

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2010
<b>Location</b>	The McLoughlin's Home, near Edgeworthstown, Co. Longford
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tom & Nora McLoughlin, John & Anna McGerr
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Tom, John: Male; Nora, Anna: Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> Tom: 1934; Nora: 1935; John: 1930; Anna: 1937 <b>Home County:</b> Tom, John, Anna: Longford; Nora: Cork
<b>Education</b>	N/A
<b>Family</b>	N/A
<b>Club(s)</b>	Mostrim GAA
<b>Occupation</b>	N/A
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	N/A
<b>Religion</b>	N/A
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

**REFERENCE NO. LD/1/8**

<b>Date of Report</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1890s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Longford, Louth, Meath, Cavan, Great Britain, England, Americas, USA
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>The McGerrs and the McLoughlins reflect on their involvement with the GAA in general and specifically with Mostrim GAA Club, Longford. The McLoughlins also discuss their involvement with the GAA in New York and socialising with other Irish people in Gaelic Park on Sundays. Both couples outline the history of Mostrim GAA Club and recall its successes since 1974, when the senior team won the county championship. Furthermore, they discuss the effects of emigration on the club, involvement with Scór, the lifting of the ban on foreign games and dances, and the financial challenges of running a club.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:39 Anna recalls her earliest GAA memory: her brothers playing football. Teaching in Cooley, Louth, the year Louth won the 1957 All-Ireland Senior Football Final. Teaching Stephen White's niece, Sam Maguire cup brought to school. Starting going to matches, playing camogie, 2 medals with Louth. Her brother playing with county.</p> <p>02:10 Tom recalls his father's involvement in local club, county board delegate, Longford team selector in late 1930s, early 1940s. Remembers game in Mullingar between Longford and Dublin in 1942. His father taking him by bicycle to local games. Mentions Hughie Devine's contribution to the GAA.</p> <p>03:44 Nora recalls watching Tom play for Offaly in Gaelic Park</p>

