

A Seed is Sown 1884-1900

(1) Before the GAA

From the earliest times, the people of Ireland, as of other countries throughout the known world, played ball games'. Games played with a ball and stick can be traced back to pre-Christian times in Greece, Egypt and other countries. In Irish legend, there is a reference to a hurling game as early as the second century B.C., while the Brehon laws of the pre-Christian era contained a number of provisions relating to hurling. In the Tales of the Red Branch, which cover the period around the time of the birth of Christ, one of the best-known stories is that of the young Setanta, who on his way from his home in Cooley in County Louth to the palace of his uncle, King Conor Mac Nessa, at Eamhain Macha in Armagh, practised with a bronze hurley and a silver ball. On arrival at the palace, he joined the one hundred and fifty boys of noble blood who were being trained there and outhurled them all single-handed. He got his name, Cuchulainn, when he killed the great hound of Culann, which guarded the palace, by driving his hurling ball through the hound's open mouth.

From the time of Cuchulainn right up to the end of the eighteenth century hurling flourished throughout the country in spite of attempts made through the Statutes of Kilkenny (1367), the Statute of Galway (1527) and the Sunday Observance Act (1695) to suppress it. Particularly in Munster and some counties of Leinster, it remained strong in the first half of the nineteenth century. It went into decline in some areas after the failure of the 1798 Rising and the passing of the Act of Union, and it was dealt a most serious blow by the Great Famine of the 1840's and the emigration which followed it, which, in the words of one writer, "wiped out the hurlers themselves and the very traditions of the game in many a parish where formerly it had flourished".

While football is not nearly as ancient as hurling, nevertheless it is likely that the game in one form or another was played in Ireland since the Middle Ages, and there are many unmistakable references to it since the late 1600's. Monaghan, Armagh and Louth are among the northern counties from which accounts of football matches in the early 1800's have survived. However, the Famine had a devastating effect on every aspect of Irish life, and, as had happened in the case of hurling, all other games played by the Irish suffered serious reverses. The Home Rule MP, A.M. Sullivan, recalling in the late 1870's its impact on the lives of the ordinary people, wrote: "Their ancient sports and pastimes everywhere disappeared and in many parts. . . have never returned. The outdoor games, the hurling match. . . are seen no more".

The Famine was not the only cause, however, of the decline of Gaelic games in the last century. In his history of the GAA, deBurca refers to the fact that these games "were either directly discouraged or openly prohibited by government officials such as policemen and magistrates, as well as by some of the Catholic clergy and many landlords", the reasons varying from "fear of violence and insobriety to suspicion of games being used as cover for meetings of various nationalist bodies". The same writer refers to the fact that in many places cricket began to rival native games in popularity and that nearly every town had its cricket club which was patronised by government officials, bank clerks, policemen, and usually supported by the local garrison. Even in some rural areas traditionally associated with hurling cricket had begun to gain support in the late 1870's, and this was one of the factors which appalled Michael Cusack and fired his determination to secure the preservation of the native games and pastimes.

(2) Tyrone before the GAA

Evidence concerning the existence of the native games in Tyrone before the foundation of the GAA is, unfortunately, extremely limited. Even an Brathair Ó Caithnia's monumental work, "Sceal na hIomana", which traces the history of hurling from the earliest times until 1884 and which is the result of painstaking research into a vast number of recorded sources of information, contains only a few references to the playing of the game in Tyrone. These refer to a survey of the parish of Ardstraw (in the Castlederg area) written by Rev. Gerald Fitzgerald and published in W.S. Mason's "Statistical Account of Ireland" (1816). Fr. Fitzgerald wrote: "The only public sport they had in Ardstraw in 1814 was playing at common, as it is called, but from the time a company of the yeomen was formed, it was seldom practised". He added that "the game of common is played with a little wooden ball, which they strike with sticks that are bent at the head". According to deBurca, camanacht (or "communuing" in English), played in the northern half of Ireland in winter-time with a slender stick and a hard ball, was a form of ground hurling in which the ball was not lifted into the hand.' The existence of "common" in this part of Tyrone in 1814 is remarkable, in that Ardstraw was one of only a dozen parishes in Ulster where, according to the survey, hurling was being played. Twenty-five years later, when another survey was carried out, no reference to the game there is found.

Despite the absence of written records, there can be little doubt that "common" was a popular game in Tyrone at least during some parts of the 1800's, for it was often referred to by many people who were born around the end of the century and whose parents would have remembered its being played in their youth. Ó Caithnia refers to one old man living in the Gortin area, who in 1950 recalled the tradition of playing "common" in the Greencastle and Carrickmore areas in bygone days. The same man had also heard tales of the game being played on frozen lakes. Another man from Trillick spoke of the making of hurling balls with the centre made from cork which, he said, was bought in Enniskillen.' It is likely however that this last account refers to a later period, possibly the beginning of the present century. In 1949, when an attempt was made by the Coalisland Fianna club on the occasion of the opening of the Cardinal MacRory Memorial Park to collect material relating to clubs in East Tyrone, the following account was written in connection with the Derrylaughan club:

"As far back as 100 years ago (the period after the Famine), we find the young men and boys of the district playing a game similar to present-day hurling in the meadows along the Blackwater (a river which bounded the townland of Derrylaughan on one side), which were then common property. All other details of the sport are lost in antiquity except for the oral records of its existence, spoken round the turf fires on winter nights by the old men who had boyhood recollections of having seen it played, and the tales told of it by the older people who have passed within living memory".

A man from this area of East Tyrone who died in 1941 recalled games of "Caman" which were played in the townland of Dirnagh in the 1880's. The game consisted mainly of ground striking, and the hurleys used were generally made from the sally bush or a whin root, which was pared down and which was virtually unbreakable.' He recalled in particular two games played between a team from Washingbay and another team consisting of players from Clonoe and Coalisland. One game was played at Washingbay, and the Lough Shore men walked to Dirnagh (the area between Clonoe chapel and Annaghmore crossroads) for the return game. Both games were followed by an evening of dancing and entertainment in the local hall. An old man from Cookstown, who was born in 1867, recalled before his death in 1946 memories of the game of Caman being played in his native area when he was a boy in the 1870's, and he remembered branches being cut from bushes in order to provide sticks for the game.' Evidence about the playing of Caman in the Carrickmore area in the period 1850-

1900 is provided in "The Carrickmore Tradition". One story recounted there concerns a man who in 1896 suffered recurring pains from an injury inflicted with a Caman when he was a young man (around 1850). Another story tells of a large scar which a man who was born in 1847 carried on his shin as a result of a "clout from a Caman". Other sources tell of crowds present at caman matches in the 1880's and 1890's, while one old man who died at the end of 1983 at the age of ninety-three recalled being present at caman matches when he was only five years old (1895). A report in the "Derry People" of 30th September, 1905, of the annual convention of the St. Patrick's club, Waterside, which was established in the autumn of 1884 and which was the oldest club in Derry, recalled that the team's first match "was played in Lifford holm against a Strabane team," presumably immediately after the date of the club's formation.

Further evidence of the existence of the game in parts of Tyrone towards the end of the last century - and almost certainly for a considerable period before then - is found in the "Derry People" of 28th March, 1903, which refers to the setting up of a hurling club in Strabane as follows: "The members of the local (Strabane) caman club, who had not allowed the old and popular game to die away, have been compelled to take up another game - similar in nearly all respects to Caman - namely hurley. This step has been taken, not because they were growing tired of the old game, but because they were unable to get any matches". Many other sources, while unable to give precise details, bear witness to the existence of Caman in different parts of the county up to the end of the last century.

(3) Foundation and Development of the GAA

On 1st November, 1884, "The Gaelic Athletic Association for the Preservation and Cultivation of National Pastimes", ever since known as the Gaelic Athletic Association, was founded in Thurles. Commenting on the far-reaching effects of the decision taken by a small group of men on that day, Padraig Puirseal in "The GAA in Its Time" wrote: "It was to become the most popular and powerful athletic body in Ireland with an influence on the entire trend and pattern of Irish life. From its inception it consistently strove to mould the national outlook to its own ideals, to re-awaken a legitimate pride of race and to further the resurgence of the national spirit". Within a few years, the GAA had, in the words of Michael Cusack, "swept the country like a prairie fire". Clubs were formed all over the country, especially in Munster, adjoining areas of Leinster, the Midlands and the Dublin region, while some areas of the North, including Derry city and Cavan county, Monaghan and Belfast were in the vanguard of the GAA. In the years 1885 and 1886, there was a remarkable revival of athletics, hurling and football, and Cusack was able to write in 1899 that "in less than two years, Ireland south of a line from Dundalk to Sligo was overwhelmingly Gaelic". The effect of the spread of the Association is well summed up by deBurca when he writes: "In rural Ireland the founding of the GAA caused something approaching a social revolution. Many sports meetings were held in places that had not seen such contests for half a century; they drew crowds of sizes that had not been seen since O'Connell's repeal meetings of the 1840's. In conjunction with many of these meetings, hurling and (to a lesser extent initially) football games were organised, mostly in places where one or both games had survived the Famine. As a result hurling was saved from almost certain extinction. Its position where it was still played was greatly strengthened and often a revival of the game in adjoining areas occurred".

The development of the Association in the years up to 1890 was truly phenomenal, particularly in Munster and Leinster, and to a lesser extent in Connacht. By 1887, over six hundred clubs were in existence (over five hundred of these in Munster and Leinster); by mid-1890, the figure was almost nine hundred of which nearly six hundred were in Munster and Leinster and a further two hundred in Connacht. With the backing of Archbishop Croke of Cashel, Charles Stewart Parnell, the Home Rule leader, and Michael Davitt, the founder of

the Land League, the support of nationalist Ireland seemed assured from the start. In 1885-87, successful sports meetings were held in many parts of the country, and in 1887 an event of great significance took place when the inter-county championship competitions in hurling and football were held for the first time.

The successes of the early years were soon followed by a series of events which almost led to the total extinction of the Association. By January 1889, control had passed into the hands of the IRB, and the clergy who up to now had been among the most enthusiastic supporters and members of the GAA withdrew in large numbers. Several bishops throughout the country, among them the Archbishop of Armagh and the Bishops of Clogher and Dromore, publicly denounced the work of the Association in the early months of 1889. This withdrawal of support on the part of such an influential body of opinion in Ireland dealt the Association a very serious blow. It was to be followed in 1891 by an even more damaging event when the Parnell divorce scandal split the Home Rule movement and the country into two bitterly opposing factions. The GAA cause suffered greatly from its support of Parnell, and the years following his death in 1891 saw a great decline in the fortunes of the Association. Many members and clubs withdrew from it, many competitions ceased, and in some counties the GAA went out of existence completely.

It was not until the end of the decade and the early years of the 1900's that the revival of the Association began to get under way. In September, 1901, two young and energetic officials were appointed to the posts of president and secretary. Jim Nowlan of Kilkenny, the new president, was to retain the post for twenty years, while Luke O'Toole from Wicklow was to remain secretary for almost thirty years. The year 1900 witnessed the end of the split in the Irish Parliamentary Party which had bedevilled the political situation in the last decade of the 19th century and which had seriously affected the strength of the GAA. In addition the Association in the first few years of the 1900's received a welcome and in some places a badly-needed infusion of new members from the ranks of the Gaelic League. Many of these were teachers, clerks, local officials and civil servants, who because of their educational attainments had been attracted in the later 1890's into Irish language and allied cultural activities associated with the Gaelic League. Many of these men, particularly the teachers, were to play a decisive role at local and national level in revitalising the GAA in the early years of the century.

In its earliest years, the GAA was predominately a southern organisation, and its development in the northern half of the country was not nearly as rapid as elsewhere. From the very beginning, however, it had important Northern connections. Michael Cusack, rightly regarded as its principal founder, had been a teacher of English and Mathematics in St. Colman's College, Newry, from 1871 to 1874. The man who seconded the motion at Thurles in 1884 to found the Association and who (with Cusack and John Wyse-Power) became one of its first three Honorary Secretaries was a Belfast man, William McKay, who at that time was on the editorial staff of the "Cork Examiner". Among the first letters of support received by Cusack from persons unable to travel to Thurles was one from a "Mr. McLaughlin, Derry".

The progress of the Association throughout the country including Ulster can be traced through the pages of "Sport", a weekly subsidiary of the "Freeman's Journal", which provided regular coverage of its activities. Another vital, though perhaps unexpected, source of information for the early years is the records of the Royal Irish Constabulary. From a very early stage Dublin Castle kept a watchful eye on the development of an organisation which it viewed with considerable suspicion. Particularly after the Convention of November, 1887, when the IRB gained control of the Association for a brief period, the Castle took an intense interest in its activities and each local RIC unit compiled regular lists of GAA clubs and officers, which were then passed on to Dublin. It is ironical that the interest which the RIC

took in the Association has provided one of the most valuable and accurate sources of information regarding its strength in each county in the early years of its existence. Despite the absence therefore in most counties of Ulster (Cavan excepted) of local newspapers which might be expected to have been sympathetic and to give coverage to the games of the GAA, it is possible to arrive at a reasonably comprehensive picture of its growth and development.

The Association appears to have spread from Louth into Cavan, and by 1886 the "First Ulsters", so-called because of the club's claim to be the first in the province, were founded in Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan." Within the space of two years, there were almost forty clubs in the county, and the first Cavan football championship was played in April, 1888. A branch of the Association was already in existence in Waterside, Derry, at the end of 1884 and steps were being taken to revive hurling in Belfast in the following year. Early in 1887, Newtownbutler First Fermanagh's were founded by a teacher named McGuire from Ballyconnell, and a number of other clubs soon followed in the southern part of the county - in Roslea, Lisnaskea, Derrylin and Kinawley. In Armagh, clubs were established in Armagh city, Dromintee and Crossmaglen in 1887, while in Monaghan, a club had been formed in Carrickmacross by October of that year and it seems certain that other clubs had been established in the county even before that date.

According to police records and "Sport", there were at some time in 1888 at least thirty-eight clubs in Cavan, thirty-two in Monaghan, seventeen in Armagh, fifteen in Fermanagh, seven in Derry, six in Down, four in Donegal, three in Antrim, and one in Tyrone. County Conventions were held in Cavan and Monaghan in December, 1887, and delegates from both counties attended the famous Reconstruction Convention in Thurles in January, 1888. Conventions were held in Derry and Fermanagh towards the end of 1888, and a Convention was held in Armagh in March 1889. There was considerable GAA activity in Belfast and County Antrim in 1888; in Derry, at least seven teams participated in hurling competitions, while in Donegal at least four teams were playing hurling during this year.

The decline which began to affect the GAA throughout the country in 1889 and 1890 was evident also in Ulster where the number of clubs showed a marked decrease. During the years 1892-1900, not a single Ulster delegate attended the annual Congress, and the police records for the year 1893 contain no reference whatsoever to the GAA in Ulster. In 1896, only ten of the thirty-two counties in Ireland were affiliated (with nineteen registered clubs); of these, two clubs were registered from Cavan, two from Armagh and one from Monaghan. In 1898, the year of the centenary commemoration of the 1798 Rising, when there was an upsurge of nationalist sentiment in many parts of the country, and when an improvement in the fortunes of the GAA might have been expected, only two new clubs were formed in Ulster - both hurling clubs in Belfast. At the inaugural meeting of one of these - the Red Hand Hurling club - a resolution was passed calling on the "old Ulster Gaels of Cavan, Armagh, Tyrone, Derry, Down and Antrim to sink their political differences and unite once more in friendship, in this memorable year of 1898, under the old Gaelic banner and revive a truly national spirit again". The resolution fell on deaf ears, however, and it was not until almost five years later that the GAA was re-established in the Ulster counties and that a Provincial Council was set up.

In addition to "Sport" and the RIC files, an important source of information for this period is T.F. O'Sullivan's "Story of the GAA", which was published in Dublin in 1916. O'Sullivan was a former president of the Munster Council and a vice-president of the GAA, and his account of the activities of the Association on a yearly basis provides a valuable contribution to the history of the period. It is clear from his account that the extent of the development of the GAA in Ulster, and particularly in Tyrone, was limited. Although Tyrone were listed to play against Fermanagh in the 1889 Ulster football and hurling championships, it is significant that draws were listed for all thirty-two counties, so this in

itself is no indication that the GAA was active in any given county at this time. Indeed, O'Sullivan adds: "the entries for the 1889 championships were not very representative, as a number of counties refused to recognise the Central Council and confined themselves to their own championships". He reports the holding of a County Convention in Armagh in March, 1889, and says that there were branches in Monaghan, Derry, Antrim and Down, but makes no reference whatsoever to Tyrone in that year." For the year 1890, he includes Tyrone among six Ulster counties which paid affiliation fees. It is significant that the amount paid by Tyrone was ten shillings - the fee due for one club only.

O'Sullivan's account of the years 1891-1900 reinforces the information available from other sources on this sad decade of decline. By 1896, when a very brief and very limited revival took place in Ulster, there were, according to O'Sullivan, only two clubs in Armagh, one in Monaghan and one in Cavan, and in the following year this number was reduced to a total of two clubs, both of them in Cavan. In 1896, when it was decided to have eight vice-presidents of the Association - three from Munster, three from Leinster, one from Connacht and one from Ulster - a decision had to be taken "to leave the Ulster post vacant until a County Committee was formed in the province". The lack of progress of the GAA in the North is further confirmed by the fact that, when Provincial Councils were set up, Ulster was the last of the four provinces to organise. Councils were set up in Munster and Leinster in 1900, and in Connacht in 1902. It was not until March 1903 that the Ulster provincial Council of the GAA was established.

(5) The GAA in Tyrone

The influence of the GAA appears to have been less marked in Tyrone than in any of the other Ulster counties. The development of the Association was largely confined to the southern part of the province (Cavan, Monaghan, South Fermanagh, South Down and South Armagh) together with Belfast and Derry cities and the part of Donegal near Derry city. Most other parts of Ulster did not come into contact with the GAA for almost twenty years after its foundation and the Association made no real inroads into these areas until the early 1900's. It is in this context that the statistic of one club in Tyrone in 1888 must be viewed.

The proposed formation of a club in Stewartstown was referred to in an article in "Sport" in 1887 when it was reported that clubs were already in existence in Armagh city and Dromintee. In the following year, 1888, one police report states that there were no clubs in Tyrone, while another report from the same source puts the number at one. In 1889, according to "Sport" (1 1. 5.89), a team from Cookstown, the Owen Roe O'Neills, played home and away games against Armagh Harps; one of these games was played on St. Patrick's Day, 1889. The following year, there is a reference in police records to the presence of three teams in Tyrone, but no indication is given of their identity, and --they must have lasted for not more than a few months at most. In this same year, however, "Sport" reports that three Ulster teams took part in the provincial football championship - Armagh, Antrim and Tyrone. Armagh defeated Antrim in the semi-final at Blaris, Lisburn, and then in the final, also at Lisburn, on 12th October, 1890 they defeated Cookstown Owen Roe O'Neills by 2-8 to 1-2. In January 1891, police sources record Fr. J. Rock, CC, Cookstown, as president of the Owen Roes club, but by the end of that year even the Cookstown club had disappeared from the GAA scene, not to re-emerge until 1905 when the revival of the Association was well under way in Tyrone.

Some details of the Cookstown club, which must have been the one club referred to by O'Sullivan as having paid affiliation fees in 1890, and which can justifiably claim to be the first established in Tyrone, survive from the Dublin Castle files. In addition to the president, Fr. Rock, there were four vice-presidents in 1890 - William J. Harbinson, Joseph Quigley, John McCormack and James Mullan. Gregory Mullan was treasurer and Charles McNally was captain. The membership of the club in 1890 was forty, all of whom were

described by the RIC as "AOH suspects". Further information about the club is contained in an article which appeared in the "Ulster Herald" on 5th January, 1935, and which corroborates the police records of almost fifty years earlier. The article refers to the East Tyrone Convention held in December, 1934, at the end of the Golden Jubilee year of the GAA, when reference had been made to the fact that "Cookstown was the cradle of the Association in Tyrone" and it was felt that "it would be of interest to give some details of the pioneer club in O'Neill's county". These details were supplied by Patrick McLarnon, at that time chairman of Cookstown Brian Og, who was himself a founder member of the Owen Roes club. According to his account, "Cookstown Gaels were proud of the fact that the Association first came into being in their native town in the year 1889. It was the late Fr. Rock, PP, Clonoe, (known affectionately as "the Rock") who during his curacy in Cookstown initiated the efforts to form the Gaelic club known far and wide for many years as Owen Roe O'Neills... For a long time after its formation, the only clubs with which fixtures were possible were one in Armagh, one in Derry and three in Belfast, viz. Harps, Grocers' Assistants and Defence Rangers... Among the earliest captains were James Mullan, solicitor, Cookstown, and Hugh Charles McNally, who carries on an extensive contracting business in Dublin". The article then lists the other foundation members as follows:- James Corr, Joseph Corr, Gregory Mullan, Con Hannan, John O'Hanlon, Frank O'Hanlon, James Devlin, John and James Moore, Joseph and William Darragh, Michael and W. John Donnelly, Alex Donnelly, Joseph McAttackney, Charles McGlinchey, Laurence Holly, Phil Creggan, John Curran, Jack and Robert Stewart, Robert McAnespy, James Donnelly, Charles Quinn, Joseph W. Devlin, Joseph and Michael Boyle, James McKee, Charles McKane, Patrick McLarnon, Joseph and George Crilly, Joseph Hagan, Francis and Joseph Devlin, David Atcheson. Unfortunately, this club did not survive beyond 1891. It appears to have fallen victim to the paralysis which affected the GAA and so many other aspects of national life in most parts of the country during the remainder of the 1890's. It was not until the beginning of the next decade that another GAA club made its appearance in Tyrone.

(6) Tyroneman Vice-President of GAA, 1885"

Although the GAA failed to make any major impact on Tyrone in the early years after its foundation, nevertheless Tyrone can rightly claim that one of her sons played an important part in the Association in the very first year of its existence. At a meeting in Thurles on 17th January, 1885, less than three months after its foundation, the GAA elected among its vice-presidents an Ulster Methodist named John Huston Stewart, who had been born in Tyrone thirty-four years earlier. A native of Drumclaph, Crewe Bridge, near Castlederg, where he was born on 10th February, 1851, Stewart had moved with his family in 1864 to Omagh and was educated at the Model School there, before continuing his education in Hardwicke School in Dublin. After graduating in London, he returned to Dublin, and by 1879, he was headmaster of Hardwicke School, later becoming professor of Mathematical Physics at the Catholic University and a Fellow of the Royal University of Ireland.

He was a noted athlete in the late 1870's, being 100 yards champion of Ireland in 1878, as well as being a good shotputter, high jumper and cricketer. He was a prominent member of Dublin University (TCD) Athletic club and was secretary of the Irish Champion Athletic club (ICAC) for a period. Both he and Michael Cusack were on the committee of the Dublin Athletic club, which succeeded the ICAC in 1882. Stewart was strongly opposed to the convention which confined participation in athletics to "gentlemen amateurs", and he was largely responsible for the removal of the ban on the participation in sports in Dublin of "the honest sons of toil" - viz. tradesmen, labourers, police, soldiers and others not considered "gentlemen". Although a Wesleyan Methodist, he advocated Sunday games after church services, and he was one of the first Protestants to support the GAA openly. He is listed on the title-page of the first edition of the GAA rules as one of four vice-presidents at a time when Maurice Davin and Michael Cusack were still president and secretary

respectively. He died at the age of forty-nine on 26th November, 1900 and is buried in Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin.

1. P Puirseal: The GAA in its Time (Dublin, 1982), p25.
2. Quoted by M. de Burca: The GAA: A History (Dublin, 1980), p5.
3. de Bfjrca, p6.
4. L.P. 6 Caithnia: Sceal na hIomana (Baile Atha Cliath, 1980), p538. Also pp224 and 258.
5. de Burca, p3.
6. 0 Caithnia, pp644-5.
7. Coalisland Souvenir Booklet, 1949.
8. The use of the whin for striking the ball is referred to by 6 Caithnia, p638, who, when quoting a South Armagh source says: "they played 'caiman' with an old root of a whin and a lump of wood (in the 1860's)".
9. Statements to writer by Fr. Peter Campbell, Coalisland (who heard the story concerning Dirnagh from his father) and by Jim Doyle, Cookstown (who heard from his grandfather about caman in Cookstown).
10. The Carrickmore Tradition (1982) pp15-16.
11. Puirseal, p10.
12. United Irishman, 4.3.1899.
13. de Burca, p26.
14. Cf. article in "Clogher Record", Vol 8, No 1, 1969, "The Early GAA in South Ulster" by M. de Bfírea, based largely on "Sport" and Special Crimes Branch files in the State Paper Office, Dublin. Cf. also C. Short's History of the Uster Council, 1984.
15. Fr. D. Gallogly: Cavan's Football Story, 1979, pp]5-23.
16. de Biírea, pp51-2.
17. T.F. O'Sullivan: Story of the GAA (Dublin, 1916), p78.
19. O'Sullivan, pp82, 84.
19. O'Sullivan, pp87, 90, 103.
20. O'Sullivan, p158.
21. The writer is deeply indebted to Marcus de B(Burca for drawing his attention to two sources which provided the basis for this section on J.H. Stewart: (i) an article in the "Evening Herald" of 1st December, 1900, and (ii) cuttings from the "Irish Sportsman", January-March, 1879, in a family scrap-book in the home of Maurice Davin, Deerpark. Carrick-on-Suir, which de Burca annotated.
22. O'Sullivan, p26.
23. "Freeman's Journal", 31.10.1885 - letter of Michael Cusack, referred to in 0 Caithnia: Michael Ciosog, p219. · The First Flowering 1900-1910

(1) Beginnings of Gaelic Revival, 1900-02

The early years of the twentieth century witnessed a remarkable revival of Irish nationalist fortunes after the disastrous decade which followed the Parnellite split of 1891. From the early 1900's this Irish revival was manifested in Tyrone in the development of the Gaelic League in almost every parish, the organisation of the United Irish League, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Irish National Foresters and, of course, the Gaelic Athletic Association. Irish language classes were established and well attended and Irish dancing was promoted. At the same time, there was a strong emphasis on temperance, and many of those who were involved in the national revival were also enthusiastic advocates of the temperance movement. On the political scene, the Catholic clergy were very prominent, and there was scarcely a branch of the UIL or the AOH which did not have a local priest as patron or president.

For the student of the local history of this period, and especially for the chronicler of the GAA in Tyrone at this time of revival, it is particularly fortunate that a local newspaper, the "Ulster Herald", was established at the beginning of the century. Founded in Omagh in August, 1901, and strongly nationalist in sentiment, it is an invaluable source for the social, cultural and political history of the whole of Tyrone, and, in the absence of other written records, it is a unique source of information about the origins and development of the GAA in the county in the first quarter of the century. The first issue of the paper on 17th August, 1901, identified its principles and policies as follows: national self-government, an end to emigration, settlement of the land question, revival and development of Irish commerce and manufacture, the promotion of the claims of Catholics to higher education, the revival of the Irish language, the encouragement of Irish ideas and everything racy of the soil, and the housing of the working class. A full column was devoted to the Irish language movement and a lengthy section dealt with the work of the Gaelic League. While the promotion of the native games was not referred to specifically, the phrase "everything racy of the soil" is a reminder of Archbishop Croke's famous phrase in his letter of acceptance of the patronage of the Association, and it is interesting to note that Mr. T. McCarthy, a Corkman, who was the first editor of the newspaper before moving to a similar position with the "Irish News", became the patron of the Omagh Sarsfields Hurling Club when it was formed in 1905.

From the outset, the "Ulster Herald" gave generous coverage to all aspects of the national revival, but it is clear that in 1901 there was very little to report as far as organised GAA activities in Tyrone were concerned. The year 1901 marked a turning point in the history of the GAA throughout the country, for in that year there was a large accession to the governing body of the Association of young men, who within a few years raised the whole character of the movement by their ability and enthusiasm. However, while progress was being made in other parts of Ulster, it was only in the years after 1901 that clubs began to be formed and games played on a regular basis in Tyrone, and it was not until 1904 that the first Tyrone County Board of the GAA was formed.

In the absence of organised Gaelic games, it is clear that soccer was very popular and had a wide following. In West Tyrone alone, there were clubs in Mountfield, Gortin, Five-miletown, Fintona, the Clogher Valley, Aughnacloy, Omagh, Dromore, Newtownstewart, Drumquin, Strabane and other areas. There is regular and widespread coverage in local newspapers of the Tyrone and Donegal Football League, the Irish League and the Irish Junior Cup as well as various soccer games in County Fermanagh. Even those who might have wished to establish Gaelic games had great difficulty in doing so. In Cookstown, where a GAA club had flourished in 1890, those who were actively involved in nationalist activities formed a soccer club in 1901 Cookstown Celtic - apparently to entice members from other clubs which did not share those nationalist aspirations and thus "to combat the baneful influences of Anglicisation existing in sporting circles in Cookstown".

The formation of the club is said to have been proposed by Joseph O'Neill, who in 1923 was to become chairman of the Tyrone County Board, while Fr. Rock, CC, was among the vice-presidents. Their first annual general meeting was chaired by James Mullan, solicitor, who at that time was vice-chairman of the Cookstown branch of the United Irish League. At this meeting, a resolution was passed in favour of the introduction of hurling, but it appears unlikely that a hurling team was formed, for there are no further reports of the club taking part in either football or hurling games. Indeed there is evidence in the columns of the "Ulster Herald" in 1901-02 of very great difficulties in promoting anything Irish in Cookstown in these years, and no GAA club was formed there until 1905.

In Strabane in 1901 the first stirrings were taking place which were soon to put it in the forefront of the Gaelic League and the GAA in Tyrone. Already in the summer of that year, a very successful Irish class had begun in the town, first under a Mr. Brian O'Keeney, who in September was appointed to the post of Gaelic organiser for the district of Newry, Omeath and Dundalk, and then under a Mr. Gildea - both from Donegal. Strabane was singled out for special mention in an article which appeared in "An Claidheamh Soluis", the official organ of the Gaelic League, under the heading - "A Northern Centre of Gaelic Work" - in September, 1902. It is apparent from the article that after a slow start it had become a vigorous centre of Gaelic activity, due largely to the great personal influence of Fr. J. McElhatton, and that Irish classes had started not only in Strabane but in several places in the neighbourhood. At part of the initial success is attributed to the teaching of Mr. Michael V. O'Nolan, B.A., a young, - and Excise official in the town, who threw himself into the work of the Gaelic League and who play a very important part in the GAA in Tyrone and Ulster. It is interesting to note that one of his sons, Brian, was later to achieve international acclaim as the writer Myles na gCopaleen/Flann O'Brien, while another son, Ciaran, was to found the Irish language newspaper, Inniu, and to remain its editor for forty years until his death in 1983. The article goes on to say. "The caman is following language in the Strabane district, and several caman clubs exist. On Sunday last a vigorous contest took place at Lifford between the Strabane club and a Derry club and it is probable that there will be great developments in the Strabane district in the coming season."

Apart from Strabane, Dungannon was the only other area in Tyrone which could claim active participation in GAA games in 1902. The "Ulster Herald", in a report on the Omagh Feis Cheoil and Gaelic Sports held on 1st June, 1902, states: "A hurling match took place between St. Columb's of Derry and the Lam Derg (obviously Lamh Dhearg) club, Dungannon, but owing to the rough methods infused into the play by the former team, the match was discontinued before half time was up, when the play stood thus: Dungannon 1-1; Derry 0-0". It is claimed in Dungannon that this club was founded in 1901, but unfortunately no further evidence of its activities survives and it soon gave way to a new club - Dungannon Emmets.

The first really determined effort to establish the GAA in Tyrone began in 1903. In the western part of the county, there was a consolidation of hurling strength in Strabane (and in the neighbouring parts of Donegal), while in the east, two new GAA clubs were formed in the latter part of the year - in Dungannon and Donaghmore - and these were to play an important part in the early GAA activities in the county.

The "Ulster Herald" of 18th April, 1903, gives an account of a hurling game at Raphoe (Donegal) which took place on Easter Monday between Raphoe Rangers and Strabane Rapparees as follows: "Like the growth of the Gaelic movement, the game of hurley has spread considerably, the latest to inaugurate a hurling team being the Gaelic Leaguers of Raphoe, who had as visitors on Easter Monday the Rapparees from Strabane, who journeyed

over by car, the railway not yet being available... The result - a victory for the Rapparees by 4-4 to 3-1 - is highly creditable to Raphoe considering that they were opposed to such a strong combination as the Rapparees, who have already made a name in the hurling field. . .".

The strength of hurling in Strabane is evidenced by the fact that on the very same day (Easter Monday, 1903) the Strabane Ldmh Dhearg hurling team played against and defeated a Belfast team (Seaghan an Diomais) which included two players who had helped Ulster against Leinster the, previous Sunday. The match which was one of the events in the Catholic Men's Association annual sports was watched by a large crowd in the Recreation Park, Strabane, and had been arranged at short notice by Michael V. O'Nolan who was also a prominent player on the Lamh Dhearg team. The event did not end with the hurling game, for in the evening the visitors were entertained by the home club in the Mourne Hotel, Strabane, before returning home to Belfast.

It is clear that hospitality and ceremonial played an important part in some of these early games, for when Raphoe Rangers came to Strabane for a return game with the local Rapparees, they were first taken to St. Patrick's Band Room where they got refreshments, and then there was a procession of both clubs and a great number of supporters to a field in the Bog Road lent by a Mr. John Devine for the occasion. The game was said to be the most ,exciting hurley game played yet at Strabane, and the vast ,crowd, which included many of the fair sex, who, according to the newspaper report, "have quite caught on with the game", had a wonderful view from the natural grandstand on the bank of the canal.

That Strabane was to the fore in the Irish revival is seen clearly by the very successful Feis held there in June, 1903, which was described as "the most important Gaelic gathering in the North-West". That the revival of the language and the development of hurling went hand in hand in Strabane is clear from the fact that the proceedings included with a hurling match (between Lamh Dhearg and a Derry team), and a glowing tribute was paid to the redoubtable Michael O'Nolan who was described as "the life and soul of everything. . . We have never seen a better secretary. He was in the Feis and of the Feis. In fact, he was everywhere, and everywhere his personality and judgement ere evident".

It is most likely that O'Nolan, who since 22nd March, 1903, had been vice-president of the newly formed Ulster council of the GAA, was responsible, at least to some tent, for Tyrone's participation in the Ulster hurling championship of that year, in which Tyrone played Derry) Thursday, 9th (or possibly 16th) July. According to the 'Derry People' of 18th July, 1903, the game was played at Rosemount, and Derry were victorious by 6-13 to 0-1. Tyrone were represented by Strabane Lamh Dhearg, while Sarsfields represented Derry. Both clubs took part in the North-West Hurling League which began in the summer and continued throughout the autumn and winter of 1903. The league included seven other teams - Hibernian, Cumann na nGael, St Patrick's, Eire Og, Cumann Liteardha na Gaedhilge, Limavady and Fahan.

While Gaelic activities were flourishing in the north-west part of the county, important developments were about to take place in East Tyrone also. A correspondent of the "Ulster Herald", calling himself "Northern Caman", who in July, 1903, deplored the fact that "there is not a single Gaelic Athletic club in the old county of the Maguires (Fermanagh)", stated there were many towns in Ulster where hurling clubs had been started in connection with the Gaelic League, and mentioned Belfast (with forty clubs), Dundalk, Newry, Dungannon, Keady, Armagh, Strabane and Derry. It is likely that the Dungannon team referred to was the Lamh Dhearg club which played in Omagh in June, 1902. This club was now to be replaced by the Dungannon Emmets Gaelic Football and Hurling club, which was formed at a meeting in the rooms of the Emmet Brass Band in Irish Street in September, 1903.

The meeting was the outcome of a visit to Dungannon of George Martin, Belfast, chairman, and L.F. O'Kane, Derry, secretary of the Ulster Provincial Council of the GAA. A large and enthusiastic crowd attended the meeting in Dungannon, which was chaired by James Rice, and after a lively discussion, it was resolved "to form a club and to have it affiliated as soon as possible." The following officers were appointed: captain - Bernard Kelly; vicecaptain - Thomas Cassidy; treasurer - James Rice; secretary - Cathal O'Toole. The committee consisted of Francis Sally, Patrick Cassidy, Jack McCauley, Joseph Kelly, Bernard O'Neill, John Kelly and Hugh Birney. The new club played its first football game at the end of November when they travelled to Armagh to play Armagh Harps, and being unable to bring their full team were assisted by five members of the local club. Although they lost on that occasion by 0-4 to 0-1, they soon had their revenge, for in the return game which marked the revival of Gaelic football in Tyrone and which was played in Dungannon before a crowd of about one thousand spectators on Sunday, 20th December, they defeated the Armagh team by 1-5 to 1-2. Among those who lined out for the Emmets team on that occasion was William McNaney, who was soon to become the first secretary of the Tyrone County Board.

Donaghmore Eire Og

One week after this game, on St. Stephen's night, 1903, a group of people came together in Donaghmore under the guidance of Cathal O'Toole, who had assisted with the formation of the Dungannon Emmets club, and a new club - Donaghmore Eire Og - was born. O'Toole himself was appointed president and captain of the football team, John O'Neill (Drumbearn) was vice-president and vice-captain of the football team, Edward Carbery was treasurer and William Cunningham secretary, while the committee consisted of James McCann, John O'Neill (Donaghmore), J. Carbery, Joseph Daly, Joseph Brannigan and Henry Daly.

Around this time, O'Toole had been a frequent contributor to the weekly "Young Ireland" column which began in the "Ulster Herald" on 14th March, 1903 and which promoted a "Young Ireland Club" for its under-21 readers, and it seems likely that the name of the new club - Eire Og - was derived from the title of this column. Among the rules of the "Young Ireland Club" was that members should learn Irish and use it on every available occasion, say prayers in Irish, never taste intoxicating drinks and play Irish games only. In a letter to the editor of the column, "Cathleen Ni Houlihan", in January, 1904, O'Toole states that the Eire Og club had chosen as its uniform green jerseys with gold sash and white shorts, and intended to be affiliated with the GAA shortly. He also said that while the club would play Gaelic football initially, hurling was to follow and a literary section was to be formed. He urged others to follow the example of Dungannon and Donaghmore so that Tyrone "will soon be ablaze with enthusiasm for the revival of our national games and pastimes". He wondered what part of Tyrone would be next to form a club, pointing out that all that was required is "one good man to lead and the rest to follow him cheerfully". He hoped that some of the other contributors to the "Young Ireland" column would "find in this work ample scope for their energy and perseverance" and he offered to provide copies of the rules and any other information they required.

Lisdhu Young Ireland Hurling Club

His call was very soon answered, for at the end of January, 1904, William Thomas Grainger, who was also a regular contributor to the "Young Ireland" column and who had earlier written to "Cathleen Ni Houlihan" urging "Young Irishers at the opening of the year to do all they can to fight against intemperance, emigration and anglicisation", was instrumental in having a hurling club formed in Lisdhu (in the parish of Trillick, adjacent to Tummery in Dromore parish). The occasion was a meeting of the Young Ireland Club in Lisdhu, which had been established by Grainger and which had at first been called the Dromore and

Kilskeery Debating club. After one of their regular debates, it was proposed by Grainger and agreed that a hurling club be formed in the area. It is clear that the formation of the club aroused considerable interest, for in March a very successful Irish Concert was held in Tummery to raise funds to "establish a library for the Young Ireland club and to produce camans and uniforms for the hurling club".

First Tyrone County Board, January 1904

The year 1904, which began so auspiciously with the formation of a hurling club in the western part of the county, was indeed a historic one in the annals of the Tyrone GAA. It was in this year that organised games began to be played on a regular basis, the first Tyrone County Board was formed, the first county football championship was played and the first inter-county football game involving a Tyrone team took place. In addition to the formation of the Lisdhu Hurling club, the GAA was established for the first time in Coalisland and Omagh and both towns were soon to play an important part in the development of the Association in Tyrone.

The most significant event was, of course, the formation of the first Tyrone County Board. The following account of the meeting at which the Board was formed on Sunday 31st January, 1904, is contained in the issue of "Sport" dated 6th February, 1904: "A meeting of delegates from the affiliated clubs in County Tyrone took place on Sunday for the purpose of forming a County Committee. The following were present: M.V. O'Nolan (Strabane), Cathal O'Toole and Edward Carbery (Donaghmore), James Rice and William McNaney (Dungannon), and Messrs. Maguire, Dempsey and McGinley (Belfast). Mr. George Martin, president of the Ulster Provincial Council, presided. The following officers were appointed: chairman - M.V.O'Nolan; representative on Central Council - J. Rice; delegates to Ulster Provincial Council - J. Rice and M.V. O'Nolan; honorary secretary - W. McNaney; honorary treasurer - E. Carbery. It was decided to hold the meetings on the last Saturday of each month, alternately in Dungannon and Strabane".

An account survives of a meeting of the County Board held in Strabane at 8.00 p.m. on Friday, 29th April. In addition to the chairman and secretary, J. Gallagher and B. O'Kane (Strabane) and J. Rice (Dungannon) were present. The secretary reported that one club - presumably Lisdhu - had affiliated since the previous meeting. It was proposed by J. Rice and seconded by J. Gallagher that rules 28 and 30 the rules which concerned the playing of "foreign games", the enforcement of which, since the 1901 Annual Convention in Thurles, was a matter for each County Board - be strictly enforced in Tyrone. Three players from Donaghmore and four from Dungannon were reported for having taken part in Association Football games, and it was decided to inform them that taking part in such games after 1st May would entail suspension for twelve months. The Board also decided to hold their next meeting in Omagh.

This meeting, held on 15th July, in the New Ireland Club Rooms, Omagh, is significant, in that for the first time delegates attended from the newly-formed Coalisland Fianna club and from the Lisdhu Young Ireland club, while two representatives of the Omagh New Ireland club were also present. The Board considered making draws for a hurling championship, the winners of which would represent Tyrone in the Ulster hurling championship, but since the time available for the holding of the competition was so short, it was agreed that Strabane Lamh Dhearg should uphold Tyrone's honour in the game against Armagh on 7th August in Armagh. A resolution was also passed "that in order that the GAA in Tyrone may do its duty towards the Irish language movement, each club in the county should take steps to have a good Irish class formed for next winter, when opportunities will be given to every member of the GAA to learn the language, songs, prayers, dances and

history of this country". W.T. Grainger, who was himself to become a well-known teacher of Irish in the parish of Kilskeery (Trillick) and who later helped to organise the annual aeridheacht there, was among those who spoke to the resolution. He referred to the great work being done in Dromore by Fr. Matt Maguire, CC, through whose kindness an Irish class had already been established for the Young Ireland club. Fr. Matt was in 1906 to become parish priest of Kilskeery, where he did magnificent work in the cause of the Irish language.

Accounts of two other County Board meetings of 1904 survive. At the meeting held in Donaghmore on Friday, 30th September, contributions were received from each club towards the funds of the Board, and it was anticipated that there would be a sufficient balance remaining to allow the Board to present a set of silver medals to the winners of the county football championship. In addition to making draws for the championship, the Board considered the action of four members of the Association who had taken part in a military procession, and it was decided to warn them that the "utmost penalty" would be inflicted on anyone guilty of a repetition of such conduct. The next meeting of the Board - a special meeting - held in the Gaelic League Rooms, Strabane on Monday, 14th November, was notable for the fact that it was the first occasion on which an appeal had to be considered. The tire Og club, Donaghmore, protested against Dungannon Emmets on the grounds that one of the players of the Emmets club was a militiaman of ten years' standing, and that two other players were not bona fide members of the club on the day the match was played. The appeal was not upheld.

Coalisland Fianna

The second item of significance in 1904 was the establishment of two new GAA clubs in Tyrone - Coalisland Fianna and Omagh New Ireland. Although no account survives of the meeting at which the Fianna were formed, it is clear that the club came into existence in the beginning of the year, possibly as early as February, and that they were in action against near-neighbours, Donaghmore tire Og, as early as April. Among those associated with the beginnings of the club were a number of players who had earlier assisted the young Dungannon Emmets club, while the name "Fianna" is said to have been given the club by a local school teacher, Mr. P. Kelly. Other teachers who were prominently associated with the club in its early days were Mr. E. Somers, Mr. A. McDyer from Donegal, Mr. T.J. O'Connor, a native of Ballinasloe, and Mr. J.W. Gavan who came from Monaghan and who was soon to play a leading part in Tyrone GAA affairs. From the beginning, the football team had remarkable success, and before the end of 1904 they were to crown their achievements by winning the first ever Tyrone senior football championship.

The Fianna did not confine their activities however to the playing fields. The formation of almost every club at that time was either preceded or followed by a revival of other aspects of Irish culture, and in a very short time Irish language and dancing classes were flourishing in Coalisland, and from there they spread to the Stewartstown and Clonoe areas. In their efforts to promote these activities, the Fianna were greatly assisted by a number of members of the Donaghmore club, which had already been very active in teaching Irish history, language and dancing and which encouraged participation by the Gaelic League, the United Irish League and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. One other pleasing aspect of the early days of the club was the friendly atmosphere which seems to have marked relationships with other clubs. When the Donaghmore team came to Coalisland in April, 1904, they were entertained afterwards at a ceili in St. Patrick's Hall, and the compliment was returned by Donaghmore when the Fianna went there to play a friendly game in October.

Omagh New Ireland Hurling Club

Soon after the formation of the Fianna in February, another club - Omagh New Ireland Hurling club - was established in April, 1904. Although it did not achieve the success of Coalisland, nevertheless its formation was an important step in the development of the GAA in West Tyrone. While it failed to participate in any competitions in 1904, it seems to have provided the stimulus needed to bring about an awakening in the Omagh area, and in February, 1905, it was replaced by another club, the Owen Roes later re-named the Sarsfields.

Inter-County Games

The year 1904 also witnessed the participation of Tyrone in inter-county football games for the first time. Dungannon Emmets - then the only established football team in the county - represented Tyrone against Armagh in the first round of the Ulster championship. The game was played at Armagh on Sunday, 3rd January, but it had to be terminated because of darkness with only a few minutes of play remaining and with Tyrone leading 0-3 to 0-2. The replay took place at Emmet Park, Dungannon, on 24th January. Refereed by George Martin (Belfast), the game was played in beautiful weather before a large crowd of spectators who were entertained by the music of the Emmet Brass Band before the game. Tyrone gave a good performance, but they were unable to match the skills of the Armagh team and lost by 1-6 to 0-3. The team which played on that occasion was: John Kelly, William Cunningham, Frank Kelly, James Rooney, J. Muldoon, P.J. Bradley, Peter Corr, Joe Kelly, Frank Sally, Patrick Cassidy, Thomas Cassidy, Bernard Kelly (captain), Frank O'Neill, Bernard O'Neill, James Rice, William McNancy.

The county's hurling team fared no better when they travelled to the Abbey Park, Armagh, for a first round championship game on 7th August, 1904. The County Board had decided that there was not sufficient time to play a county championship and nominated Strabane to represent Tyrone. Losing by 3-3 to 0-0 at half time, Tyrone could do little better in the second half and lost by 5-5 to 0-1.

Cultural Revival

By the end of 1904, six clubs were in existence Dungannon, Donaghmore, Coalisland, Strabane, Lisdhu and Omagh (though Omagh did not participate in any competitions). In each case the club was either the cause or the result of a deepening interest in all things Irish in the area, and many of those who organised the clubs or participated in the games were also actively involved in the promotion of Irish dancing, language or history. It seems clear that from an early stage the games had wide popular appeal and that large crowds flocked to them. Part of the appeal must of course have stemmed from the ceremonial which surrounded them, and it is interesting to recall that on many occasions the games were preceded by a procession to the field accompanied by the local band, and were often followed by a ceili or some other form of entertainment at which the visiting team were guests. The great revival of all aspects of the national heritage, which the GAA endeavoured to encourage, was evidenced in a very striking way in Donaghmore, when the tire Og club was responsible for restoring an old Irish custom which had fallen into abeyance in the area. On the night of 23rd June, 1904, the members of the club and their friends proceeded to Cnoc Chuinn, a short distance from Donaghmore, where an aeridheacht (open-air function) and bonfire were held. The procession was led by the Lord Edward Flute Band, which played a number of lively national airs. When they reached the hill, the chairman of the club, Cathal O'Toole, made a speech in which he recalled the ancient Bonfire Night tradition, and referred to the work which the club had done in the preservation and cultivation of the national games, pastimes and traditions. After the lighting of the bonfire, there was a lengthy programme of Irish songs and dances, which was brought to a stirring conclusion by the playing of "Let Erin Remember" by the flute band.

Early Games

County and parish boundaries do not appear to have marked the rigid lines of demarcation that now exist, and clubs regularly competed against neighbouring teams in adjoining counties, while players seem to have played for clubs other than in their own parish. In West Tyrone, Strabane competed in hurling against teams from Derry and Donegal, while in the East, Dungannon regularly played football and hurling against Armagh Harps and Tir-na-nOg. The "Ulster Herald" contains a report in August, 1904, of a hurling game played between Lisdhu Young Irelands and Enniskillen Maguires at Enniskillen. It is interesting to note the reaction of the crowd, as reported in the newspaper - some of the large crowd hurrying to the field after 12 o'clock Mass thought that they were going to see a hurling match, while others were under the impression that a hockey match was going to be played.

(3) First Club Competitions, 1904-05

First Senior Football Championship, 1904-05

While the first County Board in Tyrone was formed in the early part of 1904, the first full season of organised competitions did not begin until the autumn of that year and continued until the spring and early summer of 1905. The draws for the senior football championship of 1904-05 the first to be played in Tyrone - in which a total of five teams participated, were made at the County Board meeting in Donaghmore on 30th September, 1904, as follows: Dungannon Emmets v Donaghmore Eire Og at Dungannon; Strabane Lamh Dhearg v Lisdhu Young Ireland at Strabane on 6th November; Coalisland Fianna a bye. It is not known if Strabane played against Lisdhu since no account survives, but they did go forward to the final. No account survives either of the other first round game, but it is known that Dungannon beat Eire Og on the field of play - a result subsequently upheld by the County Board despite a protest from Donaghmore. Dungannon in turn were beaten in the second round by Coalisland Fianna by 4-7 to 0-5, before six hundred spectators in a game at Coalisland on 20th November, which was referred to by Tom Toorish (Strabane), and the scene was set for the first ever county final between Coalisland Fianna and Strabane Lamh Dhearg.

The game was played at Coalisland on Sunday, 11th December, 1904 and although there was a fall of snow in the early morning, it had cleared away before the time fixed for the match, and a good crowd came to see the game which was refereed by J. Rice (Dungannon). At 2.30, the ball was thrown in by Fr. Brown, CC, Coalisland. From the beginning, Fianna, led by their captain, Joe Morrison, had the better of the play and kept the visitors almost entirely on the defensive. In the second half, Coalisland continued to build up scores and emerged victorious by 3-7 to 0-1.

The writer feels it is necessary to comment on the winning of this first senior football championship by Coalisland, since popular account has it that the Strabane Fag-a-Bealach team were the first county champions. There is unanimity about the fact that Strabane did win the 1905-06 football championship (played at Easter 1906) and this is confirmed by the "GAA Annual" of 1907-08, which lists the championship winners up to that time in each county, and which, unlike the 1910-11 "Annual", appears to be a reliable source of information for the Northern counties. It describes the 1905 winners as "Strabane Faughs", but gives no winners for 1904. It is strange also that, in 1949, when the story of the Fianna was being compiled in connection with the opening of the Cardinal MacRory Memorial Park, and when some members of the 1904 Fianna team were still alive, no-one recalled winning the championship of that year.

The "Ulster Herald" report of this championship victory is, however, confirmed beyond any doubt by further references to the Fianna in the issue of 31st December, 1904, which describes them as "Tyrone champions who have not suffered a single defeat since their inauguration some ten months ago", and of 16th September 1905, which states: "It will be remembered that this club, (Fianna) carried off the county championship last year, and it is to be expected that in the coming season they will do their best to keep up the reputation they have made". It is again confirmed by a reference in the same newspaper on 1st February, 1908, which, when dealing with the 1907-08 championship, says that the winning of the championship is "a distinction which they (Coalisland) have previously enjoyed". The survival of one of the medals presented to the first county champions puts the issue beyond all possible doubt.

New Clubs in 1905

The year 1905 witnessed further progress in the development of the GAA in Tyrone. New clubs sprang up in many parts of the county, and while not all of them were to survive, a number were to continue to play an important part in GAA affairs. In Aughnacloy, the Shamrock Gaelic Football club was formed at a meeting on 29th December, 1904; in Coalisland, a junior club, the Owen Roes, came into being and went on to win the 1904-05 junior football championship. Another club of the same name - the Owen Roes Hurling club, later named Sarsfields - took the place of the New Ireland club in Omagh, while new clubs were also established - Killygavanagh Wolfe Tones (near Donaghmore), Galbally Rapparees, Cookstown Brian Og, Clonoe Fir-a-Chnuic and Killyclogher St. Patrick's. The Lisdhu club seems to have given way to Tummery (and then Dromore) Red Hughs. In Strabane, there were two football teams - Lamh Dhearg and Fag-a-Bealach, while Dungannon Emmets, Donaghmore tire Og and Coalisland Fianna all fielded a second football team in the junior championship.

Aughnacloy Shamrocks

Accounts survive of the formation of a number of these clubs. The club in Aughnacloy - named the Shamrocks came into being at a meeting held in the AOH Hall on 29th December, 1904. The famous letters of Archbishop Croke and Archbishop Walsh (patrons of the GAA) were read, and officers were elected as follows: president - Michael Daly; vice-president - James McCarron; treasurer - John McKenna; secretary - Patrick McKenna.

A committee was formed and the secretary was instructed to get a ball as supplied for the All-Ireland championship. The hope was expressed that, as this was one of Ireland's national sports and pastimes, it would receive widespread support and that before long many more places in South Tyrone would follow the example of Aughnacloy. The club was affiliated to the County Board and played its first game - against Dungannon Emmets - in April, 1905. The report of the game states that it attracted a great deal of interest "as it was the first time since the days of the penal laws for two teams to meet at Aughnacloy and play their national games". J. Rice of the Emmets club thanked the Shamrocks club for their welcome, and the Emmets were then invited to Magirrs' Imperial Hotel "where refreshments were also served".

Omagh Owen Roes

The Owen Roe Hurling club in Omagh was formed at a meeting held on 20th February, 1905, at which letters of encouragement were read from the Editor of the "Derry People" and from the secretary of the Strabane Lamh Dhearg club, T. Toorish. The following officers were elected: captain - F. Tierney; treasurer - G. Crawford; secretary - J. Donnelly; committee - A. O'Boyle, P. McHugh, T. McCann, M.J. Donnelly, P. Crawford and H. O'Neill. The club's

first game was against Strabane Lamh Dhearg before a large crowd on Easter Monday, 1905, and among the attendance were the chairman of the County Board, M.V. O'Nolan, and the new secretary, M.F. Greaney (Dungannon). Although the home club were unsuccessful, the spectators were pleasantly surprised at the skills they displayed on this, their first, appearance. After the game, they entertained their visitors hospitably, before accompanying them to the railway station, where they gave them a hearty send off.

Cookstown Brian Og

No account survives of the formation of the Cookstown Brian Og club, but it is known that their first opponents were Coalisland Owen Roes at Cookstown on 26th March, 1905, when many spectators turned out to see the game, which Coalisland won by 1-5 to 1-4. Two months later, when Cookstown travelled to Coalisland for the return game on 14th May, they were attacked at Grange Crossroads near Tullyhogue by a hostile crowd of about three hundred from the local community who were opposed to the playing of Sunday games.' In spite of a police presence, stones were thrown at the Cookstown team, one of the brakes carrying the team was driven into a fence, and a number of the players were injured. They succeeded in making their way to Coalisland where they spent the night while an urgent request was sent to Dublin for police reinforcements. Only after a contingent of upwards of one hundred policemen had arrived in Coalisland to escort them home were they able to return to Cookstown on the following day. A minute book of the club, covering the period November, 1907, until September, 1910, came to light very recently, and is the oldest first-hand record of the early days of the GAA in Tyrone.

Derrytresk Fir-a-Chnuic

Derrytresk Fir-a-Chnuic (sometimes referred to as Clonoe Fir-a-Chnuic) seems to have been established during 1905, largely due to the efforts of Joseph Cullen, N.T., Kingsisland. According to local tradition, a football team had been established before this in Derrylaughan.' It had not been affiliated to the GAA but played under GAA rules in a competition confined to Clonoe parish, organised by a Mr. A. Govan of Meenagh and called "Govan's League". This team is believed to have been succeeded in Derrylaughan by another called the "Rising Sons of Goff", which took its name from a Dutchman, H. Goff, who was living in the district at that time, teaching the locals how to cut turf after the Dutch method. On the collapse of this team, many of the players are said to have transferred to other clubs, mainly to Derrytresk Fir-a-Chnuic.

Galbally Rapparees

The Galbally Rapparees club was formed at a meeting held on 30th April, 1905, in the Parochial Hall. Five weeks earlier, on Sunday, 26th March, a group of young men from the area, watched by a large crowd, had turned out to play the first game of Gaelic football ever played in the area, and after the game it had been decided to establish a branch of the GAA and have it affiliated with the County Board. At the meeting which followed, by which time forty members had already enrolled and paid a subscription, it was proposed by P.E. Corr and seconded by M. Boyce that a branch of the Association be formed, and the following officers were elected: president - Rev. H. Taggart; vicepresidents - P.E. Corr and John Brannigan; secretary - James Armstrong; treasurer - Michael Boyle; captain John Armstrong; vice-captain - Felix Tally. A vote of thanks was passed to the Eire Og club, Donaghmore, for their assistance with the establishment of the club and it was decided to play a game against Donaghmore at an early date.

The first recorded football game played by the club took place in August in Cookstown against the local Brian Og team, who won by 0-15 to 0-8. Both clubs met again -

in Galbally - on 5th October, when they played a friendly hurling match. A report of the game refers to the excitement generated by this great event: "The Rapparees were on the alert from early morning watching for their fellow Gaels to arrive. At 2 o'clock, the joyful news was announced that the brave Brian Ogs were advancing towards the historic hills of Galbally, the home of many of the valiant Rapparees of old, and a short distance from where Shane Bernard, the last of that noble band, fell at the hand of his treacherous comrade, O'Neill. . .". The game, which was refereed by W. Lynott, was won by Cookstown by 0-6 to 0-4 and both teams were entertained in Galbally Parochial Hall and were treated to a concert.

First Junior Football Championship, 1904-05

Apart from the senior championship, the most important of the competitions played in 1904-05 was the junior football championship, which took place between February and April, 1905, with five teams participating - Coalisland Fianna 11, Donaghmore Eire Og 11, Dungannon Emmets 11, Coalisland Owen Roes and Killygavanagh Wolfe Tones. Eire Og beat Wolfe Tones (4-7 to 0-2) in the first round and were in turn defeated by Emmets. Owen Roes beat Fianna by 0-11 to 0-7, and went on to win the final against Emmets by 0-11 to 1-0. Thus the distinction of winning the first ever junior football championship fell to Coalisland Owen Roes, and in one season - 1904-05 - teams from Coalisland carried off both the junior and senior football championships.

Ulster Championships, 1904-05

Tyrone also participated in the 1904-05 Ulster senior championships in both football and hurling. In the football championship, Tyrone played Armagh in the Ulster semi-final on 19th February, 1905, at Coalisland, losing by 0-12 to 0-3. Tyrone appealed to the Ulster Council, which ordered that the game be re-played. However, Tyrone fared no better in the second game at Abbey Park, Armagh, on 12th March, being defeated on this occasion by 7-4 to 0-1. The team which represented Tyrone on 19th February was:

John Kelly (Dungannon Emmets), Peter Corr, captain (Coalisland Owen Roes), William Cunningham (Emmets), Joseph Cullen and Alex McDyer (Coalisland Fianna), William McGettigan (Strabane Lamh Dhearg), J. O'Reilly and Joe O'Neill (Fianna), Bernard Kelly (Emmets), Pat (Farson) O'Neill and J.J. Bradley (Fianna), Eddie Jones, T. O'Neill and M. Quinn (Emmets), Dan Toner and Joe Canavan (Fianna), James Rice (Emmets). Another Tyrone player, J.M. O'Kane (Coalisland) is listed with eight players from Antrim, five from Cavan and three from Fermanagh on the Ulster football team which lost to Connacht in the Railway Football Shield game at Jones' Road, Dublin, on 20th August, 1905.

Hurling

It may seem strange to modern readers that, in a county where football now predominates and where hurling is played in only a small number of places, the ancient game of Cúchulainn was probably as strong as football in the very early years of this century. During the year 1905, a hurling championship was played in the county, Tyrone again took part in the Ulster hurling championship and many notable games were played which attracted very substantial crowds. The first ever county hurling championship was played between three teams - Dungannon Emmets, Strabane Lamh Dhearg and Omagh Sarsfields. On Friday, 14th July, 1905, Omagh Sarsfields met Dungannon Emmets at the Castle Holm, Omagh, in the first hurling championship game in Tyrone. The date had been specially arranged to suit both clubs in the matter of railway facilities. The game was refereed by Tom Toorish (Strabane) and Dungannon won by 1-6 to 0-1. On the following Wednesday, 19th July, Lamh Dhearg, Strabane, travelled to Springfield Park, Dungannon, where they defeated the local team by 2-8 to 1-6, and thus became the first Tyrone county hurling champions. J. Doogan, captain of Omagh Sarsfields, refereed the game.

Omagh witnessed a number of fine hurling games during the summer of this year. On 29th June, then a church holiday of obligation, a great sports meeting, held under GAA rules, concluded with a hurling game between Sarsfields and St. Patrick's, Killyclogher, while around the same time, in a double feature at the Castle Holm, Sarsfields played Strabane Lamh Dhearg, and Killyclogher St. Patrick's played Tummery (Dromore) Red Hughs. The "Herald" columnist at the time was so impressed by the standard of play in the games that he felt that "with the spirit at present animating Gaelic ranks in Tyrone and Derry counties, there is no reason why the best men that can be found by the Lee or the Suir may not meet their equal from the banks of the Blackwater, Strule and Foyle within a short time"! However, his fond hopes have yet to be fulfilled.

Omagh's Castle Holm was also the venue for Tyrone's first successful appearance in the Ulster hurling championship, against Fermanagh on Sunday, 23rd July, 1905. The Tyrone team, selected at a meeting of the three clubs participating in the county championship which was chaired by T. Toorish (Strabane), was as follows: J. Doogan (Sarsfields), P. Mortland and Tom Toorish (Lamh Dhearg), William Cunningham (Emmets), Stephen Bogle and Hugh McKay (Lamh Dhearg), Joseph Kelly and Thomas Cassidy (Emmets), Charles Boyle, Hugh Caul, John Gallagher, John Boyle and Dan Doherty (Lamh Dhearg), James Rice, captain, and John Cunningham (Emmets), John Mossey and Michael Donnelly (Sarsfields). Reserves were W.F. McNaney (Emmets), Frank Tierney (Sarsfields) and James Coyle (Lamh Dhearg).

The Fermanagh team was badly handicapped by the fact that one important contingent of their team, containing some of their best players, arrived late for the game. Tyrone had a full team of seventeen players while Fermanagh were forced to play with only fourteen, and Tyrone won the game, which was refereed by P. McGinley, Belfast, by thirty points to six. Tyrone went on to meet Donegal in the Ulster semi-final, which was played in Derry on 20th August. Although Tyrone lost this game, there was an appeal for an infringement, and the game was replayed in the Demesne Grounds, Derry, on 24th September. The game attracted about two thousand spectators and was refereed by J.L. Elliott from Derry. Unfortunately, Tyrone fared no better than in the first game and lost by 2-13 to 1-0 after being in arrears by 1-7 to 1-0 at half-time. The Tyrone team on that occasion was: J. Doogan (Sarsfields), T. Anglim (St. Patrick's, Killyclogher), W. Cunningham (Emmets), C. Boyle, captain, and T. Toorish (Lamh Dhearg), T. McCamley (Emmets), J. McGonagle (Lamh Dhearg), O'Neill (Emmets), O'Sullivan (Lamh Dhearg), J. Kelly (Emmets), D. Doherty, J. McKay, H. Caul, J. Boyle, Reilly and J. Gallagher (Lamh Dhearg).

County Convention, March 1905

It would not be appropriate to conclude this account of the 1904-05 season without referring to the Annual General Meeting held on 25th March, 1905, to review the first year in which a full programme of GAA activities had taken place in Tyrone. This meeting, held in the Urban Council Rooms, Dungannon, under the presidency of M.V. O'Nolan (Strabane), was attended by representatives of seven clubs - Dungannon Emmets (J. Rice, W. McNaney - secretary of the County Board - and Michael Greaney), Strabane Lamh Dhearg (M.V. O'Nolan and T. Toorish), Coalisland Fianna (J. Morrison and A. McDyer), Killygavanagh Wolfe Tones (Robert Corr), Coalisland Owen Roes (Edward Eccles and John Hughes), Donaghmore Eire Og (P.E. Corr and M. Doherty) and Cookstown Brian Og (P. Devlin and P. McAttackney).

The secretary, W. McNaney, who indicated that he did not wish to serve for another year, submitted the first annual report of the workings of the Board, and referred to the excellent progress which had been made in reviving the national games. He also submitted a statement of the accounts which showed that affiliation fees had totalled £2-8-0, contributions from clubs had amounted to £3-0-0, gate receipts were £11-18-8, entrance fees to competitions were £1-2-6, and a protest deposit was £0-10-0 - a grand total of £18-19-2. Expenditure had amounted to £16-12-10, leaving a balance of £2-6-4.

M.V. O'Nolan was unanimously re-elected chairman, Joseph Morrison (Coalisland Fianna) was elected treasurer and Michael Greaney (Dungannon Emmets) succeeded W. McNaney as secretary. Both M.V. O'Nolan and J. Rice were re-elected as delegates to the Ulster Council. There was a long and animated discussion as to where meetings should be held during the year. Some felt it should be Omagh, while others thought that the claims of Strabane and Dungannon should not be ignored, since they had taken the first and most prominent part in the movement. After the claims of Cookstown, Aughnacloy, Donaghmore and Coalisland were also put forward, it was agreed that meetings should rotate among these venues, with the first meeting arranged for Cookstown in April. Dungannon, which hosted this first ever Convention of the Tyrone GAA, was also the venue for a meeting of the Ulster Council which took place on the same day. The meeting was chaired by M.V. O'Nolan, now chairman of the Council, and was attended by delegates from Tyrone, Armagh and Antrim.

Confirmation of Tyrone's dedication to the national games, as evidenced at its first Convention, may be gained from the fact that this county was one of only four Ulster counties which sent delegates to the GAA's Annual Convention in Thurles on 8th January, 1905, and that Tyrone was the only Ulster county represented when the adjourned Convention met - again in Thurles - on 5th February, when a total of only nine counties from throughout the whole country attended. It is interesting to note too that of the Ulster counties, only Tyrone and Fermanagh were represented at the 1906 Convention, held in Thurles on 28th January and attended by delegates from fifteen counties.

(4) *Growth and Development, 1905-1906 Senior Football Championship*

The progress which marked the 1904-05 season in Tyrone was to continue in 1905-06 when a number of new clubs were formed and a full programme of activities at club and county level took place. The County Board meeting, which was held in Omagh on 23rd September, 1905, made the draw for both the senior and junior football championships. It was presided over by M.V. O'Nolan (Strabane) and attended by J. Donnelly (Omagh Sarsfields), Hugh McGartiand and Neil Devlin (Killyclogher St. Patrick's), M. Doherty (Donaghmore Eire Og), J. Armstrong and P.E. Corr (Galbally Rapparees), J. Mallon (Coalisland Owen Roes), J.M. O'Kane (Coalisland Fianna) and T. Toorish (Strabane Lamh Dhearg). A total of six teams entered for the senior football championship and the draw resulted as follows (all games to be played on 8th October): Coalisland Fianna v Dungannon Emmets at Coalisland - referee M. Doherty; Donaghmore Eire Og v Killyclogher St. Patrick's referee M.F. Greaney; Strabane Fag-a-Bealach v Strabane Lamh Dhearg - referee M.V. O'Nolan. Nine teams entered for the junior championship, and the draws were: Cookstown Brian Og v Derrytresk Fir-a-Chnuic at Cookstown on 5th November - referee J.M. O'Kane; Galbally Rapparees v Donaghmore Eire Og at Galbally on 5th November - referee J. Rice; Coalisland Owen Roes v Omagh Sarsfields at Coalisland on 12th November - referee J.M. O'Kane; Dungannon Emmets v Coalisland Fianna at Dungannon on 19th November - referee P.E. Corr; St. Patrick's Killyclogher a bye.

