GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of	Arlene Crampsie
Interviewer	
Date of Interview	14 th April 2010
Location	Holy Trinity College, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Peter Canavan
	Biographical Summary of Interviewee
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1971
	Home County: Tyrone
Education	Primary: St Malachy's, Glencull, Co. Tyrone
Family	Siblings: 10
	Current Family if Different: Married with two sons and two daughters
Club(s)	Errigal Ciaran; St. Ciaran's, Ballygawley; St. Malachy's, Glencull; Killyclogher Hurling Club
Occupation	Teacher
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Data of Danart	15 th June 2012
Date of Report	15 ⁴⁴ June 2012
Period Covered	1970 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Tyrone, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Sponsorship, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Northern Ireland, Relationship with the Association, Role of Teachers, Role of Clergy, Outsider's Perspectives, Professionalism, Retirement, Socialising, Relationships, Education, Religion
Interview Summary	Peter Canavan talks about his childhood and playing career in the interview. He grew up listening to stories from his father and uncles about matches and the GAA's role in the community before he was born. Peter was not able to play competitive football throughout most of his childhood and he talks about the advantages and disadvantages of this. He enjoyed much success during his career, playing for both County Tyrone and his club team, Errigal Ciaran. Peter tells many interesting stories about his experiences playing in All- Ireland games as well as other games throughout his career. 0:00 Introduction
	0:28 Earliest GAA memories of watching All-Irelands with his family.
	0:55 Struggles of watching live GAA matches during the 1970's other than All-Ireland semi-finals and finals.
	1:20 Meaning of watching All-Ireland matches live with his family.
	1:48 Travelling to games with his father to watch his brother's club matches and listening to critiques by his father of his brother's club games.
	2:15 Memories of attending games as a child, in relation to his son's experiences attending games now.
	2:45 Peter talks about the meaning of going to Croke Park for him and for children now from Tyrone.

3:10 First memory of going to Croke Park to the 1984 All- Ireland Semi-final between Tyrone and Dublin.
3:45 Memories of attending the Ulster Final in 1984 with his father, also known as the Frank McGuigan Final.
4:10 Meaning of Tyrone playing Dublin in the semi-final and travelling with Tyrone supporters.
4:50 Atmosphere of the stadium during the match.
5:20 Opinion of the 1984 Dublin team, including Barney Rock, Tommy Drumm, and Brian Mullins.
5:45 Family's involvement with the GAA.
6:00 Grandmother's family on his father's side would have been connected to the club.
6:10 Great Uncles reminiscing about games they played.
6:25 Description of the pitch his father played on and he would later play on and stories about the river bordering it.
7:25 Using the pitch as a meeting point.
8:10 Relays memories from his great uncles about marking Frankie Donnelly.
8:30 Peter talks about watching TV and hearing his father and great uncle talk about games from 20-30 years previous.
9:30 Role of the club in the community, in terms of communication before new technology.
10:05 The pitch's role in things such as buying and selling cattle.
10:15 Time spent around the local football pitch as a child.
10:30 Difference in his parish and upbringing in Gaelic games because of split in his own club.
11:10 Memories of Sundays after going to Church and playing football in the neighbourhood and how the club was a focal part of the community.
12:00 How Peter and his brothers made use of the resources they had to practice.
12:30 Peter's opinions of the split in the club and becoming deprived of competitive football.
13:35 Looking back on his childhood in football, compared to

football for children now.
14:10 How a lack of competitive football at an early age made him more motivated for matches later.
14:35 The reuniting of the club and its benefits and lessons learned.
15:40 Peter talks about his own playing career.
15:45 Playing for his school team at Glencull Primary School.
16:05 Playing in his first competition as a P4 with his brother Pascal, Christopher McGirr and Stevie O'Donnell.
16:40 Playing in parish competitions for the Knockmanny Cup at primary school level against Augher, Clogher, Aghaloo, Killeshill.
17:10 Memories of winning every competition he was in as a P7 with Brian McKenna and Sean O'Neill.
17:30 Peter's principle at the time was Joe McCrory whose son now plays for Peter.
18:10 Memories of playing for the Under 12 club team as an 8 or 9 year old before the club split, a man named Tommy Ward was manager. Seamie McCaffrey took them to matches.
18:50 Playing challenge games with Glencull after the club split.
19:00 Playing for his primary school, St. Ciaran's Ballygawley, where Mickey Harte was his P.E. teacher and Robbie Hasson would have been coaching and head of PE.
19:35 Other players starting out around the same time, including Leo Cuddy, Aghaloo; Mark McCarroll, Eskra; Aidan Bogue, Clogher and Connor Quinn from Peter's club.
20:15 Winning an Ulster Under 14 title with St. Ciaran's but losing an Under 16 final to a St. Pius's team that included Gary Coleman and Fay Devlin.
21:00 Representing the Tyrone vocational schools in an Under 18 championship in Croke Park managed by Vivian Cullen, Coalisland and Kieran Curry, St Pat's, Dungannon. In 1988 and 1989 defeating Mayo.
22:05 Story about keeping memories and artefacts from Croke Park after the Vocational Schools Championship.

