

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	24 th Sept 2010
Location	Austin's home, near Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Austin Flynn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1933 Home County: Waterford
Education	Primary: Abbeyside NS, Co. Waterford Secondary: CBS Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Wife & 3 daughters
Club(s)	Abbeyside CBS [Waterford]
Occupation	Supplies Officer in local hospitals
Parents' Occupation	Sailor [Father]; Hotel worker [Mother]
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	20 th June 2012
Period Covered	1930s - 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Waterford, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Dublin, Americas, USA
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, 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, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Austin Flynn was born in 1933 in Abbeyside, Waterford. He has been involved in the GAA since a very young age and he tells how and when he first became involved. He describes what the GAA was like when he was growing up. He goes on to discuss his involvement in school hurling for Abbeyside CBS and recalls a number of teachers and Brother's that influenced him there. He gives an account of his involvement in Waterford hurling. He explains his experience of playing in the 1959 All-Ireland for the winning Waterford Senior Hurling Team. He discusses visiting America for the Cardinal Cushing Games in 1960 with the Waterford team and provides stories of his various experiences there. The key theme throughout this interview is the different people Austin has met through his involvement with the GAA. He tells many stories of these various encounters and describes in detail what the GAA has meant to him and how it has shaped his identity.</p> <p>00:28 Describes the type of house and the area he grew up in. He talks about the principal of his school Michael Foley and mentions the 1948 All-Ireland Hurling Final.</p> <p>01:23 Describes how he learned to play hurling. He talks about Michael Foley, his son Jim Foley, Stokes' field and living beside the sea.</p> <p>01:59 Describes studying for a scholarship to get to secondary school. He mentions Michael Foley, and free education.</p> <p>02:28 Tells how he went to CBS Dungarvan. He mentions</p>

	<p>Brother Murray and brother Keane and discusses his involvement in Hurling.</p> <p>04:30 Describes his first encounter with Pat Fanning and discusses a hurling final he played against De La Salle in Waterford and what he learned there. He mentions the 1957 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship.</p> <p>04:57 Describes his role on the school team that won the Dean Ryan Cup in Clonmel. He talks about playing on the Munster College's Team and recalls a conversation with a Brother. He mentions Tony Wall.</p> <p>06:38 Discusses the formation of a minor hurling team at Abbesside. He mentions Mount Sion and talks about minor football.</p> <p>07:06 Discusses the importance of winning medals. He talks about a competition in Stokes' Field and the school jerseys. He mentions Johnsy Young and John Hayes and discusses friendships he made.</p> <p>09:29 Describes how people perceived Michael Foley in the area. He talks about the local paper, the Leader and he mentions Pat O'Neill.</p> <p>10:55 Tells how he used to steal boats as a child.</p> <p>11:40 Discusses being in the Scouts as a child and describes how the troop was organised and different activities they did. He mentions Liam Lannigan.</p> <p>12:35 Describes cycling to an All-Ireland with Gerry Fraher as a teenager and camping in Kilkenny. He recalls his first inter-county match he went to in Kilsheelan and mentions the scouts, Jimmy Fraher and Philly Grimes.</p> <p>14:46 Describes cycling to Dublin for an All-Ireland competition with the scouts in Larch Hill. He mentions Eamon Butler and Harry Shine.</p> <p>16:54 Discusses the level of scouting in Abbesside and how long it has been around for. Mentions the national trophy in Abbesside. He mentions Liam Lannigan, and Seamus O'Brien, the scout leaders.</p> <p>18:12 Discusses the history of a tradition in the GAA in his mother and father's families.</p> <p>18:32 Discusses a shipwreck in 1913 travelling from Cardiff to Ballinacurra in Cork and describes his uncle's involvement in</p>
