



Cuimhneamh An Chláir  
 Clare Education Centre  
 Kilrush Road  
 Ennis, Co. Clare  
 Phone: 087 278 7463  
 Email: info@clarememories.ie  
 www.clarememories.ie

## Maggie OHalloran

INTERVIEW by [Geraldine Greene](#) on February 17, 2010

<b>Interviewee</b>	Maggie OHalloran
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Birth Date</b>	1918
<b>Area-Townland</b>	North Clare - Kilnamona
<b>Parish-Townland</b>	-
<b>Report Date</b>	December 30, 2015

Time	Description
<b>File 1 0:00:00 0:02:06</b>	FAMILY - Maggie was born in Ballyteigue, Ruan, 3 miles from Ruan village, Corofin, Crusheen & Tubber & 9 miles from Ennis. Family: Maggie youngest of family of 5; Mary was the eldest; 12 years between eldest & youngest; 2 sisters (Bridie was 8 years older than Maggie); Maggie has many nieces & nephews in USA one niece is 80 years old; Children not spoiled then; good memories of growing up in Ballyteigue Emigration: Her two sisters went to America in 1926 & 1927 while Maggie still living in Ruan; their mother missed them, lonesome without them especially after receiving their letters; one has passed away in New York; Mentions her grand-daughter Marie who is in Australia for few years; got her hurley & gear sent out (great camogie player, ex- club & county team).
<b>0:02:06 0:02:26</b>	SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENT, MUSIC & DANCING - Recalls house dances; mentions Barron, the travelling dancing master at their own & neighbours houses People enjoyed the country dances; Maggie danced sets from age 10; music from the wind-up gramophone; mentions Barron, the travelling dancing master at their own & neighbours houses.
<b>0:04:17 0:04:27</b>	HOUSES & NEIGHBOURS - Recalls people going & coming on cuaird; Mentions houses in Moyree & area - mostly empty now as people are deceased; refers to John Joe Cullinan, fiddler & singer; most of her age group have passed away; always having visitors on cuaird at night; people happy then all in same boat.
<b>0:02:26 0:03:37</b>	FAMILY & FARMING - Walked three miles to mass in Ruan; in later years her brother John got a horse & cart; recalls hard work & farming; her father died when she was young & still at school; her brother John took over the farm; had a donkey then he got a pony & trap; recalls tilling & ploughing with the pony; her brother John trained horses; work was hard; no electricity or running water water was got from the wells in tin cans used a cord onto the bucket & lowered it into the nearby lake; recalls going on the ass & cart with her mother. Children had little freedom then, no money, many jobs at home & on the farm; drawing water from the well; she recalls digging spuds at neighbours; little money; children visiting others houses; life different then to now; Maggie laments passing of neighbours in Ruan & old houses; Maggie talks house-building in recent years & about emigration now; people content then all in same situation. Children not spoiled then; good memories of growing up in Ballyteigue Farming; milked cows; land wet now has much planted; effects of rain & frost on land & fields in recent years; family always kept a garden; her uncle had a paid farm worker on their farm in

