

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	15 th Nov 2010
Location	George Doyle's home, near Craanford, Co. Wexford
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Ger Doran
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1963 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: St Patrick's NS, Craanford, Co. Wexford Secondary: Gorey CBS, Co. Wexford
Family	Siblings: 4 siblings
Club(s)	Craanford GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fianna Fáil
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Michael Finn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1952 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: St Patrick's NS, Craanford, Co. Wexford Secondary: Vocation School Gorey, Co. Wexford
Family	Siblings: 9 siblings Current Family if Different: 4 children
Club(s)	Craanford GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Lorry Driver
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. WX/1/30

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Lukie Finn
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1960 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: St Patrick's NS, Craanford, Co. Wexford Secondary: Vocation School Gorey, Co. Wexford
Family	Siblings: 5 siblings Current Family if Different: 4 children
Club(s)	Craanford GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Self-employed
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	N/A
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

REFERENCE NO. WX/1/30

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Seamus Doyle
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1938 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Monaseed NS, Co. Wexford
Family	Siblings: 1 sister & 7 brothers
Club(s)	Craanford GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Local Badminton Club

REFERENCE NO. WX/1/30

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Francis D'Arcy
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1939 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Ballythomas NS, Co. Wexford Secondary: Gorey CBS, Co. Wexford Third Level: UCD
Family	Siblings: 5 siblings
Club(s)	Craanford GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Golf Club membership

REFERENCE NO. WX/1/30

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Richard Doyle
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1975 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Monaseed NS, Co. Wexford Secondary: Gorey CBS, Co. Wexford
Family	Siblings: 3 brothers Current Family if Different: Wife
Club(s)	Craanford GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Butcher
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Local Badminton Club

REFERENCE NO. WX/1/30

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	George Doyle
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1923 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Monaseed NS, Co. Wexford
Family	Siblings: 2 brothers & 8 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife & 4 children
Club(s)	Craanford GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Irish Farmers Association

REFERENCE NO. WX/1/30

Date of Report	22 nd August 2012
Period Covered	1888 - 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Wexford, Dublin, Cork, Kerry
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Celebrations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Outsiders' Perspectives, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, The Troubles, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Members of Craanford GAA Club discuss their involvement with the club and their experiences and memories of the GAA in general. They outline the history of the club and its successes and failures in both hurling and football, and they consider the influence of the Wexford hurling team of the 1950s on the club. They also describe the various fundraising efforts involved to purchase the grounds and develop the club facilities in the mid-80s. In addition, they consider the spirit of volunteerism in the GAA, the rise of camogie in the club, the significant role of the club in the community, and the benefits of being involved in the club.</p> <p>01:22 Discussion of history of Craanford GAA Club. Founded in 1888. First game a friendly with Inch. Changing location of club within the parish. Outlines parish boundaries. Football team in Craanford. Mentions Bill Hodgins, All-Ireland footballer who played hurling with Craanford. Strong tradition of Gaelic games in the area.</p> <p>03:58 Description of main source of employment for players: agriculture.</p> <p>04:14 George discusses the history of the club. Mentions Jim Higgins and Fr. Cullen. Recalls cycling to matches in Portlaoise, Kilkenny, Wexford, Waterford, Kildare. Mentions cycling to Leinster final in Kilkenny in 1944. Shortage of tyres during war years. Eating meat and bread and drinking minerals. Shortage of tea during war years. Cost of a plain tea.</p>

