

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	18 th Aug 2010
Location	Currin Clubhouse, Scotshouse, Co. Monaghan
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Tommy Carey
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1940 Home County: Monaghan (originally from Kerry)
Education	Primary: St. Enda's, Scotshouse, Co. Monaghan Secondary: Technical School, Clones, Co. Monaghan
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married to Sheila with 3 sons and 2 daughters
Club(s)	Currin, Sons of St. Patrick
Occupation	Lorry Driver
Parents' Occupation	Fisherman, Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Sinn Féin
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. MN/1/12

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Smyth
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1940 Home County: Monaghan
Education	Primary: St. Enda's, Scotshouse, Co. Monaghan Secondary: St. Tiernach's, Clones, Co. Monaghan
Family	Siblings: 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Married to Margaret with 3 daughters and 2 sons
Club(s)	Currin, Sons of St. Patrick [Monaghan]; Clann na Gael [Dublin]
Occupation	Farmer, Meat Factory, Bar Man
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Sinn Féin
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Community Centre

REFERENCE NO. MN/1/12

Date of Report	15 th June 2012
Period Covered	1886 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Monaghan, Fermanagh
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>John and Thomas are lifelong members of the Currin Sons of St Patrick club and they talk about their many experiences over the years. Currin is one of the oldest clubs in Monaghan and they are proud of its longevity. Together they recall playing football growing up, a time when the game was physical, facilities basic and footballs thin on the ground. Club tournaments were popular, although underage structures were not very developed. Big inter-county games were listened to on the radio at neighbours' houses, while John got to attend numerous games in Croke Park when he moved to live in Dublin. He later resettled in Monaghan and began a long and varied administrative career at club and county board level.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:30 (John) Earliest GAA memory. Club winning Dr Ward Cup in 1952.</p> <p>01:35 (Thomas) Earliest memory. Currin playing Threemilehouse, a fractious encounter.</p> <p>02:30 (Thomas) Originally from Kerry, moved to Monaghan at a young age.</p> <p>03:05 (John) What he remembers from the Dr Ward Cup win. Trophy in a prominent position in the post office window. Watching games at Finches Rock.</p> <p>04:25: (John) How they travelled to games when they were younger.</p>

