

GAA Oral History Project
Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Arlene Crampsie
Date of Interview	9 th Feb 2011
Location	Ederney Town Hall, Ederney, Co. Fermanagh
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Liam McLaughlin
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1946 Home County: Fermanagh
Education	Primary: Montiagh PS, Co Fermanagh
Family	Siblings: 1 sister & 3 brothers Current Family if Different: Married with 4 sons
Club(s)	St. Joseph's Ederney GAC
Occupation	Civil Servant with Fishery Board; Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Nationalist / Republican
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Bowling Club; Badminton Club; Historical Society

Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Anthony McGrath
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1941 Home County: Fermanagh
Education	Primary: Moneyvriee, Ederney PS, Co. Fermanagh Secondary: St. Michael's, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh
Family	Siblings: 3 sisters & 7 brothers Current Family if Different: Married with 3 sons and 1 daughter
Club(s)	St. Joseph's Ederney GAC
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmer [Father]; Housewife [Mother]
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Nationalist / Republican
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	6 th August 2012
Period Covered	1940s – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Fermanagh, Tyrone, Dublin, Monaghan
Key Themes Covered	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, Scór
Interview Summary	<p>Liam and Anthony talk about their early playing days with St. Joseph's GAC in Ederney. They discuss the club winning the championship and league in 1968. Liam talks about the development of club facilities through the years and the fundraising efforts involved. They talk about football in Fermanagh and the effects of emigration in the county. The men discuss their highlights of being involved in the GAA and their hopes for St. Joseph's in the future.</p> <p>00:00 Introduction</p> <p>00:31 Liam describes his earliest GAA memory – recalls travelling to a match with his father in the late 1940s.</p> <p>00:59 Anthony describes his earliest GAA memory – winning a juvenile football championship in 1954. Recalls the juvenile team subsequently winning the championship in 1955 and 1956.</p> <p>02:00 Liam discusses his family's involvement in the GAA. Mentions that his father, John James McLaughlin was a founding member of the Ederney club. Recalls stories that his father told him about the formation of Ederney GAC.</p> <p>03:14 Anthony recalls that his parents were not interested in GAA until the children started to play.</p> <p>04:03 Liam and Anthony discuss the lack of facilities in the area in their early playing days. Recall toting out for matches behind a hedge.</p> <p>05:37 Describes the different style of ball used – heavy leather ball.</p> <p>07:05 Liam recalls travelling to play club matches around Fermanagh. Mentions Garrison, Enniskillen, Teemore, Tempo. Recalls travelling to Tyrone to play matches.</p>

