

IRISH LIFE AND LORE SERIES  
DONEGAL HERITAGE COLLECTION

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CATALOGUE OF 64 RECORDINGS

[www.irishlifeandlore.com](http://www.irishlifeandlore.com)

Irish Life and Lore Series

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The Donegal Heritage ‘Life & Lore’ Collection was commissioned by the County Donegal Heritage Office, Donegal County Council, the County Donegal Heritage Forum and The Heritage Council under the County Donegal Heritage Plan (2007-2011).

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE  
**Dhún na nGall**  
DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



*An Action of the County Donegal Heritage Plan (2007-2011)*

NAME: MATTHEW GRAHAM, BORN 1939, ST. JOHNSTON, ARDAGH (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 1

Subject: Changing landscapes

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 56:08

Description: Matthew Graham's grandfather originally arrived in St. Johnston in 1888 and he farmed fifty acres there. Matthew's father also farmed there and Matthew discusses the arrival of the first tractor at the farm in 1957, butter-making and the arrival of electricity, the growing of flax for thatching and also wheat straw, rye straw and rushes. He recalls the McGlincheys of the Green who were flax millers, and some of the other milling families. He also recalls fair days at Raphoe and at St. Johnston, the meanings of the local field names and the local family names are discussed. Relocation to Scotland for the potato picking, and local archaeological sites are all spoken of in this first recording.



NAME: MATTHEW GRAHAM, BORN 1939, ST. JOHNSTON, ARDAGH (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 2

Subject: Changing landscapes

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 74:41

Description: The second recording was compiled in the old loft of the barn, which Matthew Graham converted into a museum in 1986. He explains the accumulation of the exhibits and discusses some of these which included some old vernacular furnishings. He recalls the local furniture makers, the turf cutters and thatching techniques. Downstairs in the barn sits an old generator dating from 1902 which was used for power before the advent of electricity; this was owned by the Swans of Bunrana originally.



NAME: CHRISTY GILLESPIE, BORN 1962,  
LETTERKENNY

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 3

Subject: St. Colmcille

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 59:05

Description: Christy Gillespie grew up in Kilcar and in this recording, he discusses his family background and his schooling. He is a national teacher by profession and in 1993, he was appointed principal of Termon National School. He has always had a huge interest in the cult of St. Colmcille, and he discusses the saint in great detail, and the lore attached to him which is reflected in the local placenames. Christy published a book on St. Colmcille in 1997 to coincide with the fourteen hundredth anniversary of his death. Christy Gillespie's father was also a teacher and a newsreader as Gaeilge on Raidió Éireann.



NAME: DESMOND DOHERTY, BORN 1946,  
LETTERKENNY

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 4

Subject: Oatfield

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 54:06

Description: The Oatfield business was founded in Letterkenny in 1927 by the McKinney Brothers. The company was involved in wholesaling sweets, and Desmond Doherty discusses the history of the McKinney family and the origins of the business. He was employed by Oatfield and he recalls a previous Production Manager there from the 1930s till the 1970s – Joe Harrison, who came from Williams and Wood in England. Desmond began work in 1963, having finished his schooling, and he worked his way up through the company. In this recording he discusses his days as a salesman in Northern Ireland and overseas. The changes in the business are recounted, and the effects of membership of the EEC are explained as Desmond, who is now Chief Executive Officer of Oatfield, tours the factory describing the manufacture and packaging of the sweets.



NAME: HUGH HERRITY, BORN 1921, GLENDOWAN  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 5  
Subject: A schoolmaster's life  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 42:48

Description: Hugh Herrity is a native of Gortahork where he spent his childhood years. He discusses his early education and the awarding to him of a scholarship to an Irish School in Mallow initially and later in Ballyvourney, County Cork. He qualified as a national teacher from St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra in 1943. He spent much of his teaching career in Glenswilly, and he discusses the teaching practices and the curriculum for national schools at that time. He also discusses the amalgamation of small rural schools. During the latter part of this recording, compiled at Eileen McGinley's guesthouse (the location of the old Glenswilly School), Hugh recalls the temporary school which was housed here in the 1930s. Hugh retired as principal of Glenswilly National School in 1982.



NAME: HOWARD RUTHERFORD, BORN 1933, & MICHAEL McELWEE, BORN 1952, KILMACRENAN  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 6  
Subject: Early farm machinery  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 77:14

Description: This recording was compiled on location in the yard adjoining Howard Rutherford's home and tractor museum. Howard discusses his family background and discusses, in a jovial fashion, his passion for collecting vintage tractors. He recalls the threshing, the business of selling tractors in the 1960s, fair days in Kilmacrenan and the people who attended with their wares, the town itself and its businesses and inhabitants. During the 1960s, Howard travelled regularly to Scotland to purchase tractors, arriving home with a full consignment for the farmers in the area. He is proud to be able to say that he sold the very first tractor to a farmer in Aranmore. As a young lad, Hugh worked with his father who owned a corn store that housed a crushing machine for corn used by local farmers. During the course of this recording, Michael McElwee contributes many interesting comments to the general conversation.





NAME: HANORA "MILES" OVENS, BORN 1919, RAMELTON (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 7

Subject: The ascendancy

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 75:18

Description: Hanora Miles was born in Northampton, England. Her father was a military man who served with the South Staffordshire Regiment during the First World War. Hanora's mother's family were French Quakers and when Hanora was very young the family moved to Aghangaddy House in Ramelton. She describes this historical house and its history, her own sheltered childhood and the raids on the house by the IRA in those days. She recalls the way of life – her family dressing for dinner each evening and the lavish hospitality afforded by her parents. Her father's family were the Hicksons of Fermoy House in Kerry and Hanora spent many holidays there. She was constantly in adult company and consequently learnt a lot about the traditions and the history of her family. She owns a magnificent collection of dolls' houses which she began to collect during her childhood.



NAME: HANORA "MILES" OVENS, BORN 1919, RAMELTON (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 8

Subject: The ascendancy

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 50:09

Description: In the second recording, Hanora's father Robert Montgomery Ovens is recalled as she discusses her Kerry cousins and the turbulent Civil War days when her father acted as unofficial mediator between the Republicans and the Free State personnel. During the 1920s, many of their close friends and relatives of the Ovens family had to leave Ireland in great haste but the family stayed at their home. Hanora describes the Earls of Leitrim in Carrigart as great friends of the family in former times.



NAME: THE HON. HEDLEY VICKERS STRUTT, BORN 1915, MANOR VAUGHAN HOUSE, CARRIGART (Part 1)  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 9  
Subject: A family history  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 56:20



Description: The Hon. Hedley Strutt was recorded at his home at Carrigart, the ancestral home of the Earls of Leitrim. He discusses his family history, the Elizabethan and Cromwellian periods, and his ancestor Clements who fought with Cromwell in Ireland. He discusses his own military career – he served as an officer in the Scots Guards. His family, the Strutts, are traced and he recalls his grandfather, a great inventor who designed a component used in electric light bulbs. Hedley Strutt's mother, Hilda Clements, was born and reared at Manor Vaughan House and he discusses his early family life and the fact that he and his siblings were all looked after by a nanny.