REFERENCE NO. MN/1/12

	<p>04:55 (Thomas) How John Gavin cycling to Croke Park in 1960 to watch Kerry play Down. Ending up in Killarney after the game.</p> <p>05:45 (John) How players travelled to games.</p> <p>06:10 (Thomas) Going to the 1953 All-Ireland between Kerry and Armagh in his uncle's taxi.</p> <p>06:45 (John) First time going to a match in a car to see Monaghan play Tyrone in Ballybay. Replay in Breffni Park. Going to watch Monaghan play Armagh in 1961.</p> <p>08:05 (Thomas) First impressions of Croke Park.</p> <p>09:15 (John) Family involvement. Uncles Pat and Jim Murphy playing. Father's brother's involvement in the 1920s, Eugene Sonny Smith. Injury curtailing his career.</p> <p>10:55 (John) Listening to the 1947 All-Ireland final in his grandmother's house.</p> <p>11:35 (John) First All-Ireland was between Kilkenny and Waterford in 1957. Watched Louth play Cork in the football final a few weeks later. What he thought of Croke Park.</p> <p>13:25 (John) Currin Club founded in 1886. Inniskeen around for a similar length of time. Successes and failures. Why failure was more common.</p> <p>16:15 (John) Brian McCabe a long-serving treasurer of the club. Celebrating his involvement.</p> <p>17:35 (John) Other success the club enjoyed.</p> <p>18:20 (John) Hurling at the club in years gone by. Why they don't have a ladies football club.</p> <p>19:30 (John) Parish club is located in. Bishops and priests produced by the parish.</p> <p>20:55 (John) Attempts by Fermanagh to claim some of the parish land over the years. Some people living in Fermanagh but playing for a Monaghan club. Which county they would support.</p> <p>22:25 (John) Where the bulk of their players come from.</p> <p>23:00 (John) Issues over people from Fermanagh townlands playing for the club. Ulster Council ruling on the dispute.</p> <p>24:45 (John) Full name of club is Currin Son's of St Patrick. Reason for that name. Club colours and where they came</p>
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	<p>from. Colours evolving over they years.</p> <p>28:30 (John) Prominence of GAA at schools they attended. Less competitions. Playing at Under-16 level.</p> <p>29:40 (Thomas) What it was like playing in the fields when they were young.</p> <p>30:25 (John) Structures becoming more organised over the years.</p> <p>31:50 (John) Former GAA President Sean McCague opening their ground in 2002. Fr. Pat McHugh driving force behind purchase of the ground. Brian McCabe, Dermot Beattie, Pádraig McCaffrey all involved.</p> <p>33:40 (Thomas) Buying the land from a Dundalk man named Willie McArdle.</p> <p>34:15 (John) Fundraising to pay for the new grounds. Amount of land they bought.</p> <p>35:50 (Thomas) The land had been part of a large estate. Why the land was being sold.</p> <p>36:45 (John) What facilities were like when they were playing. How they have improved over the years. Training they did. Price of an O'Neill's football at the time. Where you could buy them. How many a typical club had.</p> <p>41:30 (Thomas) Balls they made themselves if there were no real footballs handy. Getting balls repaired. Pig's bladder used for balls.</p> <p>44:00 (Thomas) Killeevan, Clones big rivals of theirs. Travelling to play against them.</p> <p>45:00 (Thomas) Role of the clergy in GAA. Fr O'Brien involved.</p> <p>45:20 (John) Fr Caulfield involved in the 1920s. What he was like.</p> <p>47:05 (John) Involvement of teachers in the GAA. Jim Flynn from Donegal a passionate football man and former Donegal player. Training underage teams and organising school competitions.</p> <p>48:45 (John) 2010 teacher, Danny McCarney from Cork heavily involved.</p> <p>49:30 (Thomas) Religious affiliation of club members. John</p>
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	<p>Boyd a member in the 1960s.</p> <p>51:25 (John) Impact of being so close to the border with Northern Ireland and the Troubles.</p> <p>54:25 (Thomas) GAA and changes in the media. Controversial Meath goal in the 2010 Leinster semi-final against Louth.</p> <p>55:10 (John) Amount of publicity GAA gets. Spotlight on players and teams.</p> <p>56:10 (Thomas) Wet battery radios. Mentions Micheál O’Hehir, Liam Campbell and Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh commentating. Going to a neighbour’s house to listen to a big game.</p> <p>58:25 (Thomas) Watching games on television.</p> <p>58:45 (John) Living in Dublin and attending many games. RTÉ beginning to televise games in 1962. Launch event outside Gresham Hotel on O’Connell St, Dublin. Matches they covered.</p> <p>01:01:25 (Thomas) Admiration for former Tyrone player Peter Canavan. What the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>**Thomas leaves the interview**</p> <p>01:02:25 (John) Celebrations when the club achieves success. Homecoming in 2004 and December 2009 after winning the league. Other celebrations.</p> <p>01:04:20 (John) Playing with Clan na Gael in Dublin. Other players at the club. Differences between way game was played in Dublin and in Monaghan.</p> <p>01:06:50 (John) Return to Monaghan in 1979. Involvement as a selector and later in administrative positions. Going to county board meetings. Getting articles into the Northern Standard as PRO of the club.</p> <p>01:09:25 (John) Changes in the way county board meetings are run over the years. Big decisions that were taken regarding attire players wore.</p> <p>01:12:40 (John) Changes in the club over the years. Benefits of acquiring their own grounds.</p> <p>01:14:00 (John) Role of club in the community.</p> <p>01:14:45 (John) Future development of club. Aspirations.</p>
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REFERENCE NO. MN/1/12

	<p>01:15:50 (John) Favourite GAA memories. Down winning the All-Ireland in 1960. What was special about that. Huge crowd. Post-game celebrations.</p> <p>01:19:00 (John) Admiration for people like former Down player Seán O'Neill. Qualities he had. Paddy Doherty another Down player he admired.</p> <p>01:20:40 (John) Going to games in Killarney, Cork, Galway, Donegal, Belfast, Thurles, Tullamore.</p> <p>01:21:35 (John) Disappointments and dealing with them.</p> <p>01:22:10 (John) What the GAA has meant to him.</p> <p>01:23:35 (John) Playing in club tournaments in the 1960s. What that system changed over time.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Tommy: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>John: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Tommy: Played from age of 16 to 20.</p> <p>John: Played from age of 15 to 40. He won a junior championship in 1968 and a number of tournaments (they played in a lot!).</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Tommy: Committee Member, 2005</p> <p>John: Club: Secretary from 1981 – 1988/1989; PRO for 2 terms (late 80s, early 90s); Juvenile Secretary, 1999/2000</p>

REFERENCE NO. MN/1/12

	County: Delegate to County Board, 1983; Delegate to Juvenile Board, 1989
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:25:38
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: _____Arlene Crampsie_____

Date: _____15/06/12_____