

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	19 th Jan 2011
Location	PJ's home, near Burt, Co. Donegal
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Dónal Campbell
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1969 Home County: Donegal
Education	Primary: St. Aengus NS, Bridgend, Co. Donegal Secondary: Scoil Mhuire, Bunrana, Co. Donegal Third Level: Regional College, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married with 3 daughters
Club(s)	Burt
Occupation	Publisher
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DL/1/14

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Damian Dowds
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1974 Home County: Donegal
Education	Primary: St Aengus NS, Bridgend, Co. Donegal Secondary: Scoil Mhuire, Bunrana, Co. Donegal Third Level: St. Patrick's, Maynooth
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 3 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with one child
Club(s)	Burt
Occupation	Journalist
Parents' Occupation	County Council Employee [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DL/1/14

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Colm Davis
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1955 Home County: Derry
Education	Primary: Waterside Boys School, Derry Secondary: St. Breacan's and St Columb's, Derry Third Level: St. Mary's College of Education, Belfast
Family	Siblings: 1 brother Current Family if Different: Married with 3 children
Club(s)	Na Magha [Derry]; Burt [Donegal]
Occupation	Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Printer [Father]; Machinest [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Badminton

REFERENCE NO. DL/1/14

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	James McLaughlin
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1937 Home County: Donegal
Education	Primary: Moness NS, Co. Donegal
Family	N/A
Club(s)	Burt
Occupation	Retired Joiner
Parents' Occupation	Handyman / Jack of All Trades [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DL/1/14

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	PJ O'Brien
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1954 Home County: Tipperary
Education	Primary: Cashel NS, Co. Tipperary Secondary: Cashel CBS, Co. Tipperary
Family	Siblings: 1 brother Current Family if Different: Married with 4 children
Club(s)	Cashel King Cormac's [Tipperary]; Ballyboden St. Enda's [Dublin]; Eoghan Rua's [Tyrone]; Burt [Donegal]
Occupation	Civil Servant
Parents' Occupation	Gardener [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. DL/1/14

Date of Report	25 th July 2012
Period Covered	1800s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Donegal, Derry, Antrim, Tipperary, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Members of Burt GAA club talk about their involvement in the GAA over the years. They talk about their early experiences of the GAA and how they became involved in the Association. Colm discusses growing up in Derry before moving to Burt to teach. PJ talks about growing up in Cashel in Tipperary and eventually moving to Donegal and getting involved in the club in Burt. Dónal and Damian talk about the writing of the club's history and the history of hurling in the area. They describe how the game of camán was played in the area before the founding of the GAA in 1884. The group describes their various roles in the club ranging from administration to coaching. James recalls playing for Ulster and what the club was like in the past. They discuss the development of the club over the years and how Burt remained a hurling club despite Donegal being predominantly a footballing county. Towards the end of the interview they talk about the role of the GAA in their lives and what the Association means to them.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:50 (Dónal) Talks about his earliest GAA memories. Going to a county final. Mentions the cars stopped at the Motor Way Stores in Burt as James gathered the team. Recalls Colm coming to the area to teach and bringing hurling to the school in Bridgend.</p> <p>02:45 (Damian) Discusses getting an interest in the GAA from his father. Mentions John O'Brien, a match in Lifford. Playing with the Burt football team. Going to the All-Ireland semi-final in 1983 to see Donegal play. Mentions Eamon Coughlan</p>