	<p>in New York. Socialising with Irish people in Gaelic Park. Tom refereeing.</p> <p>04:51 John praises Tom McLoughlin's efforts at fundraising events in the club. Recalls playing football at school. Buying a football at Barney Hughes in 1940s. Playing football in a field in Ringowney. Parish league. The Heather Williams. No organised schools matches, playing minor football in Ballinalee in 1946. Mentions Joe Regan referee. Also mentions Donal Hyland, Johnny Lynn. Start of senior and junior team in early 50s. Playing with junior team. Winning junior leagues in 1958 and 1960. Winning junior All-Ireland ploughing title. Role of selector.</p> <p>09:03 Tom discusses his GAA career. Playing minor for Longford in 1952, on panel of junior team. Two clubs, going senior in Edgeworthstown. Effects of emigration in 1955, 1956 to England and America, Tom going to New York. Playing for Offaly, winning New York championship in 1950s. Playing junior with Longford in New York too. Returning to Ireland in 1964, playing with local club. Outlines successes since then. Selector and secretary of club, other administration roles. Treasurer of county board, referee.</p> <p>12:38 Discusses his role of treasurer. Joint signature of cheques. Strict about mileage. Gate money, £10,000 float. Security precautions he took. Role of guards.</p> <p>14:53 Anna recounts her camogie playing career. Lack of skill. Starting in Cooley. Love of physical activity. Also playing basketball and tennis at boarding school. Discussion about start of hurling in Edgeworthstown. Her sons playing football. Anna describes Louth colours: blue and white. Mentions Cooley Kickhams.</p> <p>17:22 Tom mentions playing with Louth captain Dermot O'Brien in New York. Anna recalls celebrations in Louth after All-Ireland win. Dances in hall in Cooley, celebrations in Bush Technical School.</p> <p>19:08 Discussion of history of Mostrim GAA Club. Founded in 1891. Mentions Liam Madden. Tom reads from book about GAA, mentions first team: P. Leahy, PJ Green, Mick Grimes, Fox, Brennan, Dempsey, Flynn, Gilchrist families.</p> <p>21:06 Tom recounts stories from his father's involvement in the organisation. His father a selector when Tom was trying to get on team. Stories about intense debates at board meetings. His father winning medals at intermediate championships in late 1920s, early 1930s. Political split</p>
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	<p>between North Longford and South Longford. Political split in Edgeworthstown, De Valera side vs. Cosgrave's side, two teams. Mentions Manor Gaels: Liam Green, Joe Gilchrist, McCabes, Paddy Touhill.</p> <p>23:51 John describes fight at match. Tom had to stay home and make hay. Mentions Scotty Green, Tom Heaney, Tom O'Keeffe, Johnny Lynn. Late 1940s. Illegal player. Also mentions Dinny Gray, Jimmy Gray. They lament lack of fights nowadays.</p> <p>25:51 Anna recalls excitement of years from 1974 to 1985 in Mostrim. Rivalry. They outline successes and failures of club. Mentions John Smith and Tommy Gallagher. Losing game because opposing team said rosary at half-time. John describes winning 1985 Longford Senior Football Championship. Mentions Mel Noonan.</p> <p>28:41 Tom reflects on the social aspect of the GAA in the parish. Dinner dances, topic of conversation in pubs and shops. John reflects on contribution of losing teams to the club, no photographs of losing teams. Mentions Hugh Devine, grounds named for him.</p> <p>30:10 Tom ponders the importance of catering to underage teams in clubs. Mentions Pearse Tuite and Kieran Tuite, John Green, Clarkes, Smiths, start of successful 1967 minor team. Progress to successful senior team. Loyalty to club. Mentions John Hughes, Anna's brother, playing in Edgeworthstown and Grangegorman in Dublin. Illegal playing.</p> <p>32:47 John outlines the history of the Manor club. Recalls starting playing aged 17, mentions Tom Heaney, Willie Heaney. Tom mentions Jack Gilchrist, Tommy Gilchrist, and Joe Gilchrist. The Manor Mill.</p> <p>34:33 Discussion of rivalry between The Manor and Mostrim. Minor players playing illegally overage. Tom mentions Mattie Regan, Liam Egan, Sean Barry. More All-Ireland tickets for counties with more clubs.</p> <p>35:59 Description of fields matches played in. John recalls making a goal out of poles and a rope in Ringowney. Running dances, musician Christy Ross. 15-drives. Cycling and walking to matches years ago. First cars in village.</p> <p>38:13 Tom and John recall cycling to Mullingar for matches, 18 miles each way. Others cycling to Croke Park. John recalls going to Croke Park to All-Ireland finals by train, staying with aunt in Clontarf, queuing early to go to Croke Park. Tom</p>
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	<p>remembers watching Meath play Cavan in 1949 in Croke Park. Quality of pitch in Edgeworthstown. First club to build dressing rooms in Longford.</p> <p>41:03 Tom describes buying pitch from Hughes family in town. Committee. Mentions Kevin Tuite. Voluntary work uprooting trees, digging ditch. Mentions Kevin Tuite. Fundraising with carnivals, collecting money from parishioners. Mentions Frank Quinn, Christy Kennedy. Decision to build dressing rooms. Card drives. John mentions Seamus Kiernan, Shane Dockery. Stable financial position of club, comparison with other Longford clubs with debts.</p> <p>44:56 Discussion about club names: Edgeworthstown Volunteers before Mostrim in the late 1930s. Underage team called Wolfe Tone's.</p> <p>45:32 Role of politics in the GAA in the area. 1930's split. Parnell's time.</p> <p>46:14 John mentions his grandfather, Phil Hourican, winning one of the first GAA medals in Longford. St. Colmcille's. Tom reads out Hourican's teammates from book, including Danny Hanlon, Hughie McGovern, Phil McKeown, Brian Mulligan, Mike McLnerney, John Clarke, John McDowell.</p> <p>47:43 Outline of history of the parish. John mentions Mrs Waters, teacher in Protestant school in town. No distinction between different religions.</p> <p>49:49 Tom recalls training in Prospect Park in Brooklyn. GAA involvement preventing him from getting homesick. Dances in Gaelic Park. Bad quality of Gaelic Park pitch, dusty. Socialising. Corn beef and cabbage dinner on Sundays.</p> <p>53:08 Tom describes how he got involved in refereeing. Mixed reactions from people. Mentions Fr. Cremins. Refereeing Under-16 Fr. Manning Cup final. Mentions John Green, Pearse Tuite, Kieran Tuite, John Smith, Philip Kinney, Paddy Noonan. Enjoyment of refereeing. Recounts story of refereeing game between Colmcille's and Dromard, sending off several players. Mentions Fr. Noonan.</p> <p>56:27 Discussion about lack of role of priests in clubs after 1930s and 40s. Mentions Fr. Lynch, Fr. McLoughlin, Fr. Boylan, Fr. Healy. Lack of involvement of teachers. Mentions Master Madden. No Gaelic games in convent. Anna mentions Bridie Connell, Maura Kelly. Rise of ladies football in schools now. John mentions soccer. His involvement in community games.</p>
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## REFERENCE NO. LD/1/8

