## GAA Oral History Project

# **Interview Report Form**

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	24 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2010
Location	Tony's home, Boyle, Co. Roscommon
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tony Conboy
<u> </u>	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1946
	Home County: Roscommon
Education	Primary: Castlecoote NS, Co. Roscommon
	Secondary: CBS Roscommon
	Third Level: UCG
Family	Siblings: 6 brothers & 3 sisters
	Current Family if Different: Married to Ann with 3 sons
Club(s)	Fuerty [Roscommon]; UCG [Galway]; Boyle [Roscommon]; Roscommon [New York]
Occupation	Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	St. Patrick's Day Parade; Scouts; Musical Society; UCG Historical Society

Name of Interviewee (Maiden	John Joe Nerney
name / Nickname)	
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1922
	Home County: Roscommon
Education	<b>Primary:</b> Boyle NS, Co. Roscommon; Ballinameen National School, Co. Roscommon
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married to Agnes with 3 sons
	and 2 daughters
Club(s)	Boyle
Occupation	Postman; Railway; County Council Helper on Lorry; Army
Parents' Occupation	Gamekeeper on Lloyds Estate (Fa); Laundry Worker (Mo)
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
Period Covered	1880s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Roscommon, Dublin, Americas, USA, Great Britain, England, Galway, Cavan, Mayo, Kerry, Donegal
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Celebrations, Fundraising, Education, Emigration, Involvement in the GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Professionalism
Interview Summary	John Joe and Tony talk about their experience with Roscommon, Boyle and Fuerty GAA. John Joe focuses particularly on his involvement with the 1944 Senior Football All-Ireland winning Roscommon team; recalling the atmosphere on the day, his team-mates and the celebrations. Tony talks of his interest in the history of the Association in Roscommon and of his memories of the great Roscommon teams of the 1940s. He also discusses his memories of playing in New York in the 1960s.
	00:00 Introduction
	00:38 John Joe recalls the Ballinameen teams of his youth. Mentions the Connors, Harry Connor and Paddy Kenny.
	01:20 John Joe remembers coming to Boyle and playing football. Refers to the types of ball they used.
	02:00 John Joe talks about Martin Regan establishing a Minor team in 1938.
	02:25 Tony gives a brief account of Boyle and Roscommon GAA in the late 1930s and 1940s. Mentions Liam Gilmartin.
	02:58 John Joe discusses Dan O'Rourke and Roscommon teams of the 1940s. Tells a number of stories about Owensie Hoare. Mentions Castlerea GAA. Mentions Jimmy Murray, Joe Stafford, Phelim Murray and Peter Solan. Mentions Cavan and Mayo.
	05:39 Tony talks about the progress of Roscommon football around this period. Recalls John Joe becoming involved. Mentions the Minor Championships 1939, 1941, the Junior Championships 1940, the Connacht Senior Finals in 1941,

1942, 1943, the All-Ireland Championship 1943, 1944.
07:28 John Joe describes his playing style and his place in the team. Refers to coaching. Mentions Donal Keenan, Frank Kinlough.
08:30 Tony recalls the importance of Dan O'Rourke, who was Chairman of the County Board at the time, and John Joe Fahy during the War Years. Also refers to Roscommon CBS. Mentions Tarmon in Leitrim and Tarmon in Castlerea. Mentions Brother Maloney, Brendan Lynch, Liam Gilmartin, Phelim Murray, Bill Carlos, Jimmy Murray. Mentions St Patricks, Knockcroghery.
10:55 John Joe talks about collective training with the Roscommon team. Compares this to modern training. Mentions Castlerea.
11:56 Tony recalls the All-Ireland Championship campaign of 1946. Mentions Laois and Kerry. Mentions Tommy Murphy, Brosnan, Kennedy, Cremin, Jimmy Murray.
13:39 John Joe explains what some people think went wrong with the 1946 team. Both refer to John Joe's attitude towards losing.
14:17 Both talk about the 1947 All-Ireland campaign. Mentions Cavan, Kerry, New York. Mentions the Polo Grounds. Mentions Michael O'Hehir, Gerry O'Malley, Liam Gilmartin.
16:40 Tony explains Liam Gilmartin's reasons for retiring from football. John Joe talks about his importance to the Roscommon team at the time. Mentions his wife. Mentions Brendan Lynch.
18:57 John Joe recalls an incident that happened in a match against Kerry. Both then go on to discuss the Roscommon team. Mentions Owensie Hoare, JP Callaghan, John Cassidy, Liam Carlos, Brendan Lynch and Phelim Murray.
20:04 Tony describes how Dan O'Rourke stepped down from his position as County Chairman in 1948. Refers to a national teachers strike. Mentions Fianna Fáil. Mentions Dublin.
21:06 John Joe recites a little rhyme.
21:35 John Joe recalls how he used to put the cogs in his boots. Explains where they got footballs when he was younger. Mentions Gayle Cox. Recalls an incident involving his uncle.