In the senior championship, Fag-a-Bealach beat their Strabane rivals, Lamh Dhearg by 0-3 to 0-2, Coalisland Fianna beat Dungannon Emmets by 0-9 to 1-0 after a replay, while Donaghmore beat Killyclogher by 0-7 to 0-1. Although no newspaper accounts survive of the

semi-final stage, it is almost certain that Strabane defeated Coalisland and that it is this defeat in Strabane rather than the victory in the 1904-05 final which remained in the memories of those Coalisland Gaels who in 1949 still remembered an important game with a Strabane team at a crucial stage of a championship. Whatever doubts there may be about the semi-final pairing, there is none whatsoever about the final, in which Donaghmore Eire Og met Strabane Fag-a-Bealach. The game, played in Strabane at the end of February or the beginning of March and refereed by Joseph Cullen of Derrytresk Fir-a-Chnuic, resulted in a draw, and was re-fixed for Donaghmore, where a monster demonstration was to be held on St. Patrick's Day. This game also resulted in a draw, and was re-played on Easter Monday (16th April) at the Castle Holm in Omagh, when the referee was W.J. Bennett, a native of Thurles, who during his brief stay in Omagh, apparently as a teacher in the Christian Brothers School, played football and hurling for the local Sarsfields club and was a member of the Tyrone hurling team. The occasion was an outstanding one. Cheap rail excursions were available for the game, and although there was heavy rain with a strong wind, this did not detract from the quality of the football. The match was preceded by a wonderful hurling game in which Omagh Sarsfields, reinforced by a number of I(Killyclogher players, drew with the tire Og team from Derry city. The Donaghmore tire Og team were however not so fortunate. They led at half-time by 0-4 to 1-0, but Strabane, aided by the wind in the second half, scored four points without reply, and became Tyrone senior football champions by 1-4 to 0-4.

A Survivor of the 1906 Final

A survivor of those epic clashes in the 1905-06 senior football championship between Strabane and Donaghmore, Tommy Tierney, who played in the Donaghmore forward line, recalled seventy-five years later at the age of ninety-four some of his memories of the games and of the early days of the GAA in Tyrone. He remembered vividly how different everything was in those days. "The ball was like a big drum, the full of your arms, and very heavy. If there was the least wind, you couldn't kick it ten yards". Each team consisted of seventeen players, and the point posts were wider than the goal posts. As a result, "you'd have between twenty and thirty points scored in many a game". Admission to the games was three pence, the equivalent of one new penny, and a good gate at a club match might realise 7/6d (37 1/2 new pence).

Money was very scarce in those days, and, according to Tommy Tierney, not much was spent on football. The shorts for the Donaghmore team were made by a local girl from flour bags at a cost of three pence each. He himself improvised his own football boots from an old pair of ordinary boots with sound uppers on to which he put a sole of hard leather, reinforced with leather bars. Footballs did not last long, as the stitching would come apart easily. However, the parish priest in Donaghmore, Canon O'Neill, usually came to the rescue when money was needed and provided the funds necessary for a replacement.

Apart from the obvious enjoyment which was gained from actually playing the game, Tommy recalled the pleasure which he and his team mates obtained from travelling to other venues, especially when the weather was fine. Most of the travelling was done by horse-drawn brake (an open side-car in which the passengers sat back to back), and the players sang from the time they left home until they reached their destination. He particularly remembered leaving Donaghmore after the 8.30a.m. Mass on Sunday morning, and travelling by McAleers' brake (Dungannon)

56 The G.A.A. in Tyrone to Pomeroy, where they changed horses before continuing on their long journey to Strabane at the other end of the county-

Junior Football Championship

The junior football championship of 1905-06 attracted a total of nine teams. Four of the clubs which entered Dungannon Emmets, Coalisland Fianna, Killyclogher St. Patrick's

and Donaghmore Eire Og - had also entered for the senior championship, while the five remaining teams Cookstown Brian Og, Derrytresk Fir-a-Chnuic, Galbally Rapparees, Coalisland Owen Roes and Omagh Sarsfields participated at junior level only. Information about this competition is very sketchy indeed. A report of a County Board meeting held in May contains fixtures for the semi-finals in which Brian Og were to meet Galbally Rapparees and Coalisland Fianna were to meet Owen Roes. No accounts of any further junior championship games survive, but an "Ulster Herald" report of 21st July, 1906 states that "St. Patrick's (Killiclogher) not very long ago won the Tyrone junior football championship". Apart from this one reference, there is no further indication of the outcome of this competition.

Senior Hurling Championship

The third championship which took place in 1905-06 the senior hurling championship - brought to the Killiclogher club its first major victory at senior level on the field of play. Six teams - Strabane Lamh Dhearg (the holders), Omagh Sarsfields, Killiclogher (also called North Cappagh) St. Patrick's, Tummery (Dromore) Aodh Ruadh, Dungannon Emmets and Coalisland Fianna - entered the competition. Accounts survive of one semi-final only, in which St. Patrick's defeated Tummery in a replay before two thousand spectators on 27th May, 1906. The game was refereed by Cathal O'Toole, who was now county secretary, and Killiclogher who led by 2-2 to 1-3 at half time went on to win by 4-3 to 2-6. The final, played on 10th June, between St. Patrick's and Strabane Lamh Dhearg, resulted in a draw, and the replay attracted to the Castle Holm what was described as the largest crowd ever assembled at a Gaelic match in Omagh. The game was refereed by Cathal O'Toole and ended in victory for Killiclogher on the score of 0-7 to 1-1. Killiclogher, however, appear to have been denied the fruits of their victory. A note in the "GAA Annual" for 1907-08 which lists the championship winners in each county up to that time says: "St. Patrick's, North Cappagh, won the final, but a replay being ordered on protest by Ldmh Dhearg, St. Patrick's withdrew."

Mid-Tyrone League

Apart from the championship games in football and hurling, many other competitive games took place during this season. In the western part of the county, a decision to form a Mid-Tyrone League was taken in December, 1905, and it was decided to invite the co-operation and support of all the national societies in the district in order to place the national games on a sound basis in Mid-Tyrone. Five clubs were represented at a meeting held in Omagh on 10th March, 1906, to make arrangements for the playing of competitions - Beragh and Sixmilecross Wolfe Tones, which had been formed at the end of January, represented by Patrick Rodgers and Shane McGillion; Letteree United Gaels (in Dromore parish) represented by James McPeake; Aughnacree Young Irelands (also in Dromore), formed at the end of January, 1906, represented by its secretary/treasurer, Francis Kelly; Killiclogher and Mountfield St. Patrick's, represented by Barney McGinn and James McSorley, and Omagh Sarsfields, represented by W.J. Bennett and R. Crawford. Shane McGillion (Wolfe Tones) was appointed chairman, while W.J. Bennett acted as secretary. The formation of the league provided a great stimulus to the GAA in West Tyrone, and competition was very keen between these five teams. St. Patrick's, Killiclogher, became the first winners of the league, when they defeated Omagh Sarsfields in the final by 0-10 to 0-0 on

Sunday, 29th April, 1906.

Ulster Championship

On the inter-county scene, Tyrone participated successfully in the Ulster senior hurling championship, when they defeated Fermanagh in Enniskillen in the first round on 17th June, 1906, by 1-3 to 0-2. Tyrone's victory was largely due to the skill of the Anglim brothers from Clare, who played with Killyclogher, and to W.J. Bennett, a Thurles man, who during his brief stay in Omagh was a member of the Sarsfields club. Tyrone's team was: J. Doogan, T. Anglim, P. Anglim, P. McGrath, W.J. Bennett, Charles Boyle, Tom Toorish, T. Mortland, B. McGinn, J.J. McElholm, John Gallagher, C. Campbell, W. Foley, M.J. Donnelly, J. Coyle, P. Slevin and J. McCrory.

Although there is no record of further participation in the hurling championship, an account survives in the "Derry People" of 10th February, 1906, of Tyrone's football championship game against Derry at Magirr, Strabane on Sunday, 4th February. The game was refereed by M.V. O'Nolan, and Derry, who led by 0-1 to 0-0 at half time, won by 1-3 to 0-2. According to the report of the game, Tyrone had a "splendid team drawn from Strabane, Dungannon, Donaghmore and Coalisland". Tyrone teams also had wide contacts with teams from other counties during the season. Records survive of a game between Tummery Aodh Ruadh and Coa (Fermanagh) in hurling, of participation by a combined Sarsfields and St. Patrick's hurling team in the annual Christmas tournament in Derry, and of a football game between Aughnacloy and Monaghan Harps. Although Aughnacloy did not participate in the junior football championship, there is evidence that they were active during the season and played a number of friendly games against neighbouring teams.

County Convention, March, 1906

It is difficult to determine with certainty the number of clubs affiliated during the year, but there can be no doubt that the 1905-06 season showed evidence of continued progress in the development of the GAA in Tyrone. When the Annual Convention took place in Omagh on Saturday, 3rd March, 1906, it was reported that since the formation of the County Board in January 1904, the GAA movement had been spreading rapidly "notwithstanding the innumerable obstacles which the adherents of the national pastimes had to encounter", that there were already about eighteen clubs in the county, half of these in East Tyrone, and that with a little hard work this number could easily be doubled. The hope was expressed that South, Mid and North Tyrone would do everything possible to place the movement on a better footing and to have every parish organised. In spite of progress to date, the organisation was still in its infancy in Tyrone and the earnest co-operation of every Gael was required to make it a thorough success. It was reported that, although a number of clubs took part mainly in hurling, football seemed to be the more favoured game, and it was hoped that hurling would be taken up by every club and that camogie would be introduced.

Although the attendance at this Convention was somewhat disappointing, it was more than compensated for by the spirit and enthusiasm of those present. Of those who took part in the first meeting in January 1904, only one, Cathal O'Toole of Donaghmore, was present in Omagh, and in the unavoidable absence of the chairman, M.V. O'Nolan, O'Toole presided at the meeting. No representative was present from Dungannon Emmets or Strabane Lamh Dhearg, but there were representatives from a total of eight clubs: Omagh Sarsfields (W.J. Bennett, Michael Nugent and Thomas McCann), Derrytresk Fir-a-Chnuic (Michael O'Hanlon and Joseph Cullen, N.T.), Cookstown Brian Og (Joseph McElvogue), Donaghmore Eire Og (Cathal O'Toole), Coalisland Owen Roes (John Joseph Mallon), Killyclogher St. Patrick's (H. McCrory, H. Donaghy), Coalisland Fianna (John William Gavan, N.T.), Letteree United Gaels (James McPeak). Officers elected were: chairman - M.V. O'Nolan (Strabane); vice-chairman - Cathal O'Toole (Donaghmore); treasurer - Joseph Morrison (Coalisland); secretary - John J. Mallon (Coalisland); assistant secretary - W.J. Bennett (Omagh); delegates to Ulster Council - M.V. O'Nolan, J.W. Gavan and J. Cullen; delegate to Central Council - J.J. Mallon.

Affiliated Clubs

It may be useful to list at this point the clubs which appear to have been affiliated to the County Board. In the east, there were Dungannon Emmets, Donaghmore Eire og, Coalisland Fianna, Coalisland Owen Roes, Cookstown Brian Og, Derrytresk Fir-a-Chnuic, Galbally Rapparees and Aughnacloy Shamrocks. Millygavanagh Wolfe Tones may also have been in existence at this time. In the west, there were Omagh Sarsfields, Killyclogher St. Patrick's, Sixmilecross Wolfe Tones, Letteree United Gaels and Aughnamoe Young Irelands. In North Tyrone, in addition to Strabane Lamh Dhearg and Strabane Fag-a-Bealach, two other Strabane teams are listed among the clubs which sent delegates to a County Board meeting on Easter Monday, 1906 - Hibernians, represented by F. Quinn, and Craobh Ruadh, represented by John Doherty.

The existence of eighteen clubs within two years of the establishment of a County Board in Tyrone is firm evidence of the progress which was made by the GAA within such a relatively short period of time. Not that the GAA did not encounter difficulties and setbacks. A letter to the "Ulster Herald" in February, 1906, states: "In Omagh and elsewhere, there is plenty of lip sympathy with the Gaelic movement, but when it comes to supporting in a practical manner the efforts of the disinterested and enthusiastic young men who are so unselfishly working for the revival of our own pastimes, a woeful lack of practical interest is apparent". Earlier, in November, 1905, another correspondent complained about the fact that the nationalist shopkeepers and merchants in Omagh were not taking an interest in the national games but were supporting Hockey and Association (Football) and British garrison dances. He contrasted this with the situation in Strabane where, he said, there were two GAA clubs at that time and one of them had recently been presented with a set of shirts and boots by a local shopkeeper. No doubt, one of the problems encountered by teams at this time was the difficulty of travelling because of the distances involved. The decision of the County Convention at its meeting in March not to hold meetings of the County Board in Strabane or Cookstown is one indication of a problem caused by teams participating in competitions in a county which extended from Strabane in the west to beyond Dungannon and Coalisland in the east. It may have been for this reason that the opportunity presented by the holding of a major game, e.g. the county football final on Easter Monday, was used to hold a County Board meeting afterwards, when representatives from many clubs were likely to be already present at the venue. This of course was a problem which was to continue to raise difficulties in Tyrone in later years, and must have contributed to making administration more than usually troublesome and expensive.

In addition to the affiliated teams, it is likely that a number of other teams were taking part in GAA activities and that games within parishes were played. Besides, a number of challenge games were played between affiliated clubs outside the regular competitions. Many of those involved in the GAA were also closely associated with other nationalist movements at the time, and it is interesting to note that at a large AOH demonstration held in Sixmilecross on 15th August, 1906, attended by 20,000 people, one of the resolutions passed was to the effect that the Gaelic League and the Gaelic Athletic Association had the wholehearted sympathy of the AOH (which at that time was probably the most important nationalist movement in Tyrone).

(5) District Leagues, 1906-1907

Kilskeery

The 1906-07 season witnessed further progress of the GAA in Tyrone, particularly in the western part of the county, and the establishment of clubs in areas where none had been affiliated previously. It seems clear that, in some areas at least, the development of the GAA went hand in hand with the establishment of the Gaelic League - both being the products of an increasing interest in the promotion of the Irish - Ireland ideal. This was particularly the case in Kilskeery, to which Fr. Matt Maguire was appointed parish priest in 1906. Fr. Matt, who had helped to establish the cooperative movement while a curate in Dromore, and who was passionately interested in the restoration of the Irish language, set about establishing a branch of the Gaelic League in Kilskeery in September, 1906. An indication of the immediate success of the League there is given in a report of the Christmas morning ceremonies, when "all the Gaels turned out to early Mass at which the Rosary was recited in Irish by not less than seven hundred voices and Irish hymns were sung by the choir". Fr. Matt encouraged his congregation to take the "New Irish Ireland Pledge" by which they promised to support the language and study it, to learn the history of their country, to encourage Irish dances, games and amusements, and to discountenance those of other nations. These parishioners had an opportunity of participation in a fine programme of Irish music, songs, dances and recitations, when on the following night - St. Stephen's night - a concert was held under the auspices of the League, in the Courthouse, Trillick. This concert followed a lecture given by the noted Tyrone poetess, Alice Milligan, and was one of a series of lectures on aspects of Irish history and culture, given by distinguished visiting lecturers including Dr. McCaffrey of Maynooth College. In February, 1907, it was reported that Irish was being taught in all the day schools in the parish, and there were as many night schools as the travelling teachers were able to attend. The playing of the native games soon followed, and in March, 1907, the first Trillick club was affiliated. While it does not appear to have enjoyed much success in its first year of competition, nevertheless the first steps had been taken to set up a football club in the parish and to establish a GAA tradition in the area.

Omagh

The GAA in Omagh also seems to have been very closely associated with the local Gaelic League branch. In September, 1905, the Sarsfields GAA club had started Irish language, history and dancing classes. However, in 1906, they seem to have left the development of such activities to the very active Gaelic League branch, with which they worked in close co-operation and to which they gave every possible support. During the winter of 1906-07, the League's juvenile language class as well as its Irish dancing classes were taught by Cathal O'Toole, who had moved from Donaghmore to work in Omagh in the spring of 1906 and who played a very active part in the workings of the Sarsfields club and the Tyrone County Board. Many of those involved in the GAA and the Gaelic League in Omagh also joined the recently formed branch of the Pioneer Temperance Association. An "Ulster Herald" report of 24th November, 1906 says: "Another very pleasing factor that clearly shows the forces which are at work in the regeneration of Erin is the number of members. . . who have joined the Pioneer Association. The Pioneer emblem is now conspicuous among local Gaels, and in fact everything goes to show that a bright future lies before the young men and women who are working so unselfishly and devotedly in the creation of a thorough Irish Ireland spirit in the town. . .". The report concludes in Irish: "Go n-eirighidh an obair mhaith seo, agus beannacht De na Gaedhilgeoiri" (May this good work succeed, and may the Gaels have God's blessing).

Fintona Davitts; Rose Kavanagh Camogie Team

In Fintona also, the year 1907 saw a remarkable revival of the Irish-Ireland spirit. In February, a branch of the Gaelic League was formed, and by the summer of that year, the Michael Davitt Gaelic Football club had come into existence. This club promoted a most successful sports meeting on Saturday, 29th June, in the course of which the Davitts defeated

Aughnamoe Young Irelands by 0-8 to 0-5. The meeting also included a camogie match between two local teams - the first recorded camogie game played in Tyrone. Another important event took place soon afterwards in Fintona - the annual Church Parade of the St. Lawrence's Branch of the Irish National Foresters, held on 8th September, 1907, which included a football game between Fintona Davitts and Letteree United Gaels and an exhibition camogie game which featured the members of the Fintona Rose Kavanagh camogie team.

This team, called after the Tyrone poetess, Rose Kavanagh, has the distinction of being Tyrone's first camogie team. It was fitting that it should have been named in memory of a distinguished daughter of Tyrone. Born at Killadroy (in the parish of Beragh) in 1859, Rose Kavanagh moved with her family at the age of eleven to Mullaghmore, near Augher, where Knockmany mountain rises in the west. After her education in Omagh Convent, she went to Dublin as an art student, but entered journalism as "Uncle Remus" of the "Weekly Freeman". Her first published poem was "Knockmany", and from that Tyrone mountain she got the name of "Rose of Knockmany" from Charles Kickham whom she tended in his last years. She died in 1891 at the age of 32, having been attended in her last illness by another Tyrone Gael, Dr. George Sigerson. In accordance with her own wishes, she was buried under the shadow of Knockmany. A book of her poems, "Rose Kavanagh and Her Verses", was published in Dublin in 1909.'

Carrickmore

During the 1906-07 season, a number of other clubs also came into existence, although in most cases their life-span was a very short one. Among the teams which took part in the early stages of the Mid-Tyrone competition was the newly formed Carrickmore St. Columba's who played Omagh Sarsfields at Carrickmore on Sunday, 2nd December, 1906. According to the newspaper report of the game, the meeting of those two teams "attracted no small amount of attention, having regard to the fact that it was the first Gaelic match played in that district since the advent of the Gaelic revival. Now that a team has been started and a good one at that - it is to be hoped that the young men of that district will tackle the job with a right good will . . . ; they have got the material to make a first-class team". Carrickmore drew with Omagh in that opening game, and were only narrowly defeated in the return game two weeks later in Omagh. However, for some reason which is not recorded, the team took no further part in the MidTyrone League of that year, nor did it participate in any organised GAA activities until a club appeared again in 1916.

Newtownstewart

Newtownstewart's first Gaelic football club came into existence at a meeting held on Sunday, 24th March, 1907, at which Patrick McNamee presided. At this time, the Newtownstewart United team enjoyed a high reputation in the world of Association Football, and it appears that a number of their players left the club, allegedly because of a dispute over elections, to join the new GAA club. The first officers were: president - P. McNamee; captain - J. Blackburn; vicecaptain - Patrick Roche; treasurer - W.J. Gallagher, and secretary - J.J. McAnulla. P. McNamee granted the club the use of his field for matches during the season. The young team got off to a wonderful start, when in their first game they defeated Omagh Sarsfields in Newtownstewart by 0-8 to 0-7 before a crowd of about four hundred people. During the month of April, they twice played a team from Clady (Rory Og), losing once and winning once, and their greatest triumph of those early days was on 28th April when they travelled to Killyclogher and defeated the local St. Patrick's, who had just won the Mid-Tyrone League, by 0-20 to 0-4. In May, they played Strabane Fag-a-Bealach at Magirr, Strabane, losing by 0-10 to 0-6. However, apart from two challenge games in May, 1908,

nothing further is recorded about the activities of this club and they seem to have disappeared from GAA circles within a very short time.

An attempt seems to have been made to establish the GAA in the Drumquin area, and a team from there travelled to Killyclogher on 16th June to play the local St. Patrick's in a friendly football game. In an excellent game, refereed by C. Reilly of Omagh Sarsfields, Killyclogher emerged narrow winners by 0-7 to 0-6 and high hopes were entertained of a strong Drumquin team for the following season. However, there is no further record of any participation in this year or subsequently.

Moy

In East Tyrone too, there were fresh stirrings during the early summer. In Moy, the earliest surviving account of participation in GAA affairs is a report of a game played at Bradery Park, Moy, on Sunday, 5th May, 1907 against a team from Raismore. Several hundred spectators, including a large number of ladies and contingents from Armagh and Dungannon, were present to witness a rousing game which Moy won by 1-5 to 1-2. The visitors were afterwards entertained by members of the Moy club in the AOH Hall. By the beginning of 1908, a Moy Phelim Roe club with thirty-eight registered members had been affiliated to the County Board.

District Leagues

The establishment of new clubs and the consolidation of existing ones, particularly in the western part of the county, may well have received a strong boost from the decisions taken at the meeting of the County Board held in Omagh in November, 1906. The meeting, chaired by M.V. O'Nolan, and attended by the secretary, Cathal O'Toole, and the delegate to the Ulster and Central Councils, J.W. Gavan N.T. (Coalisland), as well as delegates from Strabane Iamh Dhearg, Aughnacloy Shamrocks, Coalisland Fianna, Donaghmore Eire Og, Omagh Sarsfields, Killyclogher St. Patrick's and Aughnamoe Young Irelands, took a long hard look at the state of the organisation in the county and decided to run three football leagues for the 1906-07 season. The northern part of the county, with Strabane as headquarters, was to form one of the league divisions, and was reported to be already in working order. Mid-Tyrone, with Omagh as headquarters, was to form the second division, and had already been put on a working basis. A third league - from East and South Tyrone clubs - was to have its headquarters in Dungannon, and J.W. Gavan was appointed to organise this division. Gavan, who was a teacher in Coalisland, was very active in GAA affairs at this time, being representative of the county on both the Ulster and Central Councils, and he was to be given the honour of refereeing the 1906 Ulster senior football championship final between Monaghan and Antrim on 25th August, 1907. It was also decided that the winners of the three divisions should compete for championship honours later in the season. Since it was anticipated that the league competition would take up a considerable amount of time, the Board decided not to take part in the provincial championship, in which Tyrone had already been drawn to play against Antrim, "so that everything possible might be done to further the organisation in the county in the first instance".

East Tyrone

In spite of the good intentions of the County Board, their work appears to have borne little fruit in the eastern part of the county. A meeting was held in St. Patrick's Hall, Dungannon, on Saturday, 24th November, 1906, chaired by P. Kelly (Coalisland Fianna), and it was decided to form a league, to be called the East and South League. A further meeting was arranged for the following Saturday, when it was hoped that every Gaelic club in the

district would be represented. However, it is doubtful if more than a few league games were played during the season, and the competition appears to have petered out.

The scanty evidence which survives shows that there was held a general meeting in November, 1906, when Joseph Morrison was appointed chairman and vice-captain, Neil Teggart vice-chairman, J.W. Gavan secretary and captain, and James (Farson) O'Neill treasurer. Elected to the committee were P. Kelly, Dan Corr, Mick Woods, James Cullen and Patrick Carbery. Coalisland played Aughnacloy Shamrocks in a league game at Aughnacloy at the end of January, 1907, emerging victorious by 0-12 to 0-9. The Aughnacloy club were obviously making great efforts at this time to establish Gaelic activities in that part of Tyrone, and their attitude to anything which smacked of West Britonism was clearly shown in a resolution which was passed at a meeting of the club on 25th September, 1906, earnestly impressing on the GAA Council "the advisability of making no modification in rules already regulating Gaelic sports for the benefit of West British flunkies who seek to undermine Irish-Ireland pastimes." This is obviously a reference to the debate which was then going on regarding a possible revision of the rule regarding participation in foreign games. The hope was expressed that "the spirit of enthusiasm which was shown that evening would continue until the ancient games of Ireland held again their proper place in the pastimes of the nation".

A general meeting of the Dungannon Emmets football club was held at the end of October, 1906, when officers for the 1906-07 season were elected. However, it is difficult to ascertain whether the club participated in any organised competitions during the season. No delegates from the club attended the County Board meeting in November, 1906, or the County Convention in February, 1907. Towards the end of July, a Dungannon hurling team, playing under the name Craobh Ruadh, participated in a game against St. Patrick's, Killyclogher, which they lost by 0-15 to 0-11, and in September, J.P. O'Connor, who was described as the secretary of the Dungannon Craobh Ruadh club, was in correspondence with the County Board concerning the forthcoming football championship. It appears therefore, that the Emmets disappeared from the scene at some time during 1907, to be replaced by the new Craobh Ruadh club.

In Cookstown, a meeting of what was described as the Emmet Gaelic Football club took place in "their new rooms in Orritor Street" early in February, 1907. They appointed P. Tyne captain, P. Donaghy vice-captain, James McKenna secretary and James Corr treasurer. Several new members were admitted to the club and it was decided to obtain a fixture with Donaghmore. Whether this club replaced the former Brian Og club is impossible to determine. It may well have been that the Brian Og club went out of existence for a short time around this period. At a meeting of the County Board, held on 27th October, 1907, a letter from Thomas J. O'Neill, who was described as the secretary of the Brian Og club, was read, and the hope was expressed that "the members of this club might again see their way to unite with their fellow Gaels in the forwarding and strengthening of the Gaelic movement in Tyrone." This may indicate that something had happened which may have resulted in a decision by the club to withdraw from GAA affairs. This suspicion is confirmed by an entry in the minute book of the Brian Og club which contains the wording of an invitation, dated 30th October, 1907, to a meeting to be held in the INF Hall "for the purpose of considering the advisability of reorganising the above club". The meeting was held on Friday, the 8th November, 1907, when it was agreed to revive the Brian Og club, which continued to bear the GAA standard in Cookstown in subsequent years.

North Tyrone

As in East Tyrone during the 1906-07 season, there is little evidence of competitive games in the northern division of the county. The Strabane Lamh Dhearg club was represented at the meetings of the County Board held in November, 1906, but did not send a

representative to the convention in February from which the chairman, M.V. O'Nolan, was unavoidably absent. The GAA in Strabane was probably hampered by the absence of other teams in the area to provide worthwhile competition, since, apart from the Clady Rory Og team which seems to have come into existence during 1907, and the Newtownstewart club which made its brief appearance during the early summer of that year, there were no other clubs in that part of Tyrone to participate in a meaningful league competition.

Mid-Tyrone

What was missing in these two areas was more than compensated for by the vigorous activity in Mid-Tyrone. As early as 10th November, 1906, a meeting of the League committee was held to make arrangements for the season. H.K. McAleer of the Sixmilecross Wolfe Tones club was appointed chairman, and John Daly of St. Patrick's, Killyclogher, became secretary. Five teams - Sixmilecross Wolfe Tones, Killyclogher St. Patrick's, Omagh Sarsfields, Aughnacree Young Irelands and Letteree United Gaels entered the league competition and a sixth, Carrickmore St. Columba's, participated in the early stages of the league. A set of medals was to be offered to the winners. The league, which began on Sunday, 25th November, was played on a home-and-away basis, with each of the five teams playing the others twice. It is clear that the competition aroused keen interest and attracted many to watch the games. A report in the "Ulster Herald" of 8th December, 1906 states: "To those who are labouring to revive and to promote the sport of the Gael in Tyrone, nothing could be more gratifying than the success of the Mid-Tyrone League. Gaelic football is the topic everywhere you go at the moment. Interest is beginning to develop... and enthusiasm is taking up in all quarters. Spectators galore turned out to witness the different matches on Sunday last at Mountfield (where Killyclogher had a home game), Carrickmore and Aughnacree, and right good enthusiasm could be seen in every face". The chairman of the League, H.K. McAleer, and its secretary, John Daly, were among those who refereed the games, and other referees included James McLaughlin (Letteree), James Greenan, Thomas McCann and Charles O'Reilly (Omagh), and James McGinn (Killyclogher).

The result of the competition, which was completed at the end of March 1907, gave rise to some controversy. It would appear that Letteree United Gaels, who seem to have gained most points, from the games played, felt aggrieved because, as the newspaper report of the time puts it, "through some bungle made by officers of the team and also by the County Board, they were left out in the cold". This may mean that they were not awarded the league title, and indeed there is some reason to suggest that Killyclogher St. Patrick's were declared winners.

The Letteree club took the matter so seriously that it was understood that they intended holding a meeting for the purpose of taking up Association football. However, the matter appears to have been resolved amicably, for at a meeting of the County Board held on 29th September, at which both Letteree and Killyclogher clubs were represented, it was unanimously agreed that the medals for the Mid-Tyrone League competition be handed over to Letteree United Gaels. The threat to leave the GAA and play soccer came to nothing, for earlier in September, the Letteree club took part in a friendly game with Fintona Davitts, and they continued to participate in GAA activities in the 1907-08 season under the new name of Dromore Gaelic Athletic club,

McAnespie Cup

In addition to the League competition, the Mid-Tyrone committee also promoted the McAnespie Cup competition, which was played in April and May, 1907. This cup the first GAA trophy to be played for in Tyrone - had been donated to the committee by James

McAnespie from Omagh, who in addition to taking an interest in Gaelic games, was keenly interested in cycling and became president and treasurer of the Omagh Eagle Cycling club when it was established in May, 1908. Omagh, Aughnacloy, Killyclogher, Sixmilecross and the recently-formed Trillick team took part in the competition; Leterees do not appear to have participated. The Newtown Stewart team, which had just been formed at this time, were disappointed that they were not permitted to take part - it may be that arrangements had already been made for the competition by the time they applied for entry. Only a few results of the games played in this competition, which was probably played on a knock-out basis, survive, but it is known that the winners were Killyclogher St. Patrick's, who were awarded the final against Omagh Sarsfields, when the latter were unable at the last moment to field a team on Sunday, 2nd June, 1907. Their captain, Hugh McGartland, was presented with the cup by the Chairman of Omagh Urban District Council on Sunday, 16th June, 1907. It had been intended by the County Board that the winners of the three divisional leagues - North, Mid and South-East - should play for the county championship of 1906-07. In the absence of such competitions in the North and the South-East, it is hardly surprising to find that no football championship was in fact played during this season.'

Hurling

Hurling seems to have entered a period of decline during this season. Tyrone had been drawn to play Donegal at Strabane on 28th October, 1906 in the Ulster hurling championship, with J.L. Elliott, Derry, as referee. If this game was played - and this must remain doubtful, particularly in view of the County Board's decision not to play in the football championship - no report of it survives. The only record of participation by Tyrone in hurling at inter-county level around this period is a report of a defeat by Derry by twelve points to five in a senior hurling game played at Derry on 1st August, 1907. Killyclogher St. Patrick's seem to have made a valiant effort to keep hurling alive - they played games against Dungannon Croagh Ruadh in July and against Tummery Red Hughs at a sports meeting on 1st September. In addition, Killyclogher was the venue for the Ulster championship game between Derry and Fermanagh, which was played on Sunday, 22nd September, and which was refereed by the Tyrone and Ulster chairman, M.V. O'Nolan. An interesting side-light on this game, which may give modern readers some indication of the difficulties encountered by players in those days, in addition to the problem of getting good hurling sticks at a reasonable price, is that the brake carrying the Fermanagh players to Omagh left Enniskillen at 7.00a.m. (picking up players from Co. O'Dwyers along the way), and the players were asked to provide themselves with camans, togs and boots - only the jerseys were supplied.

County Convention, February, 1907

Before this account of the 1906-07 season is concluded, it may be appropriate to refer to the Annual Convention, which was held in the club rooms of the Omagh Sarsfields club in Bridge Street, Omagh in February, 1907. Michael V. O'Nolan, Strabane, who had been chairman since the formation of the County Board in 1904, and who had been re-elected chairman of the Ulster Council in January, was unable to attend the meeting, and in his absence, H.K. McAleer (Sixmilecross) took the chair. Delegates were present from Omagh Sarsfields, Coalisland Fianna, Killyclogher St. Patrick's, Aughnacloy Shamrocks, Aughnacloy Young Irelands and Sixmilecross Wolfe Tones. O'Nolan was re-elected chairman; Cathal O'Toole, who had become secretary in May of the previous year, was re-appointed to the post, while the chairman of the Mid-Tyrone League, H.K. McAleer (Sixmilecross), became treasurer, and J.W. Gavan N.T. (Coalisland) was appointed delegate to the Ulster and Central Councils. O'Toole was destined not to serve out a full year of office, as he left Omagh to go to Newry later in the year and, although he returned for a brief spell in 1908 before taking up a post in Drogheda in March, 1909, he was to play no further

active part in an administrative capacity in the affairs of the County Board. He was succeeded as county secretary by Joseph Donnelly from Omagh Sarsfields, who was appointed at the meeting of the Board on 29th September.

Cathal O'Toole

The involvement of O'Toole in the affairs of the GAA in Tyrone is part of a truly remarkable story. He was born in Hong Kong in 1883. His father, Joseph O'Toole, who was a native of the townland of Mullyconnor, midway between Dungannon and Castlecaulfield, served in the Hong Kong police force, and on the death of his wife there, he brought his young family of five boys and four girls back to his native Tyrone. Cathal, the eldest, who was a particularly clever boy, obtained a clerical post in the Dungannon office of Stevensons' Moygashel textile firm. Immediately, he took a deep interest in the Irish language and every aspect of Irish culture. He was a frequent contributor in 1903-04 to the "Young Ireland" column of the "Ulster Herald", which sought to promote the development of all things Irish, an active member of the GAA and Gaelic League, and he also became a fine exponent and teacher of Irish dancing and an accomplished teacher of the Irish language.

When the GAA revival got under way in the early 1900's, he was a founder member and first secretary of the Dungannon Emmets club in September, 1903, and founder, first president and captain of the Donaghmore Eire Og club in December of that year. It was shortly after this time that he embarked on a career in newspapers that was to last for the rest of his life. He began in the commercial department of the "North-West of Ireland Printing Company Ltd" in Newry, from where he went to the Omagh office of the same company, publishers of the "Ulster Herald", in 1906. While in Omagh, he also taught Irish language and dancing classes for the Gaelic League, and took an active part in the work of the Omagh Sarsfields club. He became vice-chairman of the Tyrone County Board in March, 1906, and secretary in May of that same year, having previously been treasurer for a short period at the end of 1904.

O'Toole left Omagh in March, 1909, to take up a journalistic post with the "Drogheda Independent", and later became editor of the "Westmeath Independent" and then of the "Dundalk Examiner", at that time owned by Frank Aiken. While in Dundalk, he was a close friend of Francis Ledwidge, the poet, who was killed in action in France in 1916. He joined the "Irish Press" as Gaelic editor when it was established in 1931, and moved to the "Irish Independent" in February, 1934, again as Gaelic editor, until he resigned in 1944. In addition to his career in journalism, he became president of An Fainne, an organisation aimed at promoting the speaking of Irish, and he was a founder member of Coiste na bPAiste, the object of which was to send children to Gaeltacht areas during the summer period. He was one of the three-man editorial board of the very ambitious monthly journal, "An Caman", a joint GAA-Gaelic League publication of high quality which appeared between June, 1931 and May, 1934. He was a keen philologist, who advocated the simplification of Irish spelling; he knew Welsh, Breton and Scots Gaelic and enjoyed a European reputation for Gaelic scholarship. He had almost completed an Irish dictionary when he died in June, 1949.

(6) Solid Achievement, 1907-1908 Senior Football Championship

The County Board, which met on 29th September, not only finished off the business of the 1906-07 season and appointed a new secretary, but began making arrangements for the 1907-08 season. It may well have been the failure of the league system to provide a championship winner which prompted them to decide to invite clubs to participate in the 1907-08 championship on a knock-out basis. Invitations, which were issued by newspaper advertisement, resulted in eight clubs applying to take part, and the following draws were

made at the County Board meeting held in Omagh on 26th October, 1907: Killiclogher St. Patrick's v Omagh Sarsfields (referee - H.K. McAleer, Sixmilecross); Strabane Lamh Dhearg v Clady Rory Og (referee - J. McLaughlin, Dromore,); Dromore Athletic v Fintona Davitts (referee - C. O'Reilly, Omagh); Coalisland Fianna v Dungannon Craobh Ruadh (referee - J. Greenan, Omagh). The first two games were to be played on 10th November, the second two on 17th November, with the first-named team to have choice of venue. The winners of the first two games were to meet the winners of the second two in the semi-finals, and the date and venue of the county final were to be arranged at the following meeting of the County Board on 25th January, 1908.

The championship, however, did not work out as smoothly as had been anticipated. The local derby in Omagh between St. Patrick's, Killiclogher and Omagh Sarsfields, played at the Killiclogher grounds, attracted a huge crowd on Sunday, 10th November. The match had been widely advertised and spectators were looking forward to an exciting contest. Their disappointment must have been very great when, after an incident involving two players, the game was stopped and the players left the field after only twenty minutes. The contest between Dungannon and Coalisland, on the other hand, resulted in a tremendous battle for supremacy. When the teams met at Coalisland on 17th November, the game resulted in a draw (1-1 each). The replay took place in Dungannon on 15th December, when both sides scored five points each. The third game was fixed by the County Board for 12th January, 1908, with J. Greenan, who had refereed the two previous games, to take charge again, and the venue was to be Moy GAA grounds, if available; otherwise it was to be played in Coalisland. Although no report of this game survives, it is known that the winners were Coalisland Finanna. Information about other games in the competition is sketchy. Fintona defeated Dromore, Strabane defeated Clady, and Fintona defeated Strabane in the semi-final on 15th December by 6-16 to 0-13. The Strabane club, which had entered the competition as Lamh Dhearg, appear to have changed their title at this time to the William Collins club - obviously to honour the famous nineteenth century novelist and poet from that town. Strabane appealed to the County Board about the result of this game without success and Fintona went forward to the county final.

Neither Omagh nor Killiclogher appears to have taken any further part in the competition. Whether this was as a result of a County Board decision is not clear. Coalisland, who should have met the winners in the semi-final, met instead the Cookstown Brian Og team, who were not included in the first-round draws and who appear to have been admitted at this stage of the competition. Coalisland won by 0-13 to 0-7 on 19th January, 1908, and so advanced to meet Fintona Davitts in the final. This game, played at Sixmilecross on Sunday, 2nd February, 1908, was described as "one of the finest exhibitions of Gaelic football yet witnessed in the county since the advent of the games. . . with not a single incident to mar the pleasure of the occasion." Although the weather conditions were poor, the game attracted a large, though not a record, crowd, and the contemporary account refers to the "many familiar faces which one could see from all quarters of East, Mid and South Tyrone, including Cookstown, Coalisland, Stewartstown, Dungannon, Moy, Pomeroy, Aughnacloy, Ballygawley, Fintona, Omagh, etc". The game, refereed by James Greenan, Omagh, who had been in charge of the Coalisland-Dungannon games, resulted in a draw at five points each, and arrangements were immediately made for a re-play.

Unfortunately, the competition was not finally decided until much later in the year. The re-play was fixed for Dungannon on a number of different occasions by the County Board, but, because of objections, first by Fintona and then by Coalisland, it did not take place until 20th September, 1908. Played again at Sixmilecross and once more in inclement weather, it nevertheless attracted a large crowd from Omagh, Fintona, Carrickmore, Beragh, Pomeroy and other places. The advertisement for the game billed it as "the greatest football match of the year", and announced that several national bands had promised to attend.

Admission was "three pence, cailini free". This time, Coalisland made no mistake and in winning comfortably by 0-8 to 0-2 they annexed their second senior football championship title. Joseph McElvogue from Cookstown Brian Og was referee. For Fintona, it must have been a bitter disappointment, one which they were to experience yet again in 1909 at the same stage of the competition. However, it was a wonderful achievement in their first full year in existence to have taken on the might of one of the old-established clubs in the county and to have performed so creditably.

Sixmilecross

Although only nine clubs participated in the football championship, there is evidence of GAA activity in many other parts of Tyrone during the 1907-08 season. It is difficult to determine if the Mid-Tyrone league was played, but in the division many games took place and the McAnespie Cup competition was completed. It is indeed surprising that Sixmilecross Wolfe Tones, who had been very active in the league in the previous year and whose outstanding official, H.K. McAleer, was treasurer of the County Board, did not take part in the championship. However, there is no doubt that they were still a vigorous force in the GAA. An indication of this is obtained from an account of a concert held in Brackey National School in aid of the club on Friday, 31st January, to wipe out debt which had been incurred in connection with participation in the McAnespie Cup. The account, which is strongly nationalistic in sentiment, says: "The Irish-Ireland movement is taking deep root in Beragh parish, particularly in the Sixmilecross area. The Gaelic code has come to stay about Sixmilecross, and those who do not like it can only look on and grin and bear it". It is significant that the parish priest, Fr. McArdle, travelled a very considerable distance from another part of Ireland to be present at the function, since, as he said, "he was particularly anxious to associate himself and show sympathy with the Gaels of Sixmilecross in their efforts to put a new soul into the country".

Drumquin, Aughnacloy, Clogher, Newtownstewart

In Drumquin, an attempt had been made in the previous season to establish a club, but although its existence was referred to at the Annual Convention in February, it does not appear to have been affiliated to the County Board nor to have taken part in any competitions. For some reason, Aughnacloy Shamrocks who had been in existence for two years were not affiliated by the time the Convention was held, although they are recorded as having played a challenge game against Clara Emmets (County Monaghan) in November, 1907, when they lost by 0-8 to 0-1. The same Monaghan club - Clara Emmets - also provided the opposition at the end of May, 1908, to yet another new Tyrone club - Clogher Rapparees - who gave a fine display in defeating Clara at Clogher by 1-3 to 0-3. The Tyrone club hospitably entertained their visitors and a return game was arranged. Clogher also took part in a game against Fintona Davitts at Augher at the aeridheacht organised by Clogher Gaelic League on 23rd August. It is reasonable to speculate that clubs like Aughnacloy and Clogher had the utmost difficulty in arranging fixtures with other Tyrone teams because of transport problems arising from their location at the periphery of the county and that their main outlet for participation in GAA activities was challenge games with Monaghan teams. For the same reason it is easy to appreciate how difficult it was for them to keep a club in existence and to be involved in the mainstream of Tyrone affairs. The Newtownstewart club had been formed in 1907 and had taken part in a number of challenge games during the season. In the absence of records, it is impossible to ascertain if they participated in official competitions in 1907-08. They are not included among the list of affiliated GAA clubs in February, 1908, although they later took part successfully in two challenge games - one on 3rd May against Omagh in the Castle Holm, Omagh, when they won by 0-11 to 0-3, and one on the following Sunday at Dromore when they defeated the local team by 0-6 to 0-4. However, there is nothing to indicate that they took any further part in GAA affairs.

Kilskeery Aeridheacht

Although a Trillick club is not recorded as being affiliated in February, 1908, there is no doubt that the Irish-Ireland movement, set in train by Fr. Matt Maguire, was playing an important part in the life of Kilskeery parish. A team called Trillick Red Hands defeated the very strong Dromore team, which had just won the McAnespie Cup, at Trillick on Sunday, 12th April, 1908, by 0-7 to 0-5, and repeated their victory a week later at Dromore by 1-5 to 1-4. On Sunday, 30th August, Fr. Matt mounted what was to be for many years an annual event in Kilskeery Parish - the Aeridheacht Mohor Chill Sgire (outdoor sports meeting) held on Mullach na Sluagh (the Hill of the Hosts, a flat field overlooking the village of Trillick). Among the sporting events advertised in the newspaper were competitions for the best hurling club, the best camogie club and the best Gaelic football club. A set of camans and a set of camogs were offered for the winners of the first two events, while a hand-sewn football was offered to the winners of the football competition. Among the adjudicators, many of whom travelled long distances and underwent much personal inconvenience to be present, was Cathal O'Toole who had made a brief return to Omagh and who was the dancing adjudicator. A team from Kilskeery parish - Glassmullagh St. Colmcille's - also took part in the 1907-08 Tyrone senior hurling championship. They defeated St. Patrick's, Killclogher, at Killyclogher on Sunday, 6th September, by 2-8 to 1-3, but the result appears to have become the subject of an appeal, and there is no indication of the outcome. Neither is there anything to indicate whether the championship was ever brought to a conclusion.

The participation in hurling and football by teams from Kilskeery parish was only one example of the cultural activities being promoted by Fr. Matt Maguire. On 17th May, 1908, he organised a concert of Irish songs, music and dances, at which he had a number of distinguished guests, including Rev. T.A. Finlay S.J., the eminent educationalist, and Miss Agnes O'Farrelly, Principal of the Irish College in Cloghaneely. In July an eloquent lecture was given in Kilskeery on Owen Roe O'Neill, the Confederation of Kilkenny and the 1641 Rebellion, by a very distinguished member of the Gaelic League, Miss Sinead O'Flanagan, who was later to become the wife of Eamon deValera. These were not isolated occasions in the area; the teaching of the Irish language and customs was going on all the time, both in school during the day and in evening classes - by Philip Waldron, from Ballyhaunis, County Mayo, and by W.T. Grainger, who a few years earlier - in company with Cathal O'Toole - had been a regular correspondent of the "Ulster Herald" Young Ireland column.

Omagh

While new clubs were being organised, important developments were also taking place within some of the more established clubs. This was particularly the case in Omagh, where dramatic changes took place during the year. The Sarsfields club, which had been in existence since 1905 and which had consistently participated in GAA competitions, disappeared completely before the end of the 1907-08 season. The reasons for their dramatic collapse are difficult to find but there are a number of factors which may have contributed to their disappearance from the GAA scene. It will be remembered that their team was involved in the unfortunate incident in November, 1907, which resulted in a premature end to the championship game with Killyclogher. Another unfortunate aspect of the episode was that it happened only two months after both clubs, together with the Omagh branch of the Gaelic League, had met and established a "Gaelic Union" in Omagh, the purpose of which was to enable the language and athletic movements in Omagh to work hand in hand. Far more serious though than this incident was the emergence of a problem which arose towards the end of 1907, that of the playing of what had come to be known as "foreign games". The Sarsfields club, at its general meeting on 15th December, 1907, had to make the unpleasant decision to expel four members for what was then an offence under the GAA rules. This number had increased to five by the time the County Board met on 28th December, when it

suspended all five Omagh players for two years. While it is possible only to speculate about the effects of this decision in view of the lack of further evidence, it is not unlikely that the bitterness which may have followed the expulsion of a number of members could have led to internal dissensions. Another factor which may have led to the club's decline was the departure from Omagh in 1908 of a number of prominent members, including the club secretary. In early May, 1908, Sarsfields were without some of their best players in a game played at the Castle Holm, and, although they were represented at the meeting of the County Board held in Omagh at the end of June, there is no further reference to their participation either on the field of play or in the committee room. Significantly, among the delegates at this meeting of the County Board was a representative from a newly-formed Omagh club the Rapparee hurling club.

The Rapparee club, established on 8th June, 1908, brought a revival of hurling - and indeed football also to Omagh. The new club showed its early determination to support all things Irish by passing a resolution that "jerseys, balls, stationery and all other requirements of the club must be of Irish manufacture" and "at all entertainment's and functions organised by the club, the songs, dances and recitations must be exclusively Irish". A number of those associated with Sarsfields appear to have thrown in their lot with the new club, which was soon in action on the hurling field. Although defeated by St. Patrick's, Killyclogher, in the Tyrone hurling championship on 12th July, their enthusiasm was by no means dampened, for before the end of the month, they were planning to travel to Newry for a hurling game, and on this occasion they were to be accompanied by the members of the Banba Camogie club - Omagh's first camogie club - which had been established earlier in the month. The visit to Newry was organised in connection with the annual excursion of the Cappagh division of the AOH, and while part of the group went off by train to Warrenpoint for the afternoon, the young men of the Rapparee hurling team and the ladies of the Banba camogie team went to the "Marshes" in Newry, where a first-class Gaelic Athletic tournament took place. This was reported to be "the first time that any Tyrone team had crossed camans with a team from Down", and the Rapparees, whose scorers included Cathal O'Toole, emerged victorious by 0-11 to 0-1. The Banba ladies also brought credit to Omagh on this occasion in playing a scoreless draw against the much more experienced Newry Clann Uladh team, who in 1903 had been the second camogie club to be established in the country. The camogie team had two further outings, of which accounts survive, before the end of 1908. On 23rd August, they defeated a St. Brigid's team from Killyclogher in a game at Mountfield sports, and on 13th September they participated in another sports meeting at Fintona at which they defeated the local team. Unfortunately, the club seems to have gone out of existence shortly after this time, for no further references to it are to be found - possibly a victim of the general malaise which appears to have hit the Gaelic Athletic movement in Omagh in 1909.

Dromore

In nearby Dromore, the GAA appears to have flourished in 1907-08. Although newspaper coverage of organised games is scanty and there is no indication that a Mid-Tyrone league was played, it is clear that the McAnespie Cup competition, which first took place in 1906-07, was also played in this year, and that the winners were Dromore Athletic, who, according to a report of the time "had little difficulty all through the competition in proving that they were the best entitled to the coveted trophy". The club decided not to let such an important event as the winning of a major trophy pass without a celebration, and on Sunday, 9th May, 1908, a function was organised to mark the occasion. A challenge football match took place between Dromore and Newtown Stewart before an enormous crowd, after which the Cup was presented in O'Gormans' Hotel to Richard McManus of the Dromore club by George Crawford, Omagh, treasurer of the Mid-Tyrone League, who was deputising for the chairman, H.K. McAleer. Having paid tribute to Mr. McAnespie for his generous gesture in presenting the Cup to the Mid-Tyrone League, he said that the spirit of friendship which

always existed between the clubs of Mid-Tyrone would be further strengthened by the large gathering of Gaels and the enthusiastic proceedings of that day. He expressed the hope that many more clubs would enter the following year for the competition which had made splendid progress since its organisation. His sentiments were echoed by representatives of Omagh Sarsfields and Killyclogher St. Patrick's, who had come to join with Dromore in the celebration of their great achievement.

Although it is difficult to be sure if a league competition was played in Mid-Tyrone, it appears almost certain that no such competition was played in any other division of the county. However, accounts survive of a number of games played during the season to which reference has not already been made - Omagh Sarsfields v Fintona Davitts twice in October and December, 1907, Dungannon Craobh Ruadh v Armagh Harps in November, St. Patrick's v Omagh Sarsfields, Fintona Davitts v Dromore Athletic in December, and Omagh Sarsfields v Dromore in March, 1908.

Senior Hurling Championship

In hurling, the county championship competition was revived in June, 1908, when the County Board made the following fixtures: Dungannon Craobh Ruadh v Strabane William Collins on 5th July at Omagh with Hugh McGartland (Killyclogher) as referee; St Patrick's Killyclogher v Omagh Raparees on 12th July at Killyclogher with Richard McManus (Dromore) as referee; Glassmullagh St. Colmcille's (Kilskeery) a bye. There was a huge attendance at the Castle Holm, Omagh, for the Dungannon v Strabane game. Dungannon's victory by 0-19 to 0-5 apparently came as a great surprise since, according to the report of the game, Strabane was recognised "as one of the foremost hurling clubs in the North-West". In the other first round games, Killyclogher appear to have defeated Omagh Raparees, as they are recorded as having played Glassmullagh St. Colmcille's in the semi-final on 6th September, 1908. Glassmullagh's victory by 2-8 to 1-3 seems to have been the subject of an appeal to the County Board. Unfortunately, no further information about the competition survives, and it seems fair to conclude that the championship remained unfinished.

Sports Meetings

An important new development in Tyrone during the year was the holding of a large number of sports meetings, under the auspices of the GAA, which included a wide range of athletic events as well as, on some occasions, football, hurling, and camogie games. The first such meeting was on Sunday, 5th July, 1908, when a large crowd turned out for the Greencastle sports, held in accordance with GAA rules under the auspices of the local division of the AOH. Sunday, 23rd August, however, was one of the greatest days, in the athletic history of Tyrone up to that time when very successful sports meetings were held in Washingbay, Mountfield, Strabane and Augher. The official handicapper for the Washingbay meeting was George Martin, Belfast, then secretary of the Ulster Council. Among the competitions was one for raising and pucking a hurling ball, the entry fee for which was nine pence. The newly-formed Omagh Hibernian Cycling club were among those who took part in the cycling events, and three of their team carried off every single prize offered for competition. The Mountfield sports event is notable particularly for the fact that it featured a camogie game between Omagh Banbas and St. Brigid's, Killyclogher. The Aeridheacht meeting held in Augher under the auspices of the Clogher Gaelic League branch was organised by H. McWilliams, N.T., Augher and S. Rice, N.T., Ballyscally National School, Clogher, and included in its programme a football game between Clogher Raparees and Fintona Davitts.

The following Sunday, 30th August, witnessed two more sports meetings - one at Cooley Park, Beragh, the other at Kilskenry, where the Aeridheacht Mhor was held. On Sunday, 13th September, the Phelim Roe GAA club organised a sports meeting in Moy, and on the same date there was a very successful meeting in Fintona, held under the auspices of the INF, the AOH and the Gaelic League, which included a football match between Dromore and Fintona and a camogie match between the Banba team from Omagh and the Rose Kavanagh team from Fintona. The last sports of the season took place in Dromore on Sunday, 4th October, and in addition to a football game between Fintona and Dromore, it featured an appearance by the noted weightthrower and world record-holder, Con Walsh, from Macroom, County Cork, whose photograph is one of the earliest to have been published in the pages of the "Ulster Herald". Among the prizes at the sports was a silver medal, presented for the winner of the 400 yards parish championship by Fr. James McManus, CC, Iniskeen, himself a native of Dromore parish and a noted athlete, who in 1917 was to become chairman of the Tyrone County Board of the GAA.

County Convention, February, 1908

The Annual Convention was held in St. Patrick's Hall, Dungannon, on Saturday, 22nd February, 1908, when M.V O'Nolan, who had been chairman since the formation of the County Board in 1904, chaired what was to be his last Convention. Delegates were present from Coalisland, Cookstown, Fintona, Omagh, Moy and Sixmilecross. The Secretary, Joseph Donnelly, Omagh, submitted a financial statement which showed a small credit balance. He referred to the report of the Ulster Provincial Secretary which placed Tyrone second only to Monaghan in the province in the number of its affiliated clubs. O'Nolan was re-elected chairman on the proposal of H.K. McAleer who paid a warm tribute to his energy and enthusiasm in the Gaelic cause. He said that his services to the movement for the revival of Irish games were not confined to Tyrone but were recognised by the Gaels of the entire province. O'Nolan had been chairman of the Ulster Council since 1903 but had been unable to attend the Annual Convention of that Council which had been held on 8th February. In his absence, he had been elected as one of the vice-chairmen, the other being Cabir Healy from Enniskillen, who was later to become a Member of Parliament and an important figure in nationalist politics for many years. J. Donnelly and H.K. McAleer were unanimously re-elected secretary and treasurer respectively, after J.W. Gavan (Coalisland) had refused to let his name go forward as county secretary.

The report of the Convention contains a list of affiliated clubs in the county, together with their membership and the names of their secretaries:

Dromore Gaelic Athletic Club (82) - J. McLaughlin
Cookstown Brian Og (87) - T.J. O'Neill
Dungannon Craobh Ruadh (45) - J.P. O'Connor
Fintona Michael Davitts (37) - J.J. O'Boyle
Coalisland Fianna (54) - J.W. Gavan
Moy Phelim Roes (38) - P. Tohall
Killyclogher St. Patrick's (186) - J. McGinn
Omagh Sarsfields (50) - G. Kerr
Strabane William Collins (56) - D. O'Doherty
Clady Rory Og (-) - J.P. Lennon
Sixmilecross Wolfe Tones (-) - H.K. McAleer
Tummery Red Hugh (-) - D. McElholm
Fintona Rose Kavanagh Camogie (22) - Miss A. O'Boyle

The County Board met again in June, when it was announced that a new club in Ardboe had registered under the name of Owen Roes. The Dungannon Craobh Ruadh delegate asked permission for his club to choose players from the Coalisland Fianna and Fintona Davitt teams to enable Dungannon to enter the Dr. Croke (Inter-County) Medal competition. Although this was agreed by the Board, there is nothing to indicate that the game was ever played or that Tyrone took part in any inter-county competition during this season. Only a brief account survives of the meeting held on 15th August, 1908, in McAleers' Hotel, Pomeroy, an advertisement for which appeared in the "Ulster Herald", signed by J. Donnelly, Secretary of the County Board, Gaelic Stores, Market Street, Omagh. No doubt there is significance in the fact that the meeting was held in Pomeroy on a date when a huge AOH demonstration of 20,000 people took place there; presumably it was taken for granted that all those involved in the GAA would wish to give expression to their nationalist sympathies by taking part in the demonstration.

(7) A Hint of Decline, 1908-1909 ***Pomeroy Emmets***

Whether a GAA club had been formed in Pomeroy at the time this meeting was held is uncertain. However, when the 1908-09 season opened in November, 1908, Pomeroy Emmets were among the clubs which entered for the Dungannon District League. Their very first game under Gaelic rules - a friendly game against Sixmilecross Wolfe Tones - took place on Sunday, 15th November, at Sixmilecross, when Pomeroy were victorious in their first outing by 2-3 to 1-5. This friendly game between Pomeroy and Sixmilecross marked the opening of what was to be a very busy GAA season. It is fortunate that not alone did well-organised competitions take place, but that these received excellent coverage in the pages of the "Ulster Herald". From November, 1908, through the rest of the 1908-09 season, this newspaper contained a regular column entitled "In Gaelic Fields" which gave reports of GAA meetings, as well as accounts of games in East and West Tyrone together, with fixtures and league tables.

Signs of Decay

It is clear, however, that before the season began not everyone was happy with the administration of the GAA in Tyrone. A letter to the "Ulster Herald" from a correspondent from Cookstown, dated 29th October, contained bitter complaints about the action of the County Board, which, in his opinion, had led to the Cookstown Brian Og club going out of existence. He alleged that they were "diddled out of the junior championship of Tyrone last year by the County Committee", and said it was no surprise that there was now no Gaelic team in Cookstown and that despite their best efforts they had failed to "put down soccer" there. The cause of this correspondent's displeasure is not entirely clear, but it was shared by another correspondent in the same issue who deplored Tyrone's inability to field a hurling team against Derry in the Ulster championship in October and who wondered if the men of Tyrone now preferred to play what he called the "game of the oppressor". These allegations, though not referred to, explicitly in the minutes of the Brian Og club at the time, appear to have had some basis, as the club was not among those which entered the Dungannon District League in November, nor does the minute book contain any account of club meetings between September and December, 1908.

However, the sentiments expressed by these correspondents do not appear to have deterred those who set about organising football leagues in East and West Tyrone. On Saturday, 7th November, representatives of six clubs Sixmilecross Wolfe Tones (H.K. McAleer and J. McGillion), Fintona Michael Davitts (J.J. O'Boyle and John Donnelly), Dromore Gaels (R. McManus), Clogher St. Patrick's (C. McGinn and M. McGrath), Omagh Rapparees (P. McHugh and F. McBride) and Omagh Slashers (M. Donnelly) - met in

Omagh and organised an Omagh District League with H.K. McAleer as chairman, R. McManus as vice-chairman, C. McGinn as treasurer, John Donnelly (Fintona) as secretary and M. Donnelly (Omagh) as registrar. They decided that the number of players in each team should be fifteen and that each competing club should pay 3/6d (three shillings and six pence).

Dungannon District League

On the previous evening, Friday, 6th November, the first meeting of the Dungannon District Football League took place. The meeting was given to understand that several prominent gentlemen in the area intended to give strong financial support to the League committee, and it decided to give a set of medals to the team winning the league. Six teams entered for the competition - Moy Phelim Roe, Dungannon Craobh Ruadh, Aughnacloy Shamrocks, Pomeroy Emmets, Coalisland Fianna and Maghery St. Malachy's.

Cookstown Brian Og were admitted to the league in January, 1909, and completed the league programme. Although Ardboe Owen Roes and Maghery both participated in the early stages - a report of a game between them played on 28th June is contained in the "Ulster Herald" of 4th July, 1908 - neither team took part in the later games of the league competition. The winter of 1908 and the spring of 1909 must have provided a wonderful opportunity for the enthusiast to witness Gaelic football. In East Tyrone each team played a total of thirteen games while in the West most teams played nine or ten games. By May, 1909, when both competitions had been completed, the league tables were as follows:

Dungannon League		Omagh League	
Team	Points	Team	Points
Dungannon	24	Fintona	18
Cookstown	24	Dromore	16
Coalisland	20	Sixmilecross	12
Aughnacloy	12	Killyclogher	4
Pomeroy	9	Omagh Slashers	4
Moy	9	Omagh Rapparees	4

A win in each game was rewarded by two points, a draw by one point, but a number of games were counted as fourpoint matches, probably where it was agreed that the teams would meet on one occasion only. One interesting rule which the Dungannon District League made was that any team which failed to supply a list of players to the referee before the beginning of the game should lose one point. Admission to games was three pence, but the failure of some spectators to pay this small sum is the cause of a comment in the "Ulster Herald" on 12th December, 1908, about those who "instead of paying the entrance fee going into the field, wait patiently on the road until they get a chance of slipping past without paying, or else they take across the country, caring little for the crops or the fences they destroy as they proceed". A play-off was required in the Dungannon League, since two teams - Dungannon and Cookstown had finished on equal points. Neil Taggart (Coalisland) refereed this game, which was played on 2nd May, 1909, at Springfield Park, Dungannon, and which resulted in a victory for Dungannon by 1-10 to 0-4. Dungannon-thus qualified to play the Omagh League winners in the county final.

Omagh District League

The Omagh District League competition of 1908-09 was exceptional by reason of the fact that two Omagh teams participated in it. This fact is all the more notable in view of the subsequent disappearance at the end of 1909 of all GAA activity in Omagh. The early part of 1908 gave no indication of what was to be in store in the coming years. In August of that

year, Boyces' shop in George's Street was advertising the GAA Official Guide (1906-07-08) at five pence (Post 61/2d), among a wide variety of Irish books - clear evidence of the popularity of the GAA in the town. The secretary of the County Board was still J. Donnelly of the Gaelic Stores, Market Street, Omagh, and the Rapparee Club rooms were the venue for the inaugural meeting of the Omagh District League in November, 1908.

During the same month, however, the first sign appeared of what may have been the beginning of the decline of the Rapparee club. On 29th November, Rapparees were to play St. Patrick's, Killyclogher, in a league game, but it was discovered an hour before the game that they could field only ten players, since a number of their members had defected to Killyclogher. Why the Omagh club had difficulty in fielding a team on this occasion, and why members left it to play for another club, must remain a mystery. Whether the reasons behind these defections also led to the formation of another Gaelic football club Omagh Slashers - at this time, is also unclear. What is known is that both clubs - Rapparees and Slashers played ten games each before May, 1909, in the District League and each succeeded in securing only four points. Little else is known of the Slashers club, and it went out of existence before the end of 1909.

1909 proved to be a very sad year indeed, not only for the Slashers, but also for the Gaelic Athletic movement in Omagh. March of that year witnessed the final departure from Omagh of Cathal O'Toole, who had taken such a prominent part in GAA and Gaelic League affairs in the town, and who went to take up a journalistic post in Drogheda. However, the most crushing blow came at the end of November of that year when the St. Eugene's football club was established in Omagh to play Association Football, with the active assistance of many who even at that time were active in the promotion of the Irish-Ireland movement. Like the short-lived Slashers club, Rapparees too disappeared, and Omagh had to wait until 1917 before another GAA club was formed in the town.

The poor performances of the two Omagh clubs did not, however, have an adverse effect on the Omagh District League in 1909. The result of the competition was not decided until 31st July, when a protest by Dromore against Fintona was decided in favour of the latter, who were confirmed as League champions with the right to meet Dungannon Craobh Ruadh in the county final. Earlier, in May, Sixmilecross Wolfe Tones, through their delegate, J. McGillion, had withdrawn a protest against Fintona in order to facilitate the completion of the league and to preserve the true, Gaelic feeling which existed between the clubs".

Senior Football Championship

The county championship final took place at Sixmilecross on Sunday, 15th August, 1909 between Dungannon Craobh Ruadh, the Dungannon League champions, and Fintona Michael Davitts, winners of the Omagh District League and beaten finalists in the previous year's championship. It was refereed by J. McGillion. In a wellcontested game, which was played in a friendly spirit, Dungannon won by 2-9 to 0-5 after leading by 0-5 to 0-1 at half-time. Fintona thus experienced the bitter taste of defeat for the second time in successive years. They had to wait for five years before they got another opportunity, and on that occasion - in 1914 - they were to reverse the 1908 result against Coalisland Finn to take their first championship. For Dungannon, it was the first championship win by a team from the town, and was celebrated with due ceremony when the club's annual general meeting was held in September, 1909. The Dungannon League medals were presented to the victorious team, who were congratulated on the success "which had attended their efforts to keep alive the national pastimes in the town of the Volunteers". One of the highlights of the meeting was the reading of a letter from four past members of the club - James Rice, Edward Teague, J. Rooney and R. Stewart - who at this time were resident in the U.S.A.

County Convention, 1909 - Retirement of M.V. O'Nolan

The year 1909 saw some very important changes in the administration of the GAA in Tyrone. Since the establishment of the County Board in January, 1904, its chairman had been Michael V. O'Nolan, Strabane. Although still very active as a referee, particularly of inter-county hurling games - he refereed the 1907 Ulster hurling final between Donegal and Antrim and the 1909 final between Donegal and Derry - O'Nolan had eased himself out of the administrative arena when he had given up the chairmanship of the Ulster Council at the 1908 Convention. He was not present at the Tyrone County Convention which took place on Saturday, 20th February, 1909, but he sent a communication to the meeting, indicating that he did not wish to be considered again for the chairmanship. He was succeeded by the treasurer of the two previous years, H.K. McAleer (Sixmilecross Wolfe Tones), who was unanimously elected to the post. Richard McManus (Dromore Athletic) succeeded J. Donnelly (Omagh) as secretary and delegate to the Ulster Council, while J.W. Gavan (Coalisland Fianna) succeeded H.K. McAleer as treasurer. Both Gavan and O'Nolan were appointed vice-chairmen.

It would not be appropriate to conclude an account of the 1909 Convention without referring, however briefly, to the career of Michael Victor O'Nolan and to the important part he played in the development of the GAA in Tyrone. He was born in Mullaghmore, Omagh, in 1875. His father was a music teacher in Omagh Model School. Michael went to school in Killyclogher for two years before the family moved to Belfast where he was educated at St. Malachy's College. After graduation from university, he joined the Civil Service (Customs and Excise branch) in 1897, and after a period in Belfast he was posted to Strabane at the beginning of the century. A keen student of the Irish language - his brother, Gearoid, became Professor of Irish in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth - he perfected his knowledge of Irish by visits to Cloghaneely and Tory Island, and threw himself heart and soul into the work of the Gaelic League and the GAA. He taught Irish classes at night in Strabane and the surrounding districts, and in 1903 organised a Feis Mhor in Strabane, the first activity of this kind ever held in the area.

He was a keen GAA enthusiast and had a particular interest in hurling which he probably learned in Belfast and which he both played and refereed with proficiency. He became first vice-chairman of the Ulster Council of the GAA when it was established in March, 1903, and became chairman in December of that year, a position which he retained until 1908. He was married in 1906 and remained in Strabane until around 1912, when he moved to Glasgow. He came to Dublin in 1915 and thence to Tullamore in 1920, before returning to Dublin in 1923 where he worked in the Civil Service until his death in 1937 at the age of 62.

It is quite remarkable that O'Nolan, who was so active in both Tyrone and Ulster GAA circles until 1909, seems to have taken no part whatsoever in the affairs of the Association after that date. It may well have been his commitments to his young family, coupled with his transfer to Glasgow, which prevented him from being involved in GAA administration. What is difficult to understand, however, is that a man who was so totally engrossed in GAA affairs appears to have made a complete break with the Association in later life. In his book, "Oige an Dearthar", which is an account of the early life and times of Brian (Myles na gCopaleen), who was born in Strabane in 1911. Ciaran, older brother of Brian, recounts many details about their father's early activities and interests." While he writes at length about his involvement with the Gaelic League in Strabane in the first years of the century, it is strange that there is not a single reference to the GAA or to any involvement on his part in the activities of that Association. Neither is there any reference in the book to any subsequent participation by him in GAA affairs in later years. His contribution nevertheless to the Association in Tyrone and Ulster in the first decade of the century was a

most notable one, and he deserves an honoured place among those who helped to establish the GAA in his native county province.

Clubs and Secretaries

The newspaper account of the 1909 Convention is interesting in that, in addition to listing the clubs, represented at the meeting - Coalisland, Cookstown, Sixmilecross, Dromore, Omagh and Killyclogher - it states that the number of clubs in the county showed an increase of five on the previous year, and it lists the names of all the affiliated clubs, their secretaries and membership as follows:

Club	Members	Secretary
Aughnacloy (Shamrocks)	70	M. McKenna
Ardboe (Owen Roes)	52	P. Corey
Cookstown (Brian Og)	145	John Walls
Coalisland (Fianna)	60	J.W. Garvan
Dungannon (Craobh Ruadh)	60	J.P. O'Connor
Dromore (Athletic)	47	R. McManus
Fintona (Michael Davitts)	113	J.J. O'Boyle
Glassmullagh (St. Colmcille's)	49	P. McGrade
Killyclogher (St. Patrick's)	186	J. McGinn
Moy (Phelim Roes)	48	Patrick Tohall
Maghery (St. Malachy's)	43	J.P. Connolly
Omagh (Rapparees)	25	J. McBride
Omagh (Slashers)	38	T. McKinney
Pomeroy (Robert Emmets)	57	John Kerr
Sixmilecross (Wolfe Tones)	70	J. McGillion
Strabane (William Collins)	56	L. Doherty

The report adds that Omagh Hibernian Cycling club (secretary - P. Maguire) was affiliated with the Central Council of the GAA, and it lists three camogie clubs Fintona Rose Kavanagh, Omagh Banba and Killyclogher St. Brigid's. A list of clubs, almost identical to that given above, is also to be found in the minute book of the Cookstown Brian Og club for the year 1909. This book also lists Patrick Tohall as secretary of the Dungannon League, but it names John Forker as secretary of Maghery and Jim Boyle (Chapel Street, Cookstown) as secretary of the Brian Og club.

