

IRISH HISTORY

# 14

## CHRONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

- 1880 AD Foundation of GAA
- 1884 American Invasion Tour
- 1888 First Football and Hurling All-Irelands Split in GAA
- 1890 AD
- 1900 AD Camogie Association founded
- 1904 Purchase of Jones' Road/Croke Park
- 1910 AD
- 1913 Bloody Sunday
- 1918 Gaelic Sunday
- 1920 AD
- 1924 Tailteann Games
- 1930 AD Removal of President Hyde as patron of the GAA
- 1938
- 1940 AD
- 1947 Polo Grounds, New York Final
- 1950 AD
- 1958 Wembley at Whitsunday
- 1960 AD Highest attendance at a GAA match, 90,556
- 1962 First televised GAA matches
- 1970 AD
- 1971 The 'Ban' (Rule 27) lifted
- 1974 Ladies Football Association founded
- 1980 AD
- 1990 AD Redevelopment of Croke Park began
- 1993
- 2000 AD Rule 21 lifted
- 2007 Six Nations Rugby match between Ireland and England
- 2010 AD

## THE IMPACT OF THE GAA ON IRISH LIFE

L.O. 2.10  
The Nature of History: 1.1,  
1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8,  
1.9, 1.10, 1.11  
CBA1  
CBA2

### You will learn to ...

- Examine the impact of the GAA on Irish life
- Explore the Nature of History



### KEY WORDS

- |                 |             |                        |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|
| • Source        | • Evidence  | • Primary              |
| • Secondary     | • Museum    | • Cultural revival     |
| • Anglicisation | • Camogie   | • Separatist tradition |
| • IRB/Fenians   | • Home Rule | • Fact                 |
| • Opinion       |             |                        |





Examine the origins of the GAA

## Sport in the Nineteenth Century

The second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the birth of modern sport. Sport was shaped by written rules and national organisations to suit the demands of urban society in Britain, the US and the Continent. The growth of nationalism, the development of the railway system and the spread of education also influenced sport development. These trends also influenced the development of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) in Ireland.

### Foundation of the GAA

*The Gaelic Athletic Association for the Preservation and Cultivation of National Pastimes* was founded at a meeting in Hayes Hotel, in Thurles, on 1 November 1884.

The inspiration for the founding of the GAA came from **Michael Cusack**. Clare-born Cusack ran a school or academy in Dublin for students sitting for the Civil Service examinations. He took a keen interest in sport but he was **opposed** to the existing organisation of athletics. He disliked the fact that they were largely confined to 'gentlemen', and thereby excluded labourers, policemen and others. He also wanted to include **nationalists** in the governing body of athletics. In relation to hurling in particular, he wanted a **standard set of rules**, with a national organisation for national sports.

Cusack got the help of **Maurice Davin**, a noted athlete. Davin was elected **President** of the GAA at the first meeting in Thurles, and Cusack acted as one of the secretaries. Archbishop **Croke** of Cashel, C. S. Parnell, leader of the Home Rule Party and Michael **Davitt**, one of the leaders of the land campaign, accepted an invitation to become **patrons** of the GAA.

#### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

##### To Mr Michael Cusack, Honorary Secretary of the Gaelic Athletic Association. The Palace, Thurles, 18 December 1884.

My dear Sir – I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication inviting me to become a patron of the 'Gaelic Athletic Association', of which you are, it appears, the honourable secretary, I accede (agree) to your request with the utmost pleasure.

One of the most painful ... reflections (thoughts) that, as an Irishman, I am compelled to make in connection with the present aspect of things in this country, is derived from the ugly and irritating fact that we are daily importing from England not only her manufactured goods, which we cannot help doing, since she has practically strangled our own manufacturing appliances, but, together with her fashions, her accent, her vicious literature, her music, her dances, and her manifold mannerisms (habits), her games also and her pastimes, to the utter discredit (disgrace) of our own grand national sports, and to the sore humiliation, as I believe, of every genuine son and daughter of the old land.