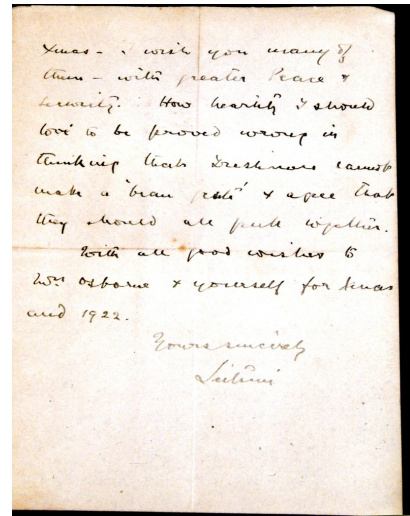
NAME: THE HON. HEDLEY VICKERS STRUTT, BORN 1915, MANOR VAUGHAN HOUSE, CARRIGART (Part 2)  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 10  
Subject: A family history  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 68:50



Description: In the second recording, Hedley Strutt discusses his great friendship with the late Terence O'Neill. Religion and politics are also discussed at length as is his title and patronage. The family lineage is traced and discussion on the reasons for his family's relocation to Ireland takes place, relating to the importance of sea routes around the North of Ireland in former times. The size and management of the estate in earlier days are recalled as are the tenants on the estate. Hedley Strutt was born and brought up in England and arrived to live permanently in Ireland in 1950, and he talks about his relationships and friendships with the local people.

NAME: THE HON. HEDLEY VICKERS STRUTT, BORN 1915, MANOR VAUGHAN HOUSE, CARRIGART (Part 3)  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 11  
Subject: A family history  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 49:51

Description: In the third recording, the recent Troubles in the North of Ireland are discussed. Hedley Strutt also recalls the Rosapenna Hotel which was run by his grandparents and which was built from local timber, and to which many notable people came to stay. He recalls his life of great discipline, his successes and challenges, the huge tragedy that befell his platoon of Scots Guards during the Second World War as a result of friendly fire. His family's extraordinary ability to survive in politics and in business, and their successes in the world of science are explored in the latter part of this recording.



NAME: THE HON. HEDLEY VICKERS STRUTT, BORN 1915, MANOR VAUGHAN HOUSE, CARRIGART (Part 4)  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 12  
Subject: A family history  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 69:06

Description: Hedley Strutt's grandfather was an inventor of note, and he is recalled in the fourth recording by Hedley Strutt. He also recalls his mother who died when he was four years old. He and his three siblings, two brothers and a sister, were cared for by a devoted nanny, the daughter of a local cobbler. He talks about his home at Manor Vaughan and his inheritance, and the fact that the house escaped unscathed during the 1920s when so many great houses were destroyed in Ireland.





NAME: PETER ACTON, BORN 1950, MANOR VAUGHAN HOUSE, CARRIGART

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 13

Subject: The Earls of Leitrim

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 69:06

Description: Peter Acton is nephew of Hedley Vickers Strutt and he manages the estate at Carrigart, where he has resided for two years. This recording is compiled during a tour of Manor Vaughan House and he explains that his mother is a sister of Hedley Strutt, both of whom were born to Hilda Clements who was born and reared at the house. She was a sister of the last Lord Leitrim. Peter discusses the family history and reveals that the property at Carrigart will be inherited by his relative Lord Rayleigh. Originally the estate extended to 52,000 acres. Portraits of the former Earls of Leitrim hang on the walls and Peter recalls their personalities and their times. Peter Acton's father was the thirteenth Baronet and Peter looks back on his life and achievements.



NAME: HELEN MEEHAN (nee Montgomery), BORN 1937, COOLUM HOUSE, MOUNTCHARLES

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 14

Subject: A passion for history

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 68:28

Description: Helen Meehan is a noted historian and author. She initially recalls her Montgomery family history and the Conyngham Estate. She discusses her education and her career as a teacher. She taught at Falcarragh for four years and later at a Loreto Convent School in Dublin. She discusses her husband's family, the Meehan line, which she can trace back to 1779 in Mountcharles. She talks about the farming life, the creamery at Inver and its beginnings. Helen has a real love of local history publications. She names some of the local placenames and provides their meaning. The families of different denominations who live and work locally and the town of Mountcharles, its people and its businesses are all discussed in this recording.



NAME: EAMONN MONAGHAN, BORN 1929,  
DRIMKEELAN, MOUNTCHARLES

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 15

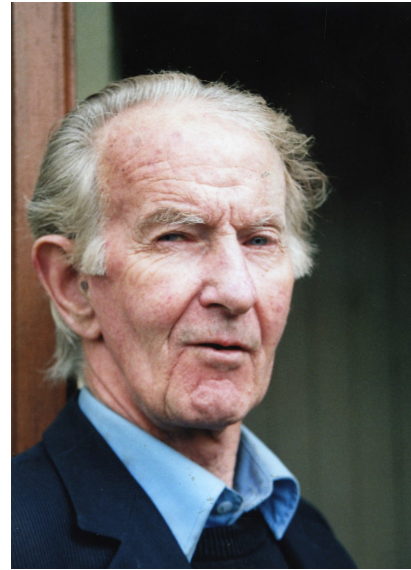
Subject: Drimkeelan sandstone

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 76:11

Description: Eamonn Monaghan explains that the valley of Drimkeelan is the only location in Ireland where sandstone is mined and, on a tour of the valley, he talks about the Cistercian monks who arrived here in the late medieval period and the tradition of mining and stonecutting which has existed here for centuries. Eamonn's father was in charge of the mine during his working life and his tools are described by Eamonn in this recording. Also described is the carting of stone to the pier at Mountcharles for onward journeying. It is a matter of local pride that Drimkeelan stone was used in the building of the National Museum in Dublin. During the tour of the valley, an old shed which was built in the 1950s and known as a "banker" is described. Stone is being cut in the valley to this day and Eamonn Monaghan introduces stonecutter Patrick Mullhern, who discusses his fine craft of working with sandstone. Also introduced is Michael Mullen, who discusses his involvement in the recent Troubles in Northern Ireland.



NAME: JOHN 'THE TAE' GALLAGHER, BORN 1923, &  
ANNIE GALLAGHER (nee Gill), BORN 1926, ARDARA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 16

Subject: A life in music

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 54:08

Description: John 'The Tae' Gallagher is known far and wide for his fine fiddle playing and in this recording he discusses the tradition of fiddle playing in his family – his father and grandfather were also fine players. In 1957, John and Annie Gill married and she discusses her own family background. John explains that he bought a fiddle in Belfast in 1948, which is a wonderful instrument and very well loved. He discusses the old tunes, the styles of playing and the other musicians with whom he played. John worked as a weaver for thirty-two years until 1975. He also spent many years playing in the local céile band which included a piper, a tin whistle player, a flute player and a drummer, and all these musicians are named in this recording. He recalls the venues in which he played – the dancehalls and country homes. John's legacy is most



valuable in that he has taught his style of playing and many rare old times to young musicians over the years.

