

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	20 th Dec 2011
Location	Grangemockler Parochial Hall, Co. Tipperary
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	J.J. Crowley
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1953 Home County: Tipperary
Education	Primary: N/A Secondary: N/A Third Level: Agricultural College
Family	Siblings: N/A Current Family if Different: 2 sons
Club(s)	Grangemockler-Ballyneale GAA [Tipperary]
Occupation	Glanbia PLC Manager
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Friends of Tipperary Football; Ballypatrick Tennis Club

REFERENCE NO. TP/1/22

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Al Murray
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1954 Home County: Tipperary
Education	Primary: Grangemockler NS, Co. Tipperary Secondary: Callan CBS, Co. Kilkenny
Family	Siblings: 5 brothers & 5 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife & 3 children
Club(s)	Grangemockler-Ballyneale GAA [Tipperary]
Occupation	Factory / Office Worker
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	None

REFERENCE NO. TP/1/22

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Thomas Shelly
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1924 Home County: Tipperary
Education	N/A
Family	Siblings: 5 sisters Current Family if Different: 3 children
Club(s)	Grangemockler GAA [Tipperary]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	None
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	None

REFERENCE NO. TP/1/22

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	John Walsh
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1932 Home County: Tipperary
Education	Primary: Grangemockler NS, Co. Tipperary
Family	Siblings: 2 sisters Current Family if Different: 4 children
Club(s)	Grangemockler GAA [Tipperary]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

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Date of Report	20 th June 2012
Period Covered	1885 - 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Tipperary, Kilkenny, Kerry, Dublin, England, Great Britain, USA, Americas
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Officials, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Outsiders' Perspectives, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Socialising, Relationships, Economy/Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Members of Grangemockler/Ballyneale GAA Club, Co. Tipperary, discuss their involvement with the GAA locally. They recall stories told about the Dublin vs. Tipperary challenge match on Bloody Sunday, 1920, during which a Grangemockler player, Mick Hogan, was killed. They describe the various commemorative events that have been held since then to mark the atrocity. They also outline the history of the club, its amalgamation with St. Patrick's and Moyle Rovers in different eras, and its successes since its formation in 1885. Furthermore, they consider such topics as the significance of the GAA in their community, changes they have witnessed in the organisation, the ban on foreign games and dances, and volunteerism and amateurism in the GAA.</p> <p>00:51 Discussion about history of Grangemockler/Ballyneale GAA Club. Dating back to 1885. Mostly football. Two clubs originally: Grangemockler and Ballyneale, two parts of parish. Mentions Canon Fogarty. Also mentions Mike Lyons. Affiliation with Kilcash in 19th century. First team 21-a-side. Mike Lyons the first man to play for Tipperary from the club. Winning five consecutive county titles in early 1900s. Dispute over a match.</p> <p>05:24 Memories of GAA stories. Tom's father on winning All-Ireland team. Tipperary winning All-Ireland Junior Football Final in 1912, mentions local players Bill Scully and Gerry</p>

