

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> April 2010
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, Omagh, Co. Tyrone
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Joe Martin
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1939 <b>Home County:</b> Tyrone
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Evishatrask, Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone <b>Secondary:</b> St Patricks College, Co. Armagh <b>Third Level:</b> St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 5 brothers & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Marie with 3 sons and 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	St. Colmcille's, Carrickmore
<b>Occupation</b>	Teacher; Chief Executive Officer with Western Education and Library Board
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	None
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Cumann Seanchas Ard Mhacha

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<b>Date of Report</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1885 – 2009
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Tyrone, Armagh, Cavan, Dublin, Americas, USA, Asia, Philippines
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Managing, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Culture, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Joe talks about his lifelong involvement with the Gaelic Athletic Association and how his involvement has changed at different stages of his life. He begins by talking about his personal involvement as a child and what it was like being raised in a GAA mad household. His father had a role in the establishment of the Carrickmore team in 1932 and Joe and his brother, Michael, were taking part in the team from a young age. Joe also took part in the GAA beyond being a player in roles such as refereeing, being a county chairman, and as a historian. Joe researched the history of the GAA in Tyrone and wrote a book on the subject for the centennial celebration of the GAA. He talks about his difficulties in finding early history in County Tyrone but also about how much he learned and enjoyed the experience. Joe also talks about the people who he interviewed and relays story that he heard from many of the interviewees. He gives many personal opinions about things such as women in the GAA and the role of the GAA during The Troubles.</p> <p>0:00 Introduction, born in 1939</p> <p>0:58 Had pictures of Cavan team that won All-Ireland in Polo Grounds in 1947 and Carrickmore team that won the St. Enda Cup In 1948</p> <p>1:17 Joe's father and uncle Mickie were members of the Carrickmore team that was established in 1932</p> <p>1:25 Father McGilligan was the local curate. There and</p>

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	<p>played for Tyrone but was a Derry man. Joe's father and Father McGilligan went to All-Irelands in Dublin in 1930's</p> <p>2:30 Talks about his father's knowledge of Cavan Football, mentioning Gunner Brady, Peter Donahue, and John Joe Reilly.</p> <p>2:55 Father's trip to 1949 Tyrone County Final in Pomeroy.</p> <p>3:13 Mick McElduff and Jim McElduff were Joe's Uncles on his mother's side and captains for the Carrickmore championship teams in the early 1940's.</p> <p>3:40 Listening to Michael O'Hehir in the years after the War.</p> <p>4:46 Listening to an All-Ireland final or semi-final at a neighbour's house instead of saving the hay in the good weather.</p> <p>5:17 The founding of the St. Colmcille's Club in Carrickmore by Fr. McGilligan. Jimmy Nugent, being secretary.</p> <p>6:10 Struggles in set up of the club for the first few years of its existence.</p> <p>6:27 Joe's father stayed connected to the club through his wife's brothers who played for the club after he stopped.</p> <p>6:35 Describes lack of facilities in the village when he grew up.</p> <p>7:10 Started playing for Carrickmore in 1957. Describes the local pitch.</p> <p>7:20 The club had a priest named Fr. McKee, who looked after underage football.</p> <p>7:40 Struggles of Carrickmore Football in the 1950's and youth movement that followed, including winning Juvenile Championship in 1955 and minor championship in 1956 and 1957.</p> <p>7:55 Carrickmore in county senior final in 1958 but lost to Clonoe.</p> <p>8:02 Michael Martin, Joe's brother, and his talents in football.</p> <p>8:18 Michael succeeded Jim Devlin as county Tyrone's fullback in 1958.</p> <p>8:35 Michael played on the same Minor team as Frank Rodgers and Dessie McMahon (the Croke Park Architect).</p>
