lurgan, Co. Armagh.
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Marian McStay (née McCrory)
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1940 <b>Home County:</b> Armagh
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Convent of Mercy Lurgan, Co. Armagh. <b>Secondary:</b> St Michael's Grammar School, Lurgan.
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother and 4 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Husband (Andy); 4 daughters and 2 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Clan na Gael, Lurgan (Armagh); St Peter's Lurgan (Armagh); St Michael's College Camogie Club (Armagh)
<b>Occupation</b>	Civil Servant, Library Supervisor
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Weaver [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Sinn Féin
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Apostolic Group, Lurgan

**REFERENCE NO. AR/1/45**

<b>Date of Report</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> Aug 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1927-2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Armagh, Donegal, Dublin, Cork, Great Britain, England.
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, 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, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider's Perspectives, Violence, Bribery, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Marian talks about her involvement in camogie during turbulent times in Northern Ireland and the impact that her experiences have had on her life. An enthusiastic player from a young age, she attended St Michael's Grammar School in Lurgan. Camogie was strongly promoted there and it helped her develop her game when she was not involved with the Clan na Gael club. Her enthusiasm for the game knew no bounds, and when not representing her county she became an administrator and referee. She also took charge of children's teams, taking them on trips outside of the county to play other teams. Many of the children were from disadvantaged backgrounds and this proved a richly rewarding experience for everybody involved. Her lifetime of service was acknowledged in a ceremony by then President of Ireland Mary McAleese, a moment which is a source of great pride for her. Marian also describes trying to live a normal life under the cloud of the Troubles and reflects on how things have changed for the better since the advent of the peace process in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>00:15 From Lurgan. Camogie tradition in her family. Cissie McCluskey in the first team in Derrymakes area in 1927. Other early teams included Geraldines of Fahagannon and St Ita's of Tannoch More. Their descendants still playing camogie. Her aunt Cissie introducing her to the sport.</p> <p>01:40 Watching Clan na Gael team of the late 1940s in</p>

	<p>Lurgan. Attending St Michael's Grammar School in Lurgan. Camogie tradition there. Sr St Anne and Sr Mary Clement principals who encouraged camogie. Theresa Davis from Offaly their coach. Being taken to Croke Park in 1954 to play a team from Glasnevin, Dublin. Meeting players at a class reunion 50 years later.</p> <p>04:15 Stories her aunt told her. St Enda's getting their first uniform at the time of the Eucharistic Congress. Players walking from Derrymakes to Lurgan to play. Colours of their uniform.</p> <p>05:15 Her sister, Pauline, playing for Clan na Gael.</p> <p>05:50 Lancashire camogie team playing in Lurgan and getting baton-charged by the police. Injuries sustained. Sectarianism in Lurgan. Living in Edward Street.</p> <p>07:40 Taking a team to Crossmaglen during the Troubles. Arriving home late. Helicopter hovering over the field where the teams were playing.</p> <p>08:55 Being stopped by police if they had a camogie stick or a helmet. Silverbridge and Cullyhanna teams in Crossmaglen as camogie was rejuvenated at the beginning of the Troubles. Resolve not to give in in the face of pressure from security forces. Camogie people not interested in sectarianism.</p> <p>10:45 Coaching, refereeing and administrative work she has done. Her mother accompanying her on camogie duty.</p> <p>11:35 Making friends through her involvement in camogie. Respect between clubs.</p> <p>12:15 Taking a team from St Peter's to Ballincollig in Cork. Taking Clan na Gael to Kilmacud in Dublin.</p> <p>12:35 State of camogie in Armagh in 2011. Cáit McSorely a local camogie star. Local players on university teams. County board putting in a big effort when Armagh hosted Congress in 2007. Providing referees for All-Ireland, such as Fiona McKenna. Úna Kearney involved in referees committee.</p> <p>14:50 St Brigid's one of the first teams in Armagh. President McBride on the first team, Éire Óg, in 1925. People meeting at her home and being given advice. (Recites poem about 'fenian gun'). McBride's 'fenian gun' and where it was kept. Getting Christmas cards from her.</p> <p>18:00 Camogie an essential part of her life. Playing for an Armagh team and there being no buses for them. Travelling</p>
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in a van. PJ Toner shouting at her when she fell on a field. Barney McGilley, Rosina McManus and Lily Spence all involved.