Inter-County Games

On the inter-county football scene, Tyrone, represented by the county champions, Dungannon, together with players from Coalisland and Cookstown, were defeated by one point (2-4 to 1-6) by Fermanagh on 22nd August, 1909. In hurling, Tyrone played Derry at Omagh in a game referred by Michael V. O'Nolan on 26th September, but they appear to have had a very poor team - it included Killyclogher players only - and were defeated by 4-10 to 0-2. Only two teams - Killyclogher St. Patrick's and Dungannon Craobh Ruadh - seem to have shown any interest in the county hurling championship, and arrangements were to be

made for them to play off to determine who would be county champions. It is unlikely that this game took place.

An interesting side-light on the Tyrone-Derry hurling game on 26th September is gained from a report in the "Derry People", which stated that when Derry travelled to Omagh for the game the team and officials had to travel by brake with a change of horses at Strabane. The Great Northern Railway Company which had a near-monopoly of public transport in most of Ulster was opposed to Sunday sport and scheduled its services when possible to prevent their use on Sundays by GAA teams. As a result, alternative means of transport had to be found, or football and hurling games had often to be abandoned or played on weekdays. A good example of this was the Tyrone v Cavan senior football championship game which had been arranged for Newbliss on 16 February, 1908, and which, according to the "Irish News" report, "was abandoned because of difficulty which the Gaels of O'Neills' county would experience in getting to the venue on a Sunday. This is due to the deplorable fact, so well-known to the Ulster Gaels, of the refusal of the GNR to give a train for the conveyance of Gaels or Gaelic Leaguers on a Sunday to the place selected for the holding of a football fixture or a Feis". This remained a bone of contention between the GAA and the GNR until April, 1910, when the GNR was finally persuaded to withdraw its restrictions on Sunday excursions.

Sports Meetings

As in the summer of 1908, a considerable number of sports meetings were held in 1909 after the completion of the football leagues. It is possible that certain unauthorised meetings had taken place during the previous year, for in May, 1909, the county chairman, H.K. McAleer, wrote a letter to the "Ulster Herald", advising all those who wished to hold sports during the summer that no one had the right to organise and call these Gaelic Sports under GAA rules unless a permit had been received from the secretary of the Athletic Council in Dublin. Anyone doing so would be rendered ineligible and therefore disqualified from taking part in hurling or football matches. Many seem to have complied with this requirement, for in the months between June and August GAA sports meetings were held in Omagh, Dromore, Clogher, Ardboe, Beragh, Drumragh and Moy.

(8) Collapse of GAA in Tyrone, 1909-10 Collapse 'n West Tyrone

It is difficult to understand why the GAA, which was so well organised in the western part of Tyrone in the 1908-09 season, disappeared completely in the following season. While arrangements were being made to run a Dungannon District League as in previous years, not a single step was taken to organise activities in the Omagh district. The County Board, which had been active in the summer of 1909, seems to have gone out of existence completely. A meeting of the Board had been arranged for McAleers' Hotel, Pomeroy, on Saturday, 16th October, to make arrangements for the coming season, and all club delegates were asked to be in attendance so that draws could be arranged, but it seems most unlikely that such a meeting ever took place, and it is clear that no other meetings were held later in the year. Similarly, no meetings of the Omagh District League took place during the year, and not a single game is recorded as having been played in West Tyrone during the season.

A lengthy article in the "Ulster Herald" of 16th October, 1909, gives some indication of the state of Gaelic games in the Omagh area, but unfortunately, it does no more than hint at some possible reasons for the decline. Under the heading "Omagh and the Nation's Games, it refers to the reputation which Omagh had established some years previously in Gaelic games but which now unfortunately was on the wane. Apparently referring to the

wider issue of the development of the 'games throughout Tyrone, the writer claims that high hopes had been entertained in previous years, but that after a burst of early enthusiasm a "blighting lethargy" had set in, due largely to a "dearth of that sustaining spirit of persistent perseverance". In a tantalising phrase, he says that "this deplorable paralysis looks as if it were self-inflicted", but unfortunately he does not develop this point, and one is left wondering what events took place which led to this remark. He expresses the hope that "Tyrone will be true to its great traditions and will yet act in a manner worthy of its past fame", saying that "the day may yet be saved and the honour of the county redeemed, if a few bold spirits will at the eleventh hour rise to the occasion and effectively grapple with the work of organisation which awaits them".

One can only conclude from his remarks that the state of organisation in the county was not what would have been expected, and that possibly those who had been active in the administration of the games had either withdrawn from the scene or were not applying themselves with the dedication that had been evident in previous years. One is tempted to speculate also on the allegation that the paralysis which set in was self-inflicted.

A number of possible theories can be put forward, though none of them can be advanced without the greatest degree of caution. One is that a new upsurge of interest in soccer in and around the Omagh area swept the GAA off its feet and enticed many of those who had formerly participated in Gaelic games to join its ranks. Certainly there is no doubt that in the ensuing years many soccer teams sprang up in Omagh and the surrounding area and many of those who took part with enthusiasm had previously played Gaelic football and hurling. On the other hand, it is possible that soccer teams were formed to fill the vacuum left by the collapse of the GAA in the area and that those who participated simply enjoyed whatever sport was available and was well organised at the time.

It may well be also - although this can be no more than speculation - that divisions over politics may have played some part in the decline. Such divisions were clearly evident at the end of December, 1909, when an alternative Nationalist candidate was selected in mid-Tyrone to oppose the sitting Nationalist Member of Parliament, and the Unionist candidate took the seat in the January, 1910, election. It is interesting to note that the parish priest of Omagh, who was a very strong supporter of the Gaelic League, and who, in common with all the priests of the neighbouring parishes, wrote a letter in support of the sitting member, had been appointed patron of the St. Eugene's soccer club in Omagh, which was formed at the end of November and which included among its officers a number of those who had previously been GAA enthusiasts. One of the leading supporters of the opposing Nationalist candidate was H.K. McAleer, Sixmilecross, who was chairman of both the Tyrone County Board and the Omagh District Committee of the GAA. It is at least a possibility that the opposition of the clergy to the candidate supported by McAleer may have spilled over to the organisation of which he was chairman and that the complete lack of GAA activity in the areas around Omagh may be attributable, at least in part, to the political divisions which developed in connection with the election.

Another possibility - although again this can be no more than speculation - is that the absence of some of those who had guided the progress of the Association in its early days in Tyrone was a factor in the decline in the western part of the county. Michael V. O'Nolan had been chairman from the establishment of the County Board in 1904 until the Convention of 1909. That a man of his stature, who had been honoured with the chairmanship of the Ulster Council in its formative years, could depart from the scene without leaving a vacuum is inconceivable. It may be no coincidence that the decline, which set in West Tyrone at the end of 1909 and which was to affect East Tyrone in the same way before the end of 1910, began so soon after his departure from the leading office in Tyrone GAA.

Dungannon District League

The beginning of the season in the eastern part of the county gave no indication, however, of what was to happen in a very short time. In October, 1909, the Dungannon District League made draws for the first round of league games involving Cookstown Brian Og, Coalisland Fianna, Dungannon Craobh Ruadh and Armagh Harps, the last-named team participating for the first time in an internal Tyrone competition. A series of games involving these four teams was played in the winter of 1909 and the spring of 1910, and by April Dungannon headed the league with seven points from five games. Earlier in the season - on Christmas Day, 1909 - Coalisland Fianna had played host to Belfast Mitchells, who in a splendid exhibition of football defeated the local team by two points before a crowd of almost a thousand spectators.

Coalisland were involved in an incident in a game with Dungannon Craobh Ruadh at Dungannon on 1st May, 1910, which ended in a storm of controversy and which appears to have led to the demise of the Dungannon and District League. The only surviving reference to the incident is to be found in a report of the meeting of the Ulster Council which took place in Clones on Sunday, 5th June, 1910, when Tyrone affairs figured prominently, and from which it is clear that the state of the GAA's organisation in the county left much to be desired. The secretary of the Council reported that the Tyrone v Derry game, which had been fixed for 8th May, had been re-fixed for 22nd May at Dungannon, but that he had cancelled the game, as he had heard immediately afterwards that the Dungannon Gaelic grounds had been closed by the Dungannon and District League. He was instructed to summon a Convention of Tyrone clubs, to be held at 3.30 on Saturday, 18th June, at Dungannon, when affiliations were to be paid and a County Board elected. That such a step was necessary by the Ulster Council at this stage in the year - previous Conventions had been held in February or March - is an indication that there was something seriously wrong with the administration in Tyrone at the time.

Having then considered an appeal by Armagh Harps against a decision of the Dungannon League arising from a game with Cookstown Brian Og, the Ulster Council discussed a further objection - this time by Dungannon Craobh Ruadh - who complained that a decision had been taken by the League to close their grounds until January, 1911, that the League had no power to do so and that no official notice of such a decision had been given to the club. They also claimed that they should be awarded the game against Coalisland on the grounds that the latter had left the field of play after fifteen minutes of the second half and had refused to return. The Council awarded the game to Dungannon and suspended Coalisland for six months with effect from 1st May, but agreed to communicate this decision to central Council with a recommendation that they mitigate the penalty. The Council placed on record its 'disapproval of the Dungannon and District League during the past session and its conduct in closing the (Dungannon) grounds'. It then re-fixed the Tyrone v Derry game for Dungannon on 3rd July, 1910.

Without any doubt, this game did not take place, although it is known that Tyrone played Cavan on 17th July at Bundoran, when they were defeated by 1-9 to 1-4." Neither does it appear that the Convention, which was to have been held on 18th June, ever took place. In September, the Ulster Council disclaimed all responsibility for GAA affairs in Tyrone and no leagues there were approved. Without a properly elected County Board, with no District League in West Tyrone, and with the Dungannon League in disgrace and disarray in East Tyrone, it is not surprising that GAA activities came to an almost complete halt towards the end of 1910. Almost three years were to elapse before steps were taken to have a County Board re-established.

Dungannon Junior League

Before the final collapse, however, there was one burst of activity which kept GAA games going until later in the summer of 1910. With only three Tyrone teams involved in the Dungannon and District League, it appears that clubs in East Tyrone had felt the need to organise a Dungannon Junior League, which included teams from Killybearn, Donaghmore and Moy, as well as junior teams from Dungannon, Cookstown and Coalisland. A meeting of this League took place in St. Patrick's Hall, Coalisland, on 10th April, at which Joseph Canavan (Coalisland) presided and John Walls (Cookstown) acted as secretary. Another meeting took place in the INF Hall in Cookstown on Sunday, 12th June, when fixtures were made for June, July and August. Among those selected to referee these games were John Walls (Cookstown), Hugh McNally (Cookstown), Mark McElkerney (Killybearn), Patrick Mallon (Dungannon) and John Morrison (Cookstown). It is clear that those junior games were very popular, for a report of the time indicates that "not only do the players enjoy them, but a large number of the public take delight in them and the ladies always turn up in large numbers to cheer their champions on and show off their pretty dresses". Unfortunately like its counterpart which organised the senior games, the Dungannon Junior League appears to have collapsed also at the end of the 1910 season. There is no evidence as to whether the games fixed at the meeting in June were played, but it is clear that the league did not survive beyond the 1909-10 season.

Collapse in East Tyrone

In the absence of firm evidence, it is difficult to speculate about the reasons for the disintegration of the GAA in the eastern part of the county. It is likely that the bitterness which could have resulted from the disputes between Armagh Harps and Cookstown Brian Og, Dungannon Craobh Ruadh and Coalisland Fianna - both of which required resolution by the Ulster Council - affected the harmony and co-operation which would have been necessary to keep in motion an organisation which was still in its infancy and which was so dependent on the voluntary efforts of a few dedicated people. It is likely too that the collapse of the GAA movement in West Tyrone at the beginning of the season had its effects on the eastern part of the county. It is difficult to apportion blame for the failure to hold a Convention in the spring of 1910, but the absence of a properly constituted County Board must also have been a factor which contributed to the decline in the east. To what extent politics played a part is almost impossible to assess. Certainly, the eastern Part of the county did not experience the same divisions as the West had done in connection with the election of January, 1910, when Thomas Kettle was re-elected as Member of Parliament for East Tyrone. It would appear rather that the decline set in due to a combination of reasons, including the failure of those who had previously given a lead to take an initiative when strong, dynamic leadership was required. Whatever the reasons may have been it is clear that no competitions were played in Tyrone after the end of the 1909-10 season, except in one small corner of the county for a brief period in 1911, and that neither a County Board nor District League Committees were formed in East or West Tyrone. It was to be another three years before the GAA was to become active once again in Tyrone and before a structure was to be set up to promote the playing of Gaelic games in the county.

1. Reports in "Anglo-Celt" and "Sport",
Souvenir Booklet, 1949. 20.5.05. Cf. also Coalisland
2. Cf. Coalisland Souvenir Booklet.
3. "Irish News", 8.3.05, p3, and 14.3.05, p3.
4. Rose Kavanagh and her Verses, ed. by M. Russell, S.J. (M.H. Gill, Dublin, 1909).

5. Confirmed by GAA Annual, 1907-08.
6. "Derry People", 17.8.07, pl.
7. The GAA Annual, 1907-08, lists these in error as officers for 1906 instead of 1907.
8. Cf. Obituary notices in "Irish Press", "Irish Independent" and "Irish Times", 29.6.49. Also de BORca, p, 180.
9. Cf. "Ulster Herald ", 27.2.09 (This issue available only in the British Library, London).
10. Oige an Dearthdr i. Myles na gCopaleen, le Ciaran 0 Nuallain, Foilseachain Naisiunta Teoranta, Baile Atha Cliath, 1973.
11. O'Sullivan, pp188-9.
12. "Anglo-Celt", July 1910.

3 Struggle for Survival 1910-1920

(1) The Decline Continues, 1910-12

The period between the end of 1910 and the beginning of 1913 is characterised by an almost total lack of GAA activity in Tyrone. During these years, there is strong evidence, particularly in the western part of the county and especially in the Omagh area, of a rapid growth of soccer clubs and competitions. It is significant that in the "Ulster Herald", a paper which in earlier years had given considerable coverage to the GAA and which in 1909 had devoted a weekly column to its activities, only two references are to be found to Gaelic games in 1911 and five in 1912 - most of them in connection with the aeridheachts held in Kilskeery and Greencastle. An effort was made to continue to keep Gaelic football alive in part of East Tyrone, but it is clear that this effort was successful for a short time only and that it did not extend beyond the summer of 1911.

Kilskeery Aeridheacht

The annual aeridheacht, begun by Fr. Matt Maguire in Kilskeery in 1908, continued during those years in August, and each year included football and hurling games. Among those participating in the games in 1912 were hurling and football teams from Killyclogher and they were accompanied to Kilskeery by the Tireoghain Warpipers' Band from Omagh, which had been formed in the early part of 1911 and which took part in those years in many important nationalist gatherings in West Tyrone. Fr. Matt Maguire who was at this time president of Dail Uladh, the Ulster Committee of the Gaelic League, was also closely associated with another aeridheacht which featured Gaelic games in 1912 - that held in Greencastle.

Greencastle Summer School

The Greencastle Aeridheacht, held in August, took place at the close of what must then have been a remarkable development - the establishment of an Irish Summer School in the heart of the Tyrone Gaeltacht. Founded in 1911 to serve as a preparatory department for the Ulster College in Cloghaneely (Donegal), to arrest the decay and promote the study of the speaking of Irish in the Tyrone Glens, and to encourage the Irish-speaking boys and girls in the district to qualify and become Gaelic language teachers, it provided in the years after 1911 a five-week course beginning in July, which included a junior, intermediate and senior grade course for the teaching certificate as well as a special course on old and middle Irish texts and manuscripts. In addition, there were lectures on Irish music, poetry, history, industries and antiquities, given by eminent Gaels, including Professor Eoin MacNeill, Professor Carl Hardebeck, Miss Agnes O'Farrelly, Mr. F.J. Biggar, MRJA, Mrs. Alice Stopford-Green and Miss Alice Milligan. The richness and purity of the Irish language, as preserved in the district, and the wealth of songs, stories and traditions had already won the admiration of the leading Gaelic scholars of the country and made the district especially attractive for students of the language. Here, in August, 1911, it is interesting to note that at a gathering associated more closely with the native language than with other aspects of Irish culture, one of the resolutions passed was in favour of "fostering and encouraging our Irish games, pastimes and customs". In the following year (1912), contests in hurling and Gaelic football featured among a wide-ranging list, including singing, oratory, story-telling, recitation, dancing, fiddling and piping competitions.

Cookstown and District Gaelic Football League

In the area around Cookstown, an attempt was made at the beginning of 1911 to organise a league for the playing of Gaelic football for teams from East Tyrone and the neighbouring areas of County Derry. Whether this league - the Cookstown and District Gaelic Football League - was recognised by the GAA is uncertain. A number of reports in the "Mid-Ulster Mail" between March and July, 1911, indicate that seven teams entered the league, the chairman of which was John Corr, Lissan. Competition appears to have been keen among the participating clubs, but unfortunately no further details survive of the outcome. A league table, published on 22nd April, shows the progress of the competition as follows:

Team	Games	Points
Cookstown Brian Og	8	14
Money more O'Cahans	7	12
Killybearn Hibernians	6	10
Coalisland Fianna	7	10
Lissan Rory Og	9	6
Dunamore Red Hand	8	4
Cookstown Geraldines (withdrawn)	4	0

The same issue of this newspaper refers to a friendly game played on Easter Monday between Dungannon Craobh Ruadh and Lurgan Davitts at Springfield Park, Dungannon. However, from the absence of newspaper reports after July, it would seem fair to conclude that the Cookstown and District League competition was not completed, and in view of the absence of a single reference to GAA games in 1912, it would appear unlikely that any other competitions took place between the summer of 1911 and the summer of 1913.

Dr. George Sigerson (1836-1925)

Although the GAA had almost gone out of existence in Tyrone, the year 1911 witnessed a significant contribution to the Association by one of the county's greatest sons, the memory of whom has unfortunately grown dim with the passing of the years. It was in April of that year that Dr. George Sigerson presented the Cup named in his honour for competition between the Universities. The initiative came from the Gaelic Football Club of University College, Dublin, which in a statement issued on 15th April, 1911, announced the inauguration of a competition in football "which should help to create a feeling of unity between and to link more closely together the disjointed sections of the National University". Dr. Sigerson, then a Professor at U.C.D., where he was a colleague of the East Tyrone M.P., Tom Kettle, came forward immediately with an offer of a cup, which he designed himself - spherical and supported by pillars representing the four provinces.

The first final was played at Jones' Road (now Croke Park), Dublin, on 12th May, 1911, and University College, Cork, became the first winners of the trophy, which was presented at a dinner that night in the Gresham Hotel, with Dr. Coffey, President of U.C.D., presiding. Dr. Sigerson himself handed over the cup, and in doing so said: "This trophy, symbolic of the unity of our race, will travel round Ireland, visiting the provinces in turn".

His wish was not fulfilled until February, 1959, when Queen's University, Belfast, scored their first Sigerson Cup victory and brought the trophy to Ulster for the first time.

It is a remarkable fact that it is the cup bearing his name and the song, "The Mountains of Pomeroy", which he composed, that are the most enduring testimonials to this distinguished Tyrone man, for his contribution to other aspects of Irish life was much more significant. Born in 1836 into a prosperous family in Hollyhill House along the Glenmornan river outside Strabane, where his father owned a spade mill, educated in Paris and University College, Cork, where he studied medicine, he became one of the foremost authorities in Ireland on nervous diseases and a prolific writer on scientific subjects. -An outstanding linguist, he developed a keen interest in the rich tradition of the Munster Gaelic poets whose verse he translated into English in "The Poets and Poetry of Munster" (1860). His interest in Gaelic poetry, folklore and song continued and resulted in the publication of his great work, "Bards of the Gael and Gall", nearly forty years later. His pen was never idle in arguing the cause of Ireland over a wide range of controversial issues such as the land question, education, the established church, the poor law and social and economic conditions in Ireland. An intimate friend of John O'Leary, Charles Kickham and later Thomas McDonagh, he maintained correspondence with the leading political figures of his time, while his home in Clare Street, Dublin, was a celebrated meeting place for literary people interested in the Gaelic revival. His daughter, Dora Sigerson Shorter, became a noted poet. He became a member of the Free State Senate in 1922 and died in 1925 at the age of eighty-nine.

Years of Decline

Apart from the games played at the aeridheachts in Kilskeery and Greencastle in 1911-12 and in the Cookstown District League, there is recorded evidence of only two other games played in Tyrone in these two years. Many of the sports meetings which took place were held under IAAA and ICA rules, and even the meeting held under GAA rules in August, 1912, in Sixmilecross - which had previously been a great centre of the Association - did not include a football or hurling game in its programme.

The games recorded were both hurling games - one in Strabane in September, 1912, between teams from Strabane and Derry, the other in Omagh on Sunday, 30th October, 1912. The advertisement for the latter game stated that "a grand hurling match" would be played "between Lamh Dearg, Strabane and St. Patrick's, Omagh, at Dergmoney in a field kindly lent by Mr. John Hughes; throw-in at 2.00p.m. sharp. The Pipers of Tyrone will be in attendance. Admission 3d, ladies free." The report of the game simply recounts that "there was a fair attendance of spectators, and after a good game, Strabane were the winners by five goals to two. Mr. Charles Reilly refereed".

The absence of Gaelic games at this time is in marked contrast to the rapid development of soccer, and it is clear that many who had previously been involved in GAA activities transferred their allegiance. This fact was commented on by a correspondent to the "Ulster Herald" who wrote on 20th April, 1912: "It was believed some years ago that Association Football (soccer) was completely killed in Tyrone, but we find that the foreign game is gradually creeping back, and worse than all that it is being fostered, supported and patronised by those who pose as advanced Nationalists and who are the leaders of Nationalist thought in their respective districts. What the Unionists and West Britons could not keep alive is now being resurrected by those who would feel indignant if called anything but true and unadulterated patriots..... It is not possible to say who the leaders were about whom these remarks were made, but it is difficult to understand why the native games were not being promoted and why other games were being fostered at a time when the Home Rule

cause was being vigorously pursued in the Westminster Parliament and given wide coverage in the pages of the local newspapers, and the strongest possible efforts were being made to ensure that a Home Rule Bill was placed on the Statute Book.

(2) A Brief Revival, 1913-14

The first indication of a possible halt to the decline of the GAA came in March, 1913, when it was reported that efforts were being made in East and South Tyrone and South Derry to revive the national games. A representative of the Ulster Council, John Corrigan from Belfast, met a number of Dungannon Gaels on Saturday, 8th March, and it was decided to hold a meeting at an early date to which representatives from different districts would be invited. By the end of May, 1913, a Dungannon Football and Hurling club was making arrangements for the coming season, and on 6th July, two members of the club - P. Mallon and J. Coleman - attended a meeting of the Ulster Council in Clones as Tyrone delegates. A football game between Tyrone and Antrim was arranged at that meeting, to be played at Springfield Park, Dungannon on 4th August, and members of the Dungannon club represented Tyrone on that occasion in a gallant but unsuccessful attempt to defeat Antrim, All-Ireland finalists of 1911 and 1912.

County Board Re-established

In the meantime, the first steps had been taken to establish a Tyrone County Board, when representatives of four clubs - Dungannon, Pomeroy, Sixmilecross and Cookstown - held a meeting in Dungannon at the end of July, at which J.W. Gavan (Coalisland) presided. The secretary of the Ulster Council, Owen O'Duffy, was present at the meeting and gave valuable advice on the establishment of clubs in the county. John Coleman, Dungannon, was appointed secretary of the County Board and member of the Ulster Council, but it was decided to defer other appointments until a later meeting to be held in Pomeroy on 31st August, when it was hoped that a better representation of clubs would be present. This second meeting, held in the AOH Hall in Pomeroy, took another step forward when it appointed J. McAleer (Pomeroy) county treasurer, and B. Fitzsimmons (Sixmilecross) vice-president. It was proposed by Vincent Quinn (Dungannon) that Dr. Patrick McCartan, a native of Carrickmore and then practising as a doctor in Gortin, be asked to accept the presidency of the County Board. Affiliation fees were fixed at twelve shillings per club and arrangements were made for a challenge game to be played between Dungannon and the recently re-organised Sixmilecross club. Two further meetings were held - both in Sixmilecross - in September and October - when the establishment of the County Board was completed. The September meeting was attended by representatives from Pomeroy, Sixmilecross, Killyclogher and Coalisland, and these were joined at the October meeting by delegates from Fintona, Dromore, Omagh, Old Engine, Carrickmore and Dungannon. Since no reply had been received from Dr. McCartan, it was decided to proceed with the appointment of a president, and H.K. McAleer, president of the Sixmilecross club, was unanimously appointed. J.W. Gavan (Coalisland) was appointed as representative on the Ulster Council.

In January, 1914, two district committees were set up one in East, the other in Mid Tyrone. In the East P. Tohall (Moy) was appointed president and J. Coleman (Dungannon) secretary, while in Mid-Tyrone H.K. McAleer became president and John Donnelly (Fintona) secretary. The organisation at committee level was matched by activity on the playing field. In August, 1913, as in previous years, the Kilskeery Aeridheacht featured Gaelic games on its programme of sporting events, with a camogie game between Knocknagor and Trillick and a hurling game between Coa and Glassmullagh.

On 26th October, Sixmilecross played their first game since the revival of the club against Dungannon at the Sports Ground in Ballykeel to which the Dungannon team travelled by motor cars, while on 9th November they played against the re-organised Fintona Davitts team. Sixmilecross also provided the venue on the following Sunday for a game between teams representing East and Mid Tyrone, which ended in a draw. After the game, a meeting of the County Board was held at which a number of friendly matches were arranged and the opportunity was taken to select a team to represent Tyrone in the Ulster Medal competition against Armagh at Armagh on the following Sunday, 23rd November.

Tyrone v Armagh

This game - the first which a representative Tyrone team had played since 1910 - attracted a great deal of interest, and large numbers of people from various parts of both counties made the journey to witness it. According to the newspaper reports of the time, the Tyrone selectors "found considerable difficulty in fielding a team of such calibre in the football code as that of the historic county of Armagh, especially as it was some time since the ancient game was played to any extent in the county". They experienced further difficulties when three players from Sixmilecross were unable to turn up until the very last minute and substitutes had to do duty. Armagh led by 1-2 to 0-1 at half-time and went on to win by 2-5 to 0-1. The Tyrone team on that occasion was: M. Corr (Pomeroy), E. Jones and P. Mallon (Dungannon), J.P. Daly (Coalisland), P. Byrne (Dungannon), P. Mallon (Dungannon), M. Symington (Coalisland), J. Coleman (Dungannon), J. McLaughlin (Dromore), D. Grehan (Pomeroy), J. Donnelly (Fintona), P. Campbell (Pomeroy), T. Bradley (Coalisland), P. McNaney (Dungannoil), and P. Kane (Pomeroy).

Competitions Organised

Competitions within the county were soon established in an organised fashion. In December, 1913, a magnificent silver cup was presented by Patrick Devlin, Fintona, for competition on a league basis among all affiliated clubs in Tyrone, and in the early months of 1914 arrangements were made for the playing of the county championship - again on a league system. Unfortunately, not all those clubs which had been represented at the County Board meetings in late 1913 or which had indicated their intention of taking part in competitions actually participated. In West Tyrone, four clubs - Fintona Davitts, Sixmilecross Wolfe Tones, Killyclogher St. Patrick's and Ballygawley (Errigal-Keerogue) St. Ciaran's - played in the League championship; in East Tyrone, five clubs - Dungannon Craobh Ruadh, Dungannon tire Og, Coalisland Fianna, Moy Tir na nOg and Pomeroy Hibernians - took part.

It was the first occasion since the establishment of the GAA in Tyrone that a team from the Ballygawley area participated in organised competitions. Towards the end of 1913, two teams from the parish - Garvaghey and Ballygawley - had played a challenge game, and in January, 1914, a return game was played when the Ballygawley team were assisted by a number of players from Aughnacloy. It was from this combination that the new team - Errigal-Keerogue St. Ciaran's - was formed in the early months of 1914. The club played its home games at Greenhill, Ballygawley, and performed very creditably indeed in the 1914 league. Ballygawley, in common with Fintona and Sixmilecross, played eight games in the league which took place during February-April 1914. Killyclogher withdrew after playing seven games, while Dromore who entered the competition appear to have withdrawn at an early stage. The result of the league, which evoked great interest and attracted large crowds, was in doubt right up to the final game, and was not decided until a protest by Fintona against Ballygawley was upheld by the West Tyrone committee, leaving Fintona winners with fourteen points against Ballygawley's twelve points.

Another indication of the strength of the game in at least one area - Fintona - is the fact that on Easter Monday, 1914, the Clann Chonaill team from Derry travelled to play the local Davitts team in Fintona. One report, however, in the "Ulster Herald" of 7th March, 1914, remarked sadly on the failure to have the Association revived in Omagh. Commenting on the prevalence of soccer in the town, where an unsuccessful attempt had been made to set up a GAA club in September, 1913, the correspondent expressed the hope that the young men from the town of the Strule would unite to form a club and have Omagh represented in Gaelic circles. A similar hope was expressed by a correspondent, calling himself "Gael", who on 9th May, 1914, called on those who were involved in the Irish National Volunteer movement to co-ordinate the revival of the Irish language and Irish games in the town.

In East Tyrone, a very successful league competition took place in the early months of 1914 between teams from Coalisland, Moy and Pomeroy and two teams from Dungannon. Moy met Coalisland in the district league final on 30th April and defeated them by 1-5 to 0-4. However, Coalisland appealed successfully on the grounds that their opponents had played illegal players and so became champions of East Tyrone with the right to meet Fintona Davitts in the Tyrone county final, which was played on 14th June, 1914. There was a very large crowd of spectators present in Sixmilecross to watch the game, which was played on an exceptionally fine day with the heat too intense for the players to do themselves justice. Fintona, who in previous years had lost two championship finals, were successful at their third attempt and won by 2-1 to 0-1. On the following Sunday, 21st June, Tyrone played Fermanagh in the Ulster senior football championship in Clones, but lost by 2-4 to 1-2.

Apart from the league competition in East Tyrone, there was a considerable amount of other activity at the beginning of 1914. Coalisland Fianna entertained the James Stephens club from Belfast on two occasions during the season - at Christmas and again on Easter Monday. As early as September 1913, a former Benburb man, Mr. Anthony Lucey, M.A., then living in London, donated a cup - the Owen Roe O'Neill Challenge Cup - to the Presentation Brothers, Dungannon, for competition among schools in the Dungannon district. Four teams - O'Neill Og (Dungannon), Emmetts (also from Dungannon), Pomeroy Harps and Fianna Og from Coalisland - took part in the competition, but unfortunately no record survives of its having been completed. Attempts were made to organise adult teams in other areas. The "Dungannon Democrat" of 1st February, 1914, mentions a game between Donaghmore Rapparees and Carland Rovers, while that of 18th March, 1914, refers to a game between Old Engine and "Young Bloods". The same paper also refers to a team from Caledon having entered the Devlin Cup competition. Like the Owen Roe O'Neill Cup, however, it would appear that this competition was not completed. A number of fixtures were played in April and May, 1914, but unfortunately there is no indication as to whether any other games were played after that date. In view of the very extensive coverage given by the "Ulster Herald" and the "Dungannon Democrat" to Gaelic games during the revival in 1913-14 and the absence of any reference to Devlin Cup games after May, it can only be assumed that no games were played and that this competition was not completed.

No account of GAA games in Tyrone in 1914 would be complete, however, without reference to that annual event which took place with unflinching regularity - Fr. Matt Maguire's aeridheacht - held just one week after the outbreak of the Great War and featuring, as in previous years, a football competition with a prize of a football for the winners, and a hurling match with a set of hurley sticks for the winners. Present at the event were those two great Gaels, Agnes O'Farrelly, M.A., president of the Irish College in Cloghaneely, and Lord Ashbourne, while the organising secretary was none other than William T. Grainger, who in 1905 had been responsible for the foundation of the Lisdhu hurling club.

Political Events; Collapse of GAA

It would be difficult to recount the story of the GAA in Tyrone in 1913-14 without referring briefly to the political events which dominated the scene during those years and which were chronicled weekly in the pages of the Tyrone newspapers. From 1910, when the survival of the British Liberal Government depended on the support of the Irish Nationalist Members of Parliament in the House of Commons, until the outbreak of war in August, 1914, one of the dominant political issues in Westminster was that of the Home Rule Bill for Ireland, the progress of which was followed with intense interest in Tyrone as in every other part of Ireland. The formation of the Irish National Volunteers in November, 1913, and the rapid recruitment which followed found a ready response in Tyrone where many branches were formed, particularly in the early summer of 1914. The strength of the movement in the county was strikingly demonstrated in May, when Volunteer parades were held in a number of venues, including Carrickmore and Greencastle where Sir Roger Casement and Eoin MacNeill attended. By August, 1914, there were ninety-three branches of the Volunteers in Tyrone with a membership of 9,000 men, and it would appear that the playing of Gaelic games on Sundays had by this time given way to drilling (sometimes with hurling sticks) and to other Volunteer activities. The "Dungannon Democrat" of 21st September, 1914, refers to the opening of the Gaelic football season with a game between Coalisland Fianna and Dungannon Craobh Ruadh, but subsequent issues contain no further references to GAA activity and it is clear that no competitions took place for the rest of the season. Similarly, the "Ulster Herald", which, like the "Democrat", had carried extensive reports of the games in the early part of 1914, does not contain a single reference to the GAA in the two years after August, 1914. During that period, the revival which had begun in 1913-14 came to an abrupt end. Gaelic games disappeared from the scene, and the County Board went out of existence until September, 1916, when the organisation of the Association began afresh and a new administration was established.

The Great War,. Easter, 1916.

The Great War in Europe was to overshadow all other events in Ireland in 1914 and 1915. A vigorous recruiting campaign was mounted, especially in the larger centres of population - Dungannon, Omagh and Strabane - and many young men from Tyrone were among those who took their places in the trenches in Europe. That the progress of the fighting was followed closely in Tyrone is clear from the fact that in Omagh a daily newspaper began publication in September, 1914, and provided a detailed report each day on the events in Europe, while the Tyrone weekly newspapers also gave widespread coverage each week to the progress of the war.

The events taking place on the battle-fields of Europe had their effects on sport as well as on every other aspect of life. In Omagh, where there had been at least three soccer teams in 1913 and early 1914, there was not a single team in October, 1914. By January, 1915, two of these teams had five players each taking part in the war effort, while four players from another team had joined the army. Only in Trillick, where the annual Kilskeery Aeridheachts in August 1915 and 1916 included games between Trillick and Fintona, is there any record of Gaelic games being played in Tyrone between the summer of 1914 and the autumn of 1916.

While the war was going on in Europe, other events of far-reaching importance were taking place much nearer home and were soon to have a profound influence on the future history of Ireland. The events of Easter Week, 1916, in Dublin, and their aftermath, were to enkindle a new flame of national consciousness throughout the whole country. The support for Home Rule and for the leader of the Party which had fought so hard to get it on the Statute Book was to disappear and to be replaced with an enthusiasm for a new cause which would in 1918-19 lead to the almost total disappearance of Redmond's Party at the General

Election and the setting up of an Irish Parliament in Dublin. In Tyrone, the re-formation in September, 1916, of the County Board of the GAA and the affiliation of eighteen clubs by December of that year must be seen as one of the manifestations of the new nationalism which sprang up after the summer of 1916 and which was to dominate the Irish scene until the outbreak of the Civil War, while the names of some of the clubs which affiliated to the re-

constituted County Board in 1916 and later during 1917 Trillick McDonaghs, Fintona Pearses, Dungannon Thomas Clarkes, Donaghmore O'Donovan Rossas, Galbally McDermotts, Pomeroy Plunketts and Clonoe O'Rahillys give an indication of the sympathies of some at least of those associated with their foundation.

(3) Resurgence of the GAA, 1916-17 Formation of County Board

The formation of the County Board took place on Sunday, 17th September, 1916, at a meeting in the Town Hall, Pomeroy, just two weeks after a number of Gaelic enthusiasts had met there and had appointed two secretaries, one for the East and one for the West - Joseph McElvogue of Cookstown Brian Og and William J. Campbell, secretary of Fintona Pearses - to summon likely clubs to a Convention in Pomeroy. Despite the dreadful weather conditions - there was a continual downpour all day - delegates from six areas - Fintona, Sixmilecross, Pomeroy, Mullinahoe (Ardboe), Stewartstown and Dunamore - braved the elements and set up a new County Board. Michael Martin Quinn, a Cookstown solicitor, who had in earlier years played a prominent part in the United Irish League and the Home Rule movement, was appointed chairman, Thomas Devlin, N.T., Pomeroy became treasurer, and Michael J. Coen, a native of Clare or Tipperary who was at this time working in Carrickmore, became secretary. The second meeting of the Board took place on Tuesday, 3rd October, when a total of eleven clubs were represented as follows: Dungannon Craobh Ruadh Patrick Loughran; Cookstown - John Hegarty; Stewartstown - Thomas Rea; Carrickmore - Patrick McCartan; Fintona Pearses - Thomas Carney; Fintona Davitts - Peter Coleman; Trillick - Patrick McGirr; Sixmilecross - Hugh Rodgers; Pomeroy - John Grimes; Killybearn - Robert McCann; Mullinahoe - M.M. Quinn.

The meeting which was chaired by the county chairman appointed Fr. James McManus, CC, (Trillick) as vice-chairman, Thomas Rea (Stewartstown) as registrar, and the chairman and secretary as delegates to the Ulster Council. Fr. McManus, a native of Dromore, whose brother, Richard, had for a brief period in 1909 been county secretary, was an all-round athlete and an excellent sprinter while a student; he was also a keen referee, and was to succeed M.M. Quinn as county chairman in 1917. At the meeting, a letter was read from the secretary of the Ulster Council, Owen O'Duffy, expressing his satisfaction at the formation of a County Board in Tyrone. In commenting on the decline of the Association in the county during the previous years, O'Duffy made a significant reference to what, in his opinion, might have been one of the causes of that decline, viz. political differences. It was his experience that in order to establish and maintain Gaelic games successfully politics of any kind should not be allowed to enter. While the GAA, representing as it did three quarters of the young manhood of Ireland, must necessarily include all shades of opinion, these would have to be left aside on the football field and in the meeting. In Monaghan, he continued, which was perhaps the strongest Gaelic county in Ulster at that time, they had on the County Board what he described as extremists on every side; nevertheless, as Gaels, they all worked together for the common aim, i.e., the cultivation of their national pastimes.

County Championship

O'Duffy's advice seems to have been heeded, at least during the early days of the new County Board, for the GAA made remarkable progress in a very short time. By December 1916, a total of eighteen clubs had been affiliated - seven in West Tyrone, eleven in East Tyrone. Arrangements were made for a county championship, played on a league basis in both east and west. In the west, Kilskeery (Trillick) McDonaghs, Fintona Davitts, Fintona Pearses, Sixmilecross Wolfe Tones, Augher Young Irelands, Carrickmore St. Colmcille's and Ballygawley St. Ciaran's participated in the league, which was played on a home-and-away basis. In East Tyrone, teams from Coalisland, Dungannon, Stewartstown, Cookstown, Moy, Donaghmore, Ardboe (Geraldines), Mullinahoe, Pomeroy, Annaghboe and Killybearn participated. Among the referees for these games in the west were Fr. McManus, H.K. McAleer, Robert Slane, John Donnelly and Sean B. McManus, while in the east referees included Peter Tohall, Mick Coney, James Quinn, Pat Holland, Joseph Conlon, P.J. Smith, Joseph McAnespie, T.J. Rea, James Curran and Wm. McGlinchey. By June, 1917, when both leagues had been completed, the league tables read as follows:

West Tyrone Team			East Tyrone		
	Played	Points	Team	Played	Points
Kilskeery	11	17	Cookstown	16	30
Sixmilecross	11	17	Dungannon	14	23
Fintona Davitts	11	16	Stewartstown	16	20
Augher	11	12	Mullinahoe	13	14
Fintona Pearses	10	9	Coalisland	15	14
Carrickmore	12	7	Pomeroy	14	11
Ballygawley (later withdrawn)			Donaghmore	16	10
			Moy	16	8
			Clonoe	16	6

Clonoe, although not included in the original fixtures, took part in the East Tyrone league, while Ardboe, Annaghboe and Killybearn appear to have dropped out. Ballygawley withdrew after the early stages of the West Tyrone league, which was won by Kilskeery after an appeal to the County Board. The scene was thus set for the county championship final between teams from the east and west for the first time since 1914. This game, played on Sunday, 15th July, 1917 in Omagh, where a new club - Omagh O'Neills - had been formed in May, took place in Strathroy Holm about a mile outside the town in a field lent for the occasion by Patrick Cunningham of Shergrim, and according to the report of the time the match was worthy of the occasion. After a heavy downpour, both teams Kilskeery (Trillick) McDonaghs and Cookstown Brian Og - marched from the town in brilliant sunshine led by the St Eugenes Brass and Reed Band and an outstanding game followed. Although Cookstown led by 2-1 to 0-1 at halftime, the issue was in doubt right up to the end, when Cookstown won on the score 3-1 to 2-1. There was much controversy about a goal, which was disallowed to Kilskeery by referee, P. Holland (Dungannon), and the losers considered an appeal, but in the end graciously conceded victory to Cookstown.

National Aid Tournament

Strathroy Holm, Omagh, had been the venue on the previous Sunday, 8th July, for a major inter-county game between Coalisland Mitchells, representing Tyrone, and Derry Sarsfields, representing County Derry, in support of the Irish National Aid and Volunteer Dependants' Fund. This fund, which had been set up in the summer of 1916 to help dependants of participants in the Rising, received generous support from the GAA, which organised football and hurling games all over the country and sent the proceeds to the National Aid organisers in Dublin. The game was the culmination of a tournament which had been held in both East and West Tyrone as well as in the other Ulster counties in response to a letter from the secretary of the Ulster Council, Owen O'Duffy. James E.

Hackett from Clogher presented a set of silver medals for the competition in the west, which was won by Augher Young Irelands. On Sunday, 27th May, they defeated Kilskeery in the semi-final and then on the same day went on to beat Fintona Davitts in the final in Clogher. Peter Corr from Annaghboe also offered a set of medals for the East Tyrone competition, which was won by Coalisland Mitchells, who then represented Tyrone in the inter-county competition at Omagh.

The Omagh club had gone to great trouble to ensure that the occasion would be a resounding success. Both teams Mitchells and Sarsfields - arrived in Omagh on Saturday night, and on the following day were given a reception in the INF Hall, where the speakers included O'Duffy, who reviewed the progress of the GAA in Ulster. A huge crowd from all over Tyrone as well as a contingent from Derry were entertained during the game by St. Eugene's Band, and after the match, which Derry won by 2-5 to 0-3, both teams were treated in the INF Hall to a programme of Irish dancing and singing before their departure on Sunday night by the midnight trains from Omagh.

The game gave rise to a minor controversy in the pages of the "Ulster Herald" the following week, when a notice, inserted on behalf of the O'Neills club, disclaimed responsibility for the actions of some people who had distributed "A manifesto to the Irish People" during the course of the game. The notice provoked two letters - one from a correspondent calling himself "An Irish Volunteer" who said that the notice was the work of only three members of the club and represented their views only; the other was from "An Old Gael" who deplored its insertion and the spirit of "shoneenism" which he thought it represented. Fortunately, the controversy does not appear to have had any lasting effect or to have impaired in any way the growth of the GAA movement either in Omagh or in Tyrone at the time, but it gives some indication of the tensions between different strands of nationalism which no doubt were not very far beneath the surface during these years.

Mid- Ulster League

Apart from the East and West Tyrone League championships and the National Aid Tournament, 1917 also witnessed a new competition which began in the late summer of that year. It was promoted by the Mid-Ulster Council, a committee set up in June by representatives of a number of Fermanagh clubs together with the West Tyrone clubs - Omagh O'Neills, Fintona Pearses and Kilskeery McDonaghs. Although the status of the Council is uncertain, it is clear that it enjoyed the approval of the Tyrone and Fermanagh County Boards and the Ulster Council. When it met on 20th June, 1917, in Irvinestown under the chairmanship of William Hegarty (Enniskillen), Omagh O'Neills were represented by W. Garety and R. Matthews, Fintona Pearses by W. Campbell and P. Maguire, and Kilskeery McDonaghs by P. McGirr and Joe Beattie, while P. McCallan (Omagh) also attended in his capacity as treasurer of the Council. The football league was organised in two divisions, one consisting of Fermanagh teams only, the other of the three West Tyrone teams together with Tempo and Irvinestown, while the hurling league was played in one division only with Kilskeery McDonaghs being the sole Tyrone representatives. By December, 1917, Kilskeery had emerged victorious from the hurling competition, while Omagh O'Neills and Enniskillen Scan McDermotts had both gained maximum points in their respective divisions. After an outstanding exhibition of football at Irvinestown on Sunday, 6th January, 1918 in the League final, which was played before a crowd of almost one thousand spectators, Omagh achieved their first ever major success by defeating Enniskillen by 1-3 to 0-4, and received their first trophy - the Erne Challenge Cup from the chairman of the Tyrone County Board, Fr. J. McManus.

Tyrone v Armagh

On the inter-county scene, Tyrone participated in their first Ulster senior football championship for three years when they played Armagh at Armagh on Sunday, 13th May, 1917. Although leading by 1-1 to 0-2 at half-time after playing with the breeze, Tyrone were overtaken in the second half and lost by 2-3 to 1-3. The Tyrone team which played (in white) on that occasion was: P. Devlin (Stewartstown), P. Corr (Clonoe), T. Rea (Dungannon), E. Jones (Dungannon), J. O'Neill and H. Magee (Cookstown), J. Devlin (Mullinahoe), T. Lagan (Cookstown), P. Mallon and J. McCaul (Dungannon), J. Gormley (Augher), S. McGuigan and J. Boyle, captain (Cookstown), J. Doris (Dungannon) and J. Corey (Cookstown). Reserves were: F. O'Neill (Dungannon), P. Kane (Pomeroy), J. Mulgrew (Dungannon) and G. Rodgers (Stewartstown).

Club Delegates

Despite Tyrone's lack of success at inter-county level, the progress which was made since the re-establishment of the County Board in September, 1916 and during the first half of 1917 must have been a source of great satisfaction to the delegates who attended the County Convention in July 1917. During that period, a total of almost twenty clubs had been re-organised and had taken part in competitions and a proper administrative structure had been set up. Regular meetings of the County Board had taken place and the interest shown by clubs was reflected in the attendance at these meetings. Among the delegates who attended County Board meetings in 1917 were the following:

Sixmilecross - Robert Slane, F. Maguire

Carrickmore - Patrick McCartan, M.J. Coen

Dungannon - Patrick Holland, James Quinn, W.F. McNaney, J. McLaughlin

Moy - Peter Tohall, P. Sheridan

Kilskerry - Francis McGee, P. McGirr

Fintona Davitts - John Donnelly, Patrick Bradley, D. Rodgers, Peter Coleman

Fintona Pearses - F. Carney, John Hewitt

Pomeroy - Francis Corr, P. Kane, P. Nicholl, John Grimes, F.H. McFlynn, M. Corr

Coalisland - P. Quinn, D. Doey, P. Crawford, P. Donnelly

Donaghmore - J. Campbell

Cookstown Brian Og - Joseph O'Neill, Leo Mullan, Joe McElvogue

Kilybearn - P. Devlin, W. Eastwood

Mullinahoe - M. Coney, Hugh Brannigan, J. O'Neill, F.J. O'Hagan, F. Mulholland

Stewartstown Harps - S. Smith, J. Morrison

Clonoe O'Rahillys - P. Corr

Augher - J. McNamee, Francis Doris, James McKenna Lower Ardboe - P. Mallon

Omagh - P. McCallan, Richard Matthews, P.J. McLaughlin

Aughamullan - B. Kilpatrick, B. Glackin Strabane - Joseph Breslin

Ballygawley - John Montague

Omagh, Aughamullan, Strabane and Ballygawley were represented for the first time at the County Convention in July, 1917.

County Convention, July 1917

In February 1917, the County Board got a new secretary due to the departure from Tyrone of M.J. Coen who had been appointed in the previous September when the Board had been re-established. Many tributes were paid to the outgoing secretary for the excellent work he had done in helping to re-organise the GAA in the county and much of the credit for the healthy state of the Association in Tyrone was attributed to his energy and enthusiasm. He was succeeded by Patrick Holland, Dungannon, who had earlier been appointed assistant secretary. The credit for the progress of the GAA in Tyrone during this year must also be shared by the chairman, M.M. Quinn, who having helped to establish the GAA on a firm basis, withdrew from the scene at the 1917 Convention.

The Convention, held in the INF Hall in Omagh on Wednesday, 25th JULY, 1917, was chaired by Owen O'Duffy, secretary of the Ulster Council, whose presence must be taken as an indication by the Council of the importance it attached to the development of the game in Tyrone. Fourteen clubs attended - Kilskeery, Fintona Davitts, Fintona Pearses, Augher, Omagh and Ballygawley from the west, Coalisland, Dungannon, Moy, Aughamullan, Cookstown, Mullinahoe and Pomeroy from the east, while Strabane was the sole representative of the northern part of the county. Fr. McManus, who was appointed to succeed M.M. Quinn as chairman, paid tribute to the work of his predecessor and declared that he would not have considered accepting the post but for the fact that Quinn had made it perfectly clear that he would not be seeking re-election. Quinn and Dr. P. McCartan (Carrickmore) were elected honorary vice-chairmen for East and West Tyrone respectively, while the outgoing secretary and treasurer were re-appointed, and John Donnelly (Fintona) became registrar. Patrick Holland (Dungannon) and Peter Tohall (Moy) were nominated delegates to the Ulster Council, and the following selection committee was appointed: Fr. J. McManus, J. O'Neill (Cookstown), J. Breslin (Strabane), J. Quinn (Dungannon), M. Corr (Pomeroy), J. Montague (Ballygawley) and P. Donnelly (Coalisland). A County Board was also appointed by the Convention as follows: Kilskeery - Francis McGee; Fintona Davitts - Patrick Bradley; Augher - Patrick McGee; Cookstown - Joseph O'Neill; Dungannon - James Quinn; Pomeroy - John Grimes; Coalisland - Patrick Crawford; Moy - Peter Tohall; Omagh - Patrick McCallan; Aughamullan - Bernard Kilpatrick; Strabane - Joseph Breslin; Ballygawley - John Montague; Mullinahoe - F.J. O'Hagan.

One of the major items of business of the Convention was the consideration of the financial report. It was reported that there was a balance of £25-14-6 to the credit of the Board on the year's workings and that total liabilities amounted to £36-12-3, which had been incurred on the championship final, trophies and other incidental expenses. However, it was anticipated that when all outstanding monies were available the credit would balance the debit for the year. O'Duffy, the Ulster secretary, expressed satisfaction at the state of the county's finances and was to give expression to even greater satisfaction later in the year when he had occasion to write to the Tyrone Board on behalf of the National Aid Fund to acknowledge Tyrone's contribution of £37 to the fund - the largest single contribution of any Ulster county and a clear indication of the strength of the Association in Tyrone.

Tyrone Club in Belfast

One other event which took place outside Tyrone towards the end of the 1916-17 season showed beyond doubt the increasing interest of Tyrone Gaels in the GAA. In June, 1917, a meeting took place in the Craobh Ruadh Hall in Belfast of a large number of Gaelic enthusiasts from Tyrone to organise a Gaelic Football club composed solely of Tyrone men to take part in Belfast competitions. The meeting, which was chaired by Jim Tohill, formerly of Stewartstown Harps, decided to call the new club Tyrone O'Neills. On Sunday, 15th August, this Belfast-based club travelled to Stewartstown to play an East Tyrone selection, and according to the newspaper report of the game the O'Neills team was composed entirely of men from Tyrone who had spent their boyhood days in Moy, Pomeroy, Omagh, Dungannon, Stewartstown, Coalisland, Cookstown, Sion Mills, Ardboe, Donaghmore, Killybearn and Strabane, and was selected from the following: P. Early, J. McCann, E. Carabine, P. Loughran, T. Hamill, A. Mitchell, F. Lamb, J. McCrealy, W. Brennan, A. Mullin, P. Higgins, F. Lavery, J. Brannigan, P. Fanning, D. Doey, G. Rodgers, J. Flynn and D. McCrealy.

(4) The GAA Holds On, 1917-18 County Championship

The 1917-18 season opened in East Tyrone in October and in the west in November, when the first games in the divisional leagues were played. Fixtures for both leagues had been made at the meeting of the County Board held in St. Patrick's Hall, Dungannon, on Wednesday, 28th August, 1917, at which Fr. McManus presided, and which was attended by delegates from eleven clubs. Clubs taking part in the East Tyrone League were Dungannon Craobh Ruadh, Cookstown Brian Og, Galbally McDermotts, Dungannon Thomas Clarkes (who were affiliated for the first time at this meeting), Pomeroy Plunketts, Aughamullan Erin's Hope, Mullinaboe Owen Roes, Clonoe O'Rahillys, Stewartstown Harps and Coalisland Mitchells, while in the West, fixtures were made for four clubs - Omagh O'Neills, Fintona Pearses, Augher Young Irelands and Carrickmore St. Colmcille's. Why Trillick, who had participated in the 1917 county championship final, Sixmilecross, who had almost won the league in the previous year, and Fintona Davitts who up to this time had been one of the most successful West Tyrone clubs, did not take part in the league which began in November, 1917, is a matter for speculation. It is clear that because of restrictions on transport the problem of distance was a very important factor in the decision which was taken to divide the county into two divisions as in 1916-17 and in another decision made at this meeting to exclude Strabane from West Tyrone fixtures. It may well be that it was this difficulty which was responsible, at least in part, for the failure of a greater number of clubs to take part in the West Tyrone competitions.

Among the referees who took charge of the league games in the 1917-18 season were the following: West - Fr. McManus (Trillick), R. McManus (Dromore), P. McLaughlin (Omagh), W. Campbell (Fintona), T. McCaughey (Trillick). East - M. Coney (Mullinahoe), F. McKee (Cookstown), P. Kelly (Coalisland), F. Corr and J. Grimes (Pomeroy), P. Dynes, J. Kelly, J. Mulgrew, R. Burke, J. Quinn and P. Holland (Dungannon), P. Tohall (Moy), J. O'Neill, J. McElvogue, J. Conlon and J. McAnespie (Cookstown), J. Curran (Killybearn), J. Quinn and F. Shields (Coalisland) and P. Donnelly (Stewartstown). In addition, Peter Coleman (Fintona), who at a later stage was to be chairman of the West Tyrone Board and a member of the County Board for many years, refereed the re-play of the Ulster senior football championship semi-final between Armagh and Antrim in August 1917.

Gaelic Sunday

By the end of June, 1918, when most of the league games in both divisions had been played, Omagh O'Neills, who in January had won the Erne Cup, were declared winners of the West Tyrone League, while Cookstown, who had won the 1917' championship, emerged victorious in the East Tyrone League. At a meeting of the County Board held on 30th June, it was decided to play the county final at Dungannon on Sunday, 21st July. The match does not appear to have been played on that date, however, as a proclamation had been issued by the Government that permits must be received from the RIC for all GAA games, and officials had been warned that the match would not be allowed to be played unless a permit was received. The issue of this proclamation provoked a reaction on a massive scale throughout Ireland, and as a result of an initiative taken by the Ulster Council it was decided by Central Council to designate the first Sunday in August as Gaelic Sunday and to organise games in every part of the country on that day without obtaining permits and in defiance of the ban.

The response to this call throughout the country was enormous. Although the extent of the response in Tyrone is difficult to assess in the absence of written records, it is known that a number of games took place in the county on that day. A survivor of one of those games', which was played at Moveagh near Cookstown, recalled to the writer that three games were organised for the same time on that day at different venues in the Cookstown area - one at Killybearn, one at Drumullan and one at Moveagh - so that it would not be possible for the ban to be enforced. He explained that young men who were not regular players gathered at the appointed venues to help make up teams and thus to ensure that the games were played and that the ban was defied. The reaction to the prohibition had the desired effect; no attempt was made subsequently by the authorities to insist on the obtaining of permits.

The county final was held in Dungannon on Sunday, 18th August, without a permit, and was refereed by the County secretary, Pat Holland. Omagh, playing with a strong breeze, led at half-time by one point, but were unable to match the county champions in the second half, and Cookstown won by 1-5 to 1-3. Omagh, however, objected to the constitution of the Cookstown team and were awarded a replay, which took place in Coalisland on Sunday, 22nd September, and which was refereed by Fr. McManus. Omagh, who were most unhappy about having to make the twenty-five mile journey to Coalisland by relays of brakes in most unpleasant weather, while their rivals had only a short journey from Cookstown, were no more successful than on the previous occasion and lost by 1-2 to 1-1 to the Brian Og team who thus became the first club to win the county championship in successive years.

Tyrone v Monaghan

Both clubs were represented on the Tyrone team which on Sunday, 10th June, 1918, had lost to Monaghan in the Ulster senior football championship at Armagh. The Tyrone team which lined out in blue jerseys was as follows: J. Brogan (Omagh), J. Tohill (Stewartstown), P. Corr (Clonoe), T. Rea (Dungannon Craobh Ruadh), J. O'Neill (Cookstown), S. O'Grady, captain (Dungannon Craobh Ruadh, formerly of Cavan), S. McGuigan (Cookstown), P. O'Neill (Clonoe), D. McElholm (Omagh), J. Devlin (Mullinahoe Owen Roes), T. Magee (Kilskeery), J. Wilson (Dungannon Craobh Ruadh), A. Murphy (Dungannon Clarkes), J. Doris (Dungannon Craobh Ruadh), J. Corey (Cookstown). Reserves were: T. Sullivan (Cookstown), P. Loughran (Dungannon Craobh Ruadh), H. Magee (Cookstown).

County Convention, August 1918

The County Convention at the end of the 1917-18 season took place in Dungannon on Wednesday, 14th August, when almost all the clubs in Tyrone were represented. In the

absence of Fr. McManus, the president, Joseph O'Neill, Cookstown, the vice-president, chaired the meeting. Although no details of the election of officers are contained in newspaper reports of the Convention, it seems certain from subsequent reports that the outgoing officers were reelected. The secretary, Pat Holland, intimated his intention of resigning, as he was leaving Tyrone, but agreed to continue in office until the next meeting of the County Board. It was decided that for the coming season the county would be divided into two sections, east and west, as in the previous year and that a knock-out competition would be held in addition to the league competition. Strabane were granted admission to competitions, and a new club from Moveagh was affiliated.

(5) Year of Decline, 1918-19 ***Winter of Inactivity***

The league competitions arranged for 1918-19 did not begin as planned. Apart from the county final on 22nd September, 1918, and two hurling games between Killyclogher Owen Roes, who made a brief appearance at this time, and Glassmullagh (Kilskeery) McDonaghs, who had won the 1917-18 Mid-Ulster hurling league, there is no evidence of any activity involving West Tyrone teams until the spring of 1919. In East Tyrone, the only evidence of activity involved junior teams in the Dungannon area. A correspondent in both the "Ulster Herald" and the "Dungannon Democrat" expressed disappointment at the beginning of October, 1918, that nothing was being done to organise either a West Tyrone or a Mid-Ulster league, and he attached some at least of the responsibility for the delay to the apparent lack of energy on the part of officials of the County Board. He added that the Board must at its next meeting appoint a county secretary, since the outgoing secretary "who had hitherto rendered valuable service to the GAA movement" had gone elsewhere. The secretary of the Ulster Council, Owen O'Duffy, in his report to the Ulster Convention in March, 1919, about the state of the GAA in the province, referred to the decline in the number of clubs in Ulster and listed a number of the causes of the decline as follows: "the obstacles placed in the way of the Gaels, the withdrawal of special trains and weekend tickets by ordinary trains, the general prohibition of motorcars to matches under our auspices, the general unrest prevailing owing to the conscription menace (which had been a burning issue after April, 1918), and the carrying off to prison on absurd charges of our officials and players". There can be no doubt that Tyrone was affected by the "unrest" referred to by O'Duffy. Indeed, Tyrone, alone among the counties of Ulster, was listed with twelve other counties from the other three provinces on 15th June, 1918, as a "proclaimed district" under the Criminal Law and Procedure Act of 1887.' Under the terms of this Act, any person charged in the proclaimed district could be removed for trial to a venue more convenient for the purposes of the government and tried by special jury. Two other factors, referred to in both Tyrone newspapers at this time, were also responsible for a delay to the start of the GAA season, viz. the General Election of December, 1918, just after the ending of the World War, and the great 'flu epidemic which struck the country in the winter of 1918 and which took its toll of casualties in Tyrone as elsewhere throughout Ireland.

It was not until February, 1919, that a serious effort was made to have competitions started again in Tyrone. In the east, a meeting was held in St. Patrick's Hall, Coalisland, on Wednesday, 5th February, at which Joseph O'Neill (Cookstown), presided and which was attended by delegates from Dungannon, Cookstown, Coalisland and Aughamullan. An "Ulster Herald" report of this meeting states that the county secretary was in attendance, but unfortunately it does not state his name, nor is any other reference to be found in newspaper reports which would indicate his identity. It is likely, however, from references in the minutes of the Ulster Council that Patrick Crawford, from Annagher, Coalisland, was Tyrone secretary for a short time during part of the period October 1918-June 1919, after which Thomas Hewitt (Fintona) became county secretary.

In West Tyrone, a meeting was held in the INF Hall, Fintona, on Sunday, 9th February, 1919, at which five clubs were represented - Fintona Pearses, Augher, Glassmullagh hurling club, a new club - Tullyclunagh - and Irvinestown St. Molaise's. A committee was formed, with Fr. McManus CC (Kilskerry) as president, Patrick McCaughey, N.T. (Fintona) as vice-president, and Thomas Hewitt (Fintona) as secretary and treasurer. Draws were made for a football league for the months February to April and it was decided to communicate with the Killyclogher hurling team in an effort to start a hurling competition.

Collapse Of County Board

The West Tyrone league proceeded as planned, and in June, 1919, Fintona Pearses met Irvinestown in the final. The story in East Tyrone, however, was very different.

Although fixtures were drawn up in February for the following two-month period for six teams - Dungannon, Cookstown, Coalisland, Moveagh, Aughamullan and Mullinahoe - no league competition took place. Apart from a few challenge games played in February and April, GAA activities disappeared completely from that part of the county in the spring and summer of the year, the East Tyrone and County Boards ceased to function, and out of a total of almost twenty clubs, which had participated in GAA games in the summer of 1918, only three Tyrone football clubs - Fintona, Augher and Tullyclunagh - were active in the middle of 1919. A correspondent writing in the "Ulster Herald" and the "Dungannon Democrat" in May, 1919, was particularly critical of the County Board, through whose laxity and neglect, he alleged, Gaelic games had been 69 practically allowed to drop out in Tyrone". He also alleged that strenuous efforts were being made to promote Association Football throughout the county, that Omagh had seceded from the GAA, while practically all their players, "as well as those of the other once-popular teams in the eastern division of the county had reverted to soccer", and that many former members of the County Board were at that time actively assisting the promotion of soccer. He was particularly incensed by the fact that Tyrone, which had shown so much promise only a short time before, were able to call on the services of players from only one small corner of the county for the first round of the Ulster senior football championship against Donegal on Sunday, 25th May, 1919. Despite the handicaps which they had to overcome, Tyrone gave a splendid display in this game, played at Strabane before a crowd of about 1,200 spectators, but lacked the skills of Donegal who won by 4-3 to 2-0 (having led by 1-3 to 0-0 at half-time). The Tyrone team, selected from players from Fintona, Augher and Trillick, together with one Cavan player then resident in Strabane, was: P. Bradley (Fintona), P. Farrell (Augher), C. Keenan (Trillick), P. McGirr and F. Magee (Trillick), W. Kernohan (Fintona), C. ,Smith (Strabane), P. Magee (Augher), P. Coleman (Fintona), F. Cassidy (Augher), H. Magee (Trillick), P. McCaughey (Trillick), J. Hewitt, captain (Fintona), P. McGuire (Fintona) and J. Farrell (Augher).

West Tyrone League

The West Tyrone final, played just two weeks after Tyrone's game with Donegal, also had an inter-county flavour. Played at Laughterush, near Bundoran Junction, on Sunday, 8th June, between Fintona Pearses and Irvinestown St. Molaise's, it gave rise to a considerable amount of controversy and led to a strong protest from Irvinestown who lost by 0-0 to 1-1. Irvinestown, who had won the Fermanagh championship in May, objected to the venue and the referee and later complained about the composition of the Fintona team. In the course of the controversy which ensued, the secretary of the West Tyrone Board, Thomas Hewitt, himself a member of the successful Fintona Pearses team, wrote a letter to the "Ulster Herald" on 21st June, in which he referred to himself as "secretary of the Tyrone County Board" and deplored the fact that Irvinestown had not been represented at any of the three meetings of the District Board which he had called before arrangements for the final had been made. He said that charges of the kind levelled by Irvinestown could not be made if

clubs would attend duly convened meetings, and he offered that club a further opportunity of stating their case at the next meeting in Fintona on Sunday, 22nd June.

Re-Organisation

In the event, practically no business was transacted at this meeting due to the fact that only two clubs were represented, and the matter appears to have been quietly forgotten. Hewitt's perseverance, however, was soon to be rewarded, and two meetings which he attended in the following weeks were to provide the impetus required to harness the energies and enthusiasm of those interested in the revival of Gaelic games. The first meeting, held in Fintona on Sunday, 6th July, at the invitation of Hewitt, was attended by representatives of four Tyrone clubs Fintona, Tullyclunagh, Omagh Colemans which had been formed in June (named after Dick Coleman, who had fought in Easter Week, 1916, and had died in Usk prison in England in December, 1918), and a second Omagh club St. Anne's - which was formed at this time. A Committee for West Tyrone was appointed with Fr. McManus president, Patrick Donnelly (Omagh) as vice-president, Nicholas Smith (Tullyclunagh) as treasurer and Tom Hewitt as secretary. Hewitt was appointed delegate to represent the West Tyrone teams at a meeting, summoned by the Ulster Council, to re-organise the GAA in Tyrone, to take place in Dungannon on Wednesday, 16th July. At this meeting, which was attended by Owen O'Duffy, secretary of the Ulster Council, Fr. McManus was re-elected county president, Joseph O'Neill (Cookstown) was appointed vicepresident, and two deputy vice-presidents were appointed F.V. Quinn (Dungannon) and Patrick Donnelly (Omagh). Hewitt was re-elected secretary and temporary treasurer.

(6) Renewed Activity 1919-20

East and West Leagues,. County Championship

This meeting of the County Board marked the beginning of another period of activity which lasted until the autumn of 1920. Within a few months, a number of clubs which had been dormant in the early part of 1919 were affiliated and new clubs were formed. In the west, Omagh St. Anne's made a very brief appearance before going out of existence, and Tullyclunagh also faded from the scene. However, six clubs - Fintona Pearses, Omagh Colemans, Carnalea Emmetts, Knockmoyle Shamrocks, Aughafad and Tattysallagh - participated in the West Tyrone league which was played between September, 1919 and May, 1920, and which attracted large numbers of spectators. There had been high hopes that teams from Sixmilecross, Carrickmore and Dromore would also take part, but unfortunately this did not materialise.

In East Tyrone, a league committee was set up with F.V. Quinn (Dungannon) as president and Joseph McElvogue (Cookstown) as secretary. Dungannon St. Patrick's, Coal-island Mitchells, Cookstown Brian Og, Dungannon Clarkes, Moy Tir-na-nOg and Mullinahoe Owen Roes took part in the East Tyrone league which was played between November, 1919 and March, 1920. In addition, a number of club games were played in the summer and autumn of 1919 in aid of the Ulster Council, while in November a game was played between teams from the Fintona and Omagh districts in aid of the Tyrone County Board. The period was one of great activity with a number of sports meetings being held under the auspices of the GAA - in Fintona, Tattysallagh and Eskra in August and September, 1919 - and there was a brief revival of hurling in Omagh at the beginning of 1920. In addition, Omagh Colemans were particularly active at this time, playing a friendly game against Dungannon Clarkes on Christmas Day, 1920, and two challenge games against a team from Clady (in North Tyrone) - the first at Clady in December, 1919, the second in Lisnamallard Holm, Omagh in January, 1920. In February, a club was formed in Beltony (in Killyclogher parish) with a view to taking part in the 1920 West Tyrone league.