24:25 John Joe talks about the roughness of the club matches when he played.
24:55 The pair discusses John Joe's fitness and health. Refers to jobs he used to have. John Joe talks about his time as a postman. They mention his marathon running, including the Dublin Marathon. John Joe recalls having seven heart attacks. Mentions Dr McHugh.
28:05 John Joe remembers playing football in school with a small ball. Mentions Tony Regan, Master Mannion, Eddie McDonagh Roe's field. Talks about the fields where they used to play.
29:05 John Joe remembers playing handball. Tony discusses handball in Boyle in the 1930s. Refer specifically to Paddy Perry and a record he set in Dublin. Mention Quigley, Gaughran's, Paddy Reid, Peter Berry. Mention Casey's Alley. Mentions billiards.
31:55 John Joe talks about his brother's and his father's jobs. Mentions Lloyds Estate in Croaghan. Recalls going to live with his uncle in Ballagh in Ballinameen parish. Refers to a tradition of GAA in the Nerney family. Mentions the potteries in Stoke-on-Trent. Mentions Stanley Matthews.
34:00 John Joe recalls an incident that happened at a game while he was playing for Roscommon. The pair talks about John Joe's introduction to the county team. Mention Phelim Murray, Jimmy Murray, Edwin Dooley. Mentions Sligo.
36:00 John Joe remembers training with the county team. Recalls the atmosphere and how they passed their time in the evenings. Mentions St. Coman's Park. Mentions Mrs Penny in the Old Infirmary.
38:00 Tony tells of a motto the team used to remember their tactics.
38:30 John Joe talks about Billy Keogh, the county trainer. Recalls incidents at games against Sligo, Laois and Wicklow. Mentions Seán Flanagan, Tommy Murphy and Gerry Reilly. Mentions Croke Park.
40:56 John Joe discusses how he was able to take time off work for training and playing. Mentions travelling by car to Dublin for the All-Ireland in 1944. Mentions the Belvedere Hotel and Barry's Hotel.
42:04 John Joe recalls getting sick before a game and how