	<p>Shelley. Strength of football in area from late 1900s.</p> <p>08:14 Description of team playing football for Tipperary on Bloody Sunday 1920: Grangemockler players Tom's father; Jim Lanigan's father, Dick; and Mick Hogan. Harry's father picked but couldn't play. Mostly farmers on that team. Recounting of Jim Lanigan's story about staying in Barry's Hotel, gunfire outside. Team travelling by train. Collected by Doran's hackney of Mullinahone. Argument between team and British soldiers on train. Mentions footballer Bill Ryan. Description of tense political climate of the time. Challenge match, no Grangemockler people in Croke Park that day. 13 people shot, Mick Hogan and another Tipperary man.</p> <p>15:09 Commemorations of Bloody Sunday in recent times. Few stories about it, little known about the event in the past. Recounts story from Johnny Doran involving Bill Scully and Gerry Shelley. Mentions Denis Brennan's pub. Mentions Michael Doran.</p> <p>18:41 They reflect on the sadness of losing Mick Hogan on Bloody Sunday. Mick's brother Dan Hogan collected by John Healy's father on pony and trap in Kilkenny. Dan Hogan's prominence in the Republican movement. Also mentions Brother Thomas Wilfred Hogan, Christian Brother, Leinster colleges football championship cup named after him. Local skirmishes during the War of Independence.</p> <p>22:03 Description of suspension of Gaelic games during The Troubles. Bloody Sunday improving profile of the GAA. Comments in American papers about atrocity. Discussion about findings of inquiry released recently.</p> <p>25:13 Commemorative matches between Dublin and Tipperary in Power's field. Mentions players Michael Murphy, Tom Carroll, Dick Egan. 50th anniversary in 1970. Mentions Peter Quinn, president of GAA, speaking at 75th anniversary. Also commemorative games in Croke Park. Saying rosary. Mentions player Kevin Heffernan. Hogan Stand a permanent commemoration. Their campaign to keep the name. Their feelings about naming stadia after commercial sponsors, for example the Aviva Stadium. Mentions Mick Egan, whose uncle Jim was playing on Bloody Sunday.</p> <p>29:26 Discussion about the opening of Croke Park to other sports. Recollection of not being allowed to play or watch soccer or rugby. Playing rugby during the ban on foreign games. A cousin playing soccer with Drumcondra, getting paid. Comparison with playing Gaelic games for no money.</p>
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	<p>Enforcement of ban locally.</p> <p>32:47 Earliest memories of the GAA. Strength of Fethard and Mullinahone. Playing in junior team in the 50s. Illegal players in All-Irelands that Tipperary won. Mentions Pat Walsh. Playing in Windgap in Kilkenny. Also mentions Martin Bowers. Location of club on border with Kilkenny. Recent painting of bridge on border Kilkenny colours and Tipperary colours. Rivalry. Walter Crowley supporting Kilkenny. Mick Crowley winning Leinster medal for Kilkenny hurling team in 1948. Mentions Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh's discussion of 2011 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final, which Tipperary won.</p> <p>39:11 Description of fields played in: Jimmy Maher's field, Cooneys' field, Jimmy Shelley's field. No payment for farmers who owned fields. Memories of club pitch before its development. John Brennan's field, mentions Pat Dempsey.</p> <p>41:05 No trainers or mentors. Practising every night, informally. No football team until 40s. Playing hurling. Mentions Paddy Purcell.</p> <p>42:30 Discussion about influence of teachers. Mentions Gerry McDonnell. No teachers involved in GAA in Kilcash. Mentions Jimmy Hensey, trainer in 1962. Also mentions John Walsh. Hensey's training background. Training methods: running, exercises. Winning county championship. Hennessy improving team performance. Beating Éire Óg Nenagh. No money for alcohol. Mentions Val Lanigan and Pat Young of 1962 team.</p> <p>47:49 Outline of the progress of the team in the 60s and 70s. Decline of club in 60s. Impact of emigration. Mentions players who emigrated in the 50s: John St. John, Pete Lanigan, Joseph Maher. Joining with Moyle Rovers in 1983, called Sliabh na mBan. Mentions Val Leedon. Winning minor South, minor county in 1984. Mentions families involved: Lanigans, O'Mearas, Lyonses, Cahills. Mentions Aidan Bradshaw, Joe Bolger, Michael Frayne. Winning junior championship and league in 1977. Discussion of successes in football and hurling from the 80s to the present. Write-up in <i>Irish Independent</i> about Grangemockler beating Moyle Rovers in 1990.</p> <p>53:05 Intermediate team joining with St. Patrick's club in 1990. Mentions player Willie Robinson, winning South final in 1991. Clonmel Commercials. Mentions strength of Under-21 team in 1961.</p> <p>54:49 Discussion about rivals: Mullinahone, Newcastle.</p>
