

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2010
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Ballinagh, Co. Cavan
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Eddie Brady
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1935 <b>Home County:</b> Cavan
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Ballinagh NS, Co. Cavan
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> None <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Married to Margaret
<b>Club(s)</b>	Ballinagh GFC
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer; Porter in St. Joseph's Hospital, Cavan
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farmers
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Chairman of Cavan Town St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, President of local St. Vincent De Paul, Chairman of Ballinagh Christmas Lights Committee, PRO of Cavan Drama Festival, Committee Cumann Seanchais Bhreifne, Longest serving steward at Knock Shrine (1964 – to date), Longest serving correspondent with Longford Leader and Anglo-Celt

REFERENCE NO. CN/1/8

<b>Date of Report</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1880s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Cavan, Wexford, Monaghan, Armagh, Donegal, Fermanagh, Derry, Down, Dublin, Meath, Kilkenny, Cork, Mayo, Roscommon, Leitrim, Sligo, Kerry, Kildare, Great Britain, England, Americas, USA, Australasia, Australia
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA Abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Women, GAA Abroad, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association, Socialising, Relationships, Economy/Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Eddie outlines the history of Cavan football from the county's participation in its first All-Ireland Senior Football Final in 1928. He describes the successes and failures of both the inter-county teams and the club football teams. He discusses in detail the Cavan team's historic participation in the 1947 All-Ireland Senior Football Final which was held in the Polo Grounds in New York. He also ponders his own administration roles within the organisation, including treasurer and PRO of the football county board, as well as several administrative roles within the hurling and camogie bodies. In addition, Eddie recalls the challenges of refereeing camogie matches, with particular reference to an incident involving the gender of a player being called into question.</p> <p>00:20 Eddie recalls his earliest GAA memory: Cavan reaching the All-Ireland Senior Football Final in 1945. Beating Wexford in semi-final. Mentions Joe Stafford, Ger Kavanagh, Michael Kehoe. Cavan team training at home of Maguire family in Crossdoney members of which played on opposing teams in 1952 All-Ireland final. Mentions Liam and Des Maguire playing for Cavan, Brendan Maguire playing for Meath. Mentions Mick Higgins, Simon Deignan. Mentions referee John Dunne. Controversial decision about goal during 1945 All-Ireland.</p> <p>04:35 Outlines history of Cavan GAA. First club: Ballyconnell. Cavan team's successes in Ulster championships. Discusses Cavan's first participation in Senior All-Ireland final in 1928.</p>

	<p>Recounts incident involving Kerry and Kildare being disqualified from junior championship for late start, Cavan being awarded title. Kildare's excuse: caught behind funeral cortege. Mentions Patsy Lynch, youngest captain of senior All-Ireland winning team.</p> <p>09:12 Describes 1927 and 1928 successes of Cavan and Kildare. Mentions Paddy O'Loughlin's controversial goal. Also mentions Pat O, Irish Times. Discusses Cavan playing Monaghan in 1929 Ulster championship. Mentions Cavan player Jim Smith. Explains tension between Armagh supporters and Cavan team following death of Armagh player. Reasons for Cavan's refusal to play Monaghan in Carrickmacross in 1930.</p> <p>14:25 Party politics at the time. Tension between secretary of Ulster Council, BC Fay, and chairman of Cavan County Board, Seamus Gilheaney. Controversy surrounding game. Mentions GAA president Seamus Ryan.