Ball-playing, hurling, football kicking, according to Irish rules, 'casting', leaping in various ways, wrestling, handy-grips, top-pegging, leap-frog, rounders, tip-in-the-hat, and all such favourite exercises and amusements amongst men and boys, may now be said to be not only dead and buried, but in several localities to be entirely forgotten and unknown. And what have we got in their stead (place)? We have got such foreign and fantastic field sports as lawn-tennis, polo, croquet, cricket, and the like – very excellent, I believe, and health-giving exercises in their way, still not racy of the soil, but rather alien (foreign) to it, as are, indeed, for the most part the men and women who first imported and still continue to patronise (support) them ...

(T. W. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel. Published in *The Nation*, 27 December 1884)

1. Who wrote this letter?
2. Why did he write the letter?
3. What is 'the ugly and irritating fact' he refers to?
4. What sports and activities does he say were 'dead and buried' and 'entirely forgotten'?
5. What are the 'foreign and fantastic field sports'?
6. Why does he object to them?
7. Is this letter a **primary** or a **secondary** source?

8. Does this letter **explain** why some people would support the GAA?
  9. Why, do you think, was it **important** for the GAA to get support from patrons?
  10. How does the letter help you understand the **impact of the GAA** on Irish life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?
  11. Why would historians consider this letter to be '**historically significant**'?
- Use evidence from the letter to support your answers.

# The Impact of the GAA

## The GAA as part of the cultural revival

The GAA was part of the **cultural revival** at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Ireland. The cultural revival promoted all things Irish or Gaelic. It wanted to reduce English influence in all aspects of Irish life. This was also emphasised by the **Gaelic League** (founded in 1893) as both wanted to **de-anglicise** Irish society.

Not surprisingly, by the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many people were members of both organisations.

As one historian of the GAA said:

*'By 1910 or so dual membership had become normal for the majority of athletically-minded urban-based nationalists; for many of them their first contact with the GAA came through their involvement in the League.'* (Marcus de Búrca)

Examine the impact of the GAA on Irish life



## Chapter 1 - Aims and Ethos

### 1.1 Name

The name of the Association is:  
'The Gaelic Athletic Association'.

### 1.2 Basic Aim

The Association is a National Organisation which has as its basic aim the strengthening of the National Identity in a 32 County Ireland through the preservation and promotion of Gaelic Games and pastimes.

### 1.3 National Games

The Association shall promote and control the National games of Hurling, Gaelic Football, Handball and Rounders, and such other games, as may be sanctioned and approved by Annual Congress.

### 1.4 Additional Aims

- (a) The Association shall actively support the Irish language, traditional Irish dancing, music, song and other aspects of Irish culture. It shall foster an awareness of love of the national ideals in the people of Ireland, and assist in promoting a community spirit through its clubs.
- (b) The Association shall promote its aims amongst communities abroad through its International Units.
- (c) The Association shall support the promotion of Camogie and Ladies Gaelic Football.
- (d) The Association shall use all practical endeavours to support Irish Industry especially in relation to the provision of trophies and playing gear and equipment.

1. What is the basic **aim** of the GAA, according to the GAA Official Guide 2017?
2. What **national games** are listed?
3. What **other activities** will the GAA support, according to Additional Aims?
4. How will the GAA connect with the **Irish Diaspora**?
5. What **ladies games** will the GAA support?
6. How will it support **Irish industry**?
7. How do these aims **compare** with the views of Archbishop Croke in p. 218?
8. How do these aims **compare** with the aims of the Cultural Revival?

(Source: GAA Official Guide 2017, Part 1)

## How did the GAA spread?

The GAA had an immediate impact on Irish life. According to Cusack, it '*swept the country like a prairie fire*', as clubs were established in many counties. Clubs were founded in Munster, Leinster and Connacht, and more slowly in Ulster. Some of the more successful early events were **athletics meetings**, but gradually hurling and football took over as the main interest of the GAA. The GAA athletics meetings, and hurling and football matches drew large crowds. There was a rise in **local pride** as clubs, based on parishes, played other clubs.



Construct your own graph based on the figures in GAA Clubs 1887–1890. What conclusions can you draw from either the figures or the graph?

