

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2011
<b>Location</b>	Vincent's home, near Ardara, Co. Donegal
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Michael O'Donnell
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1951 <b>Home County:</b> Donegal
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Leaconnell NS, Ardara, Co. Donegal <b>Secondary:</b> Coláiste Éinde, Galway, Co. Donegal <b>Third Level:</b> St. Pat's, Drumcondra, Dublin
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 7 brothers & 4 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> 2 sons and 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Ardara
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Teacher
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fine Gael
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Narin and Portnoo Golf Club

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Vincent McConnell
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1935 <b>Home County:</b> Donegal
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Brackey NS, Co. Donegal <b>Secondary:</b> McDevitt Institute, Co. Donegal
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 5 brothers & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 3 sons
<b>Club(s)</b>	Ardara [Donegal]; Donegal [New York]
<b>Occupation</b>	Carpenter
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Shopkeeper [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Eddie Doherty
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1938 <b>Home County:</b> Donegal
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Brackey NS, Co. Donegal
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married with 5 sons and 3 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Ardara
<b>Occupation</b>	Hand Weaver, Publican
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Conductor on Buses and Trains [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Packie McGuire
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1934 <b>Home County:</b> Donegal
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Meentinadea NS, Co. Donegal
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 2 brothers & 2 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married
<b>Club(s)</b>	Ardara [Donegal]; Tara's [Birmingham]; John Mitchel's [Birmingham]; Four Masters [Coventry]; Donegal [New York]; Cavan [Philadelphia]; Donegal [Philadelphia]
<b>Occupation</b>	Weaver, Steel Factory, Petrol Station
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Weaver and Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1900s – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Donegal, Great Britain, England, Americas, USA, Antrim
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Violence, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Members of Ardara GAA club talk about their involvement in the GAA over the years. They talk about their early involvement in the Association and the history of the Ardara club. They discuss the history of the GAA in the area and describe how the game of camán was played in Ardara. They talk about the development of the club and Vincent describes how the club got its ground, known as Pearse Memorial Park. They describe the make-up of the parish and note the club's main rivals in the area. Packie talks about emigrating to England before moving to America and describes his involvement in the GAA in both countries. Vincent recalls his involvement in the GAA in New York and describes the role the GAA played there. The group talk about a number of issues including the role of women in the GAA, the role that teachers and the clergy play in the Association. They discuss the role of the club in the local community and towards the end of the interview they highlight the important role the GAA has played in their lives over the years.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>01:00 (Vincent) Talks about his earliest memories of the GAA. Going to a match in Pearse Memorial Park in the late 1940s.</p> <p>02:00 (Packie) Recalls his earliest GAA memory, going to see Ballyshannon play Gaoth Dobhair. Mentions Red Jack, Jim McFadden "Twinkling Legs".</p> <p>02:50 (Eddie) Discusses his earliest GAA memories. No</p>