19:10 Visit of Lancashire team in 1949. McHenrys great players. Lurgan team visiting Lancashire. Jimmy McKee a well-known GAA person who organised trips to clubs in England during the 1940s and 1950s.

21:25 Support waning over the years. Attendance at a game in the past when Lurgan played London. Daughter playing in Croydon.

22:30 Going to London as an Inland Revenue civil servant in the late 1950s. Mother posting her camogie sticks to her. Being asked to play hockey over there. Other players shocked at her skills.

24:15 Work being done by Armagh County Board. Attending Congress in different provinces. Comparing their set-up to others'.

25:35 Camogie developing in small parishes originally and spreading. Camogie not as strong in Lurgan. Clan Éireann suffering. Population growing in Derrymakesh. Granddaughters playing in Aghagallon and in Lavey. Daughter teaching in Magherafelt. Clan na Gael struggling and reason for that.

29:00 Playing in Davitt Park when she was young. Denise McStay and her sister Maura heavily involved. Mary and Nuala McKenna involved. Playing games for Clan na Gael and St Michael's and getting in trouble over it. Training they did with Theresa Davis. Barney McGilley coaching them. Why they didn't need helmets. No other schools in Armagh to play against. No St Catherine's Armagh school at the time. Playing with girls from keady and Crossmaglen. Sr St Anne from Ardglass. Teams in Newry Convent, Kilkeel, St Dominic's in Belfast, Coleraine and Ballycastle. Going to games in a bus.

34:50 Taking bus to Croke Park. Nuns measuring them for skirts. All skirts ending up the same length. What her skirt was like. Her reaction. Sr Stanislaus helping her.

36:40 Staying at house of Dublin footballer Kevin Heffernan. Beating Glasnevin Convent. What it felt like to play in Croke Park. Write-ups in the newspaper.

38:05 Céilí at St Michael's Camogie club, in St Colman's Hall, in 1956. Presentation of the Ulster Colleges Junior Cup.