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	<p>this. He mentions John Kiely.</p> <p>20:23 Talks about his father's career as a sailor. Describes how his boat was attacked during World War Two.</p> <p>21:30 Discusses the development of the club in Abbeyside. He talks about Michael Foye's field and when the club acquired a field of their own. He mentions Seamus O'Brien, Martin Byrne, and Johnny Ryan.</p> <p>23:02 Tells a story about travelling to Cork with Martin Ryan.</p> <p>23:23 Describes going to Crotty's Corner and travelling to Thurles in Deccie Foley's truck to watch matches.</p> <p>24:24 Talks about Michael Foye's role in the purchase of a club field.</p> <p>24:57 Discusses the amalgamation of the Abbeyside and Ballinacorthy clubs and how this affected hurling and football.</p> <p>25:46 Tells who his mentors were when he was growing up and explains why. He mentions Seamus O'Brien, Johnny Byrnes, Martin Ryan, Paddy Langan, Michael Foye, and Pat Fanning.</p> <p>26:54 Discusses going to the 2009 All-Ireland Hurling Semi-Final between Waterford and Tipperary in Croke Park. He tells a story about someone he met and mentions Seamus O'Brien, Míchéal Ó Muircheartaigh, Christy Ring, Eddie Kerr, and John Ahern.</p> <p>30:28 Tells a story about meeting a man in Waterford Regional Hospital. He mentions a monk named Kevin Fogarty from Mount Melleray Cistercian Monastery in Cappaquin.</p> <p>32:23-29 Radio comes on</p> <p>32:53 Remembers playing in a league campaign with Waterford in 1952. He mentions Jimmy Langton and the All-Ireland Hurling Final in 1948.</p> <p>34:00 He tells a story about the night before a championship match between Waterford and Clare. He mentions Michael Foye, Jolla Whelan, Seanín O'Brien, and the Poor-Man's Seat.</p> <p>37:15 Talks about playing Tipperary in Limerick. He mentions Jimmy Doyle, Benny Harkin, and Pat Stakelum.</p> <p>37:58 Discusses Waterford's league campaign in 1960 and a match between Waterford and Wexford.</p>
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	<p>38:23 Discusses CBS Abbeyside getting into the Junior Hurling Final and winning a junior county medal.</p> <p>39:03 Discusses being a member of the panel in 1957 and talks about training in Fraher Field. He tells how Pat Fanning, John Keane, Seamus O'Brien, Jackie Good, and Mickey Feeney were selectors and tells a story about this.</p> <p>42:03 Discusses Waterford winning the All-Ireland Hurling Final in 1959 and the effort it took to get there. He mentions Pat Fanning and John Keane.</p> <p>43:52 Discusses Pat Fanning and John Keane and the influence they had on him. He mentions Mount Sion.</p> <p>45:49 Discusses working in the County Home. He tells a story about Paddy Crotty and explains how he was in Korea with the Irish Army.</p> <p>48:17 Tells how being involved in hurling became incorporated into his everyday life.</p> <p>49:11 Talks about a Waterford match he went to in 2008 and an interaction he had with his god-child named Ursula O'Rourke.</p> <p>50:49 Discusses the amount of people and social interactions he has had through Hurling.</p> <p>51:11 Discusses a travelling family, Maggie and Paddy Connors, that were living in the County Home. He mentions Gerry Gibson, the Connors' wedding and meeting one of their children.</p> <p>55:54 Tells how he began playing for Waterford in 1962. He tells a story about playing in Fraher Field with Christy Ring.</p> <p>56:35 Discusses his relationship with Christy Ring. He explains how they both attended the Cardinal Cushing Games in New York in 1966. He mentions John Doyle, Bernie Hartigan, Christy O'Brien, Pat Dunny, and travelling to Boston and Chicago.</p> <p>57:21 Tells how Christy Ring drove an Oil Lorry for Shell and he came to Dungarvan and describes how involved in Hurling he was.</p> <p>58:40 Describes the flight from Boston to New York when they were in America for the Cardinal Cup. He describes how Christy Ring felt about flying.</p> <p>01:00:46 Discusses a visit to a horse show in Yonkers. He</p>
