

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Padraic O'Connor
Date of Interview	24 th Nov 2011
Location	N/A
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Jim Mooney
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1940 Home County: Louth
Education	Primary: Fieldstown National School, Co. Louth
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters
Club(s)	Naomh Martin GAA Club [Louth]
Occupation	Retired Stores Manager, Farming Supplies
Parents' Occupation	Blacksmith [Father]; Midwife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	13 th July 2012
Period Covered	1940s -2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Louth, Great Britain, Kerry, Derry, Meath
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Education, Religion, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, Irish Language, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Challenges, Politics
Interview Summary	<p>Jim Mooney charts the origins and development of the Naomh Mairtin club. He discusses the role of the clergy in the emergence of Gaelic games in the region, the acquisition of a club ground, the early on field record and travel to game. Comparisons are made between past and present when considering the role of the club in the community and assessing the quality of players from different teams and different eras. Issues such as the role of women in the GAA and local rivalries are also touched upon.</p> <p>00:00:05 Jim Mooney introduces himself as a member of Naomh Mairtin, Monasterboice.</p> <p>00:00:19 Outlines early involvement in the GAA – juvenile participation began in 1948.</p> <p>00:00:25 Appointed secretary of the first club of Naomh Mairtin in 1956. Club established at a meeting, held in an AOH hall and called by Fr. Moran, then curate of Monasterboice.</p> <p>00:00:50 Challenges faced by new-born club to affiliate and decisions taken over club name and colours.</p> <p>00:01:30 Affiliated for 1957, the year Louth won All-Ireland. Discussion of first game played by club in the second division, the securing of the services of local players and the performance of the team in the late 1950s. Defeated Dreadnots in Drogheda in the final of the 2nd division championship in 1959.</p> <p>00:02:50 Reference to moving pitches and a pitch in 19 securing a ground in 1963/4.</p> <p>00:03:15 Mentions playing full-back on the 1959 team.</p>

	<p>00:03:35 Family involvement and attendance by father, a blacksmith, at first club meeting.</p> <p>00:03:55 Playing career – mentions being on Louth team that won Leinster junior championship in 1966.</p> <p>00:04:09 Highlights of club involvement – reference to lack of money and role of club as a source of recreation. Discussion of club record in the early 1960s, including trip to Liverpool in 1963 to play matches against John Mitchels.</p> <p>00:05:19 Mentions loss of players and reverting to second division in the 1960s.</p> <p>00:05:45 Reference to ongoing strength of the club and the quality of facilities available. Use of facilities by other community groups.</p> <p>[Others contribute to the interview on this point]</p> <p>00:06:30 Discusses the support enjoyed by club and the donation of a pitch from Paddy Donegan, a TD, for a 'nominal fee'. Describes the pitch as 'a great start' for the club.</p> <p>00:07:30 Comments on the value of the GAA to young people in the area.</p> <p>00:08:20 Remarks on the performance of the Louth senior county team in 2010 and the impact this might have on the GAA's appeal to young people.</p> <p>00:09:00 Compares the influence of the 1957 All-Ireland winning Louth team with that of current Louth team with reference to the increased distractions available to young people. '...harder to get them into football'.</p> <p>00:10:05 Reflects on some of great players of the past – Mick O'Connell of Kerry, Jim McKeever of Derry, Meath's Paddy O'Brien – and mentions the quality of the current inter-county players.</p> <p>00:10:50 Comments on the changes in training and preparation of players and the style of football played.</p> <p>00:11:20 Discusses travelling to Louth-Meath games in 1949 and 1950. Travel was by car and people were 'piled in'.</p> <p>00:12:20 Remarks on cost of travel and entry to games.</p> <p>00:12:30 Discusses the role of women in the club. Mentions that local Camogie team, St. Theresa's, held meetings in same AOH hall as the GAA club in early days. Tells a story of</p>
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	<p>being locked out of meeting room by Camogie club and trying to 'smoke' them out. [laughter]</p> <p>00:13:45 Comments on lack of Irish language use. [laughter]</p> <p>00:14:02 Discusses the influence of clergy in development of Gaelic games in the local schools in the 1940s and later the club. Mentions that where there were four schools in parish, there were now two.</p> <p>00:15:25 Mentions the club's major rivals. Reference is made to a record attendance for second division final in 1959 when Naomh Mairtin met Clogher in Drogheda. Gate receipts and cost of entry for that game are discussed.</p>
<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 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 checked="" 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 for 25-30 years</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Club Committee Member, 25-30 years; Referee 10 years</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 00:16:16</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

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To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Paraic O'Connor

Date: 24th Nov 2011