NAME: KATIE SHOVLIN (nee Boyle), BORN 1918, SANDFIELD, ARDARA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 17

Subject: A busy life

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 53:22

Description: Katie Shovlin is the mother of ten children and, in this recording, she recalls her very busy young life. She was married to the late Hugh Shovlin. She traces back her own family – the Boyles, who lived three miles from Ardara. Her mother's people, the Roartys, came from Glenties. Katie has clear memories of the Civil War and of the appearance of three uniformed soldiers at her home. At the age of fourteen years, she was assigned to the task of looking after the farm for her grandmother at Glenties where she spent two years. She recalls working as a cook in Belfast during the Second World War and has a vivid memory of the events of 'D Day'. She married Hugh Shovlin and the couple moved into his aunt's farm at Sandfield, where she still lives and where she reared her family.



NAME: JOHN J. GATINS, BORN 1943, KILLYBEGS

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 18

Subject: Parks and wildlife

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 63:00

Description: This recording was compiled while walking along the shoreline at Ardara with Joe Gatins, who is retired from the national Parks & Wildlife Service at Glenveagh National Park. He recalls the initial stirring of interest in conservation that occurred during his early days. Following his graduation from college, he worked in forestry for seventeen years. He was assigned to Gweedore Forestry in 1965 where all the staff were Irish speaking, having previously worked in several other locations around the country. He recalls the management and work practices at Ards Gweedore. In 1978, he was appointed forester in charge of wildlife conservation and he discusses the difficulties in the early days. In 1994, he was appointed manager of Glenveagh National Park. In this recording, he provides valuable details relating to his work and the management of the National Parks and Wildlife Service.





NAME: NAN McSWEENEY (nee McNeale), BORN 1924, BEAGH, ARDARA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 19

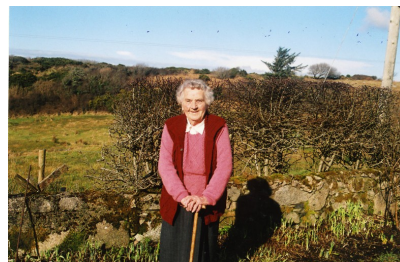
Subject: Memories of old Donegal

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 68:30

Description: Nan McSweeney grew up beside the sea at Kentucky in a thatched cottage. Her mother died while Nan was very young and she was reared by her aunt and uncle. Her granduncle would relate stories to her about the famine. She discusses the old cures and the use of seaweed and carrageen moss, the local diet, and the fact that the smoking of tobacco was used as a disinfectant. At the age of thirty-three she married Danny Sweeney and moved to Beagh. She recalls the town of Ardara at that time, the people, their occupations and businesses. She discusses the cleaning and dyeing of wool by local women in their homes, for later collection and sale to the merchants. She has a clear memory of becoming involved in local work for the Folklore Commission in 1939 to transcribe the information gathered by the local schoolchildren.



NAME: PACKIE MANUS BYRNE, BORN 1917, ARDARA

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 20

Subject: An extraordinary life

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 66:06

Description: Packie Manus Byrne lives at Drumaghey Park in Ardara. He is a native of Bruckles parish, nine miles from Ardara, and he traces a member of his family back to Corkermore in the parish of Bruckless, where his granduncle Pat Byrne, a wonderful fiddler, owned the land where an old jail once stood. The music came down through both sides of Packie's family, the Byrnes and the Gallaghers. They were tap dancers, lilters, swingers and fiddlers. He has a clear memory of events in 1922 and as a five year old, joining other lads as they tumbled stacks of turf searching for Republican guns. In 1936, he emigrated to Northamptonshire where he gained employment at the steelworks. He discusses his work there in great detail. He was determined to serve at the outbreak of war in 1939 and having failed to enlist in the British Navy due to his earlier tuberculosis, he was appointed to the British Secret Service where he worked from 1941 to 1945. While in England, he married Mary Thompson who died tragically soon afterwards. Packie's health began to deteriorate and he



spent four years in a sanatorium being treated for tuberculosis. During his convalescence, he began to sing in public and became very successful. Over the following twenty years, he toured the world in the company of Bonnie Saljen, a harp player from Armenia.

NAME: JEAN DICKIE (nee Nicholson), BORN 1927, RATHMULLAN

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 21

Subject: Lives in wartime and in times of peace

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 56:13

Description: Jean Dickie was recorded at her home in Carraleena Estate. She was born and reared in England and came to live in Ireland in 1950 with her late husband Major Michael Dickie, who was born in Cork in 1916. His father had served with the Dublin Fusiliers during the First World War. Jean recalls her husband's wartime service with the Enniskillen Fusiliers. He was wounded in action in Burma and after the war, during a trip to the Gold Coast where he was posted as a member of the Colonial Service, he met Jean and they later decided to marry. In 1950, the couple came to Donegal and stayed at Portsalon Hotel and in 1969, they moved to Rathmullan. In the intervening years, they lived in Belfast where Michael worked with the British Legion. She discusses the turbulent years at Rathmullan at that time during the Troubles and the great voluntary work undertaken by her late husband in Rathmullan and Ramelton during the subsequent years.



NAME: EVELYN CUNNINGHAM, BORN 1946, KILLYBEGS

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 22

Subject: Donegal Carpets

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 44:46

Description: This recording was compiled at the Maritime & Heritage Centre, former Donegal Carpets factory, in Killybegs. Evelyn Cunningham discusses her working life in this building which was used as a factory, set up in 1898. At one stage, thirty looms were housed here, from 3 ft. to 42 ft. wide in size. There was a long tradition of families of several generations finding employment at Donegal Carpets. Families from Crolly, Kilcar, Creeslough and Killybegs travelled to work here. Evelyn discusses her own working life. She left school at fifteen years of age and began work at the factory where other members of her





family had previously worked. The challenges at work, the changing ownership of the company, the good years and the less good, the quality of the carpets produced, the markets and locations for the finished product and the pride in the work are all discussed. Commissioned carpets and rugs for individual clients were a major part of the work at the factory. Evelyn also describes an alternative source of employment in the area where hand knitting was undertaken in people's homes for local factories.

NAME: CHARLIE McMONAGLE, BORN 1967, & BARNEY McGEEVER, BORN 1932, LETTERKENNY

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 23

Subject: Rural life in Donegal

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 52:02

Description: This recording was compiled in the townland of Scribley, at the home of Barney McGeever, in the company of Charlie McMonagle. Barney's old thatched home, now derelict, is visited and his young days growing up are recalled. Having finished his schooling, he began work in the mines in Scotland and later returned home. In 1966, he gained employment with the E.S.B., where he remained for 36 years. Charlie Mc Monagle has a passion for dry-stone wall building and he discusses a project carried out in Letterkenny for the Millennium year. This involved restoring a section of a famine wall. These two gentlemen share an appreciation for the rural lifestyle in Donegal.