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	<p>9:00 Story about the county senior final in 1958, involving his brother, who was to go to Dalgan to join the Columban's and the poor harvest of that year due to the poor weather.</p> <p>10:20 The Clonoe team had players such as John Joe Hagan and Tom Fox who played for Tyrone.</p> <p>11:00 Michael was to go to the Philippines in August 1966 after his ordination, but did not leave until the day after the County Final, which Carrickmore won.</p> <p>11:40 Victory banquet at Knocknamoe Hotel, Omagh after the match.</p> <p>12:10 Michael left for Philippines the day after winning county final after 8 years earlier leaving for Dalgan the day after losing county final.</p> <p>12:25 While in Dalgan, Michael would not have been allowed to play football. However when he came home he would be able to play under his own name.</p> <p>13:35 On Michael Martin's second visit home he was part of the panel for Carrickmore for part of the time during which they won three championships in a row from 1977-1979.</p> <p>13:46 Michael was also on the Carrickmore panel that almost won the All-Ulster club championship during that time.</p> <p>14:00 Michael never tried to set up Gaelic Games in the Philippines during his time there.</p> <p>14:23 The village where Michael was, has a soccer team but no reason to set up a Gaelic Football team. Mentions reasons for not setting up a Gaelic Football team there.</p> <p>15:00 Tyrone's victory at the 1956 Ulster Championship.</p> <p>15:05 Travelling to the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway in Dublin with his father and brother.</p> <p>15:20 Walking to railway station on the other side of Carrickmore.</p> <p>15:50 Cycling to matches in places such as Pomeroy.</p> <p>16:00 Uncle Jim had a minibus that was used to transport the teams to matches.</p> <p>16:20 Talks about Carrickmore's seven a side teams and their success, focusing on Frank Donnelly's talents.</p> <p>17:00 Travelling to matches in Peadar Montague's</p>
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	<p>Volkswagen Beetle.</p> <p>17:30 Difficulties of travelling to matches and training.</p> <p>17:50 Playing in a tournament in Mountfield with Michael and having to share boots.</p> <p>18:20 Lack of facilities and resources. Few families interested in Gaelic Football in Joe's locality.</p> <p>19:20 Joe was entitled to a full boarding scholarship because of his distance from the nearest bus at the age of 11.</p> <p>19:55 Attended St. Patrick's College in Armagh with Michael.</p> <p>20:00 Discusses Armagh's successful history in terms of the Maguire Cup. Armagh had won the first Hogan Cup in 1946.</p> <p>20:50 St. Patrick's College Armagh catered for the whole of the Archdiocese including parts of West Tyrone parishes, all of East Tyrone, County Louth, and a lot of Derry.</p> <p>21:15 Kevin Beahan played midfield for Louth in 1957 All-Ireland Final.</p> <p>21:45 Joe arrived at St. Patrick's at a time when the team was made up of mainly Tyrone players.</p> <p>22:00 Lists some of the players on the St. Patrick's team, including Jim Devlin, Eddie Devlin, the Dargan Brothers, Sean McGrath, a Gribben fella and Iggy Jones.</p> <p>22:30 Describes Iggy Jones' performance in the Hogan Cup at Croke Park.</p> <p>22:45 Describes Eddie Devlin's talents as a footballer and employment as a dentist.</p> <p>24:00 Eddie Devlin's performance in the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway in 1956.</p> <p>24:30 Eddie Devlin's competition against Seán Purcell.</p> <p>24:50 Father Peter Hughes opinion of Eddie Devlin.</p> <p>25:10 Story about Eddie Devlin not being allowed to play for Ulster in a Railway Cup against Munster.</p> <p>27:50 Speaks about his opinions on the ban of GAA players from playing soccer or rugby.</p> <p>28:20 Lack of interest in soccer in Carrickmore.</p> <p>28:30 Joe's affect on the ban as Carrickmore chairman in</p>