The West Tyrone league was concluded on Sunday, 23rd May, 1920, when Omagh Colemans beat Fintona Pearses by 3-2 to 0-5 in the league final at Dromore. The competition had not been without incident for Fintona had been suspended for a brief period after their failure to turn up to play Knockmoyle Shamrocks on 7th December. In East Tyrone, the league was completed on Sunday, 28th March, when at Annagher Park, Coalisland, before a huge crowd, Moy Tir-na-nOg met Coalisland Mitchells in what was described as "the greatest struggle for the championship". Both teams had been unbeaten during the season, and after a very hard-fought, close game, refereed by Joseph McElvogue (Cookstown), Moy were victorious by 1-4 to Coalisland's 1-2. Moy went on to defeat Omagh Colemans by 2-2 to 1-1 in the Tyrone county final, played again at Coalisland on Sunday, 30th May, with Standish O'Grady (Dungannon) as referee. Omagh appealed against the result on the grounds that spectators had encroached on the field several times during the game and that one of the Moy players was not registered. Their appeal was turned down by the County Board, and Moy thus won their first Tyrone senior championship title.

Tyrone v Armagh

Two weeks before the county final, on Sunday, 16th May, 1920, Tyrone played Armagh at Dungannon in the first round of the Ulster senior football championship. The team selected by the County Board at its meeting on 1st May in Omagh was: P. McElhatton (Fintona Pearses), J. Donnelly (Omagh Colemans), T. Hegarty, captain (Moy Tir-na-nog), T. Sullivan (Cookstown Brian Og), D. McElholm (Tattysallagh), P. Toner (Coalisland Mitchells), S. O'Grady (Dungannon Clarkes), P. Donnelly (Omagh Colemans), P. Brannigan (Mullinahoe Owen Roes), F. O'Neill and J.J. Sweeney (Moy Tir-na-nOg), T. McGrath and D. Toner (Coalisland Mitchells), J. McManus (Moy Tir-na-nOg) and J. Hewitt (Fintona Pearses). Substitutes selected were: J. Hayes (Fintona), T. McVeigh (Moy), J. Hegarty (Cookstown), R. Crawford (Mitchells), P. Loughran (Dungannon) and P. Parkes (Omagh). Unfortunately, six of the selected players - D. McElholm, P. McElhatton, John Hewitt, Tim Sullivan and Dan and Peter Toner - failed to turn up for the game. The first three were motoring from Fintona to Dungannon when their car broke down half-way between Fintona and Ballygawley. They walked as far as Ballygawley where they procured a second car and made their way to Dungannon only to discover that the game was then practically over. Tyrone sadly missed their assistance and had to call on a number of players from the Dungannon club, but were no match for a superior Armagh team who won by 2-1 to 0-0.

Mid- West Council

In April, 1920, the Mid-Ulster Council, which had previously flourished in 1917, was revived, and arrangements were made to play the Erne Cup competition in which Omagh had been successful at the beginning of 1918. Among the teams which entered were seven from West Tyrone - Omagh, Knockmoyle, Carnalea, Fintona, Aughnacree, Ballygawley and Newtown Stewart. President of the Council was Patrick J. McCallan (Omagh), two of the vicepresidents were John Montague (Ballygawley) and Owen Rodgers (Fintona), the secretary was E. Gallagher (Knockmoyle), while the registrar was the Tyrone county secretary, Tom Hewitt (Fintona). Only a few games appear to have been played in the summer of 1920 and it seems unlikely that this competition was ever completed. Despite this, there is ample evidence of much sporting activity at this time, particularly in West Tyrone. A large number of aeridheachts and sports were held between July and October - in Beragh, Carrickmore, Knockmoyle, Cookstown, Strabane, Letteree, Tattymoyle, Sixmilecross, Eskra, Kilskeery, Trillick and Fintona. Many of the sports meetings were held under GAA rules and featured Gaelic football matches. The fact that some of them, however, were not registered meetings seems to have been a cause of concern to the GAA and was the subject of a discussion at the Annual County Convention when it was decided to

forbid GAA members and teams to take part in such meetings and also to ask the secretary of the Athletic Council in Dublin to appoint handicappers for the county.

County Convention, October 1920

The Convention, held in St. Patrick's Hall, Dungannon on Sunday, 24th October, 1920, was to be the last organised gathering of Gaels from throughout the county until 1923. Five clubs were represented - Fintona Pearses and Ballygawley St. Ciaran's from the west, and Dungannon Clarkes, Cookstown Brian Og and Moy Tir-na-nOg from the east. Joseph O'Neill (Cookstown), vice-president, presided at the meeting, and the following officers were elected: president - Fr. J. McManus (Kilskeery); vice-president J Madden (Dungannon); deputy-vice-presidents - F V Quinn (Dungannon) and John O'Hanrahan, solicitor (Omagh); treasurer - Peter Tohall -(Moy); secretary - Thomas Hewitt (Fintona); assistant secretary Joseph McElvogue (Cookstown); registrar - Standish O'Grady (Dungannon). Tom Hewitt, who was complimented on the admirable manner in which he had carried out his duties, was also appointed delegate to the Ulster Council. It was agreed that the County Board should consist of one delegate from each club in addition to the officers, and the following were selected from the clubs represented at the Convention: John Hewitt (Fintona), J. Farrell (Ballygawley), F. McKee (Cookstown), Thomas McVeigh (Moy) and J. Madden (Dungannon). Other clubs wishing to enter for the county championship were to forward the names of their delegates. All clubs were urged to assist in a collection which was to be made in support of the Patrick Loughran Memorial Cup, to be put up for the county football championship on a yearly basis, in memory of the Dungannon player who had been fatally injured in an attack on Cookstown police barracks on 19th June, 1920. A request by the Ulster Council that action be taken regarding the promotion of hurling was left over to be discussed at a future meeting of the County Board. A lengthy discussion took place as to how Tyrone could best be represented in the following year's provincial championship and it was decided that a selection committee of six members be formed. Both East and West Tyrone divisions were earnestly requested to re-organise their leagues and begin as soon as possible. Four clubs - Cookstown, Moy, Dungannon and Fintona - paid affiliation fees, and Moy and Dungannon announced their intention of playing amatch in aid of County Board funds in a few weeks' time. Few of those who attended the Convention could have foreseen the reality of the situation over the next two years. In the event, no league or championship competitions were held in 1921 or 1922. No attempt was made to re-activate the County Board in either year. In the changed political situation, organised competitions under the auspices of the GAA came to an end and the plans which had been formulated at the Convention for the development of the Association came to naught.

1. Cf. Article in "Strabane Chronicle", 20.12.80, by J.J. McCrory; also article by Seamus O'Ceallaigh in Story of the GAA, 1977, pp 71-2.
2. Joe McAnespie, Cookstown, aged over 90, who was a member of the victorious Cookstown Brian Og team of 1917 and who took part in the game at Moveagh, recalled this incident to the writer in January, 1983. He said he had good reason to remember the occasion, since, after the game, on his return to the cow-shed where he had togged out, he discovered that a calf had tried to make a meal of his good Sunday shirt. "I can laugh at it now", he said, "but it was not funny at the time".
3. Cf. Dorothy McArdle: The Irish Republic, 4th cd., p256, Irish Press Ltd., Dublin, 1951.

(1) The Last Great Decline, 1921-22 Years of Inactivity

The years 1920-22 were particularly difficult ones in Ulster. In addition to the Troubles which affected the whole country, the North also faced the situation which arose from the Government of Ireland Act which became law in December, 1920, and which provided for the setting up of two Parliaments - one in Dublin for twenty-six counties and one in Belfast for six counties. The provisions of the Act took effect from May, 1921. In that month, elections were held throughout Ireland, and on 22nd June the Belfast Parliament was formally opened by King George V. The years were marked by the pogroms in Belfast and other areas, by the establishment of the Ulster Special Constabulary, by the imposition of severe restrictions on normal activities under the Defence of the Realm Act and the Restoration of Order in Ireland Act of August, 1920 and by a guerrilla campaign which involved attacks on police barracks and other targets.

The disruption of normal life arising from such a situation, together with the involvement of many GAA members in the events of these years, inevitably had serious effects on the operations of the GAA in the province, and nowhere were the effects more serious than in Tyrone. During the period September 1920-October 1921, the organisation of the Association in Ulster collapsed, no intercounty games took place and no meetings of the Ulster Council were held. Although some club competitions were held in Derry, Cavan, Donegal, Down, Antrim and Fermanagh, there was practically no GAA activity in Monaghan, Armagh or Tyrone during that time. A reorganisation meeting of the Ulster Council was held on 21st October, 1921, but no Tyrone delegate was present. In a county where the GAA had been struggling for survival for most of the time since the early part of 1918, where its organisation had been understandably somewhat haphazard during the difficult years of the Troubles, it is hardly surprising that the process of re-vitalising the Association was an exceptionally difficult one, and it was not until mid-1923 that a strong, virile County Board was to be established once again in Tyrone.

Despite the absence of an organised structure at County Board level during the early years of the twenties, some GAA activities did however continue to take place. The "Dungannon Democrat" carried reports in February and March, 1921, of challenge games between Coalisland Mitchell's and Dungannon Clarkes, and in May, 1921, of a game between Moy Tir-na-nOg and Dungannon. The same paper in February, 1922, contains reports of games between Castlecaulfield Kevin Barrys and Turnabaron (Pomeroy) Plunketts, Dungannon and Donaghmore, and Dungannon and Coalisland. However, these reports only serve to emphasise the otherwise total absence of GAA activity in East Tyrone during this period. The situation in West Tyrone was similar, as is clear from the pages of the "Ulster Herald", in which the only reference to the GAA is contained in advertisements in July-August, 1921, for sports, usually under GAA auspices, in a number of areas in the western part of the county. Most interesting of all was an advertisement in August for GAA Sports and Horse-racing in the Killymoon Demesne, Cookstown, for which application forms were available from Joseph McElvogue, the secretary at that time of the Cookstown hurling club, which in the same issue of the "Herald" advertised a hurling match against Dungannon on 4th September and sought fixtures with other clubs. An attempt at a revival of the GAA in March, 1922, is referred to in the "Dungannon Democrat", but it appears to have come to nothing.

North Tyrone

More remarkable, however, than the proliferation of GAA sports meetings was the sudden burst of activity which occurred in the North Tyrone area in the winter of 1921 and the early part of 1922. In spite of the fact that Strabane had been to the fore in the early years of the century in the promotion of both football and hurling and had played a notable part in GAA affairs during the first decade, Strabane's remoteness from other clubs in Tyrone had caused difficulty in participation in competitions, much of the early enthusiasm had disappeared in the period between 1910 and 1920, and soccer became the established code in the area. Towards the end of 1921, however, a Strabane and District League was set up, comprising fourteen teams from North-West Tyrone and South-East Donegal. The secretary of the league, which held regular meetings in a hall in Barrack Street, Strabane, was Eoin O Meallain, Strabane, while a curate in Leckpatrick parish, Fr. Thomas Bradley, gave strong support to the promotion of the GAA in the area. His departure to Cranagh in April, 1922, was seen as a great loss to Gaelic circles in Strabane. This same Fr. Bradley was to feature again in GAA activities, when as a curate in Newtownstewart, he, together with Fr. Michael Collins, CC, Killyclogher and Fr. James McGilligan, CC, Carrickmore, was one of the driving forces behind the revival which took place in the early 1930's and resulted in the establishment of a great number of clubs in West Tyrone.

By the end of March 1922, the Strabane and District League table read as follows:-

	Played	Points
Strabane Lamh Dhearg I	11	21
Castlefin Emmets	9	16
Sion Mills Owen Roes	10	15
Raphoe O'Tooles	10	14
Murlog Tirconnell Harps	12	11
Clady William Pearses	8	8
Castlefin St. Mary's	9	8
Leckpatrick Emmets	12	8
Clady Finn Gael	8	7
Ballybofey Eire Og	7	6
Strabane Lamh Dhearg 11	11	6
Ballybofey Young McCurtains	5	4
Donemana Red Hughs	11	4
Stranorlar Kevin Barrys	7	2

By April, plans were being made by the Lamh Dhearg club to hold a Strabane Summer Evening League for a valuable set of trophies, a juvenile league was being set up, and arrangements were well under way for the establishment of a camogie club in Strabane. However, the Strabane and District League, which had witnessed a mushrooming of clubs in the area in a very short time, seems to have gone out of existence in May, 1922, just as quickly as it had begun. A meeting was called for 21st May, which representatives of all the clubs were asked to attend "to consider the possibility of terminating the league owing to difficulties in travelling". Although no report of the meeting survives, it would seem that a decision to wind up its activities was taken, for there is no further evidence after this date of a football league in the area. A camogie team was formed, and there are reports of friendly games between Strabane and Letterkenny at the end of July and the beginning of September. Later in the year, on 5th November, a new hurling club, under the name Cuchulainns, was set up, and a field was obtained for matches and practices. Once again, however, there is little evidence of continued organised activity, and, apart from an occasional game during the rest of the decade and an appearance by a Strabane hurling team in the county final of 1926, it

does not appear that hurling had the opportunity to take deep root in Strabane during the rest of the 1920's.

(2) A New Beginning, 1923-24 The Ulster Problem

The problems which affected the GAA in Tyrone in 1920-22 were shared by the other Ulster counties also, and the provincial Council did not meet between July, 1920 and October, 1921. When the re-organisation meeting of the Council was held on 21st October, 1921, the attendance included delegates from all the Ulster counties except Cavan and Tyrone. It was reported that there were forty clubs in Derry, twelve in Cavan, fourteen in Donegal, eight in Armagh, twenty-two in Down, fourteen in Fermanagh and twenty-four in Antrim, but that there was "no GAA work in Tyrone". Fixtures were made for the senior football championship for eight of the nine counties, Tyrone being the only county not included in the list. Tyrone was represented by Tom Hewitt, Fintona (described as the county secretary in the Council's minutes of March, 1922) at the 1922 Annual Convention held in March, when the number of clubs in the county was put at six - presumably the North Tyrone clubs - but no delegate from Tyrone attended the Ulster Council meetings held in May, July or November, 1922. The accounts presented to the Annual Convention in March, 1923, show that affiliation fees were not paid for a single club in either Tyrone or Fermanagh for the period March 1922 - February 1923.

The absence of organised GAA activities in Tyrone and some of the other northern counties and the fact that since 1920 no County Board had existed in Tyrone, Fermanagh or Down was a cause of grave concern to the Central Council. The matter was discussed at the Annual Congress in Dublin on 1st April, 1923, when the secretary of the Ulster Council, P. McFadden (Antrim), proposed a motion directing the attention of Congress to the importance of keeping alive the GAA in the north-eastern counties, and the Ulster secretary, B.C. Fay (Cavan), proposed that the Central Council be requested to consider the question of appointing an organiser for the Six Counties. Unknown perhaps to most of the delegates present was the fact that Tyrone had already begun to re-organise by this time, and the first steps had been taken to re-establish the Association once more in the county.

Revival in East Tyrone

The initiative was taken in East Tyrone, when on Sunday, 7th January, 1923, a meeting took place in Carnan Hall of representatives of several clubs in the area, who decided to form a Stewartstown District League. A committee was appointed, with John Morrison (Stewartstown) as chairman, Mick Coney (Ardboe) as secretary, and Peter Corr (Ardboe) as treasurer. Two weeks later, a football league, for which a cup was presented by Thomas Mackle (Magliery), was begun, with nine teams participating Stewartstown Harps, Clonoe O'Rahillys, Coalisland Mitchells, Moortown St. Malachy's, Kiltagh McDermotts, Kilnienagh Kevin Barrys, Maghery Phelim Bradys, Aughamullan Pearses and Derry (Coalisland) Emmets. By the end of February, a Pomeroy District League had also been formed, consisting of five teams - Pomeroy, Donaghmore, Beragh, Dungannon and Edendork. In West Tyrone, where an apparently unsuccessful attempt at revival had been made in March, 1922, there was evidence of fresh activity in March and April, 1923, with the formation of a team in Omagh and the playing of a number of challenge games in the Fintona, Trillick and Carrickmore areas.

Four Tyrone representatives, among them the secretary of the Stewartstown League, Mick Coney, attended a meeting of the Ulster Council in Clones on 28th April, 1923, and the Council requested Coney to convene a meeting of clubs on Sunday, 13th May, in Coalisland, in order to re-establish the GAA formally in the county. Two representatives of the Council, P. McFadden (secretary) and J.J. Cooney (Armagh) attended the Coalisland meeting; in

addition, delegates were present from Dungannon (J. McBride and M.J. McNally), Coalisland (Joseph Morrison and J.J. Timlin), Clonoe (P. O'Neill), Kiltagh (B. Donnelly and M. Coney), Mlmenagh (Patrick Quinn), Cookstown (Joseph O'Neill and Francis Mulgrew), Donaghmore (E. Creally and M. Murphy) and Omagh (Jim Donnelly and James McBride). Tributes were paid to the late Fr. James McManus, C.C., Trillick, who had been president in 1917-20 and had died in 1922, and to the late Fr. Quinn, P.P., Stewartstown, who had been an ardent supporter. Officers appointed at the meeting were: chairman - B. Donnelly (Ardboe); vice-chairman - J.J. Timlin (Coalisland); secretary - Joseph O'Neill (Cookstown); honorary secretary for the county - Mick Coney (Ardboe). It was agreed that a County Convention would be held in Dungannon on Sunday, 10th June, to which all clubs would be invited to send delegates.

Re-Organisation Convention, June 1923

The importance of this Convention - the first to be held in Tyrone since Partition - cannot be over-estimated. It established the GAA in the county on a firm basis, and it brought to the fore in the person of Michael Coney, the new county secretary, a man who was to make an outstanding contribution to the development of the Association in Tyrone and to whom the GAA in Tyrone must forever owe a deep debt of gratitude. Throughout the next decade, he was tireless in his efforts to promote the growth of clubs throughout the county, unsparing of himself as he represented the interests of Tyrone at Ulster and Central Council meetings, and utterly dedicated to the task of ensuring that the administration of the games was put on a sound footing. That he did all this at great personal inconvenience and often at considerable financial sacrifice at a time when Tyrone was one of the weaker counties in Ulster is an indication of his enthusiasm, his commitment and his devotion. His name deserves an honoured place in the annals of Tyrone Gaeldom.

The meeting, which was attended by delegates from all parts of the county, heard a report from the outgoing secretary, Thomas Hewitt (Fintona), on the state of GAA affairs since the last Convention (held in 1920). It is most unfortunate that no account of the secretary's report survives, as no doubt it would have provided an interesting insight into some of the most difficult years in the history of the Association in the county. The election of officers resulted in the appointment of Joseph O'Neill (Cookstown) - as president, Thomas Hewitt (Fintona) - as vice-president, Michael Coney (Ardboe) - as secretary, John Morrison (Stewartstown) - as treasurer, and James Madden (Dungannon) - as registrar. Michael Coney and Jim Donnelly (Omagh) were also appointed delegates to the Ulster Council. The chairman, Joseph O'Neill, in a spirited address, said that while fourteen clubs were already affiliated, it was his hope that soon there would be a registered club in every district and he asked those present to do their utmost to put the games in Tyrone on a level with those pastimes in other counties. It was decided to divide the county into three districts, each to have its own district league, and the winners of each to play for the county championship. Secretaries were appointed to take charge of each league as follows: James J. McSorley, N.T. (Omagh) of the Omagh League, E. Creally (Donaghmore) of the Pomeroy League and J.J. Timlin (Coalisland) of the Stewartstown League. It was also decided that all those who had been playing Association Football (soccer) and who gave it up were now eligible to play Gaelic games, and a game was arranged for Omagh on 1st July between teams representing the Stewartstown and Omagh districts.

District Leagues

The strength of the revival of the GAA in Tyrone is evidenced by the fact that when the District League commenced in September, 1923, a total of eighteen teams participated. In the Omagh (or West Tyrone) District, five clubs were affiliated - Fintona Pearses, Trillick McDonaghs, Arvalee Emmets, Omagh St. Patrick's, and Omagh Colemans, while six clubs -

Donaghmore Eire Og, Beragh Red Knights, Pomeroy Plunketts, Dungannon Clarkes, Cookstown Brian Og and Rock McDonaghs took part in the Pomeroy District League. A further seven clubs - Clonoe O'Rahillys, Aughamullan Pearses, Kiltagh McDermotts, Coalisland Mitchells, Stewartstown Harps, Moortown St. Malachy's and Maghera Phelim Bradys - participated in the Stewartstown District League, while in the Strabane area approaches were made to the County Board in October regarding the possibility of starting a league there. There was also a Stewartstown District Junior League which included teams from Mountjoy and Derrylaughan.

In the period June-September, a number of challenge games were played between Tyrone clubs, including the game on 1st July between teams representing Stewartstown and Omagh Districts. This game, played at Springfield Park, Dungannon, instead of Omagh as originally arranged, probably gave the County Board their first opportunity of viewing the football talent then available in Tyrone and assisted them in selecting a team to play Monaghan in the Ulster senior football championship on 19th August. The venue for this game - Tyrone's first in inter-county competitions since 1920 - was the subject of discussion at the Ulster Council meeting in July when it was agreed that it be played at Clones due to the fact that some Monaghan players might have difficulty about coming across the Border as they were "wanted men" on the Northern side. In agreeing to the venue, the Tyrone secretary expressed the hope that it would soon be possible to provide Tyrone with a home inter-county fixture in order to assist the spread of the GAA movement there and to combat the spread of soccer in the county.

Tyrone v Monaghan

Tyrone, who had not had the benefit of inter-club or inter-county games for three years, were not expected to provide stiff opposition for a more experienced Monaghan team, and the final score of 2-6 to 0-3 in favour of Monaghan, who led by 1-3 to 0-1 at half time, was a fair reflection of the latter's superiority. An incident, reported as follows in the "Ulster Herald" of 25th August, 1923, in connection with the game, gives an interesting side-light on some of the difficulties which GAA supporters were liable to encounter at that time: "A number of young men from Omagh motored to Clones on Sunday for the game with Monaghan. When they reached the Border near Newtownbutler, they were thoroughly searched by 'Specials' and they had to make the rest of the journey by foot. When returning in the evening, they were again searched, and in consequence of the failure of their lighting apparatus, they were delayed for a considerable time. They were provided with a permit, and on the journey to Omagh they were held up a number of times. They arrived home between 1.00 and 2.00 a.m. on Monday morning".

County Championship, 1924

Although Tyrone lost this game, they had no reason to be discouraged by their failure in this, their first championship match, since the re-establishment of the County Board. The District Leagues, played between September, 1923, and March, 1924, were firm proof, if such were needed, that the GAA revival in Tyrone was well under way. A regular series of fixtures was played during that period, and by March, 1924, Omagh Colemans, Beragh Red Knights and Stewartstown Harps had won the Omagh, Pomeroy and Stewartstown District Leagues respectively. Although no football league materialised in the Strabane area, hurling continued to be played there; two games took place in October and December, 1923, between Strabane Eire Og and Killyclogher St. Patrick's, and a seven-a-side hurling tournament was arranged for December. The championship semi-final between the winners of the Pomeroy District League - Beragh Red Knights - and Stewartstown Harps took place at McLernon's Park, Donaghmore, on Sunday, 6th April, 1924, and was refereed by Dan McElholm, N.T., Trillick. The winners, Stewartstown Harps, who were victorious by 3-5 to 2-3, went on to

defeat Omagh Colemans convincingly in the final at the same venue on Sunday, 20th April, and thus win their first ever county championship. Stewartstown won by 0-18 to 0-4, after leading by 0-12 to 0-0 at half time. The referee was F.H. Rodgers (Beragh).

Early Problems

The league competitions were not completed without problems, and the County Board were called upon on a number of occasions to adjudicate on appeals lodged in connection with alleged irregularities. The Board also had to deal with other problems, not least the question of financing the Association in the county. It is evident from the request of the Board to the Ulster Council in October, 1923, for a grant of £50 "to help further the games in Tyrone", and from the decision of the Council at its meeting in November that a set of medals be given to each of the winning teams in the three District Leagues that the GAA in Tyrone was far from self-sufficient. Another example of the difficulties which Tyrone experienced even in attending the meetings of the Ulster Council is seen in the report of the secretary, Mick Coney, to the October meeting of the County Board when he explained that he had to leave Clones long before the end of business in order to catch his train. One further problem which the GAA in Tyrone had to deal with in the 1923-24 season was that of the Entertainment Tax which arose from a decision by the Northern Government to delete a clause from the Finance Act of 1916 regarding exemption from payment. The right of the government to do so was challenged by the Cookstown Brian Og club when they were summoned by the Commissioner of Customs and Excise to appear at Cookstown Petty Sessions for not paying the tax in respect of four football matches. The club, through its solicitor, T.J.S. Harbinson, MP., claimed that the GAA, as an organisation devoted to the promotion of the national games, was exempt from payment, and accordingly had refused to pay. In spite of the arguments put forward, the defendants were fined in respect of each offence and although appeals against the tax were made by the Ulster Council its collection continued to be a bone of contention for a number of years until it was eventually decided by the government that it should no longer apply.

(3) First Success, 1924 Ulster Championship

After the completion of the district leagues and county championship in April, 1924, Tyrone faced Donegal in the first round of the 1924 Ulster senior football championship in Letterkenny on 18th May. In preparation for the game, a trial match was played on Sunday, 4th May, when two teams - the "Possibles" and the "Probables" - met at Stewartstown. Many of the players who took part in this game were to serve Tyrone well in the following years. They were: "Possibles" - W. O'Hanlon (Beragh), H. Tohill, captain (Stewartstown), P. McCourt (Donaghmore), J. Donnelly (Omagh), T. Hewitt (Fintona), D. McElholm (Trillick), P. Corr (Ardboe), A. O'Neill (Ardboe), B. Doris (Donaghmore), T. McCaffrey (Fintona), J. Coyle (Trillick), P. Hughes (Coalisland), T. Campbell (Omagh), J. Corey (Cookstown) and A. Davidson (Stewartstown). "Probables" - J. McKeown (Cookstown), P. Devlin (Stewartstown), G. Farrelly (Omagh), F.P. Campbell (Coalisland), B. Donoghue (Dungannon), W. Neary (Omagh), S. Coleman (Ardboe), C. O'Neill (Coalisland), E. McGee, captain (Aughur), P. Farrell (Beragh), D. McBride (Omagh), J. McBride (Coalisland), J. O'Neill (Stewartstown), P. McLernon (Donaghmore) and T. Magee (Trillick).

The team selected after this game defeated Donegal by 0-2 to 0-1 in the presence of a large crowd, including a substantial contingent from Tyrone who had travelled on a special excursion train to Letterkenny. It was Tyrone's first ever victory in an Ulster senior football championship game. As a result of this victory, Tyrone advanced to the next round of the championship in which they were drawn to meet Cavan at Belturbet on Sunday, 6th July. Their inability to fulfil this fixture on the appointed day was the subject of a discussion at a

meeting of the Ulster Council, when the Tyrone secretary explained that his team were unable to travel because of Border difficulties in that there were not sufficient drivers of motor-cars in Tyrone with a "bond" to enable them to cross the Border. They had attempted to organise an excursion train to carry three hundred passengers at a cost of seven shillings each but had been unable to do so. Although it was felt by some members of the Council that Tyrone might have driven to the Border and either walked or obtained another means of conveyance to the match, the Cavan representatives expressed sympathy with the difficulties being experienced by Tyrone and appreciation of the efforts made to revive the game in the county, and agreed to a re-fixture at Belturbet on Sunday, 24th August.

Tyrone's performance in this game was possibly the best given by a team from the county up to that time. A large crowd of supporters, who had travelled by special train which set out from Cookstown via Omagh and Enniskillen, saw Tyrone build up an early lead in the first half when they had the assistance of a strong wind. However, their half time lead of 0-6 to 0-1 would have been much greater but for faulty shooting by their forwards. In the second half, Cavan, who at that time were the kingpins in Ulster and who were to win four consecutive Ulster titles in the years 1923-26, outplayed Tyrone and went on to win by 1-7 to 0-6. Before the game began, Tyrone had protested that one member of the Cavan team - Jim Smith - was ineligible to play for Cavan on the grounds that he was registered with the UCD club in Dublin. Tyrone's protest was heard by the Ulster Council in September and rejected, and Cavan subsequently defeated Monaghan in the Ulster final after a reply but were in turn defeated by Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final. Tyrone's captain for this game against Cavan was Ned McGee (Augher), who a month earlier had played at centre-half back against Leinster in the Tailteann Games for the Ulster team which also included Cavan's Jim Smith. Another Tyrone player, Joe McBride from Coalisland, was a substitute on this Ulster team.

Club Competitions

That Tyrone were able to provide such strong opposition for a Cavan team which at that time dominated the Ulster football scene is an indication of the progress which the game had made since the re-establishment of the County Board in June, 1923. In that brief period, eighteen teams had taken part in three district leagues, a county football championship had been played and the county team had performed with distinction on the inter-county scene. In addition a number of junior football games had taken place - there were junior teams in Fintona, Dromore and Beragh in November, 1923 - and it is clear from reports of sports meetings in the summer of 1924 that GAA games were played by teams in areas which did not have affiliated teams and did not take part in official competitions. One competition which did have the blessing of the County Board and which was to enjoy great success in 1924-26 was the Fr. McCann Tournament, which was promoted by the Board in response to a request from the parish priest of Ballygawley to raise funds to build a church and schools in his parish. The chairman of the County Board, Joseph O'Neill, donated a set of gold medals for the competition which in 1924 attracted sixteen teams - twelve from East Tyrone (Coalisland Fianna, Coalisland Mitchells, Clonoe, Pomeroy, Donaghmore, Dungannon, Kiltagh, Ardboe, Moortown, Cookstown, Stewartstown and Maghery), and four from West Tyrone (Omagh O'Neills, Fintona Pearses, Fintona Pearse Og and Dromore Davitts). The competition which began in June, 1924, was not finished until July, 1925, when Ardboe Pearses defeated Fintona in the final at Donaghmore by three points. The 1925 competition was won by Dungannon Clarkes who defeated Coalisland by 3-2 to 2-2 in March, 1926.

Foreign Games

Two of the teams which competed in the 1924 competition - Fintona and Dungannon - had earlier in the year found themselves in trouble with the County Board. Fintona were suspended by the Board for leaving the playing pitch after a disagreement with the referee in

a game against Omagh St. Patrick's and were out of action between February and June, 1924, while Dungannon were suspended for the period April-June, 1924, for allowing players to represent them who were believed to have played soccer. It would appear that this issue of the playing of what were then regarded as "foreign games" was a very live one in Tyrone at that time, as indeed it remained until the abolition of the "Ban" in 1971, and it is significant that at a meeting of the County Board in February, 1924, a resolution was adopted directing the Tyrone delegate attending the Annual Congress to oppose a motion sponsored by the Dublin County Board in favour of the deletion of Rules 9 and 10 from the Official Guide. This was not to be the last occasion on which such instructions would be issued to the county's delegates to Congress, as the Tyrone County Board was to remain a firm supporter of the "foreign games" rules until they were eventually deleted from the Official Guide. No doubt, the attitude of many members would have been influenced in 1924 by the political events of the time, not least the detention of many of their countrymen on the prison ship, the "Argenta", and in other centres. It is interesting to read, therefore, in the minutes of the May, 1924, meeting of the County Board that a letter was received from Tyrone men in 'B' Wing, Larne Internment Camp, congratulating the county on its recent victory over Donegal and on the progress of the GAA in Tyrone, and that the County Board acknowledged their good wishes by deciding to make them a donation of a football.

(4) The West's Asleep, 1924-25 West Tyrone

The progress made by the GAA in Tyrone in the first full season after its revival in the summer of 1923 appears to have been maintained in the eastern part of the county in 1924-25, but there are indications that this was not the case in West Tyrone. A meeting of the Omagh District League was held in Fintona at the end of July, 1924, to make arrangements for the 1924-25 competitions. Chaired by D. Saunders, Dromore, it was attended by J. Hewitt and J. Donnelly of Fintona Pearses, J. McNulty and T. McCaffrey of Fintona Pearse Og, J. McConnell and J. Broderick of Omagh O'Neills, D. McElholm representing Dromore and J. McMahon representing Ballygawley. Trillick were not represented at the meeting, and appear to have thrown in their lot with Dromore. By December of 1924, both Fintona teams, together with Dromore Davitts, Ballygawley St. Ciaran's and Arvalee Emmets had taken part in the early stages of the league and a team from Beragh was also expected to take part. Delegates from Ballygawley, Omagh, Dromore, Fintona and Arvalee were present at the Annual Convention held on 4th January, 1925. However, it would appear from the report of the Convention held at the end of January, 1926, that the organisation of competitions collapsed during 1925, and that, while many GAA games were played at sports meetings during the summer, no properly organised structure was in operation in West Tyrone during the year.

East Tyrone

The situation in East Tyrone appears to have been much better, although it is unfortunate that accounts of the year's activities are somewhat sketchy. Ten clubs - Dungannon Clarkes, Pomeroy Plunketts, Coalisland Fianna and Coalisland Owen Roes, Donaghmore P-ire Og, Ardboe Pearses, Rock McDonaghs, Stewartstown Harps, Killybearn St. Mary's and Maghery Phelim Bradys - took part in the 1924-25 East Tyrone league, while a further six teams Coalisland St. Mary's, Dungannon Kevin Barrys, Clonoe O'Raillies, Mountjoy Emmets, Moy Tir-na-nOg and Killybearn Sarsfields - formed a junior league at the end of November, 1924. A total of seventeen clubs attended the Annual Convention, held in Pomeroy on Sunday, 4th January, 1925, when Joseph O'Neill was re-elected chairman after a

contest with W.F. McNancy, Dungannon, who had been the county's first secretary when the GAA was established in Tyrone in 1904. John Hewitt, Fintona, was elected vice-chairman, while John Morrison (Stewartstown), Eugene Creally (Donaghmore) and Mick Coney (Ardboe) were re-elected to the posts of treasurer, registrar and secretary. It was proposed by E. Coleman (Coalisland) and seconded by B. Donoghue (Dungannon) that a cup be made available for the county championship which should be played on a knock-out basis, but the matter was left over for further discussion. Although the suggestion did not bear fruit at once, it was however to be adopted within the next two years, and in 1927 the O'Neill Cup was to become the prize of the Tyrone senior football champions.

Inter-County Competitions

As in 1924, it was Tyrone's fate once again in 1925 to meet Cavan in the Ulster senior championship. On this occasion, the meeting took place in the first round at Dungannon and once again Tyrone were destined to fall victim to the football skills of the men from Breifne. A special train left Cavan at 9 o'clock via Belturbet, Clones and Enniskillen, and large numbers of Tyrone supporters were picked up at Dromore, Omagh, Beragh and Carrickmore, while many others came from East Tyrone, Armagh and South Derry. The game was played at a fast pace despite the continual rain which lasted throughout, and Tyrone, who led at half-time by 1-1 to 1-0, lost by 1-5 to 1-3. Tyrone supporters claimed that they should have won the game their team had a goal disallowed when the ball entered the net just after the referee had blown for a free against Cavan, another shot hit the post, and with Tyrone pressing right up to the end and dominating the play at that time the final whistle sounded with, it is said, four minutes remaining for play. They must also have bemoaned the fact that one of the Cavan stars on that occasion was Standish O'Grady, who himself had been registrar of the Tyrone County Board while employed in Dungannon in 1920 and who had played for Tyrone against Armagh at the same venue in the 1920 senior football championship.

Tyrone defeated Fermanagh in the first round of the junior championship at Coalisland on 26th July, 1925, by 4-4 to 1-4, but Fermanagh appear to have appealed successfully to the Ulster Council. The senior team also took part in the Ulster league and defeated Fermanagh at Enniskillen on 20th November, 1925 by 1-0 to 0-2 and Donegal at Donaghmore on 17th January, 1926 by 3-6 to 2-2, but lost by 4-2 to 2-0 to Cavan on 20th December, 1925. Many of the players who represented Tyrone in these games took part in the county championship final which was played in Dungannon on Sunday, 30th August, 1925, between Dungannon Clarkes and Ballygawley St. Ciaran's. Refereed by P. Vallely from Armagh, the game was won by Dungannon, who led by 1-3 to 1-0 at half time, on the score of 4-4 to 1-1. A set of eighteen gold medals was presented to the winning team.

(5) Steady Progress, 1925-26 Inter-County Success

The Ulster Senior League, for which the Dr. McKenna Cup was donated, was continued in the early part of 1926 when Tyrone, by virtue of a 3-6 to 2-2 victory over Donegal at Donaghmore, found themselves level on points with Donegal and Cavan. The Ulster Council decided that Tyrone would play Donegal, with the winners to meet Cavan, and two stirring encounters ensued at Omagh in February and March, 1926. On the first occasion, a crowd of over 2,000 people saw a thrilling game which ended in a draw (Donegal 4-3, Tyrone 3-6), while special trains from Ballyshannon, Derry and Cookstown brought a crowd of over 6,000 to the replay at the same venue. In a fast, exciting game, Tyrone were

on level terms at half-time when the score was 2-3 to 3-0, but Donegal proved superior in the second half and emerged winners by 4-4 to 2-3.

The experience of these two games must have been beneficial to Tyrone, who, in the Ulster senior football championship, beat Fermanagh and then Derry in the first and second rounds. However, they fell to Antrim in the Ulster semi-final at Dungannon on 4th July. The Tyrone junior team also beat Fermanagh in the Ulster championship, but lost to Armagh in the Ulster final at Armagh by 0-3 to 0-2. Tyrone also played a number of other games during the year including a game against Antrim in April at Magherafelt to support the re-organisation of the GAA in County Derry at that time, and a game against Armagh at Armagh in May in aid of the Ulster Handball Council. The game at Magherafelt was only one aspect of Tyrone's contribution to the GAA in Derry, for at the meeting of the Ulster Council in Clones in March, 1926, tribute was paid to the county chairman, Joseph O'Neill, by the secretary to the Ulster Council, B.C. Fay from Cavan, for the valuable assistance which O'Neill had given him in establishing a new County Board in Derry and in accompanying him to the meeting in Magherafelt at which the Board was set up.

West Tyrone

O'Neill was active during 1926, not only in giving assistance outside the county, but in doing everything possible to establish a firm base for the GAA within that part of Tyrone where its existence had been rather precarious. 1925 had not been a good year in West Tyrone, and at the County Convention, held in January, 1926, concern had been expressed about the situation and about the need to re-organise the Association there. The county chairman, accompanied by the secretary, M. Coney, and the treasurer, John Morrison, attended a meeting in Omagh at the end of January when delegates were present from Omagh, Beragh and Ballygawley. John Campbell and Jim Donnelly (Omagh) were appointed chairman and secretary respectively of a new West Tyrone Committee and were asked to communicate with the Gaels in West Tyrone with a view to having other clubs affiliated. However, progress was slower than had been anticipated. By the end of April, six teams Ballygawley St. Ciaran's, Beragh Shamrocks, Fintona Pearses, Beltony Sarsfields, Omagh O'Neills and Omagh Colemans were affiliated, but that number was soon reduced to five with the withdrawal of the Colemans club. In September, it was necessary for a deputation from the County Board to attend a meeting of the West Tyrone Committee "to place the league on a proper basis", and it was not until the early spring of 1927 that the league competition was completed.

Football and Hurling Championships

In East Tyrone, nine clubs had begun the league at the beginning of the year. Ballygawley were given permission to transfer to the newly-formed West Tyrone League, Cookstown and Maghera later withdrew and a total of six clubs Ardboe Pearses, Coalisland Fianna, Dungannon Clarkes, Donaghmore fire Og, Moortown St. Malachy's, and Clonoe O'Rahillys - took part in the league competition. The winners were Ardboe Pearses, who met the western winners, Ballygawley, in the 1926 Tyrone championship final on 24th April, 1927. The game was played at O'Neill Park, Dungannon, and resulted in a win for Ballygawley their first ever championship victory. Leading by 1-1 to 0-1 at half-time, they went on to win by 2-2 to 0-3. The referee was Thomas Bradley, Coalisland.

Tyrone also had a hurling championship during the course of 1926, when Omagh met Strabane at the CBS Park, Omagh, on 17th October for a set of medals provided by the County Board. It would appear that strong efforts were made during the year to promote the revival of hurling in the county, and that the offering of a set of medals for the county champions was a token of the County Board's support for the game. Strabane led at half-time

by 1-2 to 1-1 and emerged as championship winners by 5-3 to 4-3 in a very exciting game, which was refereed by Brother Barry of the Presentation Brothers' School, Enniskillen. Unfortunately, the game was not a financial success and the county secretary in his report to Convention in January, 1927, had to inform the meeting that the gate receipts were just sufficient to pay for refreshments for the teams. An attempt was also made at this time to promote hurling in the secondary schools, and a game took place in October between the Brothers' Schools in Enniskillen and Omagh at Omagh. Earlier on 18th July, a Tyrone team, composed almost exclusively of players from Omagh and Strabane, took part in the Ulster hurling championship at Dungannon, when Cavan defeated Tyrone by 3-11 to 2-4. The Tyrone team on that occasion was: J. McColgan, H. McLaughlin, J. Gibson, W. Jones, J. Hehir, J. Leonard, K. Doyle, J.J. Kelly (all from Strabane), J. McCaul, P. Morris, G. McGale, J. McGale, D. Donnelly, J. McGowan (all from Omagh), and J. Slevin (Mountfield). Reserves were S. Cassidy (Omagh), J.J. McDevitt (Strabane), J. Molloy (Strabane), A. O'Neill (Ardboe) and E. Fullen (Coalisland).

County Convention, January 1927

A most interesting picture of the year's activities can be gleaned from the report, contained in the minutes, of the county secretary, Mick Coney, to the Annual Convention which took place on 23rd January, 1927, in Kerrib National School outside Donaghmore. These minutes kept by Coney, who had become secretary in 1923, and covering the period December 1926-December 1932, are the earliest surviving first-hand record of the proceedings of the County Board and are an invaluable source of information for a period which is otherwise poorly documented. Coney's report, in addition to giving a factual account of the competitions played at club and county level, gives an insight into the problems encountered by the GAA in the county. It is clear that the struggle to keep the GAA in existence must have been severely hampered by financial constraints. Heavy expenses were incurred by participation in inter-county games and by the provision of medals for competition winners. A draw arranged by the Board realised approximately £17, but a seven-a-side football competition held for the benefit of the Board on 22nd August resulted in a serious loss. Gate receipts were £5.2.3, medals for the winners (Mayobridge, Co. Down) cost £7.10.0 and other expenses were incurred for advertising and posters. The hurling final between Omagh and Strabane was a distinct failure from a financial point of view, as was an East-West football challenge match held in Omagh. The year's workings resulted in an overall loss of £9.2.9, and the secretary to whom the small sum of £10, "as and when it was available", was voted in return for his work, felt that he himself was a drain on the resources of the Association, being unable, as he said himself, "to pay his own way", and he asked to be relieved of his duties.

The Convention realised only too well the deep debt of gratitude owed to him, and the fact that he was the only nominee for the post of secretary, to which he was unanimously returned, was in itself evidence of the esteem in which he was held and of the importance of the contribution which he was making to the GAA in Tyrone. The Convention also re-elected to the post of chairman Joseph O'Neill from Cookstown, to whose outstanding work for the GAA in Tyrone and elsewhere Coney had paid generous tribute in his report. W.F. McNaney (Dungannon) became the new vice-chairman, succeeding Joseph Quinn (Coalisland), who had been appointed at the Convention in January, 1926, and whose sudden death in the beginning of January, 1927, resulted in the postponement of the meeting. The newly appointed treasurer was Vincent F. Quinn (Dungannon), while Eugene Creally (Donaghmore) retained his post as registrar. Delegates appointed to the Ulster Council were Patrick Maguire, Fintona, who was the chairman of the West Tyrone League, and James McMahon, P.E.T., Roscavey, Beragh. A selection committee for the county team was also set up, consisting of the chairman, three members from West Tyrone - P. Maguire, F.H. Rodgers (Beragh) and E. McGee - and three from East Tyrone Ben Donoghue and Dan

Robinson (Dungannon) and M. Coney (Ardboe). The attendance at the Convention is significant. Five clubs from East Tyrone were represented - Ardboe, Cookstown, Coalisland, Dungannon and Donaghmore - while only two West Tyrone clubs - Ballygawley and Fintona - sent representatives, an indication surely of the continuing failure of the GAA to establish itself firmly in that part of the county.

(6) O'Neill Cup, 1927

Financial Difficulties

The financial situation, which was such a source of concern to the secretary in his report to the Convention in January, 1927, became even worse during the course of that year, and it is significant that he devoted almost half of his report to the Convention held in January, 1928, to the same subject. A large part of the deficit, which amounted to £66.6. 1, was caused once again by expenditure on intercounty games. Tyrone took part in the McKenna Cup and the Ulster championship, in both of which they were defeated by Antrim, and also in the National League in which they played Louth, Monaghan, Armagh and the All-Ireland champions, Kildare. Other matches against Cavan, Dublin and Meath had to be cancelled or postponed. They also participated in the Ulster junior championship, in which they were defeated by Cavan after beating Antrim in the first round. All these games resulted in heavy expenditure on travelling, mainly by car, which far exceeded the small mileage allowance by rail allocated by the Ulster Council. Other losses were incurred on games in the Tyrone senior football championship competition, for which clubs were allowed travelling expenses at the rate of 6d per mile for three cars, but unfortunately the competition did not receive the support from the general public which had been anticipated. The secretary was also conscious of the expenses which he himself had incurred in being driven by car to different meetings, expenses which he described as "a very heavy drain on our resources". He went so far as to suggest that in future only quarterly meetings of the County Board be held, that the venue be as short a distance as possible from his home and that fixtures be made at Board meetings to avoid expenditure on postage in notifying clubs of fixtures.

O'Neill Cup Competition

One other large item of expenditure incurred in 1927 was the purchase of a Cup for the senior football championship competition. The subject of obtaining a cup for this purpose had first been raised in 1925, but it was not until December, 1926, that it was received from the makers, Messrs. Hopkins and Hopkins, Dublin, and proudly displayed at a meeting of the County Board by Mick Coney. It had been intended that the cost of the Cup - £20.4.0 - would be met by subscriptions from clubs, or failing that, by a public appeal for help from the Gaels of Tyrone. However, Dungannon Clarkes were the only club to make a donation - £5 - to pay off the debt, and the public appeal did not materialise. By January, 1928, therefore, the bill still remained unpaid.

The senior championship itself - the first ever to be played for the O'Neill Cup - proved to be as difficult as almost any of the championships in the subsequent history of the competition. Seven teams from East Tyrone entered, and the first round draw resulted as follows: Donaghmore v Cookstown; Dungannon v Coalisland; Clonoe v Moortown; Ardboe a bye. Coalisland withdrew from the league and championship competitions, thus allowing Dungannon to advance to the next round, where they were joined by Donaghmore, Moortown and Ardboe. At this stage, three West Tyrone teams were allowed to enter the competition: Trillick, who defeated Beltony, were drawn against the winners of Moortown and Ardboe, while Ballygawley were drawn against the winners of Donaghmore and Dungannon. The semi-final stages were complicated by the fact that the Moortown team had in the meantime been suspended for leaving the field of play in a league game in June and the players

involved were not eligible until the end of the year. However, the club itself had not been suspended, and so a Moortown team took the field and defeated Ardboe. Ardboe appealed to the County Board on the grounds that a number of suspended Moortown players had taken part in the game and the appeal was upheld. Moortown promptly objected to the composition of the Ardboe team on the grounds that two of their players had played for a team in the South Derry League and that two others had attended a soccer game. This objection was also upheld. Since objections had been upheld against both teams, both were eliminated from the championship. Both clubs however appealed to the Ulster Council, which decided in favour of Ardboe, who were thus reinstated in the championship competition. Ardboe beat Trillick in the semi-final, while Donaghmore, who had beaten Dungannon, went on to beat Ballygawley, thus qualifying to meet Ardboe in the final. Played at Dungannon on 18th December, 1927, and refereed by J. McAnespie (Cookstown), the final resulted in victory for Donaghmore tire Og, who thus became the first winners of the O'Neill Cup.

Other Competitions

Although three West Tyrone clubs participated in this championship competition, the state of the GAA in the western part of the county remained precarious in the extreme during 1927. Not even in Fintona or Omagh, where strong clubs had existed earlier, were any steps taken to field teams during the year and it proved impossible to organise a league in the area. In the east, seven clubs - Dungannon, Donaghmore, Moortown, Cookstown, Coalisland, Ardboe and Clonoe - began the league, but Clonoe and Coalisland both withdrew before the completion of the competition. Seven teams - all from East Tyrone - took part in the junior league: Dungannon St. Patrick's, Dungannon Craobh Ruadh, Donaghmore O'Donovan Rossas, Coalisland Fianna Og, Ardboe, Moy and Cookstown Brian Og. A great effort was made during the year to organise a schools' league. Meetings were held in the early part of the year and a number of schools in East Tyrone - Coalisland, Moortown, Mullinahoe, Drumaney and Dungannon - and Ballinderry agreed to take part. However, the competition was not completed, largely, it would appear, because of the inability of the organisers to provide suitable trophies for the winners.

Inter-County Competitions

Two inter-county games played during the course of the year deserve further mention. The first was the senior football championship game against Antrim, played in Belfast on Sunday, 22nd May. Tyrone's tale of misfortune in the championship series continued when they were defeated by a disputed point - 1-9 to 0-1 - in a titanic struggle. The second was the National Football League game against Kildare, played at Dungannon on 13th November. Kildare had just beaten Kerry, the holders, in the All-Ireland championship final on the last Sunday in September and their visit to Tyrone evoked great interest. They arrived at Dungannon on Saturday evening, where they were met at the Great Northern Railway Station by the members of the Dungannon Urban District Council, the INF Brass Band and the Dungannon Division of the AOH Fife and Drum Band. Accompanied by an immense crowd they went in procession from the station via William Street and Irish Street to McAleers' Hotel in Market Square where they were hospitably entertained. The following day, in glorious sunshine, both the Kildare and the Tyrone teams marched from St. Patrick's Hall, led by the INF Band, to O'Neill Park, where they were met by Donaghmore Pipe Band. A crowd of 3,000 spectators enjoyed a fast, entertaining game which the All-Ireland champions won by 5-7 to 2-2.

(7) A Difficult Year, 1928

County Convention, January 1928

Many of the problems which faced Tyrone during 1927 were to continue - and indeed to become even more acute - in 1928. The situation in West Tyrone was even worse than in the previous year, the total number of affiliated clubs in the county decreased from seventeen in 1927 to twelve in 1928 and the County Board decided not to participate in the National Football League because of the financial implications of taking part. The senior football championship suffered from a series of postponements and appeals and dragged on until the summer of 1929, and the bill for the O'Neill Cup still remained unpaid by the end of 1928. On the inter-county scene, Tyrone lost heavily to Cavan in the Ulster senior championship after defeating Derry in the first round, and they were defeated by Down in the Dr. McKenna Cup.

The year began with changes on the administrative front. Joseph O'Neill, who had been chairman since the re-establishment of the County Board in 1923, did not seek reelection at the Convention held in Stewartstown on 29th January, 1928, and he was succeeded by Patrick T. Tobin, P.E.T., Moortown. O'Neill had given great service to the county during his term of office and had been untiring in his work for the GAA both as chairman and as a delegate to the Central Council. To him as well as to Michael Coney must be attributed much of the credit for keeping the GAA alive in Tyrone during one of the most difficult periods in its history.

In addition to electing a new chairman, the Convention passed a motion put forward by Dungannon Clarkes to appoint a Standing Committee, whose duties would be "to devise means of raising money for the benefit of the County Board, to deal with urgent matters arising between meetings of the County Board and to endeavour to organise the GAA in districts not already organised". Meetings were to be held monthly, and business transacted was to be submitted to the County Board for ratification. This was a radical departure from the previous practice whereby decisions had been taken only by the County Board which consisted of delegates from all affiliated clubs in addition to Board officers. The Convention also set up a Protest and Appeals Committee whose duty it would be to decide protests and appeals arising in connection with league or championship fixtures. Appeals against the decisions of this committee were to be made to the Ulster Council. Finally the Convention decided that for league purposes the county be divided into three districts, with a committee in charge of each, subject to the overall control of the County Board.

Competitions Delayed

It had probably been hoped that the division of the county into smaller administrative units would have facilitated the organisation of district leagues and hastened the progress of these competitions. However, events turned out otherwise. Apart from the O'Neill Cup competition, none of the other 1927 competitions had been completed by the end of that year, and it was not until 25th March, 1928, that the East Tyrone league of 1927 was completed when Moortown defeated Cookstown in a play-off, and the junior league championship was won by Donaghmore Rossas who defeated Ardboe in the final. Ballygawley, after a series of postponements and misunderstandings, emerged as winners of the 1927 West Tyrone league which involved two other teams - Beltony and Trillick - and went on to defeat Moortown in the final of the Tyrone league competition on 12th August, 1928.

The decision made at Convention to divide the county into three areas for league purposes had to be revised in the light of the fact that only twelve clubs were affiliated, and of these, two - Ballymurphy Owen Roes and Beragh Shamrocks - withdrew during the course of the year. Of the ten affiliated clubs, five - Coalisland Fianna, Dungannon Clarkes, Donaghmore Eire Og, Sixmilecross Red Knights and Moortown St. Malachy's - took part in the senior league, which was completed in 1929 and won by Coalisland, while the remaining five - Dungannon St. Patrick's, Dungannon Craobh Ruadh, Dungannon Sons of the Gael (from St. Patrick's Academy), Donaghmore Rossas and Moortown Plunketts - participated in the junior league, which was also completed in 1929 and won by Dungannon Craobh Ruadh. No league competitions took place in West Tyrone, and neither the senior nor the junior league was completed by the end of 1928.

In the O'Neill Cup competition progress was even less satisfactory. Although draws had been made in July, 1928, for the five teams which were to take part - Coalisland, Dungannon, Donaghmore, Sixmilecross and Moortown it was not until the beginning of 1929, by which time Pomeroy had become affiliated and were admitted to the competition, that the first games took place after a long series of postponements. Coalisland defeated Moortown and Donaghmore defeated Pomeroy in the first round, while Dungannon were awarded the game which was to have taken place with Sixmilecross. Dungannon were to meet Donaghmore in the semi-final and the winners were to meet Coalisland in the final. It was at this stage that further delays took place. Pomeroy, who had been defeated by Donaghmore, appealed to the County Board on the grounds that Ned McGee, then one of the great stars of Tyrone football, was ineligible to play for Donaghmore, having played for Sixmilecross in the 1928 senior league and not having obtained a transfer. The appeal was lost on the ruling of the chairman who decided that the "parish rule" did not apply as there was no club in the intervening parish (Ballygawley) at that time. Donaghmore then defeated Dungannon in the semi-final, at which point Dungannon appealed to the County Board on the same grounds as Pomeroy had used. The County Board rejected the appeal, deciding that no transfer was necessary as Sixmilecross had by then ceased to exist as a club, and in any case Sixmilecross had not participated in the county championship. Dungannon then appealed to the Ulster Council, which upheld the decision of the County Board. The way was now clear for the final, and Coalisland Fianna defeated Donaghmore, the holders, on 2nd June, 1929 at Dungannon (referee - J. McAnespie, Cookstown) to win their first O'Neill Cup. The score was: Coalisland 2-4, Donaghmore 1-3 (half-time 2-3 to 0-1). Like the O'Neill Cup competition, the 1928 junior championship also encountered many difficulties. The final, which was eventually played at Coalisland on 7th April, 1929, between the two Dungannon clubs - St. Patrick's and Craobh Ruadh - became the subject of an appeal to the Tyrone Protest and Appeals Committee. It ruled that both teams were ineligible and therefore declared the 1928 junior competition null and void.

Despite the set-backs encountered, it is clear that the County Board strove valiantly during 1928 to extend the GAA to those areas where it was weakest. The assistance of Fr. McGilligan in Carrickmore, Fr. Sheridan in Beragh and Dr. McShane, PP, Omagh, was sought to establish clubs in their areas, but, in spite of their co-operation, no success was achieved at that time. A meeting, initiated by Fr. O'Daly from Fintona, was held in Fintona on 29th April, and was attended by B.C. Fay, secretary of the Ulster Council, and by representatives of the County Board, with a view to re-organising Fintona Pearses and re-establishing a District Committee. The support of the priests in Aughnacloy and Caledon was also sought for the formation of a club in that area, while in Coalisland, the parish priest, Fr. McLaughlin, played an important part in facilitating the reestablishment of the Fianna club. Two priests became actively involved in GAA administration at county level Fr. J.S. Bernard, CC, Ardboe, and Fr. L.J. Walsh, CC, Dungannon, both being members of the Standing Committee in 1928. In West Tyrone, however, in spite of all the attempts made by the County Board and a number of priests to revitalise the GAA, little progress was made. No official competitions were held in 1928, only Sixmilecross was registered as an affiliated

club, and GAA followers had to be content with the occasional challenge game or sports meeting in which some of the previously established clubs participated.

(8) First Patron, 1929

Cardinal MacRory

The general apathy which prevailed in West Tyrone was reflected in the attendance at the Annual Convention held in Dungannon on 27th January, 1929, at which no western clubs were represented. Only seven clubs attended the meeting - four from Dungannon (Clarks, St. Patrick's, Craobh Ruadh and Sons of the Gael) and Donaghmore, Coalisland and Moortown. The Convention is notable chiefly for the fact that it decided to ask the newly appointed Archbishop of Armagh, Dr. MacRory, to become Patron of the Tyrone GAA, a position which he subsequently accepted. A native of Ballygawley, the new Archbishop, who was soon to be honoured with a Cardinal's Hat, had taught in Dungannon Academy for a brief period after his ordination before being appointed professor in Oscott College, Birmingham. In 1888, he returned as Professor of Scripture to Maynooth, where he had been ordained, becoming vice-president in 1912 and subsequently Bishop of Down and Connor in 1915. In Belfast, he had been a friend and benefactor of the GAA, and in March, 1916, he had declared in a speech: "These games have a splendid claim upon us, for in the days of long ago, they played a very important part in the building up of the muscle, sinew and bone of our forefathers". In the following year, he had donated the Cup, which is called after him, for competition among the Ulster Colleges. His acceptance of the patronage of the GAA in Tyrone was further evidence of his interest in the Association and of the goodwill which he extended to its activities. The support for the Association of a number of priests in the diocese of Armagh, which had been in evidence in 1928, was further demonstrated in 1929, when Fr. James McGilligan, CC, Carrickmore, who had been a member of the Tyrone football team in 1927-28, was appointed Honorary President of the Association, while Fr. P. Brady, CC, Pomeroy, became a member of the Standing Committee. Fr. McGilligan was to play a most important part in the affairs of the GAA in Tyrone in the 1930's in his capacity as chairman of the West Tyrone Board and the Tyrone County Board.

West Tyrone

Despite the poor attendance at the Annual Convention, the year 1929 witnessed a number of events which were to provide hope for the future. The first of these was the revival of competitions in West Tyrone. Four teams Omagh O'Neills, Beltony, Fintona Pearses and Beragh Red Knights - took part in a West Tyrone junior league, which was won by Beragh, while Omagh, Beragh and Eskra Emmets participated in a West Tyrone junior championship, which Eskra won. In addition, a West Tyrone selection, consisting of players from Beragh, Ballygawley, Eskra, Fintona, Drumquin and Omagh took part in a challenge game against a Derry county team at Omagh on Sunday, 8th December, 1929, and won by 3-5 to 1-0. The West Tyrone selection was: T. Donnelly, G. McGillion, J. Gunn and J. O'Reilly (Omagh), T. O'Kane (Drumquin), J. McMahon, P. Shiels and T. Farrell (Beragh), E. McGee (Eskra), M. O'Hanlon (Ballygawley), J. Moss, C. Moss and J. Cummings (Fintona), and J. Gormley. Another factor which gave cause for hope was the partial easing in the County Board's financial situation by a grant of £100 from the Central Council, and the increase in the number of affiliated clubs to sixteen must have been a welcome change after the disappointing drop in numbers in the previous year.

Club Competitions

In addition to the West Tyrone clubs which were registered in 1929, two new clubs appeared in East Tyrone for the first time - Washingbay Shamrocks and Kirktown Owen Roes - while two clubs from Coalisland - Fianna and Mitchells - participated in East Tyrone

competitions. Five teams - Cookstown, Dungannon, Moortown, Coalisland Fianna and Pomeroy - competed in the East Tyrone senior league, which was ultimately won in 1930 by Coalisland Fianna, while eight teams - Donaghmore, Kirktown, Moortown, Coalisland Mitchells, Washingbay, Stewartstown, Dungannon Craobh Ruadh and Dungannon St. Patrick's - took part in the junior league, which was, however, not completed until 1931. An attempt was also made to run a week-evening football league in order to combat the influence of foreign games, and four teams Coalisland Fianna, Coalisland Mitchells, and Dungannon Craobh Ruadh I and II - entered the competition. However, it fell into abeyance during the course of the year, largely because of the inability of clubs to field teams at the appropriate times.

The O'Neill Cup competition for the senior football championship once again proved to be a long drawn-out affair. Although draws were made in August, 1929, it was not until 16th March, 1930, that the competition was completed. In the first round, Coalisland beat Pomeroy and Dungannon beat Ballygawley. It had been intended that Moortown would play Donaghmore, but when the latter withdrew, Ballymurphy (Ardboe) were allowed to enter and they played Dungannon in the second round, while Moortown were drawn against Coalisland. Dungannon defeated Ardboe in the semi-final, Moortown withdrew from the game against Coalisland and Dungannon defeated Coalisland in the final. Dungannon must have been particularly pleased with this victory - their first since the inauguration of the O'Neill Cup - since they had been the only club in Tyrone to make a contribution to its purchase. The makers of the Cup, Hopkins & Hopkins, must have been pleased also by the fact that they received their first instalment - a payment of £10 - in March, 1929. The fact that it was not possible for the County Board to pay the full sum of £20.4.0 at this time is, however, further indication of the continuing problem of lack of finance which had plagued the GAA in Tyrone all during the 1920's.

More Financial Problems

The problem of finance, together with the fact that certain areas of the county were still not actively involved in the Association, was the subject of a special meeting to which all clubs in Tyrone were invited on 3rd March, 1929, in St. Patrick's Hall, Dungannon, which was attended by B.C. Fay, Cavan, secretary of the Ulster Council. Mr. Fay explained that he had been requested by the Central Council to furnish a report on those areas which were not participating in the GAA, together with an explanation of the causes of this failure to participate. He was informed that lack of finances had been an important factor, since funds had not been available to purchase trophies for competition winners and no inducements could be offered to encourage new clubs to take part. It was agreed that the Central Council be asked for a grant to offset existing liabilities, that a number of inter-county matches be played in areas where the game had lapsed in order to revive interest, and that following these matches public meetings be held at which it was hoped the local parish priest would preside and an address would be given by a representative of the Central Council. As a result of this meeting, games were arranged with Donegal at Strabane and with Fermanagh at Omagh, while an intercounty tournament, involving Monaghan, Armagh, Antrim and Tyrone, was arranged. Unfortunately, these undertakings did not prove the financial success which had been anticipated. The game against Donegal on 26th May had to be played at Lifford, since no grounds were available in Strabane, and when travelling, catering and advertising expenses were paid, there was a deficit of £6.2.10. It was because of this deficit that it was decided not to proceed with the game against Fermanagh lest further liabilities be incurred. The inter-county tournament, which was won by Armagh and for which Mr. Fay provided a set of gold medals at his own expense, made a modest profit. The takings for the game at Dungannon on 12th May between Tyrone and Antrim amounted to £28. 1 0.0, those at Armagh on 26th May for the Armagh-Monaghan game were £3 9. 1 0. 0, while the receipts for the final at Armagh between the home team and Antrim were £ 1 8. 1. 0, a total of £86. 1.

0 for the three games. When all expenses (£64.11.7) were paid for these games, and a sum of £10 was paid to Dungannon Clarkes for the use of their grounds, which they had enclosed and made available to the County Board for intercounty games, a balance of only £11.9.5 remained for the benefit of the GAA in Tyrone.

One other venture undertaken by the County Board in order to raise funds - a huge sports meeting held at Ardboe on 28th July - proved to be a financial loss. A committee had been set up by the County Board to organise the sports, subscriptions and prizes had been obtained from many sources, entries were obtained from NACA competitors and the programme included the Ulster 800 metres championship. However, the day was ruined by a heavy rainstorm which lasted for most of the day, and the result was a loss of £9.9.0 on the proceedings. Despite this, the secretary, in his report to the Annual Convention at the end of 1929, believed that the venture was a worthwhile one which, if favoured by good weather, would easily have made a profit in excess of £50, and he advised that the sports be held in 1930 at the same venue in order to recover the money lost. Had the venture proved to be a success, it is probable that the accounts would have broken even at the end of 1929 and that the County Board would have started off the new decade with a clean balance sheet. Instead, the deficit, which had been £126.5.0 at the end of 1928 and which was reduced by the Central Council's grant of £100 during the year, was £67.16.0 at the Annual Convention in January, 1930, and the Board was still facing a financial burden in spite of the strenuous efforts made to wipe it out during 1929.

Inter-County Games

In addition to the games played to raise funds for the Association during the year, Tyrone's county team also participated in the Ulster junior and senior football championships. They lost to Armagh in the first round of the junior competition at Armagh on 14th July, while in the senior championship they beat Fermanagh at Enniskillen but fell to Monaghan in the Ulster semi-final at Monaghan on 16th June by 3-7 to 1-2. The county also made an attempt to play in the Ulster hurling championship in 1929, but again little success attended their efforts. A Tyrone team, consisting largely of players from Omagh, played Donegal in the hurling championship at Omagh on 21st July, 1929, but both were disqualified for taking the field late. A number of Strabane players, who could have assisted Tyrone, arrived late owing to a misunderstanding about arrangements, and so Tyrone missed an opportunity to play Antrim in an Ulster hurling final.

Achievements of a Decade

It is unlikely that many of the delegates who gathered in St. Patrick's Hall, Coalisland, for the Annual Convention on 26th January, 1930, gave much thought to what had been achieved by the Association in Tyrone during the decade which had just come to an end. Presumably, they were more conscious of the Board's financial situation, of the competitions begun in 1929 which still remained unfinished and of Tyrone's undistinguished record on the field of play during that year and indeed during the earlier years of the decade. They may well have wondered when Tyrone were likely to break out of the stranglehold of financial difficulties, when it would be possible to extend the influence of the GAA into every parish in the county and when Tyrone would be able to emulate the feats of Cavan who had been so successful in the Ulster championship and who had come so close during the late 1920's to an AllIreland crown.

What strikes the chronicler of this decade, however, is not so much the failures and shortcomings, but rather the major achievements for which a small group of dedicated men had been responsible since 1923. They had established a county organisation which was to continue without a break down to the present time. They had ensured that Tyrone were represented - albeit without much success - in the major football competitions played in

Ulster during the 1920's. They had promoted annual competitions within the county which ensured that there was a vigorous and lively interest in the playing of the games, and they had provided in the O'Neill Cup a major trophy, which it is still the ambition of every club in the county to win. From a solid nucleus of clubs in East Tyrone, they had made sustained efforts to extend the influence of the Association to the western part of the county, and even if their efforts appeared to have been relatively unsuccessful, they were soon to be rewarded with an expansion of the GAA which would exceed their greatest expectations. They also recruited into the Association a number of priests whose influence within the next few years would be decisive in promoting that expansion which was seen to be so necessary for the health of the GAA in the county.

None of this was achieved without sustained effort and untiring work on the part of a few dedicated officials, who gave of their time, energy, enthusiasm and money to promote the growth of the Association. It is difficult for the modern GAA follower to visualise the problems which those early officials faced. In a county which was starved of success in competitions within the province, where the financial burden imposed by participation in such competitions was a constant source of anxiety, where the struggle to keep clubs in existence and to organise competitions was always an uphill one, and where a large part of the area was almost totally untouched by the GAA, it must have been a depressing task indeed to continue year after year, with very little incentive and with little hope of success, to run the affairs of the Association. By their patience, perseverance and generosity, those men kept the GAA flame alive at a time when it could easily have been extinguished and laid the firm foundations on which the present structure in Tyrone is based.

The West's Awake 1930-1940

(1) First Successes, 1930-31

A Poor Beginning, 1930

The first year of the new decade was to give little reason for encouragement to those involved in the promotion of the GAA in Tyrone. The secretary, Mick Coney, in his report for the year, presented to the Annual Convention held in St. Patrick's Hall, Dungannon, on Sunday, 25th January, 1931, could not conceal his disappointment, and his report opens with an expression of "regret that the year under review has been from almost every angle very discouraging". There were many reasons for disappointment. Only seven clubs were affiliated in 1930 as opposed to sixteen in 1929; no 1930 senior league competition was played, the senior championship did not commence until December, the 1929 junior league competition which had not been completed by the end of that year dragged on throughout the whole of 1930, and the financial situation of the County Board and of clubs in the county continued to deteriorate.