he treated it. Mentions Westland Row.
43:10 John Joe talks about how he spent the morning before the All-Ireland final in 1944. Gives his impressions of Croke Park on the day. Discusses the decline in his health. Mentions Jimmy Murray.
45:57 The pair talks about specific incidents that happened during that game. Mentions Liam Gilmartin, Keenan, Kinlough, Tadhg Healy, Dinny Lyne. John Joe remembers what the crowd was like.
48:30 John Joe recalls the crowd running onto the pitch. Mentions Michael Lavan, Mícheál Ó hEithir, Jim Brennan. Tony talks about the size of the crowds. Describes how people travelled to the match; refers to ghost trains, turf trains, bicycles and hearses.
50:30 John Joe remembers dinner after the match and talks about how he felt about how he played.
51:04 They both discuss Roscommon's post-match celebrations. Mention the Roscommon Men's Association. John Joe describes the journey home from Dublin. Mentions Ballyforan and Roscommon town. Mentions McAllister and Jack McQuillan who became a TD with Clann na Poblachta and Seán MacBride and Noel Browne. Mentions travelling by car and Jimmy Murray.
53:40 John Joe recalls his excitement returning to Roscommon Town in 1944 and compares it to 1946.
54:18 John Joe remembers an incident from the post office. Recalls playing with ailing health. Mentions Seán Quinn
55:35 John Joe remembers how was treated after the 1944 victory. Refers to a match in Elphin. Tony describes how the Roscommon players of the 1940s influenced more recent generations.
57:34 John Joe talks about the numbers that came from Boyle to support the team. Mentions travelling by train. Recalls Minor and Senior games he played for Roscommon in the 1940s. Mentions Tim Lynch, Phelim Murray, John Dunne, Frank Stockwell (failed to score off John Joe), Willie Doonan, Tadhg Healy, Dinny Lyne, John McAndrew. Mentions Kerry and Cavan.
59:28 John Joe recalls the Connacht Final against Mayo in 1952. Describes Roscommon's preparations. Mentions Castlebar. Mentions Sean Flanagan. Tom Sullivan and

Eamonn Boland.
01:01:59 John Joe talks about a game against Cavan after their return from America. Mentions Mick Higgins, Gerry O'Malley.
01:02:35 John Joe discusses the drinking culture at the time.
01:03:05 John Joe talks about his involvement with the club. Refers to the importance of speed and fitness. Mentions Frank Bambrick and Kevin Butterly. Remembers travelling by horse and dray.
01:04:30 The pair tells of an incident with the Roscommon team making hay for John Joe Fallon.
01:05:44 The pair speculates about Roscommon's lack of success in recent years. Refer to an incident at a match against Meath in 1952. Mentions O'Malley, Jimmy Scanlon, Frank Kelly, Eamon Donoghue, John Joe O'Reilly, Eamonn Curley, O'Malley, Bill McQuillan, Aidan Brady, Paddy O'Brien, Lynch, Seán Óg Ó Ceallacháin.
01:09:21 John Joe recalls his time in the Irish Army and the sports that were played. Briefly describes the training. Mentions Eddie O'Donnell.
01:10:29 Tony recalls his earliest memory of the GAA. Mentions Athleague. Refers to his family's involvement. Describes listening to games on the radio. Mentions Fuerty and Castlecoote. Mentions Willie Heavey, Michael O'Hehir and Boland.
01:11:46 Tony talks about St Coman's Park. Remembers seeing players there. Mentions Frank Kelly, O'Malley.
01:12:22 Tony remembers playing hurling while in national school and football in Roscommon CBS. Gives a brief overview of the fortunes of Fuerty GAA. Refers to emigration. Mentions St. Jarlath's College, Tuam. Mentions the Hogan Cup. Mentions Tommy Heneghan, Paul O'Gara, Mark O'Gara.
01:13:45 Tony talks about playing in England. John Joe recalls an incident that happened to him in England. Mention Ealing Common, Mitcham and Crewe.
01:14:28 Tony recalls becoming secretary of the GAA club in University College Galway. Mentions the Sigerson Cup. Mentions Tony 'The Horse' Regan, Martin Carney, Ger O'Keeffe, Paudie O'Mahony, John Tobin and Jimmy Mannion.