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	<p>1971.</p> <p>29:00 Tyrone's opinion of the ban.</p> <p>29:40 Memories of the 1948 All-Ireland Minors Final.</p> <p>29:55 Difficulty of receiving news about 1947 and 1948 All-Ireland Finals.</p> <p>30:30 Michael Martin's talents as a handballer winning the Downey Cup.</p> <p>30:45 Patsy Kieran from Crossmaglen and Kevin Beahan's talents as a handballer. Joe's own history as a handballer.</p> <p>31:22 Playing against Johnny Cusack in the Ulster Colleges competition.</p> <p>31:45 Cycling to Loughmacrory to play handball with Michael.</p> <p>32:00 Michael's victories as a handball player.</p> <p>32:15 Patsy Begley's talents as a handballer.</p> <p>32:50 Reasons for lack of Hurling in the area.</p> <p>33:20 History of Joe's teams in the 1950's and 1960's, including players: Jimmy Treacy, Pat John Rafferty, Paddy Grugan.</p> <p>34:00 Joe and his brother's senior county championships in the 1960's.</p> <p>35:15 Joe's years as chairman from 1970-1974.</p> <p>35:50 His role in organising volunteer work for a new pitch in 1971.</p> <p>37:00 Improvements to the pitch after Joe handed over responsibility in 1974.</p> <p>38:00 Joe's reasons for leaving the chairman position in 1974.</p> <p>39:10 Joe's role as the club's referee after leaving the chairman position.</p> <p>39:30 Being a referee for the County Minor Final during the year of the Hunger Strike or Blanket Protest.</p> <p>40:00 Event during halftime in support of the Hunger Strikers.</p> <p>40:40 Feelings about being a referee.</p> <p>41:30 Jimmy Treacy became chairman of the county board in</p>
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	<p>the late 1970's.</p> <p>42:10 Plans of starting a county history before the centennial in 1984.</p> <p>43:00 Jimmy approaching Joe to do the county history and Joe's feelings about doing it.</p> <p>44:00 Joe's early struggles with finding information dating back to the beginning of the century.</p> <p>44:50 Joe found the origins of the GAA in County Tyrone to be shrouded in myth.</p> <p>45:50 Usefulness of The Ulster Herald, which was founded in 1901.</p> <p>46:45 Able to determine the first club in County Tyrone.</p> <p>46:55 Finding new information that could have influence on the county GAA history of Tyrone.</p> <p>47:50 Gaining insight from Marcus Burke about the early periods of GAA in Tyrone.</p> <p>48:25 Misleading information about an Ardboe Team from the late 1890s / early 1900's.</p> <p>49:00 Having to speculate on certain aspect in the County History, but certainty in his work and research.</p> <p>49:25 Importance of newspaper research for the County History.</p> <p>50:20 Opinion of relying on Oral History for a picture of what really happened.</p> <p>50:45 Time commitment in terms of his research for the book.</p> <p>51:00 Describing lulls in action of the GAA in Tyrone in the early 1900's.</p> <p>51:40 The most important newspapers to Joe's research.</p> <p>52:10 Help received from Jerry Donnelly who was appointed by Tyrone.</p> <p>52:45 Meeting Joe McAnespie, Cookstown, who drove the car for the chairman of the county board, Joseph "Buttons" O'Neill.</p> <p>53:30 Mick Coney's role in revitalizing the GAA in Tyrone.</p>
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	<p>54:00 Joe McAnespie's role for the GAA club in Cookstown.</p> <p>54:45 Meeting Tommy Tierney who played in the county final in 1905 or 1906 when they were beaten by Strabane.</p> <p>55:10 Tommy Tierney travelling by McAleer's brake from Dungannon to Pomeroy and changing horses in Omagh.</p> <p>55:40 Tommy talking about the boots and pig's bladder football used.</p> <p>56:15 Joe McAnespie having the only insight into Gaelic Sunday in 1918.</p> <p>57:50 Joe Martin's method for selecting people to interview for his research.</p> <p>58:30 Joe's interview with Joe Henry Campbell and his family's connection to the GAA, including siblings Peter, Seamus and Vera.</p> <p>59:10 Story about the Ulster Final in 1933 against Cavan, involving players from Dungannon, as told by Joe Henry Campbell.</p> <p>1:01:20 Joe Henry Campbell's involvement in the drawing at the All-Ireland Convention in Killarney for Tyrone to play Cavan in the first round in 1934.</p> <p>1:02:00 The other Tyrone delegate was a man named Slevin, whose son is Jim Slevin.</p> <p>1:02:40 Slevin and Joe Henry made contact with Father McGilligan to set up training before the match with Cavan.</p> <p>1:03:00 The reasons for the match between Tyrone and Cavan going into history.</p> <p>1:04:20 Tyrone reaching the Ulster Final again in 1941 and were drawn against Cavan.</p> <p>1:04:35 Tyrone's training methods for the match.</p> <p>1:04:45 The Campbell's family attachment to the final in 1941.</p> <p>1:05:25 Vera Campbell Conway's role in organizing Camogie in Tyrone and Ulster Colleges in the 1930's and 1940's, with the help of Father Murphy.</p> <p>1:06:35 Vera's friendship with Agnes O'Farrelly.</p> <p>1:07:20 Joe Henry Campbell's relationship with Jodie O'Neill.</p> <p>1:08:00 Joe Henry Campbell's contracting firms involvement</p>