NAME: DECLAN O'CARROLL, BORN 1945, LETTERKENNY

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 24

Subject: Army life

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 39:15

Description: Declan O'Carroll is a native of Bundoran. He joined the Irish Army Cadets in 1963 and served for 42 years until his retirement in 2005. The recording relates to army life and its structure. He recalls his time serving in Cyprus and his marriage on his return in 1972. He was stationed in Letterkenny and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He gives his views on the importance of the peacekeeping duties of the Irish Army within the United Nations and the perception of the force outside of Ireland. He discusses the Troubles in the North of Ireland and the Irish Army manoeuvres during that time. Declan is a



member of the Donegal Historical Society and he has a real passion for local history.

NAME: PADDY HARTE, BORN 1931, RAPHOE  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 25  
Subject: A life in politics and business  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 65:08

Description: Paddy Harte discusses his family background and provides great detail about his maternal family, the Dillons, who were butchers and the Hartes who were involved in the publican trade. Paddy ran his own butchering business in Raphoe and had an entrepreneurial spirit but on his father's death in 1956, his direction underwent an adjustment and he was elected to Donegal County Council, where his father had previously served. He recalls his introduction to political life and his subsequent election to the Dáil as a Fine Gael T.D. for Donegal. He discusses national politics during his tenure and provides his views on recent events in the North of Ireland. He discusses the origins of Fine Gael and his strong allegiance to the party.



NAME: BRIAN McDONALD, BORN 1950, GREENCASTLE  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 26  
Subject: A boat-building tradition  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 46:41

Description: Brian McDonald's family has worked at boatbuilding in the area around Greencastle for six generations. This recording was compiled at the McDonald Boatyard, where wooden boats were built up until twenty years ago. Brian's enthusiasm and expertise in the craft of boatbuilding is very evident. Part of the recording was made in the local Inishowen Maritime Museum, a section of which displays an old boat, working tools and sails presented by the McDonald family. Brian discusses his family in earlier generations and he recalls his own apprenticeship which began when he was fourteen years old. Also discussed are the early suppliers of timber, and the old McDonald boats coming back to the boatyard for repair. He gives a brief account of life in Greencastle at the end of the recording.



NAME: SEAMUS HARKIN, BORN 1935, CREESLOUGH  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 27  
Subject: A great local historian  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 75:47

Description: The Harkin family are traced back over seven generations by Seamus Harkin who was recorded at his home in Creeslough. Seamus, who is a great local historian, recalls the travelling picture shows, the local accent and traditional Irish tunes and their importance in the locality. He discusses emigration from the area and the reasons for it, and the management and husbandry on the local farms in former days. Houses, their construction and the materials used are described and the old trackways which led to clusters of cottages in remote parts of Donegal are recalled. The general belief in superstitions, the local customs and the travelling tinsmiths and displaced people are also spoken about. Seamus discusses the people who live on Horn Head and their very individual customs and traditions.



NAME: ANNIE ALCORN (nee McGinley), BORN 1934, HORN HEAD  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 28  
Subject: A close-knit community  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 60:43

Description: In the company of Seamus Harkin, Annie Alcorn was recorded at her home at Horn Head. She discusses her own family, the McGinleys, who came from the head of the peninsula. She recalls her youth, the card playing, the house dances and the fine local musicians. Her schooling and her teachers, the fishing and the farming by all the local people, the drawing of seaweed by donkey and cart for use as fertiliser are all subjects discussed. Annie also talks about the Church of Ireland religion to which she belongs and the local community in which she lives. Annie's son, Moses Alcorn, recalls the older people to whom he used to listen when he was growing up as they traced their families and told wonderful stories. The children's burial ground, the field names and their meaning, the local diet and cures, and watching the sea for weather signs were all matters discussed in this wide-ranging recording.



NAME: PÁDRAIG Ó CEALLAIGH, BORN 1934, FALCARRAGH

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 29

Subject: Political life

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 68:12

Description: Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh is steeped in the tradition of Fianna Fáil and he has wonderful recall of his family history. His grandfather and his granduncle came to Falcarragh from Termon during the Famine times. Pádraig's father, Joe, farmed at Falcarragh helped by his son in his younger days. Pádraig Ó Ceallaigh trained as a teacher and taught at Owey Island for three years from 1955 to 1957. He recalls the island people and the school curriculum. He then began his teaching career at Carrigart where he remained for twenty years. He speaks about his involvement with Údarás na Gaeltachta where he spent twenty years on the board. He also discusses his reasons for joining Independent Fianna Fáil (Blaney's party) in the early 1970s after the death of his brother.



NAME: JOHN CONNAGHAN, BORN 1950, FALCARRAGH

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 30

Subject: A sense of place

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 69:45

Description: John Connaghan is a retired schoolteacher who was recorded at his home in Falcarragh, a place about which he is passionate. He discusses anecdotally the occupations of the local businesspeople and the family members who left for Scotland in previous generations to pick potatoes seasonally. He recalls his childhood days in Falcarragh when everybody was more or less self-sufficient and people did not have to travel for provisions. He discusses his teaching career during which he taught in Dublin initially for five years, later moving to Glenswilly for three years. In 1977, he began to teach in Falcarragh, his native place.





NAME: EAMONN MacAOIDH, BORN 1922,  
FALCARRAGH (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 31

Subject: A rural educator

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 54:14

Description: Eamonn MacAoidh was recorded at his home in Míin Doire in the mountains, four miles from Falcarragh. In the first recording, Eamonn explains that his paternal grandfather Jack acquired the land when it was just bogland. Eamonn recalls his schooling locally and his childhood days. He talks about his own place, the people who lived there in former times, the local placenames, and the subsistence from smallholdings. The local fairs are also recalled. He had thirteen siblings, ten brothers and three sisters, and he has clear recollection of joining a long line of local people as they crossed the mountain down to Falcarragh to mass on Sunday mornings.



NAME: EAMONN MacAOIDH, BORN 1922,  
FALCARRAGH (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 32

Subject: A rural educator

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 32:30

Description: In the second recording, Eamonn MacAoidh recalls his career as a national teacher. His first teaching post was in Drimnagh in Dublin where he spent three years from 1943 to 1946. His wages amounted to £10 per month. He recalls a teachers' strike in Dublin during those years that lasted for seven months. In November 1946, he came to teach as principal in Magheroarty where he taught for ten years, then moving to Gortahork where he remained for twenty years until his retirement in 1987. He discusses the teaching methods and the curriculum and his strong connection to the Irish college in Falcarragh. Before the recording concludes, Eamonn relates an old Irish folktale which is fascinating and detailed and has a strong local connection.





