

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2011
<b>Location</b>	GAA Grounds, Arklow, Co. Wicklow
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jimmy Dunne
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1938 <b>Home County:</b> Wicklow
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Arklow NS, Co. Wicklow <b>Secondary:</b> Arklow Technical School, Co. Wicklow
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife (Bridie)
<b>Club(s)</b>	Geraldines GAA [Wicklow]
<b>Occupation</b>	Confectioner
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Painter [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	None
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Arklow Business Enterprise Centre; Arklow Springboard Project; Arklow Parish Seisquintennial Committee; Pioneers Total Abstinence Association

<b>Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)</b>	Fr Liam Dunne
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1936 <b>Home County:</b> Wicklow
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Arklow NS, Co. Wicklow <b>Secondary:</b> Arklow Technical School, Co. Wicklow; Belcamp College, Dublin. <b>Third Level:</b> St Patrick's Seminary, Carlow.
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 1 sister
<b>Club(s)</b>	Geraldines GAA [Wicklow]
<b>Occupation</b>	Priest
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Painter [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	None
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Legion of Mary; Pioneers Total Abstinence Association

<b>Date of Report</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1886 - 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Wicklow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Galway, Kerry
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Supporting, Grounds, Playing, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Religion, Role of the Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Violence, Professionalism, Socialising
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>In this interview two brothers Father Liam Dunne and Jimmy Dunne discuss their involvement in the GAA. They tell us their family has links with the GAA going back to 1886 and they then talk about their grandfather and mother both of whom encouraged them to take part in the GAA. Jimmy goes on to talk about the setting up of the Geraldines club in Arklow and its importance in the community. Liam and Jimmy also talk about other clubs in the area and about playing as youngsters and entering street leagues. Players they looked up to at this time are mentioned including the 1954 Wicklow team. Jimmy talks about his positions in the administration of the club and county. Liam describes listening to matches on the radio. Jimmy talks about companies in Arklow, the teams they formed and how they interacted with the community. Liam comments on the positions he held and how those same skills, learned from their mother, stood to him. Liam also discusses the fact that seminarians and clergy were not allowed to play Gaelic games. He goes on to tell how his interest in the GAA helped him whenever he moved to a new parish. Jimmy talks about Liam's popularity and how he seems to know everyone at matches they attend. He goes on to talk about how the schools are playing their part in the future of the GAA. They then discuss volunteering and people's attitude to it. Jimmy talks about how much stronger they are because of their involvement in the GAA. Finally, Liam echoes this and hopes for a Wicklow All-Ireland win in the future.</p> <p>01:00 Jimmy talks about the families involvement in the GAA back in 1886 when a relative John Curran who represented Monaglogh, Thomastown. Also mentions his grandfather playing in Woodenbridge.</p> <p>01:50 He goes on to tell of his mother who was very pro GAA and encouraged their involvement in the games. Mentions her</p>

	<p>bringing them to Lamberton.</p> <p>02:11 Liam mentions land which was given to the community by Lord Prober.</p> <p>02: 25 Jimmy explains that it was for public recreation.</p> <p>02:49 Jimmy then talks about the setting up of the Geraldines club in the 1940's.</p> <p>03:10 Liam talks of playing on Tea Lane. Mentions Father John Kelly who with Pat Kinsella and others set up the club.</p> <p>03:53 Liam talks about Father Michael Murphy club that was set up and named after the leader of the 1798 rebellion in the area.</p> <p>04:34 Jimmy speaks about other clubs in the area, the Billy Byrnes, Arklow Coynocks Ammunition factory. Mentions how the Geraldines were more administrative in their outlook. Also mentions Pat Kinsella.</p> <p>06:04 They go on to talks about the Junior All-Ireland in the town and the importance of the Geraldines Club to the community. Mentions the GAA being the only outlet for young people.</p> <p>06:52 Liam talks about Joe Kavanagh and his involvement in adult soccer.</p> <p>07:23 Jimmy discusses Geraldines club purchasing a field and establishing Pierce's park in 1953 when Kilkenny and Wexford played.</p> <p>08:12 Liam talks about his mother and Grandfather and his regret at not asking more about their interest in the GAA.</p> <p>08:38 He goes on to talk about the children of main street playing hurling in Fogerty's field.</p> <p>08:57 Jimmy talks about using the Protestant Church clock to time the matches.</p> <p>09:25 He goes on to tell of going to Maggie Kinsella and Mary Kate to get water in a trough.</p> <p>09:55 They discuss where they may have got their first hurleys. Mention is made of Tom Green's shop and M.J. Doyle's.</p> <p>10:43 They speak of banding and oiling their hurls and looking after them and the problems associated with breaking</p>
--	--