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	<p>training, just kicking in and out.</p> <p>03:49 (John Michael) Talks about watching a school match.</p> <p>05:14 (Vincent) Describes why the pitch is known as Kentucky.</p> <p>06:35 Talks about his family's involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>07:19 (Packie) Describes how he became interested in the GAA.</p> <p>09:04 (Eddie) Discusses his family's involvement in the GAA. Talks about moving from Belfast during the Second World War. Discusses his uncle Con Murphy who died as a result of an accident at a match.</p> <p>10:20 (John Michael) Talks about his father's interest in the GAA. Growing up on a farm.</p> <p>11:55 Discusses camán being played in the area. Why it stopped.</p> <p>13:00 (Eddie) Talks about being involved in juvenile hurling with the club. Only games were against Glenties. Mentions Dan Ward.</p> <p>14:00 (All) They discuss hurling in the club in the past and the attempts to revive it in the area.</p> <p>15:44 They talk about the type of training they did. Catching high ball. Discuss the role of Jim Faulkner.</p> <p>17:50 (John Michael) Discusses the type of training he did when he was playing. Mentions Sean Young, Sean O'Neill, Loughlin McGill, Charlie Mooney.</p> <p>21:10 (All) They talk about the type of facilities available in the past.</p> <p>24:25 (Vincent) Tells a story about John Michael's neighbour who played hurling for Carndonagh. Mentions Andy McHugh and Glenties.</p> <p>25:50 (All) They describe how they travelled to matches, mostly by bicycle. Talk about sowing footballs together. Describe the lack of footballs available and how teams took advantage of this.</p> <p>30:18 (Eddie) Tells a story about a match in Gaoth Dobhair.</p> <p>31:30 (Vincent) Recalls a story about a match in Kilcar and</p>
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	<p>someone kicking the ball into the sea.</p> <p>31:59 Talks about how the club got their ground. Mentions Sean Cassidy, Dan Ward, Big Paddy, Charlie and Jimmy Mooney. Highlights the sense of community in the GAA.</p> <p>35:30 (John Michael) Notes how the team mates of Michael Boyle from Maghera helped him after he broke his leg.</p> <p>36:00 (All) They talk about the social aspect of the GAA.</p> <p>37:17 (John Michael) Discusses the impact of emigration in the 1950s and 1960s and the introduction of a school league.</p> <p>39:05 (Vincent and Packie) Talks about the family aspect of the GAA.</p> <p>39:54 (All) They discuss the founding of the club and the people who were involved. Talk about the lack of players available and the impact of emigration. Mentions Con Herron, John Cassidy, Con Hanna, Breslins, Mooneys, Charlie McGill, Tom Gallagher, Charlie Gallagher, the Neds (Gallaghers), Jim Connors. Discuss their championships successes. Mentions a match against St. Eunan's in Donegal Town.</p> <p>43:25 They talk about the players that have played for the club. Mention guards that played locally Paddy Prendergast, Tom Wickham and Sean McGetterick and Eddie O'Sullivan.</p> <p>44:24 They describe the make-up of the parish and the club's biggest rivals like Glenties, Killybegs and Kilcar.</p> <p>47:10 They talk about the one year amalgamation with Kilcar in the 1960s.</p> <p>49:00 They discuss the controversy between Dungloe and Gaoth Dobhair and having to put them in separate divisions.</p> <p>51:20 The group talks about the work Columba Diver has done for the club and recalls stories about him. Being awarded Volunteer of the Year by the Ulster Council.</p> <p>54:05 (John Michael) Discusses the development of the club's second pitch and the club's facilities.</p> <p>55:25 (All) Talk about the fundraising they did for the club. Mention Sandfield. Running draws and lottos and getting grants. Note the work of Hugh Gerard Gavigan.</p> <p>58:00 They discuss the type of fundraising done in the past. Talk about the roles of Charlie Mooney – including transporting them in his van. Recall holding a 'bizarre' in the</p>
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	<p>1970s.</p> <p>59:54 (Packie) Talks about emigrating to England and then America. Playing in Birmingham with Tara's, Four Masters and John Mitchel's. Moving to America and playing in Philadelphia. Playing for the Donegal club in New York.</p> <p>01:05:00 (Vincent) Discusses emigrating to England before moving to New York. Talks about Gaelic Park. Managing a team and the players who played for them. Mentions Phil Brennan a union man from Carndonagh, Paddy Ward, Mike Cassidy, Vincent Foley, Vincent Lynch, Dave McCarthy and Tom McGuinness.</p> <p>01:08:20 Talks about the social side of the GAA in America. Mentions John Doohan from Falcarragh who lived in Monaghan, he married Gloria O'Boyle one of the early Mary from Dungloe's.</p> <p>01:09:48 (All) They describe the celebrations in Ardara if the team wins.</p> <p>01:11:39 (Vincent) Talks about the commitment of the club's players and players staying away from alcohol.</p> <p>01:12:57 (All) They talk about the role of women in the club. Mention Mary Kelly (formerly Mary McHugh), Ann McGhee.