

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	30 th Aug 2010
Location	Interviewee's home, near Ballyheelan, Co. Cavan
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Peter Brady
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1935 Home County: Cavan
Education	Primary: Ballynarry NS, Co. Cavan Secondary: Kilnaleck Vocational School, Co. Cavan Third Level: Salesian College Warrenstown, Co. Meath
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married to Mella with 2 daughters and 1 son
Club(s)	Ballymachugh [Cavan]; Crosserlough [Cavan]; Cullion [Westmeath]
Occupation	Farmer; Central Fisheries Board (1957 – 1988)
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Apolitical but strongly Nationalist
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Chairman of Secondary School Board, chairman of the Cavan Drama Festival, member of another school board, the Kilnaleck Shelter for Homeless Committee, Fleadh Cheoil Committee, Realtóg Resource Centre Committee, Kilnaleck.

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Date of Report	5 th July 2012
Period Covered	1804 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Cavan
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and, Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Peter recalls his GAA experiences over the years. He talks about his local club, Ballymachugh, from its inception to it ceasing to exist to its re-emergence. He played with the club when he was young and soon became involved in administration in an unofficial capacity, helping to translate players' names into Irish. When he did get involved in administration he rose through the ranks, from assistant secretary of his club to county board delegate to chairman of the county board. He was also on numerous Croke Park committees and later worked on the development of hurling in Cavan. Peter recounts the history of club football in Cavan, and of the county team which enjoyed so much success in the 1940s and 1950s. He is a passionate believer in the GAA as a positive force in Irish society, and laments the increasing popularity of English soccer. He also reflects on how the GAA has been able to effect change for the better in times of conflict, whether that be in 1916, during the Civil War or in Northern Ireland when the Troubles were raging.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:20 Going to a game between Ballyjamesduff and Kilnaleck with his father on a bicycle when he was a boy. Incident at half-time. Mick Higgins playing and his father (John Higgins) calling him aside.</p> <p>01:30 Ballymachugh his club. Fields they used to play in – Fenay, Clonlohan, Ballyheelan.</p>

	<p>01:45 Playing local games against Mullahoran, Mountnugent, Ballyjamesduff, Castlerahan during World War II.</p> <p>02:15 Kilnaleck ceasing to exist in the 1940s and later amalgamating with Ballyjamesduff.</p> <p>02:45 Games played on major holy days – mentions Fenay on the 15th August.</p> <p>03:15 Incident over rules about player names being submitted in Irish. Peter Briody getting him to write the names in Irish. Questions over the legality of a player.</p> <p>04:50 Ballymachugh joining up with Crosserlough. Agreement they reached with them.</p> <p>05:25 Ballymachugh restarting with underage teams in 1955. Impact of World War II and emigration.</p> <p>06:10 Meeting held about entering a team and seven people attending. Peter Briody against it.</p> <p>06:55 Going to Leonard's in Cavan to buy jerseys.</p> <p>07:10 Club gradually re-emerging.</p> <p>07:25 Brother Cyril working on GAA in the schools.</p> <p>07:40 Peter Briody's contribution.</p> <p>08:10 Playing in Castlerahan in 1960. Frank Harnett clashing with Patsy Wright. Violence breaking out. Issue going to the county board. TP O'Reilly suspended club.</p> <p>09:45 James Gaffney treasurer giving his report at a meeting.</p> <p>10:10 Playing in Cornafean. Trouble breaking out. Patsy Sheridan getting agitated. Issue going to the county board. TP O'Reilly sitting in judgment.</p> <p>12:35 Cavan team successful in the 1950s. Peter Donohoe, Mick Higgins, John Joe Reilly, Tony Tighe icons.</p> <p>13:05 Cavan winning the All-Ireland in New York in 1947. Bonfire parades when the team returned.</p> <p>13:35 Owen Roe O'Neill memorial unveiling in 1949 attracting</p>