22:30 Feelings on playing in Croke Park being a rare occurrence.
22:45 Story about the 1989 Vocational Championship.
23:15 Francie Martin's role in Peter being able to play for County Tyrone because of the situation with Peter's club. He signed him up as a member of Killyclogher Hurling Club.
24:30 Describing disappointment of losing in the minors All- Ireland semi-final against Kerry in 1988.
25:45 Losing in the first round to Armagh for the Tyrone Minors in 1989 and playing against Kieran McGeeney.
26:15 Memories of playing for the Tyrone Under 21 team with Adrian Cush that was managed by Danny Ball.
26:45 Peter describes the successes of the Tyrone Under 21 teams from 1990-1992.
27:40 Story about playing in the McKenna Cup Final immediately after the Ulster Under 21 Final in 1990.
28:00 Memories of All-Ireland Under 21 Semi-Final and Final in 1990, including of Billy O'Sullivan and Maurice Fitzgerald's performances.
28:55 Having the chance of redemption against Kerry in the next year's All-Ireland Under 21 Final.
29:35 Remembering having a reception in Omagh that Sunday night in celebration.
29:45 The performances in the Final of players such as: Paul Donnelly, Adrian Cush, Danny Barr, Adrian Kilpatrick, and Eamonn McCaffrey.
30:30 Road to winning the All-Ireland Under 21 Final the following year.
30:40 Opinions on Kerry's team that year, including players such as Eamon O'Flaherty, Seamus Moynihan, and Billy O'Shea.
31:00 Beating Galway in the All-Ireland Under 21 Final and some of the players on the team, including John Fallon, Gary Fahey, and Niall Finnegan.
31:40 The performances of players on the Tyrone team, including Ciaran Loughran, Brian Gormley, Stephen Lawn, Chris Lawn, and Fay Devlin.

i	32:30 Talking about his Under 21 club experience and playing in a county final for his club but not playing club football at a minor level.
	33:05 Playing for the Errigal Ciaran Thirds as his club team and the successes of the team.
1	34:15 Playing Division 1 Football with the club beginning in 1992, managed by Fr. Sean Hegarty with Francie Mulgrew initially.
	34:50 Memories of winning the club county title for the first time in 62 years.
	35:30 How the victory affected people involved with the club and what it meant to them.
	36:20 Having 3 of his brothers on the team with him when they won the title.
	36:50 Going on to become the first Tyrone club team to win an Ulster Club title.
	37:30 Playing the Nemo Rangers in the All-Ireland Semi-Final and the suspiciousness of the game being called off at first.
	38:30 A list of the players on the Rangers team who also played for County Cork.
	39:15 Players on the Errigal Ciaran team that won the All- Ulster championship in 1993.
	40:10 Successes of the Errigal Ciaran club team in the following years.
	40:50 Winning the Ulster Club championship again in 2002 with Mickey Harte as the coach.
4	41:10 Story about games against Crossmaglen in 2002.
	42:10 Road to winning the All-Ulster Final in 2002, and opinions of the teams they played.
	42:40 Disruption to training before All-Ireland Semi-Final because of Mickey Harte being appointed Tyrone manager.
	42:55 Two of the key players for the club becoming ill before the match.
	43:30 Winning the Tyrone Club championship again in 2006 against Carrickmore but losing in the Ulster Semi-Final.
Z	44:05 Talking about the new generation of players who were

on the team in 2006.
44:45 First game playing for the Tyrone senior team in October 1989.
45:25 Rule changes that were beginning to take place around the time of his debut for Tyrone.
46:10 Playing with players he had always looked up to, such as Eugene McKenna, Damien O'Hagan, Kevin McCabe, Ciaran McGarvey, and John Lynch.
46:40 Tyrone losing to Mayo in the All-Ireland Semi-Final in 1989.
47:00 Playing against Dublin in the Sky Dome in Toronto in 1990.
47:25 Feelings about his first year of playing for the Tyrone team.
47:30 Disappointment of losing to Armagh in the first round of the Ulster Championship but excitement of making his debut at the same game as his brother.
47:50 Losing the game on a disallowed goal.
48:15 Losing in the first round by a point all three years John Donnelly was the manager.
48:25 The training in Peter's first few years on the senior team and the mix of players on the team those first years.
49:00 The potential of the teams in the early 1990's.
49:40 Being taken out of a game in the first round against Derry with 15 minutes to go.
50:00 Difficulties of playing at the senior level.
50:15 Winning his first game in the All-Ulster in 1994 and going on to play in the All-Ulster Final that year.
50:55 Feelings while running onto to the pitch before the All- Ulster Final.
51:20 Winning back to back Ulster Titles in 1995 and 1996.
51:30 Reaching the All-Ireland final in 1995 against Dublin and feelings about decisions during the match.
52:20 Feelings of destiny going into the match against Dublin and hoping to continue the streak of Ulster teams winning the

