

IRISH LIFE AND LORE SERIES

CLARA PARISH COLLECTION

Clara Heritage Society

Clara

County Kilkenny

CATALOGUE OF 29 RECORDINGS

www.irishlifeandlore.com

The collection comprises 29 recordings compiled by Maurice O'Keeffe in 2009, in conversation with local historians, folklorists and storytellers.

Irish Life and Lore Series

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Secretarial work by : n.b.services, Tralee

Recordings duplicated and printed by : Midland Duplication, Birr

Privately published by : Maurice and Jane O'Keeffe, Tralee & Clara Heritage Society

Supported by

Kilkenny Leader Partnership Company



Additional Recordings included by kind permission of:

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agus Gaeltachta***
***Department of Community, Rural
and Gaeltacht Affairs***



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NAME: PAUL MURPHY, BORN 1919, SMITHSTOWN, MADDOXTOWN IN THE PARISH OF CLARA (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 1

Subject: Long memories of Smithstown

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 56:25

Description: Paul Murphy was recorded at his ancestral home at Smithstown, Maddoxtown in the parish of Clara. His three paternal uncles emigrated to Australia in the early 20th century and Paul's father stayed at home to run the farm. Paul recalls that once he left school at 14, having spent the previous five years living with his aunt and uncle following his mother's early death, he went to work with his father on the farm. His father had a contract for barley supply with Minch Norton in Athy. He discusses the preparation of the lands for the various crops of barley, oats, mangolds and turnips. He has a great recollection of the older craftspeople in the area, including the blacksmith, the harness maker and the saddler. He also clearly recalls the cottages and the family names of the people who occupied them. He discusses the shortcuts through the land, and their use by named local people. Paul's brother died tragically at the age of 23 so Paul ran the farm from then onwards.



NAME: PAUL MURPHY, BORN 1919, SMITHSTOWN, MADDOXTOWN IN THE PARISH OF CLARA (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 2

Subject: Earlier days revisited

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 42:11

Description: In this recording, Paul Murphy recalls the war years and the Emergency, and the difficulties in farming at that time. Jimmy Lennon, the local ploughman who worked on the Murphy farm, was a champion ploughman, who tied for first place in an All Ireland Ploughman competition at that time. It was not until the Emergency period, when compulsory tillage was introduced, that Paul Murphy began to grow wheat for export. The local Pattern Day at Sheastown is recalled, it was a great and important day at the Holy Well. The family would also travel to the Pattern Day at St Mullins in Carlow. As a young lad he would cycle to Croke Park in Dublin when Kilkenny were playing in the All Ireland Hurling final. He discusses the meanings of local placenames, family names, sheep rearing and harvesting the crops.



NAME: MARY (DOLLY) LENNON, BORN 1927, KILKENNY CITY

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 3

Subject: A life of hard work and pleasure

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 64:53

Description: Goresbridge is the birthplace of Dolly Lennon, who at 3½ years of age went to live with her maternal aunt and uncle at Nore Cottage, Dunbell in the parish of Clara. Dolly's father, Tom Walsh served as Fianna Fail Minister for Agriculture for a period, and she discusses his life, his work and his relentless ambition. Dolly's aunt and uncle Jack and Bridie Prim, with whom she lived, were a hardworking and enterprising couple. They bred cattle and sheep, and often won major prizes at the RDS in Dublin. Her aunt also made and sold butter, and reared fowl and the young Dolly Lennon would spend some of her time plucking. She would also spend time travelling with a donkey and car to a distant spring well to bring home the water. Dolly's two maternal uncles were great cricket players, as was their father. She herself was very athletic and recalls cycling long distances to watch the cricket matches, and she has fond memories of enjoying tea and barm brack at Dunbell Cricket Club on long summer days.