GAA CLUBS 1887–1890					
	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891
Leinster	175	214	297	323	271
Munster	380	255	289	258	152
Connacht	80	31	74	206	87
Ulster	-	6	37	88	47
Total	635	506	697	875	557

(from de Búrca)

## Trouble for the GAA

However, the GAA's early years were also troublesome. First, Cusack was fired as secretary due to personality clashes. There was also a disastrous tour to America in 1888 – the **American Invasion** – aimed at promoting Gaelic sports there, but which lost money for the new Association. Then there was conflict between IRB/Fenian members and Home Rulers, which resulted in a **split** in the Association.

The foundation of the GAA had already attracted the attention of the **Irish Republican Brotherhood** (IRB or Fenians) as four of the seven who attended the founding meeting in Thurles were Fenians. The IRB looked on the GAA as a cover for training young men for any future rising.

## Decline and revival

However, the involvement of the IRB led to a **split** in the Association. Some of the GAA supported Parnell in his conflict with the majority of the Home Rule Party (see p. 214). In 1891, when he died, 2,000 GAA men carrying hurleys draped in black marched in his funeral to Glasnevin cemetery. These divisions between IRB and Home Rule supporters, backed by the Catholic Church, led to a **decline** in the GAA, which lasted for about a decade. The number of clubs fell from nearly 900 in 1890 to 118 in 1893.

By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a **revival** of the GAA was taking place. In spite of divisions, All-Irelands were held every year except one. The first All-Irelands were held in 1887, and apart from 1888, All-Irelands were held each year thereafter. The number of clubs grew again after the decline of the 1890s. By 1901 the number of clubs had risen from 118 in 1893 to 411 in 1901, though still well short of nearly 900 in the late 1880s.

## Croke Park

A major step in the expansion of the GAA was the purchase of playing fields in Jones Road, Dublin in 1913, which soon became **Croke Park**, after Archbishop Croke. This became the headquarters of the GAA.

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the stadium underwent a number of **developments**. In 1915, a sloped terrace was developed behind the goals. The **Hogan Stand** was added in the 1920s and the **Cusack Stand** in the 1930s. A new Hogan Stand was built in the 1950s. The modern development of Croke Park took place from the 1990s into the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

As the most important sporting venue in Ireland, Croke Park has contributed not only to all the major football and hurling matches each year, but also to many other **great occasions**. These included the Muhammad Ali – Al ‘Blue’ Lewis fight in 1972, the International Rules matches between Ireland and Australia, major rugby and soccer matches while the Aviva Stadium was being built, the Special Olympics in 2003, sell-out music concerts and American football matches. These events were an important contribution to Dublin’s economy.