	<p>winning gold at Helsinki.</p> <p>04:10 (Colm) Talks about his early GAA memories. Growing up in Derry and playing football in primary school and hurling in secondary school. Going to St Joseph's College in Belfast to train as a teacher and playing for the hurling 'b' team. Mentions students from Ballycastle, Dunloy and the Glens of Antrim. Setting up a hurling team in the school he was teaching in, in Derry. Getting involved in the Burt club. Mentions James McLaughlin.</p> <p>10:18 (James) Discusses his early memories in the GAA. Talks about his family's interest in hurling. His father winning a Derry senior football medal. Getting a hurl from his father and going to matches on a bus in the 1940s. Talks about a teacher called Hugh Cunningham starting a parish hurling league. Mentions being able to beat Antrim's Ballycastle.</p> <p>13:38 (PJ) Talks about growing up in Cashel in Tipperary and getting his interest in hurling from his father who played for the county. Playing in town leagues and in the Christian Brothers' secondary school. Playing in the Rice Cup and the Harty Cup.</p> <p>15:35 (Dónal) Discusses how he became involved in the GAA. Playing both hurling and football. Mentions Hugh Diver and Danny Dowds. Playing in and winning the Féile na nGael hurling competition in Dublin under James' stewardship. Notes the strength of hurling in Burt and their input into the Donegal county hurling team. Recalls the 1906 team that won an Ulster title. Mentions Ronan McLaughlin</p> <p>20:31 (Damian) Talks about his involvement in the GAA. Playing on underage teams that his father managed. Recalls going to Glenswilly and Paddy the bus driver having to stand in goals. Mentions his brother Ciaran. Describes the strength of Burt teams in the late 1980s early 1990s. Mentions Ballyshannon, Convoy, Killybegs. Mentions Declan Boyle, Mark Boyle, Peter McGinley, John McDermott, Ciaran Toner and Seamus 'Bap' Doherty. Playing in Maynooth, difficulties of travelling back to Burt to play.</p> <p>25:19 (Colm) Discusses how he became involved in the GAA in Burt. Coming to the town to teach and setting up hurling and camogie leagues. Mentions walking from the school in Bridgend into Burt to play their matches. Travelling with large numbers in the car. Describes what the leagues were like. Mentions Ballinascreen, Feeney the County Derry school's competition.</p>
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	<p>30:12 What fields and facilities were like. Taking teams to Féile.</p> <p>34:20 Talks about taking part in the INTO seven-a-side competition. Mentions Derry, Monaghan and travelling to Clontibret. Mentions a teacher from Ballinascreen. Carndonagh representing the county in girls. Getting involved with the Burt club. Roles he's held. Now in Urris.</p> <p>38:23 (James) Discusses his involvement in the GAA. Mentions Master Diver and Master Cunningham. Playing in parish leagues and with the club. Recalls getting an injury playing for Donegal in Casement Park. Mentions Eamonn Farrell. Starting coaching hurling in the mid-1970s. Recalls travelling to matches with thirteen players in his Ford Capri car. Meeting a guard en route to Carndonagh.</p> <p>42:58 Talks about the different teams he has managed and coached. Describes the differences in the game between when he was playing and now. Recalls how his brother made sliotars. Talks about his different administrative roles.</p> <p>46:46 Discusses the low numbers in the administration of the club. Mentions Danny Dowds and Pierce Callaghan. Talks about playing with the Ulster Railway Cup team from 1960 to 1966. Mentions Jimmy Doyle, Eddie Keher, Christy Ring and John Doyle. Talks about the differences between hurling for the county and the club. Discusses playing squash and the benefit it had for hurling.</p> <p>52:20 (Dónal) Talks about the skills James had.</p> <p>53:10 (James) Discusses the level of coaching he did and the different skills in the game.</p> <p>55:18 (PJ) Talks about his involvement in the GAA and different teams he played on. Playing with Cashel. Moving to Cork, Dublin, Monaghan and then to Donegal. Going to Clare, then Kildrum and Burt. Getting involved with Burt. Playing in Tyrone. Describes his different roles in administration, training and coaching. His involvement in underage.</p> <p>01:00:10 (Dónal and Damian) They discuss the writing of the club's history. They describe how the club is one of the oldest in Donegal, formed in 1887. They talk about the material available for the book. Mention Damien Mullen. Winning a McNamee Award for it. Getting a photograph of the 1906 team and the link between the current players and that time. Mention John McCafferty getting original transcript of tapes recorded in area in the 1960s.</p>
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	<p>01:06:25 History of hurling in the area. Mentions the Burt Hibernian's. Ulster final played in Burt against Antrim. They discuss how camán / commons was played in the North and the popularity of it in Burt. Relationship to Shinty. They talk about the development of hurling in Donegal. Playing in Derry championships. Mentions Hughie Whoriskey playing with an old style camán. Reaction of rest of county to playing against these. Mention Inch.</p> <p>01:10:37 (Damian) Talks about the development of the underage setup in the club.</p> <p>01:13:00 (James) Describes the hurling and camán sticks used in Burt and recalls stories he was told by his father. Talks about how his father used to repair boots.</p> <p>01:19:25 (Dónal) Rivalry with Inch in past. Recalls a story he was told about a row in the club. Talks about playing in a county hurling match against Tyrone and breaking his nose.</p> <p>01:22:28 (Colm) Tells a story about hurling helmets.</p> <p>01:25:30 Talks about the different Féile competitions he went to.