

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	10 th Nov 2010
Location	Achill Island Hotel, Co. Mayo
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Packie McGinty
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1945 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Achill Sound NS, Co. Mayo
Family	Siblings: 5 brothers & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Married with 4 daughters and 3 sons
Club(s)	Achill [Mayo]; St. Vincent's [London]
Occupation	Contractor / Builder
Parents' Occupation	Worked on Buildings in England [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/24

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Lorna Sweeney
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Female
Born	Year Born: 1984 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Achill Sound NS, Co. Mayo Secondary: Scoil Damhnait, Polranny, Co. Mayo Third Level: Kildalton Agricultural College, Co. Kilkenny
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 1 sister
Club(s)	Achill
Occupation	Horse Trainer
Parents' Occupation	Brick Layer [Father]; Shopkeeper [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Achill Noname Club (Youth Group)

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/24

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Thomas Johnston
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1939 Home County: Mayo
Education	Primary: Ashleam NS, Achill, Co. Mayo Secondary: Scoil Damhnait, Achill Sound, Co. Mayo; Coláiste Éinde, Co. Galway Third Level: St. Pat's, Drumcondra, Dublin
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 2 sisters Current Family if Different: Married with 4 children
Club(s)	Achill
Occupation	Teacher
Parents' Occupation	Migratory Labourer in England from 15 – 65 [Father]; Housewife and Farmer [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Community Development Committees; Fundraising Committees

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/24

Date of Report	10 th July 2012
Period Covered	1887 – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Mayo, Galway, Dublin, Great Britain, England, Americas, USA, Asia, Saudi Arabia
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Education, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, 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, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsider’s Perspectives, Politics, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Members of Achill GAA Club, Thomas, Packie and Lorna discuss the role of the GAA in their lives and on Achill Island over the years. Thomas recalls football in the schools on the island and talks about the different competitions held, mainly the Scanlon Cup and the Corn Acla. They describe the state of the GAA in Achill and recall the development of the Association over the years. They discuss the introduction of Gaelic football onto the island in 1904 and how it faced competition from soccer. They talk about the link the island has with Scotland and how this led to the prominence of soccer on the island. They discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the GAA in Achill, highlighting the high travel costs of going to matches on the mainland. They talk about the impact on emigration on the island over the years and how it is again returning in modern times. Packie describes his time abroad, playing football in London and Saudi Arabia. Lorna talks about her role as secretary and the work involved. They discuss the club’s participation in the Scór competition and the importance of this competition to Achill. Towards the end of the interview they describe the importance of the GAA to Achill and how the Association has a central place in the community on the island.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:46 (Thomas) Thomas recalls his earliest memories of the GAA. Playing in school in Ashleam. Mentions Denis Gallagher. Talks about the setting up of a schools competition</p>