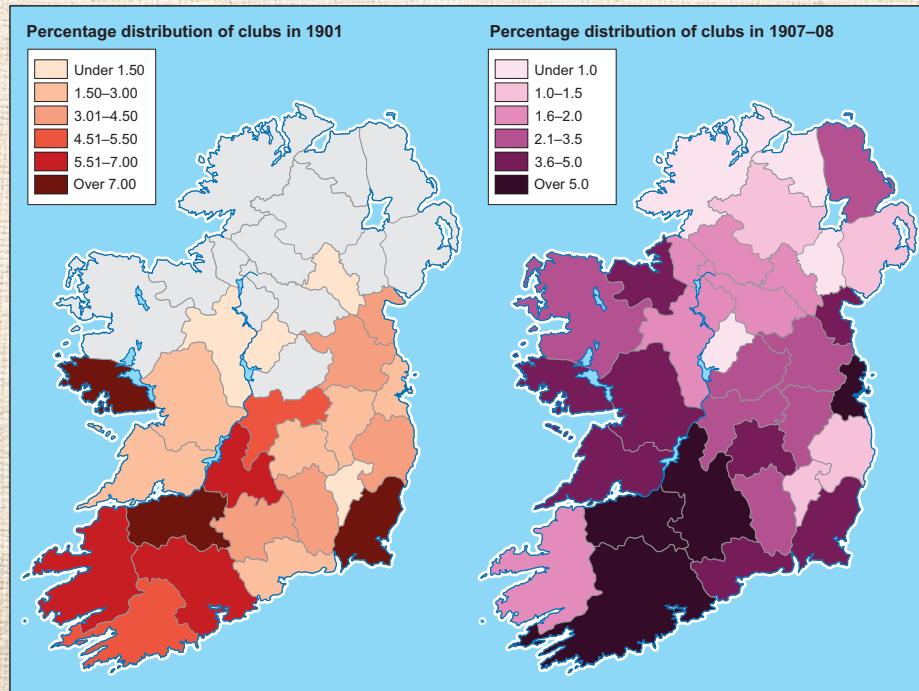
The modern development of Croke Park



Croke Park names

### Qsource 1

#### The spread of the GAA, 1901–08



#### SPACE AND TIME



- In what part of the country was the GAA **strongest** in 1901?
- Where was it weakest in 1901?
- Where was the GAA **weakest** in 1907–08?
- Can you suggest **reasons** for this?
- Identify **three counties** that had the highest distribution (spread) of clubs in 1907–08.
- Investigate **reasons** for the distribution of clubs in 1907–08.
- What **conclusions** can you draw about the **growth and impact** of the GAA in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century from your study of the maps?



1. Why do you think the GAA had to bring in rules?
2. What differences do you notice between the GAA rules of the 1880s and the modern rules in Source 2?
3. Why do you think was there a need to change the rules?

### Q Source 2

#### Comparing the Rules

Some playing rules of Gaelic Football, adopted in December 1884	Some Modern Rules of Football and Hurling
<p>There shall not be less than 15 or more than 21 players aside.</p> <p>The ground shall be at least 120 yards (110m) long by 80 yards (73m) in breadth and properly marked by boundary lines.</p> <p>Goal-posts shall stand at each end in the centre of the goal-line.</p> <p>The time of actual play shall be one hour.</p> <p>The match shall be decided by the greater number of goals. A goal is scored when the ball is kicked through the goalposts under the cross-bar.</p>	<p>The field of play shall be rectangular, and its dimensions shall be as follows:</p> <p>Length – 130m minimum and 145m maximum.</p> <p>Width – 80m minimum and 90m maximum.</p> <p>A team shall consist of 15 players.</p> <p>The playing time shall consist of two periods of 30 minutes each, but time shall be added on in each period for incidental or deliberate delays.</p> <p>[There are Exceptions when] the playing time shall consist of two periods of 35 minutes each.</p>
Some playing rules of Hurling, adopted in December 1884	
<p>The ground shall, when convenient, be at least 200 yards (183m) long by 150 yards (137m) broad, or as near to that size as can be got.</p> <p>There shall not be less than 14 or more than 21 players at the side in regular matches.</p> <p>The time of play shall be one hour and 20 minutes.</p> <p>No nails or iron tips allowed on the boots (strips of leather fastened to the soles will prevent slipping).</p> <p>The dress for hurling and football to be knee-breeches and stockings and boots or shoes.</p>	<p>In all hurling games and hurling practice sessions, it shall be mandatory for, and the responsibility of, each individual player to wear a helmet with a facial guard.</p> <p>A <b>goal</b> is scored when the ball is played over the goal-line between the posts and under the crossbar by either team.</p> <p>A <b>point</b> is scored when the ball is played over the crossbar between the posts by either team.</p> <p>The team with the greater final total of points is the winner.</p>

### Q Source 3

#### Leinster Hurling Final, 1921



Michael Collins throwing in the sliotar to start the 1921 Leinster hurling final between Dublin and Kilkenny, which was played in Croke Park on 11 September 1921



### Q Source 4

#### All-Ireland Hurling Final, 2017



Action from the 2017 All-Ireland Hurling Final between Galway and Waterford

What **differences** do you notice between hurling played in 1921 (Source 3) and modern hurling (Source 4)? What **similarities** do you notice?

## The GAA and the Rising

The GAA was part of the **separatist tradition**, which was linked with the cultural revival. Some believed that the revival of Gaelic culture could not be achieved without a fully independent country. These men and women, who were involved in the GAA and the Gaelic League, became involved in **political activity**.

