

## GAA Oral History Project Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Eddie Nangle
<b>Date of Interview</b>	30th Nov 2011
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Ted Morrissey
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1930 <b>Home County:</b> Wexford
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Carrowreigh NS, Taghmon, Co. Wexford <b>Secondary:</b> Adamstown VEC, Co. Wexford
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 5 brothers & 7 sisters <b>Current Family if Different:</b> 1 daughter
<b>Club(s)</b>	Camross GAA [Wexford]; Young Irelands GAA [Wexford]; St Dympnas GAA [Wexford]; St Aidan's GAA [Wexford]
<b>Occupation</b>	Retired Psychiatric Nurse
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Farming
<b>Religion</b>	N/A
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	Enniscorthy Golf Club

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<b>Date of Report</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec 2011
<b>Period Covered</b>	1948 – 1968
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Wexford, Cork, Limerick, Dublin, Kilkenny, Tyrone, Americas
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Celebrations, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Retirement, Socialising, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Ted Morrissey discusses his introduction to Gaelic games in the Wexford of the 1940s, in particular the influence of his brothers' involvement and the ritual of travelling, by pony and cart and bicycle, to watch games at venues across the county. Morrissey moved clubs as he moved jobs and residence, eventually settling in Enniscorthy in 1949. The bulk of the interview is taking up with Morrissey's recollections of the 1950s, a glorious era in the history of Wexford hurling, which took place, he points out, against a backdrop of 'chronic' emigration. As well as shining a light on some of the major events and characters during this exciting decade in Wexford sporting history, he also provides an insight into the local sporting scene, including the success enjoyed by his club, St. Aidan's, in the 1950s. In addition, the interview touches on such subject-matter as the ban on foreign games, changing approaches to training and the inadequacy of facilities for club teams. Morrissey, who retired from playing with his club in 1967, is self-deprecating about his own contribution to Wexford's success in the 1950s, but the pleasure he took in participating in those events is apparent throughout the interview.</p> <p>00:00:34 Mentions that he was born in the parish of Taghmon in 1930.</p> <p>00:00:50 Describes parents as coming from a farming background and says that he is the youngest of 13 children, with 7 sisters and 5 brothers.</p> <p>00:01:07 Mentions that he grew up in the Taghmon area and has been living in Enniscorthy since 1949.</p> <p>00:01:23 Earliest memories: his brothers' involvement with Camross, who won a junior football championship in 1939. Mentions that club played senior but couldn't beat the Volunteers; mentions also that brother, Aidan, played with the</p>

