

NAME: CHRIS GRACE AND BID FLANAGAN,
DROMINEER

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 1

Subtitle: Reminiscences of other days

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: March 2007

Time: 66:45

Description: While collecting oral history on the shores of Lough Derg, I met two great characters from the village of Dromineer. The interview took place in Chris Grace's house, which overlooks Lough Derg. Chris married in 1949 into the family who owned the popular local pub "The Whiskey Still". She had 11 children, 9 of whom survived, and she recalled many hard times. Good stories about the pub business were related, and Bid Flanagan joined the conversation by telling me that her mother's name was Hogan, and that she was born in and brought up in a local thatched cottage. The recording continued with stories about the travelling people, and the visitors who would return every year for the dapping season.



NAME: CHRIS GRACE, DROMINEER

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 2

Subtitle: A return visit to Dromineer

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: March 2007

Time: 62:16

Description: This recording began with recollections of Chris Grace's childhood. Her father died when she was only two and a half years old and her mother brought up 7 children in a thatched cottage at Carhue, half a mile from the Shannon. Her schooldays in Carrig and her teacher Master Burke were recalled. She went on to vocational school before returning home to manage the farm with her brothers. She spoke about her sister who worked at the slate quarries where the manager at that time was Barney O'Driscoll. She gave a great account of her wedding to Paddy Grace and the All-Ireland Final they attended for their honeymoon. She spoke openly about her husband's difficulty with alcohol and her hard work while attempting to bring up a large family, manage a pub, and feed the cows.



NAME: FRANK LEWIS AND MARK GRACE,
BALLYARTELLA

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 3

Subtitle: A passion for fishing

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: March 2007

Time: 49:53

Description: I called to the house of Mark Grace, where I met the man himself and his wife, who introduced me to Frank Lewis. The interview focused on the many aspects of fishing on the lake and Mark took me to the place where he keeps all his fishing gear. There he described the different fishing flies, the box in which the mayfly would be kept and a special board used for poaching. As we were approaching the dapping season, it was fascinating to listen to the stories associated with that season each year. The interview finished with a description of the time spent on the lake and the food they would cook and eat. This certainly whetted my appetite for the collection of more stories associated with the sport of fishing.



NAME: BID FLANAGAN, DROMINEER

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 4

Subtitle: Remembering Dromineer in its heyday

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 47:54

Description: I paid a return visit to Bid Flanagan, better known as Bid Hogan, one of the great characters of the locality. Her collection of stories and memories connected with the area was most informative, and many were very amusing. She spoke about the local tradition of the ghillies who worked for the visitors during the fly-fishing season, and she recalled the yachting club regattas. Finally, Bid remembered a Mrs Roberts, who had royal connections who set up home in the area, and who died tragically some years later.



NAME: MICHAEL GILL, AGE 90, TOMONA,
DROMINEER

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 5

Subtitle: A soldier's life

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: April 2007

Time: 67:24

Description: Michael Gill began this interview by talking about his grandfather's business in Nenagh,



and continued with some stories of his father, Owen who fought in the First World War, as did Michael's two uncles. On his return home after the War, Robin, one of the uncles, was murdered by the IRA in Ballycommon. The yachting club was very much part of the country society, and Michael and his father both participated in the many regattas organised by the club. The interview then focused on Michael's own career. He was a legal officer in the Irish Army, having previously worked as an apprentice in Nenagh for Willie Hodgins. He travelled with the 34th Platoon on the first peace mission to the Congo and also served on a second peace mission. This was truly a wonderful opportunity to record one of the few survivors of that first mission to the Congo.



NAME: SEAMUS FLANNERY, AGE 87, MONSEA
(Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 6

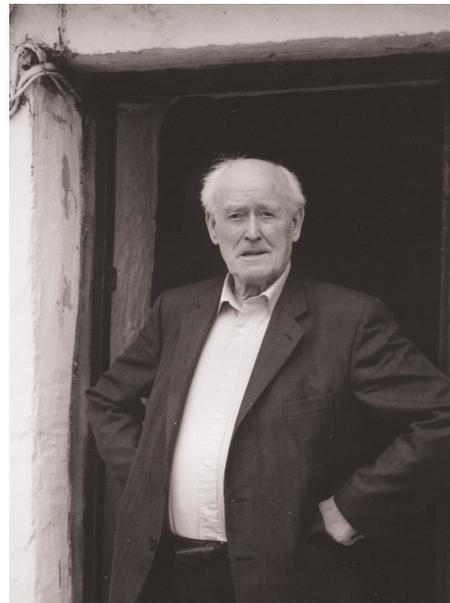
Subtitle: Under the thatch

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 38:26

Description: Very few thatched mud-and-stone build cottages of more than 300 years old survive today and I was very fortunate to meet Seamus Flannery in his well preserved cottage. I began by asking Seamus about his early days growing up in Castlesheehan farm, near the Shannon. He discussed his experience of many of the old farming techniques and also the tillage in the area. Because he experienced hard times and was in desperate need of financial security, he recalled having to pick beet in the snow. He told me he had hurled since he could walk, and that he played in the 1940s with Kilabangan and in 1942, '43 and '44 he and his team won the Miller Shield.



NAME: SEAMUS FLANNERY, AGE 87, MONSEA
(Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 7

Subtitle: Under the thatch, continued

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 46:34

Description: The first part of this interview centred on the history of Seamus Flannery's house. He now describes the furnishings in the house - the settle couch, the old dresser, the scrub-top table and the



other items which create an atmosphere unchanged since the 19th century. The only additions were electricity, and the black range. He mentioned how sad he was that he was now too old to do any more repairs to the thatch roof and had employed workers to create a cladding, which now covers this beautiful old building. I interviewed Seamus's son, Pat about his memories growing up under this thatched roof, and he assured me that his mother would have been a great woman to have met, as she knew so much history about the old place.

NAME: MARGARET McGRATH, AGE 81,
DROMINEER
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 8

Subtitle: The Nenagh Boat Club

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: April 2007

Time: 48:42

Description: I met Margaret McGrath in the Nenagh Boat Club pavilion and there she recounted the history of the McGraths' connection with the Boat Club. It was interesting to record the fact that bikes would come into the club yard in droves in the 1940s, '50s and '60s. Looking at old photographs, she pointed out how some of the local boat builders were great craftspeople in the days when boats were made from timber. Margaret went on to talk about her own life, coming to work as a cook for one of the landed families (the Jacksons). At the age of 19 she met her future husband there, and candidly told me about her husband's alcoholic tendencies. She had to rear 8 children in a cottage, feeding them with the handouts which she got from the local people for many years. This interview created a clear image of how difficult life could be for women in those days.