A number of the unfinished 1929 competitions were however completed in 1930. Coalisland Fianna took the honours in the senior league competition and Dungannon Clarkes won the 1929 senior championship by defeating Coalisland Fianna in the final on 16th March, 1930. The East Tyrone junior championship was eventually won by Washingbay Shamrocks who defeated Coalisland Mitchells in the East Tyrone final on 21st September, 1930, but not until after a series of disputes had been resolved, by which time the West Tyrone winners, Eskra, were no longer able to field a team to meet the eastern winners. The East Tyrone junior league gave rise to a series of appeals, withdrawals, disagreements and unsavoury incidents, and was not completed until 1931 when Washingbay Shamrocks emerged victors over Coalisland Mitchells. As only two senior clubs - Coalisland Fianna and Dungannon Clarkes - were affiliated in 1930, no senior league competition was played, and it was not until the latter part of the year, when a new team was affiliated in Aughnacloy and the Ardboe and Donaghmore clubs were re-organised, that it was decided to proceed with the 1930 county championship. The only competition played in the county in 1930 was a Gold Medal tournament for which medals were presented by Fr. James McGilligan, CC, Carrickmore, the Honorary President of the County Board, in order to help pay off the Board's debts. Organised in three sections - East Tyrone senior and junior and West Tyrone - it was won by Dungannon Clarkes who defeated Ballygawley St. Ciaran's in the final at Coalisland on 17th August by 4-2 to 2-1. (Referee - Peter Corr, Ardboe).

On the inter-county front, Tyrone performed without distinction in 1930. In the National Football League they lost to Donegal at Ballyshannon on 23rd March, but defeated Fermanagh and Derry at Dungannon on 6th April and 31st August respectively. They lost to Derry in the McKenna Cup at Omagh on 20th April, and, although they gave a good performance against Armagh in the senior football championship at Dungannon on 25th May, they only managed to draw, and lost the replay at Armagh on 8th June. The junior team lost to Antrim at Dungannon on 25th May in the Ulster championship. One Tyrone player, James Devlin (Moortown), was honoured by the Ulster selectors who chose him at mid-field with Jim Smyth of Cavan on the Ulster team against Kildare in the James Kernan testimonial game on 9th February, 1930.

Once again, an unsuccessful attempt was made in 1930 to have the GAA re-organised in West Tyrone. The Provincial secretary, Mr. B.C. Fay, attended a meeting of the County Board in Dungannon on 14th September when the question of re-organising the area was discussed, and it was suggested that a meeting be held in Omagh in October to which repre-

sentatives from Omagh, Fintona, Beragh, Arvalee, Sixmilecross, Beltony, Drumquin, Pomeroy, Carrickmore, Eskra and Sion Mills be invited. Mr. Fay reported that a club was being organised in Strabane to take part in Derry competitions and that Dromore and Trillick had been included in Fermanagh for GAA purposes. The need for even greater efforts was referred to by the county secretary in his report in January, 1931, when he made a plea for determined action to extend the influence of the GAA in the county. He suggested that intermediate and minor leagues be established and that a committee be appointed to interview the clergy in the different parishes, some of whom he said were doing good work while others he considered to be hostile. He also thought that a further attempt should be made to enlist the support of the teachers in the schools.

A Successful Year, 1931

The secretary's pleas for determined action appear not to have gone unheeded, for the year 1931 saw a decided improvement in the state of the Association in Tyrone. A number of old clubs were affiliated again, some new clubs were formed, a new West Tyrone Board was established, the 1930 and 1931 senior football championships were completed and successful league competitions were held at junior and senior level. Tyrone competed with increasing confidence at inter-county level and captured its first Ulster title, and for the first time in a number of years the financial statement revealed a credit on the year's activities.

The increase in the number of clubs in East Tyrone was particularly noticeable at junior level. Teams from Donaghmore, Washingbay, Dungannon, Ballinderry, Ardboe, Clonoe and Galbally took part in both the junior league and championship. A team from Coalisland also took part in the first round of the junior championship while Cookstown Owen Roes entered both competitions, although they were later unable to take part. Ardboe, Washingbay, Coalisland, Donaghmore, Dungannon and a newly-formed team from Aughnacloy entered the senior league competition, which was won by Washingbay after a play-off with Ardboe on 13th December, 1931. The Aughnacloy club, whose president, Fr. H. McKee, CC, had been appointed one of the vicechairmen of the County Board in January, 1931, remained in existence only for a short time, however, and when it disappeared it was replaced in the 1931 championship competition by a re-organised Ballygawley team.

The 1930 senior championship competition which began in December of that year attracted six clubs. Dungannon defeated Ardboe and Coalisland defeated Donaghmore after a replay in the first round, while Aughnacloy and Washingbay were disqualified. In the final, Coalisland defeated Dungannon at Dungannon on 29th March, 1931 by 1-2 to 0-2 to win their second O'Neill Cup title and their fourth Tyrone senior championship. Less than eight months later, the 1931 competition had been completed. Again, six teams were drawn in the first round - Coalisland against Dungannon, Washingbay against Donaghmore, and Ardboe against Beragh. Dungannon defeated Coalisland, Donaghmore were unable to field a team because of the defection of Ballygawley players who, Donaghmore had understood, were to play for them, while Ballygawley, who had by now re-formed, took the place of Beragh and defeated Ardboe. Washingbay defeated Dungannon in the semi-final, and in the final Ballygawley defeated Washingbay by 2-1 to 1-3 at O'Neill Park, Dungannon on 22nd November, 1931. (Referee - G. Nash, Belfast).

West Tyrone Board, 1931

Ballygawley St. Ciaran's was the only team from West Tyrone to take part in competitions against teams from the east in 1931. However, the autumn of that year witnessed the beginning of a very strong movement to have the GAA re-organised in the west, which resulted in the establishment of a number of clubs, the formation of a Divisional Board

and the inauguration of a West Tyrone league competition. The movement to extend the GAA into areas where it was not established had been given a great boost in 1931 by the holding of a number of meetings throughout the province, the first of which had been presided over by Cardinal MacRory in Armagh when he made what the Ulster secretary described as "the strongest pronouncement that had ever been made by an ecclesiastic in favour of the GAA". By August, 1931, clubs were in existence in Augher and Eskra, while Fintona Pearses were re-organised at a meeting in Fintona on 18th September, at which Fr. P.J. Cullinan, CC, presided. A meeting took place in Beragh on 29th September between representatives of Fintona Pearses, Beragh Shamrocks and Augher Young Irelands when draws were made for games between these three teams. However, the most important meeting of all took place in the following month when representatives of six clubs Fintona Pearses, Augher Young Irelands, Beragh Shamrocks, Eskra Emmets, Altamuskin St. Patrick's and Dregish Harps - met in Eskra on Thursday, 29th October. The meeting was attended by the secretary of the Ulster Council, Mr. Fay, and by the chairman of the Tyrone County Board, P.T. Tobin, and it took the historic decision to set up a new West Tyrone Divisional Board. Joseph Higgins (Ballygawley), one of the two vice-chairmen of the County Board, was appointed chairman, Patrick Donnelly (Fintona) and Patrick McAtee (Eskra) were appointed vicechairmen and F.J. McGurn and Frank Kerr, both from Beragh, became secretary and treasurer respectively. It was decided that the chairman and secretary would represent the Board at meetings of the County Board and that, although the Divisional Board would have full control over competitions in its area, part of the affiliation fee paid by clubs would be sent to the County Board in acknowledgement of its jurisdiction over the district - a matter which was to cause some difference of opinion at a later date between the two bodies. The Ballygawley club, which at that time was still in contention for the county championship, was to be allowed the use of all its players - from outside as well as inside the parish - until the end of the competition, after which the parish rule would apply. At a subsequent meeting, held in Fintona on 13th November, draws were made for a West Tyrone league for the period November 1931 -January 1932, and the GAA in the West was launched on a course which it has followed steadfastly since that time.

National League Success

In inter-county competitions, Tyrone's efforts were crowned with some measure of success for the first time during the course of 1931, a year in which the county changed to the colours now associated with it for over fifty years - a white jersey with a red hand, inscribed with Tir Eoghain. A set of fifteen jerseys was purchased from Whelan & Son, Dublin, in March at a cost of £7.9.0, replacing the set of green and gold jerseys which had been the colours registered with the Central Council in 1927. At senior level, the county participated in the Northern Division 2 of the National League, in which they competed against Donegal, Derry and Fermanagh. They defeated Donegal and Derry in the competition, but defeat by Fermanagh meant that a play-off was necessary. On 19th July at O'Neill Park, Dungannon, Tyrone achieved their first ever inter-county success when they gained divisional honours by defeating Fermanagh by a single point on the score 2-5 to 2-4, the winning point being scored in the last minute by Ned McGee. The Tyrone team on that occasion was: John Reilly (Dungannon), J.H. Campbell (Coalisland), Leo McMenemy (Dungannon), James Hughes (Coalisland), Wm. McElroy (Ardboe), Ned McGee (Ballygawley), James (Dubh) Devlin (Moortown), John Skeffington (Dungannon), John McQuaid (Dungannon), Joe Kilpatrick (Washingbay), J.J. Kelly (Ballygawley), Seamus Campbell (Coalisland), Jim Shields (Coalisland), Vincent (Tap) Donnelly (Dungannon) and Jim McMahan (Ballygawley).

Ulster Minor Champions

This victory in July compensated to some extent for defeats in the Ulster championship - at senior level by Monaghan in the first round and at junior level by Down in the Ulster semi-final after a first round victory over Derry. It was to be followed in August by a more historic victory when the Tyrone minor team, after victories over Monaghan and Cavan defeated Armagh (the first winners of the Ulster minor championship in 1930) in the Ulster final to capture for Tyrone its first ever Ulster championship title. In this game, Tyrone, playing against a strong breeze in the first half, were on level terms at half-time through points scored by Donnelly, Kavanagh and Comac. Fay, Comac (0-2) and Kavanagh added further points in the second half to leave the final score: Tyrone 0-7, Armagh 0-4. This team failed narrowly to reach the All-Ireland final, when on 23rd August, they lost in a thrilling game by two points to the Leinster champions, Louth, at Drogheda. Tyrone were in arrears by 1-2 to 2-4 at half-time, their scorers being Fullen (0-1), Comac (0-1) and McCullagh (1-0). Louth maintained their supremacy during the first twenty minutes of the second half, but Tyrone staged a wonderful come-back in the last ten minutes and almost succeeded in overhauling the Louth lead. In the second half, McGuckian scored 0-1 and Kavanagh and Comac each scored 0-2. The final score was: Louth 2-6, Tyrone 1-7. The Tyrone team was: John Reilly, Pat McQuaid, Peter Mullan, John McQuaid (captain), Tommy Kavanagh, Vincent (Tap) Donnelly, Michael Hughes and Paddy Donaghy (all Dungannon); John Fay, Frank McCullagh and Michael Comac (Donaghmore); Frank Fullen and Peter Campbell (Coalisland); Neil McSloy (Washingbay); Michael McGuckian (Ballinderry).

(2) The west's Awake, 1932

The progress made in 1931 was merely a foretaste of what was to happen in 1932, a year which must rank in many ways as one of the most significant in the history of the Association in the county. It was the year which saw the visit of a Kerry team to Tyrone and which saw the financial deficit of the GAA in the county wiped out, but perhaps most important of all, it was the year which witnessed a huge expansion in the number of clubs, particularly in West Tyrone, and the establishment of a strong base for the Association in that part of the county.

Kerry v Wexford

The visit of Kerry to Tyrone was the culmination of strenuous efforts made by the Ulster Council to promote the GAA in those areas of the province in which interest in the Association had declined. It was with a view to furthering this aim that a great exhibition game was organised for Annagher Park, Coalisland, on Sunday, 11th September, 1932, in which Kerry were to meet Wexford for a set of gold medals presented by the Central Council. Kerry had just won three All-Ireland senior football titles in a row (1929, 1930 and 1931) and had qualified for the 1932 final, in which they would soon achieve a fourth successive victory. Their team in those years included some of the greatest names ever to wear a Kerry jersey up to that time, including Joe Barrett, Con Brosnan, Bob Stack, Jackie Walsh and Paul Russell. Although Wexford had failed to reach the heights of the pre-1920 period when they had won four All-Ireland titles in a row, they were still a strong footballing force, and had earlier drawn with Dublin, who subsequently fell to Kerry at the semi-final stage. Both teams travelled by train from Dublin and arrived on Saturday evening in Coalisland which was decorated with streamers and arches. They were met by the local football and camogie teams, and a procession took place through the town, headed by the Donaghmore Pipe Band and the Coalisland AOH Flute Band. The visitors were then entertained in St. Patrick's Hall by the Fianna club, addresses of welcome were read, and after a short ceili the teams went off to their headquarters in the Lough Neagh Hotel, Maghery.

The enthusiasm which had been aroused in Ulster for this great challenge game was clearly in evidence on the following day, when a crowd estimated at almost ten thousand people -

one of the largest crowds ever to attend a Gaelic football match in Ulster up to that time - converged on Annagher Park from all parts of the province. Special trains had been put on by the Great Northern Railway at cheap excursion rates from Enniskillen, Monaghan, Derry, Drogheda, Dundalk and Belfast. The train which conveyed followers from North and West Tyrone left Derry at 12.30p.m. (from where the fare was 51/-), passed through Strabane (4/6), Sion Mills and Victoria Bridge (4/-), Newtownstewart (3/6), Omagh (3/-), Beragh (2/9), Sixmilecross (2/6), Carrickmore (2/3), Pomeroy (1/9), Donaghmore (1/-) and finally Dungannon (7d). Large crowds came from Derry city and county, Donegal, Fermanagh, Armagh, Down and Antrim, while every town, village and parish in Tyrone was represented. The teams were led on to the field by the Dungannon Brass Band and the game was played in dry but breezy conditions. Kerry, who unfortunately were short a number of their All-Ireland stars, found the Wexford men worthy opponents, and after trailing by six points to two at half-time lost by a single point on the score of 1-6 for Wexford to 1-5 for Kerry. The spirit of enthusiasm which was in evidence at the game was shown still further at the banquet which was held for both teams in Maghery on Sunday evening, when the secretary of the Ulster Council, Mr. B.C. Fay, took the opportunity to congratulate Tyrone on the excellence of the arrangements for the game and on the great progress which the GAA was making, especially in the western part of the county.

The County Board had every reason to be pleased with the outcome of the day's events. Not alone had they given the Gaels of Ulster an opportunity of watching two fine teams from the south and east, including the reigning All-Ireland football champions, in action, but they had reaped a handsome financial reward from the takings at the gate on that occasion. When all bills had been paid, the match showed a profit of £183.5.4, an amount far exceeding anything which the County Board had ever handled before, and one which wiped out overnight most of the liabilities which had accumulated during the previous years. It is significant that the minute book of 1932 contains a page, dated October - one month after the Kerry-Wexford game - which is marked "Old Accounts Settled" with a subheading "Old Debts from 1926 onward", all of which it was now possible to re-pay. This one page, perhaps more than any other, gives an insight into the burden of debt which the Board had had to bear in those trying years since the GAA had been re-established in Tyrone in 1923 and the relief they must have felt at the success of this occasion. It would appear likely from an examination of the accounts that many of the debts totalling about £200 - the majority of which were incurred on travelling - were owed to persons well disposed to the GAA who had not pressed their claims at an earlier date and who were prepared to wait until such time as the Association was in a position to re-pay them. It is interesting to note too that among the accounts settled was one for £8, owed to Messrs. Hopkins & Hopkins, for a Junior Cup - the "Tyrone Cup" - which had been purchased some time earlier. No account appears for the balance owed on the O'Neill Cup; it can only be assumed that it had been settled prior to 1932.

East Tyrone

While the Kerry-Wexford game was undoubtedly the most spectacular event in the history of the GAA in Tyrone in 1932, it should not be allowed to overshadow the phenomenal increase in the number of clubs which sprang up during the year. In his report to the Annual Convention in December, 1932, the secretary listed seventeen affiliated clubs in East Tyrone. Three of these were senior clubs Coalisland Fianna, Dungannon Clarkes and Washingbay Shamrocks, the remaining fourteen being junior - Ardboe Pearses, Ballinderry Shamrocks, Coalisland Fianna 11, Moy Tir-na-nOg, Donaghmore St. Joseph's, Galbally St. Joseph's, Pomeroy Plunketts, Dunamore St. Patrick's, Killyman St. Mary's, Edendork St. Malachy's, Washingbay Shamrocks 11, Dungannon Clarkes 11, Clonoe O'Rahillys and Derrytresk Fir-a-Chnuic. These fourteen junior clubs participated in the 1932 junior league. The 1931 junior championship, which had not been completed in that year, was won by Dungannon Clarkes 11 who defeated Galbally in the final on 20th November, 1932. Although no senior league

was played in 1932, since there were only three affiliated senior clubs, a very successful competition for the Dr. Collins Cup, presented by Dr. Collins of Dungannon in January, 1932, took place on a league basis between Dungannon, Donaghmore, Coalisland, Washingbay, Clonoe, Ballinderry and Ardboe. This competition was completed in April, 1933, when Washingbay were declared the winners. The three East Tyrone senior teams - Dungannon, Coalisland and Washingbay - entered the senior championship and Coalisland defeated Dungannon in the first round in September, 1932. However, a number of West Tyrone clubs at this stage indicated a wish to participate in the championship. By December, no arrangements had been made for any other games, and it was decided to proceed no further with the 1932 competition. Two hurling clubs Coalisland and Dungannon - were also established during the year, while camogie clubs were functioning in Coalisland, Donaghmore, Dungannon and Edendork. Coalisland minor hurling team represented Tyrone in the Ulster championship, but were defeated by Down in the first round.

Revival in West Tyrone

In West Tyrone, the increase in the number of clubs was unprecedented - from six affiliated clubs in January, 1932, to a staggering twenty-eight by the end of the year. Altamuskin, Aughafad, Augher, Beragh I and 11, Carrickmore I and 11, Carnalea, Castlederg, Cranagh, Clady, Dregish, Drumquin, Eskra, Fintona I and 11, Greencastle, Gortin, Killyclogher I and 11, Mountfield, Newtownstewart I and 11, Omagh I and 11, Plumbridge, Sion Mills and Tattysallagh. Following the meeting of the newlyestablished West Tyrone Board on 13th November, 1931, a very successful league competition had been held in which Altamuskin, Augher, Fintona, Dregish had participated. The competition was , Beragh and Eskra won at the end of February, 1932, by Augher Young Irelands who received a set of medals presented by Mr. Fay, secretary of the Ulster Council, at his own expense. A West Tyrone Convention was held in Eskra on 7th January, 1932, at which Mr. Fay presided, and the officers appointed in October, 1931, were re-elected. Mr. Fay was to be a constant visitor to Tyrone in 1932, attending meetings of the West Tyrone Board as well as public meetings held to further the re-organisation of the GAA, and his untiring efforts played a large part in the tremendous increase in the growth of the Association in the county during the year. It was decided that a public meeting would be held in Fintona at an early date in order to promote the re-organisation scheme.

This meeting, held in the New Hall, Fintona, on Wednesday, 3rd February, 1932, attracted an enthusiastic attendance, who were addressed by Fr. P.j. Cullinan, CC, Fintona, P.T. Tobin, chairman of the County Board, Mr. Fay, Cahir Healy, MP, Enniskillen, Joseph Stewart, MP, Dungannon, and A.E. Donnelly, MP, Omagh. H.K. McAleer, MP, Sixmilecross, former chairrman of the County Board, sent an apology for his inability to attend, as did a number of local priests - Dr. McShane, PP, Omagh, Fr. O'Daly, CC, Fintona, Fr. Hurson, PP, Beragh, and Fr.Cooney, CC, Ballygawley. The advertisement for the meeting contained the following words of Cardinal MacRory: "I Put it to the young men of Ireland that the Gaelic games have a special claim upon us as being our own. I hope the games of the Gael will be ardently taken up and pursued."

This wish was soon to be fulfilled, for within a very short time new clubs were to be established in West Tyrone,. When the 1932 West Tyrone league was begun in early March, the six teams which had taken part in the previous competition were joined by the new teams - Killyclogher St. Mary's, Omagh St. Enda's and Carnalea (part of Omagh parish) Wolfe Tones. Another four teams - Newtownstewart, Carrickmore St. Colmcille's, Aughafad and Tattysallagh were to enter the league before the end of the month. A set of trophies for the competition was presented by the Omagh solicitor, A.E. Donnelly, MP. At the beginning of April, a game was held between teams from East and West Tyrone at Dungannon to assist with the selection of a county team to play Armagh in the Ulster senior football

championship. A similar event - this time held in Killyclogher in October, 1932 - was regarded as one of the most memorable days in the history of the GAA in West Tyrone up to that time. It attracted a crowd of about two thousand people and was followed by a banquet in Killyclogher school which could be said to be a celebration of the establishment of the Association in West Tyrone. Joseph Higgins, chairman of the West Tyrone Board, who presided at the function, expressed his delight at the progress which the Association was making and his appreciation of the assistance given to them by their fellow-Gaels in the eastern part of the County. Fr. James McGilligan, CC, Carrickmore, Fr. Thomas Bradley, CC, Newtownstewart and Fr. Michael Collins, CC, Killyclogher, all of whom had taken leading parts in establishing GAA clubs in their own parishes in 1932 and had given of their time and energy in promoting the Association in West Tyrone, also addressed the meeting. Fr. Bradley paid particular tribute to the "Ulster Herald" and associated newspapers for the great publicity which they had given to the native games and which had made an important contribution to the promotion of the games.

A further boost to the games in the West was given by the presentation of a Cup by H.K. McAleer in August, 1932, for the winners of a West Tyrone championship competition. Called the McAleer Cup in honour of the donor and subsequently re-named the St. Enda Cup in 1939 after it had been won three times by the Omagh club, it was the most sought after trophy in West Tyrone until 1974 when district competitions were abolished. The competition held in 1932 attracted all the teams which had taken part in the league with the exception of Augher and Carnalea which had withdrawn from competitions at this stage, and was won by Killyclogher St. Mary's who in a tremendous game at Killyclogher, refereed by J. Higgins, defeated Newtownstewart in the final by 3-4 to 1-6 on Sunday, 4th December. Killyclogher had earlier defeated Omagh in the semi-final in a re-play, while Newtownstewart, who had lost their semifinal game to Fintona, had been awarded the match on appeal.

New Administration

The establishment of so many clubs in West Tyrone within such a short space of time was soon to cause administrative problems. When the presence of the GAA had been largely confined to East Tyrone during the 1920's, the County Board had been responsible for the administration of all GAA affairs in the county. With the creation of a West Tyrone Board, which was not matched by a similar body in East Tyrone, the question of the jurisdiction of each Board soon became a live issue. The matter was resolved at a meeting held in Carrickmore on Wednesday, 5th October, 1932, when representatives of twenty clubs from East and West Tyrone met to consider the most satisfactory and economical method of governing the whole county, the running of district competitions and the management of inter-county affairs. The meeting was chaired by P.T. Tobin, County Chairman, and attended by Mr. Fay, secretary of the Ulster Council. The arguments in favour of one County Board with no district boards were put very clearly by E. Coleman (Coalisland), who felt that all teams should take part in one county competition, as otherwise teams from the east would never have an opportunity of playing against teams from the west. Fr. McGilligan (Carrickmore) on the other hand argued that district competitions, run by district committees, should take place in the interest of economy and that a County Board should be established consisting of twelve members - six selected from each district. He felt that it would be impossible to constitute a County Board with representatives from each club. After a lengthy discussion, the proposals were put to a vote, and Fr. McGilligan's proposal was carried by thirty six votes to six. This decision was one of far-reaching importance. It determined the pattern of administration of the GAA in Tyrone for forty years, with East and West Divisional Boards administering district affairs and a County Board with overall responsibility for county affairs, to which appeals could be made from district Boards when

necessary. These district Boards continued in existence until 1974 when a new centralised Executive was established.

North Tyrone

At the meeting in Carrickmore, the failure of the Association to make inroads into North Tyrone was raised by Fr. Bradley, CC, Newtownstewart, and it was agreed that it would be desirable to hold a public meeting in that area in the near future in order to attempt to rectify the situation. Even before this meeting took place, however, great progress was being made. By the beginning of November, new clubs had been formed in Mountfield, Gortin, Greencastle, Drumquin, Castlederg, Sion Mills and Plumbridge. Much of the credit for this was attributed to the work of Fr. Bradley, Fr. McGilligan, J. Higgins, chairman of the West Tyrone Board, and Thomas O'Byrne and Patrick Flanagan, secretaries of the Killyclogher and Omagh clubs respectively. By the end of the month, a North Tyrone junior league was set up with eight teams - Clady, Gortin, Drumquin, Newtownstewart, Sion Mills, Castlederg, Cranagh and Plumbridge. A public meeting was held in St. Ignatius' Hall, Sion Mills, on Thursday, 8th December, and proved a great success. The large gathering was addressed by Fr. McGilligan, who presided, Fr. Tom Bradley (Newtownstewart), J. Fearon (Armagh), president of the Ulster Council, Sean Adams, president of the Derry County Board and B.C. Fay, secretary of the Ulster Council. Sean Sharkey (Sion Mills), who proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers, said that Fr. McGilligan had stated that the slogan in his part of the county was "The West's Awake", to which he would reply, "The North began, the North held on, God bless the Northern land".

The strength of the Association in the west of the county was clearly evidenced at the Annual Convention of West Tyrone clubs which took place in Beragh AOH Hall on Friday, 11th November, when fourteen clubs were represented. Tributes were paid to the outgoing officers who had done such outstanding work in the first year of the Board's existence. Fr. McGilligan was appointed chairman of the Board, while James McNulty, solicitor (Fintona), and James McMahon, P.E.T. (Beragh) became vice-chairmen. F. McGurn and F. Kerr (Beragh) became registrar and treasurer respectively, while the new secretary was Thomas Montague (Altamuskin). The following were appointed as West Tyrone representative on the County Board: Fr. McGilligan, Fr. Bradley, J. McMahon, F. McGurn, J. Higgins and T. Montague.

Inter-County Games

Further evidence of the progress which the Association was making throughout the whole county was provided by the fine performances which Tyrone teams gave in intercounty competitions throughout the year, despite the fact that provincial success did not come their way. In the senior football championship, played in Armagh on 10th April, Tyrone were most unfortunate to lose to the home team by a last-minute point (1-5 to 1-4) in a most exciting and absorbing game in which Tyrone led by 1-4 to 0-1 mid-way through the second half. Tyrone minors reached the Ulster championship final, but lost to Antrim by 2-7 to 1-2 in Corrigan Park, Belfast, on 12th June, 1932. One month later, the senior team gave a good performance against Monaghan in the semi-final of the Dr. McKenna Cup competition at Dungannon. Although Tyrone lost by 2-7 to 0-5, it was only in the closing stages that Monaghan gained superiority and got the scores which decided the issue.

County Convention, December 1932

The progress which the Association had made on the playing fields, the expansion which had occurred throughout the whole county and the easing of the financial burden which had taken place as a result of the Kerry-Wexford game must have been uppermost in the minds of the three hundred delegates who gathered in St. Patrick's Hall, Dungannon, on Sunday, 18th December, 1932, to take part in what was undoubtedly the largest meeting of club delegates ever to be held in Tyrone up to that time. Special buses took representatives from Sion Mills, Newtownstewart, Drumquin, Beragh, Sixmilecross, Killyclogher, Mountfield, Greencastle, Omagh, Tattysallagh, Fintona and Ballygawley to Dungannon. The meeting endorsed the decisions taken at Carrickmore in October that the governing body of the GAA in Tyrone should consist of six representatives from East Tyrone and six from West Tyrone and that each District Board should consist of two representatives for each affiliated club in the Board's area. It was agreed that, in accordance with the Official Guide, the County Board should confine membership of clubs to parishes in which players resided or worked. It was also agreed that an application be made to the Ulster Council to have the parishes of Dromore and Kilskeery, which had been playing in Fermanagh competitions, restored to County Tyrone for GAA purposes. It was decided that, since the 1932 junior football championship had not started and that only one game had been played in the senior championship, both competitions should be dropped and that new championships should begin in 1933. An outstanding tribute was paid to Cardinal MacRory, who was re-appointed patron, by the secretary of the Ulster Council, Mr. Fay, who said that no person in the province had given the GAA such able assistance, particularly since his elevation to the Cardinalate. He added that the great drive for the reorganisation of the games made by the Ulster Council was originated by the Cardinal and that the success which attended the drive was entirely due to the example set by him and the inspiring words which he used at the initial meeting when the scheme was proposed.

The outstanding advance which the GAA had made in West Tyrone was reflected in a remarkable way in the election of officers to the new County Board. The contribution which the clergy in this area had made was also acknowledged by the appointment of Fr. M. Collins, later to be chairman of the Derry County Board and of the Ulster Council, as Honorary President, Fr. J. McGilligan as chairman, and Fr. T. Bradley as registrar. F.J. McGurn (Beragh) became treasurer and the long-serving Mick Coney was reelected secretary. Delegates appointed to the Ulster Council were J. Higgins, J. McMahon, M. Coney, P.T. Tobin, J. Gribbin (Ardboe) and J. Slevin, P.E.T. (Mountfield). The full County Board of twelve was as follows: West Tyrone: Fr. McGilligan, Fr. Bradley, F.J. McGurn, J. Higgins, J. McMahon and T. Montague; East Tyrone: Fr. J. Mackle, P.T. Tobin, M. Coney, J. McCourt, B. Donoghue and J. Corr.

(3) First Ulster Final, 1933 ***West Tyrone***

The new administrative system appears to have worked admirably in 1933, with each division organising its own competitions, and county championship finals taking place between the winners of the divisions. In West Tyrone, twenty-nine clubs took part in competitions during the year. Augher, who had withdrawn in the course of 1932 after a dispute, entered the junior league, new clubs were formed in Fivemiletown, Melmount and Clady, and Dromore and Trillick parishes were restored to the jurisdiction of Tyrone for GAA purposes. Fivemiletown, who performed with great distinction in winning the junior league, owed much to the inspiration of their curate, Fr. McCormack, who however was transferred to Pettigo before the end of 1933. Trillick were re-organised by Fr. J. Finnegan, CC, a classmate in Maynooth of Fr. McGilligan. He too was to leave the parish of Kilskeery before the end of the year to join the Vincentian Order. Fr. H. O'Hanlon, CC, Dromore, was appointed president of the St. Dymphna's club which came into existence at the end of December, 1932, and which took part in the 1933 West Tyrone competitions. The clubs

which had functioned in Aughafad and Carnalea in 1932 both went out of existence and did not take any further part in 1933.

The 1932 West Tyrone senior league was completed in early 1933, but it was not until May, after appeals had been heard, that Fintona were declared winners and were awarded a set of medals presented by A.E. Donnelly, MP. The 1933 competition proceeded with greater speed and was won by Omagh St. Enda's - the first major competition won by this newly-formed club. Omagh also won the McAleer Cup, defeating Killyclogher St. Mary's, the holders, in November by 0-7 to 0-6. Earlier in the season, Omagh had won the West Tyrone senior championship, in which nine teams had competed, by defeating Beragh by 0-6 to 0-1 at Killyclogher in the final which was refereed by Fr. J. Finnegan (Trillick). In the West Tyrone junior championship final, Augher Young Irelands, led by Ned McGee, defeated Omagh St. Enda's junior team on 23rd July, while in the North Tyrone final, Newtownstewart beat Melmount at Drumquin. Augher went on to defeat Newtownstewart in the county semi-final at Beragh on 8th October, but lost the county final to Donaghmore.

East Tyrone Board, 1933

Three weeks after the 1932 County Convention was held, the first ever East Tyrone Convention took place. It was held in Moortown on 8th January, 1933, and the following officers were elected: chairman - P.T. Tobin; vice-chairmen - B. Donoghue and P. McKee; secretary - M. Coney; treasurer - F.V. Quinn; registrar - E. Creally. In East Tyrone, sixteen clubs took part in competitions during the year, including Rock and Stewartstown who re-formed in the course of the season. The Dr. Collins Cup for 1932 was awarded to Washingbay, who were to have played Dungannon in the final at Ardboe in March, 1933, after the refusal of Dungannon to travel to Ardboe. In the junior football championship, Donaghmore defeated Dungannon Clarke's junior team in the East Tyrone final at Donaghmore on 1st October by 5-6 to 1-4. Donaghmore went on to win the county junior championship, for which the Tyrone Cup was awarded, by defeating Augher at Coalisland on 22nd October by 3-5 to 0-7.

Six teams from the east entered the senior football championship and Dungannon Clarke's defeated Clonoe O'Rahillys in the East Tyrone final at Coalisland by 0-15 to 0-4, thus qualifying to meet Omagh St. Enda's, the West Tyrone winners, in the county final for the O'Neill Cup. The final was arranged for 30th July in Omagh, but had to be postponed when Clonoe claimed that the Dungannon team was illegally constituted and won their appeal. Dungannon were eliminated from the competition and suspended for twelve months by the Tyrone County Board, but were subsequently reinstated by a decision of the Ulster Council which upheld their appeal against the County Board's decision. The final was eventually played on 29th October, 1933, at St. Patrick's Park, Lisnamallard, Omagh, when, in an outstanding and exciting game, Dungannon beat Omagh St. Enda's by one point on the score 2-2 to 2-1. The game was refereed by Fr. McGilligan, and once again an Omagh team had to experience the bitter taste of defeat in a county final.

The winners of both the junior and senior championships - Donaghmore and Dungannon - received their trophies, the Tyrone Cup and the O'Neill Cup, at a magnificent function organised by the County Board in Omagh on the night of Friday, 8th December, 1933. In an effort to promote Irish dancing and culture, a County Ceili Mhor the first of its kind - was held in the Grand Jury Rooms of the Courthouse, where the music was provided for the six hundred guests by Mr. Joseph Nugent's Orchestra, which, more than twenty five years previously, had also provided the music at the same venue for a similar function organised by the Omagh Sarsfields Club. Single tickets cost 3/6, double tickets 5/- . The Ceili was regarded as one of the biggest social functions ever held in Tyrone and the holding of an

annual Ceili was soon to become a regular and valuable part of the GAA calendar in the years which followed.

Ulster Final, 1933

A clear sign of the progress which the GAA was making in Tyrone was the success which the county team achieved in the Ulster senior football championship of 1933. Tyrone played Antrim in the first round in Coalisland on 11th June when the result was a draw on the score 0-3 each. The replay, which took place in Corrigan Park, Belfast, a fortnight later, resulted in a second draw, 3-5 each, after Tyrone had led by 3-5 to 1-0 at half time. Tyrone refused to play extra time and were fortunate that Antrim did not press an appeal to the Ulster Council. In the third game, played at Omagh on 9th July, Tyrone finally achieved victory on the score 1-8 to 1-2. In a brilliant game, which was evenly contested throughout, Tyrone who were in arrears by 0-2 to 0-1 at half time put in a storming finish to gain a great victory. The team on that occasion was: S. Bonner (Omagh), W. McElroy (Ardboe), J.H. Campbell (Coalisland), J. Hughes (Coalisland), J. Kilpatrick (Washingbay), E. McGee (Aughur), A. Small (Dungannon), M. O'Neill (Clonoe), J. Skeffington (Dungannon), L. McMenemy (Dungannon), S. Campbell (Coalisland), J. McNamara (Fintona), T. Cavanagh (Dungannon), J. McMahon (Beragh), and V. Donnelly (Dungannon). The same team, with the exception of Peter Campbell (Coalisland) who replaced A. Small, played against Fermanagh at Bundoran on the following Sunday in the Ulster semi-final. In another thrilling game, Tyrone, who trailed by 1-2 to 1-1 at halftime, achieved a historic victory by 1-4 to 1-3 with a lastminute point from a free by M. O'Neill, and thus qualified for the Ulster senior football final, in which they would meet Cavan, the holders, in Breifne Park on Sunday, 6th August.

It was unfortunate for Tyrone that in this - their first ever senior final - they should meet a great Cavan team, then playing at its brilliant best. It was tragic, however, that Tyrone's chances of giving a good performance were shattered just before the game by events which were entirely avoidable. The Dungannon club were still suffering from resentment as a result of the awarding of the Dr. Collins Cup to Washingbay earlier in the year after the refusal of Dungannon to travel to Ardboe for the final. This had been aggravated by the dispute which had arisen concerning the outcome of the East Tyrone championship final game between Dungannon and Clonoe, which had been awarded to Clonoe. However, the final straw for Dungannon seems to have come about an hour before the Ulster final was due to begin, when, it would appear, changes affecting some of the Dungannon players were being made in the team selected to play.

What followed was a disaster for Tyrone. All the Dungannon players and substitutes stormed out of the Railway Hotel in Cavan, and despite the appeals of Tyrone officials refused to take part in the game. Left with less than fifteen players, Tyrone had no alternative but to draft in replacements at the last minute to face the might of Cavan. Placed at a terrible psychological disadvantage, the Tyrone team proved no match for Cavan. In one of the worst ever Ulster finals, they were outclassed in every department. Cavan led by 5-8 to 0-1 at half-time and won by 6-13 to 1-2. The Tyrone team which lined out in that game was: S. Bonner (Omagh), W. McElroy (Ardboe), J.H. Campbell, captain (Coalisland), J. Hughes (Coalisland), J. Kilpatrick (Washingbay), E. McGee (Aughur), P. Mulgrew (Clonoe), M. O'Neill (Clonoe), J. McMahon (Beragh), F. Devlin (Coalisland), J. McLernon (Donaghmore), F. Fullen (Coalisland), P. Campbell (Coalisland), S. Campbell (Coalisland), J. McNamara (Fintona).

Three weeks later, again at Breifne Park, before a crowd of 17,000 people, Cavan took on Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final, and with a last-minute goal defeated the great Kerry men who had been champions in the four years since 1929 and were at that time seeking their fifth successive All-Ireland title. Cavan went on to defeat Galway by 2-5 to 1-4 in the final to bring the Sam Maguire Cup to Ulster for the first time in history and to have the honour of representing the GAA in the USA in 1934, the Association's Golden Jubilee Year.

(4) Inter-County games, 1934-39

Tyrone v Cavan, 1934

It was the fate of Tyrone to be drawn against Cavan once again in the first round of the senior football championship on 29th April, 1934. They were determined that the humiliation of the 1933 final would not be repeated, and so, in spite of the fact that they had no financial resources, they decided to undertake full-time collective training in preparation for the game. They had received a considerable boost to their morale when, in the Four-County League, the forerunner of the Lagan Cup, they had defeated Derry, Donegal and Fermanagh in successive games at the beginning of 1934 to emerge as winners of the competition. A large house in Carrickmore was used as the training headquarters and for two weeks before the game neither money nor effort was spared to ensure that the team was completely fit for the impending conflict. A new set of jerseys was obtained specially for the occasion and the scene was set for Tyrone's attempt at restoring their lost pride.

The match proved to be one of the most memorable ever played in Omagh. Cavan, the All-Ireland champions, were to set sail for America a week later and while obviously anxious to go there undefeated they did not take very seriously the challenge presented by a team which they had outclassed just a few months previously. Although without the services of the legendary Jim Smith for this game, they felt they had sufficient reserve strength to dispose of Tyrone with reasonable ease. They were soon to be disillusioned. A fast, fit, hard-tackling Tyrone team were equal to them in every department, and had it not been for faulty shooting Tyrone might well have been ahead at half-time instead of trailing by 2-2 to 1-0. In the second half, Cavan scored only three further points to bring their total to 2-5, while sustained Tyrone pressure yielded four points and what the vast majority of the crowd of five thousand took to be two goals, to leave them ahead by 3-4 to 2-5 when the final whistle sounded. As they chaired their heroes off the field after what they believed to be an historic victory, the news went around that one of the goals, scored by Seamus Campbell, had been disallowed by the referee for an alleged infringement on the 21-yard line and that Cavan were the victors by 2-5 to 2-4. The reaction among spectators and players was one of total disbelief. Tyrone spectators at the game and surviving members of the team are adamant to this day that the goal was a perfectly good one and that Tyrone were winners by two points. However, the referee's score-sheet showed Cavan to be the winners, and so Tyrone were deprived of a memorable victory, and Cavan narrowly escaped a humiliating defeat in the first round of the Ulster championship on the eve of their American tour.

The team which performed such heroic feats on that occasion was: Seamus Bonner (Omagh), Willie McElroy (Ardboe), Peter Mulgrew (Clonoe), Jim Hughes (Coalisland), Patrick Madden (Carrickmore), Joe Henry Campbell, captain (Coalisland), Joe Kilpatrick (Washingbay), Dominic McCrossan (Omagh), Leo McMenemy (Dungannon), Tommy Kavanagh (Dungannon), Mick O'Neill (Clonoe), Eugene Kelly (Killyclogher), Vincent Donnelly (Dungannon), Seamus Campbell (Coalisland) and Frank McGowan (Killyclogher). These players, together with P. Donaghy, F. McCrystal, P. Turbitt, J. Doody, N. McGee, P. Campbell, D. Quinn and V. Campbell, gained some reward for their efforts, when, at a very successful County C@ili, held in the Pavilion, Omagh, at the end of December, 1934, they were presented with their medals for the FourCounty (National) League, which they had won earlier in the season.

Minor Success

The years 1934-36 proved to be reasonably successful for the county's minor teams. The team which met Cavan in the first round of the minor championship on 29th April, 1934, immediately before the senior game, was defeated by 3-5 to 1-4, but Tyrone were

subsequently awarded the match on the grounds that Cavan had taken the field late, and they went on to defeat Donegal by 1-5 to 1-2, again at Omagh, thus qualifying to meet Down in the Ulster final. Played at Castleblayney on 29th July, the game resulted in the narrowest of victories for Tyrone who won by 1-4 to 1-3 after the scores had been even (1-2 each) at half-time. Tyrone advanced to play Dublin in the All-Ireland minor semi-final at Drogheda on 26th August. Playing with the advantage of the wind in the first half, Tyrone could do no better than break even with Dublin, and the half-time score was Tyrone 1-1, Dublin 0-4. Tyrone improved considerably in the second half, and with only a few minutes remaining, the sides were still level (1-4 to 0-7). However, Dublin added two points just before the end to emerge victorious on the score 0-9 to 1-4.

The game had a curious sequel. Tyrone objected to Dublin on the grounds that a number of their players were over-age, and the Central Council, having investigated the matter, awarded the game to Tyrone, who thus had the right to meet Tipperary in the All-Ireland final. While Tyrone were beginning their preparations for the final, Dublin called for an investigation into the composition of the Tyrone team, and it was only when the county officials were preparing their defence that they realised that there was substance in the Dublin allegations. Tyrone accordingly withdrew from the competition and Tipperary became All-Ireland champions. The players who represented Tyrone in the championship series were: Harry McGrath (Killiclogher), J.P. McDermott (Dromore), John Campbell (Dromore), Ronan Carbery (Donaghmore), Mick Fearon (Dungannon), Dermot Kelly (Killiclogher), John (Mor) O'Neill (Clonoe), Brendan McCaul (Killiclogher), Frank McCarroll (Eskra), Pat McCaffrey (Moy), Leo Kelly (Ballygawley), M. Rafferty (Killiclogher), Mick Healy (Drumquin), Patrick Hamilton (Donaghmore), Eugene Gallagher (Dromore), Richard McCann (Washingbay), Peter Crozier (Ardroe), Patrick Donnelly (Trillick), Malachy Campbell (Kildress), John Rafferty (Dungannon), Frank Kelly (Moy), Leo ("Hawk") McGrath (Dungannon).

The minor team, which had been so unfortunate in 1934 at the All-Ireland semi-final stage, suffered a further stroke of ill-luck in 1935. Having defeated Cavan by 4-3 to 2-7 in the first round and Down by 3-8 to 2-2 in the Ulster semifinal, they went on to win the provincial final by defeating Donegal by 2-2 to 2-1 at Omagh on 4th August. Donegal appealed to the Ulster Council on the grounds that one of the Tyrone players, a native of Ederney, Co. Fermanagh, who was at this time a pupil at the Christian Brothers' School in Omagh and was resident in Omagh during termtime, was illegal. The Ulster Council upheld Donegal's appeal and Donegal advanced to the All-Ireland semi-final in which they were defeated by Tipperary. Tyrone lodged a counter-objection to Donegal on the grounds that their team was illegally constituted. Donegal did not contest this objection and admitted that one of their players had been over-age, whereupon Tyrone's objection was upheld. The Ulster Council decided, however, that both teams were irregular, and consequently declared the 1935 minor championship null and void. The team which took part in the minor final against Donegal was: P. Teague, Gerry Rice (Clogher), John Campbell (Dromore), Jim McVeigh (Omagh), John Colgan (Fintona), Ronan Carbery (Donaghmore), Jim Donnelly (Omagh), John McCarroll (Eskra), Paddy Donnelly (Trillick), Brian Cullen (Dungannon), Willie McKenna (Aughur), Packie Begley (Pomeroy), Jim Speers (Aughnacloy), Pat McCaffrey (Moy) and Paddy Devlin (Coalisland). Tyrone again reached the Ulster minor final in 1936. They defeated Derry in the first round at Omagh by 1-8 to 1-4, beat Donegal at Bundoran by 3-5 to 2-3 in the semi-final, but just failed to beat Antrim in the Ulster final, losing by 2-4 to 2-7 at Castleblayney.

Other Competitions

Tyrone footballers achieved no other successes at any level during the remainder of the 1930's. In 1935, they lost to Fermanagh in the first round of the senior football championship after a re-play, in 1936 they lost to Down in the first round, and in 1937 and 1938 they lost to Monaghan, again in the first round on each occasion. 1939 brought them face to face again with Cavan at Omagh in the first round, but on this occasion the result was never in doubt and Cavan won by 4-11 to 1-2. Tyrone also competed in the McKenna Cup and in the National League for which the Lagan Cup had been presented by Dr. Lagan of Omagh in 1936. However, they achieved no success in either competition during the remainder of the 1930's and they had to wait until 1942 for a major break-through when they were rewarded with their first success in the Lagan Cup.

(5) Hurling and Camogie

While football continued to hold the premier place among GAA games in Tyrone, there was a short-lived attempt at a revival of hurling in the mid-1930's and a quite remarkable development of camogie. During 1933, a number of camogie clubs were established and a Tyrone County Camogie Committee was formed. At a meeting held in St. Patrick's Hall, Dungannon, in March of that year, which was attended by P.T. Tobin and M. Coney, together with delegates from Donaghmore St. Patrick's, Dungannon Pearses, Coalisland St. Enda's and Edendork St. Brenda's, the following committee was appointed: chairman - Miss Winifred Kelly (Dungannon); vice-chairman - Miss Eileen Regan (Edendork); treasurer - Miss M. O'Neill (Dungannon); registrar - Miss Betty O'Rourke (Coalisland); secretary Miss Vera Campbell (Coalisland). Another team from Coalisland - the Maeves - and a team from Moy also took part in competitions in 1933, and in West Tyrone, clubs were formed in Strabane, Sion Mills, Newtownstewart, Sixmilecross, Dregish and Altamuskin. The first ever Tyrone County Camogie Convention took place in Beragh on 5th November, 1933, and was attended by delegates from Donaghmore, Ardboe, Edendork, Altamuskin, Beragh and Dregish. The meeting, which was chaired by James McNulty, solicitor (Fintona), elected the following committee: president - Miss Annie McCudden, P.E.T. (Beragh); vice-president - Miss May McKeown, P.E.T. (Ardboe); secretary - Miss Vera Campbell (Coalisland); treasurer -Mrs. Rafferty, P.E.T. (Beragh); registrar - Miss Aileen Doris (Dungannon). The first meeting of the new County Committee was held in Dungannon on 7th January, 1934, when it was decided to divide the county into two areas, east and west. Each was to have a district board and to be under the control of the County Committee.

In hurling too, a minor revival took place during 1933 with the formation of clubs in Strabane and Sion Mills and the arranging of matches between these clubs and teams from Derry. Strabane continued to make strenuous efforts in 1934 to promote hurling. Probably their most notable achievement during the year was the bringing of two teams from Dublin - the Garda team (winners of the Dublin county championship in 1932) and the Army Metro team (winners of the 1933 championship) - to play an exhibition game in Strabane in June, 1934. However, appeals to extend the game to other parts of the county seem to have fallen on deaf ears and little was achieved throughout the rest of the decade in the promotion of hurling in Tyrone.

The progress of camogie was much more marked than that of hurling, particularly in West Tyrone, where a league competition took place during the course of the year. A West Tyrone Camogie Convention was held at the end of January, 1934, when the following committee was appointed: president - Miss E. Beggan (Omagh); vice-president -Miss L. McCann (Altamuskin); secretary - Miss B. Owens (Beragh); treasurer - Miss Maura Flanagan (Omagh); registrar - Miss Sheila O'Kane (Dregish). Fixtures were arranged for Altamuskin, Beragh, Dregish, Ballygawley, Omagh and Newtownstewart. Tyrone were represented at the Annual Camogie Congress in Dublin in February, 1934, by Miss M. McKeown, P.E.T., and Miss Vera Campbell, when the county was credited with ten affiliated clubs. Before the end

of the year, there were teams in Moybridge (Aughnacloy), Pomeroy, Cookstown, Carrickmore, Killyclogher, Altmore, Fivemiletown and Remackin, in addition to those which had existed since 1933 in Dungannon, Donaghmore, Coalisland, Ardboe, Edendork, Moy and Strabane. Regular club competitions took place during the year and two games also took place between teams from the east and west in June and July to assist with the selection of a team to represent the county in the Ulster championship. Participating in this competition for the first time in 1934, Tyrone, whose registered colours were green and gold, gave remarkable performances to reach the Ulster final at their first attempt. They defeated Derry in the first round at Omagh on 1st July, but were held to a draw by Fermanagh at Wattlebridge, Newtownbutler, on 5th August when the score was 2-1 each. In the replay at Omagh on 19th August, they had a comfortable victory by 5-0 to 1-2, thus qualifying to meet Antrim in the Ulster final. Playing at Omagh on 2nd September, they failed to reach the heights which they had achieved in the earlier rounds and lost by 2-1 to 0-0. The team on that occasion was: Sarah Glackin (Ardboe), Ellen Donnelly (Altamuskin), Kathleen Treanor (Moybridge), Mary Logan (Dungannon), Kathleen Devine (Omagh), Vera Donaghy (Dungannon), Cassie Treanor (Moybridge), Bella McDonald (Edendork), Vera Campbell, captain (Coalisland), Nora Devine (Beragh), Eithne Donnelly (Ardboe) and M.E. Treanor (Moybridge).

A Tyrone championship was also held in 1934, the victors being St. Mary's, Moybridge (Aughnacloy), winners of the West Tyrone league, who in the final at Pomeroy on 2nd December, 1934, defeated the East Tyrone winners, St. Enda's, Ardboe, by a very small margin after extra time had been played to decide the issue. Earlier, in September, Moybridge had been defeated in the final of a West Tyrone District Cup competition at Ballygawley by a recentlyformed St. Patrick's, Killyclogher, team.

Further evidence of the progress made in camogie during 1934 was to be found by the attendance of representatives of ten clubs - Moybridge, Ballygawley, Dungannon, Donaghmore, Remackin, Altmore, Beragh, Pomeroy, Altamuskin and Omagh - at the second Annual Camogie Convention, held in Ballygawley on 16th December. The following officers were elected: patron - Fr. J. McGilligan; president Mrs. A. Anderson, P.E.T. (Pomeroy); vice-presidents Mrs. Alice Fee, P.E.T. (Donaghmore) and Miss A. O'Neill (Omagh); secretary - Miss Vera Campbell (Coalisland); treasurer - Mrs. Rafferty, P.E.T. (Beragh); registrar - Miss A. McCullagh (Newtownstewart); delegates to Congress Miss B. Owens (Beragh) and Miss V. Campbell. At the East Tyrone Convention, also held in December, Mrs. Fee and Miss Campbell were appointed president and chairman respectively, while Miss K. McCullagh (Donaghmore) became vice-chairman and Miss M. Shields and Miss O'Donnell (both Altmore) were appointed secretary and treasurer respectively. Officers appointed at the West Tyrone Convention in the same month were: president Miss K. O'Connor (Killyclogher); vice-president - Miss M. McCrossan (Omagh); treasurer - Miss Maura Flanagan (Omagh) and registrar - Miss Sheila O'Kane (Dregish).

Tyrone took part in the 1935 Ulster championship. In the first round, they defeated Fermanagh by 5-1 to 2-0, but lost to Donegal at Cookstown by 2-1 to 3-0. The team which defeated Fermanagh was: Sarah Glackin (Ardboe), Cissie McGowan (Killyclogher), Mary Scullion (Ardboe), Kathleen Flanagan (Killyclogher), Kathleen Devine (Omagh), Kathleen Kilpatrick (Pomeroy), Vera Campbell, captain (Coalisland), Kitty Bradley (Omagh), Eithne Donnelly (Ardboe), Maeve Quigley (Omagh), Mary E. Treanor (Moybridge), Mary Logan (Dungannon). Reserves were: Nora Devine (Beragh), Madge McKenna (Dungannon), Nellie Bradley (Omagh), Vera Donaghy (Dungannon).

The game continued to be very strong throughout the county in 1935, particularly in East Tyrone, due in great measure to the dynamism of Vera Campbell, who in addition to her responsibilities as county secretary and captain of the Tyrone team, was also secretary and treasurer of the Ulster Camogie Council, delegate to the Central Council and a much sought

after inter-county referee. Her expertise in this last aspect of the game was later to be recognised by her selection to handle Inter-Varsity competitions and by her choice as referee for three All-Ireland senior camogie finals - Cork versus Galway in Croke Park in 1939, Dublin versus Cork in Croke Park in 1943 and Antrim versus Dublin in Corrigan Park, Belfast, in 1944.

The success which camogie enjoyed in 1935 was not quite as marked in 1936, a year which saw some decline in interest in West Tyrone. Ardboe St. Enda's won the East Tyrone championship, but no county championship appears to have been played. A new club was formed in Kildress in the course of the year. In the Ulster championship, Tyrone played Cavan at Cavan in the first round on 10th May, but lost by 4-0 to 4-4. Tyrone continued to participate in the Ulster camogie championship during the rest of the decade but with little success, losing to Derry in 1937, to Antrim in 1938, and to Monaghan, Fermanagh and Cavan in 1939 in a league/championship competition. With the outbreak of war in 1939 and the consequent problems of travelling, together with the ever-present difficulty of finding sufficient funds to support the game, camogie went into a period of decline in Tyrone in the 1940's, and the progress made in the mid-1930's ground to a halt. Fr. John Murphy, CC, Clonoe, chairman of the East Tyrone Board in 1938-40 and president of the Ulster Colleges' Camogie Council, and Vera Campbell made great efforts and achieved significant success in promoting the game throughout the girls' secondary schools in Ulster. In Tyrone, however, camogie died out almost completely, and it was to be nearly twenty years before it was taken up again to any extent in the county.

(6) Administration

Mick Coney

The continuity in administration of the affairs of the GAA in Tyrone since the establishment of the County Board in 1923 was broken in 1936 with the resignation of Mick Coney from the post of secretary. Continuing illhealth had prevented him from being in attendance at the Annual Convention on 26th February, 1936, when the report which he had prepared on the workings of the Association in Tyrone in 1935 was read in his absence. He did not seek re-election as secretary and he died before the end of September, 1936.

No account of the history of the GAA in Tyrone would be complete without reference to the enormous contribution which he made in his thirteen years as secretary. Born in Ardboe in 1884, he had worked for a time in Belfast before returning to Tyrone as an insurance agent and local secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union. He had a deep affection for all things Irish, becoming proficient in the language in adult life, but his greatest love was the GAA and he was closely associated first with Ardboe Owen Roes and later with Kiltagh Pearses. He became secretary of the County Board when it was re-formed in 1923 and from then until his death he gave himself wholeheartedly to the promotion and development of the GAA in Tyrone. It was almost unknown for him to miss a meeting of the Board or of the Ulster Council. He was regarded as a genius with the pen and his surviving minute books which cover the period 1926-32 are a tribute to his efficiency, his attention to detail and his devotion to the job to which he dedicated his life.

When he became secretary in 1923, the fortunes of the GAA in Tyrone were at a very low ebb. It had no organised structure, finance or personnel. Times were difficult, money was scarce, morale was low. By 1936, all this had changed. A strong County Board and two District Boards were in good working order; many of the early financial difficulties had been overcome and the Association was beginning to make ends meet. Clubs were established in most parts of the county and Tyrone teams were able to hold their heads high in inter-county competitions in Ulster. For all these achievements, much credit must go to the long-serving

secretary, Mick Coney, for his hard work, his perseverance and his dedication. His truly was a most significant contribution to the development of the GAA in Tyrone.

Board Administration

Coney's place as secretary was taken in 1936 by John Anderson, P.E.T. (Pomeroy), who had been assistant secretary in 1935. He was succeeded in 1937 by Michael McElduff, P.E.T. (Carrickmore), in 1938 by Thomas Donnelly (Omagh) and in 1939 by Eddie McGowan (Killyclogher), who remained secretary during the period 1939-43. Jim Slevin, P.E.T. (Mountfield, Castlecaulfield after 1935) was treasurer during the period 1934-36, and he was succeeded by Peter Tohall (Moy), who remained treasurer until 1941. During this same period, 1934-41, Ben Donoghue (Dungannon) was registrar of the County Board. Fr. McGilligan (Carrickmore), who had been appointed chairman in 1933, retained this post until his untimely death in 1940. Many of these, together with several of the people

The West's Awake 225 involved in the administration of the GAA at both County and District Board levels, were also closely associated with the establishment of Feis Thir Eoghain and with the organisation of the feiseanna which were held during the latter part of the 1930's to promote all aspects of the Irish cultural heritage in East and West Tyrone.

North Tyrone

A notable development, which took place in 1935, was the establishment of a new divisional Board in North Tyrone. This Board was set up at a meeting in April, 1935, to respond to the needs of clubs in that area to organise their own administration. It was attended by representatives of clubs from Clady, Cranagh, Drumquin, Newtownstewart, Strabane, Clonleigh, Dregish, Gortin and Plumbridge. Its officers were: chairman - Rev. J. McGowan, CC, Cranagh; vice-chairmen - H. Carey (Clonleigh) and H. McGonagle (Newtownstewart); treasurer - J. Brown, P.E.T. (Drumquin); registrar - J.J. Gallagher (Clonleigh), and secretary - R. O'Kane (Dregish). A new club - Castlederg Patrick Pearses - was established in July of this year to play football and camogie, thus bringing to ten the number of affiliated clubs in the area. A notable omission from the membership of the committee was Fr. T. Bradley; he had been transferred in the spring of 1934 to Donegal, and so he was not at hand to take any further part in the development in North Tyrone of the Association to which he had made such a valuable contribution in 1932 and 1933. Unfortunately, this Divisional Board did not last for a long time. Clonleigh (Lifford) won the North Tyrone championship, but the league competition was not completed, the Divisional Board was dissolved in February 1936, and only three teams - Cranagh, Castlederg and Plumbridge remained to join the West Tyrone League.

(7) Club Competitions

East and West,. Senior Championship

From the beginning of the 1930's, a regular series of competitions was established, which, with minor modifications, was continued until the abolition of the District Boards in 1974. Junior and senior league and championship competitions were held in both East and West Tyrone, the Dr. Collins Cup was organised in East Tyrone, while the McAleer Cup (re-named the St. Enda Cup in 1939) was played for in West Tyrone. West Tyrone junior clubs also competed for the "Ulster Herald" Cup, and from 1939 onwards the St. Colmcille Cup was the trophy for the senior league competition. The senior championship was, of course, the premier competition in the county, and the winning of the O'Neill Cup continued to be the major ambition of every club in Tyrone. Washingbay Shamrocks won the 1934

championship, when they defeated Omagh St. Enda's by 3-1 to 1-4. Omagh reached the final in 1935 for the third year in succession, but, as had happened in all previous finals in which they had taken part, they fell at the final hurdle, this time to Dungannon Clarkes, who won by 2-5 to 2-1. Dungannon won their second successive title in 1936, when they defeated Carrickmore, who were appearing in their first final, by 1-4 to 0-4. Trillick won their first county championship in 1937 by defeating Donaghmore by 2-8 to 0-2, and Fintona, who had last won a championship in 1914, won the 1938 title by defeating Cookstown by 0-3 to 0-0.

The Unfinished Championship, 1939

The 1939 championship was probably the most extraordinary one in the history of the competition. A total of eighteen teams entered for the competition, eight from the West - Eskra, Trillick, Dromore, Killyclogher, Omagh, Clogher, Fintona and Carrickmore - and ten from the East - Donaghmore, Coalisland, Pomeroy, Cookstown, Windmill, Tullyallen, Clonoe, Edendork, Dungannon and Moortown. Eight teams - Dromore, Fintona, Trillick and Omagh (in the West), and Moortown, Clonoe, Dungannon and Coalisland (in the East) took part in the second round, with Moortown, Trillick, Omagh and Fintona eventually advancing to the semi-finals after a number of appeals had held up the competition. It was at this stage that the story took a bizarre turn. Trillick defeated Moortown in the first semi-final, but after the losers had appealed on the grounds that Trillick were not properly registered, the game was re-fixed for 5th November, 1939, and Trillick again won. At this point, the secretary of the Fermanagh County Board wrote to the Tyrone County Board, alleging that a player from Fermanagh had played on the Trillick team against Moortown, and requesting an investigation into the composition of the Trillick team. While this matter was under consideration, a serious problem arose in connection with the second semi-final. On 26th November, the game between Fintona and Omagh had ended prematurely when, with the scores level at 0-5 each and ten minutes left for play, the referee had allowed an Omagh goal, a decision which Fintona hotly contested, and spectators encroached on the field of play. The referee's report of the game was referred back for further clarification at the County Board meeting on 20th December, and when it was decided in February, 1940, to re-fix the game, Omagh withdrew in protest from all competitions and refused to affiliate for the 1940 season, a position which they maintained until November of that year. Omagh's letter of withdrawal was considered at the Board meeting of 27th March, 1940 and efforts continued until May to have the matter resolved satisfactorily.

In the meantime, important developments had taken place with regard to the Trillick investigation. When the Tyrone County Board met on 22nd February, 1940, they had before them a letter from the Fermanagh Board withdrawing their allegations against Trillick. After consideration of the matter, it was agreed that the game against Moortown be awarded to Trillick. Less than three months later, however, while efforts were being made to resolve the Omagh-Fintona impasse in order to have the final played, the County Board had to deal with yet another letter from Fermanagh, this time containing quite different charges. It transpired that, when two suspended players from the Newtownbutler club applied to the Fermanagh County Board for reinstatement, they admitted that they had both played in an earlier round of the Tyrone championship for Trillick against Clonoe on 10th September. At a loss as to what to do about the matter, the Tyrone County Board decided to send the letter, together with an account of the allegations made previously, to the President of the GAA, Mr. P. McNamee, for his comments. McNamee's reply, which was considered at a meeting on 21st June, 1940, was to the effect that the Trillick club should be suspended for one year and that the 1939 championship should be declared closed. The Board agreed to follow this course of action, the championship was declared void and Trillick were suspended. Trillick appealed to the Ulster Council against their suspension and won this appeal on the grounds that the date of the match in which the illegal players were alleged to have played was not correctly stated. The County Board wanted to appeal to the Central Council, but found that it was

impossible for them to do so within the prescribed time. Thus ended one of the strangest and most unsatisfactory competitions in the history of the senior football championship.

It was unfortunate that the 1930's should end in such an inconclusive manner with the failure to complete the major club competition which had provided so much entertainment during the first full decade of the O'Neill Cup's existence. It was also unfortunate that the interruption to the O'Neill Cup series was caused by internal disputes rather than by external factors such as the outbreak of the Second World War. Nevertheless, followers of the GAA in Tyrone had reason to look back on the 1930's with considerable satisfaction as a decade of very substantial achievement. During the course of the ten-year period, the Association had for the first time gained a foothold in almost every part of the county. Although the enthusiasm which had been shown in 1932 could not be sustained in every area, it could be said that the GAA was well established in most parishes throughout the county. Two District Boards and a County Bord had shown considerable initiative in inaugurating new competitions and in providing regular games each Sunday for the increasing number of players and spectators for whom this was almost the only means of entertainment available. At inter-county level, Tyrone had participated albeit with limited success - in all the Ulster competitions and had won provincial minor championships on two occasions. A determined effort had been made to promote camogie, the GAA had been put on a sound financial basis in the county, and strong support had been given, especially through involvement in Feis Thir Eoghain, to the promotion and development of the Irish language and culture. In spite of the difficulties which had been encountered, an enthusiastic band of dedicated officials, which included a significant number of priests and teachers, had worked with considerable zeal and enthusiasm to ensure that the position of the GAA in Tyrone was maintained and developed. If their efforts did not meet in the 1930's with the success on the playing field which they had hoped to achieve, they had laid solid foundations on which later generations would build.

All-Ireland Glory 1940-1950

(1) The Scourge of Cavan World War

The 1940's were to produce the first tangible rewards of the efforts which earlier players and administrators had put into the development of the GAA in Tyrone. The early years of the decade, which were dominated by the Second World War, were marked by the winning of the first trophy at senior level by Tyrone - the Lagan Cup in 1942. The later years were marked by Tyrone's glorious successes at All-Ireland level which brought them two consecutive minor titles in 1947 and 1948 and three consecutive Ulster minor titles in the 1946-48 period.

The war, which broke out in September, 1939, soon had immediate effects on all aspects of Irish life, and the GAA was no exception. The introduction of petrol rationing was the most obvious result and it soon became necessary to arrange games so as to reduce travelling requirements. Any ideas which had been mooted, particularly in West Tyrone, in the late 1930's regarding the playing of an All-County league had to be abandoned, and indeed it became necessary on occasions during the 1940's to sub-divide District Leagues into smaller groupings of neighbouring clubs to ensure that regular competitions could take place. In the senior championship, a variety of arrangements was operated, including east and west district competitions in 1942 and an all-county competition at the quarter-final stage in 1940-41 and 1946-50 and at the semi-final stage in 1943-44.

Administration

The GAA in Tyrone suffered a sad loss in 1940 with the sudden death at the age of forty of its chairman, Fr. James McGilligan, on 14th June. Fr. McGilligan had been chairman of the County Board since 1933 and chairman of the West Tyrone Board during the greater part of that period. Born in Swatragh, Co. Derry, in 1900, he had been ordained in Maynooth in 1924 for the diocese of Derry and after a short time as curate in Killyclogher had come on loan to the diocese of Afmagh in 1926. Having spent a year in Lissan, Cookstown, he came to Carrickmore in 1927 where he remained until the time of his death. A noted footballer, he played in the forward line for Tyrone on many occasions in the late 1920's and for the Carrickmore club, which he was responsible for founding in 1932, during the first years of its existence. He was one of the great driving forces behind the revival of the GAA in West Tyrone in the early 1930's, and his tremendous talents, his administrative ability and his love and enthusiasm for all things Irish were recognised by his re-election in successive years to the chairmanship of the County Board and of Feis Thir Eoghain. The County Board showed its appreciation of him by issuing an appeal for subscriptions for a fitting memorial. With the money collected, a stained glass window was purchased and placed in the new Creggan Chapel which was then nearing completion and which was officially opened five months after his death.

Fr. McGilligan was succeeded as chairman by Peter Tohall (Moy), who had been treasurer since 1937 and who retained the chairmanship until 1944. His successor, Fr. Thomas Kirke, CC, Trillick, had succeeded Fr. McGilligan as West Tyrone chairman, and he led the county until 1946 when he was transferred from Trillick to Bundoran. Fr. Kirke was followed by another priest, Fr. Peter Hughes, CC, Pomeroy, who was captain of the first Ulster Colleges' team ever to win the inter-provincial championship, and he was chairman during the glorious 1947-48 period when Tyrone were to win two All-Ireland minor titles. He was succeeded in 1950 by J.H. Campbell (Coalisland), treasurer in 1947 and captain of the great team which had gone so near to defeating Cavan in 1934. Eddie McGowan, Killyclogher, who was

secretary during the period 1939-43, served as treasurer in 1944-45 and again as secretary for a brief period in 1950. During the years 1944-49, the post of secretary was held by John McQuaid, P.E.T. (Dungannon), captain of the successful 1931 minor team, who for many years after 1950 was to be Tyrone's representative on Central Council. Ben Donoghue (Dungannon) succeeded Peter Tohall as treasurer during 1942-43. Andy Montague (Dromore) was treasurer during the years 1947-49 and he was followed by Frank O'Neill, P.E.T. (Coalisland), in 1950-51. It is interesting to note that for a period of two years, 1945-46, the County Board and the two District Boards had priest chairmen - Fr. Kirke (County Board and West Tyrone), and Fr. Eamon Devlin (East Tyrone), CC, Donaghmore, the noted historian and Gaelic scholar. It was Fr. Devlin who, as a Tyrone delegate to the Ulster Convention in 1942, proposed a resolution on behalf of the Tyrone County Board, which was seconded by Fr. Peter Hughes and passed by Convention, that Ulster Council business be conducted through the medium of the Irish language. To all of these men, Tyrone owes a deep debt of gratitude for their dedication to the cause of the GAA in the county, which was to reap its first rewards during this glorious decade of success.

Inter-County Games - So Near...

Fr. McGilligan's death took place just five days after Tyrone had failed at the last hurdle to win their first major trophy. On 9th June, 1940, at Armagh, Cavan, so often the scourge of Tyrone teams, had defeated Tyrone by 3-5 to 1-4 in the McKenna Cup final. Tyrone had previously beaten Armagh by 2-9 to 2-8 and Monaghan by 1-9 to 1-8 in this competition, but as had happened so often in the past and as was to happen so often in the future - they came up against a superior Cavan team and were unable to make the break-through in Ulster for which they had striven with such determination. Their fortune in the Ulster championship was no better; they lost to Down in both the senior and minor grades, and to Fermanagh in the junior competition; in the league, they lost all four games played - to Down, Antrim, Derry and Fermanagh.