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	<p>describes going to a boxing match in Shea Stadium between Ray Prendergast and José Toretz. He describes what seats they had and Major Lindsay's reaction to the Irish.</p> <p>01:03:51 Describes going to Chicago with Christy Ring, Bernie Harty, and Pat Dunny. He tells a story about a dance fundraiser and mentions Marie Barry, an Irish banjo player.</p> <p>01:05:59 Talks about playing in a football match in New York. He comments on the affect the Waterford team trip to America had on the people living there who had emigrated. He tells a story about Salene Croke and Dan O'Flynn.</p> <p>01:09:06 Discusses John Ahern meeting Míchéal Ó Muircheartaigh.</p> <p>01:09:59 Tells a story about Eoghan Hurley from Waterford getting sick in Spain and Míchéal Ó Muircheartaigh's involvement with this.</p> <p>01:11:45 Talks about a Church of Ireland man named Willie Claxton, and describes visiting his in hospital before he died.</p> <p>01:12:47 Discusses meeting Jim Hennessy, a teacher in Ballygunner and a Mount Sion supporter, and visiting Mary Meade in hospital. He mentions his daughter Mary Flynn who died.</p> <p>01:17:10 Discusses the training and preparation in 1957 and 1959. He describes where the Waterford team trained in 1959. He mentions Dunhill and travelling in a hackney car with Ned Power and Mick Curley, Tom Cunny, and John Kiely. He tells a story about when Mick Curley died.</p> <p>01:19:39 Talks about the social aspect of the GAA travelling to matches when he was growing up and compares this to now. He talks about John Keane and Pat Fanning.</p> <p>01:21:25 Discusses Jack Furlong, the team masseur. He talks about the Jack Furlong Trophy and what it is awarded for.</p> <p>01:23:00 Tells a story about seeing Mrs Sarsfield in hospital and writing to her husband. He mentions Welsh park and Lourdes.</p> <p>01:24:58 Describes how often the team collectively trained. He discusses John Keane and how he monitored the training sessions.</p> <p>01:26:30 Discusses meeting Jimmy McCarthy when he brought his grandson who plays hurling to hospital for</p>
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	<p>stitches. He tells stories about Jimmy McCarthy bringing underage hurlers to matches and tells how the community reacted when his house caught fire.</p> <p>01:29:35 He discusses Paddy Flavin's involvement in the GAA. He talks about John Ahern taking pictures outside Croke Park.</p> <p>01:31:16 Discusses the importance of volunteerism within the GAA. He mentions Jimmy McCarthy, and Michael Foye. Describes how he feels tourists should be incorporated into Croke Park.</p> <p>01:33:55 Describes his experience with people in the community when he was playing for Waterford. He talks about Pat Sheen Organ, a local fisherman.</p> <p>01:34:01 Describes styles of hurling, the level of violence during matches and the issue of being macho. He talks about working for the Heath Board and meeting a woman at a conference.</p> <p>01:36:23 He discusses the hurler's prayer and recites it:</p> <p>Lord I offer this game to you; I offer my playing as a prayer. And our lord I'll put my heart into it too. More important than the test of my limbs today will be my behaviour during the match. Jesus Mary and Joseph help me to avoid vanity if I do well, resentment at being beaten, and also all feelings of revenge, anger or jealousy. At the same time I do want to win so help me to give it my best and may that be good enough.</p> <p>01:37:44 Explains when he heard the prayer first. He mentions Brendan Fulham.</p> <p>01:38:23 Talks about people being too violent during matches thinking they were being macho.</p> <p>01:39:02 Describes his feelings before the Waterford v Kilkenny All-Ireland Hurling Final in 1959 and the preparations that were done in Dunhill.</p> <p>01:41:10 Describes staying in a hotel in Malahide, Dublin before the All Ireland in 1959. He mentions Tom Cunningham and Paddy Kinneally.</p> <p>01:42:00 Describes how he felt before the All-Ireland and how he handled his nerves. He discusses a match in Cork 1959 between Waterford and Tipperary and mentions his brother John Flynn and Gerard Welsh.</p> <p>01:44:00 Discusses his mother's involvement in his hurling</p>
