

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2010
<b>Location</b>	Martin's home, near Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow.
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Martin Nevin
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1939 <b>Home County:</b> Carlow
<b>Education</b> (Optional)	<b>Primary:</b> Leighlinbridge National School <b>Secondary:</b> Carlow Technical School <b>Third Level:</b> Old Marine College, Ringsend, Dublin.
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 5 sisters and 4 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Roseleen); 2 daughters and 1 son.
<b>Club(s)</b>	Leighlinbridge GAA
<b>Occupation</b>	Lecturer in Engineering at Carlow Institute of Technology
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	General Worker [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil (former Chairman of Carlow County Council 1985-86)
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Carlow Historical Society – President and Editor of 'Carlowvianna', Irish Vocational Association (IVA), Association of Vocational Educational Colleges (AVEC)

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	Member of the board of Leighlinbridge National School, Various other parish committees throughout the years.
<b>Date of Report</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1880s - 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Carlow, Kilkenny, Dublin, The Americas, Canada, Toronto
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Socialising, Food and Drink, Economy/Economics, Emigration
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Martin talks about his involvement in the GAA over the years and the place of the Association in his village of Leighlinbridge. He talks about being born in the village in 1939 and what life was like in Carlow. He describes how there are three GAA clubs in the parish and talks about the history of these clubs. Martin talks about the different rivalries around the county and who he considers to be his club's biggest rivals. He discusses his family's involvement in the GAA and going to matches with his brothers and how they got there. Martin talks about the impact of emigration in Carlow and the effect of the Famine on the region. He describes his brother's role in setting up a GAA club in Toronto in Canada. He notes the high number of well-known people that have come from Leighlinbridge and their various pasts. He talks about the link between the GAA and politics and gives his opinion on this. Towards the end of the interview, Martin discusses what the GAA has meant to him and the place that the Association has in the community.</p> <p>00:11 Martin talks about his youth, his family and growing up in Leighlinbridge.</p> <p>01:03 Discusses his family's involvement in the GAA. His sister Kathleen played camogie for Carlow. Playing Gaelic games on the street and on a green area that belonged to a local landlord.</p> <p>03:27 Talks about the history of Leighlinbridge and what the village was like when he was young. The first village in Ireland to win a gold medal for the Octan Floral Flower</p>