	<p>a hurl because of the cost.</p> <p>11:28 Jimmy talks about playing in green and white with the O'Byrnes in the street leagues in the 1950's. Mentions the PH Pierce's of Rory O'Connor place and the Fishermen Pride of the fishery and the Starlights from the Wexford Road.</p> <p>12:09 Jimmy talks about Billy Lee and an objection to his playing based on his age and his address. Mentions being beaten by the Fishermen in the final and Liam umpiring the match.</p> <p>13:55 Jimmy recalls the local band leading both teams up the main street to the park on the Wexford road and the importance of these games to the local community.</p> <p>14:41 Jimmy tells how the schools at the time had no interest in Gaelic games and the lack of structure for sports due to the differing opinions of teachers over the civil war and since. Mentions the arrival of a teacher, when they were leaving school, Mick O'Connell a Kerryman with a keen interest in GAA.</p> <p>16:10 Jimmy talks about the 1941 Geraldines winning the Junior Championship against Aughrim. Mentions their uncle Matt Curran playing on that team.</p> <p>16:37 They talks about the GAA players that they looked up to in their youth. They mention Wicklow players Gerry Reilly, Jim Rodgers, Joe Fitzpatrick, Paddy Lennon, Georgie Carroll and John Timmons.</p> <p>17:42 They also discuss a famous 1954 match against Meath who went on to win the All-Ireland. Mention is also made of the Railway Cup matches at the time.</p> <p>18:30 Liam talks of listening to the matches on the radio and Jimmy recalls how few games were played locally and how important the radio was.</p> <p>19:10 Liam recalls going up to Lamberton after school and organising their own games.</p> <p>19:56 Liam talks about Jimmy and his role in the administration of the club.</p> <p>20:32 Jimmy talks of the structure that the GAA put on the clubs and how much he learned from these structures.</p> <p>21:15 Jimmy talks about an objection in Kilkenny and their involvement.</p>
--	---

	<p>21:35 Liam takes up this story of the minor final between Clara and Castlecomber and the objection that a player wasn't registered but the rule quoted was not correct.</p> <p>24:26 Jimmy talks about an objection over a match between Geraldines and Rathnew clashing with a Corpus Christi procession which was really to do with a suspended player not being available. Mentions Joe Dunne, a former British Naval Commandant, who decided the situation.</p> <p>27:13 Jimmy talks of moving up to the Wexford road and of the Forestry Education in Kinnitty fielding a team with players from all over the country. Mentions Seamus McGarrick and Tom Prendergast.</p> <p>28:08 He goes on to talk about the local dances at the time and these 'Bushmen' as they were known coming in to meet local girls and the animosity this caused. Mentions Joe Moss and 'Blackie' Walker and an incident during a match when the Forresters had to barricade themselves in the dressing rooms after an elderly man on the sideline was hit by accident.</p> <p>29:30 Liam talks about the Gardaí being called and arriving by bicycle to sort out the situation. Mentions the Forresters eventually winning a Senior County Hurling Championship.</p> <p>30:40 Jimmy talks about the high standards the Forresters set and how other teams rose to it. Mentions Joe Moss and Jim 'the cocker' Roach.</p> <p>31:20 Jimmy goes on to talk about the strong hurling teams at the time such as Avondale, Barndarrig, Glenealy. Mentions Mick Boucher and Parnell House in Rathdrum.</p> <p>32:29 He goes on to talk about Arklow hurling in the 1965 Senior Hurling Final against Carnew and its importance to hurling in the county. Mentions Carnew going on to win 12 championships afterwards.</p> <p>33:34 He speaks about a similar situation in 1963 when Arklow Senior footballers lost to Balltinglass and this moved the focus of football to Balltinglass.</p> <p>33:47 He talks about the formation of the Arklow Rock Parnell club in 1965 and how they took over hurling as the Geraldine's were focused on football.</p> <p>34:42 Liam explains the background to the club name as Roadstone use the rock for aggregate but it was originally owned by Charles Stewart Parnell hence the Rock Parnell's where most of the team were from. Mentions their camogie</p>
--	--