	01:15:42 Tonu romombers coming to Deute OAA Defers to
t I	01:15:42 Tony remembers coming to Boyle GAA. Refers to teaching in St Mary's College. Mentions James Dodd, Freddie Daly, Seán Daly. Mentions Connacht A Semi Final. Mentions St. Jarlath's College.
/ H	01:16:30 Tony discusses the purchase and development of Abbey Park in the 1970s. Describes writing a book on the history of the GAA in Roscommon. Mentions Eamon Mongey, Frankie Kinlough, Mattie Glynn, Eamon Boland, Bill Carlos, Cardinal Ó Fiaich, Dónal McAnallen. Mentions the Irish Press.
t	01:18:30 Tony outlines his involvement with Boyle GAA in the 1990s. Mentions being Chairman of the Minor Board. Refers to further development of the grounds. Mentions Dermot Earley, Gerry O'Malley and John Joe Nerney.
-	01:19:50 John Joe talks about Tony's involvement in the club. Tony talks in more detail about the purchase of grounds. Mentions Canon Dodd. John Joe remembers the facilities when he was playing.
á	01:21:27 Tony refers to his father's involvement in the GAA and in the old IRA. Talks of his brother Willie's role in the games. Mentions Dan O'Rourke and Willie Heavey.
	01:23:10 Tony recalls some of the material he collected while researching for his book and since then.
	01:23:55 Both men talk about the introduction of ladies' football and the support they got in the town.
	01:25:55 Tony discusses his time in New York in the late 1960s, playing with the Roscommon club there. Mentions Gaelic Park.
	01:25:18 Tony talks of the Roscommon County Board getting the ball and the whistle from the 1943 All-Ireland Final. Talks of getting a tape from Liam Gilmartin documenting his GAA career. Mentions Sergeant McKenna and Brendan Lynch. Mentions Thurles. Mentions Hyde Park.
	01:29:45 Tony recalls a reunion of the 1943/1944 Senior All- Ireland winning team in 2002. Mentions the players Liam Gilmartin, Phelim Murray, Dr Hugh Gibbons, Jimmy Murray, Brendan Lynch, John Joe Nerney. Also mentions Conor McMorrow and Wyatt Earp. Mentions the Sigerson Cup. Mentions Strokestown and Knockcroghery.
	01:31:40 Tony and John Joe talks about the developments in Croke Park. Tony refers to a written passage about the

presentation of the football above.
01:33:12 Tony tells of his regret of not talking to his father, Pat Conboy, enough. Mentions UCG. Recalls Eoghan Ruadhs GAA playing against Creggs GAA. Describes how the set up the field for the match. Mentions Dan O'Rourke, McQuillan and Fuerty.
01:37:03 Tony talks about how people were measured by the community according to who their father was. Recalls an incident involving John Joe's sons, Gerry and Raymond Nerney. Mentions Barry Molloy.
01:38:28 Tony remembers seeing Roscommon play Galway in Ballinasloe with his father around 1969. Mentions travelling by car. Mentions the Celtic Tiger. Mentions New York.
01:40:12 John Joe gives a brief history of Boyle GAA. Talks about the street leagues. Mentions Johnny Feely, Charlie Feely, Mr O'Loughlin. Mentions Abbey Park, Dingo Park. The dangers of street leagues.
01:42:40 John Joe tells of an incident that occurred in Abbey Park. Mentions Croghan and Crossna.
01:43:18 John Joe recalls players he admired in his youth, Edwin Dooley, Edwin Moriarty. Mentions soccer.
01:44:25 Tony gives a brief history of GAA in the county. Describes the impact certain events had on Boyle GAA. Gives an account of Jasper Tully. Mentions Parnell. Refers to old teams: O'Briens in Athlone, Dillons, Ballinameen William O'Briens, Knockarush Round Towers, Cootehall Wolfe Tones, Croghan John Mitchels. Mentions the President's Medals, the War of Independence and the Free State Army.
01:47:15 Tony reads a passage from his book about organising a dance in 1938. Refers to a Ladies' Committee. Mentions Corrigeen Row, local bands. Mentions Mr Corcoran, M Harrington, J Martin, Mrs P Gallagher, L Toolin, F McDonagh, M Burns, T Martin, Mr McGee.
01:49:24 Tony talks about the GAA in the 1940s and 1950s in Roscommon. Mentions St. Patrick's, Knockcroghery and Castlerea, Boyle and Fuerty. Mentions Jimmy Murray, Dan O'Rourke.
01:50:05 John Joe explains why he refused to play against Eoghan Ruadhs GAA in a replay. Mentions Owensie Hoare.
01:51:06 The pair remembers the fundraising events

