

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2010
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Dromard, Co. Longford
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pearse Daly
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1916 <b>Home County:</b> Mayo
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St John's De La Salle, Ballaghaderreen <b>Secondary:</b> St Nathy's College, Ballaghaderreen <b>Third Level:</b> Albert Agricultural College, Glasnevin
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 3 sons and 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Colmcille's [Longford]; Dromard [Longford]; Clann na hÉireann [Howth Castle, Dublin]; Warrenstown [Meath]; Gortletteragh [Leitrim]; Ballaghaderreen [Mayo]
<b>Occupation</b>	Farm Modernisation Schemes, Department of Agriculture
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Agricultural Instructor [Father]; Nurse [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Nationalist
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Agricultural Show Society – Judge at Shows last were Cloone, Virginia, Annagh, Bailieborough, Oldcastle, Mohill Dramatic Society

**REFERENCE NO. MO/1/13**

<b>Date of Report</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1884 – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Longford, Mayo, Dublin, Leitrim
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Officials, Administration, Fundraising, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Politics, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Professionalism, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Pearse recalls his GAA experiences, which stretch back many years. He started out playing in Mayo and his local team was Ballaghaderreen, who boasted many talented players. When he was older he started to move around the country, spending time in Dublin where he helped to establish the Clann na hÉireann club, and then Meath where he was involved with Warrenstown. He then went to Leitrim before moving to Longford, where he got involved with Dromard and then Colmcille. He was club secretary and PRO, and was also a club delegate. Pearse remembers various aspects of his time there, when facilities were basic and there wasn't a lot of money to go around. He describes their many fundraising efforts which included holding house dances and barn dances. The clergy played an important role in the GAA back then, helping local clubs in whatever way they could. Pearse also remembers some of the great games he saw and the players he used to admire. He also reads from old newspaper reports and recites the odd GAA rhyme.</p> <p>00:15 Born in 1916 and named after Pádraig Pearse.</p> <p>00:25 Earliest memories are of watching the Ballaghaderreen club in Mayo, though he didn't play with them.</p> <p>01:00 From 1930 to 1935 he played with St Nathy's College in Ballaghaderreen.</p> <p>01:05 In 1935 he went to Dublin and in 1936 he started a club in Howth named Clann na hÉireann with Offaly man William Tooher.</p> <p>01:25 They got a pitch on the Howth Castle Estate from</p>

	<p>owner Captain TJ Gaisford and entered a team in the Dublin Junior Championships.</p> <p>01:35 William Tooher was chairman and Pearse was secretary and county board delegate.</p> <p>01:40 William was fire manager of the Earl of Granard's estate and became well known in Newtownforbes.</p> <p>01:50 One of his sons played with Clonguish.</p> <p>02:10 In 1939 Pearse played with Warrenstown Agricultural College in Meath.</p> <p>02:15 In 1940 he went to live in Ballinamuck and transferred to Gortletteragh in Leitrim before moving to Legga in 1942.</p> <p>02:30 The following year Brendan Morris asked him to help revive the Dromard club.</p> <p>02:40 With Rev James Reynolds, President of the Latin School they entered a team in the 1944 championship. Fr Reynolds later became parish priest of Killashee, Longford.</p> <p>03:00 Eugene Stevie O'Reilly was chairman, Brendan Morris captain and Fr Reynolds and Pearse county board delegates.</p> <p>03:15 The first county board meeting was in the Temperance Hall in Longford in 1943.</p> <p>04:05 In Dromard in 1944 Dromard won the junior championship and league, in 1945 they won the championship and in 1946 they won the senior championship.</p> <p>04:25 In 1947 there was mass emigration and that put an end to the team.</p> <p>04:45 In 1959 he went to live in Colmcille parish and his family went to school there and started playing football.</p> <p>05:00 He has served as secretary, PRO, registrar and county board delegate.</p> <p>05:10 The Colmcille club won the junior league in 1978 and 1979, the junior championship in 1979, the intermediate league in 1973, the Under-21 championship three years in-a-row and the senior championship in 2008.</p> <p>05:50 He watched Ballaghaderreen play teams like Castlebar, Lahardane, Crossmolina and Ballina Stephenites, Charlestown, Keellogues.</p> <p>06:05 In 1932 he went to see Leitrim play Mayo in</p>
--	---