	<p>team.</p> <p>35:33 He goes on to talk about a special mass for both teams to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the church Saint Mary and Peter's.</p> <p>35:56 Jimmy talks about playing up to minor level and playing on the Leitrim hurling team while working there. Mention Tommy O'Riordan the Leitrim Secretary.</p> <p>36:50 He talks about his work on the committee's in the club and his various posts including, Secretary of the Club, Junior South Board, Senior South Board, Juvenile Board, Youth Officer, Hurling Officer, Irish Officer, Football Officer, PRO, County Secretary, County Chairman as well as 25 years on the Leinster Council and Trustee of the Association. He was also Chairman of the Finance Committee for Croke Park Development, first Chairman of the CCC and Policy and Planning Chairman. Mentions the importance of those early club meetings.</p> <p>38:30 Jimmy talks about some of the great administrators over the years such as Pat Kinsella and Jimmy Kavanagh. Mentions the Nationalistic views of the association in the 1940's.</p> <p>40:18 Liam talks about the dedication of those early administrators and the links back to 1916 and the emergence of the Irish State.</p> <p>41:24 Liam talks about playing hurling with Belcamp at Parnell Park. Mentions playing O'Connell's school and winning a single hurling medal.</p> <p>42:53 Liam talks about not being allowed to play as a seminarian in Carlow.</p> <p>43:42 He talks of playing in Carlow against fellow students from all over the country. He then considers the reasons why seminarians and priests were not allowed to play including the fights and injuries that players can sustain. Mentions one case of a Kilkenny man who got into a fight and when Bishop Collier heard about it he banned all seminarians from playing.</p> <p>44:58 Liam talks about the local scene at home and how few matches were played. Mentions Pat Kinsella.</p> <p>45:56 He recalls one occasion when an Aughrim player got hit and his mother attacked the other player with an umbrella.</p> <p>46:37 They discuss the influence of the 1950's Wexford team</p>
--	---

	<p>and how they went to as many of their games as they could.</p> <p>46:58 Liam recalls making rosettes and selling them in his grandmother's shop to get money to go to Croke Park to watch matches. Mentions Nicky and Billy Rackard and Jim English.</p> <p>47:16 Jimmy recalls the first time he saw the All-Ireland Cup when Mick O'Donnell held it outside the car having beaten Galway. Tells how the Wexford team were loved by all.</p> <p>47:58 Jimmy talks about the sea breeze's going to Arklow and Dubliners asking who won and their delight at hearing it was Wexford. Mentions Tim Flood, Harty Foley, Christy Ring.</p> <p>48:53 Jimmy talks about the Arklow teams of the 1920's. Talks about following Wicklow county team mention Gerry O'Reilly, Jim Rogers. Talks about radio only broadcasting the matches themselves.</p> <p>50:26 Liam talks about the 1956 match when Dublin beat them in Newbridge.</p> <p>50:43 Jimmy recalls Bob Moran training the team and taking them to Brittas bay to swim and they were not fit to play in Newbridge. Mentions that Jim Rogers was the only one who could play well as he had missed the training because he had come late on the train.</p> <p>51:29 Jimmy talks of knowing every player in detail at the time. Mentions Georgie Carroll and coming close to winning the league.</p> <p>51:54 Liam discusses Wicklow winning three games two years ago against, Cavan, Down, Fermanagh but not winning any championships and yet the people were happy. Mentions Jack Kenny former County Secretary (1929-31).</p> <p>53:20 Jimmy discuss the highlights in administration over the years including establishing a proper base for administration in the county. Mentions his frustration when there is a lack of structure. Also mentions the increased strength of their county football and hurling teams and Mick O'Dwyer.</p> <p>54:53 He goes on to talk about developments at club level including an influx of people that have taken over the running of the club. Mentions bringing in more children and focussing on the club's position in the community. Also mentions the attitude to playing, discipline, ethics and belief that the GAA is part of the community.</p>
--	--



	<p>56:22 Liam too speaks about what the GAA does for communities all over the country. Mentions the support for the Church in building through Church Tournaments.</p> <p>58:02 Liam discusses moving to different parishes and how his interest in the GAA helped him settle in with the local community. Mentions in particular the junior and minor teams and taking a team from Freshford travelling to Scotland to play matches. Also mentions the fundraising for the trip.</p> <p>01:00:05 Liam talks about going to Castlecomer and organising junior matches. Relates a story of a bus waiting for him to finish offering a first Friday mass and there being 90 youngsters on the bus.</p> <p>01:00:55 He tells of eventually winning a county final with Castlecomer.</p> <p>01:01:00 He then speaks about going on to Tallon. Mentions hurler, John Power and winning several finals including the Under 12 and 14 football and hurling finals.</p> <p>01:01:25 He talks of his involvement in the minor team in Cullahill that won the county final. Mentions taking them to Leinster finals.</p> <p>01:02:05 He speaks about his involvement too in Galmoy Although he states that parish priests do not have as much time nowadays. Mentions Mullinavat and Father Tommy Maher looking after the Senior teams. Also mentions the vibrancy of the community and Father Maher simple training techniques.</p> <p>01:04:37 Liam talks about inviting Wicklow teams to play in Castlecomer. Mentions Peter Keogh in Kiltegan and having to bargain with farmers to let a youngster play a match.</p> <p>01:06:07 Jimmy talks of how popular Liam is when they attend matches.</p> <p>01:06:42 He talks about the amount of time given over to the GAA and how you would simply find the time required. Mentions his working life in the newsagents and early starts and late night meetings. Also mentions Hugh Byrne President of the Association and putting a new structure on the county board meetings.</p> <p>01:08:33 He speaks of his mother's organisational skills and how this was brought to bear on the GAA and how he can still learn from the meetings he attends.</p>
--	--