NAME: PADDY PRENDERGAST, BORN 1958, SCHOOLHOUSE, CLARA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 4

Subject: A great hurler

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 63:22

Description: Paddy Prendergast is well-known and well admired for his prowess on the hurling fields of Kilkenny and elsewhere during his younger days. The recording was compiled as he walked through his fields, and recalls a great tragedy in his early life when his mother died when he was three years old, in Clara Upper. He and his siblings were reared by his aunt for some years, and on his father's second marriage, the children returned to the family home. Paddy discusses his young days as a hurler, his motivation and drive. He was a great reader of Irish stories, and the story of Cuchulainn became a source of great inspiration to the young boy. His life was busy in those early days as he had to milk twelve cows before school, and he recalls his great companion of those years, and later, a Kerry Spailpín from Dingle who came to help on the farm for one season and stayed for almost thirty years until his death. Paddy discusses his days of glory



on the hurling field, his competitive spirit and his great sporting enthusiasm.

NAME: JIM O'NEILL, BORN 1945, ABBEYGROVE, DUNBELL
IN THE PARISH OF CLARA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 5

Subject: A deeply rooted family

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time:

Description: The O'Neill family arrived at Abbey Grove in 1806. Prior to this the Matthew family had lived there, along with many other families over the generations. The house had been built as a monastery. In this recording Jim O'Neill traces his family ancestors, and the marriages in the family over time. One of his earliest memories is of watching the first tractor he had ever seen come into the farmyard. Another early memory is of being brought by his mother to the railway station in Kilkenny and being amazed at the huge quantity of caged chicks which had been brought for sale. He discusses farm practices nowadays and in former times and local placenames and their meanings. He also details a fascinating tale of Freaney from Inistioge, a noted highwayman in the 1800's who hid his hoard while being pursued, and the subsequent discovery of the hoard. Also recalled was the tradition of burying a farm cart in the farmyard when a particular family emigrated to America in former times. Jim O'Neill's father was a renowned water diviner who was contracted to the County Council in the 1950s and '60s to divine watercourses.



NAME: JACK BYRNE, BORN 1937, COIL, CLARA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 6

Subject: A passion for old farm machinery

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time:

Description: Jack Byrne was introduced by his neighbour, Jim O'Neill, at Jack's cottage at Kyle. He spent his entire adult life working for local farmers, and his father before him worked at breaking stones for the Council was road building. Jim O'Neill and Jack discuss the methods of threshing, from the steam thresher to the combined harvester. Jack's passion in life is to restore old farm machinery, and in the recording he describes the restoration work which he has carried out over many years. The recording continues as Jack walks a mile through the fields to the location of a Druid's grave, in the land of Margaret Cullen.



NAME: LIZ CONNOLLY, nee DOOLEY, BORN 1926, CLARA
Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 7
Subject: A rural public house
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe
Date: 2009
Time:



Description: Liz Connolly grew up in Mountgael parish in a place called Ballycallan. She recalls the challenges faced by her family on the death of her father during the 1930s. At a very young age she left home to begin work in Kilkenny city, at St Canice's Hospital where she was to meet her husband Gerard Connolly. In 1954 the couple moved to Dunbell in the parish of Clara where Gerard's parents owned a public house and shop. She describes in detail the business there, the customers, the first brave lady to enter the pub and the long working hours. The couple had six sons, one of whom, Jim, is now running the business. She also recalls vivid memories of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 1941, and the complete havoc this caused in rural areas.

NAME: TOM WALSH, BORN 1925, NORE VIEW, DUNBELL,
MADDOXTOWN
Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 8
Subject: An interesting life
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe
Date: 2009
Time: 67:42



Description: Nore View, Dunbell was the birthplace of Tom Walsh in 1925, and he still has an amazing recall of his grandparents, and their memories of the great Famine. They told him stories of the growing of yellow corn and the famine pots used for making soup for the starving people. He discusses his days at St Kieran's boarding school during the Emergency Period, during which time he made the decision to enter the priesthood. He went to Delgan Park Seminary, for a period before he returned home to his parents' farm where he worked with them for 10 years. In his day he was a great hurler. He bought a farm in Dungarvan, in 1963, and he recalls the challenges of those early days. He was lucky to employ an exceptional ploughman – Philip Doyle. He names the local fields, and the families who once worked them in former days.

