

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb 2011
<b>Location</b>	Liam's home, Navan, Co. Meath
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Fintan Ginnity
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1928 <b>Home County:</b> Meath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Drumbaragh NS, Co. Meath <b>Secondary:</b> CBS Kells, Co. Meath
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 3 brothers & 1 sister <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Peg with 2 sons and 3 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Drumbaragh Emmets; Gaeil Colmcille
<b>Occupation</b>	Bank Manager
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Special Branch Detective [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Secretary of 1966 Celebrations in Kells; Gaelic League; Pioneers

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<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Liam Creavin
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1920 <b>Home County:</b> Meath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Lucan Boys NS, Dublin <b>Secondary:</b> De La Salle, Navan, Co. Meath <b>Third Level:</b> St. Pat's, Drumcondra, Dublin
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 sister & 3 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Ita with 4 sons (1 deceased) and 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Navan O'Mahony's
<b>Occupation</b>	Teacher
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Railway Man [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)	Ita Creavin
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Female
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1922 <b>Home County:</b> Meath
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy <b>Secondary:</b> St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 4 sisters & 3 brothers <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Liam with 4 sons (1 deceased) and 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Navan O'Mahony's
<b>Occupation</b>	Secretary in Furniture Business
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Clerk [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	Fianna Fáil
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Legion of Mary

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<b>Date of Report</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1920 – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Meath, Dublin, Australasia, Australia
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Administration, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Education, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Identity, Culture, Volunteers, Rivalries, Media, Religion, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Politics, All-Ireland, GAA Abroad, Material Culture, Irish Language, Relationship with the Association, Club History, County History
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Fintan Ginnity, Liam Creavin and Ita Creavin discuss a lifetime of involvement in the GAA. The group discuss their earliest GAA memories and go on to talk about changes in the Association since they were young. They discuss Liam and Fintan’s long involvement in Meath County Board, outlining the roles they held and challenges they faced. They talk in detail about the lead up to Meath’s All-Ireland final appearances and discuss the tours to Australia – the forerunner of the current International Rules Series. They discuss the re-development of Páirc Tailteann and the role of the Irish language in the GAA.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:45 Liam talks about his earliest GAA memory – attending Navan O’Mahony matches in Páirc Tailteann as a young boy.</p> <p>02:42 Fintan recalls playing football with Drumbaragh as a young boy. Mentions that his family were the only ones to have a radio in the parish at the time. Recalls listening to the 1939 All-Ireland Football Final that Meath played in.</p> <p>04:04 Liam talks about his club, Navan O’Mahonys. Notes a change in team colours in earlier days due to a family bereavement.</p> <p>06:30 Fintan talks about his club, Emmet Drumbaragh.</p> <p>07:00 Talks about the history of Emmet Drumbaragh. Mentions Basil Jordan. Recalls collecting money for jerseys with him.</p> <p>07:48 Talks about club facilities in Drumbaragh in early</p>