There were also those who looked on the GAA as a cover for training young men for a future rising. This **Fenian** or **IRB** involvement had resulted in the Special Branch of the **Royal Irish Constabulary** (RIC) reporting on the activities of the GAA members and clubs. GAA members took part in the **centenary of the 1798 Rebellion**. They also opposed Royal visits to Ireland. The GAA **banned** members of the RIC from playing GAA (1897), and it **banned** GAA members from playing or watching 'foreign games', such as cricket, hockey, rugby and soccer (1905). As well as Parnell's funeral, the GAA was also involved in famous funerals such as that of James Stephens (1901) and John O'Leary (1907), both Fenians.

It was not surprising that members of the GAA took part in the **1916 Rising**, which grew out of the separatist tradition and the cultural revival.

### HISTORICAL JUDGEMENT

#### **The GAA and the 1916 Rising: 'The organisation claimed it played a major role, but the truth is more complex', writes Paul Rouse (26 November 2015)**

In the decades after 1916, the history of the Easter Rising was rewritten by men and women who wished to claim for themselves – or for the organisations they loved – a central part in the Rising. In sporting terms, the great example of this is provided by the GAA. The Association and its historians claimed that, unique among Irish sporting organisations, the GAA had provided the great bulk of the men who fought in 1916.

Like all the best myths, this is rooted in a certain truth: ... As William Murphy has written, GAA players were indeed more likely to have participated in the Easter Rising in Dublin than most other sectors of society. It appears that there were some 302 players from 53 clubs.

This total of 302 represents a little less than one-fifth of the estimated 1,500 to 1,800 rebels of Easter Week. There can be no denying that it represented a significant contribution.

Allowing for this, it is also the truth that in the immediate aftermath of the Rising the GAA behaved in a way that was entirely at odds with an organisation apparently in sympathy with rebellion. For example, the response of the GAA was to flat-out deny any involvement in 1916. It issued a statement saying that all allegations 'that the Gaelic Athletic Association had been used in furtherance of the objectives of the Irish Volunteers are as untrue as they are unjust'.

... More than that, there were also many more GAA men fighting in British army uniforms in France than there were in the GPO.

Any rounded account of the GAA's involvement in 1916 must acknowledge this basic truth – and accommodate it in any meaningful history of the Easter Rising.

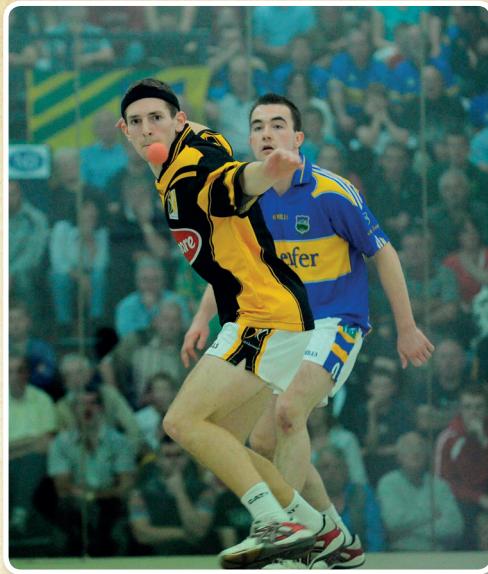
**(Dr Paul Rouse, lecturer in Irish History and Sports History at the School of History at University College Dublin (UCD); [www.independent.ie](http://www.independent.ie))**

1. How many GAA players took part in the 1916 Rising, according to this article?
2. How did the GAA react to the Rising?
3. Why were more GAA men in France at this time?
4. Summarise the GAA's part in the 1916 Rising.

See Croke Park and Bloody Sunday, p. 247

## Spreading the GAA

Handball is one of the four national sports. The GAA helped to set up the Irish Amateur Handball Association in 1924. Handball has an international dimension as Irish players compete against players from the USA, Canada, Australia and the UK, where the sport was taken through emigration. It is open to both males and females. Handball progressed in the 1960s when indoor courts were constructed. It is not a popular spectator sport.



Rounders is similar to baseball, and it is another of the four national sports promoted by the GAA. It is played by both males and females, and as a non-contact sport, it is open to many people.