	<p>Tubbercurry.</p> <p>06:40 They had no facilities and togged out on the spot.</p> <p>07:00 He played at school with the Christian Brothers but the Ballaghaderreen club had very good players and it was hard to get on the team.</p> <p>07:40 Everyone in the population was interested in the club.</p> <p>08:00 They were switched to the Roscommon championship but did not like this; everyone wanted to remain in the Mayo championship.</p> <p>08:10 They did play in the Clonalis tournament outside of Castlerea for a few years and won it.</p> <p>08:45 His family had no great interest in the GAA.</p> <p>09:15 Before the GAA it was all association football in Ballaghaderreen as that's what the British Army played.</p> <p>10:00 Hurling was not popular.</p> <p>10:30 The people in the area were Republicans.</p> <p>10:50 He was 19 or 20 when he went to Dublin.</p> <p>11:05 He played with St Nathy's College but they could never beat St Jarlath's of Tuam, though they did beat St Muredach's of Ballina and Summerhill of Sligo.</p> <p>12:15 In Dublin he was living in Howth and met William Tooher who was a big football fan.</p> <p>12:40 There were a lot of people employed at the Howth Castle Demesne who were interested in starting a club and they approached Captain St Lawrence.</p> <p>13:05 There was already a senior club in Howth, St Lawrence's but they had nothing on his estate.</p> <p>13:20 They got a pitch on an 80 acre field near what was the Claremont Hotel.</p> <p>14:00 The field was level so there was little work to be done on it.</p> <p>14:30 Brian Boru Park was in Clontarf and they played there as well as Parnell Park and against Fingalians and against St. Assam's Park of Raheny.</p> <p>15:00 Brian Boru was the main place they played but they</p>
--	---

	<p>also played in Windy Arbour and Blackrock.</p> <p>15:30 They played in Saggart and Dublin player Peter Reilly played with them.</p> <p>16:00 People from all over Ireland played with Clann na hÉireann, there colours may have been green and red.</p> <p>16:30 They got their kit and footballs from Elverys.</p> <p>16:55 After three years he went to play with Warrenstown in Meath.</p> <p>17:20 County board meetings were held in Parnell Square.</p> <p>17:40 There was a junior county board and a man named Kirwan was chairman, and there was also a senior county board.</p> <p>18:35 He played many games in Navan and Moynalty and Dunshaughlin and Bohermeen.</p> <p>19:15 Games in Dublin were rougher than in Ballaghaderreen.</p> <p>19:30 A Tipperary man named Ryan, a hurler, played as a forward for them and wasn't very good.</p> <p>20:10 There was never more than 150 to watch a game.</p> <p>20:30 There was little fundraising; everyone paid for their own gear.</p> <p>21:10 In 1941 he went to Longford and there was a lot of fundraising in Dromard, like house dances.</p> <p>22:30 The dances helped them raise money in the winter months.</p> <p>23:00 In 1944 they had enough funds to take the field.</p> <p>23:40 Recalls a night in 1943 when they held two house dances - one in Moyne and one in Ennagh and they took in six pounds.</p> <p>24:20 Danny and Paddy Toohill played music, as did Paddy Reynolds, who was later a broadcaster in the U.S.</p> <p>25:05 Sometimes they had dances in barns and the dances would finish in the early hours.</p> <p>25:40 The club in Dromard had lapsed from 1937.</p> <p>26:10 There were good players like Stevie Reilly, Frank</p>
--	--

**REFERENCE NO. MO/1/13**

	<p>McInerney and Peter Duignan, who played with Drumlish and came back to Dromard.</p> <p>27:10 Pearse was secretary of the club and acted as PRO, organising dances and putting notes in the newspaper.</p> <p>28:10 They got the field in Kiltycon from James Donoghue for eight pounds a year.</p> <p>29:15 Paddy Hourigan and Frank Gaffney did a lot of work for the club.</p> <p>29:55 Dromard was in the north of the county so travel to games was problematic because of the lack of vehicles and petrol.</p> <p>31:10 John Duffy drove people to games in buses his uncle is Longford PRO in 2010.</p> <p>32:45 The McConfey brothers did lots of jobs for the club which saved money.</p> <p>33:10 Fr Brian Reilly, Fr Michael Murtagh, Fr Frank Kiernan and Fr James Reilly played.</p> <p>33:35 The college authorities and higher clergy did not look kindly on priests playing football, but they used fake names.</p> <p>34:45 Illegal players on teams were common.</p> <p>35:10 Recalls playing Sean Connollys, who objected to Dromard because the suspected they had been fielding illegal players.</p> <p>35:40 Rivals included Drumlish, Longford Slashers, Ballymahon, Granard.</p> <p>36:05 They cycled to Longford, Edgeworthstown, Lanesborough to matches.</p> <p>36:25 Petrol was rationed at the time and there were few cars around.</p> <p>36:55 Jerseys were bought in Longford, Cissy Duignan had a machine.</p> <p>37:35 Priests were a great help because everyone looked up to them.</p> <p>37:55 Fr Reynolds and Fr Andy McGovern were always there to help.</p> <p>38:40 When Pearse was secretary at Colmcille Fr Sam</p>
--	--

