

## GAA Oral History Project

## Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Arlene Crampsie
<b>Date of Interview</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2010
<b>Location</b>	Cruise's Bar, Ennis, Co. Clare
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Br Seán MacNamara
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1927 <b>Home County:</b> Clare
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Drumdigus NS, Co. Clare <b>Secondary:</b> Kilrush CBS, Co. Clare; St. Joseph's, Baldoyle, Dublin <b>Third Level:</b> Marino Training College, Dublin
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> 1 brother
<b>Club(s)</b>	Shannon Gaels
<b>Occupation</b>	Christian Brother, Teacher
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	Clare County Council Worker [Father]; Shop Owner [Mother]
<b>Religion</b>	Roman Catholic
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	None
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	PRO of Clare Association in Dublin, PRO of MacNamara Clann Association

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<b>Date of Report</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1850s – 2010
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Clare, Tipperary, Dublin
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Facilities, Education, Religion, Emigration, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of Women, Rivalries, Irish Language, Culture, All-Ireland, County History, Irish History, Politics, Career
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Seán has conducted extensive research on the life of Michael Cusack and his influence on the GAA and talks at length about this. He covers topics ranging from Cusack's childhood, the founding of the GAA, his political views and his family. He refers to the various sources he has used in the course of his research. He also discusses his own personal involvement in Gaelic games and his early memories of the Shannon Gaels club. He tells of his time in Dublin and Clonmel and stresses the importance of Christian Brothers and teachers in introducing young people to the GAA around the country. Having been interested in football initially, he describes how he developed an interest in hurling and chronicles his ups and downs supporting Clare in both codes.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:36 Seán recalls listening to All-Ireland matches on the radio.</p> <p>01:13 Remembers travelling to Shannon Gaels games in a converted hay cart. Talks about the relationship between football and hurling in West Clare.</p> <p>03:08 Talks about the influence of Micheál O'Hehir and his parents' interest in Gaelic games. Mentions Drag Hunting.</p> <p>04:05 Discusses the divide between West Clare and East Clare.</p> <p>04:35 Talks about his interest in and his study of Michael Cusack. Mentions Carron. Mentions Br Liam Canny (Br Liam Ó Caithnia), Mrs Daly and John Cusack.</p> <p>07:50 Refers to the research he conducted in NUI Galway and elsewhere in the country. Mentions Patricia O'Connell, and her aunt Kathleen O'Connell who was the wife of John Cusack. Mentions his book 'The Man from Carron' and mentions Enniscorthy.</p>

	<p>09:13 Discusses Michael Cusack's mother.</p> <p>09:53 Gives his impression of Michael Cusack. Talks about his schooldays. Refers to the Academy Cusack set up. Mentions cricket, hurling and rugby.</p> <p>12:35 Talks about the meeting in Thurles at which the GAA was established. Mentions Davin. Discusses Cusack's political leanings. Mentions the IRB.</p> <p>14:24 Tells of the early years of the association. Mentions the Metropolitan Hurling Club in Dublin in 1883.</p> <p>15:40 Describes his research as ongoing and his current interest in Cusack's wife, Margaret Woods. Mentions Michael Anderson and Imelda Woods. Refers to his recent publications. Mentions The Celtic Times.</p> <p>18:25 Talks about misconceptions people have about the meeting in Thurles and about the IRB.</p> <p>20:03 Refers to the possibility of undiscovered sources coming to light. Talks about Joyce's opinion of Cusack. Highlights another misconception. Mentions Br Liam Canny, John Cusack and St John Gogarty.</p> <p>23:04 Goes back to his own memories. Describes the facilities when he was growing up. Tells of his preference for watching football matches over playing. Talks about Shannon Gaels' rivals.</p> <p>25:15 Recalls travelling to matches in the 1940s by bicycle. Talks about his time in Dublin. Remembers the diversity in college there in Baldoyle and Marino. Refers to beginning his teaching career in Clonmel.</p> <p>28:15 Talks about the importance of teachers to the GAA. Talks about his own involvement while teaching in Dublin and Clonmel. Refers to the facilities in urban and rural schools. Mentions Phoenix Park.</p> <p>30:39 Stresses the importance of sports for children. Refers to Michael Cusack. Mentions rugby, soccer and hurling.</p> <p>32:06 Tells of developing an interest in hurling. Refers to the training in the schools.</p> <p>33:10 Talks about supporting the Clare county team all over Ireland. Mentions Cork, Limerick and Dublin.</p> <p>34:58 Recalls Clare's All-Ireland success in 1995 and 1997. Tells of an incident that occurred after the 1995 final.</p>
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	<p>Mentions the Gresham Hotel. Mentions Metropolitan Police, London.</p> <p>35:33 Refers to having a centenary medal and tells of his plans for it.</p> <p>36:23 Talks about the influence of Ger Loughnane. Gives some examples of disappointments with the Clare hurlers.</p> <p>39:00 Describes his current links with Shannon Gaels. Tells of his concerns over emigration.</p> <p>40:15 Talks about the popularity of ladies' football. Mentions West Clare Gaels.</p> <p>41:20 Gives an account of the Christian Brothers' involvement in the promotion of GAA. Outlines how this might go in the future. Refers to the gender balance among teachers.</p> <p>43:45 Stresses the importance of the parish and the schools.</p> <p>44:20 Discusses his favourite memory of the GAA. Recalls being at the Munster Football Final in 1992. Refers to subsequent disappointments with the Clare footballers.</p> <p>46:12 Talks about the role of Irish (Gaeilge) in the GAA. Refers to his attitude towards the language. Mentions Michael Cusack.</p> <p>48:05 Describes Michael Cusack as his GAA hero. Refers to the amount of money people spend on the GAA. Laments the fact that Cusack's contribution to the association isn't recognised as much as it should. Mentions Mullingar and Ennis.</p> <p>53:12 Tells of the role the GAA plays in his life. Mentions Michael Cusack.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played from the age of 19 to 25.</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>

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(Positions held; how long for)	
<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 00:55:26
<b>Language</b>	English

**To be filled in by Interviewer:**

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

Date:        \_\_\_\_\_ 17/07/12 \_\_\_\_\_