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	<p>biggest crowd in the town until the recent Fleadh Cheoil.</p> <p>14:00 Role of Granard as main town for parts of Cavan. Paddy Smith of Cavan working in Granard and big crowds turning out there.</p> <p>14:40 Club scene strengthening in Cavan.</p> <p>15:10 Census of 1841 compared to census of 1991.</p> <p>15:25 Discusses the impact of the famine / The Great Hunger.</p> <p>15:55 GAA clubs in the 1970s.</p> <p>16:05 1984 GAA resolution that every club have its own ground.</p> <p>16:30 Club's facilities and their development.</p> <p>16:50 Club as hub of the community's social scene.</p> <p>17:10 Emigration and its impact.</p> <p>17:25 GAA attracting emigrants home.</p> <p>17:50 Going to Cheshire, England with Pdraig Kiernan. Going to the local pub and asking about sports in the area.</p> <p>19:30 Reaching an intermediate final in 1981. Being manager. Collecting money to get Matt Reilly home from the United States for the game.</p> <p>20:10 Pat Briody enjoying the win and the evening's celebrations.</p> <p>20:50 Purchasing a field. Getting land from the Land Commission. Problems with that.</p> <p>22:00 Going to Buddy Kiernan for a cash donation.</p> <p>22:30 Selling tickets around Ireland and overseas.</p> <p>23:10 Being in debt and having a meeting about it. What was decided.</p> <p>23:55 Democratic nature of the GAA.</p>
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	<p>25:10 Competition from English soccer and his fears about that.</p> <p>26:15 Member of the Cavan team going to Manchester for soccer trials.</p> <p>26:45 What he dislikes about English soccer.</p> <p>27:25 Local man bringing his sons to a game in England and songs that were sung.</p> <p>29:25 Irish media coverage of English soccer.</p> <p>30:15 Idea of people poaching GAA players failing.</p> <p>31:05 Soccer as an attendance sport in Ireland doing badly.</p> <p>31:55 Soccer game played to open the Aviva Stadium in 2010. Irish team booed.</p> <p>32:50 Future of the GAA.</p> <p>33:15 Characters at GAA games and the things they shout. Mentions Pádraig Kiernan and John Brady.</p> <p>34:00 Playing Shercock in Lavey and Jim Tom Conaty referee. Telling a player to take a free again. Back and forth with the player.</p> <p>35:30 Gerard Gill playing when the new field was opened. Crowd shouting at him on the pitch.</p> <p>36:40 Dublin supporters at Croke Park. Dublin v Meath games in 1991. What that was like.</p> <p>37:40 Incident in junior game and Dublin fans commenting on it.</p> <p>38:30 Uniqueness of GAA. Tom Humphries' take on the GAA.</p> <p>39:00 Alcohol sponsorship.</p> <p>39:40 Change in people's drinking habits over the years. Mick Loftus against alcohol advertising.</p> <p>40:50 Problem with club scene in Cavan.</p> <p>41:25 How Kerry clubs organise themselves.</p>
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	<p>42:45 Motion brought in 1991 to divide the county into eight areas. How that went.</p> <p>44:55 Opinion of challenge matches.</p> <p>46:00 Imbalance in quality in provinces and what can be done about that.</p> <p>47:45 Good work done by the GAA in Ulster in keeping people out of the Troubles in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>48:35 Going to games in Northern Ireland as much as possible. Teams unable to publicise games out of fear of the RUC.</p> <p>49:15 People close to him killed in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>49:55 Arranging to play Glenuilin from outside Belfast.</p> <p>50:45 Work of Liam Mulvihill and President Peter Quinn in developing Croke Park. Being invited to a meeting about that. In put of architect, Macken.</p> <p>52:05 Clubs contributing to the development of Croke Park.</p> <p>52:40 Speaking about Ballymachugh at a reception in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>53:10 Involvement in GAA starting in 1944.</p> <p>53:35 Unofficial administrative involvement.</p> <p>53:55 Working in Kilnaleck.</p> <p>54:30 Joining the Crosserlough team.</p> <p>55:10 Ballymachugh returning to football. Being drawn against them. How he handled that.</p> <p>55:35 Working with the Central Fisheries Board. Getting involved in clubs like Macroom in Cork and Cullion in Westmeath.</p> <p>56:05 Being in college in Warrenstown. Fr Charlie McDonnell promoting hurling there.</p> <p>57:05 Asking DJ Carey of Kilkenny to coach people in Cavan.</p>