	<p>in 1949 and the Corn Acla. First year it was won by Dooagh. Playing against Corraun and having to walk to Darby's Point and then to take a boat to get there. Mentions Lug and Cloughmore. Formation of the Scanlon Cup between Mulranny, Achill Sound, Croghaun, Kildownet, St Vincent's of Mid Achill, St Joseph's and St Pat's.</p> <p>03:56 Talks about how the Scanlon Cup was played in the Spring. Men came home to farm in the Spring and then went to England. Emigration from the island. Talks about the Achill club, underage, senior and ladies.</p> <p>06:03 (Packie) Talks about his earliest memories. Going to a Scanlon Cup match in Keel in 1954. Local shopkeeper Needham with sweets in his van. Recalls about the pitch. The rivalry at the match. Mentions Kildownet and St. Pat's. Captaining the St Vincent's team and winning the Scanlon Cup. Celebrating after. Mentions Sean Molloy, Pat and Adrian Kilbane, Charlie Kilbane, Padraic Seoige, Denis Gallagher, Paddy McCann.</p> <p>09:09 Describes how a postcard was sent out to get players to return to Achill for a match. The impact of emigration on the club. Recalls a minor county final in 1963 and losing 11 players to emigration.</p> <p>10:36 Recalls moving to London and how there 25 people from Achill playing football in Gladstone Park in Cricklewood.</p> <p>10:52 Discusses playing with St Vincent's in London winning two championship finals. Mentions Padraic Patten, James Kilbane and Chris McGinty.</p> <p>11:20 (Thomas) Talks about how five players from Achill are now part of the GAA in Manchester. Highlights the importance of the Scanlon Cup.</p> <p>12:50 Describes football in school and the Corn Acla competition and Cumann na mBunscoil.</p> <p>13:46 Talks about the history of the club. First played in Curraun. Soccer was the main sport. Mentions Dooagh, Nick Lynch and the Corn Acla competition.</p> <p>15:00 Discusses the establishment of the club in 1942 with Mulranny. Describes the expense of travelling to places like Ballaghaderreen, Bonniconlon, Shrule and Newport. Talks about raising money for new dressing rooms.</p> <p>16:52 Talks about how they are unable to build any gates or</p>
--	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	<p>walls to charge people in. Describes his role in the club.</p> <p>18:12 ***Thomas Johnston leaves interview***</p> <p>18:13 (Packie) Describes the role of soccer in Achill. The relationship with Scotland and how people worked seasonally in Achill. Connection with Glasgow. Teams in Ashleam, Dooniver, Dooagh and Doega.</p> <p>19:24 Discusses how Michael Brett was the first man to bring Gaelic football to Achill in 1904. Mentions John Moran from Newport.</p> <p>20:06 Recalls seeing his first soccer match, a game between Dooinver Swifts and a team from Athlone in 1959. How Gaelic football began to take over. Issues with the Ban.</p> <p>21:18 Talks about playing against St Pat's for St Vincent's in the Scanlon Cup and getting the players in college out for the match. The rivalry between the schools. Mentions John Vesey, former chairman of the Ulster Council and Mick Lynch.</p> <p>24:00 Attending his first county board meeting when he was 14. Rivalry with Burrishoole. Recalls a story about a fight between Kilbane and Pat Cannon in Burrishoole at a match in Mulranny. Cycling to the match.</p> <p>25:33 Talks about the Scanlon Cup and the impact of emigration. Achill men winning competitions in other counties and countries.</p> <p>26:30 Discusses playing football in the desert in Saudi Arabia. Playing other Irish men.</p> <p>27:20 Talks about the clubs in Achill Sound and Kildownet. Tells a story about two sisters.</p> <p>27:54 Discusses the progression of the Achill club.</p> <p>28:46 Describes the expense needed to run the club. One of the first clubs in the county to get floodlights.</p> <p>29:27 Playing Dublin at the opening of the pitch. Mentions Shane MacGowan.</p> <p>30:28 Talks about John Cooney, the last surviving member of the first Achill team to win the county championship, and his work for the club.</p> <p>31:39 Discusses his involvement in ladies football in Achill.</p> <p>32:47 Recalls a story about Michael Tommy Gallagher and</p>
--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	<p>his commentating.</p> <p>33:15 Talks about the importance of the Corn Acla on the island. One of the oldest underage competitions in the country.</p> <p>34:03 (Lorna) Recalls her first GAA memories. Playing in the Corn Acla and watching the Scanlon Cup. Attending matches with her family.</p> <p>34:50 Talks about Achill winning the county final against Islandeady in Castlebar in 2007. Going to St Jude's for the All-Ireland Sevens competition and winning it.</p> <p>36:35 Describes the celebrations after the county final in 2007. Bonfires and celebrations.</p> <p>36:51 (Packie) Describes how one woman had four grandsons on the team. Playing in the Gaeltacht competition.</p> <p>37:47 Recalls the football pitch being known as 'Alice's Field'. Talks about the first match played in Alice's field. Club buying it. Renamed Davitt Park.</p> <p>39:36 Talks about losing 11 players to emigration from the 2007 winning team.</p> <p>40:39 Describes the change in travel over the years. Everyone in one minibus. Mentions Padraic Seoige.</p> <p>43:00 Talks about the bridge connecting the island with the mainland. First bridge in 1887 and before the bridge. Tells a story about the local cemetery in Kildownet.</p> <p>45:24 (Lorna and Packie) Tells a story about Michael Brett, Lorna's grandfather.</p> <p>46:20 (Packie) Describes how football is the main sport in Achill. Mentions Denis Mahon from Kilkenny.</p> <p>47:00 Discusses the relationship with the county board. Issues with finance and All-Ireland final tickets.</p> <p>48:17 Recalls going to a county board meeting when he was 14. A dispute between Ballina and Claremorris. Mentions Paddy McGovern.</p> <p>49:57 Discusses the type of decisions made at county board meetings. The changing of travel arrangements. How long it takes to get to some matches on school nights.</p> <p>51:29 Talks about why the divisions in Mayo were changed.</p>
--	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/24

