

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	11 th Feb 2011
Location	Interviewee's home, near Rosslea, Co. Fermanagh
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	James McCaffrey
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1937 Home County: Fermanagh
Education	Primary: Ballagh PS, Co. Fermanagh
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married to Roisin with 2 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	Aghadrumsee GFC
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Nationalist
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Pioneers

REFERENCE NO. FR/1/15

Date of Report	6 th August 2012
Period Covered	1947 – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Fermanagh, Monaghan, Tyrone, Cavan, Antrim, Down, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Administration, Fundraising, Education, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Ban on Security Forces, Purchase of Grounds
Interview Summary	<p>James tells of listening to and watching GAA matches as a young boy and travelling to matches with his family. He goes on to discuss the formation of the local club and his involvement from the start. He talks of the developments at the club over time as well as his time as treasurer and how the role has changed. He goes on to discuss the fundraising over the years and how the money was used. He talks about the rule changes over the years and finally tells of the importance of the GAA in his life.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:28 Talks of his earliest memories of the GAA, listening to All-Ireland Finals on the radio with Michael O’Hehir. The earliest being the final from the Polo Grounds in New York when Cavan beat Kerry in 1947. He was ten years old. Also, mentions his father and family going to Ulster finals in St. Tiernach’s Park in Clones, many between Antrim and Cavan in the mid 1940’s.</p> <p>02:23 Talks of travelling to the Ulster final by pony and trap in the 1940’s.</p> <p>03:11 Recalls cycling to local matches in Lisnaskea, Rosslea and Clones.</p> <p>03:56 Speaks of the facilities in the area when he was younger and the formation of the club in 1953.</p> <p>04:43 Talks of using the old church stables as changing rooms as they were adjacent to the playing field.</p> <p>05:42 Speaks of leasing a field and building a tin hut as a changing room.</p> <p>06:45 Talks of the club Aghadrumsee, part of Clones parish</p>

	<p>on the border between Fermanagh and Monaghan.</p> <p>07:21 Recalls attending the first meeting to set up the club in autumn of 1953 in a local shop about two miles from his home.</p> <p>08:11 Talks of the parish being divided and playing for two teams one in Rosslea and the other in Newtownbutler. The players came together to form a single team. Mentions Jimmy Carey and his brothers and the Quinn family.</p> <p>09:36 Talks of the improvements to the club facilities now.</p> <p>10:00 Players never played with County Monaghan, despite being in Clones parish. Speaks of the club players playing for the Fermanagh county teams.</p> <p>10:38 Talks of some players early on playing for Clones, not transfers but simply turning out for another team.</p> <p>11:53 Speaks of the need that was felt for a club locally as their players were the backbone of other clubs.</p> <p>12:38 Talks of the importance of the club for the youth of the parish at the time it was set up. Full bus travelling to matches.</p> <p>13:26 Speaks of the founders of the club the Carey family and the Quinn family and the Boyle family, the Beggans and the Mulligans.</p> <p>14:46 Tells of the local fundraising at the time of the formation of the club. Dances and céilís and collections around the parish.</p> <p>15:29 Speaks of choosing the colours for the club and a change of the colours due to a clash with Lisnaskea.</p> <p>16:27 Talks of his time playing with the underage club team.</p> <p>17:04 Speaks of the club winning the 1955 Junior County League and Championship. Also tells of reaching the County Senior Final in 1956 a local derby with Rosslea. Mentions the record crowd at that match</p> <p>18:38 Recalls the years following on from this and in 1958 winning the Senior League in Fermanagh.</p> <p>19:13 Tells of winning the 1961 Senior Championship beating Newtownbutler another local derby.</p> <p>19:42 Talks of having a few games on the county team over the years.</p>
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	<p>20:18 Talks of training at club level and talks about the lack of training together at county level.</p> <p>20:47 Speaks of the various tournaments that were run in Fermanagh, Tyrone and Cavan. Clogher in Tyrone was one they won and another in Tempo. These tournaments accounted for about half of the football played.</p> <p>22:00 Talks of tournaments played in Monaghan and Tyrone Castleblayney, Scotstown, Clogher, Fintona, Eskra and Trillick. Mentions playing in the Clogher Tournament against Carrickmore player Frankie Donnelly a Tyrone footballer in the 1950's.</p> <p>22:42 Speaks of his involvement in the late 1960's in club administration as treasurer a position he held for twenty-five years. Mentions the developments over the years and the work carried out by Joe Pat Prunty the contractor.</p> <p>24:00 Recalls the construction of new changing room.</p> <p>24:35 Talks about his son Martin McCaffrey who is now the treasurer. James is now President of the club.</p> <p>25:20 Talks about the second pitch, due to open next year, and the grant aid from Croke Park made possible by the opening up of Croke Park to other sports.</p> <p>26:11 Speaks of the club catering for about one hundred youths including football and ladies football and the need for this second pitch.</p> <p>27:05 Discusses the changes in the position of treasurer over the years from an annual income of £200 to about £20,000 due to fundraising events and the developments required.</p> <p>28:12 Describes the job as treasurer in the early years and since the developments started. Mentions organising event and draws and the assistance of the local church and parish priests.</p> <p>29:18 Talks of the lack of interest in the club by the current church authorities.</p> <p>29:55 Speaks about the ladies committee and their work through the 1970's with guest teas that raised about £7,000. Mentions the draws where tickets were sold around the counties that saw profits of about £30 – 40,000 and went to pay for the purchase of a field and other developments.</p> <p>30:52 Recalls his best memories of his involvement in the GAA, in the early years winning the league and championship</p>
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REFERENCE NO. FR/1/15

	<p>and in later years purchasing their own field and the development of the facilities.</p> <p>31:19 Tells of personally being on the teams that won every competition at Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels in the county.</p> <p>31:47 Talks of his GAA hero, James McCartan of Down.</p> <p>32:40 Speaks of going to Howth in Dublin to play a game in the early 1960's.</p> <p>33:18 Discusses the biggest change he has seen in the GAA, the abolition of the ban on soccer and rugby and then the ban on members of the RUC. Next would be the development of Croke Park, the brainchild of the President Peter Quinn.</p> <p>34:54 Tells of having no major disappointments with the GAA over the years while not necessarily agreeing with all their rule changes.</p> <p>36:22 Tells of his disappointment at seeing so many young people having to leave Ireland at the present time.</p> <p>37:25 Tells of the importance of the GAA in his life and how his life was built around football and hurling.</p> <p>38:18 Talks about the ban on dances. Mentions winning a competition and the victory céilí afterwards when the county board secretary and chairman would come to present the medals. They had to keep watch so that the old time waltz (the foreign dances) could be stopped before they arrived.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" 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): _____President_____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played for 15 years. Won senior championship and league, intermediate championship and league, junior championship and league.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Has been involved in administration since the age of 16.</p> <p>Club: Treasurer (25 years), Delegate to County Board, President.</p>

REFERENCE NO. FR/1/15

Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 00:40:41
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____06/08/12_____