	<p>01:00:02 Description of flouting ban on foreign games and dances. Their views on the ban. Opening of Croke Park to rugby matches, financial benefits for GAA.</p> <p>01:01:53 Tom reflects on decisions made in his time on county board. Development of Pearse Park, building facilities. Fundraiser: corporate race day in Punchestown. Financial challenges of clubs today. Importance of local lotto.</p> <p>01:04:24 Current sponsor: Keane's Costcutter in Edgeworthstown. First sponsors: Dickie Tuite, Kosangas in late 1980s. Discussion about ban on sponsorship before this. Involvement of Cadbury's, Supervalu, and Centra in sponsoring All-Ireland champions.</p> <p>01:05:57 Description of training in club. Running laps of field. John recalls unofficial training when he was young, kicking ball around, manual work, pitch and toss. Less alcohol drunk then. Tom describes playing at minor county level. Mentions Barry McGuinness.</p> <p>01:08:17 Tom discusses the boost to the club when players played for county. Mentions Liam Tierney, Mickey and Kevin Hughes, Gerry Lynn. Difference between playing for club and county: pace. Comparison of fitness levels today. Tom mentions Brian Smith. Differences between football played in 1985 and today. More passing. Mentions Ger Smith. Also mentions Conor Tuite.</p> <p>01:13:47 Anna and Nora describe their involvement in the GAA as supporters. Milking cows, no car during husband's absence. Their children and grandchildren involved in the GAA.</p> <p>01:15:29 Description of club's involvement in Scór. Importance of Scór competitions. Commitment of competitors, demands of time and energy. Nora mentions Bernadette Walsh, Margaret Leavy. Anna recalls frustration of practice for recitation aspect of Scór.</p> <p>01:18:34 John recalls his best memory: Mostrim winning the senior county final in 1974. Tom describes winning the semi-final that year as his best memory. His worst memory: losing to the Longford Slashers in 1955. Description of celebrations in 1974. John mentions Ned 'The Tangler' Flood, Declan Dockery, Jimmy McGovern.</p> <p>01:21:44 John mentions losing the 1958 junior final as his biggest disappointment.</p> <p>01:22:54 Nora describes the excitement of the ballad group</p>
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**REFERENCE NO. LD/1/8**

	<p>winning the All-Ireland junior final. Anna recalls her proudest moment as when Kevin Hughes won Man of the Match. Her disappointment losing county finals.</p> <p>01:24:42 Anna reflects on the culture heritage represented by the GAA. Uniqueness. Nora ponders the pleasure of going to football matches. Tom describes prioritising the GAA over his work. John reflects on the role of the GAA as a pastime. Frustrations of AGMs.</p>
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	N/A
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:28:09
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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**REFERENCE NO. LD/1/8**

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_12/06/12\_\_\_\_\_