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	<p>Johnny Dooley of Offaly also visiting.</p> <p>58:00 Moving home in the 1960s. Becoming assistant secretary and PRO, then secretary in 1979.</p> <p>58:40 Working as team manager and later as a county board delegate. Being vice-chairman of the county board and later chairman.</p> <p>01:00:00 Retiring as chairman and reason for that.</p> <p>01:00:50 Getting involved in hurling. Withdrawing senior team from inter-county competition.</p> <p>01:01:30 Seamus McGrattan starting a new coaching council in Ulster. Involvement in that.</p> <p>01:02:05 Féile na nGael in 1994 and 1995. Success there.</p> <p>01:03:10 Reaching an Under-16 final against Armagh in 1998.</p> <p>01:04:45 Paddy Kelly training the senior team. Mullahoran, Cavan Gaels, Bailieborough, Woodford Gaels strong hurling teams.</p> <p>01:04:40 Becoming team manager again for two years. Administrative duties.</p> <p>01:05:55 Benefits of astro turf pitch at the club.</p> <p>01:06:30 Getting a second pitch.</p> <p>01:07:55 All presentations made at the pub. ICA women there.</p> <p>01:08:15 All-Ireland Féile in Cavan.</p> <p>01:09:20 Broadcasting a radio programme from Longford. Going to watch games around the country afterwards.</p> <p>01:10:25 Being on committees at Croke Park and on hurling in Ulster.</p> <p>01:11:15 Incident in Kilnaleck that led to stopping of the club in 1942. Game against Brusky, who had Sonny Briody of Ballymachugh on the team illegally. Fr Maguire county board chairman. Action taken. More trouble.</p>
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	<p>01:13:00 Players leaving the Kilnaleck club – Mick Higgins and Tony Tighe mentioned.</p> <p>01:13:35 Club founded in 1888. Parnell split affecting things in Ireland. First clubs in the area - Fenay Knights of Freedom, Carrig Friendly Sons of St Patrick, Omard Sarsfields, Ballyheelan Dreadnoughts.</p> <p>01:14:35 Ballymachugh St. Patrick's formed in 1910. Political background. GAA under scrutiny by the RIC for any IRB links.</p> <p>01:15:25 GAA vulnerable in early 1890s.</p> <p>01:15:45 Lack of support from the church.</p> <p>01:16:05 Incident in Drumkilly with a priest talking about bringing goalposts with them.</p> <p>01:17:05 Trinity College and St Patrick's College, Maynooth and where they stood. Prevalence of rugby, mentions schools such as Belvedere, Blackrock, Castleknock, Clongowes Wood and Knockbeg.</p> <p>01:17:50 Priests in Maynooth forbidden to play GAA.</p> <p>01:18:15 GAA and John Charles McQuaid banning people going to Trinity.</p> <p>01:18:40 Wyndham Act and how that helped.</p> <p>01:19:10 World War I and its impact.</p> <p>01:19:15 Antrim in an All-Ireland final.</p> <p>01:19:25 Cavan in an All-Ireland hurling semi-final in 1908.</p> <p>01:19:55 1916 rebellion and Civil War in 1922. John Joe Sheehy and Jim Brosnan in Kerry. GAA clubs named after patriots.</p> <p>01:21:35 Tailteann Games.</p> <p>01:22:10 Cavan's first All-Ireland final.</p> <p>01:23:05 Cavan in 1934 All-Ireland final. Big crowds. Contentious result.</p>
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	<p>01:23:50 Trip to the United States.</p> <p>01:24:00 Controversy in 1937 All-Ireland final against Kerry. Jim Smith injured. Packie Boylan and Joe Keohane playing.</p> <p>01:24:45 Success in 1947, 1948 and 1952.</p> <p>01:25:10 Man returning from the United States and spending money on the local players. Impact of that.</p> <p>01:25:50 Impact of Troubles in Northern Ireland on the club. Being stopped at roadblocks.</p> <p>01:28:40 Favourite memory - 1981 intermediate final. Celebrations afterwards.</p> <p>01:29:50 Being elected chairman of the county board.</p> <p>01:30:20 Disappointment of Cavan losing in the 1992 Ulster championship. Dispute over a goal.</p> <p>01:31:00 Losing the 1967 All-Ireland semi-final.</p> <p>01:31:35 Friends he has made through the GAA.</p> <p>01:31:50 Young GAA players staying out of trouble.</p> <p>01:32:35 Going to Gaelic Park in New York for a re-enactment of the 1947 All-Ireland final.</p> <p>01:33:00 Hope to go see the Asian Games.</p> <p>01:33:40 What the GAA has meant to him. The GAA as an Association.</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 checked="" 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): _____</p>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played from the age of 7/8 to senior level. Won a 7-A-Side, an intermediate medal with 1981 team. Also won 3 awards at Scór for English Recitation, Irish Recitation and Question Time.</p>

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Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Peter got involved in administration from the late 1950s, but officially from 1968 he is still involved as club committee member and Assistant Secretary. Club: Assistant Secretary; Secretary; PRO, Treasurer; Vice Chairman; Chairman County: County Executive Committee; Chairperson of Games Administration Committee; Chairman of Hurling Board; County Chairman Ulster: Delegate to Ulster Hurling from County Board Central: Replacement delegate to Central Council.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:35:23
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: _____05/07/12_____