



Name: Mrs. Kate Glynn
From: Mullacuttra, Claregalway
Age: 85
Interviewers: Martina Hughes & Marie Duggan
Date: 20th August 1991

Marie So you were born in 1905?

Kate I was, yes.

Martina Do you know anything about ringforts in the area?

Marie Or any burial grounds maybe?

Kate No, I never heard of any.

Marie Did they all get married that young at that time?

Kate Ah no, they were waiting until they were 50 some of them, and they would be getting the pension.

Martina Do you remember anything about when the Black and Tans were around?

Kate I do, I remember the Black and Tans coming down across. Do you see where that field of oats is (across the other side of the road, opposite her house), the Republicans were coming down there, and weren't the neighbours very bad when they reported them. They weren't here that night when the Black and Tans came to the door and surrounded it. They didn't say "Open the door!" at all, but they broke the door in, and where my mother was, ya know, they pulled her out of the bed and she said "leave me alone" and she didn't know what they were going to do.

Marie Were they looking for people hiding, is it?

Kate They killed them. They thought they were Republicans, Free Staters or whatever; they would kill them and shoot them. When the Free State came out then after them, another state came then in the country. They were worse than them. They brought them down to Tuam and shot them below in it. Their comrades, imagine. That's Ireland for ya! In Galway, Tuam and all.

Martina What age were you when you went to school?

Kate I was six years when I went to school in Bawnmore, and there was a teacher there and he had a big long cob (beard), and when he'd be vexed he'd catch the cob and we'd be shakin', for he'd flake the hell out of us with a stick. Mr. O'Brennan was his name.

Marie Did you speak Irish in the school?

Kate Oh no, if you had good English, you were lucky.

Marie Was it later on the Irish came out?

Kate There was a half hour in the evening for Irish, only half an hour. We never learned three words of it.

Marie Do you have Irish now?

Kate I have ... if someone cursed, I'd know it.

Marie Did any of your family speak Irish?

Kate No, my father died when we were only seven and eight years. He had Irish and my mother came down from Athenry. Do you know the Healys? She came down eleven and a half miles up, and my father was awful fond of drink and when he'd bring her up home, he'd be above in Egans in Cashla and Roddy Kellys and he'd bring her home in the sidecar. She went off walking. She wouldn't go off at all with him in the sidecar. She'd walk the eleven and a half miles up and down. Maggie Healy was her name.

Marie The women weren't allowed in the pubs at all that time, were they?

Kate They were. They weren't going in because they hadn't the money to go in it. They'd be standing outside the door looking in to see would he bring out a glass of wine or something to them.

Martina How did you spend your free time after school?

Kate Playing ... with the Skerritts out there around the fields and makin "Pucin", going hiding and all them things, "hide and seek". That's all they'd ask us to do, put us out of the house entirely and they'd have ease then.

Marie Did they not get ye to do the jobs around the house at all?

Kate We were only spoiling it.

Marie Do you remember the names of the teachers you had?

Kate Mrs. Hegarty and Mr. O'Brennan. He was in the house below Bawnmore school ... he didn't care where he'd hit you, on the head, the hand, anywhere.

Marie Was the other teacher cross, then?

Kate Mrs. Hegarty, she was up from mayo. She was nice alright.

Martina Has life changed since you were married?

Kate Put down a pot of spuds for the supper and we'd throw them up on the table. The big pot would be that height, best potatoes and a cup of milk out of the churn, buttermilk, and that would be our meal for the supper and if we wouldn't have that, we'd have what we'd call the stirabout.

- Marie** **That was like porridge, wasn't it?**
Kate Yea, I don't know how you would spell it though.
- Martina** **What would you and your husband do for going out?**
Kate My husband was in America for ten years before I married him, anyone that's in America they are as grand. He came home, then we married. He is dead now 20 years, the Lord have mercy on him, and I am still living.
- Marie** **What was the farm size when you were younger?**
Kate Oh, the same size, 32 acres we had always, it never changed, statute acres ...
- Marie** **What kind of farming would you do?**
Kate We would sow an acre of potatoes, a half an acre of turnips, two acres of oats, an acre of wheat. Bring it down to the mill and make homemade bread and we'd be firing it around the place.
- Martina** **Do you remember anything about a bakery in Claregalway?**
Kate There was in Hughes. I don't know really ... was there one along the road, there was on in Hughes anyhow.
- Marie** **How did people cut their hay that time?**
Kate With a scythe. They'd sharpen it and they'd be going on cutting until they'd have a row cut, they'd come down again until they'd start another row. They'd turn it then and make small cocks. They'd be afraid it would heat, so they didn't make the big ones like they make now.
- Marie** **Did ye cut turf or are there any bogs around here?**
Kate We did, we have a bog in Waterdale always and they cut their own turf. They'd foot it then and bring it home, wheel it out in the horse and cart and they'd make a reek out of it.
- Marie** **Did you cut the turf with a slane?**
Kate Yes, they'd be firing it up and one would be taking it there then with their hands, they'd leave it in the barrow then and wheel it out ... that's what they do today now, I think.
- Marie** **Did ye sell milk, or any produce at all to any places?**
Kate No, we'd have milk to feed the calves, cows and all.
- Martina** **Do you remember any stories about the races in Loughgeorge?**
Kate I was at the races in Loughgeorge often myself. There was races in Loughgeorge and they were good races too, all the horses came up from Tuam and everywhere around. That did not last long though.