NAME: PADDY MACKEY, BALLYHORGAN
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 9

Subtitle: A conservationist's story of the lake

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: April 2007

Time: 42:24

Description: Paddy Mackey spoke passionately about the environmental group which was set up in 1999 to preserve and protect life in Lough Derg. Little was known about how the lake had been polluted over the years, and the group, known as the 'Save Our Lough Derg Organisation', brought this information to the attention of the public. From a very young age, Paddy had an interest in the lake, and would spend



many days with his uncle Dermot Hassey on a boat on the water. Our conversation concluded with stories about the craft of boat-building in the area.

NAME: PAULINE HICKIE, SLEVOIR, TERRYGLASS
(Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 10

Subtitle: A family history

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 76:56

Description: I was very fortunate to interview an interesting lady such as Pauline Hickie, who had so much knowledge about the Hickies' family tree. Pauline drove me to the old estate, Slevoir, once owned by the Hickies. While walking around the grounds of this magnificent estate, she recounted many stories about the life of the gentry and recalled her own people, the Phillipses. Her father was in the Indian Police Force and she told me about the marriage of her great-grandfather-in-law to a Spanish lady in 1873. Slevoir house was then restored to the magnificent building it is today. It was also most interesting to discover the Hickie connection with North Kerry.



NAME: PAULINE HICKIE, SLEVOIR, TERRYGLASS
(Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 11

Subtitle: Slavare House, continued

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: April 2007

Time: 66:22

Description: This interview began with the emphasis on Pauline Hickie's background as one of the Phillippes from Co Down, and with tracing the family tree. She spoke about her strong personal belief in her Protestant faith, even though she had been obliged to bring up her children in the Catholic tradition. Looking through the family album, we came across some Hickie family members, who were high-ranking in the British Army. The photographs brought Pauline back to her very early days growing up at Mussorie in the foothills of the Himalayas, where her father was an Inspector of Police. Later photographs showed a time so removed from today, a time when the discussion around the dining-room table in Slevoir House would be about war manoeuvres, and strategy and successes in battle. The conversation then focused on the connection between the Hickies and



Kilclinton in North Kerry, where the family originally settled. Pauline spoke sadly about the sale of Slevoir to the Presentation Sisters, and its subsequent re-sale.

NAME: WILLIAM McGRATH, AGED 71
GARRYKENNEDY

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 12

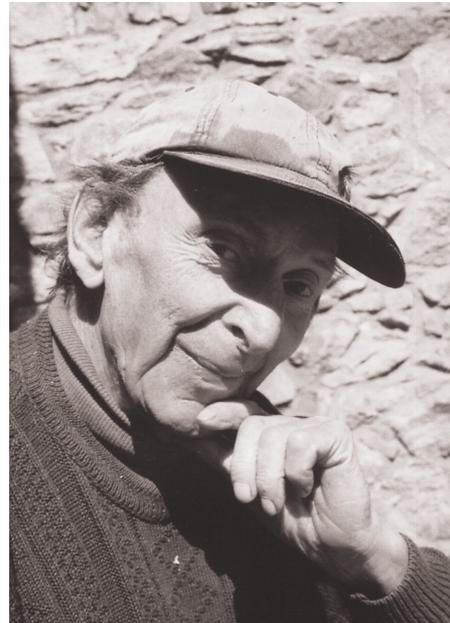
Subtitle: A boat builder

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: April 2007

Time: 41:13

Description: Garrykennedy is a beautiful village situated on the shores of Lough Derg, a place where the McGrath family have lived for many generations. There are two families of McGraths living in the village, both involved in boat building. William McGrath's grandfather traded with the barge boatmen on the lake. While walking around the village he pointed out the slate yards, where slate quarried locally would be stored while awaiting collection by boat. There was a small hand-crane on the harbour, and the work was labour intensive. Livestock was also loaded from the pier onto the boats. William spoke about the type of boat which he built and fitted out, a craft which is now dying out. This interview brought back memories of a time in the history of the local village when it was a place busy with vibrant work.



NAME: GEORGE HERRIOTT, AGE 35,
SHANNONVALE, DROMINEER

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 13

Subtitle: The fly-fishing season

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 61:36

Description: I visited Dromineer on the busiest month of the year to meet George Herriott, a man passionate about his fly-fishing. George worked with the Office of Public Works (Waterways Ireland). The conversation began with the history of George's family, which originally came from France and both George's grandfather and father were pharmacists in Nenagh town. As a young boy he was brought fishing on the lake with his father, and at the age of 10 caught his first trout. Since then he has been fishing on the lake, and knows every part of it and the best pools for catching fish. The conversation continued as we walked down from George's home to the lake. He spoke about his own work, and about living on a boat for many months of each year doing



maintenance on the jetties and harbours all the way up the Shannon. It was fascinating to hear George talk about the mayfly and the way dapping is practised. Finally, as we retraced our steps, George pointed out a gate lodge which had been used by his family every year since he was a child.

NAME: JOHN AND NED KELLY, AGE 60s,
PUCKAUN

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 14

Subtitle: A village's history

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: April 2007

Time: 47:02

Description: While visiting Puckaun, I was very fortunate to meet two brothers, John and Ned Kelly, who have lived in the village all their lives. They were born into the farming tradition, and there were six children in the family. They spoke about their schooldays, and about farming the land. The Kellys have been here for many generations, and the farming they engaged in was mostly tillage. In days gone by, the only sound that could be heard locally was the sound of the barge boats going up and down the Shannon, which could be seen from the house. The villagers themselves were recalled, including the blacksmiths and thatchers, as were the local traditions and customs.