NAME: FR. SEAN Ó GALLCHÓIR, BORN 1946, GORT AN CHOIRCE

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 33

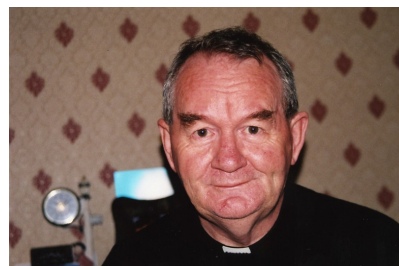
Subject: A priest and a statistician

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 25:34

Description: Fr. Sean Ó Gallchóir has been Parish Priest of Gortahork for ten years and previously served as curate in Gweedore where he grew up. In 1971, following his ordination, he spent twenty years as a teacher at the boys' boarding school at Falcarragh and he discusses the changes in education over those years. He is passionate about the GAA and about Gaelic football and has made a great contribution to the sporting historical record by his collection of the statistics of games over many years, which have been published. He has a great love of the local Irish culture and its promotion and he discusses his opinion of the importance of the church in a rural locality.



NAME: MARY JO McGEE (nee Gallagher), BORN 1939, GLASSERCHOO, GWEEDORE

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 34

Subject: Retired shopkeeper

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 66:50

Description: This recording was compiled at the home of Mary Jo McGee, which once housed the local shop. She recalls her background; she had seven sisters and five brothers, and her parents were small farmers at Meenlaragh in the parish of Gweedore. She married at the age of nineteen and decided to open a shop at her new home at Glasserchoo to facilitate the new Irish College which opened in 1953 and the islanders from Inishbofin who would come for provisions. She describes the stock she sold and the people who would shop at her premises and exchange news of interest, which would then be dispersed around the community. She also recalls and describes the local folk cures, the wake practices and the forecasting of weather conditions.



NAME: MICK McGEE, BORN 1939, MAGHEROARTY  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 35  
Subject: Island life  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 65:25

Description: Mick McGee grew up on Inishbofin and is better known as "Whitey". He was recorded initially at his home when he recalls the people leaving the island in the 1950s. He traces the family backgrounds of some of the island people; his own family, both maternal and paternal, were island people for generations. Mick describes the way of life on Inishbofin, the farming and salmon fishing, the schooling and the religious practices. In the latter part of the recording, on the pier at Magheroarty facing out towards Inishbofin, Mick discusses the tradition of music on the island and the careful planning ahead in all things to ensure that provisions were always in place in case of bad weather. The illnesses which would occasionally strike the island population were also discussed as were the island wakes and the absence of a graveyard on the island (with the exception of a burial place for unbaptised babies).



NAME: PATRICK JOSEPH BOYCE, BORN 1930, CARRIGART  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 36  
Subject: Carrigart and its people  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 57:43

Description: Patrick J. Boyce grew up in the family grocery business premises on the main street of Carrigart. He initially discusses his father's emigration to America in 1910, his voyage across the Atlantic, his time in the United States and his return to Carrigart to set up his grocery business. The history of the local landlord family, the Clements, is related on the water's edge at Carrigart, within view of Fanad. Patrick talks about the people of Fanad and their individuality and also discusses Carrigart town and its businesses, and the major advantage to the people which came about due to the good work of John Silke who in the early 1900s introduced new varieties of seed potatoes to Donegal. Also discussed was the Cranford Sports Day on 29<sup>th</sup> June each year and Patrick's great passion for golf.



NAME: JOHN A. McLAUGHLIN, BORN 1932, CARROWMENAGH

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 37

Subject: A noted local historian

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 70:22

Description: John A. McLaughlin is a noted local historian who has a great sense of place. This recording was compiled on a tour of his village as John pointed out specific thatched buildings and recalled their previous occupants who were related to him. He traces his grandfather's connections to County Clare and he explains that he was based in Downpatrick as a police Head Constable, a career path followed by John's father. John A. McLaughlin's schooldays ended in 1946 and he began work with Donegal County Council. In 1961, he was appointed assistant rates collector, a position he held for forty years. John discusses the harvesting of turf locally, nicknames used to distinguish families, stories relating to the supernatural and local fieldnames which were often taken from the cottages which once stood there or events which occurred in earlier times.



NAME: HANNAH McCONNELL (nee McConway), BORN 1913, MOVILLE

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 38

Subject: Long memories of Inishowen

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 66:56

Description: Hannah McConnell was born in 1913 and grew up in Leckemy on the Inishowen peninsula. Her mother died while Hannah was very young and she and her six brothers and three sisters were reared by her aunt. Hannah's early days were challenging as she had to work very hard and her schooling was limited. She has a wonderful recall of 1922, when her three brothers, George, Harry and Joe, joined the new Garda Síochána force. She discusses the Economic War of the 1930s in fine detail. The town of Moville in the 1920s and 1930s is described as are the dancehalls and the general entertainment and pastimes. Hannah worked in a drapery shop owned by the McLaughlins for three years followed by various other employments. She then returned home to Leckemy to care for her father and her aunt until their deaths. She later married and moved back to Moville.



NAME: PADDY FRIEL, BORN 1929, TERMON  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 39  
Subject: Saving precious records  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 60:27

Description: The Archives at Bishop's House, Letterkenny was the venue for this recording with Paddy Friel. He recalls his childhood in Termon, where his paternal blacksmithing family had lived for four generations. His great-great grandfather made pikes which were used in the 1798 Rebellion. In 1965, he began his career as an assistant to Paddy Harte T.D. and he speaks about those days. In 1973, he moved to Parnell Street where he worked as Secretary to Minister for Justice Pat Cooney. In 1977, he decided on a change of direction and moved to The Public Records Office at The Four Courts where he worked until his retirement in 1994. He remembers working initially on the records which survived after the burning of The Four Courts in 1922. He provides some fascinating details about the first detailed Census of 1851 in Ireland.



NAME: BILLY KILPATRICK, BORN 1934, & IVOR KILPATRICK, BORN 1965, RAPHOE  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 40  
Subject: Thatching  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 54:58

Description: Billy and Ivor Kilpatrick are father and son who are both renowned thatchers. Billy's background was in farming and he describes the circumstances of his initial involvement in thatching. He grows his own thatching materials of rye, flax and wheat. He discusses the methods and materials used in thatching in former days, which included rushes and sprigs in wet ground. He recalls the preservatives used such as bluestone and copper. Ivor describes their work experiences as they travel long distances around the North of Ireland. He explains the technique of the ancient craft of thatching, the harvesting and preparation of the materials and the various bodies who commission their work. The work is hard on the hands, Billy explains, and very few tools are used, as thatching is mostly done by hand. Billy also describes some of the hidden things in the thatch from long ago which they have discovered while repairs are undertaken and also the living creatures such as bats, mice and small birds.