</p> <p>01:15:10 The group discusses the playing of ladies' football in the club. Mentions Aoife McDonnell.</p> <p>01:16:20 (Vincent) Talks about the role of teachers and the clergy in the club. Discusses the role of PJ McGill / Paddy McGill.</p> <p>01:18:00 (All) They describe the involvement of people from Ardara in the Donegal county board. Mention Sean Cassidy, Dan Ward, Paddy McGill, Donal Wheelan, John McConnell. Talk about the players from Ardara who have played for Donegal. Mentions Vinny McHugh, Gareth Concarr, Frankie Brennan, Kieran Keeney.</p> <p>01:21:50 (Vincent) Recalls the young age of the team that won the championship.</p> <p>01:24:25 Talks about the impact of the Second World War on the club. Recalls the army in the area playing for clubs. Mentions the Democrat Cup.</p> <p>01:25:35 (John Michael) Talks about his best memories of his time in the GAA. Having two players on the Donegal team that won the All-Ireland football final in 1992 – Martin Gavigan</p>
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	<p>and Anthony Molloy. Mentions Anthony Harkin, the team trainer. Winning county championships with Ardara.</p> <p>01:27:28 (Vincent) Discusses winning the county championship in 2000.</p> <p>01:29:09 (Packie) Describes winning the minor championship in 1952 as his favourite GAA memory.</p> <p>01:30:10 (Vincent) Notes how his son was county chairman when Ardara won the county championship in 2000.</p> <p>01:30:44 (Eddie) Talks about his best GAA memory, Donegal winning the All-Ireland in 1992. Describes his GAA heroes – Martin Gavigan, Anthony Molloy, Kieran Keeney.</p> <p>01:31:35 (Packie) Chooses his GAA heroes – Anthony Molloy, Martin Gavigan. Recalls a game against Meath. Mentions Martin Shovlin.</p> <p>01:32:00 (Vincent) Talks about his GAA heroes. Mentions Sean Purcell and Jack O’Shea. They talk about Sean Purcell.</p> <p>01:34:11 (John Michael) Chooses Paddy Doherty of Down as his GAA hero. Mentions Sean O’Neill.</p> <p>01:35:11 (All) They talk about Paddy Doherty.</p> <p>01:35:40 (Packie) Talks about his biggest GAA disappointments.</p> <p>01:36:18 (John Michael) Discusses his GAA disappointments, losing a parish final when he was in school.</p> <p>01:37:04 (Vincent) Describes Donegal losing an All-Ireland semi-final in 1983.</p> <p>01:38:27 (Eddie) Talks about his biggest GAA disappointment. Losing a match against Glenties after two previous games and the referee playing too much extra time.</p> <p>01:41:43 (John Michael) Discusses that match. Mentions Thomas McBrearty.</p> <p>01:43:08 (All) Talk about a record the club holds.</p> <p>01:44:00 (Vincent) Describes the role of the GAA in his life.</p> <p>01:44:51 (Packie) Talks about what the GAA has meant to him over the years.</p> <p>01:46:45 (Eddie) Discusses the role of the GAA in his life.</p> <p>01:47:30 (All) They recall various incidents in matches over</p>
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	<p>the years.</p> <p>01:48:54 (John Michael) Talks about what the GAA has meant to him. Describes the role the GAA plays in young peoples' lives. Talks about the parish league.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>John Michael:</b>  <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  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person  <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p><b>Vincent:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward  <input checked="" 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><b>Eddie:</b>  <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 type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p><b>Packie:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None  <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p><b>John Michael:</b>          Played for 20 years.</p> <p><b>Vincent:</b></p>

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	<p>Played for 10 years. Won a county minor title in 1952.</p> <p><b>Eddie:</b> Played for 20 years and won a juvenile title.</p> <p><b>Packie:</b> Played from 1949 – 1973. Won a Minor championship in 1952; New York Junior, Intermediate and Senior championships with Donegal NY and a Junior championship with Philadelphia.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p><b>John Michael:</b> Has been involved in administration since 1975. He was club treasurer between 1975 and 1977 and club chairman in 1978 and from 2007 – 2010.</p> <p><b>Vincent:</b> Was involved in administration from 1952 to 1972. He was a committee member for 10 years and chairman of the club in 1972.</p> <p><b>Eddie:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Packie:</b> Committee member while he was playing</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio      <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:51:42</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<p>English</p>

**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

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the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_25/07/12\_\_\_\_\_

The logo of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), featuring the letters 'GAA' in a stylized white font on a black background.