</p> <p>01:26:34 (All) They tell a story about Dominic Murray. Mention Paul Callaghan.</p> <p>01:27:50 (James) Talks about the early Burt teams and how they travelled. Travelling by train.</p> <p>01:29:00 (All) Connections to Gweedore. They talk about the 'Hiring Fair' in Burt for the Lagan Valley. Irish (Gaelic) being spoken in the area as a result.</p> <p>01:31:15 They describe how they replicated the 1906 team photo with the current team and the relations with the old team</p> <p>01:32:22 They discuss the split in the club in the 1990s and the forming of Naomh Mhuire. Mention Manus O'Donnell and Tooban School. Legacy of the rivalry between Burt and Naomh Mhuire. Talk about the role of the local school in the Burt club.</p> <p>01:36:00 They recall a match against Naomh Mhuire in Buncrana and the rivalry in the parish. Talk about an incident in the match.</p> <p>01:39:38 (Dónal and James) Talks about a pitch called 'Black Park' that hurling used to be played in. Recalls an incident in</p>
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	<p>a match that James was refereeing between Burt and Inch.</p> <p>01:43:20 (All) They discuss the playing of football in the club and the area. Describe how most club players are duel players. Mentions Setanta. They recall a row with the county board in the late 1990s. Talks about the club playing in the Ulster club championship. Mentions Carrickmore, Tyrone.</p> <p>01:48:12 They talk about the club's relationship with the county board. Recall various issues over the years.</p> <p>01:49:50 (James) Recalls two matches against Armagh in the 1960s.</p> <p>01:52:40 (All) They talk about rivalries and violence in matches.</p> <p>01:55:15 They discuss the club's link with Derry and playing in Derry competitions.</p> <p>01:59:45 (Dónal) Talks about his best memories from the GAA, Colm's handwritten reports on school matches. Discusses the 1906 Burt team that represented Donegal.</p> <p>02:02:00 (Damian) Describes his best memories from the GAA. Talks about Donegal winning the All-Ireland football final in 1992. Winning an Under 12 title in 2008 when he was coach.</p> <p>02:04:04 (Colm) Talks about the enjoyment he got from coaching young people in school. Recalls some of the teams he coached and taking a group of boys to a Féile competition.</p> <p>02:08:35 (James) Talks about his best GAA memories. Describes the role of the GAA in his life. Recalls being selected on an Ulster team and his first time on a train.</p> <p>02:11:35 (PJ) Discusses playing in the Harty Cup with his school in Cashel. Describes playing on a junior team and winning the junior championship. Talks about managing the Donegal hurling team.</p> <p>02:14:18 Discusses his biggest disappointments in the GAA.</p> <p>02:15:35 (James) Talks about his disappointments in the GAA. Notes how club hurling in Donegal was slow to progress.</p> <p>02:16:50 (Colm) Describes what disappointed him most during his time in the GAA. Talks about the dominance of football at county board meetings.</p>
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	<p>02:18:50 (Damian) Talks about how county board meetings are mainly about football.</p> <p>02:22:28 (Dónal) Gives his opinion on the Gaelic Players Association.</p> <p>02:23:40 (Colm) Talks about the GAA in the community. They talk about the role the GAA plays in the area. They discuss the role of the Protestant community in the GAA.</p> <p>02:27:29 (James) Describes how hurling has existed in the area since the 1800s and how it has lasted over the years. Mentions the Plantation of Ulster. Talks about the people that kept it going. They talk about the role of Hugh Whoriskey, he used to cycle into Derry to get hurleys.</p> <p>02:30:50 (All) They talk about how he was club President. He threw in the ball for the opening of the new development and it meant a lot to him.</p> <p>02:33:05 Describe the long heritage of hurling in Burt. Mention the headstone in Clonca that has a hurley and sliotar inscribed.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Dónal: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input 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>Damian: <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 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>Colm: <input 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</p>

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	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>James: <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</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>PJ: <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</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input checked="" 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>Dónal: Played for 15 years. Won 12 Donegal Senior Hurling Titles and 2 Donegal Division 2 Football Titles.</p> <p>Damian: Played from 1982 – 2003. Variety of underage divisional football titles.</p> <p>Colm: Played for 7 years.</p> <p>James: Played at senior level from 1956 to 1980. Won Senior County Hurling Titles.</p> <p>PJ: Played for 30 years. Won various underage titles in West Tipperary Division; Senior West Tipperary; Crossco Cup, Tipperary; Donegal Senior Championships.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Dónal: Committee Member and PRO (several years).</p> <p>Damian: Secretary (2008 – 2010), PRO (2007).</p> <p>Colm:</p>

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	Chairperson (2 years), Oifigeach na nGaeilge (3 years). James: Has been club chairman for 3 different terms and is a Trustee of the Club. PJ: Club: Chairman (3 years), Secretary (3 years), Treasurer (3 years), County Board Representative (5 years), Committee Member (20 years).
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 02:34:42
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: _____25/07/12_____