All-Ireland to five years in a row.
53:10 Disappointment of not winning the All-Ireland in 1995.
53:40 Opinions of the Tyrone team in 1996 and of the game against Meath in the All-Ireland Final.
53:50 Meath's method of play in the Final and Peter's opinion of it.
54:15 Difficulty of accepting the manner of defeat in the Final.
54:30 Being hurt in the first half of the game and others who were hurt during the game.
55:00 Recovering from the injury and how long it took to win the All-Ulster again.
55:50 Gaining hope from the emergence of younger players in the end of the 1990's and early 2000's coinciding with Mickey Harte becoming manager in 2003.
56:20 Winning Ulster in 2001 and beginning to head in the right direction.
56:25 Winning the National League in 2002 for the first time for Tyrone.
57:05 Losing to Armagh that year in the Championship, who went on to win the All-Ireland.
57:30 2003 being a momentous year for the people of Tyrone.
57:40 Comparing his kick against Derry in the first round to his famous kick against Armagh in the semi-final, and the kick gaining a draw against Derry.
58:40 Path to the All-Ulster Final in 2003.
59:00 Why he will never forget the All-Ulster Final that year and memories from the game.
59:50 Coming back to draw the game against Down from 9 points behind in the All-Ulster Final.
1:00:30 Winning the replay game against Down in similar fashion to the first round game against Derry.
1:00:45 Peter's performance in the replay match of the All- Ulster Final against Down.
1:01:30 Mindset approaching the All-Ireland quarterfinal

	against Fermanagh.
	1:01:45 Memories of the Semi-Final against Kerry.
	1:01:55 Tactics used against Kerry in that match and people's opinions of them.
	1:03:20 Looking forward to battling with Seamus Moynihan but getting injured during the game.
	1:03:45 Memories of the game after being injured, including performances of Ryan McMenamin and Brian Dooher.
	1:04:30 Remembering the weeks before the All-Ireland Final and his recovery from a torn tendon.
	1:05:15 Setbacks during the weeks before the Final.
	1:05:25 Meeting with Mickey Harte before the game to decide whether he should start or come on during the game.
	1:06:00 Significance of playing against Armagh in the All- Ireland Final.
	1:06:20 Strategy used in terms of his playing in the Final with his injury.
	1:07:05 Missing part of the second half to get his ankle treated.
	1:07:35 Training room being sound proof and being unable to know what was going on in the biggest game of his life.
	1:08:00 Knowing he would be brought on at some stage during the second half.
	1:08:20 The sense of excitement for Tyrone winning its first All-Ireland.
	1:08:30 Climbing the steps and lifting the Sam Maguire Cup.
1	1:09:10 Not having a speech prepared, but having been taught a few Irish words by Máire Quinn, his sister-in-law before the match.
	1:10:00 Not giving the speech too much thought before the game.
	1:10:40 Regrets about the game, including that his father was not able to see it and that his brother was not part of the team.
	1:11:25 Peter speaks about all of the people who doubted

that Tyrone could win an All-Ireland Final.
1:11:45 Winning the All-Ireland in 2005 as well.
1:12:10 Games that Peter would like to go back and watch again.
1:13:25 Cormac McAnallen, in 2004, not wanting to be captain of a team that won only one All-Ireland.
1:13:50 Describing the moment when Brian Dooher lifted the Sam Maguire Cup in 2005.
1:14:00 His plans and reasons for that All-Ireland Final to be his last game for Tyrone.
1:15:00 Playing only for his club in 2006.
1:15:25 Knowing he was approaching the end of his career and his last match against Donaghmore in 2007.
1:15:50 Looking back on his career with fond memories.
1:16:35 Describing himself as a player.
1:17:45 The ups and downs of his own career and being persistent.
1:18:40 His record in draws and his feelings about it.
1:19:10 The importance of a relationship between a player and a manager.
1:19:50 Learning from different managers and using what he learned when he manages.
1:20:30 Peter always being prepared to learn from his managers.
1:20:45 Reasons for becoming involved in managing.
1:21:20 Motivation for managing his club as opposed to other clubs or counties.
1:21:40 Enjoyment in managing his own club.
1:22:25 Opinions on how the GAA treats its players and how it has changed throughout his career.
1:23:00 Improvements in player welfare and reasons for that.
1:23:50 Wanting the best young players coming up playing Gaelic football and not soccer, rugby, or Aussie Rules.

	1:24:20 Opinions on professionalism and pay-for-play.
	1:25:00 Opinions on players being allowed to receive grants and sponsorship opportunities.
	1:25:40 Problem of players pulling out of matches because of work or studies due to participating costing them money.
	1:26:15 Peter's opinions of the relationship between the GAA and the players and how it has improved since he started playing.
	1:27:05 Opinions of how to improve the relationship further.
	1:27:55 Best memories coming from successes and achievements done for the first time.
	1:28:30 Lowest memories of being in the GAA.
	1:28:55 Being a part of the GAA in many ways, sometimes without realising it.
	1:29:10 Building relationships through the GAA.
	1:29:20 Watching his children take part in the GAA.
Involvement in GAA	✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager ✓ Coach □ Steward
	□ Chairperson □ Committee Member □ Grounds-person
	□ Caterer □ Jersey Washer □ Referee □ None
	Other (please specify):
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	N/A
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	N/A
Format	✓ Audio □ Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:29:58
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_____