	<p>competition in 2001.</p> <p>06:10 Recalls the sugar factory in Carlow town as the main source of employment in the local area and discusses the other types of employment around the village.</p> <p>07:55 Talks about how there were no Gaelic games in school when he attended but there was a local sergeant, Gerrity, who organised games for them.</p> <p>09:13 Describes how there are 3 GAA clubs in the parish, Leighlinbridge, Old Leighlin and Ballinabranna. Discusses the history of these clubs. Mentions the Hayden brothers, Paddy Dowling and Paddy and Martin Dermady.</p> <p>10:28 Talks about the prominence of football in the area and the growth of hurling in the 1960s.</p> <p>11:53 Discusses the history of Leighlinbridge GAA club and where the club got their colours from.</p> <p>14:17 Talks about how a nearby team, Graiguecullen, used to be in the Laois league before joining the Carlow league and then going back to Laois.</p> <p>15:30 Talks about the Battle of Rathoath between Graiguecullen and Milford. Mentions in Martin Lynch.</p> <p>16:38 Discusses his own playing career.</p> <p>17:28 Talks about how they played handball beside his house. No soccer or rugby in the area Mentions Dr Doyle and Jim Loughlin.</p> <p>20:05 Describes how Leighlinbridge had a big population in the 1800s but this dipped severely during and after the Famine years.</p> <p>21:17 Talks about dances in Leighlinbridge when he was younger. Mentions a man called Tynan from Kilkenny who came and showed films. Going to see the pictures in Bagenalstown.</p> <p>22:40 Describes how it is only in the last ten years that the club has had its own facilities. Previously depended on local farmers for pitches. Mentions Myles Keogh and Lyons’.</p> <p>23:50 Discusses the club’s main rivals. Bagenalstown, the Gaels in Borris, Tullow, Carlow town, Ballymurphy and Clonmore.</p> <p>24:42 Talks about how the main man of the club was the</p>
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	<p>chairman. Provided boots and gear for those who didn't. No training in his day. People were naturally fit. Gives his opinion on modern training.</p> <p>27:57 Describes the different ways they got to matches, mainly cycled.</p> <p>28:38 Talks about how the club's jerseys lasted for 30 years, everyone used them. A woman in the town would wash them.</p> <p>30:00 Recalls the 1946 minor county final and how all the players got in to the one lorry to be driven to Dr Cullen Park in Carlow town.</p> <p>31:18 Describes listening to Michael O'Hehir describing the 1947 All-Ireland football final from a radio in the village.</p> <p>33:15 Talks about the role of the GAA in his parish and what it provides for people. Mentions Michael Davitt.</p> <p>37:12 Discusses his first experience of watching county football. Taking his father's bike to see Carlow play Meath in 1949.</p> <p>37:54 Going to Croke Park for the first time in 1953. Travelling by a hired bus. Recalls a story his brother told him how they cycled to Athy in 1945.</p> <p>39:29 Recalls his trip to Croke Park to see Carlow play Mayo in 1953. Bringing a packed lunch. The excitement and the entertainment on the bus coming home.</p> <p>42:13 Talks about Leighlinbridge's championship win in 1957 and the celebrations afterwards.</p> <p>43:32 Recalls how her sister got injured playing camogie.</p> <p>44:35 Discusses the issue of emigration in Carlow the late 1940s and early 1950s.</p> <p>46:13 Talks about how the club survived down through the years. Holding dances and lotteries for fundraising.</p> <p>48:14 Highlights the importance of volunteers in the GAA and how it should remain an amateur organisation.</p> <p>49:24 Discusses the biggest changes in the GAA down through the years. Changes in skills and the way the game is played. Changes from ground hurling.</p> <p>52:19 Talks about playing Gaelic games in the Carlow Technical School.</p>
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	<p>53:00 Attending the old Marine College and living in Dublin. Mentions Tom Kiernan.</p> <p>54:33 Discusses how his brother was a founding member of St Patrick's GAA Club in Toronto in Canada. Mentions Seamus Howlin. Emigrated in 1965. Talks about his brother's footballing record. Going to see matches when he visited him there. Mentions his nephew Johnny Nevin who has played both hurling and football for Carlow.</p> <p>59:05 Talks about the Johnny and Paddy McDonald who played with Dublin, the Railway Cup and the Tailteann and whose parents were from Leighlinbridge. Discusses their political activities in the early 1920s.</p> <p>01:01:54 Discusses writing an article about the McDonald brothers in the Carloviana, a publication by the Carlow Historical and Archaeological society. Played with O'Tooles. Mentions Sean O'Casey and Paddy Macken.</p> <p>01:03:51 Talks about the connection to the Easter Rising in 1916. Mentions the nurse Keogh and her family??? Commemorated at St James Hospital.</p> <p>01:06:03 Discusses Cardinal Patrick Moran, the first Cardinal of Australia who was born in Leighlinbridge. Returned from Australia in 1902. Mentions Archbishop Dr Croke.</p> <p>01:06:45 Talks about John Tyndall, a famous scientist who came from the area and who was head of the Royal Institute of Great Britain. Mentions Michael "Mr Electricity" Faraday.</p> <p>01:08:18 Notes all the famous people who have come from the area including Robert Donovan, first editor of the Irish Catholic newspaper, chair of English in UCD and first censor for literature. Mentions William J. Delaney, president of the National University and involved in the Catholic University.</p> <p>01:10:24 Recalls being chairman of Carlow County Council and the connection with the GAA. Mentions Paddy Carpenter, former Carlow footballer, John Brown, former TD, Jim Lawlor of Graiguecullen and Michael Deering.</p> <p>01:11:58 Talks about the connection between the GAA and politics. Mentions Sean Flanagan, Jimmy Deenihan, Jack Lynch, John Wilson and Brian Lenihan.</p> <p>01:13:23 Highlights the price of going to Croke Park and the difference in grounds around the country like Kilkenny and Carlow.</p>
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	<p>01:15:15 Talks about how he has no real disappointments in the GAA.</p> <p>01:15:45 Recalls his favourite GAA memory. Regrets the demise of Railway Cup on St Patrick's Day and the popularity of the cup in the past.</p> <p>01:18:25 Gives his opinion on umpires in the current game. Highlights the Leinster final.</p> <p>01:19:49 Optimistic about the future of the GAA in Carlow and nationally. Highlights the problem of expense and over training. Mentions Willie O'Connor.</p> <p>01:22:22 Talks about what the GAA means to him and the impact on his life. Against the prevalence of celebration in pubs.</p> <p>01:24:45 Mentions his grandnephew who plays with De La Salle in Waterford. Mentions John Rogers and John Shaw.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" 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>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played juvenile, minor and junior hurling and football for Leighlinbridge in the 1950s.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Organiser of GAA Centenary Book: <i>A Distinguished Community Service: Leighlinbridge GAA, 1888-1988</i></p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:26:35</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>

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**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012