</p> <p>17:46 Describes reunification of team, National League success in 1931. Mentions Cavan Slashers' success that year. Successes of club and county in the 30s. All-Ireland successes of Kerry and Wexford.</p> <p>19:35 Mentions arrival of Kerry players Paul Russell, Tom Landers, Dan O'Keeffe for All-Ireland semi-final. Celebrations for Kerry team: autograph-hunters, bands playing, turf torch-lit procession, welcome from Cavan Town Council. Mentions Cavan player Vincent McGovern. Mentions John Joe and Tom Landers. Also mentions Willie Young. Also mentions Con Brosnan. Also referee Tom Sheldon.</p> <p>24:25 Discusses 1933 All-Ireland Final. Mentions captain Jim Smith. Celebrations after winning. Cavan team travelling to America in 1934. Ulster championship success that year. Played in Tuam: people travelling by lorry, bus, train. Overcrowding of grounds, spectators on pitch during game. Mentions Sonny McGee.</p> <p>29.25 Mention Cornafean success at a local level. Reasons for not selecting Jim Smith for team.</p> <p>31.10 Describes 1935 All-Ireland championship – playing Fermanagh, Tipperary, Kildare (who had beaten Mayo in the semi-final). Mentions Hughie Reilly and Jim Smith's performances against Tipperary in 1935. Also mentions Paddy Boylan, Tom Reilly.</p> <p>35:04 Describes Mayo's first All-Ireland Senior Football title in</p>
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	<p>1936. Cavan beating Mayo in 1937 in All-Ireland semi-final. Cavan's minor All-Ireland success that year. Mentions Paddy Boylan. Also mentions Kerry's Miko Doyle. Jim Smith's injuries. Tension between Cavan and Kerry. Mentions Micheál O'Hehir's first live broadcast. Cornafean's club success. Cavan's minor All-Ireland success in late 30s.</p> <p>40:33 Outlines Cavan's successes and failures in the 40s. Mullahoran's club success. Ulster winning first Railway Cup in 1942. Mentions Cavan players on that team: John Joe O'Reilly, Tom O'Reilly, Brendan Kelly, Barney Cully, T.P. O'Reilly, Simon Deignan, Gerry Smith. Mentions Donegal's Colm McDyer (played in Polo Grounds, from Glenties) and Hughie Gallagher.</p> <p>42:09 Cavan beat Monaghan in Ulster; met Cork in a rough match; and met Roscommon in All-Ireland final.</p> <p>43:00 Difficulty of travelling during World War Two: lack of trains, some cycling and travelling by bus. Discusses 1943 All-Ireland Senior Football Final between Roscommon and Cavan. Mentions Paddy McKenna and Paddy Michael referees. Mentions Frankie Kinlan, Jack McQuillan, Joe Stafford and Paddy Boylan, Tom Reilly, TP Reilly, Barney Cully. Also mentions Roscommon's Donal Keenan and Owensie Hoare. Violence of game, repercussions for players.</p> <p>45.20: Mountnugent won junior and Cornafean won senior.</p> <p>45:33 Describes how Cavan fared in 1944. Playing Ulster Final in first game ever played in St. Tiernach's Park, Clones. Travelling by bicycle, shortage of tyres and tubes during war. Also horse-drawn vehicles.</p> <p>46:38 Carrier pigeon bringing news of Cavan's win to offices of the local newspaper, the <i>Anglo Celt</i>. Collective training at Bloomfield House, Ballyhaise. Suspension of players after 1943 incident. Defeat at All-Ireland semi-final. Mentions players Adie, Dermot, Dessie, and Dick O'Reilly. Also mentions PJ Duke.</p> <p>49:25 Outlines how Cavan performed in 1945, playing Fermanagh and Wexford. Winning Ulster championship. Collective training at Bingfield House, Crossdoney. Mentions Mick Higgins' injury before the All-Ireland Senior Football Final. Losing final. Mentions referee John Dunne. Discusses county final at club level: balls bursting. Low-quality balls during war.</p> <p>52:03 Cavan losing Ulster final in 1946. Mentions Antrim</p>