NAME: HARDRESS WALLER, AGE 90,
RYNSKAHEEN, DROMINEER (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 15

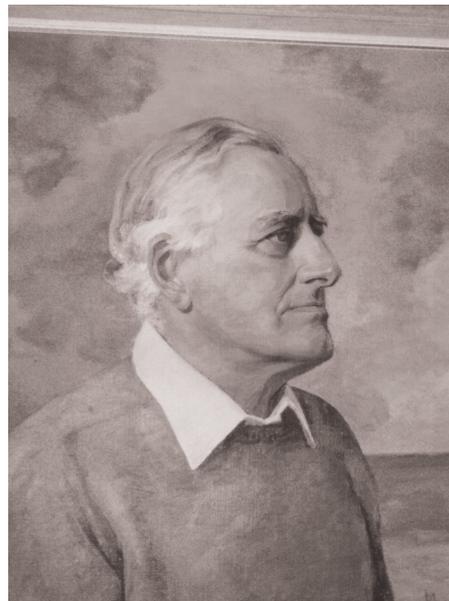
Subtitle: A historian looks back at his family's military
tradition

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: April 2007

Time: 56:53

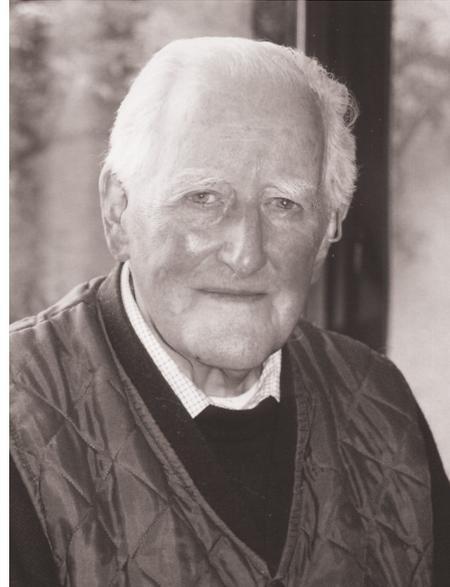
Description: My first visit to the Waller home by the shores of Lough Derg, was a very rewarding one. I met Hardress Waller and his wife, who invited me into their home. The Wallers are the descendants of soldiers of the Cromwellian army and Hardress' ancestors had remained in the Newport area of North Tipperary. The Waller's castle can still be seen there. He told me why he had been christened 'Hardress' and went on to explain the meaning of the name. His own family lived in Summerville House, Nenagh, and later moved to a house in Ballymackey. Hardress went to study at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, and became an officer in the Royal Artillery in the British Army. He held that position for



thirty years, and was promoted to Brigadier-General, in charge of the British Army's artillery. He married, in 1940, a Polish lady, Legye, and later fought in Burma for 18 months. The later part of this interview focuses on his own family and his enterprising activities when he returned to Dromineer after the war years.

NAME: HARDRESS WALLER, AGE 90,
RYNSKAHEEN, DROMINEER (Part 2)
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 16
Subtitle: A family history, continued
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe
Date: April 2007
Time: 33:14

Description: I paid a return visit to Hardress Waller's home to record more of his memories and stories. Another gentry family lived on the lake shores, the Hickies of Terryglass, in Slevoir House and they were fondly recalled. While going through the family photograph album he spoke about the family's patronage, their positions and their involvement in many activities including the malting business and in Guinness's in Dublin. He spoke about his early days in Summerville House and about the fact that the IRA were billeted there. His family moved to Ridgemount, Ballymackey and then to Kells Grange, Co Kilkenny, and finally in 1935 to Rynskaheen, beside Lough Derg, where he lives today. In the interview he talked about his love for horses, and says he was a good rider from an early age and hunted with the Nenagh Harriers. We looked at a painting of Waller Castle, Newport, painted in the 1840s and Hardress explained the history of the castle. This meeting provided a platform for most interesting recording which I knew I would have to complete another day.



NAME: HARDRESS WALLER, AGE 90,
RYNSKAHEEN, DROMINEER (Part 3)
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 17
Subtitle: The history of the Yacht Club on the
Shannon Lough Derg
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe
Date: May 2007
Time: 38:12

Description: I returned to the home of Hardress Waller for a more detailed analysis on the history of the Yacht Club. He told me that his own predecessors had been involved from the very beginning. He explained how the Yacht Club was formed, in the early 1800s and that it was the third



oldest Yacht Club in the world. He also described how the landowners on the shores of Lough Derg - 10 in total between Portumna and Dromineer - were the first members to use the topless cutter. He explained the club rules, and how they were derived from the Royal Western Yacht Club. Down through the years membership of the club was confined to Protestant families, until the early 1900s, when it was opened to the public at large. We then went through old photographs of regattas in the early thirties, and he described the excitement of the events, and the social gatherings and discussions afterwards. In total seven generations of the Waller family, now including his own grandson, were members of the club. This was truly a great insight into a gentleman's sport.

NAME: HARDRESS WALLER, AGE 90,
RYNSKAHEEN, DROMINEER (Part 4)
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 18

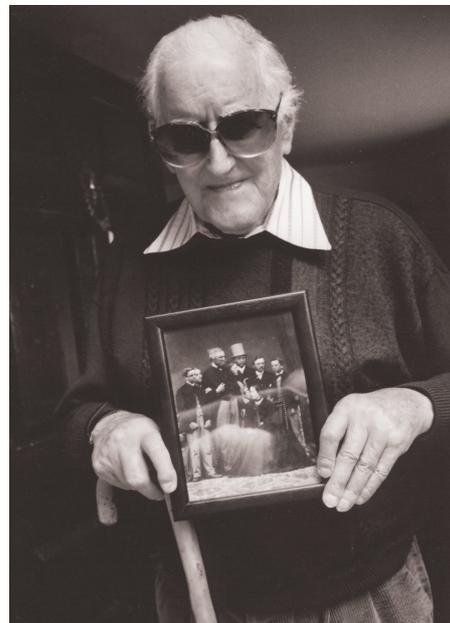
Subtitle: The 1798 Rebellion

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: June 2007

Time: 60:59

Description: On this visit to Hardress Waller's home, the focus was on the 1798 Rebellion. We began by looking at a local Ordinance Survey map, as Hardress explained why there was no uprising around the Nenagh area. In 1796 the government formed Volunteer forces around the countryside and as a result the landowners were well protected. Hardress listed all the infantry and cavalry deployments, and we looked at some old family letters written at that time, one addressed by Robert Waller, Castle Waller, to the Chief Secretary at Dublin Castle. Robert Waller reported that he was managing to patrol the hill areas. Another interesting letter discussed where a known rebel by the name of Murphy might be located. This discussion moved to Hardress's own involvement in research work on the Royal Irish Artillery between 1756 and 1801. Finally we talked about the Gentleman's Club in Nenagh, and the restrictions put in place there. This was the final interview with Hardress Waller, and was one of several very informative discussions over a period of many months.



NAME: MICHAEL PARKINSON, AGE 81, SLEVOIR, TERRYGLASS (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 19

Subtitle: Local stories and memories

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 53:10

Description: I spoke to Michael Parkinson, better known as 'Mikey', about his early schooldays, and the memories he had of his teacher and of walking through the fields to get to school each day. He told me that his grandfather had married locally and was an agent for Captain Firman from Macloone, who was an absentee landlord. His own father was a steward for the Hickie estate. Mikey goes on to describe the working conditions and the workforce there and he spoke about the previous occupants of Slevoir - the Syngé and Maunsell families. Another part of the interview focused on his own grandmother, and how he would sit and listen to many of her stories about the Famine, the evictions and the land agitation.