	<p>52:36 (Lorna) Discusses how she got involved in administration with the club. Becoming secretary of the club.</p> <p>53:33 (Lorna and Packie) Describes the role of club secretary and the club's website.</p> <p>54:53 (Packie) Talks about the changes in organisation within the GAA over the years. Role of the county board and the five day rule.</p> <p>57:45 Discusses how the club has produced a number of county players.</p> <p>57:59 Describes the role of teachers in the club over the years. Bringing children to Croke Park and the museum.</p> <p>01:00:00 Gives his opinion on bringing children to play in Croke Park.</p> <p>01:00:18 Talks about the club's involvement in Scór. Success for Achill. Mentions James Kilbane, Katie Sweeney, Thomas McSean.</p> <p>01:01:26 Discusses the importance of Scór for the club and popular it is on the island.</p> <p>01:04:06 Recalls a centenary fancy dress competition in Tonragee school.</p> <p>01:04:41 Gives his opinion on the work of the GAA in promoting the Irish language and culture. A skills camp for children that is in Irish. Getting a grant from Comhar na Múinteoirí Gaelige.</p> <p>01:06:03 Talks about the divide between the Gaeltacht area of the island and the non Gaeltacht area. Disparity between grants and funding.</p> <p>01:07:54 Describes the facilities for some schools in Achill. Mentions the marathon on the island.</p> <p>01:09:06 (Lorna) Talks about how the club is always changing with people coming and going.</p> <p>01:09:35 (Packie) Recalls watching a Davitt Shield game and the impact of emigration.</p> <p>01:10:50 (Packie and Lorna) Talk about the role of women in the club. Mentions Catherine Seoige, Michelle Gallagher, Anne Fawney, Mary Joyce.</p> <p>01:12:10 (Packie) Discusses the history of the Scanlon Cup. Named after two brothers, Paddy and Jimmy Scanlon, who</p>
--	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	<p>both died from TB. The importance of the competition. Low numbers and closure of some schools in recent years.</p> <p>01:14:15 Talks about the old divisions of the parish league. Rivalries transferring from school to club.</p> <p>01:15:06 (Packie and Lorna) Discuss the changes in the style of play over the years and the status of the club in recent years. Having two teams and improvements in facilities.</p> <p>01:18:30 (Packie) Talks about the role of politics in the club.</p> <p>01:19:11 Gives his opinion on changes in rules over the years and issues with referees. Highlights the Leinster final between Meath and Louth.</p> <p>01:20:24 (Lorna) Talks about the need for changes.</p> <p>01:21:09 (Packie and Lorna) Give their opinions on the opening of Croke Park and the ban on foreign games.</p> <p>01:22:30 (Packie) Recalls Down in the All-Ireland and meeting two Protestants at the match. Mentions Sean Kelly, Joe McDonagh.</p> <p>01:24:12 Talks about the relationship between Gaelic and soccer in Achill. Believes Croke Park should be opened up fully.</p> <p>01:25:28 (Packie and Lorna) Describe their best memories of their time in the GAA. Talks about the issue with developing grounds and the use of grounds.</p> <p>01:27:53 (Packie) Talks about his GAA heroes. Mentions Micheál Ó'Muircheartaigh, Willie Joe Padden.</p> <p>01:28:40 (Lorna) Chooses local players as her GAA heroes.</p> <p>01:29:28 (Packie) Talks about the late Tom Cafferkey and his admiration for him. Mentions Colm McAlarney, Pat Kilbane, Sean Ward, Michael Gallagher, Colm English.</p> <p>01:31:43 Discusses his biggest disappointment in the GAA. Achill not reaching senior status and not seeing Mayo in an All-Ireland during his life time.</p> <p>01:32:24 (Lorna) Talks about her biggest disappointment. Losing the Connacht final.</p> <p>01:33:00 (Lorna and Packie) Talk about the barriers to Mayo winning an All-Ireland. Issues with politics. Highlights the case of former manager Mickey Moran. Mentions John Morrison.</p>
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/24

	<p>01:36:18 (Packie) Describes the characters at county board meetings. Mentions Sean Feeney, John Vesey and Paddy Muldoon, Paddy Naughton, Larry McGovern, Denis Gallagher.</p> <p>01:37:25 (Packie) Talks about what the GAA has meant to him and discusses his various roles.</p> <p>01:38:22 (Lorna) Describes the role of the GAA in her life and the role of the Association in the community.</p> <p>01:39:46 (Packie) Talks about his family's involvement. His brother Hughie is treasurer of the club and was part of St Joseph's club in London. His brother Chris is in Dublin.</p> <p>01:40:30 (Packie and Lorna) Give general reflections on the GAA in Achill.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Packie: <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input 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>Lorna: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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>Thomas: <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input 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>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Packie: Played from the age of 12 to 48. He won a Minor and U-21 Scanlon Cup; a Minor League; West Mayo Minor League and</p>

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/24

	<p>2 London County Seniors.</p> <p>Lorna: N/A</p> <p>Thomas: Played from school up until he was injured in 1966. Won a 1950 Corn Acla (School Title); 4 Scanlan Cups; a West Mayo Junior Championship and County Junior Championship in 1966 (Thomas was injured in the West Mayo final but he received a medal for the county final in recognition of his earlier contribution).</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Packie: Club Chairman for 12 years (1984); Secretary (1982); County Board Delegate (1980 – 1984) and Delegate to West Mayo Board for the last 11 years.</p> <p>Lorna: Has been involved in administration since 2008 and is secretary of the club.</p> <p>Thomas: Got involved in administration from 1962. He was club chairman, secretary and treasurer and involved in the pitch development committee. He has also been a delegate to the West Mayo Board and the County Board.</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:42:20</p>
<p>Language</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

REFERENCE NO. MO/1/24

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: _____10/07/12_____