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	<p>players Kevin Armstrong, Harry O'Neill, and George Watterson. Also mentions referee Paddy Ratty. Willie Casey and Harry O'Neill sent off. Also mentions referee Bill Delaney. Explains how compulsory tillage imposed on Irish farmers during war led to an abundance of corn. Bad weather, urgency of saving corn, All-Ireland final delayed. Mentions Mounthugent players Mick Higgins, Peter Donohue, Tony Tighe, Connie Kelly. Mentions referee Fr. Peter Paul Galligan, moving to Australia.</p> <p>56:42 Outlines GAA events of 1947. Mentions Monsignor Hamilton's motion to hold All-Ireland Final in America for benefit of Irish emigrants. Initial opposition to the idea in Cavan. Goals from Peter Donohue and Joe Stafford in Ulster Final. Semi-final: Mentions Roscommon's Bill Carlos, Jack McQuillan, Cavan's Tony Tighe, Phil Brady.</p> <p>01:02:41 Describes 1947 Senior All-Ireland Football Final in the Polo Grounds, New York. Mentions general secretary Paddy O'Keeffe, Tommy Kilcoyne, secretary of Connacht Council. Grounds used for baseball. Mentions referee Martin O'Neill. Central Council order regarding who could travel to New York. Mentions Cavan County Board officials Hughie Smith and Patsy Lynch. Also mentions trainer Hughie Reilly and masseur Johnny McGeough.</p> <p>01:04:21 Subs and officials travelling by ship to America, seasick. Players travelling by plane, stopping at Gander. Mentions Willie Doonan, Mick Higgins. 23-hour flight. Welcome from police band, parade, mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Mentions Cardinal Spellman, presenting team with medal.</p> <p>01:06:03 Describes match. Heat in New York. Spraying ground before match. Goals from Cavan's Peter Donohoe, Joe Stafford, Mick Higgins. Cavan's victory. Also mentions Val Gannon, Willie Doonan, Brian O'Reilly, Paddy Smith, Johnny Wilson, John Joe O'Reilly, Simon Deignan, Phil Brady, PJ Dukes, Tony Tighe, Mick Higgins, Colm McDyer, Joe Stafford, Peter Donohoe, T.P. O'Reilly. Position changes.</p> <p>01:08:09 Reflects on both teams' return to Dublin. Dinner in Gresham Hotel, visits to President Seán T. O'Ceallaigh, the Dáil and mayor. Homecoming of Cavan team: bands, banquet, céilí, presentations.</p> <p>01:08:55 National League victories against Meath, Kerry Cork. Mentions Dessie Benson, Peter Donohoe, Weeshie Murphy and Victor Sherlock.</p>
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	<p>01:10:45 Describes Cavan's performance in 1948 beating Antrim, Louth and Mayo. Mentions Tony Tighe, Peter Solan and Padraig Kearney. Also mentions John Joe O'Reilly, Simon Deignan, Owen Roe McGovern and Mick Higgins. Winning fourth Senior All-Ireland title. Club performance, Mullahoran beat Bailieborough.</p> <p>01:14:08 Outlines Cavan's performance in 1949. Beating Armagh in Ulster final in Clones. Playing Cork in All-Ireland semi-final. Discusses dispute in Cavan earlier that year involving Hughie Doonan, West Ham United player and his brother Willie Doonan. Willie Doonan banned from playing for Cavan. Mentions Des Maguire, clerical student, not allowed to play in All-Ireland Final. Mentions James McCabe. Also mentions Meath's Peter McDermott. Meath winning final. Mentions Meath players Paddy Meegan, Mattie McDonnell, Brian Smith, Mick O'Brien, Paddy O'Brien, Kevin McConnell.</p> <p>01:17:21 Describes Cavan's performance in 1950. Reaching National League final with New York. Prizes of overcoats and gold medals. Robust final. Tony Tighe's injuries. Mentions Tom Gallagher's sending off. Mentions Phil "The Gunner" Brady. Cavan losing match and winning medals.</p> <p>01:20:33 Discusses GAA events of 1951. Cavan's failure to win provincial final. Mayo winning All-Ireland Senior Football Final.</p> <p>01:21:06 Outlines Cavan's progress in 1952. Opening of Breffni Park after development of facilities. Challenge matches. Cavan winning Ulster final. Mentions John Joe Cassidy. Cavan's comeback late in All-Ireland semi-final to beat Cork. Mentions brothers: Liam Maguire and Dessie Maguire playing for Cavan, Brendan Maguire playing for Meath. Mentions Meath selector Paul Russell. All-Ireland final between Meath and Cavan, brothers on opposing teams. Draw, followed by Cavan win in replay. Mentions Cavan's Edwin Carolan, Meath's captain Paddy Meegan and Brian Smith. Also mentions Cavan's Johnny Cusack.</p> <p>01:26:32 Discusses the GAA events of 1953. Playing Tyrone in Ulster semi-final. Phil "The Gunner" Brady sent off. Mentions Liam Maguire. Armagh winning Ulster final, reaching All-Ireland final.</p> <p>01:27:13 Cavan's progress in 1954. Retirement of Mick Higgins. Beaten by Meath in All-Ireland semi-final.</p> <p>01:27:36 Winning Ulster championship in 1955. Draw with Kerry in All-Ireland semi-final, beaten in replay. End of</p>