NAME: MICHAEL PARKINSON, AGE 81, SLEVOIR, TERRYGLASS (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 20

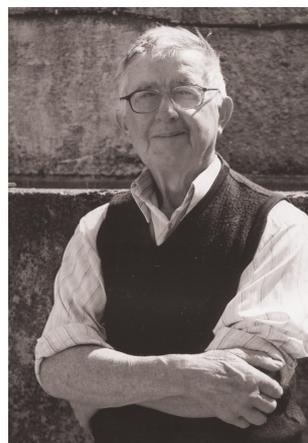
Subtitle: Local stories and memories, continued

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 55:42

Description: In this recording Michael Parkinson talked about the canal boats plying up and down the Shannon. The sound of these barge boats was part of everyday life. Mikey himself farmed his father's land, and he has memories of a mill in Carraigahorig to which his father brought grain. Mikey himself, as a young lad, would sit on the bags of grain as they were being transported to Dungarvan, to another mill. He also spoke about flax growing locally. I finished with a short interview with Mikey's sister May, who told me about the craft of basket-weaving.



NAME: MICHAEL PARKINSON, AGE 81, SLEVOIR,
TERRYGLASS (Part 3)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 21

Subtitle: The game of hurling

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 35:35

Description: The game of hurling in Terryglass has a long history. Michael Parkinson remembered a story about local lads taking the steam boat up to Portumna for a game in the 1880s, and he recalled how local players would make their own hurleys. His father had founded the first local club. Mikey himself never played hurling, but recalled his schooldays, when he would happily pitch buttons in pitch-and-toss games.



NAME: MARY PARKINSON, AGE 73, SLEVOIR,
TERRYGLASS

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 22

Subtitle: Reminiscences of an older woman's
childhood

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 60:10

Description: This recording begins with Mary Parkinson's fond memories of her schooldays, and her daily chores on the farm. The happiest days of her life were spent going to the bog with a pony and cart to feed the men. Another of her tasks was to make the black puddings, which she shared with her neighbours. She recalled the travelling groups who would perform plays locally. Fishing was another topic for discussion, the netting of perch, the fishing for pike, and how fish would be sold to the neighbours. This interview also includes a discussion on the selling of corn, and the many tasks carried out within the house itself.



NAME: UNA DARCY, NÉE MAHER, AGE 83,
NENAGH

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 23

Subtitle: A drapery shopkeeper

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 54:14

Description: Una Darcy grew up in Mitchell Street, Nenagh, formerly known as Queen Street where her parents owned a bar and grocery business. Her father joined the Army as a young lad and fought in



the First World War and returned wounded, but still managed to drill the Volunteers at Monagall. Her mother joined Cuman na mBan at this time. Una recalled her First Communion and her Confirmation, and other days when she used to collect turf and sell it locally. She joined the retail fashion business in 1944, and spoke about it in great detail. She remained with the Hayes Company from 1944 to 1956, and for many years afterwards continued to do their books. Finally, she spoke about the women in convents and in business, and she declared that women were the backbone of many organisations.

NAME: CHRISTY GLEESON, AGE 77, GORTMORE, TERRYGLASS (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 24

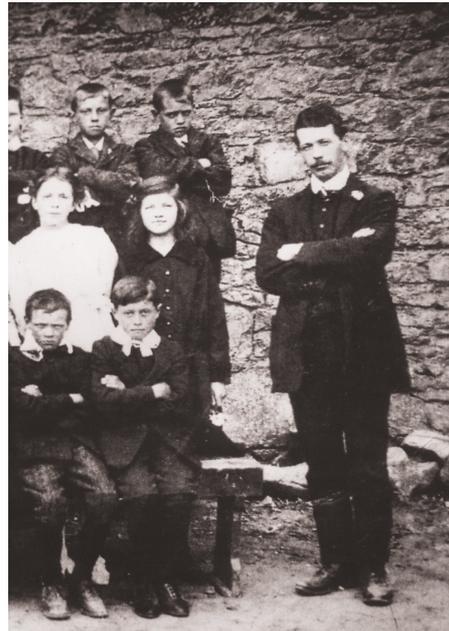
Subtitle: A local historian's memories

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: March 2007

Time: 40:59

Description: My recording of Christy Gleeson began with a discussion on the local place-names, and people whose families have lived locally for many generations. His father Sean was a school teacher, who was brought up on the Clare side of Lough Derg. In 1913 he was brought in by Canon Darcy to teach in Terryglass school. He married in 1929, and bought the house and farm which Christy is now working, for £320. He was a great collector of local folklore, and collected many stories from Bridget Parkinson. While walking through the pathways of the Gleeson land, Christy spoke eloquently about the way of life on the shores of Lough Derg. This interview continues in part 2.



NAME: CHRISTY AND BIDDY GLEESON, GORTMORE, TERRYGLASS (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 25

Subtitle: A local historian's memories, continued

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: March 2007

Time: 46:56

Description: The recording continued in the home of the Gleeson family, where Christy Gleeson displayed a patriotic portrait painted by his father. He spoke about the fact that his father was very involved at the time in promoting the Irish language in the area, as well as our Gaelic games, and described a photograph of his three uncles and aunt, who were all deeply involved in the 1916-1922 period. Christy then introduced me to his wife Bidy, who told me



that her family name was Kennedy and that all her people had been employed by the Esmore estate. Just as the recording was coming to an end, Christy handed me some writings on folklore which his father had collected in the early part of the last century.

NAME: JOSEPH O'CONNOR, AGE 87, NENAGH
(Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 26

Subtitle: An entrepreneur's story

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 33:11

Description: Joseph O'Connor, better known as Joey, grew up in 41 Connolly Street, Nenagh. He was the youngest member of a large family, and at an early age began to help his elder brother Paddy in the making of baskets, a craft handed down to them from their father, who died when Joey was only 7 years old. He got very little schooling in his young days, but became interested in adult education and in local and regional studies through UCC later in his life. At the age of 14 he opened his first shop, at number 69 Kingston Street, with the help of his brothers. It was the second shop in Nenagh to sell sweets and fruit. He also became involved in the promoting of bands, which drew big crowds to the local dances. He spoke about expanding his business to open what he claims was the first supermarket in Ireland. Before I finished the first interview with Joey, he pointed out that it was the repetitive work of basket-making which became the driving force behind his great success.