In spite of their defeat in the McKenna Cup final in 1940, or possibly because of it, the Tyrone players were determined to go one step better in 1941. Their efforts to do so involved them in some of the greatest games in which Tyrone had taken part up to that time. At the end of April, they inflicted a seven-point defeat on Fermanagh at Omagh in the first round of the McKenna Cup when they won by 5-10 to 4-6. In the semi-final of the same competition at Castleblayney on 1st May, they defeated Monaghan by 1-8 to 2-3 and qualified to meet Antrim in the final on 1st June. Played at Armagh, it was one of the most stirring and well-contested games in which Tyrone had participated for many years. After a very fast first half, Tyrone led by 0-7 to 1-3, but defensive errors allowed Antrim to score a further three goals in the course of the second half. Tyrone rallied strongly and scored ten points to gain a well-deserved draw, the final score being - Antrim 4-8; Tyrone 1-17. The replay, which also took place at Armagh three weeks later, was equally exciting. This time it was the Tyrone defence which was brilliant, while the forwards failed to take many of the chances presented to them. At full-time, the score was 1-6 each, and a further period of half an hour was required to decide the issue. This time, Tyrone were unable to maintain the fast pace and could score only one goal in reply to two goals and a point for Antrim. The final score was Antrim 3-7, Tyrone 2-6.

Ulster Final, 1941

Undaunted by this defeat, Tyrone turned their attention to the Ulster championship. Two weeks afterwards, they met Armagh in the first round at Coalisland and inflicted a crushing defeat on them by 3-13 to 0-1. Although they were unable to repeat this dazzling performance in the next round, they overcame Down at Newcastle on 13th July by 1-10 to 1-7 and qualified to meet Cavan (the holders) once again in an Ulster final. Memories of the

humiliating defeat in the 1933 final must have been uppermost in the minds of many of the Tyrone players as they prepared to meet the team which had won two All-Ireland titles in the 1930's and which had reigned supreme in Ulster for the greater part of the two previous decades. Tyrone took their preparations very seriously. A special training fund was set up by the County Board and a total of more than £140 was collected. Under the guidance of the Belfast Celtic trainer, Joe Devlin, the players gathered in Armagh, where the game was to be held, two weeks before the final for collective training. Using Troddens' Hotel in Lower Irish Street as a base, they trained morning and evening on the St. Patrick's College playing fields. Their efforts were not rewarded with the success which they deserved. When the great day came on 3rd August, they were dealt a stunning blow. Their brilliant inter-provincial player, captain and star mid-fielder, Peter Campbell (Coalisland), had to withdraw from the team at the last moment due to the sudden death of his father on the morning of the game, and what promised to be the dawn of a new era for Tyrone turned into a nightmare. Cavan, who had won every Ulster senior championship since 1931 with the exception of 1938, were complete masters in every department and gave a superb display of football to emerge victorious by 3-9 to 0-5. The Tyrone team on that occasion was: Cathal Poyntz (Dromore), Gerry Rice (Clogher), Joe Herron (Coalisland), Michael Toal (Carrickmore), Paddy Donnelly (Trillick), Peter Crozier (Moortown), Leo McGrath (Dungannon), Pearse O'Connor (Tullyallen) who replaced Peter Campbell, Mick Keenan (Carrickmore), Dermot Devlin (Pomeroy), Packie Begley (Pomeroy), Brendan Devlin (Pomeroy), Brian Cullen (Dungannon), Thomas Corrigan (Dungannon), John Rafferty (Dungannon). Substitutes: A. Montague (Dromore), J. O'Hagan (Trillick), J. Gormley (Omagh), F. Comac (Castlecaulfield), P. Donaghy (Carrickmore), J. Monaghan (Eskra).

Lagan Cup Victory, 1942

Two defeats at the final stage in the same year must have dampened very considerably the enthusiasm of the Tyrone players and supporters. Defeats in the first round of the 1942 championship and McKenna Cup, when Tyrone had understrength teams, must have tempted many also to question the ability of a Tyrone team to achieve major success. The answer to all these doubts, however, was not long coming, and before the end of the year the county was to be rewarded for the long years of effort and perseverance with the winning of the Lagan Cup. The competition took place between four teams - Antrim, Armagh, Derry and Tyrone. Tyrone's opening game gave little promise of what was to come. Playing at Belfast on 27th September, 1942, against an Antrim team which had carried off the McKenna Cup the previous year, Tyrone were narrowly defeated by 2-8 to 2-9. However, they went on to defeat Armagh at Dungannon by 3-5 to 0-7 and Derry at Omagh by 5-8 to 1-6, thus qualifying to meet Antrim (the holders) once more in the final at Armagh on 8th November. This time, Tyrone made no mistake. Before a very large crowd, Tyrone attacked from the beginning and led by 3-5 to 1-3 at halftime. Star of the attack was Packie Begley whose three goals in the first half gave Tyrone a comfortable lead. According to the "Ulster Herald" report, the full back, Joe Herron, gave a very sound performance, being ably assisted by Leo Kelly and Michael Toal. The half-back line of Paddy Donnelly, Gerry Rice and Leo McGrath played with great distinction and bore the brunt of the Antrim attack which included the great Ulster forward, Kevin Armstrong. At midfield, Peter Crozier and Andy Montague had wonderful games and the forward line gave what was regarded as one of the best displays ever seen from a Tyrone attack. The final score was 4-7 to 2-8 and the Cup was presented amid scenes of great jubilation to the Tyrone captain, Paddy Donnelly (Trillick), who thus had the distinction of captaining the first Tyrone senior team to win a major trophy. The Tyrone team on the occasion of this great victory was: Paddy Rafferty (Coalisland), Leo Kelly (Ballygawley), Joe Herron (Coalisland), Michael Toal (Carrickmore), Paddy Donnelly, captain (Trillick), Gerry Rice (Clogher), Leo McGrath (Dungannon), Andrew Montague (Dromore), Peter Crozier (Moortown), Fr. Peter Campbell (Coalisland), Packie Begley (Pomeroy), Cathal Poyntz (Dromore), Brendan Devlin (Pomeroy), Jimmy Kelly

(Carickmore) and John Rafferty (Dungannon). Substitutes were: P.K. O'Neill (Dungannon), P. O'Neill (Clonoe), F. McAtee (Fintona), F. Quinn (Moortown), J. Gormley (Omagh), J. Devlin (Moortown) and B. Cullen (Dungannon) (injured). Earlier in the year Brian Cullen had become the first Tyrone player ever to win a Railway Cup medal when he was a member of the successful Ulster team which defeated Munster on 17th March, 1942, in Croke Park.

Cavan The Bogey

Tyrone were unable to repeat this success in the following years. In 1943, they defeated Fermanagh in the first round of the McKenna Cup but then lost to Armagh. In the championship, they beat Donegal in the first round but then fell to Cavan by 1-3 to 4-10. In 1944, they again reached the McKenna Cup final after victories over Derry and Monaghan but lost to Down by 1-2 to 2-9. Down also defeated Tyrone in the first round of the senior championship by 0-4 to 3-4 at Belfast on 2nd July, 1944. The remaining years of the decade brought no improvement. Tyrone failed to win a first round McKenna Cup tie until 1950 when they defeated Donegal but subsequently lost to Armagh. In the Lagan Cup competition, their record was little better, the only glimmer of hope coming in 1948 when they reached the final only to lose to Down by 2-5 to 2-7. It was the championship, however, which continued to bring the greatest heart-break. Defeat by Armagh in the first round in 1945 was followed by humiliation at the hands of Cavan at Omagh in 1946. 1947 brought some relief with victories over Fermanagh and Armagh (both after a replay), before Cavan, who were to win two successive All-Ireland titles in 1947 and 1948, once again ended Tyrone's hopes in the semi-final with a crushing 4-5 to 0-2 defeat at Dungannon. Antrim beat Tyrone at the semi-final stage in 1948 after Tyrone had defeated Fermanagh in the first round, and in 1949 and 1950 it was once again the turn of Cavan to destroy Tyrone's aspirations to greatness in the first round with shattering defeats at Breifne Park and at Coalisland.

(2) Club Competitions

Senior Championship

The senior championship competitions of the 1940's were dominated by three teams - Carrickmore, Moortown and Dungannon - who between them won seven of the ten championships, the others being won by Strabane, Coalisland and Omagh. Carrickmore's first championship success came in 1940, when, after defeating Moortown in the semi-final, they went on to beat Dungannon in a replay. Their second success came in 1943, when they defeated Moortown in the final and also won the West Tyrone senior league (St. Colmcille Cup) and the St. Enda Cup. Their third victory was achieved in 1949 when they defeated Derrytresk in the final.

Moortown, who in addition to reaching the 1940 championship semi-final won the East Tyrone senior league and the Dr. Collins Cup, won the 1941 and 1942 championships in the space of six months by defeating Clonoe O'Rahillys in the 1941 final and Omagh St. Enda's in the 1942 final. In 1942, they won the Dr. Collins Cup outright after achieving three consecutive wins in the years 1940-42. They played in four consecutive championship finals in 1941-44, but failed to win a third successive title in 1943 when they lost to Carrickmore. In 1944, having defeated Trillick in the semifinal, they met Dungannon Clarkes, victors over Carrickmore in the other semi-final, at Annagher Park, Coalisland on 17th September. The game unfortunately came to a premature end. Played on an un-enclosed pitch, the game was interrupted on a number of occasions during the first half when spectators encroached on the field of play, some of them indicating their opinion of the referee's handling of the match. With ten minutes remaining in the second half and with Dungannon leading by 2-2 to 0-3, a dispute broke out on the field of play, a number of spectators invaded the pitch, the referee was struck and ugly scenes developed which led to the abandoning of the match by the

referee. As a result of the incidents which took place, the County Board, at a meeting three weeks later, decided that twelve named members of the Moortown club be expelled from the Association for life, that the Moortown club, including officials and registered members of the team, be suspended for five years, and that from that day no club be allowed in the parish of Ardboe and no affiliation be accepted from, or fixtures made for, any club in the parish for a period of five years.

It was a sad occasion, not only for the Moortown club, but for the GAA in Tyrone. The sentence on the club was subsequently reduced to three years, and when Moortown returned to competitive football in 1947 they immediately won the East Tyrone senior league, a feat which they repeated in 1948 and 1949. Moortown also reached the 1947 championship final by defeating Carrickmore at the semifinal stage, but fell once again to their old rivals, Dungannon Clarkes, by 1-2 to 2-6. Their junior team won the county championship in 1948, but probably their greatest triumph of all came two years later in 1950. In that year, the junior team again won the championship, while the senior team won the East Tyrone league and the county champions hip. This latter victory was all the sweeter in that it was achieved over Dungannon Clarkes, their conquerors in 1944 and again in 1947. It was, however, to be Moortown's last O'Neill Cup triumph. Although they reached the final once again in 1951, when they were easily defeated by Dungannon Clarkes, they never subsequently reached the O'Neill Cup final or achieved the triumphs which marked their great period of dominance in the 1940's.

Dungannon Clarkes played in four county finals during the decade, winning two titles in 1944 and 1947 with victories over Moortown on both occasions and losing to Carrickmore in 1940 and to Strabane in 1945. Their defeat by Strabane in the 1945 final, when they lost by 4-4 to 3-11, was made all the more bitter by the fact that their conquerors were captained by a native of Dungannon, Frank Harte, two of whose brothers had won O'Neill Cup medals with Dungannon Clarkes. The rise of Strabane at this time was indeed a remarkable one. After a brief period of active participation in the first decade of the century, during which the Fdg-a-Bealach team had won a county championship, Strabane's involvement in GAA affairs in Tyrone had subsequently been sporadic and no tradition of playing Gaelic football had developed in the area. Their emergence in 1945 when they won almost every competition open to them in Tyrone can be attributed not so much to a great revival of the GAA in Strabane as to the presence at that time in the Strabane-Lifford area of a large number of good footballers from outside the area - Cavan, Donegal and other parts of Tyrone - together with the assistance of a few players from Urney and Strabane itself. It must be one of the great tragedies of the GAA in Tyrone at this period that the club was not allowed to develop and flourish and establish a fresh tradition in this part of the county, which might have brought Strabane once again into the forefront of GAA affairs. In the event, objections, particularly from outside the county, about the eligibility of players undermined the strength of the team and Strabane soon returned to the wilderness.

Coalisland, who had not won a title since 1930, achieved a notable double in 1946 when they won both the senior and junior football championships, beating Dromore in the senior final and Greencastle in the junior final after a replay. Omagh, who had unsuccessfully contested three finals prior to the formation of the St. Enda's club in 1932 (in 1918, 1920 and 1924) and four finals since that date (in 1933, 1934, 1935 and 1942), at last achieved their breakthrough in 1948 when they defeated Clogher in the first county final ever to take place between two West Tyrone teams. For Omagh St. Enda's, this victory had an important psychological effect and the team went on in the 1952-54 period to become the first team in Tyrone to win three successive senior football championships.

Minor Competitions

Many of the players who participated in Omagh's senior successes had previously enjoyed success in minor competitions which had been initiated during the mid-1940's, and indeed many Tyrone players who took part in the great achievements of the county minor teams in the 1946-48 period were products of clubs which took part in those early competitions. April, 1943, saw the beginning of district minor leagues in both East and West Tyrone which culminated in July, 1944, in a Tyrone county final between Omagh and Coalisland. Although Omagh defeated Coalisland by 3-5 to 2-6, Coalisland were subsequently awarded the championship on appeal. Omagh went on to win three minor titles before the end of the decade - in 1946, 1947 and 1949 - Strabane winning the only other championship which was played in 1948. Without doubt, the initiation of minor competitions in the county was a great stimulus to the development of the game among the younger players and played a significant part in Tyrone's successes in the All-Ireland championship series of 1947-1948.

County Grounds

Another important development in the course of the 1940's was the opening of three county grounds - at Dungannon in 1947, Pomeroy in 1948 and Coalisland in 1949. Dungannon Clarkes had taken a far-seeing step in 1940 when they had acquired seven acres for the development of new playing fields and vested the grounds in the GAA from whom an initial grant of £200 was obtained. The new O'Neill Park, opened on 29th June, 1947, after seven years' hard work, was the first county ground in Tyrone and was to be in years to come the scene of many a stirring battle at club and county level. Plunkett Park, Pomeroy, became Tyrone's second county ground when it was officially opened on 8th August, 1948 - again after several years' hard work and fund-raising in Ireland and the U.S.A. MacRory Park, Coalisland, named in honour of Ireland's Cardinal and Tyrone GAA's former patron and opened on 19th June, 1949, completed a trio of excellent playing pitches which have stood Tyrone in good stead for more than thirty years and which have served as an example for other clubs to emulate.

(3) All-Ireland Glory Hogan Cup, 1946

The 1940's will always be remembered as the decade in which Tyrone first achieved success at national level, and the years 1946-48 will forever be recalled with pride and satisfaction as the first great period of triumph on the field of play. In those three glorious years, the county minor team established itself as one of the foremost exponents of the skills of Gaelic football, Tyrone won three Ulster minor championships and two All-Ireland minor titles, several Tyrone players played a dominant part in bringing to the north the first All-Ireland colleges' title and two Tyrone youths - Iggy Jones and Eddie Devlin - established themselves as household names throughout the length and breadth of Ireland.

The first All-Ireland Colleges' final, played at Croke Park on 5th May, 1946, for the Hogan Cup, brought together in St. Patrick's College, Armagh and St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, two of the greatest nurseries of Gaelic football in the country, and the game between these two giants is still regarded as one of the finest exhibitions of Gaelic football ever witnessed in Croke Park. Among a star-studded team from St. Jarlath's was Peter Solon, soon to become one of Mayo's most brilliant forwards, and Sean Purcell from Galway, then and now regarded as one of the finest players of all time. Pitted against Purcell at centre-half-back on this occasion was a fifteen year old youngster from Coalisland, Eddie Devlin, whose brother Jim occupied the full-back position. Also in the defence was Benny Dargan from Cookstown at right-full-back, while midfield was manned by his brother, Malachy Dargan. Peter McGrath from Clonoe was right-half-forward and Tommy Gribben from Cookstown was left-full-forward. Leading the St. Patrick's attack at centre-half-forward was the man whom Padraig Puirseal was later to dub the "pint-sized giant" - Iggy Jones from Dungannon, whose exploits

on that famous occasion are still recalled to this day when the story of that great game is told. Among the substitutes were Vincent Cullen (Dungannon), Liam Campbell (Coalisland) and Sean McGrath (Clonoe).

The Purcell-Devlin duel was one of the highlights of an unforgettable hour, but it was the hat-trick of second-half goals with which Iggy Jones crowned his dazzling hand-to-toe runs that brought the honours to Armagh and established him as one of the great ball-players of all time. Jones had already won three MacRory Cup competitions with St. Patrick's in 1944-46 and had been a member of the Ulster Colleges' team for four years since 1943 when Ulster had won the inter-provincial series. Pdraig Puirseal, who reported on Gaelic games for a period of forty years says that "inch for inch and pound for pound, Jones was, for pure football skill, the most brilliant, stylish and brainy forward I have ever seen in a Gaelic jersey". In his book, "The GAA In Its Time," Puirseal recalls the exploits of Jones in this game.

"... It was in the All-Ireland Colleges' final of 1946... that Ignatius from Dungannon produced the most outstanding display of Gaelic football skills I ever hope to witness... The Tuam boys were firm favourites, and with Purcell master-minding their attack, had rather the better of the first half, leading at the interval by 2-3 to 0-6. But they had not quite contained Iggy Jones who shot four of his side's first-half points.

In the early minutes after the resumption, the western representatives seemed to have really stamped their authority on the game, as by then they had stretched their lead to seven points. This was when Iggy Jones took over. First... he broke away some fifty yards out and raced in to shoot a spectacular goal. Another Armagh point cut the arrears to two, and then Jarlath's swung back on the attack. They were hammering away at the Railway goal when Jones picked up a clearance well inside his own half and started for the other end of the field. He slipped and side-stepped opponent after opponent on an almost unbelievable solo run. On and on he went, spreadeagled the entire defence and, despite having run so far, finally cracked a searing shot to the back of the Tuam net. That gave Armagh the lead, but Purcell and Co., undaunted, were soon level again.

At this stage it must have seemed to every spectator present that lightning could not strike a third time, but that is exactly what happened. Again Jones went streaking away. Again he left the defence groping, and tore through to complete a hat-trick of brilliant goals. This time St. Jarlath's, hard though they tried, could not quite wipe out the arrears and finished one single point behind at the end of the most exciting and spectacular Gaelic football match I have ever been lucky enough to watch. On that game alone, I rate Jones very high on my list of the great artists of the Gaelic fields. Indeed I would not swop the Iggy Jones I saw on that Spring day long ago for any other football wizard from any other code".

Iggy Jones and the Devlin brothers were to renew acquaintance with Sean Purcell ten years later at Croke Park, when Purcell was to lead the Galway attack which won the All-Ireland senior title in 1956. In the meantime, however, Tyrone, assisted by a number of those brilliant players who won the Hogan Cup, but excluding Jones who was over minor age, were to embark on a remarkable series of victories which brought three successive Ulster and two successive All-Ireland minor titles.

Ulster Minor Champions, 1946

The success story began at Omagh on 30th June, 1946, when the Tyrone team defeated Antrim by 2-7 to 1-4. Victory over Derry by 2-6 to 2-4 brought Tyrone into the Ulster final, in which they met Monaghan, the holders, at Clones on Sunday, 28th July. The game was a thrilling one. Tyrone had the advantage of the breeze in the first half, but due to inaccurate shooting they scored only two points and led by 0-2 to 0-1 at half-time. A goal early in the

second half, scored by Joe Hamill (Ballygawley), was the tonic that Tyrone needed, and despite severe pressure by the Monaghan attack they held out to win by 1-4 to 0-5. Star of the Tyrone team was the young Eddie Devlin at centre-half back. Easily the best player afield, he saved Tyrone time and again and his excellent fielding and untiring efforts in defence paved the way for Tyrone's win. His brother Jim, who captained the team, was full-back and his accurate fielding and steadiness under pressure were largely responsible for the fact that only five points were conceded by the Tyrone defence. The team, which was recording Tyrone's first provincial victory since 1934, was: Joe Bonner (Omagh), Robert McNulty (Urney), Jim Devlin, captain (Coalisland), John MacRory (Omagh), Donal McSorley (Omagh), Eddie Devlin (Coalisland), Frank Reid (Strabane), Malachy Dargan (Cookstown), Peter McGrath (Clonoe), Michael McGread (Omagh), John Mulholland (Omagh), Jackie McConnell (Gortin), Dan McCaffrey (Omagh), Tom Sullivan (Coalisland), Joe Hamill (Ballygawley). Substitutes were: W. Melly (Urney), K. O'Reilly (Dromore), G. McSorley (Omagh), M. Cushnahan (Derrytresk), P. Hughes (Carrickmore), S. Tierney (Edendork), J. Donnelly (Carrickmore), W. Stevenson (Edendork), P. Donnelly (Omagh).

As in 1934, Tyrone met the Leinster champions, Dublin, in the All-Ireland semi-final. The game was played at Clones on 25th August, and, but for a cruel stroke of ill luck, combined with some poor shooting, Tyrone might well have advanced to their first All-Ireland final. As in the Ulster final, the Devlin brothers were brilliant at full-back and centre-half back. At midfield, McGrath had a wonderful game and contributed five of his team's six points. However, an incident which took place in the first half had a serious effect on the morale of the Tyrone team. As the defence prepared to clear a Dublin attack, a whistle sounded and the Tyrone defenders stood still. A Dublin forward rushed in and sent the ball to the net; it was only then that it was realised that the whistle had come from the crowd and not from the referee. This goal left Tyrone behind at halftime by 1-3 to 0-3, and, try as they would, they were unable to pierce the Dublin defence in the second half. Faulty shooting cost Tyrone a number of scores in the second half, and even the switching of Jim Devlin to mid-field towards the end of the game was not sufficient to turn the tide in Tyrone's favour. The final score was Dublin 1-7, Tyrone 0-6.

The Road to Croke Park, 1947

The disappointment which followed the 1946 semi-final defeat was dispelled in 1947, when Tyrone won their first All-Ireland championship. However, the county's supporters had to miss many heartbeats and suffer many moments of agony and suspense before they were rewarded with the ultimate prize. The first moments of suspense came in the very first round of the Ulster championship against Monaghan at the beginning of June, 1947, when they had to field without five players who were then boarders in St. Patrick's College, Armagh - Liam Campbell (Coalisland), Vincent Cullen (Dungannon), Eddie Devlin, Sean McGrath (Clonoe) and Malachy Dargan. These players had earlier featured in the college's attempt to retain the Hogan Cup which they had won the previous year. Against St. Jarlath's, Tuam, once again, they had put on a magnificent performance, but without the magic of Jones, who had now left the college, St. Patrick's had just failed at the final hurdle on the score - St. Jarlath's 4-10, St. Patrick's 3-8.

In spite of their absence, the Tyrone minor team performed wonders and defeated a very highly rated Monaghan team by 4-4 to 2-4, the star of the match being Dan McCaffrey from Omagh who scored three of his team's four goals. In the Ulster semi-final, Tyrone beat Donegal by 3-5 to 1-1, and then in the final at Clones before a crowd of 33,000 - the largest attendance up to that time at an Ulster final - they wiped out a lead of seven points to defeat Armagh by 3-6 to 2-8 in a thrilling game. If Tyrone were unlucky to lose the 1946 All-Ireland semi-final because of poor marksmanship, Armagh had every reason to blame the same inability to take scores for their defeat on this occasion. On top for the first twenty

minutes, Armagh failed to take their chances and Tyrone were rather fortunate to be no more than three points in arrears at half-time. Armagh continued to attack in the second half and led by 2-5 to 0-4 after forty minutes. It was at this stage that Tyrone staged a wonderful revival. Eddie Devlin, midfielder and captain, scored a point, Harry Hartop (Dromore) scored a goal and soon Dan McCaffrey (Omagh) scored another goal to equalise. Armagh struck back and were awarded a penalty. Sean McGrath in the Tyrone goal saved brilliantly at the expense of a point, but Armagh struck again and added another point. Dan McCaffrey replied with a Tyrone point, and then Tyrone gained the lead for the first time in the game when Paddy Donnelly (Fintona) scored a great goal. Armagh made a final effort and were rewarded by a point after McGrath had made another fine save. Then, with only seconds remaining and Tyrone leading by one point, Armagh launched another attack, and a lobbing shot from far out floated in towards the Tyrone goal and went narrowly wide. Tyrone had retained their Ulster title.

For the semi-final against Offaly, Tyrone enlisted the help of the former Dublin footballer and trainer, Peter O'Reilly, and went into training at Pomeroy. A training fund was set up under the direction of the county secretary, John McQuaid, and the treasurer, Andrew Montague. Tyrone prepared diligently for the game, knowing that they would have difficulty in beating an Offaly team which had conquered Dublin in the Leinster final after a replay. The game, like the Ulster final, was a tense and exciting one, and Tyrone needed the good fortune which had deserted them in the 1946 semi-final to overcome the stubborn resistance of an Offaly team which dominated the early stages of the game. Despite their early superiority, Offaly were unable to establish a commanding lead, and a penalty, taken by Eddie Devlin just before the interval, enabled Tyrone to draw level on the score - Tyrone 2-1, Offaly 1-4. Tyrone took the lead for the first time just after the interval when McCaffrey scored a goal, and Sullivan followed with a point. However, Offaly fought back to level the scores with a goal from a penalty and a point. Tyrone missed several chances of taking the lead again, until Eddie Devlin scored a goal with a magnificent "50" kick which grazed the inside of the upright. This score demoralised the Offaly team and Tyrone retained their three-point lead until the end. The final score was: Tyrone 4-2, Offaly 2-5. Tyrone were through to their first All-Ireland final.

First All-Ireland, 1947

On Sunday, 14th September, 1947, a Tyrone team stepped out on Croke Park for the first time. It was indeed a historic occasion for Tyrone. It was a historic date also for the GAA, for, on that day, the All-Ireland senior final was to take place, not in Croke Park, but in the Polo Grounds in New York, and Cavan were to bring the Sam Maguire Cup back to Ulster for the first time since 1935. For Tyrone, the occasion was the fulfilment of a dream. The name Croke Park was magic; the summit of every player's ambition was to represent his county there. Now at last, the great occasion had arrived. Tyrone had a chance to join the greats of Gaelic football.

Their opponents in the final were the Connacht champions, Mayo, who, after defeating Galway and Sligo in the provincial championship, had scored a fine win over the 1946 champions, Kerry, in the All-Ireland semi-final. In the first half, Mayo had the assistance of a steady breeze, and, led by Peter Solon, who was at his brilliant best, they tormented the Tyrone defence and soon went into a commanding lead. Two goals in the space of thirty seconds after ten minutes' play gave Mayo the encouragement they needed, and a goal from a penalty by Solon in the fourteenth minute followed by another in the twenty-fifth minute seemed to put them in an unassailable position. By halftime, they had scored 4-2, and Tyrone's only reply had been two points, scored by Tom Sullivan and Dan McCaffrey.

It was at this stage that Tyrone made the vital team changes which altered the course of the game and led to a wonderful second-half revival. Eddie Devlin went from centre-half back to mid-field, Liam Campbell from rightfull to centre-half back, Michael Vaughan from right-half to right-full back and Jack Poyntz from mid-field to right-half back. The changes had an immediate effect. Eddie Devlin at mid-field took complete command, while at centre-half back, Liam Campbell blotted out the raids which Mayo launched on the Tyrone goal. A goal by Tom Sullivan began the Tyrone revival; another followed from Malachy Dargan. Mayo struck back with a point by Solon from a free. Sullivan scored another goal for Tyrone after a lovely centre from Devlin and then Devlin reduced the lead to three points with a point from a free.

Thrill followed thrill as Tyrone strove amid the mounting excitement to get further scores, while Mayo fought valiantly to hold on to their lead which now for the first time seemed so precarious. With fifteen minutes still to go, Dargan with a point reduced the lead to two points. Mayo returned to the attack again, but this time Solon wided badly. Try as they would, however, Tyrone could not break down the Mayo defence for the vital score that they still required. With only four minutes remaining, a Mayo defender cleared the ball over the side-line. Eddie Devlin took the kick and placed the ball right in the centre near the goal. Sean McGrath reached for it, pushed it to Dan McCaffrey and like a flash he drove it to the net. Tyrone were in the lead for the first time. Mayo fought desperately to gain the equaliser; the Tyrone defence held out, and as Solon rallied his forces for one last attack the final whistle sounded to give Tyrone their first All-Ireland title. The final score was: Tyrone 4-4, Mayo 4-3. Amid scenes of unprecedented excitement and rejoicing, the Tyrone captain, Eddie Devlin, was presented with the Thomas Markham Cup. At last, Tyrone had won an All-Ireland title. The team which brought the Cup to the O'Neill County for the first time was: Michael Bradley (Brackaville), Liam Campbell (Coalisland), Robert McNulty (Urney), Vincent Cullen (Dungannon), Michael Vaughan (Dromore), Eddie Devlin, captain (Coalisland), Mick Cushnahan (Derrytresk), Sean McGrath (Clonoe), Jack Poyntz (Dromore), Harry Hartop (Dromore), Malachy Dargan (Cookstown), Jackie McConnell (Gortin), Dan McCaffrey (Omagh), Tom Sullivan (Coalisland), Paddy Donnelly (Fintona). Substitutes: Gerry Donnelly (Pomeroy), Patsy Donnelly (Omagh), Joe Colton (Dromore), Gabriel Jones (Dungannon), Joe Carlin (Newtownstewart), John Joe O'Hagan (Clonoe), Colm Fox (Dungannon), Paddy Clarke (Gortin).

One other little bit of Tyrone history was made on this day. While the minor team were performing heroics in Croke Park, the chairman of the County Board, Fr. Peter Hughes, Pomeroy, was refereeing a minor game three thousand miles away between two New York teams in the Polo Grounds, immediately before the Cavan-Kerry game. He had the privilege of watching Cavan, captained by John Joe O'Reilly, complete the other half of the first ever Ulster double when they defeated Kerry by 2-11 to 2-7.

Croke Park Again, 1948

Tyrone and Cavan repeated this great Ulster double in 1948 when both retained the titles they had won the previous year. Of the victorious 1947 Tyrone panel, only five players were still eligible to play minor football - Eddie Devlin, Harry Hartop, Sean McGrath, Malachy Dargan and John Joe O'Hagan. All five were to play a notable part in Tyrone's defence of their Ulster and All-Ireland titles. Tyrone progressed through the Ulster championship by beating Fermanagh (3-6 to 1-5), Donegal (1-7 to 1-0) and Derry (2-7 to 1-5). In the final, they met their first-round opponents of 1947, Monaghan, at Lurgan on 1st August, 1948. This time, however, they had little difficulty in disposing of much weaker opposition and won easily by 5-8 to 2-2. Tyrone's forwards gave a wonderful display of clever passing and

accurate shooting, particularly in the first half when they led by 3-4 to 0-1, and they gave their supporters every reason to believe that another All-Ireland title was well within their grasp.

Doubts were soon to be cast, however, on such a possibility after Tyrone's performance against Galway in the AllIreland semi-final. For Tyrone, this game, played at Ballinasloe on 29th August, was one of missed opportunities, frustration and anxiety, relieved only by a late rally which eventually resulted in a well-deserved victory for a much superior team. Tyrone were clearly on top for most of the game, but the scintillating form which had resulted in so many brilliant scores in the Ulster final seemed to desert them for most of the game and they gave their supporters many anxious moments before emerging victorious by 3-4 to 2-2. Despite enjoying almost complete superiority in the first half, Tyrone led at half time by only one point (1-1 to 1-0). Tyrone's goal came from Sean McGrath, who gave an outstanding performance at mid-field and whose wonderful high fielding was a feature of this game; their point came from Malachy Dargan who, despite his brilliant solo-runs which tormented the Galway defence, was unable to get the scores which Tyrone needed so badly. Galway's only score, a goal, came from a penalty shortly before half-time. McGrath, who had saved a similar shot in the 1947 Ulster final, went into goal for the penalty kick, but was unable to repeat his earlier feat, and Galway found themselves well in contention at half-time. Worse was to follow in the second half. Tyrone had two wides before Galway took the lead with a goal and when a Tyrone goal soon afterwards was disallowed it seemed that poor shooting and misfortune were going to deprive Tyrone of a victory which their superiority deserved. It was at this stage, however, that the tide turned. A well-place sideline kick by Eddie Devlin was palmed to the net by Scan Donnelly. Malachy Dargan scored two points, one after a dazzling solo run, and then Jack Twomey sealed the issue with a sparkling goal. It was another wonderful revival by Tyrone, in the 1947 tradition, and due in no small measure to the coaching of Gerry Brown (Down) who had ensured that his team were in excellent physical condition and able to withstand the pressure exerted by Galway in the second half.

Second All-Ireland, 1948

The doubts and uncertainties which followed the victory over Galway were soon dispelled by Tyrone in the AllIreland final against Dublin at Croke Park on Sunday, 25th September, 1948. In a thrilling and hard-fought game, Tyrone gave a classic exhibition of stylish football against a very fine Dublin team. Tyrone's all-round superiority was particularly evident in the key positions in the centre of the field. At centre-half back in the first half and mid-field in the second, Eddie Devlin, the captain, was majestic. He broke up most of the Dublin attacks before they got well under way and switched from defence to attack with such speed that harassed Dublin defenders were seldom given breathing space. At mid-field, the tall Scan McGrath and Harry Hartop gave Tyrone a marked superiority, while at centre-half forward, Malachy Dargan, another veteran of the 1947 triumph, gave a brilliant exhibition of skilful running and accurate passing and shooting. These four players in key positions - all clever, fast, accurate and wily - dominated in their own departments and were able to lead the defence and at the same time to be the inspiration of the attack.

Tyrone played against the breeze in the first half and were leading by one point after seven minutes when Eastwood scored following a pass from McGrath. Dublin equalised after fifteen minutes and then took the lead with a point from a free. Both defences repelled dangerous attacks as play swung from end to end in passages of close, exciting football, and then Tyrone regained the lead with two wonderful points from Dargan after he had weaved his way past one Dublin defender after another. Dublin strove hard to equalise and after a period of intense pressure got their reward just before half-time, when the score was Tyrone 0-3, Dublin 0-3.

Tyrone, with the advantage of the breeze and with Eddie Devlin at mid-field, had to withstand a series of Dublin attacks at the beginning of the second half before taking the lead with two points from Devlin and Dargan. A Dublin point reduced the lead, but then Tyrone went further ahead following points by Eastwood (free), Devlin and again by Eastwood (free) to leave the score: Tyrone 0-8, Dublin 0-4. Dublin scored another point and almost equalised when a shot struck the crossbar amid mounting Dublin pressure and increasing excitement. For the next ten minutes, the game was a classic and each goal in turn had narrow escapes. Both defences performed heroically, both attacks narrowly failed to score. The deadlock was briefly broken by Tyrone when McGrath fisted his team's ninth point after a lovely pass from Sean Donnelly. Dublin resumed their onslaught and launched a series of dangerous attacks, only to be driven back by the Tyrone defence. In a counter-attack, Devlin passed to Sean Donnelly who this time put Dargan through for another point, and then Devlin himself got one of the best scores of the game when he kicked a magnificent point from forty yards out to give Tyrone a six-point lead (0-11 to 0-5). Dublin were not yet beaten, however. They threw everything into attack as the whole team moved forward. Tyrone were swept back to their own 14 yard line and a titanic struggle ensued. Excitement was at fever pitch as the ball moved backward and forward near the Tyrone goal. Then, from the midst of a melee of players, the Dublin forward, Des Ferguson, got his boot to the ball and shot along the ground to the back of the Tyrone net. Only one goal separated the teams. Only seconds remained. As Dublin staged a last rally that would have brought the equaliser, the long whistle sounded and Tyrone had won their second All-Ireland title. The score: Tyrone 0-11, Dublin 1-5. The Tyrone team was: Jimmy McGaghra (Omagh), Donal Donnelly (Omagh), Malachy Connolly (Clogher), Eddie Knox (Omagh), Louis Campbell (Brackaville), Eddie Devlin, captain, (Coalisland), Pat O'Hanlon (Ballygawley), Sean McGrath (Clonoe), Harry Hartop (Dromore), John O'Reilly (Dromore), Malachy Dargan (Cookstown), Barney Eastwood (Cookstown), Leo Devlin (Coalisland), John Joe O'Hagan (Clonoe), Jack Twomey (Moy). Substitutes: Sean Donnelly (Omagh) for John O'Reilly (injured), Dermot Cummins (Brackaville), Brian Loughran (Ballygawley), Tony Carney (Dromore), Barry Corr (Coalisland), Mick McLlkenney (Clonoe), Eddie Leonard (Trillick), John Donnelly (Beragh), and Frank McLlvenna (Brackaville).

This second All-Ireland title brought to a glorious climax the greatest chapter in the history of Tyrone football. In the space of three short years, Tyrone had risen from the depths of obscurity to a place at the summit of football achievement and had thrilled Croke Park with the brilliance of its young players in two successive finals. Hopes were high that the promise fulfilled at minor level would soon come to fruition at senior grade and that Tyrone, for so long a poor relation of Ulster football, would win a senior provincial championship and go on to take an All-Ireland senior title.

End of an Era

The expectations which were cherished in the euphoria surrounding the minor successes of 1947-48 were not, however, to be realised. The hopes of a third successive minor title were shattered in the very first round of the Ulster championship at Letterkenny on 26th June, 1949, when a Tyrone team, again captained by Eddie Devlin and containing six members of the 1948 team, was defeated by Donegal by 0-5 to 1-4. Tyrone's defeat was surrounded by a blaze of controversy - disputes about the goal which gave Donegal victory and allegations made by Tyrone but subsequently not upheld by the Ulster Council concerning the eligibility of two Donegal players. For Tyrone, it was the end of an era. Only a few of the players who performed such feats of valour in the glorious years of 1947 and 1948 became regular long-serving members of the senior team, and it was not until 1956 that a small band of the survivors were to share in Tyrone's first Ulster senior football success. As for the others,

many factors combined to preclude continued participation at inter-county level. For a number, it was the call to the priesthood at home and in foreign lands; for others it was illness or injury; for others still it was emigration, ineligibility or failure to maintain the early promise shown at minor age. For all these varied reasons, the All-Ireland minor successes were not followed by success at senior level and the hope that a Tyrone team would soon bring the Sam Maguire Cup to the county of the O'Neills was not fulfilled.

Supreme in Ulster 1950-1960

(1) A New Generation Administration

The early years of the 1950's were marked by the accession to office of a new generation of administrators who were to give long and dedicated service to the Tyrone County Board and to the promotion of the GAA in Tyrone. At the County Convention held on 21st January, 1951, Paddy Cullen, a young Cookstown school teacher and a native of Leitrim, who had been secretary of the East Tyrone Board in 1949 and chairman in 1950, was appointed chairman of the County Board. At the same Convention, Paddy O'Neill from Dungannon, who had been a member of Tyrone's successful Lagan Cup panel in 1942 and who had taken over the post of county secretary in July, 1950, was appointed to his first full term of office. Cullen was to remain chairman of the East Tyrone Board until 1965, and, with the exception of 1960, chairman of the County Board until 1969, after which he became Tyrone's representative on the Central Council. Paddy O'Neill served continuously as secretary for twenty-seven years until he retired in 1976. They were joined on the County Board in 1952 by Jim Casey from Dungannon who became treasurer and who held that post every year except 1975 until his sudden death while still in office in 1981. Another unusually long-serving officer was Liam Campbell, Coalisland, a member of the successful 1947 minor team, who was secretary of the East Tyrone Board for eighteen years, 1953-70. During most of this period also, Frank O'Neill (Coalisland) was one of Tyrone's representatives on the Ulster Council and his contribution to that body was recognised by his appointment as chairman during the years 1958-61. He had the distinction, in the absence of the GAA President, of presenting the Sam Maguire Cup to Down on the occasion of their first All-Ireland victory in 1960.

The 1950's also witnessed a number of new developments in the organisation and administration of the games in Tyrone. A separate Hurling Board was set up in 1950, a Handball Board in 1955, a Camogie Board in 1956 and a North Tyrone Board in 1951. During this period too, juvenile football competitions were established on a regular basis for the first time and new competitions were introduced - the McElduff Cup in West Tyrone, the Feis Shield in East Tyrone, and the Fr. Campbell Trophy which had been presented to the County Board by the New York GAA in 1957.

Hurling and Camogie

An attempt had been made to revive hurling in the late 1940's, particularly in West Tyrone. In 1946, there were teams in Omagh and Knockmoyle (Killiclogher), while Glassmullagh (Trillick) played in competitions in County Fermanagh. In 1947, four teams - Cappagh (Killiclogher), Dromore, Omagh and Dungannon - took part in a senior championship competition and Cappagh beat Dromore in the final by 4-2 to 2-3. These same teams, except Dungannon, together with teams from Leckpatrick and Ballyfatton (Sion Mills), also took part in a West Tyrone league in the same year, when Dromore were the winners. In 1948, Dungannon Eoghan Ruadh defeated Knockmoyle in the county final by 4-2 to 2-0. Dromore were the winners of a Cappagh Cup competition in West Tyrone in 1949 and Dungannon won the county minor championship. On 1st July, 1950, a County Hurling Board was set up, with Fr. B. Tracey (Pomeroy) as chairman, Leo Gilmartin (Dromore) and Frank McGowan (Cappagh) as vice-chairmen, Teddy Quigley (Strabane) as secretary and F. Cavanagh (Dungannon) as treasurer. Four teams - Cappagh, Dromore, Strabane and Dungannon - took part in county senior and minor championships and a competition for the Cappagh Cup - all of which were won by Cappagh - and a senior league which was won by Dungannon.

In the following year, a Tyrone county team took part in the Ulster junior championship, in which they defeated Monaghan and Armagh before losing to Antrim in the Ulster final, and in 1952 they again defeated both these teams before losing to Down in a replay. However, the enthusiasm for the game which was generated in the first three years of the decade soon disappeared and the failure to increase the number of clubs led to a lack of interest in the game. By the end of the decade, only two teams - Dungannon and Cookstown - were registered in the county, and they kept the game alive by participation in a MidUlster hurling league. The Presentation Brothers in Dungannon took a keen interest in hurling at schools level and a Mid-Ulster Schools' league was set up. It made a valuable contribution to the preservation of the game among the youth, but its influence was not widespread and hurling continued to be a very poor relation in Tyrone GAA.

Camogie too made little progress during the 1950's. In 1956, a Camogie Board was set up, with J. Quinn (Moortown) as chairman, Pat O'Neill (Cookstown) as vicechairman, Miss S.T. Coyle (Moortown) as secretary, Miss M. O'Hare (Ardboe) as treasurer, and Miss. M. Hampsey (Cookstown) as registrar. A number of competitions took place in East Tyrone and a team representing the county took part in the Ulster championship. However, progress was limited, competitions were not always completed and the game failed to make any inroads whatsoever into West Tyrone.

Senior Football Championship

At club level, the 1950's were dominated by three teams - Dungannon, Omagh and Clonoe - who between them won eight out of the ten senior football championships, the others being won by Moortown in 1950 and by Coalisland in 1955. Dungannon, who lost the 1950 final by a single point to Moortown, avenged their defeat the following year when they easily defeated the holders in the final. Unsuccessful in the 1954 and 1955 finals, they regained the O'Neill Cup in 1956 when they defeated Clonoe by four points.

For Clonoe, their defeat by Dungannon in 1956 was their third in a county final in five years. Having lost to Omagh in 1952 and 1953, they failed at the last hurdle again in 1956. However, they were rewarded for their efforts in 1958 when they defeated Carrickmore to win their first senior championship, which they retained in 1959 and again in 1960. In winning the O'Neill Cup in three successive years, they equalled the record of their great rivals, Omagh St. Enda's, who at the beginning of the decade had achieved this feat for the first time in Tyrone GAA history. Omagh's victories in 1952-54 - over Clonoe in the 1952 and 1953 finals, and over Dungannon in 1954 - were followed by another win in 1957, this time over Derrylaughan. Their attempt to gain a fifth senior title in the 1950's ended in a blaze of controversy when Clonoe were awarded the 1959 championship after Omagh had refused to play the county final on the appointed date.

The origins of this controversy, which marred the last championship of the decade, went back to the first round, when Omagh and Pomeroy drew in early July. Omagh would not agree to a re-fixture on 9th August, the date of the Ulster final, nor did the game take place on the next date arranged, whereupon the game was awarded to Pomeroy by the West Tyrone Board who were responsible for the fixture. Pomeroy defeated Ardboe in the quarter-final and then drew with Carrickmore in the semi-final. As both teams prepared for the replay, the Omagh-Pomeroy saga took a new turn. At a special meeting of the County Board, an appeal by Omagh against the decision of the West Tyrone Board to award the game to Pomeroy was upheld and the games between Pomeroy and Ardboe, and Pomeroy and Carrickmore, were declared void. As Clonoe, who had already qualified for the final, waited for their opponents, the drama was slowly re-enacted. The drawn game between Omagh and Pomeroy, which had taken place on 5th July, was replayed on 18th October and resulted in

victory for Omagh. Ardboe, defeated earlier by Pomeroy, re-entered the championship but were defeated by Omagh on 8th November. Carrickmore, who had drawn with Pomeroy, now met Omagh in the semi-final, and this game too ended in a draw, with Omagh winning the replay by a single point. The final was fixed for 6th December, 1959, but Omagh claimed that they had not been given adequate notice and did not turn out for the game. The championship was then awarded to Clonoe. St. Enda's appealed to the Ulster Council, but the appeal was rejected and Clonoe retained the O'Neill Cup.

While the senior championship games provided the high drama of the decade at club level, it was unfortunate that the same level of interest was not maintained in the league competitions. In the absence of a promotion and relegation system, little importance was attached to these games, and much of the enthusiasm was reserved for the two major District Board competitions - the St. Enda Cup in the West and the Feis Shield in the East - as well as the junior championship and, after 1958, the Fr. Campbell Trophy competition. However, for two years - 1956 and 1957 all club competitions within the county were completely overshadowed by the great inter-county games in which Tyrone were involved, and local rivalries were partially forgotten as GAA followers gave their support to the county team which reached the pinnacle of greatness in Ulster in these two memorable years.

2) A Dream Come True, 1956

Early Hopes Dashed

The hopes of inter-county success at senior level which Tyrone entertained after their All-Ireland minor victories in 1947 and 1948 were slow in coming to fruition, and the early years of the decade gave little indication of the triumphs which were eventually to be achieved. In the first round of the 1950 championship, Tyrone, who had brought Paul Russell from Kerry to assist them in their collective training, met Cavan at Coalisland on 11th June and were given a painful lesson in the skills of Gaelic football, being defeated by 8-7 to 0-3. Tyrone again failed to get past the first round in 1951 and 1952 losing to Armagh on both occasions, and, although they defeated Donegal in the opening round in 1953, they were beaten by Cavan in the semi-final at Clones by 2-10 to 2-4. 1953 however held out some little promise for the future, for in that year they reached the final of the Lagan Cup in November and were beaten by only four points by an outstanding Armagh team which had narrowly failed to beat Kerry in the All-Ireland final in September. Earlier in the year, they had shown the brilliance of which they were capable when, in the semi-final of the Dr. McKenna Cup at Lurgan in May, they had defeated Armagh by 5-10 to 2-8. As had happened so often before, however, they failed at the final hurdle, losing to Cavan at Castleblayney by 2-9 to 1-5 on 13th September. Tyrone reached a third final in 1953 when their minors, led by a talented young footballer from Coalisland, Jody O'Neill, defeated Fermanagh, Cavan and Monaghan in turn, but they too lost to Armagh in the Ulster final by 2-15 to 3-2.

1954 almost brought the long-awaited break-through, when Tyrone once more reached the Ulster semi-final after defeating Donegal in the first round. Their opponents again were Cavan, who had so often brought about their downfall in the past. The first half of the game gave every indication that history would be repeated when Cavan led by 3-7 to 1-5. However, Tyrone staged a wonderful recovery in the second half, due in great measure to the brilliance of Mick Cushnahan at mid-field and Frank Donnelly and Jack Taggart who interchanged between the centre-half and centre-full-forward positions, and in a thrilling finish, Cavan just managed to remain ahead, winning by 3-10 to 2-10. Tyrone also failed narrowly to win the Ulster junior title, being defeated by only two points in the final by Donegal on the score 1-7 to 0-8. However, any hopes that a major championship success was within easy reach were soon dashed when in 1955 the senior, minor and junior teams were all eliminated in the first round, by Derry, Down and Antrim respectively. Tyrone managed to

reach the McKenna Cup semi-final in that year, but lost to Cavan once more, by 1-7 to 0-6 at Breifne Park in May, while in the Lagan Cup final, played at Casement Park, Belfast on 27th November, they once again tasted the bitterness of defeat at the hands of Armagh by 2-8 to 0-12. The county secretary, Paddy O'Neill, in his annual report to Convention in January, 1956, scarcely concealed his disappointment when, referring to the fact that many players on the county team had given sterling service over a long number of years and were then nearing the end of their inter-county careers, he remarked that they had few trophies to show for their many years of loyal service, as "Tyrone never seemed to get into the honours list". He could hardly have foreseen that only twelve months later he would be reviewing the most successful year in the history of the Tyrone GAA up to that time and that the faithfulness of many of those players would be rewarded with a prize which they had felt was always going to elude them.

Ulster Champions, 1956

1956 opened on a familiar note with Tyrone losing by a single point to Armagh at Lurgan on 28th April in the first round of the Dr. McKenna Cup. They defeated Derry in the opening round of the championship at Dungannon on 3rd June by 3-7 to 2-4, and then at Lurgan on 8th July scored a convincing win over a very good Monaghan team, despite the absence through injury of their Railway Cup star, Jack Taggart, at centre-half forward. Playing with a strong breeze in the first half, a very fast, fit and skilful Tyrone team led by 2-6 to 0-3 at the interval, and resisted all the Monaghan pressure in the second half to win by 2-9 to 0-7 and qualify for their first Ulster final since 1941.

The prospect of meeting Cavan once again in an Ulster championship game was indeed a daunting one. Cavan had completely dominated in Ulster since 1918. Between 1931 and 1949, they had lost only two Ulster championships - in 1938 and again in 1946. In addition, they had played in ten All-Ireland finals and had won on five occasions, the most recent being four years previously in 1952 when they had defeated Meath in the final. They were the reigning Ulster champions, and had taken Kerry, the eventual winners, to a replay in the 1955 All-Ireland semi-final. As against this proud record stood Tyrone's long story of disappointment and failure. Their sole Lagan Cup success of 1942 seemed but a dim memory fourteen years later and their long succession of defeats by Cavan brought little hope of victory at this stage. Not once in their years of striving had they succeeded in defeating a Cavan senior team. On fourteen occasions since 1924 they had encountered these king-pins of Ulster football in championship games and on each occasion they had failed. Their older followers recalled with pride, but also with a tinge of disappointment and annoyance, the famous occasion in 1934 when at Omagh they left the pitch believing that their team had at last defeated Cavan, only to have the cup of joy dashed from their lips. So often in the past the sight of the famous blue jerseys had seemed to instil a sense of awe in the Tyrone players so that they hardly even dared to hope that the 1956 final would bring a change of fortune.

The game was only two minutes old when Tyrone got the tonic they needed. Jody O'Neill, at nineteen years captaining the team with the assurance of a veteran, sent a free kick to Donal Donnelly, who carried the ball before passing to Jack Taggart. Taggart, confronted by Phil "Gunner" Brady, held the ball on the ground, moved goalwards and without picking up the ball shot coolly to the net. Tyrone were in the lead. It was the inspiration which Taggart needed and for the rest of the hour he gave an outstanding performance as he led the Tyrone attack forward relentlessly against a beleaguered Cavan defence. Another Taggart shot was saved and Frank Higgins hit the crossbar with a great effort before Cavan got their first score, a point by Tom Hardy. Tyrone replied with a point from a free by Frank Donnelly, but Cavan scored two further points before half-time when the score was Tyrone 1-1, Cavan 0-3.

The second half belonged to Tyrone. As the rain poured down, they produced a brand of football which in the words of the "Irish Independent" reporter, "bewildered their seasoned opponents who reeled, rallied and finally collapsed under its impact". In that brilliant second half they were "yards faster to the ball, inches higher to the catch, and miles ahead in rugged determination". Tyrone made light of the troublesome wind which was now blowing against them. Within seconds of the re-start, Iggy Jones took a pass from Donal Donnelly, raced forward and sent the ball soaring over the bar. From the kick-out, Patsy Devlin who was having a magnificent game at mid-field, rose majestically, passed to Jones who put Donal Donnelly through for another Tyrone point. Tyrone now began to play inspired football. The early scores in the second half had given them a new confidence, and, urged on by the thousands of wildly excited supporters, they tore wide gaps in the Cavan defence. Cavan made changes at centre-field, bringing Gerry Keyes and Victor Sherlock to that sector in turn, but neither was able to curb the rampant Devlin and O'Neill. Frank Donnelly added a Tyrone point, and then in the space of two minutes came the scores that sealed Cavan's fate. In the sixteenth minute, Patsy Devlin lobbed a high ball into the square which the Cavan goalie, Seamus Morris, fielded. As he came out to clear, he was met by Donal Donnelly, who blocked his kick and bundled the ball into the net for Tyrone's second goal. Two minutes later, Tyrone scored another goal. Iggy Jones sent in a high shot from far out. As it came towards the square, Frank Higgins dashed in to challenge Phil Brady for the dropping ball. Fending off Higgins, the Cavan full-back unsighted his goalkeeper, and Jones' shot went straight to the net for Tyrone's third goal. The Breifne men fought back in true Cavan fashion and scored a point from Victor Sherlock, but, try as they would, they could not reduce the lead, and Tyrone ended in a flourish with another point by Frank Hggins. With the sounding of the final whistle by referee Peter McDermott (Meath), the Tyrone supporters gave full vent to their feelings, and amid scenes of unprecedented enthusiasm and excitement, they carried their heroes triumphantly from the field. As they looked at the scoreboard which read: Cavan 0-4, Tyrone 3-5, they could hardly believe that on that great day, Sunday, 29th July, 1956, they had finally laid the Cavan bogey. At long last, Tyrone were Ulster senior football champions.

The victory was essentially a team triumph, in which every man played his part. Thady Turbett, who made some spectacular saves in the first half, was well protected by a sound, solid and determined full-back line of Brian McSorley, Jim Devlin and Pat Donaghy. For Devlin in particular, who had served Tyrone in many positions in both defence and attack over a period of many years and who had often borne the brunt of many an opposing attack, the victory was a source of particular satisfaction. There can be no doubt that his return to the full-back position, where his fine fielding, his great positional sense, his ability to block out an opposing full-forward and his coolness under pressure were a source of inspiration to his younger colleagues, was one of the key factors in Tyrone's series of victories in the 1956-57 period. In front of this solid fullback line stood an equally trusty half line. At centre-half, Paddy Corey, just recovered from serious injury, completely blotted out the usually brilliant Pat Carolan, while Scan Donnelly and John Joe O'Hagan, both members of Tyrone's victorious minor team in 1948, were the rocks on which many a Cavan attack foundered. Patsy Devlin, who gave his greatest ever performance for Tyrone on this occasion, and Jody O'Neill, the youngest player on the field and the youngest ever to captain an Ulster championshipwinning team, were almost unbeatable at midfield and provided the forwards with the possession they needed to get the vital scores. Jack Taggart was a dynamic driving force at centre-half-forward and was flanked by two of the most naturally brilliant ball-players ever to play for Tyrone in Frank Donnelly and Iggy Jones. Both contributed enormously to Tyrone's victory as they teased the Cavan defence with their bewildering skills and turn of speed. At fullforward, Frank Higgins played a roving game to the wings, drawing out Phil Brady after him and causing huge gaps among the Cavan backs. Donal Donnelly, another member of the 1948 minor team and brother of the right-half-back, Sean, had a great game at left full-forward and his goal at a vital stage was a fitting reward for his dogged

determination. The full-forward line, which gave a fine all-round performance, was completed by Mick Kerr, and later by Hugh Kelly, the latter reaping a fitting reward for long and dedicated service in the Tyrone jersey. The team which lined out against Cavan was: Thady Turbett (Omagh), Brian McSorley (Clogher), Jim Devlin (Coalisland), Pat Donaghy (Dungannon), Sean Donnelly (Omagh), Paddy Corey (Omagh), John Joe O'Hagan (Clonoe), Jody O'Neill, captain (Coalisland), Patsy Devlin (Donaghmore), Iggy Jones (Dungannon), Jack Taggart (Omagh), Frank Donnelly (Carrickmore), Michael Kerr (Beragh), Frank Higgins (Ballygawley), Donal Donnelly (Omagh). Substitutes: Hugh Kelly (Urney), Pat Quinn (Derrylaughan), Dermot McCiuskey (Cookstown), Michael Quinn (Carrickmore), Hugh Donnelly (Omagh) and Patsy McSorley (Clogher). Missing from the panel was Tyrone's mid-field star, Mick Cushnahan from Derrylaughan, who was unable to take part because of injury.

The celebrations which began that evening in Clones soon continued in Tyrone. As the team arrived in Pomeroy, their training headquarters, they were greeted by a huge crowd of jubilant supporters, and a victory parade, which was led by Pomeroy Accordion Band and which included football, hurling and camogie clubs, took place through the streets of the village. It was fitting that it was in Pomeroy that the county chairman, Paddy Cullen, and the secretary, Paddy O'Neill, chose to pay tribute to Gerry Brown from Newry, the man who had trained the 1948 minor team in Pomeroy to victory and who now had once again prepared a Tyrone team for another historic victory. The players then made their way to Coalisland, home of their captain, Jody O'Neill, where they were greeted by thousands of enthusiastic followers. Huge bonfires blazed as the team, led by St. Malachy's Pipe Band, Edendork, playing O'Neill's March, made its way through the town. Once again, tributes were paid to the magnificent display of the team, and there was a special welcome for the two Coalisland representatives, Jody O'Neill and Jim Devlin, both of whom had contributed so much to Tyrone's victory. Throughout the county, old and young forgot the long years of waiting and disappointment, as they re-told the story of the great game and re-lived every moment of Tyrone's historic achievement. It was an hour long awaited; it was one they wanted to savour to the full.

Tyrone v Galway

Tyrone's Ulster victory gave them a place in the AllIreland semi-final in Croke Park, and the euphoria surrounding the win over Cavan was soon tempered by the prospect of a meeting with the runaway Connacht champions, Galway, who had overwhelmed all opposition in the provincial championship and who were already being regarded as prospective All-Ireland champions. Their lineout included Jack Mahon at centre-half-back, Frank Eivers and Mattic McDonagh at mid-field, and the dreaded Tuam Stars combination of Scan Purcell and Frank Stockwell at centre-half and centre-full forward. They were captained by Jack Mangan, then one of the outstanding goalkeepers in the country.

Tyrone took their preparations for the All-Ireland semifinal and the first appearance of their county's senior team at Croke Park seriously. Training was resumed at Pomeroy under the guidance of Gerry Brown, and two additional players - Eddie Devlin and Tommy Campbell - were drafted into the Tyrone panel. Devlin, hero of Tyrone's minor triumphs of 1947 and 1948, had been a regular member of Tyrone, Ulster and Combined Universities' teams from 1949 until 1954, when he had taken up a dental practice in England; Campbell, a member of the Dungannon Clarkes team, had been one of Tyrone's outstanding players since 1945, playing equally well in defence and attack, and had represented Ulster in the Railway Cup in 1951 and 1952. There was intense press speculation about the outcome, with most sportswriters favouring Galway and confidently predicting that the winners would win the AllIreland title. Tyrone, however, were quietly optimistic that the first visit of their senior team to GAA headquarters would be a successful one. For a number of the team, Croke Park

had been the scene of earlier triumphs - Jim Devlin and Iggy Jones had been on the St. Patrick's College, Armagh, team that had won the 1946 Hogan Cup; Donal and Sean Donnelly and John Joe O'Hagan had played on the 1948 Tyrone minor team, while Eddie Devlin, who was selected at left-half-forward against Galway, had participated in both those victories in addition to the 1947 minor triumph. The inclusion of Eddie Devlin, the switching of Frank Donnelly to the left-full-forward position and of Donal Donnelly to the right corner were the only changes from the team which had defeated Cavan in the Ulster final, and as the thousands of Tyrone followers made their way by train, bus and car to Croke Park on Sunday, 12th August, 1956, they were confident that another great chapter was about to be written into the history of Tyrone Gaeldom.

While Tyrone won the hearts of the crowd of 54,000 who saw a thrilling game, they were not to be rewarded with the victory that many thought they might have achieved. The scoreboard, which read: Galway 0-8, Tyrone 0-6, did not reveal the drama, the excitement and the tension which were packed into the last quarter when the Ulster champions strove to get the goal that would have sent them into their first All-Ireland final. Neither did it reveal how near Tyrone came to getting the all-important goal at a critical stage of the game when such a score would probably have given them the confidence they needed to convert their pressure into vital points. Galway won the toss, and playing with a strong, fresh breeze, they went into an early lead when Tom McHugh scored a point after two minutes. Tyrone equalised soon afterwards with a point by Iggy Jones, and then a minute later took the lead with a point from a free by Frank Donnelly. Sean Purcell equalised for Galway with a free in the tenth minute and would have scored a goal immediately afterwards but for a great save by Thady Turbett who was having a wonderful game in the Tyrone goal. Galway went ahead mid-way through the first half with a point by Billy O'Neill and added three more points before half-time from frees by Sean Purcell, Tyrone's only reply being a point from a free by Frank Donnelly after twenty minutes.

Tyrone had every reason to be satisfied with their firsthalf performance and the prospect of a breeze to help them in the second half should have given them the encouragement needed to wipe out a mere three-points lead by Galway. As the first half ended, however, rain began to fall, and when the teams came out for the resumption the wind had died down completely and Tyrone faced the Railway goal without the considerable advantage which Galway had enjoyed in the first half. Heartened by their good fortune, the Westerners dominated the early stages of the second half and scored two points in the twelfth and fifteenth minutes to lead by 0-8 to 0-3. Indeed, had it not been for the brilliance of full-back, Jim Devlin, who held Frank Stockwell scoreless, and the soundness of the remainder of the defence, particularly Sean Donnelly and John Joe O'Hagan, Galway would probably have increased their lead even further before Tyrone struck back.

The revival was led by the diminutive Iggy Jones. Early in the second half, he had threatened danger when he took a pass from Jody O'Neill and weaved his way goalwards through the defence. His shot for goal was blocked down and the rebound was driven wide. He struck again in the sixteenth minute. Tommy Campbell, who had just come on as a substitute, passed the ball to Jones, who raced towards the square along the end line. With the rest of the attack shadowed by the Galway defence, he was forced to go alone from a narrow angle. He picked his spot and fisted the ball towards the net for what appeared to be a certain goal. As it made its way towards the goal-line, Jack Mangan, the Galway goalkeeper, with superb anticipation and brilliant reflexes, grabbed the ball and cleared it out. It was a dramatic moment - relief for Galway, anguish for Tyrone - a moment which may well have meant the difference between victory and defeat. Tyrone pressed on. Frank Donnelly scored two points from frees, one after twenty minutes, the second three minutes later after he had been fouled on the edge of the square and the referee had consulted the umpires about a possible penalty. A further free by Donnelly in the twenty-seventh minute left Tyrone trailing by two

points, and then Galway attacked. In a breakaway movement, they set up a great goaling chance, but two over-eager forwards failed to avail of it. Tyrone counter-attacked and made a last do-or-die effort to get the goal they needed for victory. It was not to be. The Galway defence held out and the final whistle sounded with the score: Galway 0-8, Tyrone 0-6.

It was a great disappointment for a gallant Tyrone team which had fought so valiantly. The national sportswriters paid tribute on the following day to their courage, their speed and their attractive brand of football. "Gallant Tyrone Lose - But Not Disgraced" was the "Irish Press" headline; "Tyrone Rally Thrilled 54,454 Spectators", said the "Irish Independent". The victorious Galway captain described the game as "the longest hour I've ever known in football", while the "Independent" asserted: "Such was the valour of the endeavours of the Tyrone team. . . that I feel that not even the most covetous of Galway men will begrudge the Northerners the solace of asserting that they would surely have at least drawn but for the capricious wind". It is tempting to seek reasons for Tyrone's failure to reproduce the form which had won the Ulster final. Perhaps the truest explanation lies in the fact that, although they gave a great performance, they encountered a magnificent Galway team who proved their worth by going on to score a decisive victory over Cork in the All-Ireland final. It is also true that when two great teams meet a stroke of luck can play a decisive part in determining the outcome. Luck was not on Tyrone's side on this occasion and the result should not detract from a performance worthy of an All-Ireland semi-final and of Tyrone's first senior appearance in Croke Park.

(2) A U.S. Trip National League

The 1956 season ended with continued success. In the Lagan Cup, Tyrone defeated Fermanagh by a huge margin in September in a game in which Frank Donnelly, who was Ireland's top scorer in 1956 and 1957, scored 5-8, an individual record which has never been surpassed in a representative football game. In October they beat Donegal by 4-7 to 0-6 and then met Monaghan in the semi-final. This game, played at Ballybofey on 4th November, resulted in a draw, on the score Tyrone 1-9, Monaghan 2-6. However, Tyrone made no mistake in the replay, winning easily by 1-13 to 0-4. The final with Derry, played at Lurgan on 9th December, resulted in another draw, and once again, Tyrone were successful at the second attempt when they won by 3-6 to 0-9 at Casement Park, Belfast, on 24th March, 1957.

Victory in the Lagan Cup - their first since 1942 ensured a place for Tyrone in the National League semifinal, where their opponents once more were their conquerors in the All-Ireland semi-final - Galway. This second game, played at Croke Park on 14th April, 1957, between two outstanding teams, was no less exciting than the first and kept more than thirty thousand spectators enthralled to the last minute of a thrill-packed hour when Galway had two points to spare over a gallant Tyrone team. The game opened in sensational fashion. Tyrone, playing against the sun and breeze, raced into an early lead when after ten minutes Frank Higgins scored two goals in the space of sixty seconds. Despite intense Galway pressure, Tyrone were still leading by 2-2 to 0-6 at half-time, and with the advantage of the breeze in the second half seemed poised to defeat the champions. Two points in the first eight minutes by Frank Donnelly and Frank Higgins increased Tyrone's lead, and then Galway struck. Scan Purcell, who up to this point had been unable to escape the tenacious tackling of the dominant Eddie Devlin at centre-half-back, switched to mid-field where he snapped up a loose ball fifty yards out and raced towards the Tyrone goal at the Canal end. Catching the defence flat-footed, he crashed the ball into the Tyrone net for a wonderful goal and Galway were back in the game. As the defence panicked and conceded a series of frees, Purcell punished the Tyrone mistakes with two quick points from frees and Gerry Kirwan punched a third point from another perfectly-placed Purcell free. Within the space of five minutes, the course of the game had been changed dramatically. Galway gained complete control at mid-

field and with six minutes remaining led by 1-10 to 2-4 after Purcell had scored from another free. It was then that Tyrone's worth was seen as they battled back bravely. Attack followed attack as Tyrone fought for the equalising score. With two minutes left, it almost happened. As Jack Taggart's searing shot headed towards the Galway net, Jack Mangan flung himself at the ball and turned it round the post. It was a crucial save. The resultant point from the '50' by Pat Donaghy reduced the deficit to two points, but the final whistle sounded as Tyrone continued to attack, and Galway won by 1-10 to 2-5. The Tyrone team was: T. Turbett, P. Corey, J. Devlin, B. McSorley, P. Devlin, E. Devlin, J.J. O'Hagan, J. O'Neill, M. Cushnahan, S. Donnelly, J. Taggart, I. Jones, D. Donnelly, F. Higgins, F. Donnelly. Substitutes: P. Donaghy, S. O'Neill (Clonoe), T. Campbell (Dungannon), T. Fox (Clonoe), M. McKenny (Derrylaughan).

Across the Atlantic

Tyrone's disappointment at their failure in the National League was diminished to some extent by the invitation issued to the team to join Cork and Wexford hurlers on the 1957 trip to New York. For Tyrone, it was a prize which exceeded their wildest expectations. Only a select few counties had ever made the trip across the Atlantic; only Cavan among the Ulster counties had been to America, and no team from north of the Border had ever enjoyed this distinction. They were in exalted company. Wexford, All-Ireland hurling champions in 1955 and 1956, included in their team the three Rackard brothers, while Christy Ring, prince of hurlers and artist supreme, was among the Cork contingent which made the journey.

The tour, which lasted from 29th May until 14th June, was a resounding success. Thirty thousand spectators from New York and all over the United States came to the Polo Grounds, home of the New York Giants baseball club and scene of Cavan's 1947 triumph over Kerry, to see Wexford play Cork in hurling and Tyrone play New York selected in football on Sunday, 2nd June, 1957. Huge crowds flocked too to Gaelic Park, New York, where Tyrone played Cork-Kerry and New York selected teams, giving wonderful displays of fast, exciting football and good sportsmanship on each occasion. It was most unfortunate for Tyrone that their captain, Iggy Jones, suffered a serious injury in the first game in the Polo Grounds. Not alone did it prevent him from taking part in the remaining games of the tour but it effectively ruled him out of Tyrone's 1957 Ulster championship campaign. Apart from this mishap, the tour was a wonderful success. Tyrone, despite Jones' injury, gave an outstanding performance in their opening game against a New York team which included players from all over Ireland and which had gone into special training for the occasion, and the visitors were only narrowly defeated by 1-14 to 2-9 in a game which thrilled the huge crowd from start to finish. Tyrone avenged their opening defeat when they beat New York on the following Sunday at Gaelic Park, by 1-12 to 2-6; in their two other games, they beat a Cork-Kerry selection by 1-7 to 1-5 and lost narrowly once more to New York on the day prior to their departure by 1-10 to 1-6.