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	<p>career and describes what she used to use the clay off his dirty boots for.</p> <p>01:44:41 Recalls seeing a boat, called a mermaid, on the beach in Dublin. Describes the atmosphere in the hotel bar after Waterford won the All-Ireland. He recalls a conversation he had with his brother John Flynn and Gerard Welsh in the bar about a boat.</p> <p>01:46:16 Describes how the Christian Brothers reacted to Donál Welsh going to the All-Ireland in Dublin in 1959 and being late for school.</p> <p>01:48:08 Describes a photograph of himself and his mother after the All-Ireland in 1959. He describes how he felt after the match and what the win meant to other people in Waterford.</p> <p>01:49:08 Describes why there is an importance put on himself and the team of the 1950s.</p> <p>01:50:09 Discusses the President's Award and the involvement of those behind the scenes. He mentions Sean Kelly, Ned Power, and Paddy Grace.</p> <p>01:51:11 Compares the level of commitment within the GAA today to when he was growing up. He mentions Michael Foley.</p> <p>01:52:30 Describes the administrative roles he occupied throughout his involvement in the GAA. He tells a story about fundraisers when he was chairman of the club. He mentions Duck Quinn.</p> <p>01:54:17 Talks about how Abbeyside GAA was run and organised.</p> <p>01:54:34 Recalls Jackie Kineally's bus and tells how this was used as the club's transport.</p> <p>01:55:12 Discusses a junior final Abbeyside were in in 1946 and describes the transport the team used to travel to the match. He talks about playing in Croke Park in 1957.</p> <p>01:56:27 Describes the price of a bus journey to Lismore.</p> <p>01:56:54 Explains what he feels about memories.</p> <p>01:57:31 Describes what he feels have been the biggest changes in the GAA since he began playing. He talks about the grounds, facilities and level of skill in hurling. He mentions Nicky Rackard, Christy Ring, Jimmy Smith, Jimmy Doyle,</p>
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	<p>Eddie Kerr and the No Name Club.</p> <p>01:59:53 Discusses Abbeyside playing Mount Sion and winning a county medal.</p> <p>02:01:16 Discusses marking Liam Devaney and recent conversations he had with him.</p> <p>02:03:02 Tells a story about his wife's cousins that came to Ireland from America and stayed in Kilkenny. He talks about Denis Heaslip and featuring in a newspaper article.</p> <p>02:06:22 Discusses playing in the match where 'Rooney' was filmed in the late 1950's.</p> <p>02:08:44 Discusses what he feels are the biggest changes that have occurred in the GAA in his time. He talks about the level of wealth, exercise, and fitness today.</p> <p>02:11:42 Discusses being on the minor committee at the age of nineteen. He talks about Jim Crotty and how the GAA was not accepted everywhere when he was younger. He mentions the Castle Hotel in Dublin.</p> <p>01:13:06 Discusses a man who worked in the bank in Dungarvan and played Gaelic Football with Brickey Rangers.</p> <p>01:13:35 Discusses Pat Fanning and the influence he had on him and the team. He mentions Paddy Buggy from Kilkenny.</p> <p>02:15:00 Discusses disappointments he has had throughout his involvement in the GAA. He talks about speaking at Congress and his feelings on a county hurling championship medal.</p> <p>02:17:06 Talks about having to stand up for the GAA and discusses club grounds throughout the country.</p> <p>02:18:06 Describes how the GAA has formed his identity both as an Abbeyside person and an Irish person. He talks about all the people he has encountered through his involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>02:20:00 Describes some of his happiest memories of the GAA.</p> <p>02:20:54 Discusses the person he would be if there were no such thing as the GAA. He describes meeting Fr. Peter Byrne and recalls what he said. He mentions Michael Foley, Liam Flannigan, Brother Keane, Pat Fanning, Jimmy McCarthy, and Mary Meade.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. WD/1/10

<p>Involvement in GAA</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 checked="" 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>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played football with Abbeyside from underage up along; member of CBS Dungarvan football team; member of Munster colleges football team. Won 1956 Waterford Junior Hurling Championships.</p> <p>Played for Waterford and was a member of the 1957 All-Ireland winning Waterford senior hurling team. Won Munster Hurling finals in 1957, 59 and 63.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Member of the Abbeyside GAA committee for many years, was Chairman for 1 year.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 02:24:30</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

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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: 20th June 2012