Marie What year was that, do you remember?
Kate Well, I was married anyhow in 1923. It was before that - 1922 maybe.

Martina Did that last long?
Kate Two days and the country horses would come in and they weren't much. They were the common horses. They didn't care, but to come anyhow. I was in there anyhow, five or six times in my life.

Marie When did electricity come into the place here?
Kate (To her sister) Were we in this new house when we got the electricity Bridget?
Bridget That's right, that's when we got it. 38 years ago.

Marie Did they all get electricity round the place then?
Kate They did. They didn't all get it, some of them didn't get it yet.

Marie Were they afraid of it that time in case it would burn anything.
Kate They were, they were terrible afraid of it.
Bridget Like the paraffin one time, for lighting the lamps.

Martina Do you have any stories about when a wake would be on in a house?
Kate I do. A crowd of young lads would come in, they'd be firing at the young girls, and going on, and the man of the house might be old and the woman too, and they wouldn't give a damn. Shoving and pushing and that'd be the night of dancin' or all night prayer. The way they'd go two miles to a wake to have a bit of fun.

Martina Would there be women then that would be crying at it, especially for the wake?
Kate Once, they'd get the bottle, they'd drink it and they'd be worse and all, then they'd be crying too.

Marie What was the means of transport when you were going to school? Did you walk?
Kate Across the walls there, down to Bawnmore, over the walls. The parents would be out "Go back as far as the stile, you'll fall over the walls", and you'd jump out over it, you wouldn't pay a bit of heed to them. The four of us together and that's it.

Martina Do you remember any of the furniture that was in the school?
Kate There was only one press in the school, and the teacher would have all our pencils above in it, and someone that wouldn't have a pencil would go up and bring one. She'd be asking who brought a pencil and no-one at all would tell her. Only one press they had and the teachers would keep them, and they

would buy them and sell them. Half of them wouldn't have pencils, they'd be asking the pencils of the others, and if they didn't get it then, they'd get a slap.

Marie Do you remember the 1916 Rising?

Kate I do.

Marie Was your father in it?

Kate My husband, John Glynn. He was in four battles in the first world war. He went to America and was taken out right over, he didn't want to go at all, but they pushed him out. Out to Germany and France for 14 months. He was in four battles, between the Germans, the Irish and Americans.

Marie Did he get injured?

Kate No, he married me and he was with me for 30 years, and he's 20 years dead now. I was 17 and 7 months when I got married, and I'm 83 (85) now ...

Marie Do you know anything about the Carnmore Cross Ambush?

Kate There was an ambush in it alright, I do. There was someone shot too in it.

Marie Egan, was it?

Kate Someone like that now, I forget ... there were Black and Tans first, then there was the Free State, and they were worse than the Black and Tans. They brought them down to Tuam, six Irish, and they shot them dead below in Tuam, the Free States, and the Black and Tans didn't do that at all.

Marie Was there anyone shot from around here?

Kate There was, Reagan? Down there in Corrandulla, O'Hagan? Was shot in Tuam. There was Fahy that was shot from Corrandulla, Clancy from Claregalway was shot. Fahy, Clancy and Quinn, there was four of them shot that I know. They were brought outside, shot at the wall, wasn't it shocking? Another Irishman to catch the gun and shoot them. What was that at all? Oh, 1921 or '22.

Martina Were there any dances on in the area?

Kate There were dances back in the road there in Mullaghuttra. They'd be scraping the road there and bringing up the small stones.

Martina Would many people go to them?

Kate Everyone around. If there was any strange fella there, didn't care who he was, if he was a stranger, he was nice.

Marie Who were the local doctors in the place?

Kate Well, there was never one around here. I never had a doctor myself. I had seven children. I was never in hospital, never got an injection.

Martina Do you remember anything about Nurse Keane when she was here?
Kate She was here very early in her life.

Marie Were all the seven children born at home?
Kate Every one of them. I hadn't a doctor with any of them.

Marie You don't remember about any blacksmiths or carpenters that were around here?
Kate Tarpey, down here. He was a blacksmith. He was one side of the crossroads. They were the blacksmiths we had.

Martina What home cures did you use?
Kate Any you'd think of at all. A cup of milk and a spoon of cornflour down in it if you had a sick tummy. Drink that and you'd be alright for the day, and you would be too.

Marie Did any seanachai's or story tellers come here?
Kate No, it's too far in the from the public road.

Marie What's the name of your priest here?
Kate Canon Callanan.

Marie Do you remember Canon Moran?
Bridget Why wouldn't we, we remember him well.

Kate He that married me.

Marie What did you think of him?
Kate Keep out from him ... he'd come in then to the stations and he'd lift up the table to see could he stir it, and if he could, you'd keep out. He'd lift the cloth then to see what was underneath it, had you it clean. Throw it down then, if it was dirty, throw it down and put up his own cloth. And I'm tellin you know you would keep out from him that time.

Marie Did you make your Communion to him?
Kate I did, he'd take the hair off your head if you didn't answer the question.