	<p>07:40 Anthony discusses playing in tournament matches. Mentions Clontibret, Ballybay, Donegal. Recalls large crowds at the matches. Describes the prizes awarded to the winning teams.</p> <p>10:28 The men recall travelling to matches in local cars and vans.</p> <p>11:07 Anthony talks about local characters in the club – mentions Johnny Monaghan, Patsy Cassidy, Francie Murphy. Anthony mentions Francie Heron who carried the jerseys.</p> <p>12:18 Liam and Anthony talk about Denis Maguire, a local man, who was very involved with the GAA. They recall his interest in Kilkenny hurling. Mention his brother Claude Maguire.</p> <p>14:31 Liam and Anthony discuss the introduction of television and radio into the community. They recall listening to and watching matches.</p> <p>16:04 Liam recalls his first experience travelling by train from Kesh to Clones to watch Tyrone playing Derry in the Ulster semi-final in 1957. Mentions the players that played that day.</p> <p>17:38 Anthony recalls travelling to Croke Park for All-Ireland matches.</p> <p>18:53 Liam discusses the development of facilities in Ederney in the 1970s. He mentions plans to develop a second pitch.</p> <p>20:45 The men discuss the impact of emigration on the club through the years. Anthony recalls that Ederney moved from intermediate to senior football in the 1960s. They recall the club winning the league and championship in 1968.</p> <p>22:59 The men talk about the annual dinners that were held in Ederney in the 1960s. They recall the social aspects of being involved in the club.</p> <p>24:15 Liam recalls the amateur training sessions in his playing days. He recalls the secretary of the club being involved in helping to manage the team. Mentions Francie Corry.</p> <p>26:00 Anthony mentions that football ceased in Ederney in the late 1950s. He recalls that a team called Lack was formed for a few years but that the Ederney team was re-established in subsequent years.</p> <p>26:32 Anthony recalls an experience of playing for Lack in 1959 against Teemore. Mentions Packie McCann and</p>
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	<p>Laurence Strain.</p> <p>27:57 The men discuss illegal players on the team and the consequences that ensued in being found out.</p> <p>29:20 Anthony and Liam recall the team getting a 12 month suspension in 1961.</p> <p>30:07 Anthony talks about the Lack team being renamed St Joseph's GAC. Liam recalls being on the committee at the time.</p> <p>31:29 Liam talks about the changes to the team colours over the years. He mentions the white jersey that is worn presently.</p> <p>32:15 Liam discusses the role of the clergy in St Joseph's. He recalls that Fr Ned O'Flanagan was a founding member of the club.</p> <p>33:30 The men discuss the role of teachers in GAA in the community. Mentions Master Corry and Master Cunningham.</p> <p>33:59 Anthony recalls an experience of a local player being suspended.</p> <p>34:51 Anthony discusses the impact of soccer in the area. He recalls a player, Johnny Cunningham, receiving a suspension for playing soccer.</p> <p>36:07 Liam mentions that hurling was brought into the club in the 1980s but subsequently died out. Liam talks about the success of ladies football in Ederney.</p> <p>37:14 The men talk about the club's successful participation in the Scór competition.</p> <p>38:21 Liam discusses fundraising in Ederney. He recalls the development of the new pitch. Mentions the success of running a draw in the club.</p> <p>39:10 Liam talks about future plans to develop a second pitch in Ederney. He mentions that a long term lease has been secured for grounds.</p> <p>39:55 The men talk about the success of underage football in the club. Liam discusses plans to develop further facilities in the club.</p> <p>41:26 Anthony and Liam discuss the clergy playing on the club team. Mentions Fr Martin, Fr McQuillan, Fr McVeigh.</p> <p>42:55 Liam and Anthony recall their short playing career at</p>
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	<p>county level. Anthony talks about Tony Maguire, who played a short while with Fermanagh.</p> <p>44:34 The men recall receiving notification that they had been selected to play on the county team. They recall a notice being put up in a local ice-cream shop.</p> <p>45:10 Anthony and Liam recall training with the county team in St. Michael's. Liam talks about playing minor football with Fermanagh.</p> <p>46:34 The men talk about the differences in playing county football as opposed to club football. They discuss the changes in styles of training compared to nowadays.</p> <p>48:44 Anthony discusses local rivalry at club level. Mentions rivalry with Devenish, Teemore and Newtownbutler.</p> <p>49:14 Anthony talks about the lack of celebrations after winning the championship in 1968. They recall the high level of support in the community.</p> <p>50:24 Anthony and Liam discuss their involvement in administration within the club. Anthony recalls his role as Treasurer at a young age. Liam mentions his role as chairman and secretary in St Joseph's.</p> <p>51:35 Liam recalls being in the role of Chairman at the opening of the new pitch. He describes the excitement in the community at the official opening. Mentions Peter Quinn.</p> <p>53:09 Anthony discusses the camaraderie among the players in the 1960s and the ensuing respect that carried on through the years into administrative roles.</p> <p>54:02 Liam describes his role as Secretary for St. Joseph's. He recalls taking minutes of meetings, securing sponsorship for the club from local businesses.</p> <p>55:16 Liam talks about the role of the club in the community today. He gives his opinion that it doesn't hold as much importance as it did in earlier years.</p> <p>56:39 The men discuss the involvement of the Protestant community in the club. Liam recalls a few Protestants playing with the club in his playing days. They note that there is no involvement now.</p> <p>57:52 Liam talks about the effects of The Troubles on the club. Mentions being stopped and searched en route to matches. Anthony discusses the difficulties of travelling to Ulster Finals during The Troubles. He recalls numerous</p>
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	<p>checkpoints on the roads.</p> <p>01:00:29 The men note that politics had no role in the GAA in Ederney.</p> <p>01:01:21 Liam and Anthony discuss the rule changes in terms of playing football within the GAA. They talk about inconsistencies in refereeing matches. Discuss the Leinster final between Louth and Meath in 2010.</p> <p>01:03:34 The men talk about the administrative rule changes within the GAA. Liam talks about his approval of the lifting of Rule 21.</p> <p>01:04:43 Anthony discusses the difficulties involved in running club and county football at an administrative level.</p> <p>01:05:50 Liam and Anthony discuss the growing professionalism within the GAA.</p> <p>01:07:35 The men describe their best memories within the GAA. They mention winning the county championship, forging friendships.</p> <p>01:08:59 Liam and Anthony talk about their GAA hero – Mick O’Connell.</p> <p>01:10:24 Liam recalls playing a match in Ballinamore. He mentions an abandoned railway carriage being used as the dressing room for the team.</p> <p>01:11:02 Liam and Anthony recall stories of attending club matches – Coa. Mentions Frank McGee, Terry McCann Tommy McNally.</p> <p>01:12:20 The men discuss their biggest disappointments within the GAA. Liam talks about his regret at not playing more football with Fermanagh. Anthony mentions the 2008 Ulster Final between Armagh and Fermanagh.</p> <p>01:12:57 Liam and Anthony talk about being knocked out of the championship in 1969. Mention Sean Ferriter and Jim Hannigan.</p> <p>01:14:26 Liam talks about his children’s involvement in GAA. He mentions his son Gerard playing with the club team.</p> <p>01:15:15 Anthony discusses his children’s involvement in GAA. He talks about his son Martin McGrath who plays for Fermanagh and was involved in the International Rules team. He discusses his family’s interest in football.</p>
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	<p>01:16:50 Liam describes what his involvement in the GAA has meant to him. He mentions the satisfaction he got in the role of chairman and secretary.</p> <p>01:17:39 Anthony discusses what his involvement in the GAA has meant to him. He talks about friendships he made through the years.</p> <p>01:19:25 The men talks about rows that occurred during matches in their early playing days. They discuss the different style of boots used.</p> <p>01:21:30 Anthony discusses the team in the 1960s and 1970s. He recalls the high level of supporters travelling to matches.</p> <p>01:23:39 The men discuss their hopes for St Joseph's in the future. Liam mentions the development of facilities and the hope that the team progresses to championship glory.</p> <p>01:24:18 Anthony discusses the effects of emigration in the county at the present time.</p>
<p>Involvement in GAA</p>	<p>Liam: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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 checked="" 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>Anthony: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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>Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Liam: Played from the age of 16 to 35. Won minor championship, minor league, junior championship, senior championship in 1968, senior league in 1968 and intermediate league in 1969.</p> <p>Anthony: Played from 1954 – 1972. Won juvenile titles in 1954 and 1959, a junior championship in 1962, intermediate</p>

REFERENCE NO. FR/1/11

	championship in 1964, senior championship and league in 1968 and a league in 1969.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Liam: Has been involved in administration since 1975. Club: Secretary and Chairman. Anthony: Was involved in administration from 1968 – 1975. Club: Vice-chairman, Treasurer, Delegate to County Board.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 01:25:13
Language	English

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_____