NAME: DONAL McDONALD, BORN 1946, MADDOXTOWN,
IN THE PARISH OF CLARA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 9

Subject: The story of Maddoxtown marble

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 45:37

Description: Maddoxtown is the birthplace of Donal McDonald, and the tradition of working with marble has long existed in his family. When his father, Thomas, was a young lad, he served his apprenticeship at the marble works before emigrating to England to join the Irish Guards. He later returned, on his marriage, to settle at Maddoxtown and there he began his work on his craft of headstone work. Donal also discusses the Colles family who owned the marble works from the 1730s until 1922. The works at Maddoxtown were very busy in the early part of the 20th century as marble was sent from other counties to be worked on. His father Thomas would also travel to other areas as he worked as a journeyman marble cutter.



NAME: BRIDGET KAVANAGH nee MURPHY, BORN 1924,
KILKENNY (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 10

Subject: Life around the marble-works

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 75:10

Description: Bridget Kavanagh is introduced by Donal McDonald. Bridget was born in one of the Colles Marble-works cottages in 1924. Her three uncles and her father came from New Ross to Maddoxtown to work in the quarries. Her father worked as a trimmer and two of her three uncles worked as a polisher and a cutter. Bridget recalls Richard Colles, the last of the family to run the works, and she is proud to say that she is the custodian of the accounts and wages books used there at that time. A wonderful lady, Joan O'Gorman is fondly recalled. She would provide dance classes and drama for the children and young adults at the works. The names of many of the workers are recalled and the local hurling team of the time. The closure of the works created great difficulties, and her father had to return to work as a farm labourer. Bridget describes in vivid detail an incident from her childhood involving parish dues and her encounter with the local parish priest in this context.



NAME: BRIDGET KAVANAGH nee MURPHY, BORN 1924, KILKENNY (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 11

Subject: The marble-works recalled

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 58:23

Description: In this second recording with Bridget Kavanagh, she recalls in more detail young days growing up in Maddoxtown. She recalls the carting of the stone to the marble-works and the process through which the stone was brought until the final product emerged. She discusses the way of life of the workers, the various craftspeople who helped to keep the show on the road in repairing the machinery, and looking after the horses. On the closure of the marbleworks, Bridget's father initially worked as a labourer at a local estate, but still used his craft as a headstone maker and would travel distances to work on commission.



NAME: CON MANNING, BORN 1953, DUBLIN

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 12

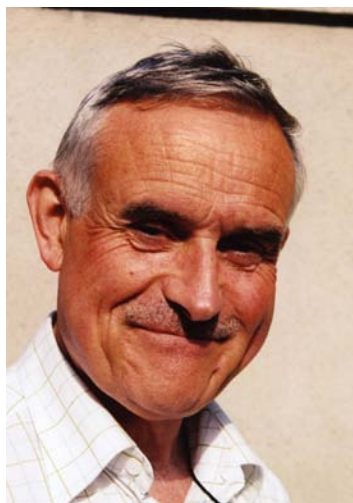
Subject: The work of an archaeologist

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 58:09

Description: Con Manning is employed by the Office of Public Works, in the National Monument Service for the last 30 years. He grew up in Glen Cottage, Dunbell from 1957. His father was a Customs and Excise officer, who was a compulsive reader in a house full of books, mainly on local history. He recalls the history of Glen Cottage which at one time was occupied by the Prim family. The Dower House, the Hunting Lodge and the main house were built originally by the Andersons. Con Manning always had a huge interest in history and archaeology and he graduated with a Masters in Archaeology from UCD. He worked with Dr Tom Fanning on the Kells Priory excavation, and also at Riask in Co Kerry from 1972-75. He feels very privileged to have had this wonderful opportunity and to work with this great mentor. He also worked on the excavations at Wood Quay in Dublin, and he discusses the work undertaken there. In 1978 he began his employment with the OPW and he provides his thoughts on the very rich archaeological source we have in Ireland. He at present holds the post of Vice President of the Kildare Archaeological and Historical Society, and will shortly assume the role of President.