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	<p>Discussion about playing intermediate. Development of hurling. Mentions Comerfords picking up hurling at De La Salle College, the Lyons' in St. Kieran's College in the 70s. Mentions Eddie Ryan, Billy Maher, Tom and Jim Comerford. Mentions Tom Cahill. In 1977, reaching four finals in football and hurling. Mostly same players playing both sports. Mentions Jim Lyons playing football for Tipperary, hurling in New York. Still involved in the GAA in New York. Also mentions dedication of Michael Murphy, football and hurley player. Working in Burke's Bacon Factory Clonmel.</p> <p>01:00:41 Description of challenge of motivating players when the club wasn't doing well. Easier when other distractions or money.</p> <p>01:01:22 Fundraising efforts: illegal for GAA club to run a dance so called a social club. Mullinahone social club, also Walshes' hall, Forresters' hall. John Landy breaking his leg in a fight.</p> <p>01:02:48 Amalgamation of Grangemockler and Ballyneale in 40s. Account of various splits and amalgamations. New rule about one team per parish. Mentions Mrs Cody. Their views that owning land and livestock helped to earn a place on team. Mentions Fr. Conneally, Johnny Masters. Lack of influence of party politics on getting on teams.</p> <p>01:06:30 Discussion about being a football club in predominantly hurling county. Mentions John Lahey. Mentions Mullinahone and St. Patricks in Drangan, Clonmel Commercials, Moyle Rovers. Dick playing for Tipperary. Mentions Jim Healy, Richie Lanigan, Jim Lyons, Billy Tobin, Jim O'Meara, Declan Hansey.</p> <p>01:08:32 They reflect on the relationship between the club and county board. Tom's father secretary of South board. Few dealings with county, more with South board. Recounts stories of tension between South board and club. Mentions Neddy Maguire. Story about trying to move 1987 junior hurling match with Ballingarry. Mentions South board secretary Michael O'Meara, chairman Jimmy Collins. Another South board story featuring Harry Tobin.</p> <p>01:12:42 Dick training ladies football team.</p> <p>01:13:02 Recollection of playing Under-14 football, playing overage players. Mentions Jim Lanigan in charge of team, playing Eugene Culleton.</p> <p>01:14:59 Discussion about the biggest changes they've</p>
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	<p>witnessed in the GAA. Changes in administration. Improved communication: email or group texts to organise matches. Also young players less respectful of authority. Less dedication of players to club.</p> <p>01:17:34 Volunteerism in the GAA. Their views that trainers and masseurs shouldn't be paid. Should be amateur. Memories of hurling in the 70s, reusing hurleys, comparison with now. Mentions trainer John Donovan.</p> <p>01:22:11 Recollections of a 1980 trip to London. Mentions The Mayor. Playing Brian Boru GAA Club outside Wormwood Scrubs. Mentions Ned Cronin. Deserter from British Navy on team. Mentions Tommy Keating. Smuggling on bus. Mentions Kevin Kennedy. Bus driver drunk, getting lost. Mentions PJ Lanigan. Smoke alarm going off in hotel. Bombs in Oxford Street. Mentions Tom Murray, John Collins, Kathleen Collins interviewed by police after bomb. Staying in Carlisle Hotel in Paddington. Tom recalls being in Oxford Street the day of the bomb, being watched. Mentions Joe Kennedy. Illegal hurling tournaments. Travelling by boat.</p> <p>01:28:21 Discussion about the significance of the GAA in their lives. Pastime, travelling. Important in a recession. Fun at matches. Travelling to matches in Tralee, Killarney, Crossmaglen, Newry. Expense of match tickets.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>J.J. Crowley:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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>Al Murray:</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>

	<p>Thomas Shelly:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p> <p>John Walsh:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input 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 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>J.J. Crowley: Played football for Grangemockler-Ballyneale for 20 years</p> <p>Al Murray: Played football and hurling for Grangemockler-Ballyneale from 1970 – 1990. Won South Tipperary Junior Hurling Championship and South Tipperary Junior Football Championship.</p> <p>Thomas Shelly: Played football with Grangemockler for 10-12 years; won South Tipperary Junior Football Championship in 1957.</p> <p>John Walsh: Played football with Grangemockler from underage until 1964.</p>
<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>J.J. Crowley: Member of the Grangemockler-Ballyneale committee for many years holding positions including chairman, secretary and treasurer. Also chairman of Friends of Tipperary Football.</p> <p>Al Murray: Member of the Grangemockler-Ballyneale committee for many years holding positions including chairman and secretary.</p> <p>Thomas Shelly: Member of the Grangemockler-Ballyneale committee for many years holding positions including chairman and secretary. Currently president of the club.</p> <p>Al Murray: Member of the Grangemockler-Ballyneale committee for many years holding positions including</p>

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	chairman (1958 – 1963).
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:33:41
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: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 20th June 2012