NAME: JOSEPH O'CONNOR, AGE 87, NENAGH
(Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 27

Subtitle: An entrepreneur's story, continued

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 69:43

Description: My meeting with Joseph O'Connor took place in his office over his supermarket business in Nenagh Shopping Centre. In the first part of this interview, he talks about his strong religious beliefs. We focused again on his early days in the grocery business and how he always supported local produce, which was of a very high quality. He was a member of the County Council for 18 years, and of the Town Council for 20 years. He spoke about his love for Lough Derg, and his days swimming in the lake. I recorded some fascinating stories about his



time spent with the LDF. He spoke very highly of the people of Nenagh, and the great camaraderie which exists between the business people in the town, which has always been the case. This interview provided a great account of how one man's success can benefit an entire community.

NAME: REGGIE HODGINS, AGE 84, NENAGH

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 28

Subtitle: A family history

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 64:04

Description: Reggie Hodgins' grandfather opened a merchant's shop in Nenagh in 1880. He married a girl from Kerry, and eventually handed the business over to his son, who continued to trade very successfully. Much of the first part of this interview covers Reggie's time spent in boarding school (St. Columbanus College) to which he was sent at the age of 12, in 1935. He returned to Nenagh to take over from his father in 1940. The business continued until its closure in 1991. In his grandfather's and father's time, the staff lived over the premises, as did his uncle, a solicitor, who ran his business there. Reggie never spent much time in the shop as he said his time was dedicated to the Nenagh Harriers, and fishing on the lake at Dromineer. The interview also focused on his great success in horse dealing. Finally, we looked around both the interior and exterior of his historic home, and spoke about its history.



NAME: JACK POWELL, AGE 94, DEBSBOROUGH, NENAGH

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 29

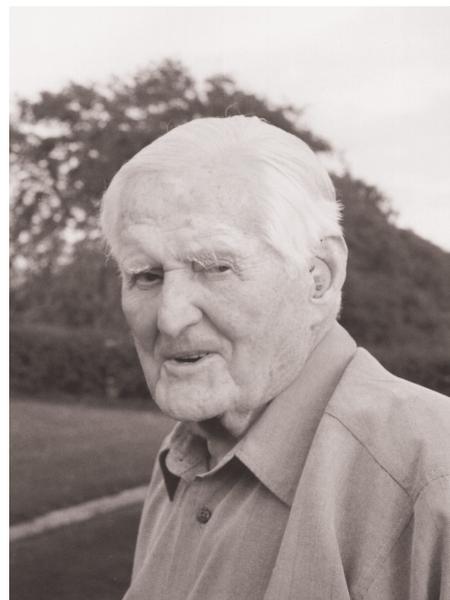
Subtitle: A vet's long life

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

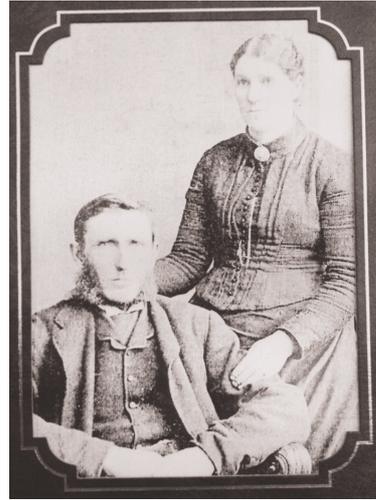
Date: June 2007

Time: 74:05

Description: Jack Powell still works in his veterinary practice. I was very fortunate to meet this interesting man, whose life story was told to me chronologically from his earliest days. He qualified in 1936 and his first job was in an Equine Centre in Cambridgeshire. Soon afterwards he met his wife-to-be Sheila White, who was in the Forces during the Second World War, and who originally came from Liffeybank. They both left in 1943 on the Queen Elizabeth to go to train with the RAF in Canada. In 1947 he set up his veterinary practice in Nenagh. He spoke about the early days



and how difficult the work was and the huge change in labour in the countryside when the grey Ferguson tractor arrived, which led to the demise of horses on farms. He spoke about this own grandfather, who helped the local people in Toomavara during the Famine, recounted his memories of the Troubles in the 1916-1922 period and he recalled the 'Black' Flu. All the members of his family contracted the flu except for himself. Jack's own sense of well-being is very evident in his very alert state of mind.



NAME: MICHAEL HERRIOTT, AGE 67 DROMINEER
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 30

Subtitle: A passion for fishing
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe
Date: May 2007
Time: 52:03

Description: I met Michael Herriott at his own home on an early May morning, as he was preparing to spend a day fishing on the lake during the dapping season. Michael showed me some historical photographs taken by Jack Ryan in the early part of the last century. He described some great characters fishing in those days, and recalled that often he had travelled on a bike with his friends from Nenagh to the lake. From a very early age, he fished with his uncle Al on productive days, when they would catch a large number of perch. Their sale to local people provided welcome pocket money for him. Some of the great fishing people included Chris McGrath, known as 'The Wedger' and another great ghillie was John Hogan. Michael emigrated to England in 1958, and joined the police force in Manchester. I recorded many stories of his time in the force, up until 1995. In retirement in Dromineer, he is settling back to what he loves most in the world - fishing on Lough Derg.



NAME: ERIC LYNCH, AGE 60s, MONALEEN, CO LIMERICK

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 31

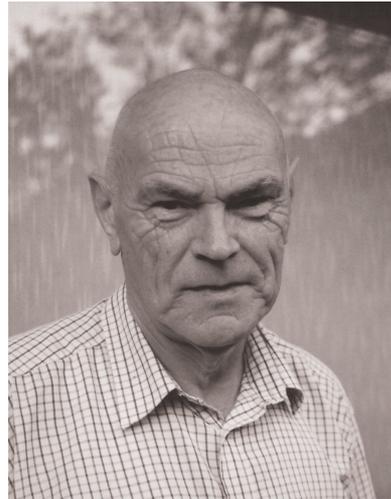
Subtitle: A retired schoolteacher's reminiscences of Lough Derg

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe
Date: June 2007
Time: 33:31

Description: Eric Lynch grew up in Killaloe, and



recalled his early memories of the town, its people and its characters. He spoke about the local slate quarries, and about traditional Irish music in the area. He had a rare dapping-book (1911 to 1944) which was fascinating to read as it gave a day-to-day account of conditions, catches and fishing pools, all associated with Lough Derg. He spoke about the mayfly in fishing season, and how he would still row a boat instead of using an outboard engine. Our conversation then switched to his early days of teaching in Limerick city, and the great satisfaction he derived from his teaching career.