NAME: MARTIN CARRIGAN, BORN 1936, AND FATHER
TOM CARRIGAN, BORN 1935, CLARABRICKEN

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 13

Subject: Music and memories

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 63:42

Description: This recording was compiled at the ancestral home at Clarabricken, where the Carrigan family has lived for many generations. Martin and Tom Carrigan are brothers, and their home is famous for the craft of uilleann pipe making. The brothers' grandfather, Nicholas Carrigan, began this great craft and his most prized possession was a set of pipes (an Egan set) once owned by Michaleen 'Gumba' O'Sullivan. This set is now in the custody of Martin Carrigan and in the recording a very old Limerick lament may be heard, played on these pipes. Fr Tom Carrigan recalls the activities of his father, William, during the Troubles in Woodstock. The house at Clarabricken was always known as a safe house during these turbulent days. Nicholas Carrigan, the brothers' grandfather, owned horses of an unusual breed, and the tinkers would bring their mares to the horses for servicing, and meanwhile, would play some tunes on the pipes, which Nicholas enjoyed. They began to swap tunes, and Nicholas began to repair their pipes when necessary. Martin Carrigan explains that his own interest in the pipes and their construction, began when his earlier hurling days were over. He became involved with his father William's work, and in the recording he compares the old ways of restoration with the new. Fr Tom Carrigan spent 40 years in California working as a priest, and in the recording he discusses his experiences over these years.



NAME: TOM KINSELLA, BORN 1929, BALLSALLA,
JOHNSWELL

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 14

Subject: Letters from emigrants

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 72:33

Description: In the 1920s Tom Kinsella's father came from Coon near Castlecomer, to farm the land at Ballasalla. His four brothers had emigrated to Perth in 1909. Tom has in his possession a wonderful collection of letters from his uncles in Australia to their mother in Coon. The letters give a clear and vivid picture of the journey to the other side of the world, their arrival and first impressions, and the way they settled into their new homes. Many people from the Coon area had also travelled to Perth, and they were to set up what was virtually an Australian home from home. In this recording Tom Kinsella



reads from some of these letters which provide a wonderful narrative of the emigrants' story. Tom also discusses the carving up of estates locally which he himself witnessed during the era of The Congested Districts Board and the Land Commission. He describes the archaeology evident on his land, which borders the two parishes of Johnswell and Clara, and he also discusses the placenames and their meanings.

NAME: PIERCE COMERFORD, BORN 1944,
COOLGREANEY, CLARA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 15

Subject: A deep rooted family

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 56:45

Description: Coolgreaney House has been occupied by the Comerford family for eight generations. It sits in a beautiful setting, surrounded by a grove of trees which were planted by earlier family members. Pierce Comerford traces his family tree and recalls one great character Nicholas Comerford who lived from 1780-1870. Pierce's grandfather, also named Pierce, while working in Arnotts in 1898, was chosen to play on the Arnotts Dublin team, to play in the All Ireland Football final, which they won. The medal was presented in 1899 and is now in the possession of the present owner of the house at Coolgreaney. Molly Hogan, Pierce's paternal grandmother, was a most resourceful woman who looked after the workers very well, and who would carry eggs to Dublin in her Morris Minor for sale. Pierce's mother nursed in England during the war years. Pierce himself decided to emigrate to Canada when he finished his education but due to his father's ill health, after one year he returned home to take care of his home place.