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	<p>county.</p> <p>00:03:00 Discusses playing juvenile hurling with Glin as Camross had no hurling team. Refers to lack of good organisation.</p> <p>00:03:50 Comments on father's GAA involvement as secretary of local club and absence of uncle's involvement – one of his father's two brothers was living in America.</p> <p>00:04:20 Reflects on other family involvement in the GAA and its impact on family life growing up – recalls travelling by pony and cart or bike to local games.</p> <p>00:05:22 Mentions that father died in 1945 and didn't travel to many matches.</p> <p>00:05:47 Discusses the venues that would be visited on Sundays.</p> <p>00:06:00 Although football was played, he refers to minimal role played by school in his early participation.</p> <p>00:06:30 Importance of the club in parish life – refers to the local interest, in particular when club was playing senior football in the 1940s. Recalls Camross winning junior hurling championship in 1942 with a 'team of footballers'.</p> <p>00:07:40 Recalls lack of success in juvenile and minor grades with Glin and moving to Wexford to work in 1946. Played for football with the Young Irelands football team and won junior championship.</p> <p>00:09:00 Talks about Young Irelands club in the 1950s.</p> <p>00:09:40 Mentions that 'a lot of people went away' but struggles to recall emigration as a serious problem to the GAA.</p> <p>00:09:50 Moving to Enniscorthy for work in St. Senan's Hospital in 1949. Mentions playing with a football team in the hospital (St. Dymphna's) and continued to play for Camross – hurling and football - until joining Aidan's in early 1950s. Recalls that Camross were beaten in both codes in either 1949 or 1950 by St. Aidan's.</p> <p>00:11:33 Discusses senior football double in 1950 and 1951.</p> <p>00:12:40 Considers the demise of football in St. Aidan's in the</p>
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	<p>1950s.</p> <p>00:13:03 Mentions that the ban had no impact given the absence of foreign games. Says it mattered when he moved to the town and tells story of dressing up to attend a rugby games.</p> <p>00:13:42 Jokes about Wexford hurler being placed on Vigilante Committee and describes ban rule as 'stupid'.</p> <p>00:14:26 Talks about cricket pitch in the Showgrounds in Enniscorthy and the St. Aidan's team training at the same venue.</p> <p>00:15:50 Transferring to St. Aidan's and lack of facilities. Mentions the venues where they trained, travelling to games and the absence of money.</p> <p>00:18:00 Local heroes growing up: comments on his admiration for his brother, Aidan, and Ger Kelly from Camross. Talks about the Wexford players of the 1950s and being picked alongside them in 1950-51. Mentions that he was sub for the All-Ireland final in 1951.</p> <p>00:19:48 Discusses the Wexford career of his brother, Aidan, who made his debut in 1949.</p> <p>00:20:20 Reflects on the 1951 All-Ireland final and 'having a ball' despite being beaten.</p> <p>00:20:49 Contrasts training for Wexford in the early 1950s and the standards of fitness that subsequently applied.</p> <p>00:21:15 Talks about the Wexford team of 1951 and the St. Aidan's players who contributed to it.</p> <p>00:23:00 Reflects on the profile of the Wexford hurling team of the 1950s and the attendances they attracted. Comments on the emigration of Art Foley and Mick Morrissey in the late 1950s.</p> <p>00:24:11 Reflects on the disappointment of 1952 and defeat to Dublin in Nowlan Park.</p> <p>00:25:25 Struggles to recall much about the 1953 championship.</p> <p>00:25:53 Discusses the 1954 championship and his absence from the panel.</p>
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	<p>00:26:36 Reflects on the 1955 championship, the 'big breakthrough'. Includes reference to 'Mick Mackey's greyhounds' in the semi-final.</p> <p>00:27:20 Reflects on his limited involvement with Wexford in 1955 and the fact that he was in competition for his best with Billy and Bobby Rackard. 'No contest' he says, self-deprecatingly. [laughter]</p> <p>00:28:36 Memories of 1956: mentions being a member of team in Leinster final and being dropped subsequently. Discusses playing and beating Cork in final.</p> <p>00:30:50 Talks about travelling up for final, staying in hotel before and after final, celebrations (bonfires) on way home.</p> <p>00:31:58 Impact on life of All-Ireland win and the counter-attractions of emigration and the potential life available elsewhere. Discusses the 'chronic' problem of emigration in the 1950s and the scenes on the way to and from train station on Saturday nights.</p> <p>00:33:10 Mentions ongoing contacts with Art Foley in the United States.</p> <p>00:33:20 Talks about his brother Jim and the various positions played. Talks about his brother and Ned Wheeler's skill in overhead striking.</p> <p>00:35:27 Downplays own involvement in Wexford's triumphs in the 1950s, describing himself as a 'bit player'.</p> <p>00:35:58 Mentions subsequent sporting career with club and county.</p> <p>00:36:35 Talks about playing first with St. Aidan's in 1952, winning the senior hurling championship. Talks about record of club throughout the decade, winning 7 championships in 8 years.</p> <p>00:37:20 Interviewer and interviewee search for a St. Aidan's team picture from the 1950s to pick-out All-Ireland medal winners with Wexford.</p> <p>00:39:00 Discusses retirement from St. Aidan's in 1967.</p> <p>00:39:30 Returns to St. Aidan's team photo and list off All-Ireland medal winners from the 1950s.</p>
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	<p>00:40:20 Greatest GAA memory: beating Cork in 1956 All-Ireland final.</p> <p>00:41:30 Biggest disappointment: talks about being defeated by Rathnure in county final in 1961.</p> <p>00:42:30 Conversation focuses the thrill of being involved and the profile of the Wexford team of the 1950s. Morrissey mentions trip to New York with Wexford in 1957 and agreeing to play with Tyrone in Gaelic Park.</p> <p>00:44:28 Discusses all-time GAA hero: discusses the qualities of Padge Kehoe and brother, Jim Morrissey.</p> <p>00:45:32 Reason for pride in GAA – mentions his focus was always on playing – and the pleasure he derived from playing, including on teams alongside work colleagues from the hospital.</p> <p>00:46:35 Comments that his involvement is restricted to attending a game and reflects on the contribution made to his life.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</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 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>_____</p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>2 Senior All-Ireland Hurling Titles 1955 &amp; 1956          7 Wexford Co. Senior Hurling Titles 1952-4 &amp; '55-'59          2 Wexford Co. Senior Football Titles 1950 &amp; 1951          1 Each Co. Junior Hurling &amp; Football titles (1948)</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>N/A</p>