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	<p>Cavan's success until 1962. The rise of Down. Outlines progress of Cavan through 1960s. Cavan's return to beat Down in 1969 Ulster final. Failure to win an Ulster final from 1969 to 1997.</p> <p>01:30:25 Recalls facilities when he was growing up in the 1940s. Ballinagh had no pitch, renting field called Windmill from Joe Osborne. Few clubs with their own pitches. Outlines success of Cornafean GAA Club. Winning 20 senior championships.</p> <p>01:31:33 Reflects on place of football in the town. Two cinemas in Ballinagh – O’Rahilly on Crossdoney Road and the Premier. No television. Dance on Sunday nights in O’Rahilly Hall. Entry prices. Debts of Ballinagh GFC in 1950, decision to run a dance on the December Fair Night in Cavan with Stephen Garvey's band. Profits from dance, mineral bar, raffle.</p> <p>01:34:25 Ballinagh's failure to win matches. Recalls only two radios in town for 1947 All-Ireland final. People listening outside, radio on window. Mentions Michael O’Hehir's commentary. Compares financial situation of people then with that of now.</p> <p>01:37:11 Discusses his father's interest in football. Supporting Cornafean, walking to matches in The Showgrounds in Cavan. Less interest in Cavan matches.</p> <p>01:38:11 Outlines history of Ballinagh GFC. Formation in 1880s/1890s. Only senior championship in Cavan till 1913, start of junior. First junior title won by Ballinagh beating Cross, Cornafean won the following year. Impact of emigration on club. Formation of minor club in 1940 by Terry Murnahan. Success of minor team. Mentions Johnny Wilson, Brian O’Reilly, and Peter Donohoe who went on to play for Cavan. Mentions local shops – Moore’s, White’s and Lynch’s. Describes careers of these players.</p> <p>01:43:15 Recalls meeting these players during his time as treasurer of Cavan County Board from 1976. Also PRO from 1981 to 1986, meeting most players. Mentions Jim McDyer. Reflects on seeing Simon Deignan in shoemaker when he was young, and Johnny McGeough.</p> <p>01:46:11 Remembers travelling to 1949 and 1952 All-Ireland finals. By car with others from Ballinagh. Describes 1947 celebrations for victorious team. Bands, crowds, parade. Captain John Joe O’Reilly missing celebrations to play with army team in Kildare final. Reception in Farnham Arms Hotel.</p>
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	<p>Speeches by Dan O'Rourke, Paddy O'Keeffe, Bishop Lyons, Patsy Lynch, Bishop Moynagh (from Mullahoran).</p> <p>01:49:50 Explains how he got involved in county administration. Mentions magazine by Father Sean Brady and Raymond Dunne, which he wrote for. Mentions retirement of treasurer Jim McCorry. Taking over as treasurer and then becoming PRO.</p> <p>01:51:10 Challenge of treasurer post: responsibility of giving out All-Ireland tickets. His disappointment with the shortage of seats in Croke Park. Injustice of ticket allocation. His views on the finances of the GAA. Mentions Maurice Jackson. Difficulty of being unable to give All-Ireland tickets to individuals who deserved it.</p> <p>01:59:09 Describes duties of his treasurer role: collecting gate receipts. Sound financial position of county during his tenure. Explains his dislike of PRO role: phoning in results of matches to RTÉ and the <i>Irish Press</i>. Challenge of getting exact scores from clubs.</p> <p>02:02:51 Discusses his membership of club. Also role of Cavan delegate to the Ulster Camogie Council from 1969 to 1973. Meetings in Armagh every month. Difficulty of travelling to the North during The Troubles. Recalls travelling through area in which a British soldier was shot. Stopped at army checkpoints. His fear of the UVF and UFF.