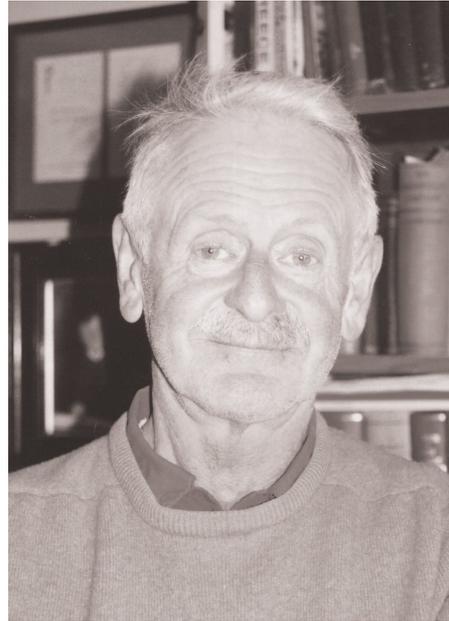
NAME: PETER WARD, NENAGH
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 32
Subtitle: The country choice
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe
Date: June 2007
Time: 56:52

Description: I met Peter Ward at his wonderful food shop, and discovered that most of his produce is supplied to him by local producers; some of whom are living on the shores of Lough Derg. The first part of this interview with Peter Ward included a discussion on the dapping book, which I received from my previous interviewee, Eric Lynch. Peter told me that he was a County Meath man, and grew up on a traditional farm. Both his grandmother and his mother reared poultry, and his grandfather and father grew flax and tobacco. His first taste of the marketplace came when he travelled with his father to the Dublin market with spring lambs. His introduction to Nenagh was through marriage and his interest in good quality locally-produced foods began his journey on a very successful business path. In this interview it is apparent that his passion in food is for organically grown vegetables, fine dairy products, free-range eggs and organic meat.



NAME: PETER GERARD, AGE 61, LESSERAGH HOUSE, COOLBAWN
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 33
Subtitle: A family history
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe
Date: May 2007
Time: 68:53
Description: The Gerards were an Anglo-Norman family, who arrived in Ireland in the 1100s and settled

in Co Meath. Peter Gerard's grandfather moved to Dublin city, where he set up a printing and stationery business. One of his customers was James Joyce, who had some of his pamphlets printed there. Peter's father fought in the Second World War, and served in India, but returned home when wounded. Peter's own career was teaching, and he lived in a restored medieval tower-house near Templemore where he taught. In 1976 he moved to O'Mara's Acres, a Georgian house which was once the property of the Bruces. He explained that there was a tradition of fruit-growing in the area. He was to meet a local man, Michael Gill, and discovered that his own father and Michael Gills' father had fought together in the War. Peter's main interest was hunting on horseback and he always had a great interest in horses. The interview concluded with his expression of happiness that he and his wife Meda had found this beautiful home on the shores of Lough Derg.



NAME: BETTY WILLIAMS AND GERARDINE WISDOM, GORTMORE, LOUGH DERG
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 34

Subtitle: Inland Waterways Ireland

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: April 2007

Time: 75:16

Description: On a beautiful early summer morning, I called to the home of Betty Williams and her daughter Gerardine. The interview began with the story of how the family first came to live on an island in Co Wexford, where they survived by growing grain for the malting mills, and carting it on the M71 barge. Because the land and the castellated house were leased to them, they eventually had to leave and they came to Gortmore, where they had to start afresh. Betty's father Harry Rice was the main influence in establishing Inland Waterways Ireland. Gerardine told me that she was in boarding school at the early age of 8, but after the family moved to Gortmore, all her schooling took place in the home with her siblings under the supervision of a tutor. Betty spoke about her own family background, which was indeed most interesting. In the final part of the recording Gerardine showed me crafted items created from the rushes of Lough Derg, and she spoke in great detail about the creation of these items.



NAME: SHEILA DEASY, TERRYGLASS (Part 1)
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 35

Subtitle: A woman's history

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: June 2007

Time: 61:12

Description: The interview with Sheila Deasy began in her beautiful landscaped garden, where in the comfort of her own surroundings she provided a narrative on her family history, explaining how her own people, the O'Kellys, were among the 'Wild Geese', who went to Austria, where the family became Counts of the Holy Roman Empire. She joked about her position as a Countess. Her maternal grandmother was Belgian and her grandfather's mother was French. She attended school at the age of 12 in Belgium. There was a tradition of involvement with the land in the Deasy family; her father worked for the Land Commission, and her late husband, Rickard Deasy, led the IFA at one time. Her son follows in his father's footsteps with his involvement in farming. The conversation continued back at the house, where Sheila pointed out some family photographs, and traced their connections. I was pleased that I would be returning for another recording session with this most interesting lady.



NAME: SHEILA DEASY, KNOCKNAFAIRE,
TERRYGLASS (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 36

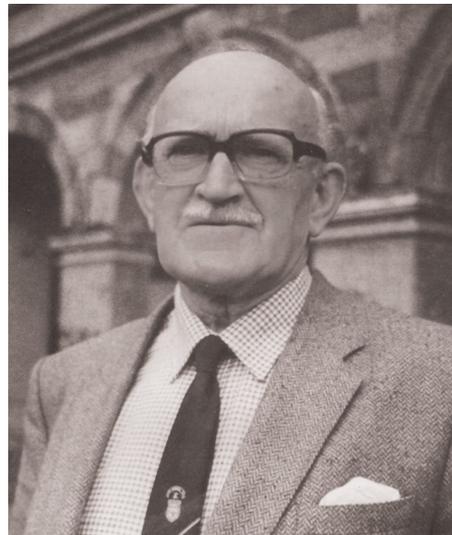
Subtitle: A woman's history, continued

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: June 2007

Time: 41:39

Description: On a return visit to the Deasy home, Sheila Deasy first spoke about Gortrea, in Galway, and her happy days growing up there. The fact that her grandparents lived in the house gave her an opportunity to learn about the previous generation. She explained how her father was a seventh son of a seventh son, and she herself felt that she had the gift of the sixth sense, and spoke about the experience of seeing a ghost on one occasion. The interview continued with a discussion of her son's narrow escape from death while participating in a yacht race across the Atlantic. She spoke about how privileged the Deasy family had always been, and how dedicated her husband Rickard had been to his position in the farming organisation. Finally, she made the connection with her mother-in-law, who was Dolores Hickie who married Peter Hugh Deasy. This



was most interesting, as I have also recorded the history of the Hickies, thus I have traced the family history on both sides.