	Kilnamona.
<b>0:03:37 0:04:17</b>	SCHOOL DAYS - School days in Moyree, Ruan (now closed); she & family often walked barefoot to school; recalls Confirmation practices & taking the shortcut to Ruan; Recalls teachers residence was added to the school; recalls Miss Fitzgibbon, Miss Louise Burke & Miss ODea, Kilfenora; has mixed feeling re: school days; liked reading, Irish & history; 1 classroom; pupils/families brought the fire; no light paraffin lamp on the walls; recalls teachers & their families; needlework & knitting; Maggie preferred sewing to knitting; recalls the Inspector coming; no sport at school; some hurling at Ruan. She left school at 16; too far to go to secondary school in Ennis; some neighbours cycled to Ennis or boarded there; most finished at national school as they couldnt afford boarding; subjects she liked & disliked; teachers often did summer Irish courses.
<b>0:10:00 0:14:03</b>	MOVING TO KILNAMONA/MARRIAGE/SIBLINGS - Moving to Kilnamona at age 18 to her aunts & uncles house & farm milking cows & cooking; she disliked it at first it was different to life in Ruan; tells of her aunts and uncles in in Kilnamona & Ruan; her aunt died followed by her uncle died in 1947 at age 87; she met her husband at Kilnamona when he was home on holidays; marriage was not a match; got married to Michael (Micho) in 1941 at age 23 & settled into life at Kilnamona; she was last of the females in her family to wed; her brother John married after Maggie; her husbands brother was killed in the Second World War in 1941 in Egypt at age 23; information about her husbands siblings; Maggie recalls cycling & visiting her relatives at Inagh; Moved from old house to present house 1961.
<b>0:10:00 0:14:03</b>	Recalls cycling from Inagh to the holy well in Miltown & home to Ruan for the house stations
<b>0:14:03 0:19:00</b>	Returning home to Ruan after moving to Kilnamona; she often stayed there until she had children; her brother alone after his wife died; her mother eventually moved to Maggie's in Kilnamona; her mother died at age 87 in 1960.
<b>0:21:36 - 0:22:00</b>	SPORT & GAMES - Games played hurling at Ruan; Maggie has always enjoyed going to hurling games; many of her grandchildren & great grandchildren are players & many have been on local club, schools and county teams; talks about her grandsons & hurling.
<b>0:23:40 0:24:48</b>	TRANSPORT - She didnt learn to drive though her brother encouraged her to; recalls going to Ennis on the ass & cart with her mother; her brother John (12 years between them) had a donkey then he got a pony & trap.
<b>0:24:18 0:27:27</b>	FAMILY - Maggie names her children; her children born in hospital in Ennis & baptized straight away; talks about her husbands father being blind but not able to see his grandson; 2 daughters in America; her husband died in 1975; her sisters died in America in 1970 & 1973; Maggie has 26 grandchildren & 20 great grandchildren; family coming to Clare for occasions weddings & her 80th & 90th birthday celebrations; her dog.
<b>0:27:27 0:32:15</b>	LIFE NOW - Weather now & weather in past; recalls bad rain in 1951; good health; lots of visitors; has home help now; attend Mass & goes many places; attends & enjoys the Day Care Centre in Kilmaley (previously went to Ennistymon); Maggie occasionally goes to pubs Changes & comparing life now to past & many changes; house-building in recent years; Maggie occasionally goes to pubs & music; women now V in past; parents didnt let them out in past times; life better generally; Geraldine refers to the 1949 video re: life in Kilnamona which Maggie has seen her daughter married to youngest of family of 16 (brother of film maker who lived in USA); talks about names now V in past Maggie has travelled to USA to family members 9 times, first time in 1967; Health now; rarely in hospital for illness; her children born in hospital in Ennis & baptized straight away; she didnt learn to drive though her brother encouraged her to; her life in present days & activities; keeps contact with family visits, by phone but she doesnt write as much now. her husbands brother was killed in the Second World War in 1941 in Egypt at age 23 killed in a transport accident.
<b>File 2 0:00:00 0:01:04</b>	Going to the well; field name; hard work; no desire to return days of hard work with no electricity; though people were happy & content -all in same boat; farming

	people helped one another making reeks & threshing; her brother John grew corn in Ruan as did Geraldines grand-father Henry Greene (& Maggie's neighbour) in Kilnamona.
<b>File 3 0:00:00 0:00:40</b>	File 3 Maggie went to dances in Ruan rarely to dances in Ennis; didn't go out when her children were small.
<b>0:00:40 0:01:30</b>	Involvement in ICA for many years; recalls when she & friend enjoyed tea & a smoke after a meeting.
<b>0:01:30 0:02:47</b>	MIKE MCTIGUE, BOXING CHAMPION - Maggie remembers hearing about McTigue & has literature about him; marriage connection between her nephew & McTigue family.
<b>0:02:47 0:05:02</b>	WAR YEARS - Recalls World War II, local men involved, rationing books, eg. flour & washing powder; her sisters in America often send home packets of tea; her sisters return boat trip to America postponed for many months because of war & neighbours not being able to return home; mentions Titanic & only survivor who died previous year.
<b>File 5 0:0:00 0:01:34</b>	Trips to America - First time to New York in 1966; big change from Ireland; mentions visiting & meeting people; nights in her house before her sisters emigrated.