organised by Boyle GAA and Fuerty GAA over the years.
01:52:11 John Joe talks about soccer. Refers to the Ban on Foreign Games. Recalls playing soccer in Boyle. Mentions Henry Feely and Edwin Dooley.
01:53:26 Tony reads a letter written by Pádraig Ó Braonáin, the chairperson of Sligo County Board, establishing a vigilance committee. Mentions Pat Wynne.
01:54:26 John Joe talks about his time in Dublin. Mentions soccer. Refers to playing football for the Garda GAA team. Mentions Stanley Matthews, Tom Langan.
01:55:25 John Joe discusses his time playing for his province. Talks about the different styles of play on the team. Again stresses the importance of fitness and speed. Mentions James Dodd.
01:56:38 The pair recalls illegal playing. John Joe refers to suspensions. Mentions John Fahy.
01:57:36 They both talk about various people that have been involved with the club. Mention Paddy Maughan, Edwin Dooley, Tom Carroll, Jim Clarke, Paddy Clarke, Pádraig Pollard, Martin Regan, Mickey Morris, Jack Morris, Michael Joe Toolin, the Perrys, Charlie Feely, the McDermotts, Paddy McDermott, Barry Feely, Sean Young, Bernadette Kenehan, Kathleen Hanmore, Mary Smith, Mary Clifford, Martin Purcell, Pat Clarke, Kevin Young, Kit O'Connor, Michael Costello, Tom Collins, the Clarkes and the Kenehans.
02:00:45 John Joe talks briefly about his son, Raymond's, history with the GAA. Mentions Sean Young, Richie and Dessie.
02:01:35 They pair talks about John McGowan and his involvement with the club. Refer to training.
02:02:36 John Joe discusses an incident that happened at an annual meeting. Goes on to talk about Dermot Earley. Mentions Sean Young and Brian Cowen.
02:03:58 John Joe talks about hurling in the area. Mentions Pádraig Cox. Tony then describes the efforts to establish hurling over the years. Mentions Richie McGee, Mattie Boyle, Bob Carr, PJ Kane.
02:05:34 Tony talks of clubs that started up on the fringes of the town in the 1940s. Mentions Grange, Corrigeen Row. Mentions Michael Lavin, Bill Corcoran, Peter Canavan.

02:06:35 Tony discusses the current status of the club. Refers to facilities. John Joe emphasises the importance of St. Mary's College to Boyle GAA.
02:07:24 The pair talks of the role of clergy and teachers in the GAA in Boyle and nationally. Mentions Derek Gormley, Eamon Perry, Michael Carthy and Kathleen Hanmore. Refers to the ladies' club. Tony highlights the links between secondary schools and success at county level. Mentions St. Jarlath's College, St. Gerald's College, St. Eunan's College.
02:10:30 John Joe talks about his career as a trainer. Recalls training Eastern Harps GAA in Sligo. Mentions his son Raymond. Mentions Frenchpark. Mentions Mickey Kerins.
02:13:05 Tony recalls the club's involvement in Scór competitions in the 1970s and more recently. Refers to his wife's involvement. Mentions PJ Kane, Barry Feely, Maureen Keane, Sean Young, Una Beirne and Rosaleen Moran.
02:15:02 John Joe refers to a Connacht Minor Final.
02:15:30 Tony stresses the influence of Mícheál O'Callaghan on the GAA in Roscommon. Mentions Castlerea GAA.
02:16:09 Tony discusses the relationship between political parties and the club.
02:16:45 The pair discusses the internal politics of the club. Mentions Raymond, Sean Young, Peter Canavan and Paddy McDonagh. John Joe recalls a particular meeting.
02:18:35 Tony talks about the pressures of running a small club. Both go on to discuss emigration. John Joe refers to John B Tivnan. Mention Connemara, Kilmacud Crokes, Birmingham, Dublin and Australia.
02:21:30 Tony recalls Boyle GAA when he first arrived. Mentions Junior Final 1972, Intermediate Final 1973, 1974. Mentions James Dodd, Seán Daly, Freddie Daly, O'Dowd, Kane and John McGowan.
02:22:02 John Joe acknowledges the role Tony Conboy played in Boyle GAA. Mentions Henry Feely. Tony mentions soccer. Mentions Douglas Hyde.
02:22:42 Tony remembers playing in New York for the Roscommon club in the 1960s and talks about his disappointment with the GAA facilities in the city. Mentions Monaghan, Connemara Gaels, Kerry, Kilmacud Crokes, St. Brigid's. Mentions Colm McAlarney, John Kerry O'Donnell,