NAME: JAMES NOLAN, REAR CROSS, KILCUMMIN

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 37

Subtitle: A wheelwright's story

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 48:00

Description: On the foothills of the Silvermines, I met James Nolan in his old blacksmith's forge, now long out of commission, where all the remnants of the blacksmithing and wheel making trades in the form of tools still hang on the walls. He described how each was used. There was a small sawmill next door, where he and his father would obtain ash, oak and elm for the making of cartwheels in earlier days. He then spoke about the people who had lived in the village, including his great-grandfather, who obtained a licence to start a pub in 1816. We walked a short distance to his own house, where he showed me old photographs of his grandparents, explaining that his grandmother had a family of 13 children. When the Lisdoonvarna Festival came around in September, she would leave behind all her children and travel to the town. This was a most interesting and entertaining recording.



NAME: CON RYAN, GLOWN, UPPER CHURCH

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 38

Subtitle: Memories of other days

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 39:07

Description: Con Ryan's ancestors have lived in Upper Church for eight generations. Con explained to me that both his grandparents were Ryans, and were identified by their nicknames. We visited the local graveyard, and spoke about all the people who had lived locally, and were buried there and about their adventures and achievements in life. Most of these people had been tenant farmers. A fascinating account of the War of Independence and Civil War, in which his own people had fought, was relayed to me. Finally, he told me that there was a strong tradition in the locality of oral history, much of which he had collected himself from the older people.



NAME: BRENDAN MURNANE, NENAGH
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 39

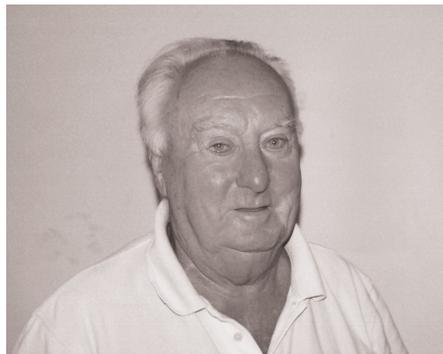
Subtitle: The introduction of rural electrification

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: April 2007

Time: 65:47

Description: Brendan Murnane grew up in Portroe, where his father practiced as a doctor, and Brendan remembers that he often declared that house calls were a big problem during the Troubles of 1916-22. Many stories were related to me about the introduction of rural electrification in the area, and recollections of the barge boats operating into and out of Garrykennedy. Brendan spoke about how treacherous Lough Derg could be, and how sometimes the lake had the ability to blow up a storm. The boat people had to be good handlers of barge boats to survive the conditions. Finally, the formation of a local committee in earlier days to introduce people to the newly-available electricity provided the topic of a very entertaining conversation.



NAME: DOROTHY HARDING, BORRISOKANE
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 40

Subtitle: A poultry farmer's story

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 51:11

Description: I paid a visit to the poultry farm of Dorothy Harding, in a rural area 2 1/2 miles from the shores of Lough Derg and this recording was made as we walked around the farm. Dorothy spoke about her difficult childhood, and she said that she had had a family of seven children, and found herself very much the breadwinner. She then began this business of rearing ducks, turkeys and hens, which has been so successful. She took me through the process of culling, plucking, cleaning and cooling and earlier I spoke to her daughter and son about their mother, and her extraordinary life.



NAME: SR. CARMEL MORRIS O'MEARA, AGE 81,
DUBLIN

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 41

Subtitle: Islandmore revisited

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: July 2007

Time: 50:38

Description: Sr Carmel Morris O'Meara is a member of the community of the Little Sisters of the Assumption, and I visited her in Ballyfermot in Dublin to record the story of her time on Islandmore. She began by telling me that it was the Waller family, under the Cromwellian forces in 1649, who ousted her ancestors from Toomavara. They later settled on this 200 acre island, where they survived by farming and fishing. Sr. Carmel is the oldest surviving member of the O'Meara family and even though she herself was not born on the island, she would return each summer with her mother to visit her grandparents on Islandmore. She spoke with great fondness about her visits there, and how she would arrive in Nenagh by train from Dublin, and would go to Urahill and walk down through the fields, and wait for the cot to take her across to the island. This was as most interesting and informative recording.



NAME: MICHAEL MAHNKE, FRANCIE TIERNAN AND VINCENT COYNE, ISLANDMORE

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 42

Subtitle: Revisiting Islandmore

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 52:53

Description: Michael Mahnke, a native of Düsseldorf in Germany, and is now the proud owner of Islandmore, and a farm in Terryglass. He brought me on his boat across to Islandmore, where we met the gamekeepers Francie Tiernan and Vincent Coyne. The recording was made on the island and begins with Francie, who told me that he was brought up on the island, and worked with his father, for the Winston family, who purchased the land in 1964. He is now working for the present owner, Michael Mahnke. Vincent told me that he is originally a native of Headford in Galway, and is now living in Ballymoyle, 10 miles up the lake. He is employed in gamekeeping, which he explained to me in great detail. Departing from the island late that evening, I felt I had recorded what island life on Lough Derg was really all about.



NAME: MICHAEL MAHNKE, TERRYGLASS

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 43

Subtitle: The new Landlord

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: May 2007

Time: 38:15

Description: Michael Mahnke is the son of Klaus

Mahnke, who in 1983 purchased land both in Terryglass and on Islandmore. This interview focuses on how the Mahnke family was invited to invest in these properties in Ireland. Michael explains his family's background, and their business in Germany. After the war years in Europe, Klaus Mahnke had just made it across from east to west Germany before the Berlin Wall was put in place. While achieving in business in Germany he had always had a yearning for the Irish countryside, and the mixture of forestry and water provided the perfect environment for shooting and fishing. Since the death of his father Michael is now running the estate with great enthusiasm and vitality.



NAME: MATT FOGARTY, AGE 73, DROMINAGH
(Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 44

Subtitle: A local historian's reminiscences

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: June 2007

Time: 72:53

Description: Matt Fogarty runs a tree farmer centre close to the shores of Lough Derg. He lives in an old lodge dating from 1780, once owned by the Biggs estate. It was sold in 1855 to the Fortune family.

Matt's grandfather bought it in 1874, and both Matt and his father were born in the house. His uncle was Brother Paul O'Meara of Mount Saint Joseph Abbey, and was one of the O'Mearas from Islandmore.