NAME: LIAM BRETT, BORN 1924 AND JOHN BRETT, BORN
1960, SION ROAD

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 16

Subject: The saw mills

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 60:57

Description: The saw mills at Sion Road have been operating for 200 years and since 1886 the Brett family has owned the business. In that year Liam Brett's grandfather and his two sons, Bill and John, came from 'The Pike' public house on the Carlow-Kilkenny Road, to take over the sawmills. Liam's father, Bill Brett, was later to take over the sole running of the business, which is now in the care of Liam and John Brett. In this recording, compiled at the sawmills, both men



demonstrate the work practices which have existed since the 1800s, and with great pride they explain the workings of the water well powered by the River Nore, which drives the saws, as it has done from the earliest days. Liam Brett discusses the changes which have taken place over the generations. In the beginning, there was great demand for carts and stocks for cartwheels and John Brett explains that tractor trailers were in huge demand after the war years. The cutting of the ash for hurls is still part of the business. Liam describes the cutting of the ash – “you go by the root and you keep the grain.” Tom Neary and Ramie Dowling, hurl makers from Kilkenny city, are supplied with the fine ash cut at the sawmills at Sion Road.

NAME: CARMEL O'KEEFFE, nee KEOGH, BORN 1929, CHURCH, CLARA AND PEGGY DOWLING, nee BRETT, BORN 1929, CASTLECOMER ROAD, KILKENNY

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 17

Subject: Early days in the ICA

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 71:28

Description: Carmel O'Keeffe is a descendant of Myles Keogh, and she grew up in Clifden in Clara. Peggy Dowling was reared at 'The Pike' public house, and both girls attended Dunbell school together. Each lady describes the story of her life. They recall the crossroads dancing at Ballyredden and Cuffes Grange, and they remember the challenges of the war years. Carmel O'Keeffe is a founder member of the Irish Countrywomen's Association in Clara in 1954. Peggy joined the guild later in the 1950s and they both discuss the meetings, the members, the crafts and the very positive changes the ICA brought to the lives of women in the rural areas of Ireland. They recall the introduction of electricity to the countryside, the advent of piped water and the era of self sufficiency. Carmel was a fine camogie player with Gowran, but as the playing of the game was frowned upon by the parish priest and some of the local people, she would hide her camán under her skirt on her journeys to and from the camogie pitch.



NAME: JOHN BRYAN, BORN 1958, CAPPAN, INISTIOGE

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 18

Subject: Politics and farming

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 75:58

Description: John Bryan's family have lived in Dunbell since the 1700s, and John grew up there. There has always been a tradition of involvement in political life in the family, and John is at present canvassing for election as President of the IFA. He



recalls the protests by farmers of 1966/1967 against government policy and he discusses the changes in farming practices since those days. John Bryan's career began as a garda stationed at Pearse Street, Dublin for three years, and when he inherited a farm from his aunt at Cappa he undertook a major career change. He began farming the 65 acres there and cultivating and improving the land.

NAME: MARY MEANEY, nee NOLAN, MADDOXTOWN

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 19

Subject: A varied working life

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 50:36

Description: The old railway house on the way to Maddoxtown is the birthplace of Mary Meaney, and was also home to her mother and grandmother, who were employed to operate the railway crossing gates. She recalls the tragic occasion when her mother was fatally injured by a train at the crossing. She discusses the train times, the telephone warnings and the constant rail traffic throughout the days and nights. She also recalls working at Woolworths in Kilkenny, and later at St Joseph's Laundry on the Waterford Road. She also worked for 11 years as a nurse assistant at St Canice's Hospital in the city.



NAME: MARTIN SHEA, BORN 1912, CLARA UPPER

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 20

Subject: Trade and farming

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 51:12

Description: John Shea introduces his uncle Martin at Callan Nursing Home, where he resides. Martin Shea traces his family back to his great grandparents, and discloses that he is the last surviving member of a family of seven girls and five boys. He recalls the Economic War and its effects on the family farm. In 1929 he began work with James Burke and Sons Limited, Drapers of Kilkenny, and remained with them for twenty years. He clearly remembers the introduction of electricity to Kilkenny city, the wireless and the first motor car in Clara in 1929, which was owned by the parish priest. A most interesting section of the recording related to the Black and Tans during the War of Independence. He then discusses his return to farming after twenty years in Kilkenny, the husbandry, the ploughman and the cowman who served him loyally over 60 years.