The visit, in addition to being a great sporting occasion, was a triumphal tour for the teams who were feted everywhere they went. A special audience with New York's Cardinal Spellman after Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral, a civic welcome by Mayor Robert F. Wagner at the City Hall, a reception and dance given by the New York GAA in the Manhattan Centre, and a banquet given in honour of the Tyrone team by the Tyrone Society in New York under the direction of Deputy Police Commissioner, James McElroy (Augher) - these were some of the highlights of one of the most successful tours ever arranged by the New York GAA. For the thousands of Tyrone exiles and descendants of those who had left "Tyrone among the bushes", the occasion was a memorable one. The county secretary, Paddy O'Neill, paid tribute to them in his annual report when he said: "Our people in New York could not do enough for us and we are deeply grateful to them all, but especially to our Tyrone exiles who overwhelmed us with every kindness. Ably led by Fr. Peter Campbell

(former Tyrone and Ulster footballer), they welcomed us royally, treated us magnificently during our stay and sent us home with regrets at having to leave such wonderful people but with memories that will last us throughout our lifetimes". The Tyrone football club of New York presented a magnificent trophy to the visitors for competition in Tyrone and named it in honour of Fr. Peter Campbell, while the Tyrone Society presented the team and officials with gold watches.

The Central Council representative, Monsignor Hamilton, who accompanied the GAA President, Antrim's Scamus McFerran, to New York, paid tribute in his report on the tour to all three teams for their "manliness, efficiency and gallantry". He wrote: "If the standard and conduct of our players on the field deserves our commendation, a still greater tribute must be paid to them for their courtesy and personal deportment throughout the tour. . . The members of the Tyrone, Wexford and Cork teams, with their officials, have added lustre to the reputations which they have so deservedly won at home. . . The name of Ireland's manhood was enhanced by the excellent decorum observed by the representatives of these three Irish counties. They not only maintained the best traditions of teams visiting New York in the past, but left a standard to be emulated by the visiting teams of the future."

The full Tyrone party which visited New York (players and officials) was: P. Cullen (chairman), P.K. O'Neill (secretary), J. McQuaid (Central Council delegate), G. Brown (trainer), F. O'Neill (Ulster Council), T. Turbett, B. McSorley, J. Devlin, P. Corey, P. Devlin, E. Devlin, J.J. O'Hagan, M. Cushnahan, J. O'Neill, I. Jones (captain), J. Taggart, M. McIlkenny, D. Donnelly, F. Higgins, F. Donnelly, S. Donnelly, T. Campbell, P. Donaghy, S. O'Neill and T. Fox.

(4) Supreme in Ulster, 1957

Second Ulster Title

The pattern of success which Tyrone experienced in 1956 and which achieved a fitting reward with the trip to the U.S.A. in June, 1957, was to be repeated to a remarkable degree in 1957, a year in which Tyrone again won the Ulster senior championship and the Lagan Cup, and added the winning of the Dr. McKenna Cup and the "Gaelic Weekly" Cup to their list of achievements. Two weeks after their return from New York, they met Armagh at Lurgan in the first round of the championship. Armagh had always provided difficult opposition in previous years and this year was no exception. Tyrone were narrow victors by 2-9 to 3-5, but had the misfortune to lose the services of one of their best defenders, Paddy Corey, the victim of a most controversial decision which ruled him out of the remainder of the championship campaign. A win over Donegal at Cavan on 14th July by 3-5 to 2-3 put Tyrone into the Ulster final the first time that they had reached this stage in successive years - and on Sunday, 28th July, they met Derry at Clones for the Anglo-Celt Cup.

It was a thrilling, pulsating game. Derry, wearing the blue of Cavan because of the clash of colours, fielded first, led by their centre-half-back and captain, Jim McKeever. Tyrone were led by Eddie Devlin in the absence of captain Iggy Jones and wore the Ulster provincial colours. From the beginning the sides were evenly matched; at no stage of the game did more than three points separate them. The duel between McKeever at the centre of the Derry defence and Taggart spearheading the Tyrone attack was a classic one, with honours evenly shared. However, Tyrone had the edge at midfield, where Jody O'Neill and Mick Cushnahan gave outstanding performances, and in Eddie Devlin they had a wonderful centre-half-back who broke up successive Derry attacks and sent Tyrone on the offensive.

Derry began in great style and scored an early point; Tyrone equalised through Mick McIlkenny, who was having a fine game at left-half-forward, and then Derry took the lead

again. Tyrone had a great goal attempt foiled by the Derry goalkeeper, Patsy Gormley, and Derry then increased their lead with another point. Sean Donnelly scored a point for Tyrone and then Taggart, gaining possession, cut a passage through the Derry defence and gave an accurate pass to Frank Higgins who crashed the ball to the net. Derry got another point from a free and McIlkenny and Frank Donnelly scored two more for Tyrone, who led by 1-4 to 0-4 at half-time.

O'Connell for Derry and Higgins for Tyrone exchanged points after the re-start, before O'Connell reduced the deficit with two excellent points from frees. Taggart scored again for Tyrone, but then Patsy Breen, the Derry midfielder, joined his forwards in attack and scored two fine points. The scores were level: Tyrone 1-6, Derry 0-9. McKeever urged his men on and launched attack after attack, only to be repelled by Eddie Devlin and by John Joe O'Hagan who was having one of his best games at left-halfback. As the tide of the Derry offensive spent itself, Tyrone countered and scored three points, one by Taggart and two by Frank Donnelly. Derry made a final effort and scored another point, but they were unable to maintain the momentum and Tyrone held on to win by 1-9 to 0-10. The Tyrone team was: T. Turbett, B. McSorley, J. Devlin, P. Donaghy, P. Devlin, E. Devlin, J.J. O'Hagan, J. O'Neill, M. Cushnahan, D. Donnelly, J. Taggart, M. McIlkenny, S. Donnelly, F. Higgins, F. Donnelly. Substitutes were: S. O'Neill, T. Campbell, T. Fox, A. Connolly (Dromore), P. O'Neill (Omagh).

Tyrone v Louth

The joy and exhilaration experienced by Tyrone in retaining their Ulster title were matched only by the disappointment and despondency which followed their subsequent defeat in the All-Ireland semi-final by the ultimate winners, Louth. Hopes were high that the Ulster champions, now seasoned campaigners of considerable experience, would easily overcome the Louth challenge and advance to the All-Ireland final. The first few minutes of the game reinforced these hopes. In the first minute, Jody O'Neill gained possession and passed to Frank Donnelly, who was fouled. From the resultant free kick, Donnelly scored a point. From the kick-out, O'Neill outfielded the Louth mid-fielder, Kevin Behan, and passed to Donal Donnelly, whose fierce shot crashed off the upright and went wide. O'Neill, completely dominant in the centre of the field, gained possession again from the kick-out and this time passed to Iggy Jones who was fouled as he raced goalwards. Jones, who was still recovering from the injury which had kept him out of the Ulster championship, took the free, kicked to Taggart, who withstood the strong tackling of the Louth defence and put Tyrone two points ahead. A minute later, Louth hit back with a point, and then in the seventh minute, Frank Donnelly restored Tyrone's lead after Jones had been fouled.

It was at this point that Tyrone suffered their first stroke of ill-luck, when Donal Donnelly was forced to retire injured after being heavily tackled. His withdrawal had the effect of upsetting the cohesion and the rhythm of the Tyrone attack, and even though his brother, Sean, who replaced him at right-full-forward had an excellent game, his loss seemed to have a most damaging effect on his colleagues. Worse, however, was to follow. At the end of the first quarter with Tyrone leading by 0-4 to 0-2, Jody O'Neill went down with a leg injury. Up to that time, he had been the outstanding player on the field and, with Mick Cushnahan, had completely overshadowed the Louth pairing of Kevin Behan and Dan O'Neill and had provided his forwards with a series of scoring opportunities. After his injury, his effectiveness was completely reduced and he was unable to make any further significant contribution to the game. Tyrone were weakened still further by an injury to Frank Higgins soon afterwards, and Louth, captained by Dermot O'Brien and powered by the now dominant Behan, took control and brushed aside the challenge of their weakened opponents. By half-time, Louth were ahead by 0-6 to 0-5. In the second half, Tyrone succeeded in scoring only two points, while Louth added a further seven to end easy winners on the score: Louth 0-13,

Tyrone 0-7. Louth went on to defeat Cork in the All-Ireland final - their first win since 1912 - and Tyrone had only the doubtful consolation of knowing that their conquerors in both 1956 and 1957 became the holders of the Sam Maguire Cup.

It was indeed a sad day for the county. It is idle to speculate what would have happened had Tyrone not suffered their first-half injuries, or to wonder why the team which had given so many fast-moving, exciting and inspiring displays collapsed so completely in the second half. The fire and enthusiasm which had characterised their performances since they hit the headlines in the previous summer seemed to be missing, and the spirit which had helped to rally them in adversity was scarcely to be seen. It was a disappointing end to a great championship campaign. The Tyrone team was: T. Turbett, B. McSorley, J. Devlin, S. O'Neill, P. Devlin, E. Devlin, J.J. O'Hagan, J. O'Neill, M. Cushnahan, I. Jones, J. Taggart, M. McIlkenny, D. Donnelly, F. Higgins, F. Donnelly. Substitute: S. Donnelly for D. Donnelly.

First McKenna Cup Victory

Although defeated in the All-Ireland semi-final, Tyrone were not yet a spent force, and much of their old fighting spirit returned when they faced their Ulster final opponents, Derry, in the final of the Dr. McKenna Cup at Casement Park, Belfast, on Sunday, 8th September. Earlier in the competition, they had defeated Cavan at Dungannon on 28th April by 1-12 to 0-5, thus confirming their 1956 Ulster final victory, and in the semi-final at Pomeroy in May, they had defeated Fermanagh by 3-10 to 1-7. Derry were without Jim McKeever for this game, while Tyrone fielded without his Ulster final opponent, Jack Taggart, who had retired from inter-county football after the game against Louth. In a game which failed to match the standard of their previous encounter, Tyrone overcame Derry to win the Cup for the first time in their history. To do so, however, they had to overcome a very strong challenge from Derry who took the lead midway through the first half and led by three points after twenty minutes. Then the Tyrone attack found its rhythm. Two points from Frank Donnelly and a third from Sean Donnelly who was having a tremendous game at righthalf-back levelled the scores after twenty-five minutes, and then came a five-minute Tyrone blitz which effectively won the game. Jody O'Neill scored a point, Frank Donnelly scored another, and then Sean Donnelly caught the ball at midfield, ran thirty yards toe to hand and sent a perfect pass to Frank Higgins who scored a fine goal. Des Ryan, a newcomer to the Tyrone team, increased the lead with another goal immediately afterwards and a point by Tom Fox left Tyrone leading by 3-9 to 1-6 at the interval. Tyrone added three points in the second half in reply to Derry's four points and the final score was: Tyrone 3-12, Derry 1-10. The Tyrone team was: T. Turbett, B. McSorley, J. Devlin, S. O'Neill, S. Donnelly, E. Devlin, J.J. O'Hagan, P. Devlin, F. Higgins, I. Jones, M. McIlkenny, J. O'Neill, T. Fox, F. Donnelly, D. Ryan.

Lagan Cup

Tyrone added to their impressive list of achievements the following month when they returned to Croke Park on 13th October to meet Cork in the final of the "Gaelic Weekly" Tournament. They had qualified for this meeting by beating Dublin at Dungannon on 25th August by 1-9 to 0-4. Tyrone were determined to show that their lapse against Louth was only a temporary one. By defeating Cork, All-Ireland finalists in both 1956 and 1957, by 1-7 to 0-7, they regained some of their lost pride and won their first major trophy outside the province of Ulster. Tyrone completed the Ulster treble in 1957 - the first time this feat was ever achieved - when they won the Lagan Cup for a second successive time. After victories over Fermanagh at Irvinestown on 20th October by 2-11 to 0-10, Monaghan at Dungannon on 3rd November by 1-9 to 0-4, and Donegal at Pomeroy on 10th November by 1-10 to 1-7, Tyrone returned to Casement Park on 1st December to meet Down in the final. Down came

to this game as firm favourites after impressive victories over Armagh, Antrim and Derry, and their team, captained by Kevin Mussen, included eight of the players who were to share in the 1960 All-Ireland victory. However, they had to give way to a superior Tyrone team which led for most of the game and won by four points on the score: Tyrone 0-11, Down 1-4. Tyrone owed much to the performances of Jim and Eddie Devlin who were pillars of strength in the defence, while in attack, Frank Donnelly, who scored eight of his team's points, bewildered the Down backs with his deceptive running and his accuracy from frees.

An End to Glory

It was to be the last major triumph of this great team. The opening game in 1958 - against Derry at Ballinascreen in March for the right to meet Galway in the Wembley tournament in London - was a sign of things to come, when Tyrone lost by 1-12 to 1-2. Victory over Cavan in the first round of the Dr. McKenna Cup was followed by comprehensive defeats by Kildare by 3-8 to 1-6 in the National League semi-final in April and by Armagh by 0-10 to 0-4 in the McKenna Cup semi-final in May. Although Tyrone avenged their defeat by Armagh in the first round of the championship, when they won by 1-9 to 0-10 at Dungannon in June, they were humiliated by Down in the semifinal at Lurgan, when they lost by 1-9 to 0-2 on 6th July, 1958. Further defeats - by Galway in the "Gaelic Weekly" tournament in Dungannon in August and by Donegal in the Lagan Cup in October - brought to an end Tyrone's last hopes of winning a major trophy in 1958 and effectively removed them from their pinnacle of greatness in Ulster. 1959 merely served to confirm that position. Beaten by the reigning Ulster champions, Derry, in the first round of the McKenna Cup at Dungannon in April by 1-13 to 3-0, Tyrone survived the first round of the championship by beating Monaghan at Castleblayney by 1-7 to 0-9. However, in the semi-final, they met the rising stars of the County Down, then on the crest of the wave which swept them to three successive Ulster titles between 1959 and 1961 and to two All-Ireland victories in 1960 and 1961. Tyrone managed to hold Down to a draw when they met in Casement Park on 12th July, 1959, on the score of 1-6 each, but in the replay, held two weeks later at the same venue, Down made no mistake, winning by 1-12 to 0-4. They confirmed their superiority two months later at Newry when they again defeated Tyrone, this time in the Lagan Cup, by 1-10 to 0-4. Although Tyrone's last game of the decade ended in victory over Antrim in the Lagan Cup at Coalisland in November, their team which had thrilled tens of thousands in Ireland and in America in a glorious two-year period was now a spent force. The great days of the 1950's were over.

Looking to the Future 1960-1970

(1) Inter-County Competitions A Dismal Record

The disappointing level of achievement of the county team during the last years of the 1950's was to be continued during the following decade when the performance of the team at senior level rarely rose above the mediocre and when it was left to the junior and Vocational Schools' teams to uphold the honour of the county in All-Ireland competitions. Tyrone's record in the senior championship in the 1960's was indeed a miserable one. Defeats by Monaghan and Derry in the first round in 1960 and 1961 respectively were followed by defeat in the Ulster semi-final of 1962 by All-Ireland champions, Down, after a first-round victory over Derry. Tyrone lost to Antrim in the first round in 1963 and again in 1964, and they went under to Down at the same stage in 1965 and 1966. In 1967, they defeated Fermanagh and then Monaghan in the opening rounds, but lost to Cavan in the Ulster semi-final at Irvinestown. Fermanagh avenged this defeat in 1968 when they beat Tyrone in the first round, and in 1969 Tyrone fell once more in the first round - this time to Derry at Dungannon.

The county's performance in the McKenna Cup during this period was only marginally better. Tyrone lost to Derry and Monaghan in the first round in 1960 and 1961, defeated Monaghan and Fermanagh in the first round in 1962 and 1963, but then lost to Armagh in both years in the second round. In 1964, they defeated Fermanagh in a replay and went on to beat Armagh, but subsequently lost to Derry. In 1965 they were defeated by Monaghan in the first round, but in the following year they reached the final after victories over Monaghan and Armagh. Their opponents in the final at Lurgan on 19th June, 1966, were Antrim, and although Tyrone were well on top in the first half, they failed to take their scoring chances and lost by 1-6 to 1-10. Tyrone succeeded in beating Antrim in 1967 and again in 1968, but in both years they lost to Down, the 1968 defeat in November following a drawn game in May. 1969 brought Tyrone nearer to success, but, as in 1966, they failed at the final hurdle - this time to Derry - after victories over Monaghan and Donegal in the earlier rounds.

Minor Team Successes

Although the glorious exploits of the late 1940's were not equalled by the county minor teams, nevertheless the latter part of the decade gave rise to renewed hope for future Tyrone success. In 1967, the Tyrone minor team gave a series of brilliant performances in winning both the Ulster championship and the recently inaugurated minor league. Tyrone defeated Donegal, Derry, Monaghan and Armagh to capture their first league title, while in the championship they defeated Donegal, Derry and Fermanagh to regain a title which had last been won by Tyrone in 1948. It was unfortunate that in the All-Ireland semi-final they encountered an exceptionally talented Cork team and in spite of their best efforts they lost by 0-7 to 3-5 to Cork who went on to capture three All-Ireland championships in 1967-69. In 1968, Tyrone repeated their Ulster minor league success of the previous year with victories over Derry, Donegal, Fermanagh and Antrim, and were unfortunate not to retain their championship title. Having defeated Donegal in the first round, they drew with Derry in the semi-final at Cavan on 30th June, drew again at Lurgan on 7th July and finally lost to Derry on 14th July when they were unable to field at full strength.

In 1969, the minor team once again reached the Ulster final by defeating Monaghan and Donegal, but, as in the previous year, they lost to Derry, this time by 0-5 to 1-9. The impressive performances of the minor teams in 1967-69 and the contributions which former minor players made to Tyrone's junior success in 1968 were due in no small measure to the

untiring efforts of the County Minor Board to encourage the improvement of standards among the younger players in the county. These efforts were to be further rewarded in the 1970's when Tyrone minor teams achieved a remarkable record of success in the Ulster championship and went on to contest three All-Ireland minor finals.

Vocational Schools' Victories

The Tyrone Vocational Schools' team brought further glory to the county when they won the Ulster championship in 1967 and defeated Kerry in the All-Ireland final in Croke Park on 28th May, 1967, to bring Tyrone its first All-Ireland victory in any competition since 1948. The team was drawn from players attending secondary intermediate schools and technical colleges, and this victory was a fitting reward for the strenuous efforts made to promote the GAA by teachers in these schools, in particular Arthur McRory (Dungannon), John McCusker (Dromore) and Michael Brewster (Omagh Technical College) who were responsible for organising and training the team. The victorious Tyrone team was: Con Hagan (Omagh Technical College), Gerry Turbett (St. Patrick's, Omagh), Tom Tierney (Dungannon Technical College), Michael McGirr (St. John's, Dromore), Gerry Taggart, Eugene Mulligan (captain) and Sean McGrath (all Dungannon Technical College), Patsy Barrett (Omagh Technical College), Ben McQuaid (St. Patrick's, Omagh), Frank Daly (Omagh Technical College), Tommy Woods (St. Patrick's, Dungannon), Frank McMahon (Dungannon Technical College), Peter Hagan, Anthony Donaghy and Laurence Kelly (all Omagh Technical College). Substitutes: Martin McCann (St. John's, Dromore) (injured), Kevin Murphy (Omagh Technical College), Michael Gilroy (St. Patrick's, Dungannon), Patrick McGirr (Omagh Technical College), Michael Teague and Martin McNulty (St. John's, Dromore), Jackie O'Neill (Dungannon Technical College).

The promotion of the GAA in these schools was a significant phenomenon in the 1960's and 1970's and was to mark a new and important development in the history of the Association in the county. As early as 1960, the County Convention was alerted to the need to ensure that competitions were organised to cater for the post-primary schools which had been or were being built to provide secondary education for pupils over the age of eleven - in Omagh, Strabane, Dromore, Dungannon, Cookstown, Carrickmore, Ballygawley, Coalisland, Castlederg and Plumbridge. The Tyrone County Board gave practical support by donating, with the consent of the original donor, the National Insurance Shield which had previously been played for among minor teams in Tyrone, for competition among the secondary schools in the North. In 1968, St. John's, Dromore, became the first Tyrone school to win the Ulster Secondary Schools' senior championship. It was indeed fortunate for Tyrone that in their schools they had a number of dedicated and enthusiastic teachers who promoted the GAA among their pupils. Many of these pupils were to share in Tyrone's victories in the All-Ireland Vocational Schools' competitions and in Tyrone's continuing successes in the Ulster minor championship in the early 1970's. The success of 1967 was followed by another victory in the same competition in 1969 when Tyrone beat Dublin in Croke Park in the Vocational Schools' final on 27th April by 0-8 to 1-4. The game was refereed by Dr. Mick Loftus (Mayo). The Tyrone team on that occasion was: Martin Devine (St. Eugene's, Castlederg), Oliver Gormley (Omagh Technical College), Michael McGirr (Omagh Technical College), Brian McGinn (St. Ciaran's, Ballygawley), Alphonsus Nugent (Dungannon Technical College), Frank Quinn (St. Patrick's, Dungannon), Eugene O'Neill (Cookstown Technical College), Gerry Taggart, captain (Dungannon Technical College), Noel Ward (St. Colman's, Strabane), Patsy Hetherington (St. Patrick's, Dungannon), Frank McMahon (Dungannon Technical College), Peter Toal (St. Patrick's, Omagh), Sean Coyle (Cookstown Technical College), Pat Morris (St. Patrick's, Omagh), Martin McRory (Omagh Technical College). Substitutes were: Tony McBrearty (Strabane Technical College), Brian Moss (St. Eugene's, Castlederg), Harry Murphy (Omagh Technical College), Liam Forbes (Cookstown Technical College), Michael McNulty (Omagh Technical College).

All-Ireland Junior Champions, 1968

Tyrone had a further All-Ireland success in the second half of the decade when the county team won the 1968 junior championship under the management of Jody O'Neill, captain of the victorious 1956 team and a regular member of the all-conquering Ulster Railway Cup teams of the 1960's. Victories over Derry and Armagh brought the Tyrone team their first ever Ulster junior title in May, and a well-deserved win over Kerry at Dungannon by 2-9 to 0-8 on 11th August gave Tyrone a place in the All-Ireland home final. Played at Carrick-on-Shannon on 8th August against Mayo, the game resulted in a victory for Tyrone by the narrowest of margins after a thrilling fight-back in the second half. Tyrone won by 3-9 to 2-11 and thus qualified to meet London in the All-Ireland final at Croke Park on 29th September, 1968.

After the thrills of the home final against Mayo, the game against London was something of an anti-climax. Two goals in the first half by Coalisland's John Early helped Tyrone to an almost unassailable half-time lead of 2-6 to 0-1, and a further goal in the tenth minute of the second half by Brendan Dolan ruled out any possibility of a London comeback. Tyrone won comfortably by 3-8 to 0-7. The Tyrone team was: Anthony Gallagher (Donaghmore), Donal O'Neill (Derrylaughan), Peter Coyle (Ardboe), Michael Jordan (Eglis), Seamus Graham (Brackaville), Arthur McRory (Dungannon), Frank McCartan (Carrickmore), Pat O'Neill, captain (Derrylaughan), Charlie O'Hagan (Clonoe), Pat McGonagle (Dromore), Seamus Donaghy (Dromore), Kevin Teague (Ardboe), Frank Donnelly (Carrickmore), Brendan Dolan (Aghyaran), John Early (Coalisland). Substitutes: B. Hetherington (Donaghmore), G. McGahan (Killyman), H. O'Brien (Dromore), M. McGonagle (Owen Roes), J.B. O'Hagan (Ardboe), J. Campbell (Coalisland), P. McGahan (Killyman), V. Daly (Eglis), S. McCartan (Carrickmore), P. McKenna (Omagh).

Second U. S. Trip, 1969

Tyrone's victory in the junior championship led to an invitation being extended by the Tyronemen's Society in Philadelphia to the team to travel to the U.S.A. in April, 1969 to take part in a series of games there. For Tyrone, it was an unexpected climax to a wonderful achievement. The party included three members who had taken part in the 1957 tour - Paddy O'Neill (county secretary), Jody O'Neill (team manager), and Frank Donnelly (playing member on both occasions). It also included two additional players Ignatius Donnelly (Dungannon) and Declan O'Neill (Omagh) - who had missed the final stages of the All-Ireland championship as a result of promotion to the senior team. The tour, which lasted from 17th April - 1st May, was an outstanding success. Tyrone took part in three games against New York All Stars in Gaelic Park, New York, on 20th April, when Tyrone won by 1-13 to 2-8, against a New York selection again in Gaelic Park, on 25th April, when Tyrone lost by 2-11 to 3-12 after extra time, and against a Monaghan team based in New York on 27th April in Philadelphia (at De La Salle High School) when Tyrone won by 2-13 to 0-7. In addition to the fine performances given by the team while in the U.S.A., the visitors had every reason to feel satisfied with the enthusiasm of the welcome given to them by exiles from Tyrone and other parts of Ireland, and with the warmth of the hospitality extended to them both in New York and Philadelphia. They brought back with them as a souvenir of their visit the Aer Lingus trophy which they won in New York and which was to become the reward of the winners of a division of the newly-formed All-County League.

(2) Club Competitions

Senior Football Championship

The senior football championship in the 1960's was dominated by two teams, Clonoe O'Rahillys and Carrickmore St. Colmcilles, who between them won six of the ten championships. Clonoe completed their three-in-a-row in 1960, when they defeated Donaghmore in the final, and went on to win two further titles in 1964 and 1965. These two latter successes were remarkable by reason of the fact that both were achieved by victories in successive finals (in 1965 after a replay) over another team from the same parish, Derrylaughan Kevin Barrys, and the games between them provided some of the great highlights of the championship series during this decade. Clonoe had high hopes of achieving a third consecutive victory in 1966 when they met Carrickmore at the semi-final stage. However, victory for Carrickmore put an end to their ambitions as well as to the prospect of a third consecutive final between these two great rivals from Clonoe parish. Carrickmore, who in 1961 won their first title since 1949 by defeating Moy in the final, achieved another victory in 1966 when they defeated Derrylaughan and their third championship in the decade came in 1969 when they narrowly defeated Coalisland in the final.

Derrylaughan, defeated finalists in 1957 and 1962, lost three successive finals in 1964-66 (that in 1965 after a replay) and finally achieved their first championship victory in 1967 when they defeated Carrickmore, their conquerors of the previous year. Stewartstown, winners of the title in 1924, won their first O'Neill Cup in 1962, while Omagh achieved their only victory of the 1960's by defeating Galbally in the 1963 final. Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa, who were to become a dominant force in the 1970's, won their first title in 1968 when they defeated Coalisland Fianna. The latter, who had achieved championship victories in each of the four preceding decades, contested consecutive finals in 1968 and 1969 but were unsuccessful on both occasions.

The number of teams participating had been reduced to sixteen in 1962 in an effort to improve the standard of the senior championship. A total of thirty teams had taken part in the 1961 competition, and it was felt that the participation of so many teams must necessarily lead to a lowering of standards. Accordingly, it was decided that only eight teams from each District Board area, east and west, would take part, and that a system of promotion and relegation would be introduced into the league competitions. An intermediate football championship was also established in 1962, and a Shield, named in honour of Michael Coney, county secretary from 1923 until 1935, was designated as the trophy for the winners.

Another important change in the 1960's was the introduction of the practice of playing many championship games on Sunday evenings. These years were ones of rapid social change, and the GAA in Tyrone, as elsewhere, had to adapt to the needs of the time. Two factors which had a significant impact on the Association were the spread of television and the much improved methods of communication. Whereas in the past few means of entertainment had been available, the advent of television, and with it the live coverage of important GAA games, provided new attractions to capture the attention of those whose only pastime on a Sunday had been that of playing or watching a game of football. Improved methods of transport also meant a change in the leisure activities of many who, instead of travelling a short distance to a football game, were now able to spend the day at the seaside. The decision to play the games in the evening facilitated attendance and was an important factor in attracting large crowds to the senior championship, which continued to be the major source of revenue to the County Board.

(3) Hurling, Camogie, Handball, Grounds Development Hurling and Camogie

Although a number of attempts were made to promote the development of hurling during the 1960's, the state of the game was little better at the end of the decade than it had been at the

beginning. In 1960, only one club, Dungannon, existed in Tyrone, and little progress was made during the next few years. During 1964, however, a determined drive was made by the Central Council to promote hurling throughout the country, particularly in the weaker counties, and a new scheme was introduced with a view to having a hurling club established in each parish in Ireland by the Centenary Year, 1984. Tyrone took up the idea with enthusiasm. In November, 1964, the County Board decided to set up a special Coiste Iomána, and two months later the chairman of the Ulster Council, Mr. H. Carey, addressed the County Convention and urged that every effort be made to promote the game. As part of the scheme, a levy of £1 was to be collected from each affiliated GAA club, hurling sticks were to be provided at subsidised rates, a grant of £400 was to be available to each county and a coaching course was to be organised at Gormanston College during the month of August.

The Tyrone Coiste Iomána was formed in February, 1965, and immediately set to the task of promoting the game in the county. Half of the grant of £400 was spent on the purchase of hurleys and sliotars and another £1 50 was raised by means of a raffle among schools. In the course of the year, 650 hurleys and about 150 sliotars were supplied to schools and juvenile teams in the county. Four juvenile teams were established - in Moortown, Coagh, Omagh and Dungannon - and a juvenile championship was played, with Omagh emerging as winners. Moortown, Coagh and Omagh also took part in 1965 in a Mid-Ulster minor league, which Moortown won. In the following year, four juvenile teams - Dungannon, Omagh, Moortown and Benburb participated in a juvenile championship which was won by Omagh. Omagh and Moortown also competed in a Mid-Ulster minor league and a junior league was organised with four teams participating. Tyrone took part in the Ulster minor championship in 1966, but after defeating Donegal and Armagh, they eventually lost in the Ulster final to Antrim.

The same four clubs which had participated in the 1966 competitions in Tyrone also took part in 1967, a year in which Tyrone again reached the Ulster minor final. Having beaten Donegal and Armagh (the latter after a replay), they met Down in the final but lost narrowly by 5-2 to 4-2. Hurling, however, still had not made the progress which had been hoped for under the 1964 scheme, and in 1968 a decision was taken to divide responsibility for the game between two bodies - one to look after junior and minor competitions, the other to deal with schools and to run a juvenile competition. The new system, however, achieved no greater success than the previous one. Many junior and minor fixtures were not played, and only Dungannon and Benburb took part in the minor championship. At both junior and minor level, Dungannon participated in the County Armagh league, since no competition was available in Tyrone. A number of coaching courses at Tyrone venues were arranged during the year, but unfortunately some of these were only poorly supported. A slight improvement was evident the following year when three teams - Dungannon, Benburb and Omagh - took part in junior, minor and juvenile competitions, but the decade ended with the expectations which had been generated by the 1964 scheme still largely unfulfilled.

The situation with regard to camogie was no better. No clubs at all existed in West Tyrone during the decade and interest in the east of the county was confined to a few areas. A Tyrone team won the Ulster junior championship in 1962 when they beat Donegal at Dungannon on 30th September by 6-0 to 5-1, and Tyrone recorded another victory in June 1964 when they defeated Derry in the final of the Canon McGuire Cup. However, the report of the 1967 Tyrone GAA Commission had to acknowledge that "6 camogie barely exists... in the county", and it could do little other than to exhort the County Board to turn its attention to the intermediate and grammar schools and to suggest that it "appoint the most influential and persuasive people it can command to make an intensive canvass of these schools" for the purpose of having hurling and camogie established. Like many previous appeals for this worthwhile purpose, this call too went unheeded.

Handball

Apart from two areas - Pomeroy and Loughmacrory the game of handball hardly existed in any part of Tyrone. It was strange that a game which was popular throughout the county in the 1800's failed to make any significant impact during the early part of the twentieth century. Handball had been played on a fairly wide scale in different parts of Tyrone for a long time. There is evidence that two alleys existed in Omagh in 1797, one in Dungannon in 1823 and a handball club in Coalisland in the same year. In 1869, an alley was built near Loughmacrory and another one in Aughnacloy dates from the same period. The game was also played in many parts of the county against gable walls. In West Tyrone, it was popular in Fintona, Dromore, Drumquin, Cloughfin, Brackey, Castlederg, Sion Mills, Carrickmore and Pomeroy, while in East Tyrone there was particular interest in the game in Moy. Accounts survive of handball matches between Sion Mills and Castlederg on 15th August, 1908, Carrickmore and Pomeroy in September, 1909, and Pomeroy and Moy in 1912, but the game appears to have gone into decline around the time of World War 1.

An attempt at revival had been made in the late 1920's and early 1930's. New handball alleys were built in Pomeroy (1927) and Loughmacrory (1932), and Tyrone took part for a number of years in inter-county competitions. In 1935, Packie Begley and Maurice Hughes (Pomeroy) became the first Tyrone players to win a provincial championship when they won the Ulster junior doubles competition. However, with the exception of Pomeroy and Loughmacrory, the level of interest in the game throughout the county was minimal for the next thirty years. During the 1950's, a further attempt at revival was made; a County Handball Board was formed and the facilities at Pomeroy and Loughmacrory were improved. Tyrone gained some successes in intercounty championships, the most notable being Patsy Begley's achievement in reaching the All-Ireland minor singles final in 1955. It was not until 1967, however, that a new handball facility was provided in the county, when an enclosed and covered alley was constructed in Cloughfin (Beragh); two years later, a covered alley was provided in Loughmacrory. While interest in these centres remained at a high level, the same could not be said of the rest of the county and another decade was to elapse before the influence of the game was to be extended beyond these areas.

Grounds Development

One of the most significant achievements of the GAA in Tyrone during the 1960's was the development of new playing pitches and other facilities throughout the county. Apart from the three County Grounds at Dungannon, Pomeroy and Coalisland which had been opened in 1947-49, and the Cardinal MacRory Park in Dunmoyle (Ballygawley) which was opened in 1956, little had taken place before 1960 by way of acquisition and development of club grounds. Particularly with the advent of television and the attractions of other means of entertainment, it became more and more necessary for clubs to provide modern facilities for players and spectators alike. Clubs too became more aware of the need to own their own premises which they could then develop as finances became available. In 1967, a Grounds Committee was set up by the County Board, and soon a very extensive survey of existing playing pitches was carried out by an extremely hard-working Committee. By 1969, a comprehensive report had been prepared, in which the Committee drew up a programme for development over a five-year period, made a tentative grading of all grounds, and made suggestions and recommendations with regard to the improvement and development of individual grounds. It was able to report with satisfaction on many of the improvements which had already been carried out by clubs during the 1960's and on a number of new developments which were already at the planning stage. Many of these were to come to fruition in the early part of the 1970's, and they were to provide inspiration and encouragement to other clubs to undertake similar projects.

(4) The 1967 Commission Major Recommendations

The standard of football throughout the county at club level, the failure of the county team to make an impact in senior competitions, the need for improvement in methods of communication, the rivalry that existed between East and West and the problems of administration of a growing organisation - all these factors combined during the 1960's to make many people associated with the GAA in Tyrone feel that it was becoming necessary to take a major look at the Association and to review every aspect of its operations. It was against this background that the County Convention, on 22nd January, 1967, adopted a resolution from the Coalisland Fianna club that a Commission be set up "to advise, after a thorough impartial investigation into all aspects of the Association within the county, how the aims and purposes of the Association may be attained". It also decided that after the Commission had prepared its report a special Convention should be held to discuss its findings and to decide on a course of action. The Commission appointed consisted of the following members: Fr. Peter Hughes, CC, (Rock) (chairman), John Anderson (Pomeroy) (secretary), Andrew Montague (Dromore), John Devlin (Dungannon), Frank Donnelly (Carrickmore), Iggy Jones (Dungannon), Arthur McRory (Dungannon), Tom McKeagney (Augher), Dermot Conway (Coalisland) and Billy Melly (Urney).

The Commission met on fourteen occasions during the year and presented its report to a special County Convention in Pomeroy in November. Its major recommendations concerned the future administration of the GAA in the county. It recommended that the East and West District Boards be discontinued and that County Convention elect a County Executive, consisting of seven members - chairman, vice-chairman, secretary/registrar, treasurer, two Ulster Council delegates and a Central Council delegate. This Executive, which would have overall authority in the county, would select from GAA members the personnel of a number of sub-committees - (i) County teams (senior, minor and hurling), (ii) Competitions, (iii) Finance, (iv) Appeals, (v) Referees, (vi) Grounds and Grants. The number of sub-committees could be changed by the Executive according to need; as far as possible, a member of the Executive would act as chairman of each sub-committee, and the number of persons on each subcommittee would be left to the discretion of the Executive. Members of the Executive, with the exception of the county secretary, could hold office for no more than five years.

With regard to minor football, the Commission suggested another dramatic break with the past when it recommended that pupils and former pupils of grammar and intermediate schools, aged 15-18, be formed into minor teams attached to the schools which they attended, that the committee in charge of such teams should consist of two members representing each school and two members representing each senior club in the school's catchment area, and that the competition devised for the school-based teams would constitute the minor competition of the county. The Commission in its report recognised that this recommendation represented a major departure, but pointed out that a great deal of thought and care had gone into its framing and expressed the hope that "the vision of those who see its long-term benefits will be appreciated". The Commission also made general recommendations about club administration, leadership and financing, aimed at improving the overall quality of clubs, about hurling and camogie, training and coaching, social and cultural activities, refereeing and grounds. Most of these were non-controversial and were readily accepted. In addition, a suggestion was made by the Commission to the proposed Competitions sub-committee that an All-County senior football league be established, with two divisions, each of eight teams, and a system of promotion and relegation.

A Negative Reaction

After the detailed consideration which the members of the Commission had given to the various aspects of the workings of the Association and to the recommendations which they made for improvement, they must have been quite unprepared for the hostile reaction which their report provoked. Their opening comments on administration to the effect that "the divisional boards had outlived their usefulness" and that "modern means of transport and communication had rendered their activities both parochial and frustrating" may well have been responsible for the strength of the reaction on the part of those who, over the years, had seen the district boards as the bastions of local democracy and as the guardians of local rights. For thirtyfive years, these boards had presided over the divisional leagues, the early rounds of the championships and the local competitions at senior and junior levels. Club delegates had gathered monthly for the meetings of the district boards to do battle over the referees' reports and to decide on the appeals and counter-appeals which had so often followed the outcome on the field of play. They were determined not to allow their voices to be silenced.

The proposals concerning minor football, to which the Commission had attached considerable importance, were rejected outright by the special Convention held on 15th November. Those concerning county administration attracted much criticism, largely because they failed to give club delegates any part in the decision-making process, and they were referred back for amendment in the light of the comments expressed and for further consideration at the Convention in January. The re-drafted proposals, presented to the January Convention by the Commission's chairman, Fr. Peter Hughes, represented a significant change from the original recommendations. They suggested that two subcommittees should be set up, the first consisting of one member from each senior club under the chairmanship of the county secretary to be responsible for all senior competitions, and the second consisting of one member from each intermediate and junior club under the chairmanship of the assistant secretary to be responsible for all intermediate and junior competitions. A third subcommittee, selected by the County Executive, under the chairmanship of the county chairman, would deal with all referees' reports, protests, appeals, misconduct and other irregularities.

In spite of the fact that these new recommendations had been designed to take account of the need for club representation, the old loyalty to the divisional system, together with the recognition that it had served the county well for a very considerable period, died hard. Several influential delegates, although in favour of promoting allcounty competitions, expressed serious reservations about the administrative arrangements proposed and urged that the proposals should not be implemented. Their opinion carried the day, and by a substantial majority the major recommendation of the Commission was rejected. For the members who had toiled so hard it was a great disappointment. They could not have realised that within six years many of the ideas which they had put forward would be accepted and that the old divisional administration would be replaced by new structures almost identical to those which they had recommended.

The only major recommendation advocating a significant change which survived the criticism of delegates and which was accepted almost unanimously was that which proposed the establishment of an All-County League in two divisions of eight teams each. Perhaps delegates were not fully aware of the consequences of their decision in the long term. With the removal of jurisdiction from the District Boards for the new All-County League, which consisted of the top sixteen teams in the county, as happened in 1969 with the establishment of a separate League Committee, the influence of the divisional Boards was dramatically reduced. They were left to preside over the junior league competitions and the Feis Shield and St. Enda Cup in the East and West respectively. Thus the way was paved for their

eventual disappearance, and it was to be only a matter of time before they were wound up and their powers transferred to an allcounty administration.

The Cherished Dream 1970-1984

(1) Inter-County Competitions (1970's) Senior Competitions

Although Tyrone failed to achieve during the decade the ultimate ambition of a victory in the All-Ireland senior football championship, nevertheless the 1970's brought many notable successes to the county. The senior football team contested two Ulster finals, being victorious in 1973, won two McKenna Cup titles in 1973 and 1978 and won a Division 2 National League title in 1973. Under-21 teams contested six Ulster finals, including five in succession in the years 1971-75, and were victorious twice. Vocational Schools' teams contested three All-Ireland finals, one of them successfully, while the Christian Brothers' School, Omagh, became the first Tyrone school ever to win the Ulster Colleges' senior championship (MacRory Cup) in 1974. In addition, Tyrone minor teams, which won six Ulster titles and played in three All-Ireland finals, won an All-Ireland title in 1973.

1970 opened unpromisingly when the senior team lost in the first round of the championship to Derry at Ballinascreen by 0-7 to 3-12. In 1971, Tyrone again lost in the first round, this time to Armagh at Lurgan. In the following year, however, Tyrone beat Antrim and Derry to reach the Ulster final for the first time since 1957. Playing against Donegal, they put up a fine performance for three-quarters of the game and seemed to have victory within their grasp, but Donegal struck back and got the vital scores that gave them a five-point lead at the final whistle on the score of 2-13 to 1-11. Undaunted by this defeat, Tyrone, captained by Frank McGuigan and managed by Jody O'Neill, went one step better in the 1973 championship. In the first round, they had to travel to Ballybofey to meet their Ulster final conquerors, Donegal. In a tension-filled game, during which Tyrone were reduced to fourteen players, they performed with great spirit and defeated the Ulster champions by 0-12 to 1-7. Victory over Fermanagh at Clones in the semi-final gave Tyrone a place in the Ulster final for the second successive year, and this time they made no mistake when overcoming Down by 3-13 to 1-11 to gain the county's third Ulster senior football championship. Hopes were high that Tyrone could improve on the performances of the 1956-57 teams, but in the All-Ireland semifinal they met a strong determined Cork team whose skills they were unable to match and they lost by 2-4 to 5-10. The team which won the Ulster final was: Liam Turbett (Omagh), Gerry Taggart (Derrylaughan), Peter Mulgrew (Stewartstown), Barney McAnespie (Trillick), Joe McElroy (Ardboe), Mick Jordan (Eglish), Mick Hughes (Killyman), Frank McGuigan, captain (Ardboe), Aidan McMahon (Coalisland), Seamus Donaghy (Dromore), Pat King (Trillick), Patsy Hetherington (Donaghmore), Sean McElhatton (Ldmh Dhearg, Antrim), Brendan Donnelly (Trillick), Kevin Teague (Ardboe). Substitutes: John Early (Coalisland), Pat McMahon (Omagh), Hugh Crawford (Omagh).

Tyrone were unable to maintain the championship standards which they set in 1972 and 1973, and the remaining years of the decade proved a sad disappointment. The tragic death of Brendan Dolan, whose dedication to training was an inspiration to his colleagues, and the loss of the brilliant Frank McGuigan to New York, were severe setbacks from which the team did not easily recover. Tyrone lost in the first round to Donegal in 1974 and to Monaghan in 1975, beat Monaghan but lost to Derry in 1976 and lost to Derry again in 1977 and 1978. In 1979, they succeeded in beating Antrim in the first round, but then lost to Donegal.

In the McKenna Cup, Tyrone achieved two victories during the 1970's. In 1973, they beat Armagh and Fermanagh, the latter after a replay, and in the final they defeated Down by 0-13 to 0-5. In 1978, they beat Donegal and Armagh, then the reigning Ulster champions, before

gaining victory in the final over Fermanagh by 3-7 to 0-15. Tyrone also performed with distinction in the National Football league during this same period. In 1972-73, they won the Division 2 title, reached the semi-final of Division I in 1973-74 when they eventually lost to Kerry, again reached the semi-final in 1974-75 when they fell to the All-Ireland champions, Dublin, and in 1978-79 they finished top of Division I North but lost to Offaly in the quarter-final.

Without doubt, the greatest of these achievements was that of 1972-73 when Tyrone defeated Leitrim, Down, Louth, Armagh, Monaghan and Antrim and drew with Donegal to reach the Division 2 semi-final. In the first appearance of the senior team in Croke Park since 1957, Tyrone, with a last-minute goal, defeated Wicklow by 1-10 to 3-3. In the final, played on 6th May, Tyrone were once more victorious by one point, when they defeated Down, whom they had also beaten earlier in the league competition, by 1-13 to 0-15. However, the National League had not yet been won, for Tyrone had to travel to the U.S.A. in September to play New York for the title. The trip was a highly successful one, with Tyrone beating New York in two games by 1-16 to 1-11 and 2-11 to 1-7 to win on an aggregate score of 3-27 to 2-18. Exiles from the county gave their team a wonderful welcome in New York, with the Tyrone GAA club and the Tyrone Society outdoing each other in hospitality, and the magnificent banquet and reception organised for the visiting team was an outstanding highlight of a memorable tour. This visit to New York in September and October, 1973, was also a fitting climax to what was undoubtedly the most successful year ever in the history of the Tyrone GAA. In that one year, Tyrone won seven major trophies - the Ulster senior, under-21 and minor championships, the Ulster minor league, the Dr. McKenna Cup, the Division 2 National League and the All-Ireland minor championship.

Under-21, Vocational Schools

In the under-21 championship, Tyrone proved unusually consistent during the 1970's. In 1971, they reached the Ulster final by defeating Donegal and Cavan, but then lost to Fermanagh. In 1972, they beat Donegal, Down and Derry (the latter after a replay) to win their first Ulster title, but fell to Galway by 1-9 to 4-5 in the All-Ireland semi-final. In 1973, they again reached the All-Ireland semi-final after victories over Cavan, Derry and Monaghan, but lost to Mayo in a replay by 1-6 to 1-14. In both 1974 and 1975, they beat Cavan and Fermanagh but on each occasion they lost to Antrim in the Ulster final, and in 1979 they defeated Armagh and Cavan, but lost to Down in the final.

The record of the Vocational Schools' team was also a remarkable one. Winners of the Ulster title on four occasions during the 1970's, they won their third All-Ireland title in four years when they beat Clare by 3-11 to 2-7 in the final on 10th May, 1970. In 1974 and again in 1975 they reached the All-Ireland final, but were beaten in turn by Wicklow and Mayo, and in 1976 they were defeated at the semi-final stage by Galway. The victorious 1970 team was: Liam Turbett (Omagh Technical College), Denis Rocks and Dominic Daly (Dungannon Technical College), Felim McKenna (St. Ciaran's, Ballygawley), Ciaran Hagan (Dungannon Technical College), Brian McGinn (St. Ciaran's, Ballygawley), Sean McKnight (St. Patrick's, Omagh), Barry Lowry and Peter Toal (Omagh Technical College), Terry Bonnar (St. Patrick's, Omagh), Patsy Hetherington (Dungannon Technical College), Pat Morris and Tommy Campbell (St. Patrick's, Omagh), Seamus Toal and Peter McDermott (Omagh Technical College). Substitutes: Kieran Currie (St. Patrick's, Dungannon), Pat Sharkey (St. Patrick's, Omagh), Noel Rafferty (St. Patrick's, Dungannon), Joe Traynor (Dungannon Technical College).

Even more remarkable was the consistent record of the minor team which dominated the Ulster scene for the greater part of the decade. Winners of the Ulster championship in 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976 and 1978 and finalists in 1979, winners of the Ulster minor football league in 1971, 1973 and 1974, they reached the All-Ireland final in 1972, 1973 and 1975 and must be considered extremely unlucky not to have won more than one All-Ireland title.

This series of victories began in 1971 when they repeated their achievement of 1967 in winning both the Ulster minor league and championship. In the All-Ireland semi-final, they met Mayo, and seemed poised to advance to the final at the three-quarter stage of the game when they were well on top and ahead on scores. However, they allowed the initiative to be taken from them and were overtaken by a Mayo team who won by four points (3-8 to 0-13) and went on to beat Cork in the All-Ireland final. The following year was to prove a bitter disappointment for a team which was confidently expected to gain Tyrone's first minor title since 1948. After fine performances in the Ulster championship and a convincing win over Meath in the semi-final by 3-9 to 0-9, Tyrone were firm favourites to beat Cork in the final on 24th September, 1972. Captained by Frank McGuigan (Ardboe), who had already attracted attention in the national press for the outstanding all-round ability he had displayed in a series of brilliant performances for Tyrone, the team was one of the best which the county had produced at minor level for a considerable period of time, and Tyrone followers travelled to Croke Park in anticipation of an All-Ireland victory.

Their hopes were not to be realised. In spite of the brilliance of McGuigan at mid-field and Tyrone's marked superiority throughout the field for three-quarters of the game, the team were unable to convert their dominance into the scores which would have put the issue beyond doubt. By half-time, Tyrone had managed to score only one goal and six points, three of the points coming from McGuigan, while many excellent chances were wasted through overeagerness and attempts at goal when points would have been assured. Cork, who availed to the maximum of the limited scoring chances which came their way, were never more than three points in arrears, and a goal by Jimmy Barry-Murphy shortly before half-time left the scores equal at the interval at 1-6 each.

At half-time, Cork made a shrewd positional switch which was to change the course of the game. Their left-halfback, Bob Wilmot, who had been very prominent in defence in the first half and who in addition had made a number of dangerous raids on the Tyrone goal, was moved to mid-field in an attempt to counteract the rampant McGuigan. While the latter continued to hold the upper hand at mid-field and to provide the forward line with further scoring chances, the Cork attack was revitalised by the powerful sallies of Wilmot as he roved deep into the Tyrone defence. Tyrone still had every opportunity of winning the game as they continued to exercise their earlier superiority, but they failed to take their scores and it was Cork who opened the scoring with two points. Tyrone mounted a series of attacks and for a period of almost fifteen minutes they besieged the Cork goal. Their pressure yielded a mere three points. Then Cork struck. Urged on by the dynamic running of Wilmot, they counter-attacked, drew level with a point and almost immediately went into the lead with a goal. Tyrone, galvanised into action by this set-back, scored two quick points to reduce the deficit to one point (1-11 to 2-9). Cork, however, were not to be denied. Just as Tyrone seemed about to regain the initiative, Cork returned to the attack and in a goal-mouth melee were awarded a penalty. Jimmy Barry-Murphy made no mistake; his goal left Cork four points ahead, and less than ten minutes remained. Shattered by Cork's third goal, Tyrone lost their composure and, missed a number of good scoring chances, while Cork added to their lead with two more points (3-11 to 1-11). Tyrone made one last great effort and a brilliantly-executed move by the forward line resulted in a goal to narrow the margin to three points. This flash of brilliance came too late however. As the final whistle sounded, Cork were ahead by 3-11 to 2-11, and Tyrone's dreams of an All-Ireland title had been shattered.

The Tyrone team was: Patsy Kerlin (Owen Roes), Gerry Goodwin (Dungannon), Hugh Mooney (Edendork), Dominic Daly (Killeeshil), Oliver O'Neill (Omagh), Colm McAleer (Beragh), Justin O'Doherty (Omagh), Des McKenna (Augher), Frank McGuigan, captain (Ardboe), Michael Quinn (Stewartstown), Jimmy Hughes (Coalisland), Bosco O'Neill (Clonoe), Tommy Campbell (Omagh), Michael Harte (Ballygawley), Paul Quinn (Aghaloo). Substitutes: Declan Kennedy (Dungannon), Michael Coyle and Frank Grugan (Carrickmore), Joe Cunningham (Pomeroy), Peter Owens (Beragh), Jim McDaid (Omagh), Barry Campbell (Dromore), Martin Lennon (Mldress).

The heartbreak of defeat in the semi-final in 1971 and more particularly in the final in 1972 was perhaps the spur which Tyrone needed to urge their team, managed by Donal Donnelly who was assisted by Arthur McRory, to even greater efforts in 1973. Their passage, however, was not to be an easy one. A one-point victory over Antrim in the first round on 1st July was followed by a narrow win over Derry two weeks later by 2-7 to 1-7. In the Ulster final, Tyrone defeated Down by 1-13 to 0-9, thus qualifying to meet the champions, Cork, in the All-Ireland semi-final. Once again, Cork were to prove difficult opponents, as they swept to a 0-7 to 0-1 lead by half-time. With ten minutes of the game remaining, Cork were still ahead by three points, 0-10 to 1-4, and it seemed as if Tyrone were destined to be gallant losers once more. Then Tyrone attacked. Bosco O'Neill (Clonoe), who had returned from the U.S.A. to attempt to win the medal which had eluded him the previous year, scored two great points to reduce the deficit to one point. With time running out, Scan O'Kane (Strabane) scored the equaliser and Tyrone got the reprieve which their tenacity deserved.

The replay proved to be much easier. After a hesitant first quarter in which Tyrone wasted many chances, a switch was made in the team which proved to be the match-winner. Patsy Kerlin, who was partnering the captain, Des McKenna, at centre-field, went to full-forward, while Bosco O'Neill came to centre-field. The switch worked wonders. Tyrone began to dominate the middle of the field completely, while Kerlin proved to be the scourge of the Cork defence and played a big part in Tyrone's three goals, two scored by Eugene McKenna, the third by his brother Des, which gave Tyrone a three-goal margin of victory on the score 3-10 to 0-10.

Victory over Cork paved the way for an All-Ireland victory. A disappointing Kildare side, which was unfortunate to lose one of its best players through injury in the early stages of the final, proved no match for a superior Tyrone team, and on Sunday, 23rd September, 1973, Tyrone regained the Thomas Markham trophy after a lapse of twenty-five years. From the beginning of the game, Tyrone were masters in every department. Two goals ahead after ten minutes - the first scored by Joe Cunningham (Pomeroy), the second by Scan O'Kane (Strabane) from a penalty - Tyrone led comfortably throughout the game, and apart from a brief spell half-way through the second half when they eased off and allowed Kildare to reduce the leeway to four points, there was never any danger that the All-Ireland title would not return to the O'Neill County for the first time since 1948. The final score was Tyrone 2-11, Kildare 1-6. The victorious team was: Barry Campbell (Dromore), Gerry Goodwin (Dungannon), Martin Lennon (Kildress), Hugh Mooney (Edendork), Scan Gormley (Carrickmore), Colm McAleer (Beragh), Justin O'Doherty (Omagh), Patsy Kerlin (Owen Roes), Des McKenna, captain (Augher), Scan O'Kane (Strabane), Eugene McKenna (Augher), Joe Cunningham (Pomeroy), Michael Quinn (Stewartstown), Bosco O'Neill (Clonoe), Kieran Currie (Edendork). Substitutes: Pat Scullion (Coalisland), Seamus Coyne (Moy), John McGee (Cookstown), Eugene Devlin (Moortown), Tony Marlowe (Augher), Pat McCluskey (Dungannon).

As had happened in 1949 when Tyrone minors, after two successive appearances in All-Ireland finals, lost in the first round of the Ulster championship, so history was to repeat itself in 1974. In the first round, Tyrone lost to Antrim by 1-9 to 1-10 in what proved to be

their only championship defeat by an Ulster team between the years 1970 and 1977. The setback, however, was only a temporary one. In 1975, Tyrone were on the All-Ireland trail again. After victories over Monaghan, Armagh and Cavan, they once again defeated Kildare easily in the All-Ireland semi-final by 4-8 to 2-6 and established themselves as firm favourites. However, appearing in their third final in the space of four years, they failed completely to live up to expectations and lost to a determined Kerry side by nine points. Tyrone appeared to be well placed at half-time, when, after playing against a strong breeze, they trailed by only three points on the score 0-1 to 0-4. The early scores which they needed fell however to Kerry who, inspired by Sean Walsh at mid-field and Jack O'Shea at full-forward, continued to dominate the game. Tyrone succeeded in adding only three points to their halftime score and lost by 0-4 to 1-10. It was a sad blow for what was undoubtedly an excellent team which failed to reproduce its best form on the all-important occasion. The Tyrone team was: Aidan Skelton (Drumquin), Barney Campbell (Ballygawley), Ciaran McGarvey (Aghyaran), Peadar McCallan (Carrickmore), P.J. Treanor (Agher), Kevin McCabe (Clonoe), J.J. Campbell (Dromore), Turlough O'Rourke (Brackaville), Gerry McCallin, captain (Fintona), Peter Teague (Ardboe), Michael McCay (Urney), Paul Donnelly (Agher), Damian O'Hagan (Coalisland), Martin McAnenny (Urney), Seamus Daly (Agher). Substitutes: Sean Donnelly (Trillick), Eamon McCann (Drumragh), Peter Fox (Carrickmore), Jimmy McClochan (Fintona), Paddy Devlin (Coalisland), Frank McMahon (Dromore).

Although Tyrone continued to be a dominant force in Ulster, they did not reach an All-Ireland final in the succeeding years. In 1976, they defeated Monaghan, Armagh and Cavan to win the Ulster title, but lost heavily to their old rivals, Cork, in the All-Ireland semi-final by 1-4 to 3-8. In 1977, they lost to Derry in the first round, but regained the Ulster title in 1978 by beating Derry, Down and Monaghan. As in 1976, however, they were unable to advance beyond the semi-final stage, losing to Dublin by 1-9 to 5-7. 1979 saw Tyrone's last appearance in an Ulster minor final when, after defeating Antrim (in a replay), Donegal and Cavan, they lost to Down by 0-6 to 1-7 - the end of a truly outstanding period of achievement in the annals of youth football in Ulster.

(2) Inter-County Competitions (1980's)

The 1980's began on a successful note when Tyrone won the Ulster under-21 championship and came within an ace of winning a fourth Ulster senior title. The under-21 team beat Armagh and Cavan in the opening rounds, and in the final had a convincing victory over Down, winning by 4-4 to 2-5. In the All-Ireland semi-final, they met Cork in Croke Park on Sunday, 28th September, but after a promising start in the first twenty minutes, they faded badly and lost by eleven points on the score: Cork 3-10, Tyrone 1-5. In the senior championship, Tyrone, after beating Antrim by 1-8 to 1-7 at Casement Park, gave tremendous displays to defeat Donegal by 1-17 to 0-9 at Irvinstown and Cavan by 2-12 to 1-9 at Clones, to reach their first Ulster final since 1973. Their opponents were Armagh, then on the crest of a wave in Ulster and strong favourites to win the provincial championship.

The fact that Tyrone lost by just three points will detract little in the years to come from the memory of a great game. While Armagh won by 4-10 to 4-7, they had to struggle all the way against a Tyrone team which showed enthusiasm, skill, courage and the determination to fight back when all seemed lost. In a game which had many fine passages of good football, eight goals and a breath-taking finish, Armagh just managed to win over a Tyrone team which matched them in every aspect of the game. In the end, it was Armagh's superior experience which enabled them to withstand the fierce Tyrone onslaught in the second half during which they reduced the Armagh lead from eight points to one in a twelve-minute spell. While Tyrone failed to get the additional scores needed to win the title, they won

much admiration for their spirit and determination and showed that they were a force to be reckoned with in Ulster football.

Although they failed to repeat their 1980 performance in the following year when they lost heavily to Monaghan by 0-6 to 2-9 at Castleblayney in the first round of the championship, Tyrone made a strong bid for the Ulster title in 1982. The season began very successfully when Tyrone won the McKenna Cup for the fourth time. Victories over Fermanagh, Antrim and Down put Tyrone in the final against Cavan on 2nd May at Clones, and in spite of wet, wintry conditions, the game produced plenty of fast, exciting football, with Tyrone emerging victorious by two points on the score 1-7 to 0-8. Tyrone had great hopes of adding to this success when they defeated Monaghan in the first round of the Ulster championship and then accounted for Down, the holders, in the second round by 1-12 to 0-11. In a pulsating game of good football, good scores and hectic excitement, the outcome against Down was in the balance until three minutes from the end when Tyrone scored a goal to give them a four-point winning margin. Firm favourites to reach the Ulster final, Tyrone unexpectedly fell to Fermanagh in the semi-final, when they failed to reproduce the form of the Down game and lost by a single point on the score: Fermanagh 1-8, Tyrone 0-10. It was a bitter disappointment for a team which had set its sights on another Ulster championship.

1983 was to prove no more successful. A first round defeat in the McKenna Cup by Down in March was followed by a one-point defeat by Cavan in the first round of the senior championship on the score: Cavan 0-11, Tyrone 0-10. Tyrone lost to Derry in both the minor and under-21 championships. The only crumb of comfort was the acquisition of Tyrone's second Ulster junior championship title by victories over Fermanagh, Donegal and Monaghan. However, Tyrone proved no match for an excellent Dublin team in the All-Ireland semi-final at Rush on 28th August, 1983, and lost by 0-7 to 2-14.

1984 brought new hope, fresh successes and a tinge of sadness and disappointment as Tyrone won further honours but failed at the semi-final stage in their bid to win the Sam Maguire Cup. Promotion to Division One and victory in the Dr. McKenna Cup paved the way for a series of excellent performances in the Ulster championship. On 10th June Tyrone proved their ability to overcome adversity when they recovered from two Derry goals against the run of play to win by 1-13 to 3-4. Two weeks later they defeated Down at Casement Park by 0-10 to 0-5 to reach the Ulster final. At Clones on 15th July they won their fourth Ulster senior title when they defeated Armagh by 0-15 to 1-7 in a game dominated by Frank McGuigan who scored eleven of his team's points. Hopes were high in Tyrone that Centenary Year would be marked by even greater victories, but, as had happened in 1956, 1957 and 1973, Tyrone fell once more in the All-Ireland semi-final - this time to the reigning champions, Dublin. The score of 2-11 to 0-8 in no way reflected the determination, the skill and the fitness of a very strong Tyrone team, which matched Dublin in all departments for most of the game but failed to get the vital scores that might have turned defeat into victory. Once more the hopes that had been raised were cruelly dashed and Tyrone were left to ponder what they must do if the goal of an All-Ireland championship were to be realised.

(3) Club Competitions

Senior Football Championship

Throughout the 1970's, the senior football championship continued to be the main attraction and the decision to play games on Sunday evenings instead of in the afternoon proved to be an extremely popular one. While Tyrone supporters were intensely loyal to their county teams, the greatest fervour and enthusiasm of the ordinary GAA follower was still reserved for those tests of strength between the rival clubs, and the struggle for the O'Neill Cup continued year by year to attract the crowds in increasing numbers.

Three clubs - Ardboe, Carrickmore and Trillick dominated the competition in the 1970's and between them won eight of the ten titles, the other two being won by Eglish and Augher. Eglish, a relatively young club which had risen from junior ranks, won their first ever O'Neill Cup in 1970 when they defeated Augher in the final. It was the first appearance of both clubs at this stage of the competition. Augher appeared in their second final in 1973, when they were defeated once again, this time by Ardboe, but they succeeded at the third attempt three years later when they gained revenge on their conquerors of 1973.

For Ardboe, the years 1971-73 marked the period of their greatest triumphs, when they achieved three successive victories - over Carrickmore in 1971, Stewartstown in 1972 and Augher in 1973. They were succeeded as county champions by Trillick, who bridged a gap of thirty-seven years in winning the 1974 championship. Trillick gained their third county title the following year when they overcame a gallant Owen Roes team from Leckpatrick/Donemana. It was the first appearance of a North Tyrone team in a senior county final since that of Strabane in 1945, but they were unable to equal the feat of that Strabane team and had to be content to be runners-up to a very clever and talented Trillick team.

The last three years of the decade were dominated by Carrickmore who defeated Dromore in 1977 and again in 1978 and who overcame Fintona in the 1979 final. Dromore, appearing in their first final since their defeat by Coalisland in 1946, failed to win the O'Neill Cup by only a single point in 1977, and failed again at the last hurdle in the following year. For Fintona, too, it was a matter of one point which meant the difference between defeat and their first county championship in forty-one years. Carrickmore, defeated finalists in 1971 and 1974, made ample amends for those earlier defeats by winning their ninth senior title in 1979 and achieving three successive victories in 1977-79. Trillick extended their list of championship victories to five by wins over Omagh in the 1980 final (after a replay) and over Ardboe in 1983. Derrylaughan won their second title in 1981 by defeating Carrickmore, whom they had also defeated in 1967. Augher, winners in 1976, won a second title in 1982 by defeating the luckless Dromore in the final.

All-County League

The introduction of the All-County League in 1969 and its extension to all clubs in 1975 was a most important element in the development of club competitions in Tyrone. For the first time, clubs had the opportunity of competing regularly against other clubs from every part of the county. In addition, the league, with its system of promotion and relegation, assumed a far greater importance than the earlier divisional competitions and ensured that for most clubs in all divisions interest was maintained right up until the end of the season. However, like the senior championship, the top division of the league was dominated from its inception by a limited number of clubs. In the fifteen year period between 1969 and 1983, Ardboe won Division One on six occasions (1970, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1978 and 1981); Trillick were victorious four times (1973, 1977, 1982 and 1983), while Carrickmore were the winners in 1969 and again in 1979. The only other winners were Stewartstown (1971), Eglish (1976) and Omagh (1980). The other major competitions introduced were the Joe McGarrity Cup, presented to Tyrone by the GAA in Philadelphia, and the Jim Devlin Cup, played to raise funds for the new headquarters building in Croke Park as part of Tyrone's contribution to the Ceannarus funds, and named in honour of the great fullback of the 1956-57 era, who with his wife was tragically gunned down in 1974.

Referees

It would not have been possible to promote the development of Gaelic games within the county without the assistance and active involvement of a large band of dedicated and

competent referees. Particularly since the beginning of the 1960's, strenuous efforts were made to improve the standard of refereeing throughout the county. The establishment of District Referees' Boards and a County Referees' Board, the setting up of coaching courses and the organising of other activities aimed at improving the skills of referees were important factors in recruiting and training new referees and increasing their expertise. Tyrone referees were prominent both at county and at provincial level in organising courses, seminars and other meetings aimed at improving standards. The growing expertise of Tyrone referees was acknowledged by their appointment to take control of a number of important games. In 1972, Paddy Devlin was appointed to referee the replay of the AllIreland senior football final between Offaly and Kerry; in 1973, he refereed the games between Offaly and the AllStars in San Francisco; again in 1974 he refereed the senior final between Dublin and Galway. Jack Martin, in addition to refereeing senior provincial finals in Ulster, Munster and Connacht, also refereed an All-Ireland minor final and two All-Ireland under-21 finals. Gerry McCabe refereed the 1979 All-Ireland under-21 final, while Jack Heaney was in charge of the 1982 All-Ireland minor final. While only a small number of referees have been recognised at this level, the contribution made by all those, who turned out week after week to referee a programme of games for fifty clubs with teams from under-12 to senior level, has been enormous and has played a significant part in keeping the games in a strong and healthy condition throughout the county.

(4) Hurling, Camogie, Handball

Hurling

While attempts had been made in the 1960's to revive hurling in Tyrone and a development scheme had been launched in 1964, it proved almost impossible to make a significant impact on the progress of the game in the county, and the number of teams continued to remain in single figures. In 1970, only one club - Dungannon - fielded a minor and junior team and had to seek competition in neighbouring County Armagh. 1971 saw the re-appearance of Omagh on the hurling scene, and teams from Omagh, Carrickmore and Dungannon took part in youth competitions with teams from Enniskillen and Irvinestown, while Moortown entered a team in the junior championship. Little progress was made in 1972-74, but in 1975 Killyclogher participated in competitions for the first time in many years.

In 1976, Tyrone achieved a very modest success at intercounty level, when the minor hurling team reached the Ulster final. In 1978, two new teams took part in competitions - Dunamanagh at senior level and Clonoe at juvenile level - and a new scheme was launched aimed at attracting the secondary schools to take up hurling. This, together with participation in coaching courses and in the annual Feile na ngael, helped in some ways to improve the standard of the game but did little to increase the number of clubs willing to take an active part in developing hurling. In 1980, a senior team from Coalisland and juvenile teams from Strabane and Omagh were established, in 1981 a senior team was set up in Pomeroy, in 1982 the Moortown club was revived after a lapse of some years and in 1983 a juvenile team was established in Beragh. However, in spite of almost twenty years of endeavour, Tyrone achieved no success at inter-county level in Ulster, the weakest of the four provinces. Only eight clubs - Dungannon, Dunamanagh, Moortown, Pomeroy, Killyclogher, Beragh, Omagh and Carrickmore - are actively involved in club competitions, and very much remains to be done before Tyrone can take its place among the "hurling counties" of Ireland.