The GAA has maintained links between the Irish Diaspora and the Irish in Ireland. The links between Gaelic games and Irish emigrants in the USA and the UK go back to the beginning of the GAA in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This continued through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Gaelic Park in New York, for example, became a centre for Irish emigrants who went to watch football and hurling matches on Sundays. The links were maintained through visiting county teams and All-Star selections. Modern emigration has strengthened those links, and expanded them now into Australia, Europe and Asia where GAA clubs have sprung up. These links between the GAA and the Irish Diaspora have helped tourism in the country.



## Camogie and Ladies Football

Camogie and Ladies Gaelic football are run independently of the GAA, but with its active support.

The Camogie Association (Cumann Camógaíochta na nGael) was founded in 1904 after a challenge camogie match had taken place in 1903. The inspiration for the development of camogie came from the Keatings Branch of the Gaelic League, in Dublin. The sport was developed from hurling.

Camogie spread gradually. By 1912, there were 22 clubs: Dublin – 11; London – 2; Wexford – 3; Meath – 2; Louth – 3. The first All-Ireland Championship was held in 1932.

It took much longer before ladies football was organised. The Ladies Gaelic Football Association was founded in 1974 after a number of tournaments were held in the years before that, and county boards were set up in some counties. The first All-Ireland championship was held that year. Both camogie and ladies football have benefitted from coverage by TG4. They have provided a **Gaelic outlet** for ladies to match the men's hurling and football. If they were absent, more younger ladies would be playing soccer and rugby as alternatives.



## The impact of GAA Clubs

The GAA depended on a **club and county structure**. The local club was based on the **parish**. Players grew up with their clubs and the clubs became the focus of matches on Sundays. **Competition** between neighbouring clubs and counties provided a strong motivation. Participation in games encouraged teamwork and discipline. Involvement in the club at all levels helped **blur class distinctions** in the countryside. Many **priests** were active in the administration of local clubs. This strengthened the relationship between the GAA and the Catholic Church.

As the 20<sup>th</sup> century progressed, the club became the focus of **social activity**, particularly in country areas. The club house often became the community centre for meetings, dances and concerts.

All the activity relating to the club was **voluntary** – whether administering or coaching, or maintaining the club grounds. It was also **amateur** as there were no payments involved. Voluntary and amateur became important **characteristics** of GAA life.

The structure of the GAA has encouraged and promoted **democracy** in Ireland. Its decisions come through its clubs, county boards and annual congress. This has consolidated the democratic (and parliamentary) tradition in the country.

► USING EVIDENCE

### Q Source 1

#### **GAA: The surviving, thriving third pillar of nationalist Ireland**

Is there an organisation anywhere comparable to the GAA? Run almost totally on a voluntary basis, it reaches into practically every community on the island of Ireland and with a success no other institution does.

It is the only one of those three great pillars of nationalist Ireland – itself, the Catholic Church and Fianna Fáil – to continue thriving uninhibited at home and abroad as the third decade of the 21st century beckons.

A huge source of the GAA's strength is attachment and loyalty to the local club, of which there are over 2,200 in all 32 counties of Ireland. There are a further 462 clubs abroad, 'wherever green is worn', – 83 in the UK; 71 throughout Europe; 132 in the US; 19 in Canada; 64 in Australia; and 22 in the Middle and Far East.

The centrality of so many clubs to life in small town/rural Ireland is not lost on the GAA either, for whom they are a critical strand in its success.

**(Patsy McGarry, The Irish Times, 24 July 2017)**

**QSource 2****Voluntary work**

Volunteers cut grass, put out fertiliser, brush off water from the goal areas, clean up after players, put out flags, line fields, pick up rubbish after people, fix netting, and fencing, repair plumbing, put up lights, collect at gates, run lottos, raise funds, organise games and trips away, communicate with players and public, attend meetings, attend meetings after meetings, take gear to the laundry, bring it back, coach, train, exhort, encourage, drive, hire, dig, delegate, negotiate, volunteer.