NAME: BRIDIE MEANEY nee BAMBRICK, BORN 1922, RATHCASH, CLARA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 21

Subject: A large family

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 34:02

Description: Bridie Meaney is a Carlow woman who grew up at Bawnree. She was the only girl in the family and she had nine brothers. She recalls the hard times during her childhood, and her early days working as a domestic in Paulstown as a young teenager having left primary school. Bridie married James Meaney, a builder, in 1950 and the couple had nine children. She remembers the hungry fifties, when she would thumb a lift to Kilkenny for provisions, and to sell her eggs. Every fortnight she would purchase a stone of sugar and fourteen pounds of butter for her large family. The family owned a small plot of land on which they kept two cows, a pig and bonhams, and the poultry.



NAME: EDDIE MULROONEY, BORN 1936, DUNBELL, IN THE PARISH OF CLARA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 22

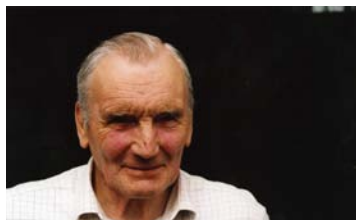
Subject: Local history and farming

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 69:22

Description: Four generations of the Mulrooney family have lived at Prospect House Dunbell, Clara. Eddie Mulrooney recalls his ancestors, and the historical house in which they lived. It was regarded as a safe house during the Troubles of the 1920s, and on an occasion shortly after Eddie's marriage to his wife Angela, a cache of eighteen hand grenades was discovered hidden under the floorboards when a new kitchen was being installed. Eddie discusses the work of the farm, the ploughing, the tilling and sowing, the work of the reaper and binder, and the workmen who gave long service to the family. He discusses the formation of the Maddoxtown Group Water Scheme in the early 1970s, which has stood the test of time. He discusses his love of hurling and the breeding of horses for showjumping.



NAME: TOM BRENNAN, BORN 1935, CLIFDEN, CLARA
Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 23
Subject: An entrepreneurial spirit
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe
Date: 2009
Time: 72:38

Description: Tom Brennan owns and runs Coolgrange Stud Farm. The family home was originally occupied by the local Catholic curate. Tom discusses his memories of the coming together of a group of local people in the 1950s to organise a fete lasting several weeks, to lift the spirits of the local people, during difficult times financially. Tom's entrepreneurial talents are very evident during the course of the recording, as he discusses the origins of the stud farm and the purchasing of highly bred stallions, such as *The King of Diamonds* and *Lawton's Flight*, "the best jumping horse Ireland ever had."



NAME: LESTER RYAN, BORN 1957 AND PADDY RYAN, BORN 1929, MADDOXTOWN IN THE PARISH OF CLARA
Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 24
Subject: Hurling skills
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe
Date: 2009
Time: 70:35

Description: St Kieran's College in Kilkenny is the venue for this recording, where Lester Ryan attended secondary school from 1971, and to where Paddy Ryan paid his first visit in 1932, the year of Eucharistic Congress. Both men talk about the glorious game of hurling, and Paddy recalls playing with Bennettsbridge, and winning three championships with the team. In those days there were very few facilities for the players or spectators, no money and little organisation. Lester played with the Clara Club, and he recalls his days playing with St Kieran's. Both men are loud in their praise of Fr Tom Maher for his sterling work for the game. Lester, who now coaches the boys at St Kieran's, who practice their skills with the hurly and sliotar against the gable wall of the school, something which was also done in Paddy's day.