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	<p>with paving of Carrickmore streets.</p> <p>1:09:05 Story of someone running into the Campbell family on vacation playing Hurling on the beach.</p> <p>1:09:40 Joe Martin's opinion of how the role of women has changed in the GAA since it began.</p> <p>1:10:10 The ease for girls to play football as opposed to camogie.</p> <p>1:10:45 The exclusion of women from the GAA while Joe grew up.</p> <p>1:11:00 Joe's work with Sighle Nic an Ultaigh.</p> <p>1:11:30 Help received from Con Short during Joe's research.</p> <p>1:12:15 The lack of Antrim's GAA history as well as other counties in Ulster's GAA histories.</p> <p>1:13:25 Sighle Nic an Ultaigh's accomplishments in life and funeral.</p> <p>1:14:45 Eddie Devlin's accomplishments for Tyrone as a player for the minor team.</p> <p>1:16:04 Eddie's brother-in-law was Dr. Pat O'Neill who had success as a footballer for St. Patrick's, Armagh, Tyrone and Omagh St. Enda's.</p> <p>1:16:55 Interviewing Canon Peter Hughes who was from Collegeland, Co. Armagh.</p> <p>1:17:15 Canon Peter Hughes was captain of the first Ulster Colleges team.</p> <p>1:17:45 Peter Hughes' role in the Pomeroy Parish and Tyrone GAA.</p> <p>1:18:35 Connection to the Polo Grounds for St. Patrick's College.</p> <p>1:19:05 Recommendations of panel Father Peter Hughes took part in for the Tyrone GAA.</p> <p>1:20:00 Impact of immigration on the county.</p> <p>1:20:25 Connection between Tyrone, and Philadelphia and New York.</p> <p>1:21:20 Lacks of players for the club because they were away at certain parts during the year.</p>
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	<p>1:21:45 History of players leaving the county during their prime, including Frank McGuigan and Seamus Donaghy.</p> <p>1:22:40 Soccer teams that were affected by World War I.</p> <p>1:23:20 Impact of the political situation of Northern Ireland on the GAA in Tyrone and Carrickmore.</p> <p>1:23:45 Trying to divorce the sport from the political aspects at the time.</p> <p>1:24:15 Players not being around because of the political situation. Interference due to The Troubles and the views of the GAA by the police force. GAA players that were killed during the course of The Troubles.</p> <p>1:26:30 Separation between political divisions and local GAA clubs.</p> <p>1:27:40 Physical expansion of the GAA that occurred during The Troubles.</p> <p>1:28:10 Looking at political history from a birds-eye view.</p> <p>1:28:30 Best memory of involvement in the GAA.</p> <p>1:28:35 All-Ireland in 2003.</p> <p>1:29:10 Tyrone County Championship in 1966.</p> <p>1:29:25 Worst memory of involvement in the GAA. 1958 Tyrone County Championship.</p> <p>1:29:40 What the GAA has meant to Joe.</p> <p>1:29:45 The GAA's role in his childhood and for his entire family. The bonds made through connections to the GAA.</p> <p>1:31:20 Reference to Mickey Harte.</p> <p>1:31:40 The GAA's role in making Joe a part of his community.</p> <p>1:32:00 The amateur ethos of the GAA.</p> <p>1:33:05 Using the GAA as a bond between both communities in Northern Ireland.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player ✓ Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member ✓ Grounds-person</p>

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	<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): _____
<b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)	Joe played from 1955 to 1974. He won a juvenile title in 1955, 2 minor titles (1956, 1957) and 3 senior titles (1961, 1966, 1969).
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	Club: Treasurer, 1963 – 1964; Chairman, 1970 – 1974  District: West Tyrone Board Chairman, 1972  County: Board member (5 / 6 different occasions)
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 01:33:41
<b>Language</b>	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:                \_\_\_\_\_15/06/12\_\_\_\_\_