(Jerome O'Brien, GAA Oral History Project Archive, 2008)



1. What are the **three great pillars** of nationalist Ireland, according to Source 1?
2. Which of the three continues 'thriving uninhibited'?
3. How many clubs are there in 'all 32 counties of Ireland', according to Source 1?
4. How many clubs are there abroad?
5. Which place has the **greatest number** of those clubs? Can you **explain** why that place has the greater number of clubs?
6. According to Source 1, what is a 'critical strand' in the **success** of the GAA?
7. What does Source 2 tell you about the role of volunteers in the GAA?
8. What does Pat Fanning in Source 3 say is the great story of his life?
9. Are these sources **primary** or **secondary**?
10. Select **two opinions** and **one fact** using the three sources?
11. What are the **strengths** and **weaknesses** of **oral history**? Explain your answers using evidence from the sources.

**QSource 3****Development of fields**

The great story of my life is the story of the acquisition of fields and the development of those fields for GAA purposes and for Gaelic games alone.

Immediately roots were put down the club became the corner stone of life in a parish and so it has continued to this day. It is quite extraordinary to travel Ireland today and to see the church, the school and the GAA grounds occupying pride of place in the villages and the small towns of Ireland and in the rural places.

(Pat Fanning, President of the GAA (1970–73), GAA Oral History Project, 2008)

## How has the GAA 'moved with the times'?

The impact of the GAA is partly explained by the way the organisation has 'moved with the times': it has kept pace with changes in Irish society.

One example of that is the lifting of the **Ban** in Rule 27 on members playing in or attending soccer, rugby, cricket and hockey matches. This Rule was deleted in 1971 and it reflected a feeling that **barriers in society** should be brought down. It also reflected a **more inclusive society**, which developed during the 1960s. It showed how well the **democratic process** worked in the GAA.

## The Troubles and Rule 21

The **Troubles** in the North made life difficult for the GAA there. The GAA played an important role for nationalists in Northern Ireland. It allowed nationalists to express their **identity**. Nationalists could meet through the GAA's social activities.

Loyalists (extreme unionists) looked on the GAA as 'a nursery school' for republicans and nationalists. Some GAA members were murdered by loyalist organisations, security forces harassed its members and some of its grounds, in particular **Crossmaglen**, Co. Armagh were taken over by them.

However, the Troubles also provided another example of the GAA moving with the times. This occurred with the deletion of Rule 21, which banned members of the British Army and the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) from being members of the GAA. This had been introduced in 1897 and it reflected the separatist thinking of the time. But by 2001, there was a feeling that as the peace process progressed in the North, Rule 21 should be lifted to improve relations between nationalists and unionists.

## Historic rugby match

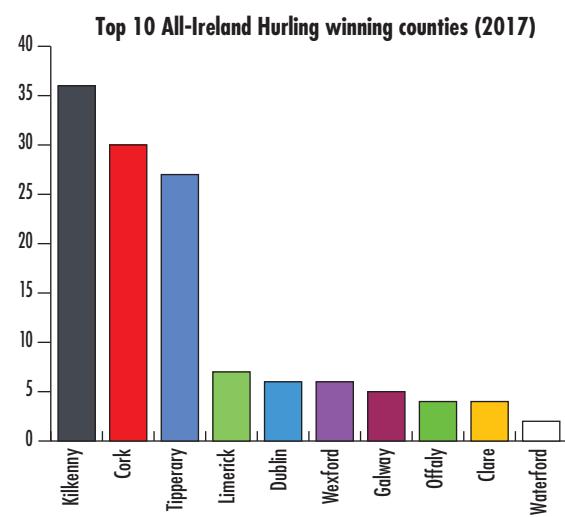
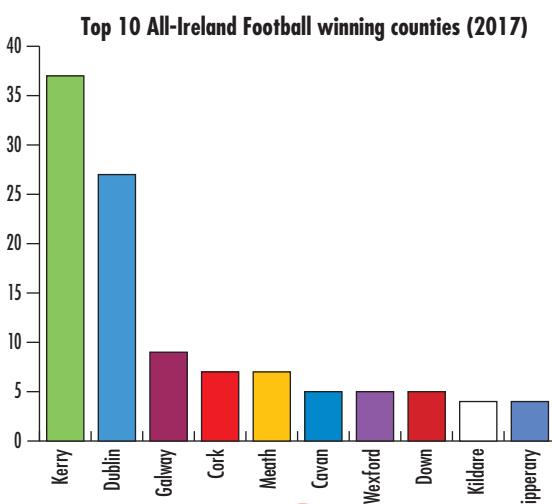
The GAA also contributed to one of the most significant sporting events of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century – the use of Croke Park as the venue for the historic rugby match between Ireland and England in 2007. To do this, the GAA had to amend Rule 42, which banned the playing of foreign sports in GAA stadiums. The match itself was very symbolic considering the events of Bloody Sunday in 1920, when 14 civilians were killed by British forces while they attended a Gaelic football match between Dublin and Tipperary in Croke Park (see p. 247). The holding of the rugby match in Croke Park contributed to greater understanding between the two countries.