NAME: MAY McCLINTOCK (nee Bonner), BORN 1931, GLENDOOEN, LETTERKENNY

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 41

Subject: A full and productive life

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 67:08

Description: May McClintock was recorded at her home at The Rectory at Glendooen where she began by tracing her own Bonner family from Convoy, who lived there since May's great grandfather's time. She describes her extremely strict childhood years, being reared in the Presbyterian fundamentalist code. She trained as a national school teacher and taught for some time during the 1950s in the Church of Ireland School in Kildare Street in Dublin. She later taught in Portleen and remained there until she married. When the marriage ban was rescinded twenty-eight years later she returned to teach at the school. Her late husband John McClintock was a veterinary surgeon who served in the British Navy during the Second World War. She worked as a secretary with the Irish Farmers' Association for thirty-two years and she discusses her work with the farmers in Donegal. May has a passion for local history and heritage and she joined An Taisce in 1970 in an effort to preserve our heritage. She has also been involved in local politics and is the author of several books on local history.



NAME: ARTHUR SPEARS, BORN 1924, LIFFORD

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 42

Subject: An Antiquarian

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 38:32

Description: Arthur Spears was recorded at his home in Lifford, where he explained that he is a native of Waterford, having grown up in Dungarvan. He spoke about his Spears family background, his education in U.C.C. from where he qualified as a Civil Engineer. He discusses the places he worked, including Dingle, Dun Laoghaire and Drogheda, before his arrival in Lifford to work with Donegal County Council in 1962. He describes the infrastructure, house building and water schemes in Donegal and the challenges he faced. He joined the Donegal Historical Society, and he discusses his involvement and his observations on the Donegal people. Arthur Spears has, for many years, been involved in researching and archiving information relating to local history. In the basement of his home may be seen part of the walls of the old castle, and here is housed an

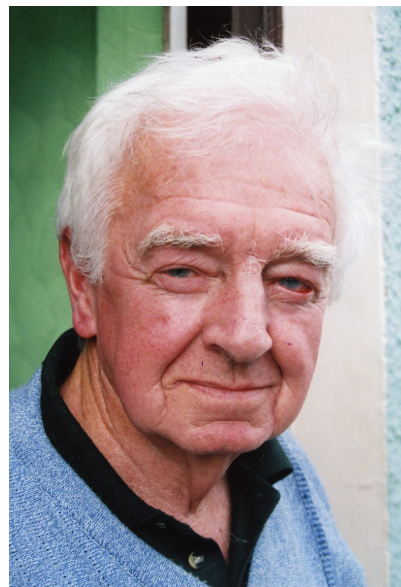




extensive library of rare books, which is discussed in the recording.

NAME: GERRY LYNOTT, BORN 1929, MOVILLE  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 43  
Subject: A shopkeeper's life  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 52:39

Description: Gerry Lynott begins this recording by tracing his family back to his great grandfather McCormack on his maternal side who was a stonemason in County Antrim. The family came to Greencastle to work and two generations later, Gerry's father came to Moville and opened a corner shop in the town. Gerry finished his schooling at the age of fourteen and began work in the shop and he describes his daily chores, the merchandise and the local townspeople who were their customers. When he was aged nineteen, the family moved from over the shop premises to live at Montgomery Terrace, where his mother ran a boarding house. Discussed in this recording with Gerry Lynott is the smuggling over the border during the Emergency period, the local GAA games in earlier days, the fishing in the area and the effects of the Troubles in the North of Ireland.



NAME: SEAMUS McHUGH, BORN 1942, GORTAHORK  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 44  
Subject: Community spirit  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 45:56

Description: Seamus McHugh is a native of Gortahork where the McHugh family have lived for several generations. He recalls his younger days when all the small farming families would migrate to Scotland where the men and women would pick potatoes and the women would also gut fish. The local people were very close-knit and supportive of one another. The old traditions of farming are examined by Seamus and he discusses the old superstitions of the people. He trained as a national school teacher and taught in Falcarragh until his retirement in 2003, having previously taught in other schools around the county.



NAME: ANNIE McCONNELL (nee Harley), BORN 1925, CHURCH HILL

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 45

Subject: A rural community

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 62:22

Description: Glendowan is the place where Annie McConnell was born and reared on a small farm with her nine siblings. She traces her maternal and paternal families, both of which were from the parish and native Irish speakers. Annie's schooldays in challenging times are recorded. Most of her siblings emigrated for financial reasons as did many of the local people at that time. She discusses the surnames common in the parish during her childhood and the personalities there. She completed her training as a nurse in London and later married the late Packie McConnell who was a native of her home parish. In this recording, Annie discusses the old local customs, the carding of wool, basket making, cures, superstition and the belief in the supernatural. She worked as a collector of local folklore for the Folklore Commission's schools scheme in the late 1930s. She explains that in the 1940s her sister-in-law passed away and Annie and her husband reared her nine nieces and nephews along with their own two children.



NAME: MICHAEL McLOONE, BORN 1945, BALLYSHANNON

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Collection CD 46

Subject: Leadership

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 54:52

Description: Michael McLoone is Donegal County Manager since 1994. He was recorded at his office in Lifford, where he discusses his family background, his keen interest and involvement in the GAA during his earlier life. He explains that involvement in sport was hugely beneficial to him in terms of stamina and discipline in his professional career. He discusses his return to education in the 1970s and his graduation in Administrative Science, which opened the doors to the newly-formed Health Boards. He was appointed Programme Manager, Community Care Services with the Western Health Board where he served for seven years and Personnel Officer with the Midland Health Board for three years. He discusses the challenges he encountered as Chief Executive of Beaumont Hospital where he worked for six years until his life-changing



decision to change from the public to the private sector. He was appointed Donegal County Manager in 1994. He discusses some of the major decisions which had to be made as County Manager and particularly the setting up of the Donegal Employment Initiative Taskforce during 1998-1989 which prepared a seven-year Development Strategy to offset job losses in the manufacturing sector.

NAME: MICHAEL KILKENNY, BORN 1918, DUBLIN (Part 1)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 47

Subject: A ministerial driver

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 72:49

Description: Michael Kilkenny was born and reared in County Leitrim and as soon as his education was completed he joined the Garda Síochána. From 1939 to 1947, he served in Dún Laoghaire and in Lauragh in County Kerry. In 1947, he was appointed to Rathfarnham in Dublin and he began his career in 1949 as a Garda driver for Dan Morrissey T.D., Minister for Industry and Commerce. Following the subsequent change of government, he was appointed to drive Ministers Dan Spring, Frank Aiken and Frank Ryan. He gives a great account of his time with all these politicians. In 1952, he was appointed as driver to Seán Lemass and in 1953, as driver to Taoiseach John A. Costello. Michael discusses his experiences during his working life and the life of a politician and its demands.



NAME: MICHAEL KILKENNY, BORN 1918, DUBLIN (Part 2)

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 48

Subject: A ministerial driver

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 39:08

Description: In the second recording, Michael recalls his time as a driver for Dan Morrissey T.D. While he himself was not driving Charles Haughey, he was very well informed by other drivers of Mr. Haughey's less than mannerly treatment of them. Michael explains the logistics and system involved in driving the government ministers and relates that Paddy O'Neill was his superior during most of his career as a driver. He describes humorously the occasions when Minister Erskine Childers would decide to take the wheel himself much to the consternation of the appointed driver. Michael served as the very first driver to



the newly-appointed Minister Jack Lynch. He retired in 1981.