	<p>10:40 George describes following Wexford hurling and football teams. Mick mentions the different names the club had in the early 1900s.</p> <p>12:00 Description of four consecutive All-Ireland Senior Football Final wins for Wexford from 1915 to 1918. Discussion of Bill Hodgins' playing career and untimely death in his 20s. Memorial to Hodgins.</p> <p>14:04 Discussion about Gaelic games during The Troubles. Little political activity in the area at the time. Political activity in Cork, Kerry, Dublin. Civil war activity in Ferns.</p> <p>16:23 History of club from 1905. Reports of matches read out. Mentions William Doyle Jr., Seamus Doyle, P. Kenny involved in first AGM of club in 1912. Also mentions James Kavanagh and John Lyons, Miles Doyle, John Keaton. Hurling club called Wolfe Tones.</p> <p>19:07 Discussion about club involvement. George reflects on his involvement from 1950. Mentions Mick Kelly and Fr. Regan. Also mentions Jim Doyle. Hurling league started for all ages in mid-50s. Mentions Eddie Kavanagh, Dick Doyle. Predominantly hurling then.</p> <p>22:28 First adult club win in 1958. Mentions poem about this victory by Catherine Doyle. [Frank reads the poem] Seamus recalls playing that game. Lack of underage teams in the 50s. George mentions Willie Lyons and Tommy Whelan. Seamus describes training. Running around field, Fr Regan driving car after them. Mentions Jimmy Loughlin and Chris Clancy. Also mentions John Talbot. Mentions Sean Power, Ger Hannigan.</p> <p>29:38 Seamus describes the various successes and failures of that 1958 team: Highlights include winning Gorey district in 1960, winning four districts in a row, winning 1968 junior championship, winning intermediate championship in 1970. Seven Doyle brothers on the panel, Seven-A-Side starting between seven Doherty brothers, seven O'Neill brothers, and the Doyles in Gorey. Also seven-a-side camogie match. Mentions GAA president Pat Fanning presenting medals.</p> <p>33:02 The Doyles recall playing as a family. Playing against strong teams. Mentions Joe Foley, Phil Wilson.</p> <p>34:40 Discussion about influence of Wexford hurling team of the 1950s on hurling in the area. Recollection of how 1955 All-Ireland Senior Hurling win inspired younger players. Mentions Nickey and Bobby Rackard.</p> <p>36:40 No other sports played in parish. Some football in mid-</p>
--	--

	<p>60s.</p> <p>37:33 Discussion about lack of Gaelic games in schools. Mentions teacher Sean Power. Description of re-grading of club, winning junior football in 1997. Hurling in Craanford school years ago.</p> <p>40:56 Lukie discusses his All-Ireland success. On army team in mid-70s, hurling and football. His highlight: junior football medal in 1997. Prominence of Gaelic games in the army at the time. Recalls playing for county. Pride. Preference for club success. Impact on club of having inter-county player. Discussion about politics involved in getting picked for county, difficulty of breaking through to county team.</p> <p>45:20 Challenge of motivating young players from small club to enter trials.</p> <p>46:09 Reflection on the place of the GAA club in the parish. Knock-out nature of championship 25 years ago, parish support. Less of a following now, more matches. Crowds at championship matches years ago. Fighting among supporters.</p> <p>48:42 Tradition of celebrations after winning matches. Recollection of somebody putting a van in the bonfire after winning the junior championship. Dances.</p> <p>49:37 Description of the development of the club in the 80s. Decision made after match losses to purchase and build a pitch. During recession of mid-80s. Mentions using Willie Poole's field. Also mentions New Zealand prime minister Jim Bolger attending match. No land being sold in parish, buying farm divided up by Land Commission. Permission to sell land if better pitch available. Mentions Mick Sullivan and Mo Doyle. Mentions committee of Fr Staples, Eddie Doran, Tom Kelly, Jim Doyle. Finance committee organising Silver Circle to fundraise, bullock scheme. Also mentions Betty Short's fundraising efforts. Cost of building pitches and installing lights. Recent addition of walking track around pitch. Lotto grants.</p> <p>59:37 Impact of having facilities on club. County teams using facilities. GAA president Sean Kelly officially opening it. Hiring premises to make money.</p> <p>01:01:58 Ger, previous treasurer, describes fundraising efforts. Lord mayor competition in 1992. Currently, weekly Lotto main earner. National Lottery funding. Various sponsors. Golf classics, race nights, poker nights, quiz nights. Current</p>
--	---