Pat Lavin, Bill Carlos and Gerry O'Malley. Refers to facilities. Mentions Gaelic Park. Mentions Boston and Chicago.
02:26:08 Tony talks about the importance of the GAA to him and to the community. Refers to the social aspect. Mentions the Ban, the opening of Croke Park.
02:27:07 John Joe discusses the involvement of young people. Praises the youth coaches. Refers to professionalism. Mentions the GPA. Mentions Dessie Farrell.
02:28:17 John Joe talks about his GAA highlights. Refers to the friendships he has made. Mentions Dermot Earley's family.
02:29:29 Tony talks about the highlights of his GAA career. Refers to coaching. Refers to club facilities. Mentions Under 12 A Championships. Mentions Clan na nGael. Mentions Dermot Earley. Mentions Croke Park.
02:30:40 Tony recalls memorable matches he has seen involving Roscommon teams. Mentions Galway, Kildare and Kerry. Mentions Aidan Brady, Gerry O'Malley, Dermot Earley, John D Hickey. Mentions travelling by hackney car. Mentions the Independent.
02:32:46 Tony discusses his memories of St Comans Park in the 1950s and seeing the famous players. Mentions John Joe Nerney and Gerry O'Malley.
02:33:29 John Joe talks of his admiration for his team-mates in 1944.
02:34:05 Tony talks of his GAA heroes. Mentions John Joe Nerney, Gerry O'Malley, Dermot Earley, Jimmy Murray, Michael Brennan. Refers to volunteerism.
02:37:07 John Joe and Tony lament the availability of tickets.
02:38:00 Tony talks about the amateur, democratic nature of the association. Talks about the future of the GAA. Mentions Tommie Kenoy. Mentions the IDA. Mentions St. Ronan's.
02:39:35 John Joe describes what the GAA has meant to him. Refers to professionalism.
02:40:23 Tony talks about what the GAA means to him. Refers to the social aspect and the bonds that are formed. Mentions Michael Cox. Mentions Connacht Council. Mentions Donegal.
02:42:57 John Joe recalls incidents that happened in hotels.

	Mentions Mr Grealey, Jimmy Murray and John Joe Fallon.
Involvement in GAA	Tony:         ✓ Supporter       ✓ Player       ✓ Manager       ✓ Coach       ✓ Steward         ✓ Chairperson       ✓ Committee Member       ✓ Grounds-person         ✓ Caterer       Jersey Washer       ✓ Referee       None         □ Other (please specify):
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	<ul> <li>Tony: Played from the age of 12 to 30. Won and All-Ireland Inter-Faculty University League.</li> <li>John Joe: Played for 50 years from underage until 1976. Won 2 minor club titles in 1938 and 1939; and at county level 5 Connacht Championships and 1 All-Ireland.</li> </ul>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Tony: Has been involved in administration since 1962 when he was secretary of Fuerty club. He was also secretary of UCG. In Boyle he's been chairman of the minor club and secretary of the club. At county level he has been PRO of the county board and a member of the county history committee. He has also been a member of the Connacht History Committee. John Joe: Has been a committee member and is currently President of the County Board.

Format	✓ Audio □ Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:44:24
Language	English

#### To be filled in by Interviewer:

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_12/07/12\_\_\_\_\_