NAME: RAYMOND SWEENEY, BORN 1940, CASTLEGROVE, LETTERKENNY  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 49  
Subject: A ministerial driver  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 39:08

Description: Raymond Sweeney was born into a family of eleven children, three of whom died at a very early stage in their lives. His father served as a garda in Glenties and Raymond followed in his footsteps. He was stationed in Monaghan, Finglas in Dublin and in Sligo. In 1965, he was appointed to the Transport Division where he served for thirty-two years. His work involved ministerial driving and, in this recording, he recalls his first permanent position driving Cormac Breslin, Ceann Comhairle, with whom he worked for six years. He later drove for Parliamentary Secretary and Labour T.D., Frank Cluskey, for ten years. He drove Ministers George Colley, Ray McSharry, Paddy Harte and other high-ranking politicians. Raymond has many interesting anecdotes to relate about his working life.



NAME: MARTYN WORRALL, BORN 1953, DEVON, ENGLAND  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 50  
Subject: The Lirelle factory  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 27:39

Description: Letterkenny was the setting for this recording with Martyn Worrall whose father Kenneth Worrall set up the Lirelle (polyester/cotton) facility in Letterkenny following an invitation from the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) in the late 1960s. The family moved to live in Inisfree House at Rathmullan in 1969 from Derbyshire in England where they had run a factory in the Courtaulds Group. The facility was built in Letterkenny on a greenfield site which had been owned by the Kelly family. Martyn has very fond memories of growing up in Rathmullan and he describes the successful running of the factory and the fact that industrial problems never arose. Martyn's mother, Dorothy is also recorded as she explains that she still keeps in touch with some of the staff at the factory. She recalls their beautiful home at Rathmullan and their good lives there. In the late 1970s, the factory was taken over by an American company, Unifi, and it ultimately closed its doors in 2005.





NAME: EDWARD McDAID, BORN 1949, RAMELTON  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 51  
Subject: A family business  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 45:11

Description: Three generations of the McDaid family have been involved in James McDaid & Sons Ltd. Soft Drinks' Company in Ramelton. Edward McDaid's grandfather, Jimmy, was the entrepreneur who started the business having previously owned a grocery shop. His son James, father of Edward McDaid, was responsible for the purchase of Mitchell's Spirit Wholesalers in Ramelton. Edward discusses the great success of the 'Football Special' soft drink. He explains how the drink was initially produced, the ingredients and their combination. The importance of the clean spring water to their product is explained as is the effect of the McDaid Soft Drinks' Company on the local community in terms of employment. Edward McDaid discusses his earlier career as an investment banker, based in Dublin, and his decision to return to Donegal on the death of his father to take over the running of the family business.



NAME: LYNN TEMPLE, BORN 1951, SALTHILL HOUSE, MOUNTCHARLES  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 52  
Subject: 'Magee's of Donegal' Tweed  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 44:14

Description: Lynn Temple was recorded at Magee's Donegal Tweed premises in Donegal Town. Lynn is CEO of the company and he initially discusses the origins of the company and his grandfather's purchase of the business from the Magee family in the early 1900s. In 1931, Lynn's father, Howard, began his working life in the business. He was a very far-sighted individual who developed the merchandising side and was very successful. During the 1960s, the company began to become even more successful as contracts from government, such as Aer Lingus staff uniforms, came on stream. In the mid-1970s, Lynn began his career at Magee's and he discusses his career with the company, the number of people employed at its peak, the extraordinary changes which have come about in recent years with the shifting of the manufacturing side of the business to low-cost countries. At the end of the recording, Lynn Temple discusses his hopes for the future of this fine company.



NAME: JIMMY CARR, BORN 1926, STRABOY  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 53  
Subject: A timeless place  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 65:25

Description: Jimmy Carr was recorded at his ancestral home in Straboy – an old farmhouse which was thatched until very recent years. He recalls his youth in the Hungry Thirties and his departure to Scotland from Killybegs in 1949. He remained there for twelve years and he arrived without a word of English. Initially, he worked on the tunnels and, later on, in an oil refinery working twelve hours a day, seven days a week. On his return to Donegal, he took over the family farm following the death of his father. He recalls the travelling shop that consisted of a horse and cart loaded with provisions, the poaching in the river, the local wildlife, the folk cures, and he related some fine stories about the supernatural.



NAME: TOMMY O'GARA, BORN 1932 & MARGARET O'GARA, KILTYFANNET  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 54  
Subject: Life on a remote sheep farm  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 66:51

Description: Tommy O'Gara's grandfather arrived in Kiltyfannet in the 1880s. In this recording, Tommy traces his family history and explains that his grandparents and his uncles and aunts all came originally from Ardara area. Tommy lives with his wife, Margaret, high up in the hills, three miles from Glencolmcille. They are sheep-farmers in a very remote area. He discusses the animal husbandry on the farm, sheep-rearing and wool and its sale, and the carding and spinning of the wool for the Magee Tweed Factory. He discusses the importance of the Irish language, the remoteness of rural life in former days, the general health of the people in those times, transport and communication. Margaret O'Gara discusses the huge cultural shock she felt on her arrival in England in her youth, Ardara during her younger days and she also discusses the importance of religion to her and her husband Tommy.



NAME: PATRICK 'PACKIE' BOYLE, BORN 1935, DERRIES

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 55

Subject: Working on the bog

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 53:44

Description: Packie Boyle spent most of his working life employed by Bord na Móna at Tullyard, half a mile from his home. He began work there in 1950 and he describes the drainage work on the bog which was all spade work, the footing of the turf and the wagon that would collect the local men and bring them to the bog. He later progressed to driving machinery. He recalls the workforce; there were approximately sixty full-time employees but, at harvest time, up to 600 local people would be employed temporarily. He describes a normal work day, the wages paid and the management by name. When Bord na Móna withdrew in 1988, a local co-operative was formed that included Packie Boyle. He recalls the other co-op members and the great success achieved over the following years. Margaret Boyle, Packie's wife, recalls her own family, the Kennedys from Ardara who owned a farm in the area.



NAME: PADDY O'DONNELL, BORN 1933 & TERESA O'DONNELL, BORN 1940, DERRIES

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 56

Subject: Productive lives

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 46:34

Description: Paddy and Teresa O'Donnell were recorded at their home in Derries. Paddy grew up on a farm at Drimalough, five miles away. He discusses sheep farming and the general way of life in his young days there. Teresa O'Donnell discusses her own family, the Boyles, and she explains that the home in which she and Paddy live is the original Boyle family home where her grandmother was born. She recalls her mother, Mary Agnes Boyle, who was a renowned dressmaker and who passed the skill on to her daughters. Teresa's father died when she was two-and-a-half years old so her mother had to work very hard to make ends meet and to rear Teresa and her sister.



Paddy remembers joining Bord na Móna where he worked for 29 years and he later worked with the Turf Co-op for twelve years. He has many anecdotes about the facility and the workers there. Thirty-three years ago, Paddy and



Teresa became involved with the Tourist Board and they opened a guesthouse which they still run. Teresa discusses the type of person who would arrive seeking accommodation in the early days.