NAME: NED BYRNE, BORN 1940, HIGGINSTOWN
Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 25
Subject: Building and farming
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe
Date: 2009
Time: 66:52

Description: During this recording, Ned Byrne produced a Deed Map dating from 1886 when his grandfather, Edward Byrne bought the farm at Higginstown. Ned traces back his family and discloses that his grandfather Edward married three



times. Ned recalls walking the cattle to Fair Green in Kilkenny city on fair days in his teenage years. Eggs and butter produced by the family would also be sold in Kilkenny, and to the Butler family at the castle, where his mother worked. Ned Byrne was involved in building for some years, until he took over the farm at Higginstown.

NAME: RAYMOND LANNEN, BORN 1943, MADDOXTOWN

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 26

Subject: A life in business

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 46:38

Description: Raymond Lannen is a native of Dungarvan, Co Waterford. He was born to a family who had a long tradition in the tannery business. He followed his father into the business after his schooling at Rockwell College, having spent a short time in England, learning the trade. During the war years of 1914-1918 the tannery business was booming, and then entered a period of depression. Later leather became fashionable again, and was used in car upholstery, and in fashion items. Raymond established his own leather business in Kilkenny, which was very successful, employing a large workforce. He discusses the business, the details regarding style and colour, and the global market. The business finally closed five years ago, and Raymond is now involved in the property and coffin making business.



NAME: DICK CORR, BORN 1942, KILMOGAR, CLARA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 27

Subject: A farming life

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 54:17

Description: Dick Corr lives on the edge of 'the Continent' in a cottage which stands there for over 200 years. All of Dick's maternal ancestors lived here, the Power, Kelly and Ronayne families. Dick's father came from Cuffesgrange and he and his wife reared a large family. Dick recalls his mother Bridie milking twelve cows and bringing the milk on a pony and car down a long, narrow breen to the main road, and thence to the creamery. She would also churn butter, using an elaborate mechanism powered by a pony walking a circular path. She never left the area, living all her life taking care of her nine children and her smallholding. Dick, who did not marry, took care of his mother in her elder years.



NAME: PEGGY DOWLING, nee BRETT, BORN 1929, CASTLECOMER ROAD, KILKENNY

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 28

Subject: The Pike

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 41:44

Description: 'The Pike' public house was the homeplace of Peggy Brett. The Brett family purchased the property having come from Ballycallan in 1882. Peggy recalls the life there in her young days, when the farmers from Gowran, Borris and Graiguenamanagh would use the yard at 'The Pike' to stand their animals the night before Kilkenny fair. 'The Pike' was thatched until 1949, when a fire gutted the building. The community came together to help and support the family until the pub was rebuilt, and Peggy still remembers those neighbours with gratitude. Her recall of her Brett family is excellent, and their public house at 'The Pike' was a landmark which provided great sustenance and comfort to the workers at the marble-works over many years.



NAME: EAMONN LANGTON, BORN 1948, JOHN STREET, KILKENNY

Title: Irish Life and Lore Clara Parish Collection CD 29

Subject: Success in Business

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2009

Time: 45:09

Description: Eamonn Langton's life began in Kilkenny city, where both his parents, Edward and Bridie, were employed at The Monster House and later at the Boot Factory. Edward Langton grew up in a farming background at Lavistown, Clara and Bridie Langton (nee O'Connor) had Tipperary connections. She became the business driving force in the Langton family after her marriage to Edward. Her father had previously owned a public house and boarding house in John Street, at the premises now occupied by Langtons. The earlier O'Connor business, run by Bridie Langton was the first public house in the city to offer meals during the day, as up until then, public houses never served food. Eamonn attended St Kieran's College in Kilkenny and when his formal education was completed he served his apprenticeship in two well known Dublin public houses. He returned to Kilkenny where his career in the entertainment promotion business began in partnership with businessman Martin O'Connell. In the 1970's, Eamonn became involved in the running of Langton's of John Street, a very successful family business. In the recording he speaks on many other interesting subjects, including his uncle, Jim Langton's prowess on the hurling field.



