

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	16 th May 2011
Location	Parochial House, near Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Canon William Fitzmaurice
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1946 Home County: Limerick
Education	Primary: Raheenagh NS, Killeedy, Co. Limerick Secondary: St Ita's Secondary School, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick Third Level: St Patrick's College, Maynooth.
Family	N/A
Club(s)	Killeedy GAA [Limerick]
Occupation	Priest
Parents' Occupation	School Teacher [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Various parish organisations

REFERENCE NO. LK/1/15

Date of Report	22 nd August 2012
Period Covered	1950s - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Limerick, Kildare, Clare, Cork, Tipperary, Wexford, Kilkenny, Dublin, Galway
Key Themes Covered	Playing, Coaching, Education, Religion, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Family Involvement, Career, Outsider's Perspectives
Interview Summary	<p>William discusses growing up in Killeedy and the role that Gaelic games played in the area. He describes his and the club's development, culminating in a county hurling final win. William discusses Gaelic games in St Patrick's College, Maynooth. He talks about the removal of restrictions on priests playing for their counties. He recalls playing for Limerick and describes training routines at the time. William talks about the parish of Garryowen, comparing an urban GAA club with a rural one. He explains how his involvement in the GAA impacted on his clerical duties. He discusses his coaching career, referencing teams and competitions that he was involved in. He concludes by discussing the role of the GAA in the community, and explains what his involvement in the Association has meant to him. He finishes by discussing what an outsider's perspective of the GAA might be.</p> <p>00:27 William recalls growing up in Killeedy, West Limerick. Mentions villages of Ashford and Raheenagh. Also mentions Ballagh. Refers to St Ita.</p> <p>02:47 Recalls Gaelic games in the area.</p> <p>04:05 Recalls local tournaments that took place. Mentions Tournafulla, Dromcollogher, Tullylease, North Cork, Newcastlewest.</p> <p>04:44 Discusses history of family involvement in Gaelic games.</p> <p>06:24 Recalls Gaelic games in his school days.</p> <p>06:58 Describes his earliest memories of the GAA.</p> <p>08:38 Describes listening to matches on the radio. Mentions Micheál Ó hÉithir and matches involving Wexford, Cork, Tipperary, Limerick and Kilkenny.</p> <p>09:41 Recalls childhood GAA heroes. Mentions 1955 Munster Hurling Final against Clare. Also recalls 1956 Munster Final</p>

	<p>against Cork and Christy Ring's three goals. Mentions Dermot Kelly, Liam Ryan, Seamus Ryan, the Graham brother, Rob Prendergast and the Cobb brothers. Also mentions Christy Ring and Kilkenny.</p> <p>11:15 Discusses his and the club's development. Mentions playing for Killeedy. Mentions minor team successes, amalgamating with Feohanagh for that competition. Describes how club became more organised. Recalls commission established to examine state of Limerick hurling. Mentions contests against Tournafulla and South Liberties. Mentions Pat Hartigan, Joe McKenna and Eamon Grimes.</p> <p>16:05 Discusses Killeedy winning 1980 county hurling championship final against South Liberties.</p> <p>16:49 Discusses the hurling situation when attending secondary school in Newcastlewest.</p> <p>17:25 Discusses Gaelic games in St Patrick's College, Maynooth. Recalls being selected for senior Limerick hurling team after winning All-Ireland hurling final in 1973. Mentions relaxing of rule on players from the college playing in 1971. Mentions Fitzgibbon Cup. Recalls winning Fitzgibbon Cup in 1973, beating UCD and UCG. Mentions Fr Gerry Maher from Tipperary, Canon White, and Fr Malachy O'Rourke from Armagh.</p> <p>25:40 Describes being ordained as a priest. Mentions St John's Cathedral parish, Garryowen.</p> <p>26:55 Discusses playing for Limerick. Mentions training regime. Mentions various Munster finals, discussing rivalry with Cork. Mentions Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Charlie McCarthy, Mick Malone. Recalls beating Clare in final also. Mentions mentors such as Noel Drumgoole from Dublin, Dr Dick Stokes, Jackie Power, Phil Bennis, Jack Ryan. Recalls players such as Pat Hartigan, Joe McKenna, Eamon Grimes, Eamon Cregan and Sean Foley.</p> <p>30:43 Discusses priests playing on inter-county teams. Mentions his brother, a priest also, playing with him for Limerick. Refers to Cappamore. Discusses effect of playing Gaelic games on his clerical life.</p> <p>32:09 Discusses Garryowen. Mentions rugby. Also discusses St Patricks and Claughan. Mentions soccer. Describes GAA club structure in Garryowen.</p> <p>34:17 Recalls his coaching career. Discusses style of play with Killeedy. Mentions being involved with Limerick minor</p>
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	<p>team. Mentions contests against Tipperary, Clare and Cork. Also mentions involvement with under 21 team. Mentions Cork's Barry Egan and Brian Corcoran. Refers to 1994 and 1996 All-Ireland hurling finals. Mentions being a selector with Eamon Cregan as manager.</p> <p>38:43 Discusses motivating teams. Mentions tradition of Tipperary and Cork.</p> <p>41:05 Discusses role of the GAA in the community. Mentions GAA in St John's parish, comparing it to rural set-up. Discusses issue of amalgamation with other clubs.</p> <p>44:09 Explains what his involvement in the GAA has meant to him. Mentions outsider's perspective on the GAA.</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 type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" 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>
<p>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Killeedy GAA: Played from underage – 45/56 yrs. Won Limerick Senior Championship in 1980.</p> <p>St Patrick's Maynooth: Played 1971 – 73. Won Fitzgibbon Cup on 1973.</p> <p>Limerick Senior Hurling Team: Played from 1973 – 82.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Chairman of Killeedy GAA for 4/5 years.</p> <p>Member of Limerick GAA Development Committee</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 00:46:38</p>
<p>Language</p>	<p>English</p>

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 22nd August 2012