

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	George Cartwright
Date of Interview	13 th Nov 2010
Location	Interviewer's home, near Crossdory, Co. Cavan
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Peadar Tiernan
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1930 Home County: Cavan
Education	Primary: Porturlan National School Secondary: Belcamp, Raheny Third Level: UCD and Iowa State University
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers, 3 sisters
Club(s)	Templeport GFC [Cavan]; UCD GAA Club [Dublin]
Occupation	Retired Lecturer, UCD
Parents' Occupation	Teachers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. CN/1/20

Date of Report	14 th November 2010
Period Covered	1930s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Cavan, Monaghan, Kerry, Meath, Dublin, Antrim, Cork
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Alcohol, Politics, Northern Ireland, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Peadar Tiernan opens the interview by recalling his earliest memories of the GAA, including listening to games on the radio in the 1930s. His account of his early playing days highlights the lack of any GAA infrastructure in the Cavan of his youth, while his stories of travelling to games are equally revealing. Tiernan discusses his brothers' involvement in the GAA and his own participation at school, university, club and county levels. Rivalries and the lack of success are discussed, as are the impact of emigration and migration on the Templeport club of which he was a member. In addition, Tiernan reflects on the roles of women and the clergy in the GAA and makes observations on the social customs around games. Although his direct involvement with the GAA ended with his playing days, Tiernan reflects on the value of his sporting experience to his future professional career and considers the importance of amateurism and the parish/county structures to the GAA's past, present and future. Finally, Tiernan recalls the highs and lows of his GAA involvement and reflects on his GAA favourite GAA players and teams.</p> <p>00:00:20 Interviewer mentions that Peadar Tiernan is also known as 'Peter'.</p> <p>00:00:40 Earliest memories of the GAA: discusses family background, including father's death when he was aged 5.</p> <p>00:01:40 Recalls football in the mid 1930s, including listening to matches on radio.</p> <p>00:02:08 Discusses playing games in primary school – refers to absence of facilities and the use of a makeshift ball.</p>

	<p>00:02:57 Talks about travelling to Clones for Cavan's Ulster championship matches. Recalls being taken to game on the 'bar of a bicycle'. Mentions walking to local matches and the variety of fields that were used for games.</p> <p>00:04:15 Discusses the influence of his brothers on him. Mentions that eldest brother, later a priest, won a McCrory cup with St. Patrick's, played for Cavan minors and won medals with club. Other brother, Eunan, also won McCrory cup and also won Ulster junior and senior medals. He was also a sub on the All-Ireland winning team in the Polo Grounds in 1947.</p> <p>00:05:30 Recalls playing for Cavan minors on same day as brother Eunan was playing for seniors in Clones.</p> <p>00:06:22 Talks about some of the great players when he was growing up – Tommy Mullaly, John P. Dolan, John Willy Martin.</p> <p>00:07:35 Mentions his involvement with UCD and winning a P. J. Duke medal for inter-faculty competition. Speaks about Duke and his pride in winning the competition named in his honour in 1957.</p> <p>00:08:57 Discusses the organisation of the Templeport club when he was young – refers to his uncle and other individuals who helped run club.</p> <p>00:10:07 Reflects on his playing days with Templeport and the absence of honours. Mentions one particular game against Mullagh when he marked the 'Gunner' Brady in Breifne Park.</p> <p>00:11:08 Mentions rivalries with Belturbet and Cornafean at junior level.</p> <p>00:11:45 Refers to other rivals, including Corlough and Ballyconnell in Cavan and Leitrim clubs, Aughwillan and Aughavas.</p> <p>00:12:40 Discusses the impact of emigration and migration on the GAA in Templeport. Talks about carload returning to home parish from Dublin to play games in the 1950s.</p> <p>00:14:30 Reflects on the paucity of women's involvement in the GAA in general and the specific example of his own family.</p> <p>00:15:20 Comments on the lack of Irish language use in club affairs.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. CN/1/20

	<p>00:15:21 Discusses transport to games, travelling by bicycle to local club games and occasionally by 'hackney' car with the county.</p> <p>00:16:34 Post-match rituals: Mentions going home after local games, going for food after games in Breifne Park and the absence of a 'pub scene'. Suggests team dining together after games.</p> <p>00:17:52 Comments on the continued profile and importance of volunteerism in the GAA.</p> <p>00:18:50 Reflects on the involvement of the clergy in the GAA – refers to family connections, including an Uncle – Canon Tom Maguire – who was chairman of Cavan County Board. Refers also to local priests.</p> <p>00:20:15 Discusses the difficulties his brother had in combining clerical role with GAA interests.</p> <p>00:20:50 Mentions entering seminary after secondary school and the temporary ending of his football career.</p> <p>00:21:30 Refers to 'less restrictive' attitude to Gaelic games among the Columban priests in Dalgan Park – cites the example of Dessie Maguire, who he met in Dalgan park.</p> <p>00:22:50 Discusses the counties he considered Cavan's main rivals – refers to Kerry, Antrim, Monaghan, Meath.</p> <p>00:24:04 Discusses his support for other Ulster counties and his liking for Galway and Meath. Talks about his lack of emotional involvement with Meath, where he now lives.</p> <p>00:25:30 Reflects on the uniqueness of the atmosphere at GAA matches and the reasons for it – refers to parish and county pride and his opposition to professionalism.</p> <p>00:26:10 Comments approvingly on the way the GAA is structured.</p> <p>00:26:30 Considers the impact of the GAA on his own identity and personality – refers to its role in instilling discipline and a sense of team-work.</p> <p>00:27:38 Observed little difference in attending GAA matches north and south.</p> <p>00:28:12 Offers criticism of the 'language' used on the sidelines at matches.</p> <p>00:29:05 Talks about absence of political dimension to his</p>
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REFERENCE NO. CN/1/20

	<p>GAA involvement. 'All we were interested in was kicking a ball.'</p> <p>00:29:25 Considers the playing of National Anthem at games.</p> <p>00:29:57 Espouses no strong opinion on the GAA's support of the Irish language.</p> <p>00:30:13 Highlight of GAA involvement – talks about the 'comradeship' that comes with being involved.</p> <p>00:30:53 Reflects on wearing the Cavan jersey as a minor.</p> <p>00:31:27 Recalls losing a Cavan championship game to Mullagh.</p> <p>00:31:50 Discusses the Cavan team of the late 1940s and early 1950s and their impact on the public imagination.</p> <p>00:32:48 All-time GAA hero: refers to Christy Ring.</p> <p>00:33:14 Talks about Cavan's Tony Tighe, Mick Higgins and John Joe O'Reilly.</p> <p>00:33:41 Mentions his lack of involvement with the GAA after retiring from playing.</p> <p>00:34:00 Talks about absence of injury during his playing days.</p> <p>00:35:00 Reflects on the importance of amateur status to the GAA and considers its future – looks to rugby and soccer for examples of where professionalism leads.</p> <p>00:36:00 Imparts advice to younger generations and stresses the benefits of participation in team sport.</p> <p>00:36:58 Discusses ongoing contacts – or lack of – with former team-mates.</p> <p>00:37:40 Reflects on the value of GAA-learned skills to his future professional career.</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 type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>

REFERENCE NO. CN/1/20

Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	N/A
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:38:40
Language	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: George Cartwright

Date: 13th Nov 2010