## Maintaining Irish culture

The GAA continued the promotion of other aspects of Irish culture such as the Irish language, songs and dances. The GAA Club Manual encourages the promotion of Irish culture and heritage. Its own *Coiste na Gaeilge* promotes the use of the Irish language. In 1969, it set up Scór, a cultural contest for both young and old, in céilí, singing and storytelling. The competition was based on the club, county, provincial and national structure of the GAA.



A Scór competition



1. Which are the two most **successful** football and the two most **successful** hurling counties?
2. Which **counties** feature in **both** the Top 10 football and the Top 10 hurling counties?
3. Which **provinces** feature **most** in (a) the football and (b) the hurling winners?
4. Which **provinces** feature **least** in (a) the football and (b) the hurling winners?
5. Are there any connections between the spread of the GAA in the maps in p. 221 and the successful counties listed in these graphs?



p. 129

## Summary – impact of the GAA

- Prevented further Anglicisation
- Boosted the cultural revival
- Contributed to the political revolution of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Saved native games
- Promoted Irish athletics
- Developed local and community spirit
- Increased pride in Irish culture



The Ardagh Chalice from which the men's and ladies football trophies have been modelled



All-Ireland trophies



Who are the experts on the impact of the GAA on Irish life?



The Sam Maguire Cup for the winners of the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship



The Liam McCarthy Cup for the winners of the All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship



Aisling Thompson, Cork, passes the O'Duffy Cup, presented to the winners of the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship



Dublin's Sinead Goldrick and Cork's Roisin Phelan with the Brendan Martin Cup, presented to the winners of the All-Ireland Senior Ladies Football Championship

## INVESTIGATING A REPOSITORY OF HISTORICAL EVIDENCE FOR THE GAA

**GAA Museum,**  
[www.crokepark.ie/gaa-museum-tours/gaa-museum](http://www.crokepark.ie/gaa-museum-tours/gaa-museum)

### ▶ Preparing for CBA1

A project related to an aspect of the history of your locality or place  
 (or personal/family history)

p. 124 

#### LOCAL PROJECTS FROM THE IMPACT OF THE GAA

Your  
locality can  
include your  
county

- The history of your local GAA club
- A famous footballer or hurler from your county
- A famous ladies footballer or camogie player from your county
- A famous handballer from your county
- A famous event involving the GAA in your county
- Your family involvement in the GAA

### ▶ Preparing for CBA2

A project on the life and experience of a person of historical interest

#### PERSONS OF INTEREST FROM THE GAA

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Michael Cusack</li> <li>● Patrick Nally</li> <li>● Mick O'Connell</li> <li>● Enda Colleran</li> <li>● DJ Carey</li> <li>● Angela Downey</li> <li>● Marina Barry</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maurice Davin</li> <li>● Frank Dineen</li> <li>● James McCartan</li> <li>● Billy Morgan</li> <li>● Eddie Keher</li> <li>● Juliet Murphy</li> <li>● Deirdre Hughes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Archbishop Croke</li> <li>● Paddy Kennedy</li> <li>● Jimmy Keaveney</li> <li>● Christy Ring</li> <li>● Mick Mackey</li> <li>● Brige Corkery</li> </ul> |
|---|---|---|

### Focus Task

#### Historical Investigation

- ▶ Interview the oldest members of your local GAA club. What, do they think, has been the impact of the club on your local community?