	<p>Roundtower céilí band playing. Admission fee.</p> <p>38:50 Attitudes to women playing sports when she was young. Football not seen as suitable for girls. Her attitude to ladies football.</p> <p>41:05 Her son, Dermot, playing hurling. Not being able to let him go through Portadown with a hurley. Reason for that. Her brother a footballer with Clan na Gael.</p> <p>44:30 Invitation to Áras an Uachtarán to mark her contribution to camogie. Former Armagh footballer Oisín McConville's mother there. Other people that were there. Sheila Wallace nominating her to go. How that made her feel. What President Mary McAleese said to her. What President McAleese said to her husband Martin when she heard the name 'Clan na Gael'.</p> <p>46:25 Being selected to play for the county team. PJ Toner calling her up. Playing against Antrim, a strong team. Marking Maeve Gilroy of Antrim in Croke Park. What that was like. Advice PJ Toner gave her. Playing in the Glens of Antrim. Few training sessions at the time. No emphasis on diet or nutrition. Natural exercise they got on their bicycles.</p> <p>49:40 Change in child protection protocol and what she thinks about that. Kathleen Woods their child protection officer. What she does. Need to strike a balance.</p> <p>51:50 Going to Carlow for a game with Armagh. Helping out as an umpire. Food they were given. Adverse weather.</p> <p>52:45 Taking Clan na Gael to Kilmacud. Worrying about being able to take care of the girls. Booking a house in the Wicklow Hills, called 'the White House'. What the house was like. How the weekend went. Player sustaining an injury on the pitch.</p> <p>54:35 Taking a team from St Peter's club to Donegal for a week. Travelling by mini-bus. How the children enjoyed it and how it benefited them. Ant Grimley telling her what Seán Loughran would say about the children. Making sure that the children had what they needed. Fundraising so that they could afford to facilitate the children's needs. That community spirit still strong in places like Ballymacnab and Madden. Work done by Joe Golding, Mary Moran, Joan O'Flynn for camogie.</p> <p>01:02:05 Relationship with the GAA. How she got on with St Peter's club in Lurgan and Clan na Gael. Armagh footballer Jim McKerr's sister Lelia on the camogie committee, as was Diarmuid Marsden's sister Áine. Connections to the</p>
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	<p>footballers and how they helped. Attempts to get everyone under the one umbrella.</p> <p>01:05:30 Married women playing camogie in Armagh. Playing on the same team as her daughters. Returning to play with St Peter's in the 1970s. Her daughters Úna, Mary and Sinéad playing.</p> <p>01:07:15 Being President and wanting to acknowledge those whose contributions went unrecognised, like Sally McCone of Ballymacnabb. Setting up a President's Award to be given out at the county dinner every year. How the winner is decided upon. Rosanne Murphy of Derrynoose, Theresa Grimley, Maggie Moriarty, Sally McCone in Ballymacnab, Bibi Devlin getting awards.</p> <p>01:13:00 Involvement in administration. Being vice-chairperson at Clann na Gael. Taking over from Donal Magner. Brother Frank Mallon succeeding her. Helping him. Being Armagh delegate to the Ulster Convention. Being a delegate to the Ard Comhairle.</p> <p>01:15:00 First impressions of Congress. Watching Mary Lynch, Jo Goulding, Sheila Wallace and Belle O'Loughlin play cards. Helping Belle to win without her knowledge. Listening to Lily Spence tell stories. Reading Congress papers and expecting others to do so.</p> <p>01:18:25 Bringing what she learned in Congress back to the county. Nora Vallelly and Joan Rice good treasurers in Armagh.</p> <p>01:20:20 Armagh delegates approached at Congress about use of their vote.</p> <p>01:20:45 Proportion of men to women at Congress.</p> <p>01:22:25 Feminism and camogie. Male involvement in camogie. Number of male referees.</p> <p>01:23:45 Getting involved in refereeing. Refereeing a game between Kilkenny and Wexford. Wexford manager commending her after the game. What she enjoyed about refereeing. Bad language creeping into the game. Sending a player off in a club game in Armagh. Preparing to referee a game. Examining players' sticks. Getting the respect of players.</p> <p>01:30:30 Coaching and the methods she adopted. Inclusive approach. Go Games and her opinion on that. Doing</p>
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	<p>coaching courses. Being eager to learn.</p> <p>01:34:40 Delegates arriving late for Congress and speaking out against that. Possible ways to stop that.</p> <p>01:37:20 Changes that she has seen in the game over the years. Physicality. Need to develop skills. Profile of the game changing. O'Donovan Rossa's Jane Adams on the news after winning a club All-Ireland title.</p> <p>01:43:00 How things have changed since the end of the Troubles. O'Donovan Rossas asking Linfield for the use of their facilities. Answer they got.</p> <p>01:43:40 Going to the wake of a previous chairperson to form a guard of honour. Sons involved in UFF. Approaching the sons and asking for his mother's camogie stick that former Cork hurler Christy Ring had given her.</p> <p>01:46:45 Soldiers stopping Máire O'Callaghan from Dripsey in Cork in Armagh on her way to Ballymacnab.</p> <p>01:48:50 How the woman who died's sons ended up with Unionist paramilitaries.</p> <p>01:49:40 Prospect of Protestant and Catholic girls playing camogie together. Lurgan a divided town.</p> <p>01:52:05 What her camogie involvement has meant to her.</p> <p>01:54:00 Her husband Andy's support for her camogie involvement.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input 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>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played for St Michael's Grammar School - senior and junior Ulster colleges titles 1953 and 1954; Played for Clan na Gael in Armagh championship; Played on Armagh Senior Camogie team and won 2 national leagues. Didn't play from 1952-1962 (as she got married); Later set up St Peter's Club in Lurgan and played with them alongside her two daughters.</p>

**REFERENCE NO. AR/1/45**

<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	Coached Clan na Gael. Chairperson of Armagh Camogie County Board in the 1980s. Representatives to the Camogie Ulster Council and Congress. President of Armagh Camogie Association. Was also an inter-county referee.
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:56:19
<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:      Regina Fitzpatrick

Date:      21<sup>st</sup> August 2012