NAME: TOM DOHERTY, BORN 1916, CROLLY  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 57  
Subject: A hard-working life  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 68:22

Description: Tom Doherty was recorded as he relaxed on an outdoor bench in the village of Croll. He explains that the place was originally called Jackstown and reveals the reasons why this came about. Tom is a native of Gweedore and was born into a family of thirteen children, four of whom died at birth. His father died when Tom was seven in 1923 due to ill health arising from his activities during the War of Independence and his mother, Brigid Coyle, was left to care for her large, young family. When Tom was very young, he left his home and went on hire to a farmer for his keep and £3 every six months. He worked for eight years with one farmer and fifteen years with another. During the 1930s, he and three other local men went to Glasgow and worked on the buildings. Tom worked his way up to foreman and he remained in Scotland until 1980. He discusses the work there, the strong Donegal community working in Scotland and his eventual return to Croll where he had built a home.



NAME: FRANK McCARRON, BORN 1920, RAPHOE  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 58  
Subject: An engineer, inventor and musician  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 66:11

Description: Frank McCarron was recorded at his home at Lifford Road, Raphoe, built in the 1960s on land which had once belonged to the bishops. He provides great detail on his family ancestry over many generations and explains that, when his education was completed, he joined the RAF (aeronautical engineering) in 1942. He was stationed in North Africa for the duration of the Second World War. When he was demobbed, he worked for Donegal County Council for three years as an inspector of water supplies. He discusses his innovations in many different areas and his huge interest in electronics and later in computers. During the 1950s, he became involved in the installation of projecting equipment in cinemas around Donegal. He also





taught classical music at his home. He was awarded a medal from Pope Benedict for his long services to sacred music and Gregorian chant.

NAME: JOE GALLAGHER, BORN 1927, LETTERKENNY  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 59  
Subject: A businessman  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 56:10



Description: Joe Gallagher runs a general merchant's shop at Main Street, Letterkenny which was established in 1964. He is a native of Church Hill and comes from a farming background. He recalls the early years, following his education, when he took up residence at 32 Main Street, Letterkenny, a building which had housed the Telephone Exchange since the 1920s. He worked initially for the Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society for sixteen years and was employed in the retail department. In 1964, he decided to open his own business across the street where he retained many of his original customers. He recalls market day in Letterkenny, the lint market and the characters in the town. In 2009, he celebrated his forty-five years in his ever-changing business at 15 Lower Main Street, Letterkenny.

NAME: LIAM Ó CUINNEAGÁIN, BORN 1953, GLENCOLMCILLE  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 60  
Subject: Oideas Gael  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 43:24



Description: Liam Ó Cuinneagáin is native of Glencolmcille where his family is deeply rooted. He was recorded at Oideas Gael which he was instrumental in setting up and which celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary recently. Liam describes the structure of the community – its strength due to its music traditions, the GAA and religious traditions along with the strategic placing of dwellings. He discusses his education in Letterkenny, his training as a primary teacher at St. Patrick's College in Dublin and his first post in inner-city Dublin, from 1971 to 1982. He discusses his partnership with Joseph Watson from Belfast in establishing Oideas Gael in Glencolmcille in the mid-1980s and the great partnership both men enjoy in running the college.

NAME: PADDY DONAGHER, BORN 1942, BALLYSHANNON

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 61

Subject: Memories of Ballyshannon

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 50:47

Description: Paddy Donagher runs a general merchant business in Ballyshannon where he was recorded. He grew up in the town and both his parents came from the general area, where their families have lived for generations. His parents came to Ballyshannon in 1930 where they set up a bar/grocery business. He recalls his childhood during the Emergency period and has clear recollections of the smuggling during the 1940s and 1950s. He discusses the great rivalry that existed between the two parishes in Ballyshannon and the entertainments, theatre and cinema. Paddy left for England in the late 1950s to work for McAlpine's, digging trenches in London. In 1963, he decided to change direction and he was employed by a publishing company in New York and later by United Airlines. Paddy married a lady from Belmullet and returned to his native town in 1986.



NAME: BRIAN McENIFF, BORN 1942, BUNDORAN

Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 62

Subject: A footballer and hotelier

Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe

Date: 2010

Time: 75:05

Description: The Holyrood Hotel in Bundoran, owned by the McEniff family, was the venue for this recording with Brian McEniff. Brian's father was a native of Monaghan and his mother was a member of the Begley family of County Tyrone. The couple came to Bundoran to set up a café and grocery business in earlier days and Brian and his siblings grew up in the business premises. Brian attended Cathal Brugha College of Catering before emigrating to Canada where he worked at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto while, simultaneously, working for an insurance company. In 1966, he returned to Bundoran where his parents had purchased the Holyrood Hotel and two years later, following the death of his father, Brian took over the business. He played Gaelic football with the Bundoran Club which then amalgamated with St. Joseph's, Ballyshannon and went on to achieve great success. He discusses his long football career, both as a player and as a trainer. In the latter part of the recording Brian discusses the history of his native town and the factors that create the



vibrant community that live and work there.

NAME: PAT McENIFF, BORN 1939, BALLYSHANNON  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 63  
Subject: Bundoran in the 1950s and 1960s  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 51:59

Description: Pat McEniff and Brian McEniff, who was previously recorded, are brothers who grew up in Bundoran. Pat was recorded at the hotel at the Golf Links on the outskirts of town. Pat recalls great memories of wonderful music of all media in Bundoran during the 1950s and 1960s and he discusses the purchase, by his parents, of the Holyrood Hotel in 1951. The hotel enjoyed great success during the following years when people such as Phil Coulter and Paul Brady would play to a large and enthusiastic audience. Pat discusses the smuggling over the border and the tourism business in the town in former days and his family's political involvement. Pat qualified in dentistry at U.C.D. in the 1960s and opened a practice in Belfast, later opening practices in Belleek and Enniskillen, while making his family home in Ballyshannon.



NAME: REV. JOHN SILKE, BORN 1926, LETTERKENNY  
Title: Irish Life and Lore Donegal Heritage Collection CD 64  
Subject: An archivist  
Recorded by: Maurice O'Keeffe  
Date: 2010  
Time: 47:29

Description: Rev. John Silke was recorded at the Archives Building at Bishop's House, Letterkenny where he is Archivist. He begins by chronicling his father's life and then his own young days, his vocation and his education at UCD, where he studied for a B.A. in History. Much of the Donegal historical material was housed at the Armagh Archives and he was instrumental in having the unopened boxes of material returned to Letterkenny. Rev. John Silke's assistant, Máire Hughes has been involved over the years in archiving this material. Rev. Silke returns in memory to his childhood in Creeslough where he was reared with his three brothers and two sisters. He discusses the Congested Districts Board Act and its repercussions, the Leitrim landowners and their time and his own brief teaching career in the United States.