	<p>membership.</p> <p>01:04:30 Lack of impact of emigration on club. Several businesses employing locals. Students in college in Dublin travelling home to train. Importance of rural clubs, comparison with urban clubs.</p> <p>01:06:53 Discussion about the involvement of women in the club. Richard discusses long history of involvement, not on committees. Start of camogie club 6 years ago. Success at underage level. Positive impact on club: mothers getting involved. Ger considers the amount of unseen work done by women.</p> <p>01:09:29 They ponder the spirit of volunteerism in the organisation. Reliance on volunteers to train juveniles, transport them, etc.</p> <p>01:11:08 Richard, current chairman reflects on the current challenges in the club. Efforts to get football and hurling teams to senior level. Aims to build more dressing rooms, lack of funding.</p> <p>01:12:05 Discussion about prospects for the GAA in the recession. Importance of small fundraising efforts, such as weekly lotto.</p> <p>01:13:36 Contribution of the club to sense of parish pride. Heroes for young players. Mentions Martin Storey. Recreational outlet for entire parish.</p> <p>01:15:27 Discussion about biggest changes in the GAA. Opening of Croke Park to other sports. Lifting of ban on foreign sports. Development of underage structures.</p> <p>01:17:27 Outlines history of Scór in club. Rules excluding people.</p> <p>01:18:10 Description of happiest memories of the GAA. Camaraderie, socialising, forming bonds with strangers. Ger ponders the benefits of involvement in the GAA for young lads making friends.</p> <p>01:20:21 They reflect on their motivations for volunteering in the GAA. Family history of involvement. Mentions Fr. Regan Mentions Randalls, hurley maker in Killurin.</p> <p>01:22:36 No use of Irish language in club. Less strict about Irish language on team sheets now.</p> <p>01:24:02 George recalls cycling to matches.</p>
--	--

	01:24:59 Comparison of facilities today with those of a generation ago.
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Ger Doran:</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 <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>Michael Finn:</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" 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>Lukie Finn:</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" 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>Seamus Doyle:</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 <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 type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ </p> <p>Francis D'Arcy:</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward </p>

REFERENCE NO. WX/1/30

	<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>Richard Doyle:</p> <p><input 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 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>George Doyle:</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 type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input 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>Ger Doran: Played football with Craanford GAA from childhood until 45yrs. Won Wexford Junior Football Championship (1997); Wexford Senior Football League (2008)</p> <p>Michael Finn: Played from childhood with Craanford GAA</p> <p>Lukie Finn: Played for 30 years; won Wexford Junior Football Championship (1997)</p> <p>Seamus Doyle: Played from childhood for many years; won Wexford Junior Hurling Championship (1968); Won Wexford Intermediate Hurling Championship (1970)</p> <p>Francis D’Arcy: Played for many years; Won Wexford 1 Junior Football Championship and 1 Wexford Minor Football Championship.</p> <p>Richard Doyle: Played for 24 years; Won 1 District U21 championship; won 1 Wexford Junior Football Championship</p> <p>George Doyle: Played for 15 years</p>

REFERENCE NO. WX/1/30

<p>Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Ger Doran: Craanford GAA – Adult Treasurer (1990); Adult Secretary (2000-2004); Underage Chairman (2004-2010)</p> <p>Michael Finn: Craanford GAA – Treasurer; Selector; Delegate to County Board</p> <p>Lukie Finn: N/A</p> <p>Seamus Doyle: Has held many roles in Craanford GAA including Secretary and Chairman</p> <p>Francis D’Arcy: N/A</p> <p>Richard Doyle: Chairman of Craanford GAA for 1 year</p> <p>George Doyle: N/A</p>
<p>Format</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Length of Interview: 01:25:57</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 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: 22nd August 2012