Matt's mother also came from Islandmore. I recorded some fascinating stories associated with the island and one tragic story related to the drowning of one of his uncles in 1926 while taking livestock from the island. After this his mother never liked the island, and never returned. I recorded many other stories about life around the shores of Lough Derg, and about shooting pike out of the lake. Matt's father and grandfather threshed for other people at the beginning of the last century, and would travel long distances in order to do so. I left Matt Fogarty pleased in the knowledge that I would return another day.



NAME: MATT FOGARTY, AGE 73, DROMINAGH
(Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 45

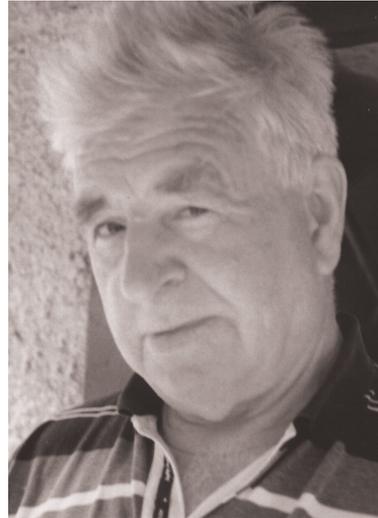
Subtitle: A local historian's reminiscences, continued

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: July 2007

Time: 42:53

Description: At Drominagh I met Matt Fogarty at his ancestral home, which he reminded me was a shooting lodge which his grandfather had bought for £1200 in the middle of the 19th century. His grandfather came from Kilcolman, and his father before him came from Castle Fogarty, close to Thurles. Matt's knowledge of local history was most impressive, and he spoke about the landed gentry who lived around the shores of Lough Derg, and about the intense growing of crops. The threshing carried out in the 19th and 20th centuries kept the local mills in business and Matt informed me that his own father had been Chairman of North Tipperary County Council for 22 years. This ended a wonderful recording of the history of the area.



NAME: JOHN RYAN, AGE 70, BALLYMACEGAN AND TONY MOLLOY, AGE 68, COOLEEN (Part 1)
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 46

Subtitle: A collection of stories, memories and music

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: June 2007

Time: 46:39

Description: A visit to the Ryan home in Ballymacegan provided me with a wealth of information. The recording began with a piece of music sweetly played on the tin whistle by John Egan, after which he told me that he got a share of the land 37 years ago which was part of the Wiltons estate, having originally come from Upperchurch. Tony Molloy provided a commentary on the locality, where he was born and grew up, and where his people had lived before him, and he told me that his mother had passed on much historical information to him. He also informed me that he was a gamekeeper, and knew every inch of territory in the area, and all the rich layers of history associated with the place.



NAME: JOHN AND MARJORIE RYAN, BALLYMACEGAN AND TONY MOLLOY, COOLEEN (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 47

Subtitle: Music played by the Ryan family

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: July 2007

Time: 45:11

Description: In the beginning of this recording Tony Molloy speaks about the local people and later as we toured the area John suggested that we return to the house to meet his wife, Margery so that they could



play some of the local tunes for me. Tony informed me that he was involved in the making of melodeons, and could himself whistle a jig. And so with John playing the tin whistle, and Margery playing the Jew's harp, and Tony whistling melodiously, the time flew by in harmonious music played by three great custodians of the old musical traditions.

NAME: TONY MOLLOY, COOLEEN (Part 3)
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 48
Subtitle: Ballymacegan Castle and district
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe
Date: July 2007
Time: 75:19

Description: I met Tony Molloy at Redwood Church, which provided a commanding view of the Ballymacegan area, once controlled by the Macedgans, before the arrival of Trenchs. We could see in the distance Moatfield bog, which is now covered in birch and scrub. Our journey continued the short distance to Egan Castle, which had been badly damaged during the Cromwellian and Williamite wars. The estate was the property of the Kennedys, who sold it to Eoin Macedgan, who has now restored it back to its former glory. The recording continued in the castle, and later during a short drive around the locality.



NAME: WILLSEY NOLAN, AGE 83, TERRYGLASS
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection, CD 49
Subtitle: A graveyard caretaker
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe
Date: June 2007
Time: 61:02

Description: Willsey Nolan, in recent times, suffered many health problems, but this did not deter him from educating me about the local lore. For many years he has been looking after the old graveyard, where he would help with burials. I recorded an incident in which a local family had been evicted in the 19th century, and had left a curse on the landlord, with dire consequences. Willsey explained to me how the village of Terryglass had two streams, and that this was how it got its name. He showed me a lead plaque which had come from the grave of a horse owned by the Slevoir Estate. The horse had died in the latter part of the last century. He recited for me the story written on the plaque about this famous horse, and also a story about a dog called 'Jeff' which was buried there in 1942.



NAME: BARBARA HARDING, BALLYMASSEY
Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 50

Subtitle: A butter maker

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: June 2007

Time: 44:35

Description: Barbara Harding grew up in Eglisish and came from a farming background. She always had a passion for butter-making, and when she married Edward Harding from Ballymassey and settled down, she began a butter-making business. The operation began with one British Friesian cow and now she milks 14 cows. This recording takes one through the process of butter-making, conducted in the traditional way. We later took a walk around the farmyard as Barbara described how life is lived on in their farm close to the shores of Lough Derg.



NAME: REGGIE GOODBODY, HAZEL POINT,
BALLYCUMMIN

Title: Irish Life and Lore North Tipperary Collection,
CD 51

Subtitle: A family history

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: July 2007

Time: 45:29

Description: The home of the Goodbodys is situated on a slight incline above Lough Derg, a place dear to Reggie Goodbody's heart. The interview begins with the family history which can be traced back to 1650, when the Goodbodys first came to Ireland. Because they were of the Quaker tradition records of the family have always been kept, and were not destroyed in the Four Courts during the Troubles, a fate suffered by many other family records. John's great-great-grandfather Robert had a business in Mountmellick, Co Laois. He had five sons who all achieved great success in their lifetimes, in the milling, jute and tobacco businesses. Some members of the Goodbody family moved to Clara, and established what became the biggest flour business in the country at that time. Reggie's father was an engineer and worked for the Great Southern Railway for a time. In 1942 he moved to Kilgarven on the shores of Lough Derg. In 1949 Reggie went to boarding school and he returned after one year to live with his parents on the 'Phoenix', a boat in Dromineer. He emigrated to England and worked there in a timber yard for 5 years until he returned to Ireland and became Manager for Legge Bros in Dublin. In 1975 he set up a boat-building business in Portumna. This fascinating recording linked up many of the earlier recordings associated with industrial archaeology in Offaly and North Tipperary.