	<p>playing days – changing behind ditches.</p> <p>09:25 Liam talks about the facilities in Navan O'Mahonys in the early days – no pitch. Meath County Board acquiring the showgrounds.</p> <p>10:25 Ita Creavin joins the interview. Talks about her earliest GAA memory – her father's involvement with the O'Mahonys. Recalls her brother playing with Parnells. Discusses the dissolution of the Parnells in 1948. Talks about Liam's involvement in forming the Navan O'Mahonys.</p> <p>12:53 Ita talks about Navan O'Mahony's first match after the reformation of the team. Recalls a shortage of players, having to put the trainer on.</p> <p>14:30 Discusses Pearse O'Mahonys. Recalls that there was one surviving member of Pearse O'Mahonys when Navan O'Mahonys were founded.</p> <p>17:00 Ita talks about hurling in the club in early days. Recalls having to take the hurls home to mind them after matches.</p> <p>17:40 Liam and Fintan talk about hurling in the area in early days. Mention the dominance of football.</p> <p>19:07 Ita recalls Joe Feely of Proudstown making the hurls for the Navan O'Mahonys club.</p> <p>19:56 Liam talks about his interest in hurling, although he never played himself.</p> <p>20:28 Ita and Liam talk about the decline of hurling in earlier years due to the expense of running a hurling club – hurling sticks were expensive to buy.</p> <p>22:35 Ita and Fintan talk about how the teams travelled to matches. Recall travelling in the back of trucks and lorries.</p> <p>25:17 The group talk about the leather footballs used in the early playing days. Recall playing with pigs bladders.</p> <p>26:47 Discuss other forms of transport getting to and from matches – cycling or walking.</p> <p>28:00 Fintan discusses characters within Drumbaragh club. Mentions Micheál Campbell – played for Meath and trained the Meath team in later years.</p> <p>29:38 Ita and Liam mention characters within the Navan O'Mahonys club.</p> <p>32:27 The group discuss the dance that Navan Gaels held</p>
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	<p>annually on St Stephen's night.</p> <p>33:40 Fintan talks about social events held in Drumbaragh. Recalls dances in the school and social gatherings in the St. Vincent de Paul hall after matches.</p> <p>35:51 Ita talks about the prominence of rugby in Meath in early days. Mentions a rugby and soccer club in the area. Recalls that her father played cricket for Navan.</p> <p>36:57 Recalls her brother Frank being called before Brother Ivor and the school committee for playing cricket.</p> <p>39:35 Fintan mentions that rugby and soccer were not played in Drumbaragh.</p> <p>40:25 Ita talks about Liam's involvement on Meath County Board in 1948. Recalls that he represented Navan O'Mahonys at the convention in 1949. Discusses his role as County Secretary in 1956.</p> <p>41:40 Fintan talks about county board meetings. Mentions Joe McDermott and "The Ra" Doyle.</p> <p>47:40 Ita talks about Liam's role as county Secretary. Discusses the duties involved.</p> <p>51:57 Recalls an argument between Dunshaughlin and Blackhall Gaels.</p> <p>54:55 Fintan recalls that he became involved in administration at 14 years of age – representing Drumbaragh at county board level.</p> <p>56:45 Ita recalls the ladies committee providing table cloths for refreshments after matches.</p> <p>57:55 Fintan talks about his involvement in administration. Describes the effort of players in volunteering in the early days.</p> <p>58:30 Fintan recalls his first county board meeting.</p> <p>59:26 The group discuss the big issues at Meath County Board – winning 4 All-Irelands, the Centenary Cup.</p> <p>01:00:05 Fintan talks about his roles within county board, including being Chairman of the county board for 20 years.</p> <p>01:03:54 The group discuss the role they played during the All-Ireland years – organising tickets, travelling around the country to collect tickets.</p>
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	<p>01:10:50 The group discuss All-Ireland days. Recall attending mass with the team the night before, praying on the way down.</p> <p>01:12:18 Discuss travelling to All-Irelands. Recall in early years that 5 or 6 cars would take players to matches, later years a coach was organised.</p> <p>01:13:00 Fintan talks about Sean Boylan.</p> <p>01:14:54 Ita talks about the lack of technology in the early days and writing letters. Recalls the work put into organising the Australia trip.</p> <p>01:18:10 Mentions Peter McDermott's involvement in the Australia trip. Fintan recalls being the only county board delegate left at home!</p> <p>01:19:22 Fintan discusses the development of Páirc Tailteann. Recall fundraising – interest free loans.</p> <p>01:22:39 Describes the official opening of Páirc Tailteann – were beaten by Kerry. Talks about the quality of the field.</p> <p>01:24:09 Liam discusses the trip to Australia.</p> <p>01:31:13 Ita recalls staying at home with the 5 children.</p> <p>01:34:40 Fintan recalls his involvement in Central Council. Talks about the conventions.</p> <p>01:34:40 Fintan talks about his role on the Leinster Council and the issues dealt with.</p> <p>01:36:57 Fintan discusses the Irish language. Notes that very little of the county board meetings were conversed in Irish. Gives his opinion that the GAA should be promoting the Irish language.</p> <p>01:40:47 The group discuss rule changes within the GAA.</p> <p>01:42:55 The group discuss the growing professionalism within the GAA.</p> <p>01:47:50 Ita talks about her love of the GAA and the efforts of volunteers in early years.</p> <p>01:49:21 Ita recalls washing jerseys and towels for the teams.</p> <p>01:50:00 Liam talks about his best memories of being involved in the GAA – the All-Ireland win in 1949.</p> <p>01:51:40 Fintan talks about his best memories of being</p>
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	<p>involved in the GAA.</p> <p>01:54:40 The group discuss trips taken after All-Ireland victories. Recall travelling to Dubai and South Africa.</p> <p>01:56:30 Ita recalls her best memories of being involved in the GAA.</p> <p>01:58:46 The group discuss their GAA heroes. Ita's is Mick O'Connell, describes his style of play. Fintan's was Paddy Kennedy. Liam chooses Mick O'Connell.</p> <p>02:01:47 Fintan talks about the divisional boards within Meath in earlier years. Mentions Mattie O'Brien.</p> <p>02:04:04 Ita talks about Pat Hopkins.</p> <p>02:09:46 The group talk about what involvement in the GAA has meant to them in their lifetime.</p> <p>02:12:48 Fintan discusses work he carried out on grounds.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><b>Fintan:</b></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 checked="" 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><b>Liam:</b></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 checked="" 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><b>Ita:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input checked="" 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>



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<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p><b>Fintan:</b> Played from the age of 14 to 32. Won a Sean Yore Cup and League medal with Drumbaragh.</p> <p><b>Liam:</b> Played for 30 / 40 years and won 5 club championships.</p> <p><b>Ita:</b> N/A</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p><b>Fintan:</b> Has been involved in administration since he was 14.</p> <p>Club: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Delegate to County Board</p> <p>County: PRO, Deputy Vice-chairman, Chairman, Delegate to Leinster Council and Delegate to Central Council</p> <p>Central: Chairman of Insurance Work Group</p> <p><b>Liam:</b> Got involved in administration in 1948.</p> <p>Club: Founder, Secretary, Treasurer, Chairman and Delegate to County Board.</p> <p>County: Assistant Secretary, Secretary / Treasurer, Minor Board Secretary and Delegate to Leinster Council.</p> <p><b>Ita:</b> N/A</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: 02:14:10</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 the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Arlene Crampsie \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 06/08/12 \_\_\_\_\_