</p> <p>02:04:32 Explains how he got involved in camogie. Collapse of camogie in the county during late 1950s. Formation of camogie county board in 1967. Mentions Mrs Connolly and Mollie O'Brien, from Killygarry and Mary Young now Mary Crowe from Cornafean.</p> <p>02:05:17 Eddie refereeing camogie games. Then rule of visiting team bringing referee. Refereeing championship games in 1968. Mentions Father Comey at Ballyhaise and Castletara game. Recalls refereeing inter-county games and Ulster championship game between Armagh and Monaghan.</p> <p>02:08:00 His fears of paramilitary groups in The North going to Ulster Camogie Council meetings.</p> <p>02:09:52 Reflects on incidents that occurred during his refereeing days. Dispute over goal between Ballinagh and Ballymachugh. Also recalls Father Oliver O'Reilly asking him to referee minor county championship match, mentions two sisters Mrs Traynor from Knockbride and Mrs Shelby from Drumgoon. Accusation during match that a camogie player</p>
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	<p>was a man.</p> <p>02:14:01 Compares refereeing inter-county games with refereeing club games: higher standard, faster inter-county games.</p> <p>02:15:36 Ponders tradition of hurling in Cavan. His tenure as chairman of hurling county board. Cootehill's tradition of hurling, little hurling in Cavan town. Army personnel from other counties playing hurling. Hurling played in Woodford Gaels, Mullahoran, Lacken, Ballinagh. Mentions Lacken and Castlerahan as being strongest in camogie, Mullahoran as the strongest hurling club.</p> <p>02:17:09 Describes how he got involved in hurling board. Death of chairman, Christy McCormack, when Eddie was vice chairman. Duties of chairman: presiding at meetings, arranging trainer for county team, organising fixtures. Challenges of travelling around The North.</p> <p>02:19:31 Reflects on his satisfaction in his success as treasurer of the county board, achieving the highest figure ever recorded in the county. His biggest disappointment: Cavan's lack of success at provincial level.</p> <p>02:21:48 Recalls refereeing a match in Newry. Ulster championship game between Down and Fermanagh. Also travelling to Kilkenny and Limerick for Congress. Mentions meeting Eddie Keher, Micheál O'Rourke, Dr. Jim Brosnan at Congress. Also enjoyed Ulster Conventions.</p> <p>02:23:58 Mentions his favourite player: Big Tom O'Reilly. Describes O'Reilly's skill and sportsmanship. Outlines O'Reilly's playing career. Number of championship medals won by Big Tom and his brother John Joe. Mentions Frank Reilly in Kildare, also Paddy Reilly and his wife, Margaret.</p> <p>02:27:22 Ponders what the GAA has meant to him. Friends made around the country. Mentions meeting Roscommon's Jimmy Murray. Mentions Leitrim's Packie McGarty, Sligo's Micheál Kearns. Misfortune of talented players who don't win All-Ireland medals with their counties. Eddie's admiration for these players' loyalty in sticking with their counties. His enjoyment of reporting on matches for the <i>Anglo Celt</i>.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p>✓ Supporter ✓ Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach ✓ Steward</p> <p>✓ Chairperson ✓ Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p>

**REFERENCE NO. CN/1/8**

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input 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)	Eddie played from the age of 12 to 14 on schools teams when they organised a League by themselves.
<b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)	Club: Vice-chairman (1950s)  County: Treasurer and Treasurer of Minor Board (1980s); School's Board (1987 – 1989); PRO; Hurling Board Chairman; Delegate to Congress  Camogie County Board: Delegate to Ulster Council
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 02:31:14
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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Signed:      \_\_\_\_\_Arlene Crampsie\_\_\_\_\_

Date:              \_\_\_\_\_28/06/12\_\_\_\_\_