	<p>Holmes from Donegal was curate.</p> <p>39:20 Pearse's son went to Clonback School and won a schools championship against teams like Aughnacliffe, Molly, Polladooey, Drim.</p> <p>40:30 Pearse was asked by Fr Holmes to help out with the GAA club in Colmcille.</p> <p>41:35 He was secretary with Colmcille as well as PRO and county board delegate.</p> <p>42:50 He got a good welcome at his first county board meeting. Fr McLoughlin was the chairman and Paddy Hourigan was the secretary.</p> <p>43:50 He has been at every convention since 1943.</p> <p>44:15 The clubs have much better facilities nowadays.</p> <p>45:00 The goalkeeper used to come under a lot of pressure during games.</p> <p>46:20 Pearse did not like the opening of Croke Park to soccer and rugby.</p> <p>47:10 They had to get goalposts up and mark the field on their pitch at Dromard.</p> <p>48:10 First game he heard on the radio was between Cavan and Galway and Micheál Ó Hehir was commentating.</p> <p>49:15 They got land from the Land Commission and Fr McGee Park is on Bishop Colm O'Reilly's birthplace.</p> <p>49:55 Colmcille already had a pitch when he arrived, they used land owned by a farmer, Higgins. They now play at Fr McGee Park.</p> <p>51:30 Fr Phil McGee was the motivator behind the Longford team of 1966-1969.</p> <p>52:10 He worked on the minor board a lot and was county central council representative.</p> <p>54:00 Fr McGee often acted as a mediator.</p> <p>54:40 In the late 1960s he was on a GAA policy committee with Seamus Duke, Noel Drumgould, Jimmy Gray, Brother Giffney and Paddy McDermott.</p> <p>55:00 They made a protest at Annual Congress one time</p> <p>55:20 He also had John Kerry O'Donnell nominated for the</p>
--	--

## REFERENCE NO. MO/1/13

	<p>Presidency of the GAA.</p> <p>56:50 After Fr Reynolds, Fr Faughner was President of the Latin School, and then Fr McGee.</p> <p>57:40 There were county board disputes about clubs being put into the wrong divisions.</p> <p>59:15 Pearse liked being county board delegate because he got to meet lots of people.</p> <p>59:50 His first All-Ireland final was in 1936 between Mayo and Laois. Mayo won well.</p> <p>01:00:15 He was working in Howth and cycled to Croke Park and paid two shillings to get in.</p> <p>01:00:55 Some of the Mayo players had played with Ballaghaderreen, like Tommy Regan, and a Flanagan man.</p> <p>01:01:20 Pearse went to school with 2010 Mayo manager John O'Mahony's father-in-law.</p> <p>01:02:35 There were other good players for Mayo like Gerald Courell, Patsy Flannelly, Henry Kenny (2010 Fine Gael leader Enda Kenny's father).</p> <p>01:03:30 Heroes include Paddy Mulligan of Colmcille.</p> <p>01:03:45 Best hurler was Lory Meagher of Kilkenny and Mick Mackey of Limerick and Tim Flood of Wexford.</p> <p>01:04:00 Jim O' Houlihan of Armagh was a good footballer and Tom Burke of Mayo and Seamus O' Malley of Mayo and Joe Keohane of Kerry.</p> <p>01:04:50 Best game he saw was the Mayo v Laois game in 1936, and a Cavan v Kerry game in Breffni Park in 1933. Jim Smith was outstanding for Cavan.</p> <p>01:05:55 They travelled from Carrickmacross in a lorry to see the game.</p> <p>01:06:40 Pearse had little involvement with Scór.</p> <p>01:07:15 Anna Morrison, Alice Briody and Betsy Reilly were involved in fundraising in Dromard.</p> <p>01:08:15 It's harder to get volunteers now.</p> <p>01:08:35 Pay-for-play would destroy the GAA.</p> <p>01:10:00 When Colmcille failed to win four-in-a-row Under-21</p>
--	---



**REFERENCE NO. MO/1/13**

	<p>championships is a bad memory.</p> <p>01:10:30 There is a problem in Longford with county players because some of them wouldn't travel to training.</p> <p>01:12:10 Recalls a house dance when someone fired a stone at an oil lamp.</p> <p>01:13:00 Reads a poem about Fr Phil McGee's passing.</p> <p>01:15:50 Dr Peter Herrity was a good chairman at the club.</p> <p>01:16:45 The first club in Longford was Granard Healy's.</p> <p>01:17:00 James McKeonan refereed a game in October 1889.</p> <p>01:17:20 Colmcille is estimated to have been founded in 1888-1889.</p> <p>01:17:40 James McKeonan was secretary Bernard Mulligan was a county board delegate with him.</p> <p>01:19:40 In 1890 the general admission charge was two pence.</p> <p>01:20:00 Emigration had a big effect on the Dromard team that won the first senior championship.</p> <p>01:20:30 Colmcille once went to London and played three games. One was in Dagenham.</p> <p>01:21:30 The 1890 county final was in Abbeycartron in Longford, Colmcille played Rathcline.</p> <p>01:22:00 Reads from newspaper reports on 1890 game between Colmcille and Rathcline.</p> <p>01:24:40 Reads out the names of the players on the 1890 team.</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" 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>Gortletteragh was the last team Pearse played for. He hurt his finger at practice with Dromard. Played from age of 10 – 26.</p>

**REFERENCE NO. MO/1/13**

<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	Pearse has been involved in administration since 1935/36. He was secretary of Clann na hÉireann and County Board delegate in Dublin; Secretary of Dromard and County Board delegate; Secretary, PRO and registrar of Colmcille and County Board delegate; he is still Vice-President of Longford County Board.
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:25:41
<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:      \_\_\_\_\_ Arlene Crampsie \_\_\_\_\_

Date:                      \_\_\_\_\_ 23/05/12 \_\_\_\_\_