	<p>01:10:00 He talks of the hard work involved.</p> <p>01:10:18 Liam talks of being appointed Chairman of the Kilkenny County Juvenile Board and Feile na Gael due to his organisational skills. Mentions Noel Skehan, Paul Kinsella and Tommy O'Brien a great handball player.</p> <p>01:12:06 Jimmy recalls how many of the people involved were enthusiastic about the sport but not so much about the administration. Mentions Paddy Grace.</p> <p>01:12:36 Jimmy talks about the journey through the GAA and the friends he has made and having fun along the way.</p> <p>01:13:38 Liam talks about missing his involvement in the GAA and how he still gets to as many matches as possible. He mentions travelling to meetings with Ned Quinn. Mentions Brendan O'Sullivan and Paul Kinsella and the teachers of Kilkenny county.</p> <p>01:14:42 Jimmy talks about the second level teachers in Wicklow and how they get involved with a few in primary schools. Mentions the different structures with clubs organising the youngsters' teams. Also mentions being within the Pale and the mountains dividing the county.</p> <p>01:16:00 Jimmy speaks about the Arklow Ladies team winning the County Senior title. Also talks about other wins including the Under 16 championships the Dublin-Wicklow men's cup. Mentions so many players going to sea over the years and how this decimated teams. Also mentions the fertiliser factory and how that changed the attitudes in the area towards the GAA.</p> <p>01:18:11 They discuss the attitude toward volunteering and amateurism and how they have continued to be strong in most sections. Again a strong structure is emphasised as being crucial.</p> <p>01:19:33 Jimmy praises the current setup in Arklow regarding involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>01:20:13 Jimmy speaks of the diverse activities available to all and how the GAA has to react to these. Mentions the benefit to those who are giving their time to the local clubs.</p> <p>01:21:21 He talks of the new GAA and the structures involved and how this is separate from the local clubs which means more to the local people involved. Also mentions that both he and Liam are presidents of the club.</p>
--	--

	<p>01:22:43 Liam talks of the spectacle at mass with both teams and the flags and banners and music.</p> <p>01:23:04 Liam talks of the times we are in and how important it is to give to others and not be thinking only of ourselves.</p> <p>01:23:35 Jimmy talks of the even better times to come and how they are stronger for their involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>01:24:13 Liam agrees with these sentiments and hopes for a Wicklow All-Ireland win in the future.</p>
<b>Involvement in GAA</b>	<p><b>Jimmy:</b></p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ 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>Fr Liam:</b></p> <p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager ✓ Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer ✓ 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)	<p><b>Jimmy:</b> Played underage with the Geraldines. Also played Leitrim County Hurling.</p> <p><b>Fr Liam:</b> Played hurling with Geraldines and with Belcamp College.</p>
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	<p><b>Jimmy:</b></p> <p>1955: South Wicklow Juvenile Secretary</p> <p>1960s: Member of Geraldines GAA Committee</p> <p>1970s: South Wicklow Secretary</p> <p>1980s: Secretary of Geraldines GAA; Wicklow GAA Youth Officer; Wicklow GAA PRO; Wicklow GAA Irish language Officer; Wicklow GAA Hurling Officer; Wicklow GAA Football Officer.</p> <p>1987 -91: Secretary of Wicklow County Board</p> <p>1992-94: Chairman of Wicklow County Board</p>

**REFERENCE NO. WW/1/9**

	1983-2008: Delegate to Leinster Council  1990-93: Trustee of the GAA; member of central council  <b>Fr Liam:</b> Chairman of Kilkenny Juvenile Schools Committee; Chairman of Kilkenny Féile na nGael (1970s & 80s). Involved in GAA administration in many parishes in Co. Kilkenny including: Castlecomer, Callan, Mullinavat, Freshford, Cullahill, Galmoy.
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:24:44
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

I hereby assign the copyright of the content of the above to the GAA Oral History Project on the understanding that the content will not be used in a derogatory manner. I understand that I am giving the GAA Oral History Project the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed:            Regina Fitzpatrick

Date:              28<sup>th</sup> June 2012