Camogie

Camogie, unlike hurling, did not have to compete with another game for the loyalty of its players and made gradual and steady progress during this period. One club above all others dominated the scene. Eglis, founded in 1966, won the county championship in that year and

maintained their superiority right up until 1976 when their progress was halted for the first time by Edendork. In that year, five clubs were in existence in Tyrone - Edendork, Eglish, Clonoe, Eskra and Aghyaran. Because of the distance from other Tyrone clubs, it was necessary for Aghyaran to seek competition against Fermanagh clubs. In 1977, six teams took part in Tyrone competitions - Beragh, Derrylaughan, Eglish, Edendork, Eskra and Pomeroy - and in the following year a club was established in Carrickmore. In 1979, there was a further increase, with teams from Aghyaran, Aghaloo, Kingsisland and Galbally participating in senior competitions and a team from Dungannon taking part in minor competitions. In this year too, five Tyrone players - Arm Jordan, Ursula Jordan and Maureen Ogle (Eglish), Teresa Kelly (Carrickmore) and Josephine McLaughlin (Dungannon) - assisted an Ulster camogie team to its first ever victory in an inter-provincial series. In 1980, a total of twelve clubs took part in the senior league and for the first time it became necessary to divide the competition into two divisions - one in which Eglish, Edendork, Carrickmore and Derrylaughan took part, the other in which Aghaloo, Beragh, Brackaville, Eskra, Kildress, Kingsisland, Pomeroy and Omagh participated. Dungannon and Ballygawley also took part in the minor competitions. Moortown entered a team in 1981, but were unable to continue in 1982 when Edendork and Brackaville also lapsed and were replaced by Augher, Galbally and Gortin. Teams from Dromore and Tattyreagh took part in competitions in 1983.

The increase in the number of clubs in such a relatively short time was matched only by the success of the Tyrone camogie team in inter-county competitions. In 1980, Tyrone defeated Down, Armagh and Antrim to win the Ulster Junior "A" championship and went on to defeat Louth, the Leinster champions, in the All-Ireland semi-final. Although they subsequently lost to Cork by 4-4 to 1-4 at the last hurdle, the appearance of a Tyrone team in an All-Ireland camogie final was a tremendous boost to the game in the county and an indication of what was possible through perseverance and dedication. It was to be followed by another notable achievement in 1982 when Tyrone defeated Donegal, Derry, Roscommon, drew with Cavan and defeated Carlow to reach the final of the National Junior League.

Although defeated by Dublin at this stage, they had every reason to be pleased with their fine performance and with the tremendous advances which camogie had made in Tyrone and which had resulted in two final appearances within a period of two years.

Handball

Significant progress was also made in handball during this period, which witnessed a complete transformation in the kind of facilities available, a marked increase in the popularity of the game and some important successes in inter-county competitions. The greatest of these was the victory of Mick Conway (Loughmacrory) in the All-Ireland junior softball singles competition in 1970. Although this was the only major national title which came to Tyrone, many players from the county, particularly younger players, won Ulster titles in the 1970's and early 1980's and served notice that they would be a force to be reckoned with in the future.

The increasing popularity of the game must be attributed in no small way to the excellence of the facilities provided in a number of centres in the years 1978-83, which enabled handball to be played at all times of the year, regardless of weather conditions. In addition to the 60' x 30' courts in Pomeroy, Loughmacrory and Cloughfin, five new covered 40' x 20' courts, designed to meet international standards, were provided in Drumquin, Pomeroy, Beragh, Loughmacrory and Omagh Leisure Centre. These top-class facilities attracted considerable numbers of young players to the game, and in 1982 forty-four different county championship competitions were organised in Tyrone to cater for all ages from under 12 to over 50 years. The strength of handball among the younger players was demonstrated clearly in 1983 when Tyrone came very close on two occasions to winning All-Ireland titles. In the 40' x 20'

under-16 doubles final at Croke Park, the Tyrone pair were beaten by a single ace in the final game, while the under-21 doubles team were beaten by the same margin in the All-Ireland semi-final at Clarecastle, Co. Clare, by the eventual champions. The Tyrone juvenile coaching programmes, the leagues among Gaelic football clubs and the inter-county exchange programmes are now the envy of the traditionally strong handball counties of Ireland. With increasing interest in and enthusiasm for the game, with a well-organised handball committee and with a growing number of good facilities in Tyrone, handball would appear to be assured of a bright future in the county.

(5) Grounds, Communications, Scor

Grounds Development

The provision of good facilities for football was, of course, one of the priorities of the County Board during this period. In the course of the 1970's, the development of playing pitches and other facilities continued apace. Many clubs, which previously had rented football fields, purchased and developed their own grounds; others embarked on ambitious development schemes. The hard work of a dedicated and enthusiastic Grounds Committee was responsible to a great extent for the pressure exerted on clubs to ensure the provision of facilities up to a minimum standard. This Committee, under the chairmanship of Paddy Cullen and with an energetic secretary in Paddy Duffy (Ardboe), surveyed each ground in the county and in 1973 produced a detailed report on the situation. It recommended that as from 1974 no playing field in Tyrone should be allowed to cater for Gaelic games unless it was enclosed and properly fenced. It also recommended that among the facilities which each club should provide would be a proper playing field, dressing rooms with showers and toilets, a referee's room, press facilities, and a Community Centre where members of the club could meet and have social contact.

While only a few clubs took up the idea of providing a Community or Social Centre, almost all attempted to provide the other facilities. By the end of 1983 over thirty clubs had purchased their own grounds and the vast majority had vested them in the GAA. In addition, there was a major development programme, aimed at providing good playing and training facilities for players and good accommodation for spectators. Extensive developments took place at each of the three county grounds - Coalisland, Dungannon and Pomeroy - and a magnificent new county ground was opened and developed in Omagh. A huge building programme was undertaken, resulting in the provision of facilities on a scale hitherto unknown in the county. This programme, achieved as a result of very heavy financial expenditure and much effort on the part of many voluntary workers, has in the space of little more than a decade transformed the face of the GAA and must represent one of the most significant achievements of the Association in Tyrone in recent years.

Communications

It became clear to a number of people in the GAA in Tyrone in the early 1970's that the Association was failing badly in the area of communications at local level. With the mass-appearance of television coverage of sporting events and the glossy and well-illustrated magazines which were freely available for other games, it was seen that there was a need to provide a good quality publication which would have widespread appeal. It was to meet this need that the first Tyrone Gaelic Games Annual appeared at the beginning of 1974. By any standards, it must be regarded as an unqualified success. The quality of the articles, containing detailed records and photographs of Tyrone's achievements in 1973 as well as reports on many aspects of the Association in the county, and the general lay-out and presentation, made it a most attractive publication and a treasured item throughout the length and breadth of the county. This first Annual was produced through the initiative of two clubs Dromore and Killyclogher - who, having failed to convince the County Convention that this

undertaking was a viable proposition in a county such as Tyrone, decided that it was necessary to give a lead in what they rightly regarded as a most important means of promoting the image of the GAA.

It was a bold undertaking, requiring much time and voluntary effort, and it was followed in 1975 by another Annual of an equally high standard, again produced by the Dromore and Killyclogher clubs. After a lapse of a year in 1976, the Annual appeared again the following year, now backed for the first time by the full support of the County Board, which had come to realise the importance and viability of publications and had set up a Communications Committee. Although no Annual was produced in 1979, this year witnessed the launching of a new monthly news-sheet, "Nuacht", which since that time has been a most valuable medium of communication for the GAA in Tyrone and which has continued on a more regular basis the excellent work which the Annual had begun. Now a regular feature of the GAA scene in Tyrone, the Annual is an excellent record of the main events in Tyrone GAA over the decade since its inception and in years to come will be referred to as an important source of information concerning the period.

The Association had in other ways also realised the importance of good communications. In addition to "Nuacht", and "Nuacht na n0g", which was specially aimed at the younger generation, the County Board became aware of the need for, and the value of, good County Final programmes. In 1966 and 1967, the Carrickmore club had given a lead when it produced the first such programmes and the idea was taken up enthusiastically by the County Board in subsequent years. Since then, an attractive programme has appeared for each final, which, in addition to being a most important souvenir of the occasion, has encouraged clubs to research their history and present items on aspects of their clubs for inclusion in the programme. The production of a fixtures booklet was also an important development in ensuring effective communication. A number of clubs have produced attractive brochures in connection with the official opening of their parks. Within the past few years, some clubs have devoted considerable time and effort to the publication of club histories. The most notable of these were Omagh St. Enda's, Edendork St. Malachy's and Carrickmore St. Colmcille's on the occasion of their golden jubilee celebrations. The Carrickmore publication received the 1983 McNamee Award as the best club history in Ireland. Many other clubs are currently engaged in compiling their history for publication. Finally, in connection with GAA publications, reference must be made to the county secretary's excellent reports, particularly those of recent years, which contain an account in great detail of club and county competitions, reports on all major aspects of the work of the Association within the county and reports from the sub-committees of the County Board. These alone will ensure that a detailed record of the activities of the Association in Tyrone will be preserved for posterity.

While the GAA itself was aware of the need for good communications, the local press in Tyrone was equally alert to the attraction of good coverage of sporting events. Since the 1930's, the "Ulster Herald" and the "Strabane Chronicle", the "Dungannon Observer" and the "MidUlster Observer", and, more recently, "The Democrat", have afforded widespread coverage to Gaelic games, and have been an important element in developing and promoting an interest in the GAA. In turn, the coverage given to these games has always been a strong selling point for all these newspapers. Secretaries of the County and District Boards have in successive years acknowledged with gratitude the debt owed to them by the GAA for their generous and sympathetic attitude to the affairs of the Association.

Scor

One of the most important developments which took place in the GAA during the period was the new emphasis given to social and cultural events, particularly the establishment of the

Sc6r competitions. The GAA had of course always been closely associated with the promotion of social activities. In 1933, the first Tyrone County C@ili had been organised by the County Board, and for many years afterwards the annual C@ili was regarded as one of the highlights of the GAA calendar. At local level, Irish dances and concerts, in addition to being an important source of revenue for clubs, were often the main outlet for entertainment, especially in the rural aeas. The enormous changes which took place in the 1950's and 1960's in the field of entertainment, particularly the growth of the showband business, had a dramatic effect on Irish social life, and for a time it almost seemed as if some of the traditional social pastimes might disappear.

The introduction of Sc6r in 1970 was a most important element in the promotion of many aspects of the Irish cultural heritage. Organised at club, county, provincial and national level, it sought through the holding of competitions to revive and sustain interest in Irish music, dancing and recitation. From the beginning, Tyrone took a very active interest in the promotion of Sc6r and Sc6r na nOg. While not all clubs have been equally active, nevertheless the level of involvement has been significant, and the crowds attending the various competitions are evidence of the interest shown in this aspect of the work of the GAA. Tyrone's participation was rewarded with the acquisition of a number of All-Ireland titles. In 1973 Damian Turbett (Omagh) won the adult Solo Dancing competition, in 1978 Denise McMullan (Donaghmore) won the Sc6r na nOg Recitation competition, while the outstanding performances of the Omagh St. Enda's dancers were rewarded with the acquisition of the 8-Hand Adult Figure Dancing titles in 1976, 1978 and 1982 - the result of tremendous work for the promotion of Irish dancing in the Omagh area over a very considerable number of years.

(6) Organisation and Finance

1973 Commission

Although most of the recommendations put forward by the 1967 Commission had been rejected at that time, nevertheless an awareness of the need for changes in the administrative system of the GAA in Tyrone continued to exist. The All-County League, which had been set up in 1969, was clearly seen to be operating successfully, the rights of representation of participating clubs had been safeguarded by the establishment of a League Committee, and the District Boards had been considerably weakened by the removal of a significant part of the functions which they had previously exercised. It was no surprise therefore that a motion, put forward by the Killyclogher club, that another Commission be set up "to deal with the affairs of the GAA in the county with special reference to leagues and administration" was readily accepted by the County Convention in January, 1973. The Commission appointed was: Pat McCartan (Beragh), chairman, Eddie Campbell (Coalisland), Dermot Conway (Coalisland), Henry Daly (Eglish), John Dooher (Eoghan Ruadh), Bertie Foley (Dungannon), Brendan Harkin (Killyclogher), Peter Harte (Ballygawley), Eddie Laird (Pomeroy), Jim Mackin (Aghyaran), Eddie McCaffrey (Omagh), P.J. McClean (Ballygawley), Jody O'Neill (Coalisland) and James Treacy (Clonoe).

The most important recommendations resulting were that the District Boards would disappear and a new County Executive consisting of eleven members would be elected directly by the County Convention; all adult league football would be on an all-county basis, would be played in five divisions and would be controlled by a League Committee on which all clubs would have representation. This new League Committee would replace East and West District Boards and the All-County League Committee, all of which had been running league football competitions. Teams in Divisions One and Two would play for the senior championship, those in Divisions Three and Four would play for the intermediate championship and those in Division Five would play for the junior championship. Reserve leagues would also be played in each division.

The County Executive would be composed of a chairman, a secretary, a treasurer, a Central Council delegate, two Ulster Council delegates and five other members. Eight of the eleven Executive members (excluding the chairman, secretary and Central Council delegate) would act as chairmen of various sub-committees which would take charge of a number of aspects of administration, including finance, culture, refereeing, fixtures, appeals, grounds, youth and public relations. It was also recommended that the term of office of the chairman should be restricted to a maximum of three years in succession.

Unlike the situation which had arisen in 1967, the major recommendations of the Commission were more closely in line with the thinking of members throughout the county and were largely accepted at the County Convention held in Coalisland in January, 1974. A number of important recommendations dealt with grounds, youth, club structure, hurling, handball and camogie, and many of these were implemented gradually over the period since 1975. The changes represented a major departure from the system of administration which had been in operation since the early 1930's and their implementation in 1975 brought to an end the time-honoured divisional structure which had served the county for more than forty years. With the demise of the district boards, there disappeared also in 1975 two of the major competitions which had been organised by those boards - the St. Enda Cup in the West and the Feis Shield in the East. With a number of minor modifications which were introduced since 1975, the system of organisation of games and administration has continued in operation in the form proposed by the Commission.

Administration

Major changes took place not alone in the structural organisation of the Association but also in the personnel involved. At the end of 1976, Paddy O'Neill, who had been secretary of the County Board for the whole of the period since 1950, retired from his post. It would be impossible to over-estimate the contribution which he made to the GAA in Tyrone during his period as secretary. A former playing member and captain of Dungannon Clarkes, a member of many Tyrone senior county teams during the 1940's including the first team to win the Lagan Cup in 1942, he assumed the secretaryship of the County Board in 1950. A most efficient secretary, who paid great attention to every detail, his influence extended into all elements of the work of the GAA. For a period of twenty-seven years, he was the guiding hand behind most of the important decisions which were taken with regard to the organisation, promotion and development of the GAA in Tyrone. His mastery of every aspect of finance was second to none, and his wise guidance in financial matters was one of the major factors which enabled the Association in the county to make ends meet during a long and difficult period. There can be no doubt that the success of Tyrone at inter-county level, the development of grounds and playing facilities throughout the county and the restructuring of the GAA in the county to meet changing needs were attributable in large measure to the promptings of a man who was totally dedicated to everything the Association stood for and who was unswerving in his determination to promote and foster the Association's work in Tyrone. Although he retired from the post of secretary in 1976, he continued to make an enormous contribution to the GAA in his capacity as delegate to the Central Council and as organiser of Ciste Gael in Tyrone. Many clubs throughout the county will in years to come have reason to be grateful to the man who masterminded the back-to-back loan scheme, which ensured that the funds accruing from Ciste Gael, were ploughed back into club development. Many more clubs will be grateful for the substantial profit which they obtained from the scheme which he promoted with such dedication and enthusiasm.

His term of office was exceeded in length only by that of Jim Casey, who was treasurer of the County Board from 1952 until his untimely death while still in office in 1981, with the

exception of one year (1975). Quiet, unassuming and absolutely efficient, he looked after the finances of the county for a period of almost thirty years. His sudden death in the summer of 1981 was a sad loss to the county which he had served so well.

Another important change in administration took place in 1975 at the same time as the introduction of the new organisational structure in the county, when Pat McCartan (Beragh) succeeded Paddy Corey (Brackaville) as county chairman. Paddy Corey, who had succeeded Paddy Cullen in 1970, had, like his predecessor, given long and dedicated service to the GAA in Tyrone, both at District Board and County Board level. Pat McCartan was the first of the new chairmen to whom the new three-year rule applied. His term of office extended from 1975 until 1977, and he was succeeded in the period 1978-80 by James Treacy (Clonoe), who in turn was succeeded in 1981-83 by Brendan Harkin (Killyclogher). James Treacy became chairman again in 1984. Jim Casey was succeeded as treasurer by Paul Doris (Drumragh), who had been vice-chairman of the Board in 1978-80. Paddy O'Neill's successor as secretary was Dermot Conway (Coalisland), who had been assistant secretary and who in the period 1977-83 continued with efficiency and dedication to co-ordinate the many and varied activities of what had become a highly complex and sophisticated operation. His detailed reports to Annual Convention were models of clarity and comprehensiveness and will in years to come provide a fund of information for future chroniclers of the fortunes of the Association in Tyrone. He was succeeded at the beginning of 1984 by the outgoing chairman, Brendan Harkin (Killyclogher).

Finance

One of the major problems which the GAA had to face in the period under review was that of increased expenditure and the need to raise sufficient funds to deal with the many expenses involved, particularly in the running of teams. In order to field teams at senior, under-21 and minor grades in league, championship, Dr. McKenna Cup and other competitions, involving in many cases lengthy distances and at times overnight accommodation, it became necessary to ensure that a substantial amount of finance was raised each year to meet all the running costs of the organisation. With so many teams taking part in the various competitions, significant additional costs were involved in training. In the year 1983 alone, the total expenses for the county senior football team amounted to more than £10,000. Not alone were the running costs of the county increasing progressively, but clubs also were faced with rising costs, fielding as they were in some cases teams at every level from under-12 up to senior grade, and in some cases also fielding hurling and camogie teams. The raising of finances therefore and the whole question of financial administration took on a new dimension. The greater portion of expenses for county teams and for administration continued to be met by gate receipts from senior football championship games within the county and these remained the most important single source of income for the activities of the Association. In 1983, the nett income from these games was over £14,500, far in excess of any other source of income.

However, the County Board realised in the early 1970's the need to provide other sources of income, and, largely influenced by their long-serving Ulster Council delegate, Frank O'Neill (Coalisland), were quick to see the advantages of the Ciste Gael scheme, which was first introduced in 1973. The major benefit of the scheme for clubs was that they were allowed to retain for their own purposes the greater part of the funds collected, that a small proportion was retained by the County Board and that only a small amount went out of the county in order to finance administration and prizes. From the beginning, Tyrone embraced the scheme with wholehearted enthusiasm. Under the guidance and direction, first of Frank O'Neill, who became County Co-ordinator of the scheme, and then of Paddy O'Neill, who himself took responsibility for its administration, Tyrone soon became one of the top subscribers in the country to Ciste Gael. The benefits accruing to clubs can be gauged from

the figures produced in the county secretary's report in January, 1983, which listed the total benefits to clubs and the County Board during the period November 1973-December 1982 inclusive. In that ten-year period, a total of forty-five clubs had a cash return of over £180,000, while the County Board had a return of almost £36,000. In addition, a total of £125,000 in prize money had also been received in Tyrone from Ciste Gael. In the period July 1977-November 1982, £47,000 were loaned to twenty-two clubs for development purposes. Due largely to the success of Ciste Gael, to the continuing interest in the championship games, to various fund-raising activities voluntarily undertaken by clubs and the County Board and to very careful management, the problems of increasing commitments have been met successfully and the Association in Tyrone has remained in a healthy financial situation.

(7) Tyrone GAA in the U.S.A.

Before this account of the development of the GAA in Tyrone is concluded, it is appropriate to refer to the accomplishments of Tyrone's exiles in the U.S.A. who carried with them their commitment to the ideals of the Association and their loyalty to their native county. Their pride in their county was clearly revealed on the occasions of Tyrone's visits to America in 1957, 1969 and again in 1974 when the Tyrone population there hosted their visitors royally and provided hospitality which those privileged to make the trips will never forget.

Philadelphia

Tyrone men also endeavoured to put down GAA roots in two cities in particular - Philadelphia and New York and in each city a Tyrone GAA club was formed. In Philadelphia, a Tyrone team had a brief spell of activity in the 1930's. Again in 1947, a team played in the Philadelphia league, but lasted only for a few years and had no major achievements on the playing field. Those associated with the formation of this team were: Joe O'Neill (Coalisland), Tom Canavan (Clonoe), Joe Keating (Kildress), Jimmy McDermott (Mountfield), Mike Kirk (Greencastle), Paddy Devlin (Coalisland) and Jimmy Kelly (Carrickmore). The next Tyrone team was affiliated in 1963 and succeeded an Ulster team which had gone out of existence by that time. Those associated with the formation of the team included a Donegal man, Jim Harvey, who was chairman for nine years, Hugh McDermott (Mountfield) who was secretary, Peter McDermott (Mountfield), Joe O'Neill, Tom Canavan and Owen Treacy (Carrickmore).

The formation of this team in 1963 heralded the beginning of a highly successful era for Tyrone in the Philadelphia and North American leagues. During the 1960's and 1970's, Tyrone won nine Philadelphia championships in a row as well as numerous other competitions. In addition, they won five American League club championships between 1971 and 1979. The 1971 team was captained by Charlie O'Hagan (Clonoe) and other winning captains were Bosco O'Neill (Clonoe), Gerry McCallan (Fintona), Kevin McCartan (Carrickmore) and Patsy Kerlin (Aughabrack). The immigration controls which were imposed in the 1960's had a serious effect on the permanent supply of players, but many players from Tyrone who went out for brief spells to the U.S.A. assisted Philadelphia teams in their great run of successes during this period.

In 1964, the Tyrone team from Philadelphia came to Ireland on tour and played a number of challenge games against Ardboe, Bellaghy and a Tyrone selection. They donated a trophy to the Tyrone County Board, named the Jimmy Mullan trophy in honour of a past president of the Tyrone Society, and this trophy was presented for a number of years after 1964 to the winners of the county minor football championship. In 1969, the Tyrone Club and the Tyrone Society of Philadelphia invited the successful AllIreland junior champions to visit Philadelphia and to play a number of games there. The Philadelphia club also presented to

the Tyrone County Board the Joe McGarrity trophy, which had been donated in honour of the memory of this distinguished Tyrone man.

Officers of the Tyrone club in 1984, Centenary Year are: chairman - Eugene McCrystal (Carrickmore); vice-chairmen - Joe O'Neill (Coalisland) and Gabriel Bradley (Mountfield); treasurer and team manager Owen Treacy (Carrickmore); registrar and team trainer Peter Bradley (Mountfield); secretary - Ann Ward (Philadelphia); captain - Eamon Meenan (Mountfield).

New York

New York's connections with the GAA in Tyrone predate those of Philadelphia. In 1921, the Tyrone Society in the city instituted a Thomas Clarke Cup Fund to provide a trophy as an incentive to arouse interest in Gaelic football in Tyrone, and several hundred dollars were subscribed.' It is clear from a letter sent by an Omagh firm of solicitors to the Tyrone Society in 1928 that the money had been sent to Ireland, since the Society was advised that a surplus of fiftyfive pounds remaining from the Fund awaited disposition. However, it seems unlikely that a GAA trophy was purchased from this fund, as no record exists either of its purchase or of any competition for such a Cup taking place in the 1920's. More than twenty years later, the Tyrone Gaels of New York were to display equal generosity to the GAA in their native county, when they donated a sum of one thousand dollars (the receipts from their 1947 Annual Ball together with individual subscriptions) towards the cost of developing Plunkett Park, Pomeroy.

Although many Tyrone exiles took part in Gaelic games in New York, it was not until 1948 that the first Tyrone Gaelic Football Club was established under the auspices of the Tyrone Society. Among the founders were John Meenan (Gortin), treasurer (1948-84), Peter Toal (Carrickmore), Terry McGuinness (Belfast), Michael McCaughey (Plumbridge), Stephen Donnelly, Jim McCullagh (Plumbridge), Paddy Gillen (Plumbridge), Peter Connolly, Peter McSwiggan (Plumbridge), Maurice Donnelly (Fintona) and Jim McElroy (Augher). The team played in the junior division of the New York GAA. In 1951, they achieved their first major success when they won the New York junior championship, and they competed in senior ranks until forced to withdraw from competitive football in the latter part of 1954 when most of the players were conscripted into the Armed Services.

The club reformed in 1957. Present at this first meeting were Fr. Peter Campbell (Coalisland), Frank Canavan (Brockagh), Charlie Lavery (Moy), James Teague (Ardboe), Charles Teague (Ardboe), Terry McGuinness, John Meenan, Michael Taggart (Clonmore, Co. Armagh) and Charles Hunter (Omagh). The team played in junior competitions in 1957 and progressed to senior ranks in 1958. In 1968, they gained their first major success by winning the Division B championship, and they defended their title in 1969 under the captaincy of Brendan Donnelly (Donaghmore). On promotion to the Senior A Division, they won the New York championship in 1970 and 1971 under the captaincy of Joe McElroy (Ardboe) and Des Ryan (Kinturk) respectively, and contested the 1974 final.

In the mid-1970's however, it became necessary for the Tyrone club to begin a new team-building programme, as many of their players and officials had returned to Ireland to take up permanent residence there. In addition, the GAA scene in New York was completely transformed with the regular weekend appearance of star players from Ireland at Gaelic Park. As a result, Tyrone realised that they would have to change their strategy if they were to remain competitive. The re-building programme centred around Frank McGuigan (Ardboe) who arrived in New York in 1975. Built on a number of New York-based players, and with the assistance of players from Ireland as found necessary in the latter stages of the

championship, the Tyrone team achieved a significant measure of success in the following years. In 1979, they reached the final of the New York senior championship and were beaten narrowly by an import-laden Leitrim team. They won both the 1980 and 1981 senior championships, were beaten by two points by Cavan in the 1982 final and won again in 1983 when they avenged the 1979 defeat by Leitrim. Their consistency over that period is an indication of the dedication of their players and officials to the cause of Gaelic games and to their native county. Like their counterparts in Philadelphia, they have kept the Tyrone flag flying and have ensured that the name of Tyrone is a respected one in GAA circles in the U.S.A.

Officials of the Tyrone club in 1984 are: president - Myles McCann (Ballygawley); vice-president - Des Ryan (Kinturk); secretary - Gerry Taggart (DerryLaughan); assistant secretary - Mike Delaney (Greencastle); treasurer - John Meenan (Gortin); manager - Noel Gallagher (Loughmacrory); assistant manager - Des Ryan; trainers - Gerry Taggart and Richard Annette (Co. Down); delegates to New York GAA - Jimmy Teague (Ardboe) and Gerry Taggart; captain - Sean Coyle (Ardboe); financial secretary - Michael Devlin (Pomeroy).

(8) The Cherished Dream

The story of the GAA in Tyrone since its foundation has meant many different things to many people. For some, it was the struggle to establish the national games at the beginning of the century or to re-establish them after they had fallen on lean times or had disappeared from particular areas; for others, it was a story of disappointment or failure as Tyrone appeared to be one of the poor relations of Ulster football; for some too, it was the heartbreak of defeat at club or county level when their best efforts deserved a better reward; for yet others, it was a story of pride and success as they achieved victory within the county or against other counties. In the main however, it is a story of dogged determination to keep going in spite of all the odds and regardless of the outcome.

From the beginning, the effort to keep the Association in existence in Tyrone required dedication, perseverance and courage. The first decade of the century, which was marked by the early enthusiasm that was associated with the spread of the Gaelic League, concluded with the decline and disappearance of the GAA from the county. The second decade, which witnessed the revivals of 1913-14 and 1916-20, ended with another period of decline which lasted until 1923. Even at the end of the 1920's the Association was still confined largely to the eastern part of the county, and even there its activities were hampered by lack of finance and low morale caused by repeated failure at inter-county level. The 1930's saw the turning of the tide. By the end of the decade, the GAA had been extended to the greater part of the county and the first inter-county victories had been achieved. The 1940's brought the first great moments of pride and joy as Tyrone reached the pinnacle of success at minor level and the young footballers from the county treated Croke Park to dazzling displays of brilliant football. The 1950's brought a mixture of ecstasy and heartbreak ecstasy at the breakthrough in Ulster in two successive senior championships, heartbreak at the failure in successive years to achieve the ultimate goal of an All-Ireland senior victory. The 1960's, undistinguished perhaps in achievement at senior level, nevertheless prepared the way for the successes and great expectations of the early 1970's. However, in spite of the wonderful achievements of the county's minor teams and the outstanding victories of 1973 and 1984, the long-cherished dream of winning the Sam Maguire Cup is still no nearer to realisation.

Perhaps the fact that this dream means so much to so many people in Tyrone is in itself an indication of the importance of the GAA to the ordinary follower throughout the county. For many families down through the years the GAA has been much more than a pastime; it has been a way of life. The Sunday game, whether at club or county level, was the main topic of conversation through the week. Life in many areas, particularly the rural areas, revolved

around the fortunes of the local club; radio broadcasts of intercounty games were followed with eager interest, and teams representing Tyrone were among the best supported in the country. Players have given everything to train and to turn out for matches, supporters have travelled the length and breadth of the county and the country in good times and bad to lend encouragement, administrators have burnt the midnight oil in lengthy deliberations, while those of the womenfolk who could not attend the games themselves supported with fervour the endeavours on behalf of club or county.

All this effort and enthusiasm have ensured that the Association has survived and prospered in Tyrone, that it has taken root in almost every corner of the county, that a strong GAA tradition has been built up and that the national games are in a healthy condition. They have also contributed to the brief periods of relative greatness in intercounty football - in 1947-48, in 1956-57, in 1973 and again in 1984 - to which GAA followers in Tyrone can look back with understandable and justifiable pride. However, it must be admitted that these periods are regarded as the exception rather than the rule. It is almost as if it is assumed that Tyrone will achieve a measure of success, will reach a plateau and will then stop short at that level of attainment. Perhaps what the county needs most now is a raising of the level of aspiration and a belief in its own ability to reach ahead of anything that has ever been achieved before. What seems to be required is an attitude of mind, an atmosphere, such as that which enabled Kerry over the years to produce one great team after another and to rise from the ashes when all seemed lost, or which enabled Down and Offaly to make the break-through to glory in the 1960's. It is a vision which motivates and sustains, which is inspired, at least in part, by the memory of past achievements, and which catches glimpses, even in its hour of defeat, of its own potential for greatness. Such a vision, nurtured by men of zeal and singleminded purpose, will provide the inspiration needed to enkindle a new fire. By means of it, Tyrone GAA, proud of its past and inspired by an awareness of its present potential and a total belief in itself, can aspire to and attain the ultimate success - the winning of the Sam Maguire Cup.

1. "Red Bricks and Green Bushes" - The story of the County Tyrone Society in New York by James McElroy, New York, 1956, pp 72, 80 and 124.
2. Cf. Article by Peter Makem in "Irish News", 27.4.84.

YEAR	WINNERS	SCORE	RUNNERS-UP	SCORE	DATE	VENUE	REFEREE	Referee
1904-5	Coalisland Fianna	3-7	Strabane Lamh Dhearg	0-1	11.12.04	Coatisland	J. Rice,	Dungannon
1905-6	Strabane Fag-a- Bealach	1-4	Donaghmore Eire Og	0-4	16.4.06	Omagh	W.J. Bennett,	Omagh
1906-7	NOT PLAYED							
1907-8	Coalisland Fianna	0-5	Fintona Davitts	0-5	2.2.08	Sixmilecross	J. Greenan,	Omagh
	Replay		0-8	0-2	20.9.08	Sixmilecross	J. McElvogue,	Cookstown
1908-9	Dungannon Craobh Ruadh	2-9	Fintona Davitts	0.5	15.8.09	Sixmilecross	J. McGillion,	Sixmilecross
1909-13	NOT PLAYED	NO ORGA NISED GAA IN TYRON E						
1913-14	Fintona Davitts	2-1	Coalisland Fianna	0-1	14.6.14	Sixmilecross		
1914-16	NOT PLAYED	NO ORGA NISED GAA IN TYRON E						
1916-17	Cookstown Brian Og	3-1	Kilskeery McDonaghs	2-1	15.7.17	Omagh	P. Holland,	Dungannon
1917-18	Cookstown Brian Og	1-5	Omagh O'Neills	1-3	18.8.18	Dungannon	P. Ho land,	Dungannon
	Replay (after appeal)	1-2		1-1	22.9.18	Coalisland	Fr. J. McManus,	Kilskeery
1918-19	NOT PLAYED							
1919-20	Moy Tir-na-nOg	2-2	Omagh Colemans	1-1	30.5.20	Coalisland	S. O'Grady,	Dungannon
1920-23	NOT PLAYED	NO ORGA NISED GAA IN TYRON E						
1924	Stewartstown Harps	0-18	Omagh Colemans	0-4	20.4.24	Donaghmore	F.H. Rodgers,	Beragh
1925	Dungannon Clarkes	4-4	Ballygawley St. Ciaran's	1-1	30.8.25	Dungannon	P. Vallyelly,	Armagh
1926	Ballygawley St. Ciaran's	2-2	Ardboe Pearses	0-3	24.4.27	Dungannon	T. Bradley,	Coalisland
1927.	Donaghmore Iftire Og	1-7	Ardboe Pearses	0-9	18.12.27	Dungannon	J. McAnespie,	Cookstown
1928	Coalisland Fianna	2-4	Dunaghmore Eire Og	1-3	2.6.29	Dungannon	J. McAnespie	
	Cookstown							
1929	Dungannon Clarkes	4-3	Coalisland Fianna	1-6	16.3.30	Dungannon	P. Corr, Ardboe	
1930	Coalisland Fianna	1-2	Dungannon Clarkes	0.2	29.3.31	Dungannon		
1931	Ballygawley St. Ciaran's	2-1	Washingbay Shamrocks	1-3	22.11.31	Dungannon	G. Nash, Belfast	
1932	NOT PLAYED							
1933	Dungannon Clarkes	2-2	Omagh St. Enda's	2-1	29.10.33	Omagh	Fr. J. McGilligan,	Carrickmore
1934	Washingbay Shamrocks	3-1	Omagh St. Enda's	1-4	9.12.34	Dungannon	T. Bradley,	Coalisland
1935	Dungannon Clarkes	2-5	Omagh St. Enda's	2-1	9.2.36	Altamuskin	P.Coleman	Fintona
1936	Dungannon Clarkes	1-4	Carrickmore St. Colmcille's	0-4	11.4.37	Pomeroy	J. McMahon,	Beragh
1937	Trillick St. Macartan's	2-8	Donaghmore St. Joseph's	0-2	5.12.37	Omagh	Fr. J. Murphy,	Kildress
1938	Fintona Pearses	0-3	Cookstown Fr. Rock's	0-0	16.4.39	Dungannon	Fr. J. McGilligan,	Carrickmore
1939	FINAL NOT PLAYED							
1940	Carrickmore St. Colmcille's	1-4	Dungannon Clarkes	2-1	9.3.41	Pomeroy	Fr. T. Kirke,	Tiillick
Re-play		1-5		0-5	20.4.41	Pomeroy	M. McAvinchey,	Armagh
1941	Moortown St. Malachy's	1-5	Clonoe O'Rahillys	0-6	19.4.42	Coalisland	Fr. P. Hughes,	Pomeroy
1942	Moortown St. Malachy's	2-5	Omagh St. Enda's	0-1	25.10.42	Pomeroy	Fr. E. Devlin,	Donaghmore
1943	Carrickmore St.Colmcille's	4-3	Moortown St. Malachy's	0-4	12.9.43	Omagh	P. Gallagher,	Omagh

1944	Dungannon Clarkes	2-2	Moortown St. Malachy's	0-3	17.9.44	Coalisland	P. Gallagher,	Omagh
1945	Strabane Lamh Dhearg	3-11	Dungannon Clarkes	4-4	9.9.45	Omagh	P. Gallagher,	Omagh
1946	Coalisland Fianna	1-6	Dromore St. Dymrna's	0-3	8.9.46	Pomeroy	J. Magee,	Strabane
1947	Dungannon Clarkes	2-6	Moortown St. Malachy's	1-2	23.11.47	Dungannon	J. Monaghan,	Edemey
1948	Omagh St. Enda's	1-3	Clogher Eire Og	0-2	28.11.48	Dromore	J. McKee,	Portadown
1949	Carrickmore St. Colmcille's	4-1	Derrytresk Fir-a-Chnuic	0-6	23.10.49	Pomeroy	J. McKee,	Portadown
1950	Moortown St. Malachy's	1-6	Dungannon Clarkes	2-1	22.10.50	Coalisland	L. Friel,	Belfast
1951	Dungannon Clarkes	3-9	Moortown St. Malachy's	0-1	25.11.51	Pomeroy	O. Slane,	Carrickmore
1952	Omagh St. Enda's	2-4	Clonoe O'Rahillys	1-1	19.10.52	Dungannon	D. McGarvey,	Armagh
1953	Omagh St. Enda's	3-6	Clonoe O'Rahillys	2-3	31.8.53	Pomeroy	O. Slane,	Carrickmore
1954	Omagh St. Enda's	1-8	Dungannon Clarkes	0-5	5.9.54	Pomeroy	O. Slane,	Carrickmore
1955	Coalisland Fianna	2-6	Dungannon Clarkes	2-4	18.9.55	Pomeroy	P. Hughes,	Derrylaughan
1956	Dungannon Clarkes	2-6	Clonoe O'Rahillys	1-5	21.10.56	Pomeroy	F. Kelly,	Ballygawley
1957	Omagh St. Enda's	1-7	Derrylaughan Kevin Barrys	0-3	6.10.57	Pomeroy	T. Flanagan,	Monaghan
1958	Clonoe O'Rahillys	1-5	Carrickmore St. Colmcille's	1-3	7.9.58	Dungannon	J. Hartc,	Dungannon
1959	Clonoe O'Rahillys		Omagh (did not field)		6/12/59			
1960	Clonoe O'Rahillys	2-7	Donaghmore St. Patrick's	2-0	4.9.60	Dungannon	P. Devlin,	Omagh
1961	Carrickmore St. Colmcille's	2-5	Moy Tir na nOg	0-5	3.9.61	Pomeroy	J.J. Kelly,	Moortown
1962	Stewartstown Harps	3-3	Derrylaughan Kevin Barrys	0-3	9.9.62	Dungannon	J. Martin,	Omagh
1963	Omagh St. Enda's	2-10	Galbally Pearses	0-5	1.9.63	Dungannon	J. Harle,	Dungannon
1964	Clonoe O'Rahillys	2-5	Derrylaughan Kevin Barrys	0-4	20.9.64	Dungannon	J. Martin,	Omagh
1965	Clonoe O'Rahillys	1-9	Derrylaughan Kevin Barrys	2-6	29.8.65	Coalisland	P. Devlin,	Omagh
	Re-play	0-10	0-3	19.9.65	Coalisland	P. Devlin, Omagh		
1966	Carrickmore St. Colmcille's	0-10	Derrylaughan Kevin Barrys	0-4	28.8.66	Dungannon	W. Melly,	Urney
1967	Derrylaughan Kevin Barrys	0-9	Carrickmore St. Colmcille's	0-6	17.9.67	Dungannon	S. Falcon,	Donaghmore
1968	Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa	1-8	Coalisland Fianna	0-7	15.9.68	Dungannon	P. Devlin,	Omagh
1969	Carrickmore St. Colmcille's	1-10	Coalisland Fianna	1-9	31.8.69	Dungannon	nJ. Heancy,	Beragh
1970	Eglisk St. Patrick's	2-7	Augher St. Macartan's	1-8	13.9.70	Dungannon	J. Martin,	Omagh
1971	Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa	2-9	Carrickmore St. Colmcille's	1-9	5.9.71	Dungannon	M. Devlin,	Derrylaughan
1972	Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa	1-9	Stewartstown Harps	1-4	1.10.72	Dungannon	G. McCabe.	Clonoe
1973	Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa	2-6	Augher St. Macartan's	1-4	30.12.73	Dungannon	M. Devlin,	Derrylaughan
1974	Trillick St. Macartan's	1-9	Carrickmore St. Colmcille's	1-3	15.9.74	Omagh	S. Glackin,	Cookstown
1975	Trillick St. Macartan's	1-11	Owen Roes	2-3	31.8.75	Omagh	P. Devlin,	Omagh
1976	Augher St. Macartan's	3-4	Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa	1-7	29.8.76	Dungannon	J. Heancy,	Beragh
1977	Carrickmore St. Colmcille's	0-11	Dromore St. Dymrna's	1-7	18.9.77	Omagh	P. Lynn,	Toome
1978	Carrickmore St. Colmcille's	1-6	Dromore St. Dymrna's	0-4	10.9.78	Omagh	B. Taggart,	Clonoe
1979	Carrickmore St. Colmcille's	0-8	Fintona Pearses	1-4	26.8.79	Omagh	S. Corr,	Coalisland
1980	Trillick St. Macartan's	0-7	Omagh St. Enda's	1-4	31.8.80	Carrickmore	J.P. Dorrity,	Stewartstown
	Re-play		1-6	0-6	14.9.80	Carrickmore	J.P. Dorrity.	Stewartstown
1981	Derrylaughan Kevin Barrys	2-3	Carrickmore St. Colmcille's	1-5	27.9.81	Dungannon	P. Quinn,	Killiclogher

1982	Augher St. Macartan's	2-6	Dromore St. Dympna's	1-5	29.8.82	Carrickmore	F. Campbell,	Pomeroy
1983	Trillick St. Macartan's	1-9	Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa	0-8	21.8.83	Car-rickmore	E. Mullin,	Ballygawley
1984	Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa	0-8	Omagh St. Enda's	0-7	26.8.84	Dungannon	E. Mullin	Ballygawley

Score based on oral evidence. Another source (also oral) suggests 0-8 to 0-6.

Junior Football Championship

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP	DATE
1904-5	Coalisland	0-11	Dungannon 1-0 May, 1905
1905-06	Killyclogher		
	NO J.F.C. UNTIL 1927		
1927	Donaghmore	3-3	Ardboe 0-2 25.3.28
1928	Declared Null and Void		
1929	Washingbay	2-3	Coalisland 1-3 21.9.30
1930	Not Played		
1931	Dungannon	5-2	Galbally 1-3 20.11.32
1932	Not Played		
1933	Donaghmore	3-5	Augher 0-7 22.10.33
1934	Moortown	0-3	Clady 2-2 3.2.35
	Clady disqualified		
1935	Pomeroy	3-9	Greeneastle 1-3 31.5.36
1936	Greencastle	0-8	Cookstown 1-2 4.7.37
1937	Tummery	4-2	Rock 1-2 6.11.38
1938	Edendork	1-4	Brackey 2-6 12.3.39
	Brackey disqualified		
1939	Mountjoy	4-1	Brackey 0-2 7.4.40
1940	Brackaville	2-3	Drumullan 0-7 23.3.41
1941	Tattysallagh	2-4	Kilmenagh 1-4 14.6.42
1942	Washingbay	0-14	Galbally 0-6 1.11.42
1943	Mountjoy	1-3	Donaghmore 2-0 21.11.43
	Replay 1-3	1-0	12.3.44
1944	Mountjoy	defeated	Coalisland ? 12.44
1945	Pomeroy	0-7	Gortin 0-6 16.9.45
1946	Coalisland	2-0	Greeneastle 0-3 20.4.47
1947	Beragh 0-4	Washingbay	0-3 11.4.48
1948	Moortown	3-5	Cranagh 0-1 29.5.49

Junior Football Championship

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP	DATE
1949	Derrylaughan	2-3	Dungannon 1-1 29.1.50
1950	Moortown	1-3	Cappagh 0-5 15.10.50
1951	Newtownstewart	0-4	Moortown 0-2 18.5.52
1952	Moortown	2-4	Newtownstewart 1-3 2.11.52
1953	Moy 2-10	Cappagh 2-3	23.8.53
1954	Donaghmore	4-4	Cranagh 0-3 9.1.55
	Final not played. Cranagh had been suspended.		
1955	Derrytresk	Cranagh	
	Final not played Cranagh had been suspended		
1956	Dunamanagh	4-2	Moortown 1-6 25.11.56
1957	Edendork	1-9	Creggan 0-2 20.10.57

1958	Galbally 3-4	Creggan 0-1	23.11.58	
1959	Ballygawley 3-8	Ardboe 1-5	22.11.59	
1960	Benburb 2-5	Strabane 2-4	30.10.60	
1961	Gortin 4-11	Kildress 0-8	7.10.61	
1962	Ardboe 1-1	Dromore 0-3	28.10.62	
1963	Dromore 1-5	Eglis 0-6	1.9.63	
1964	Augher 1-12	Kildress 2-6	6.9.64	
1965	Benburb 1-5	Gortin 1-2	21.11.65	
1966	Kildress 3-11	Omagh 2-4	18.9.66	
1967	Dunamanagh 2-6	Moortown 1-6	17.12.67	
1968	Killyman 2-6	Killyclogher 1-4	1.9.68	
1969	Moortown 2-12	Dregish 0-7	31.8.69	
1970	Dregish 2-7	Derrytresk 2-4	18.10.70	
1971	Ardboe 1-6	Greencastle 1-5	10.10.71	
1972	Clogher 0-8	Eglis 1-3	1.10.72	
1973	Eglis 1-8	Strabane 1-6	21.10.73	

Junior Football Championship

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP	DATE	
1974	Aghaloo 0-8	Loughmacrory 0-3	8.9.74	
1975	Fintona 2-10	Gortin 1-9	10.8.75	
1976	Dregish 3-6	Killeeshil 3-5	12.9.76	
1977	Killyclogher 0-14	Greencastle 0-3	11.9.77	
1978	Cookstown 0-14	Greencastle 0-1	15.10.78	
1979	Moy 4-7	Brackaville 2-4	12.8.79	
1980	Loughmacrory 1-10	Brockagh 2-5	3.8.80	
1981	Brockagh 1-11	Beragh 2-6	9.8.81	
1982	Rock 2-12	Eskra 0-7	1.8.82	
1983	Dregish 2-5	Glenelly 1-5	2.10.83	
1984	Pomeroy 3-12	Urney 0-2	9.9.84	

Under-21 Football Champions

1973	Shamrocks (Aghaloo, Eglis, Killeeshil)
1974	Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa
1975	Shamrocks (Aghaloo, Eglis, Killeeshil)
1976	Sean McDermotts (Kildress, Pomeroy)
1977	Clann tireann (Clonoe parish)
1978	Emmets (Fintona, Trillick)
1979	Ballygawley St. Ciaran's
1980	Dungannon Thomas Clarkes
1981	Derrylaughan Kevin Barrys
1982	Ballygawley St. Biaran's
1983	Naomh Mhuire (Edendork, Killyman)
1984	Coalisland Fianna

Minor Football Championship

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP	DATE	
1943	Coalisland 2-6	Omagh 3-5	16.7.44	
	Coalisland won on appeal.			
1944-45	No Competitions			
1946	Omagh 1-3	Brackaville 0-2	20.4.47	
1947	Omagh 2-4	Brackaville 0-3	11.4.48	
1948	Strabane 1-7	Clonoe 1-6	21.8.49	
1949	Omagh 1-7	Clonoe 2-3	9.4.50	
1950	Coalisland 5-1	Beragh 1-5	8.4.51	
1951	Ardboe 3-6	Omagh 2-4	22.6.52	
1952	Coalisland 3-11	Beragh 0-4	19.4.53	
1953	Cookstown 2-5	Omagh 2-5	30.8.53	
	Replay 1-10	2-1	6.9.53	
1954	Clonoe 2-3	Omagh 1-3	31.10.54	

1955	Clonoe 3-7	Clogher 2-3			
1956	Carrickmore 2-1	Dungannon 1-3	28.10.56		
1957	Carrickmore 3-6	Ardboe 0-3	6.10.57		
1958	Ardboe 1-1	Dromore 1-1	7.9.58		
	Replay 0-9	1-1			
1959	Urney 2-5	Ardboe 1-7	13.9.59		
1960	Ardboe 3-6	Finiona 1-4	16.10.60		
1961	Coalisland 2-10	Dromore 4-3	7.10.61		
1962	Dungannon 2-11	Dromore 1-4	29.9.62		
1963	Dungannon 4-10	Leckpatrick 1-4	1.9.63		
1964	Leckpatrick 1-8	Carrickmore 1-1	13.9.64		
1965	Omagh 2-10	DerryLaughan 0-5	17.10.65		
1966	Dungannon 1-9	Leckpatrick 0-4	25.9.66		
1967	Donaghmore 1-9	Trillick 2-5	17.9.67		
1968	Trillick 3-13	Clonoe 1-1	27.10.68		

Minor Football Championship

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP	DATE		
1969	Trillick 3-10	Coalisland 2-6	16.11.69		
1970	Omagh 2-10	Killeeshil 0-1	30.8.70		
1971	Omagh 2-7	Augher 0-6	17.10.71		
1972	Carrickmore 3-6	Coalisland 1-8	8.10.72		
1973	Dungannon 1-8	Pomeroy 1-5	25.11.73		
1974	Augher 3-13	Dromore 2-4	15.9.74		
1975	Dromore 3-5	Coalisland 1-3	31.8.75		
1976	Dungannon 1-10	Kiliyclogher 2-5	29.8.76		
1977	DerryLaughan 2-8	Kiliyclogher 2-2	18.9.77		
1978	Augher 1-7	DerryLaughan 1-6	10.9.78		
1979	Clann Eireann 0-9	Ballygawley 0-6	26.8.79		
1980	Dungannon 3-8	Drumquin 0-3	31.8.80		
1981	Kiliyclogher 4-4	Moy 1-4	27.9.81		
1982	Coalisland 3-6	Dungannon 0-5	29.8.82		
1983	Omagh 3-7	Dromore 1-7	21.8.83		
1984	Dungannon 0-9	Omagh 1-5	26.8.84		

Intermediate Football Championship

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP	DATE		
1962	Cookstown 3-4	Galbally 0-2	28.10.62		
1963	Dungannon 5-6	Moortown 2-3	4.8.63		
1964	Cookstown 2-5	Stewartstown 1-5	30.8.64		
1965	Donaghmore 4-7	Augher 1-7	29.8.65		
1966	Augher 1-11	Eglish 0-7	28.8.66		
1967	Pomeroy 0-7	Donaghmore 0-4	1.10.67		
1968	Donaghmore 1-10	Moortown 1-3	27.10.68		
1969	Edendork 2-8	Leckpatrick 1-5	5.10.69		
1970	Owen Roes 4-9	Pomeroy 1-5	16.8.70		
1971	Kildress 1-5	Moortown 0-6	26.9.71		
1972	Dungannon 2-5	Clonoe 0-4	12.9.72		
1973	Killyman 3-4	Moortown 2-2	21.10.73		
1974	Dromore 2-7	Moortown 0-8	18.8.74		
1975	Moortown 2-7	Edendork 2-6	17.8.75		
1976	Clonoe 3-10	Pomeroy 0-4	22.8.76		
1977	Omagh 2-9	Fintona 1-6	2.10.77		
1978	Fintona 4-11	Kiliyclogher 0-3	3.9.78		
1979	Clonoe 3-5	Owen Roes 0-6	9.9.79		
1980	Stewartstown 1-6	Augher 0-8	17.8.80		
1981	Aghyaran 0-10	Coaiisland 0-8	16.8.81		
1982	Moy 2-9	Kildress 0-6	22.8.82		

1983	Clonoe	1-4	Aghyaran	0-4	4.9.83
1984	Coalisland	1-7	Fintona	1-3	2.9.94

Juvenile Football Championship

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP	DATE
1954	Omagh 3-9	Ballygawley 0-2	14.11.54
1955	Carrickmore 1-6	Omagh 1-0	11.9.55
1956	Omagh 3-5	Moy 2-5	25.11.56
1957	Ballygawley	defeated Omagh	14.9.58
1958	Clonoe 4-3	Omagh 0-2	21.12.58
1959	Donaghmore 3-5	Fintona 2-4	1.11.59
1960	Coalisland 6-7	Dromore 3-5	13.11.60
1961	Dungannon 4-6	Carrickmore 1-2	3.12.61
1962	Dungannon	defeated Omagh	12.11.62
1963	Dromore 4-3	Glenmornan 2-2	3.11.63
1964	Leckpatrick 5-3	Trillick 1-3	4.10.64
1965	Trillick 2-10	Coalisland 0-2	14.11.65
1966	Coalisland 4-3	Castlederg 2-3	21.8.66
1967	Coalisland 2-3	Urney 1-3	15.10.67
1968	Strabane 4-7	Trillick 1-9	15.9.68
1969	Killyclogher 0-4	Augher 0-0	2.11.69
1970	Omagh 8-4	Ardboe 3-1	13.9.70
1971	Dungannon 3-7	Carrickmore 1-2	24.10.71
1972	Dungannon 1-8	Omagh 1-7	8.10.72
1973	Coalisland 2-5	Augher 1-3	7.10.73
1974	Dromore 1-5	Coalisland 0-4	6.10.74
1975	Coalisland 3-9	Ballygawley 1-0	16.8.75
1976	Omagh 6-7	Dungannon 1-4	22.8.76
1977	Cookstown 3-15	Fintona 1-8	18.9.77
1978	Clann Eireann 1-9	Omagh 2-4	20.8.78
1979	Killyclogher 2-7	Naomh Mhuire 1-4	19.8.79

Juvenile Football Championship

YEAR	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP	DATE
1980	Killyclogher 2-7	Coalisland 2-5	24.8.80
1981	Dungannon 0-6	Killyclogher 0-5	25.10.81
1982	Omagh 3-9	Killyclogher 0-1	1.8.82
1983	Omagh 2-5	Dungannon 1-5	9.10.83

Senior Hurling Champions'

1904-05	Strabane Lamh Dhearg	1967	Omagh St. Enda's
1905-06	Killyclogher St. Patrick's	1969	Dungannon Eoghan Ruadh
1926	Strabane Lamh Dhearg	1971	Omagh St. Enda's
1947	Cappagh (Killyclogher)	1973	Omagh St. Enda's
1948	Dungannon Eoghan Ruadh	1974	Carrickmore Eire Og
1949	Dromore	1975	Dungannon Eoghan Ruadh
1950	Cappagh (Killyclogher)	1976	Carrickmore Eire Og
1951	Dungannon Eoghan Ruadh	1977	Killyclogher St. Mary's
1952	Dungannon Eoghan Ruadh	1978	Dungannon Eoghan Ruadh
1953	Dungannon Eoghan Ruadh	1979	Carrickmore Eire Og
1955	Dungannon Eoghan Ruadh	1980	Carrickmore Eire Og
1956	Dungannon Eoghan Ruadh	1981	Dunamanagh Aodh Ruadh
1957	Dungannon Eoghan Ruadh	1982	Carrickmore Eire Og
1961	Dungannon St. Vincent's	1983	Carrickmore Eire Og
1966	Benburb Eoghan Ruadh		

'Competitions not played in other years.

Tyrone's Record in Ulster Senior Football Championship

YEAR	VENUE	DATE				
1904	Armagh	0-2	Tyrone	0-3	Armagh	3.1.04'
	Tyrone	0-3	Armagh	1-6	Dungannon	24.1.04
1905	Tyrone	0-3	Armagh	0-12	Coalisland	19.2.05
	Armagh	7-4	Tyrone	0-1	Armagh	12.3.051
1906	Tyrone	0-2	Derry	1-3	Strabane	4.2.06
1909	Fermanagh	2-4	Tyrone	1-6	Clones	22.8.09
1910	Cavan	1-9	Tyrone	1-4	Bundoran	17.7.10
1913	Tyrone	lost to	Antrim	Dungannon		4.8.13
1914	Fermanagh	2-4	Tyrone	1-2	Clones	21.6.14
1917	Armagh	2-3	Tyrone	1-3	Armagh	13.5.17
1918	Monaghan	4-4	Tyrone	1-0	Armagh	10.6.18
1919	Tyrone	2-0	Donegal	4-3	Strabane	25.5.19
1920	Tyrone	0-0	Armagh	2-1	Dungannon	16.5.20
1923	Monaghan	2-6	Tyrone	0-3	Clones	19.8.23
1924	Donegal	0-1	Tyrone	0-2	Letterkenny	18.5.24
	Cavan	1-7	Tyrone	0-6	Belturbet	24.8.24
1925	Tyrone	1-3	Cavan	1-5	Dungannon	24.5.25
1926	Tyrone	3-8	Fermanagh	2-1	Omagh	9.5.26
	Tyrone	3-2	Derry	1-3	Dungannon	6.6.26
	Tyrone	0-3	Antrim	2-5	Omagh	4.7.26
1927	Antrim	1-9	Tyrone	0-11	Belfast	22.5.27
1928	Tyrone	7-3	Derry	2-3	Dungannon	27.5.28
	Tyrone	0-3	Cavan	4-3	Dungannon	8.7.28
1929	Fermanagh	0-2	Tyrone	0-8	Enniskillen	19.5.29
	Monaghan	3-7	Tyrone	1-2	Monaghan	16.6.29
1930	Tyrone	2-3	Armagh	1-6	Dungannon	25.5.30
	Armagh	1-8	Tyrone	1-3	Armagh	8.6.30
1931	Tyrone	1-3	Monaghan	3-9	Dungannon	17.5.31
1932	Armagh	1-5	Tyrone	1-4	Armagh	10.4.32
1933	Tyrone	0-3	Antrim	0-3	Coalisland	11.6.33
	Antrim	3-5	Tyrone	3-5	Belfast	25.6.33
	Tyrone	1-8	Antrim	1-2	Omagh	9.7.33
	Tyrone	1-4	Fermanagh	1-3	Bundoran	16.7.33
	Cavan	6-13	Tyrone	1-2	Cavan	6.8.33
1934	Tyrone	2-4	Cavan	2-5	Omagh	29.4.34
1935	Tyrone	1-2	Fermanagh	0-5	Omagh	16.6.35
	Fermanagh	1-11	Tyrone	2-6	Irvinestown	30.6.35
1936	Down	3-6	Tyrone	2-3	Warrenpoint	14.6.36
1937	Tyrone	0-8	Monaghan	4-12	Coalisland	6.6.37
1938	Tyrone	0-6	Monaghan	3-3	Omagh	19.6.38
1939	Tyrone	1-2	Cavan	4-11	Omagh	25.6.39
1940	Down	3-7	Tyrone	2-5	Newcastle	30.6.40
1941	Tyrone	3-13	Armagh	0-1	Coalisland	6.7.41
	Down	1-7	Tyrone	1-10	Newcastle	13.7.41
	Cavan	3-9	Tyrone	0-5	Armagh	3.8.41
1942	Armagh	3-4	Tyrone	0-0	Armagh	31.5.42
1943	Tyrone	1-8	Donegal	0-7	Omagh	20.6.43
	Cavan	4-10	Tyrone	1-3	Enniskillen	4.7.43
1944	Down	3-4	Tyrone	0-4	Belfast	2.7.44
1945	Armagh	3-13	Tyrone	0-2	Armagh	24.6.45

Tyrone's Record in Ulster Senior Football Championship

YEAR	VENUE	DATE				
1946	Tyrone	3-2	Cavan	8-13	Omagh	23.6.46
1947	Fermanagh	0-7	Tyrone	1-4	Irvinestown	1.6.47
	Tyrone	3-5	Fermanagh	2-6	Coalisland	15.6.47
	Armagh	1-6	Tyrone	1-6	Armagh	22.6.47
	Tyrone	2-5	Armagh	1-4	Dungannon	29.6.47
	Tyrone	0-2	Cavan	4-5	Dungannon	6.7.47
1948	Tyrone	5-9	Fermanagh	0-4	Dungannon	13.6.48

	Antrim	0-12	Tyrone	1-3	Lurgan	4.7.48	
1949	Cavan	7-10	Tyrone	1-7	Cavan	12.6.49	
1950	Tyrone	0-3	Cavan	8-7	Coalisland	11.6.50	
1951	Armagh	1-13	Tyrone	2-3	Armagh	17.6.51	
1952	Tyrone	1-6	Armagh	1-8	Dungannon	15.6.52	
1953	Donegal	0-7	Tyrone	0-12	Ballybofey	14.6.53	
	Cavan	2-10	Tyrone	2-4	Clones	5.7.53	
1954	Tyrone	1-7	Donegal	1-5	Dungannon	13.6.54	
	Cavan	3-10	Tyrone	2-10	Castleblayney	11.7.54	
1955	Derry	0-13	Tyrone	1-5	Magherafelt	5.6.55	
1956	Tyrone	3-7	Derry	2-4	Dungannon	3.6.56	
	Tyrone	2-9	Monaghan	0-7	Lurgan	8.7.56	
	Tyrone	3-5	Cavan	0-4	Clones	29.7.56	
	Galway	0-8	Tyrone	0-6	Croke Park	12.8.56	
1957	Armagh	3-5	Tyrone	2-9	Lurgan	30.6.57	
	Tyrone	3-5	Donegal	2-3	Cavan	14.7.57	
	Tyrone	1-9	Derry	0-10	Clones	28.7.57	
	Louth	0-13	Tyrone	0-7	Croke Park	18.8.57	
1958	Tyrone	1-9	Armagh	0-10	Dungannon	22.6.58	
	Down	1-9	Tyrone	0-2	Lurgan	6.7.58	
1959	Monaghan	0-9	Tyrone	1-7	Castleblayney	21.6.59	
	Tyrone	1-6	Down	1-6	Belfast	12.7.59	
	Down	1-12	Tyrone	0-4	Belfast	26.7.59	
1960	Tyrone	3-6	Monaghan	3-11	Dungannon	26.6.60	
1961	Derry	1-9	Tyrone	0-10	Ballinascreen	11.6.61	
1962	Tyrone	1-9	Derry	2-2	Dungannon	24.6.62	
	Down	1-12	Tyrone	1-6	Belfast	15.7.62	
1963	Antrim	2-9	Tyrone	0-3	Belfast	2.6.63	
1964	Tyrone	0-7	Antrim	1-8	Dungannon	31.5.64	
1965	Down	3-13	Tyrone	1-6	Newry	13.6.65	
1966	Tyrone	0-4	Down	2-9	Dungannon	12.6.66	
1967	Tyrone	1-11	Fermanagh	3-2	Dungannon	11.6.67	
	Tyrone	1-13	Monaghan	1-6	Dungannon	25.6.67	
	Cavan	1-13	Tyrone	3-3	Irvinestown	9.7.67	
1968	Fermanagh	2-8	Tyrone	0-8	Irvinestown	2.6.68	
1969	Tyrone	0-8	Derry	2-8	Dungannon	1.6.69	
1970	Derry	3-12	Tyrone	0-7	Ballinascreen	7.6.70	
1971	Armagh	4-9	Tyrone	2-10	Lurgan	6.6.71	
1972	Tyrone	0-13	Armagh	1-7	Dungannon	4.6.72	
	Tyrone	1-8	Derry	0-9	Dungannon	9.7.72	
	Donegal	2-13	Tyrone	1-11	Clones	30.7.72	
1973	Donegal	1-7	Tyrone	0-12	Ballybofey	24.6.73	
	Tyrone	1-15	Fermanagh	0-11	Clones	8.7.73	

Tyrone's Record in Ulster Senior Football Championship

YEAR	VENUE	DATE				
	Tyrone	3-13	Down	1-11	Clones	29.7.73
	Cork	5-10	Tyrone	2-4	Croke Park	19.8.73
1974	Tyrone	0-8	Donegal	1-9	Omagh	16.6.74
1975	Monaghan	0-13	Tyrone	1-5	Castleblaney	1.6.75
1976	Tyrone	2-10	Monaghan	1-10	Dungannon	6.6.76
	Derry	0-12	Tyrone	0-8	Clones	27.6.76
1977	Derry	3-10	Tyrone	1-11	Lurgan	19.6.77
1978	Derry	3-11	Tyrone	0-9	Lurgan	18.6.78
1979	Tyrone	2-9	Antrim	2-5	Dungannon	20.5.79
	Donegal	1-11	Tyrone	1-9	Ballinascreen	17.6.79
1980	Antrim	1-7	Tyrone	1-8	Belfast	18.5.80
	Tyrone	1-17	Donegal	0-9	Irvinestown	15.6.80
	Tyrone	2-12	Cavan	1-9	Clones	29.6.80

	Armagh 4-10	Tyrone 4-7	Clones 20.7.80		
1981	Monaghan	2-9	Tyrone 0-6	Castleblayney	17.5.81
1982	Tyrone 1-9	Monaghan	0-9	Dungannon	16.5.82
	Down 0-11	Tyrone 1-12	Newry	13.6.82	
	Fermanagh	1-8	Tyrone 0-10	Cavan	27.6.82
1983	Cavan 0-11	Tyrone 0-10	Cavan	19.6.83	
1984	Derry 3-4	Tyrone 1-13	Ballinascreen	10.6.84	
	Tyrone 0-10	Down 0-5	Belfast	24.6.84	
	Tyrone 0-15	Armagh 1-7	Clones	15.7.84	
	Dublin 2-11	Tyrone 0-8	Croke Park	19.8.84	

Unfinished due to darkness. Replayed on 24.1.04.

Replay after appeal.

Tyrone Football Teams, 1904-84

In the following lists, one team is included for each year, except for some of the earlier years when Tyrone did not compete or a team list is not available. As far as possible, and except where otherwise indicated, the teams listed are those which represented Tyrone in its last - in many cases, only appearance in the Ulster senior football championship in each year. Christian names and clubs are included only on the first occasion on which a player is listed or when necessary to avoid confusion with other players.

The lists are not intended as a complete record of players who represented Tyrone in inter-county games.

1904 v. Armagh on 24.1.04

Tyrone were represented by Dungannon Emmets.

John Kelly, William Cunningham, Frank Kelly, James Rooney, J. Muldoon, P.J. Bradley, Peter Corr, Joe Kelly, Frank Sally, Patrick Cassidy, Thomas Cassidy, Bernard Kelly (captain), Frank O'Neill, Bernard O'Neill, James Rice, William McNaney.

1905 v. Armagh on 19.2.05

John Kelly (Dungannon Emmets), Peter Corr, captain, (Coalisland Owen Roes), Wm. Cunningham (Dungannon), Joseph Cullen and Alex McDyer (Coalisland Fianna), William McGettigan (Strabane Ldmh Dhearg), Joe O'Reilly and Joe O'Neill (Fianna), Bernard Kelly (Dungannon), Pat (Farson) O'Neill and J.J. Bradley (Fianna), Eddie Jones, T. O'Neill and Michael Quinn (Dungannon), Dan Toner and Joe Canavan (Fianna), James Rice (Dungannon).

1906 v. Derry on 4.2.06

Edward Carbery (Donaghmore), J. Shields, P. Bannigan (Strabane), Peter Corr (Donaghmore), James McCann (Donaghmore), Charles Boyle (Strabane), Pat McCollum (Strabane), J. McMenamin, James Boyle (Strabane), John Doherty (Strabane), J. Gallagher (Strabane), J. Comac (Donaghmore), J.W. Gavan (Coalisland), Eddie Gallagher (Strabane), P. Comac (Donaghmore), L. Stewart (Strabane), Wm McGettigan (Strabane).

1909 v. Fermanagh on 22.8.09

John Kelly, James Kelly, M. McDermott, Francis O'Neill, J. Cunningham, Wm. Cunningham, Paddy McNaney, Paddy Mallon and Mick Lavery (all Dungannon Craobh Ruadh); T.C. O'Neill, P. Corey and B. McCann (all Cookstown Brian Og); Peter Toner, Joseph Toner, James Toner, Joe Canavan and Dan Toner (all Coalisland Fianna).

1913 v. Armagh on 23.11.13 (Ulster Medal Competition).

Mick Corr (Pomeroy), Eddie Jones (Dungannon), Paddy Mallon (Dungannon), J.P. Daly (Coalisland), Paddy Byrne (Dungannon), Paddy Mallon (Dungannon), Matt Symington (Coalisland) John Coleman (Dungannon), J. McLoughlin (Dromore), Denis Grehan (Pomeroy), John Donnelly (Fintona), Paddy Campbell (Pomeroy), Tom Bradley (Coalisland), Paddy McNancy (Dungannon), Paddy Kane (Pomeroy).

1917 v. Armagh on 14.5.17

P. Devlin (Stewartstown), P. Corr (Clonoe), Tommy Rea (Dungannon), E. Jones (Dungannon), John O'Neill (Cookstown), Hugh McGee (Cookstown), John Devlin (Mullinahoe), Tom Lagan (Cookstown), P. Mallon (Dungannon), Joe McCaul (Dungannon), J. Gormley (Aughur), Stephen McGuigan (Cookstown), Jim Boyle (Cookstown), Joe Doris (Dungannon), Joe Corey (Cookstown).

1918 v. Monaghan on 10.6.18

Joe Brogan (Omagh), J. Tohill (Stewartstown), P. Corr (Clonoe), T. Rea (Dungannon), J. O'Neill (Cookstown), Standish O'Grady, captain, (Dungannon), S. McGuigan (Cookstown), Pat O'Neill (Clonoe), Dan McElholm (Trillick), J. Devlin (Mullinahoe), Tom McGee (Trillick), J. Wilson (Dungannon), Arthur Murphy (Dungannon), J. Doris (Dungannon), J. Corey (Cookstown).

1919 v. Donegal on 25.5.19

P. Bradley (Fintona), P. Farrell (Aughur), C. Keenan (Trillick), P. McGirr (Trillick), F. McGee (Trillick), W. Kernohan (Fintona), C. Smith (Strabane), P. McGee (Aughur), Peter Coleman (Fintona), F. Cassidy (Aughur), H. McGee (Trillick), P. McCaughey (Trillick), J. Hewitt (Fintona), P. McGuire (Fintona), J. Farrell (Aughur).

1920 v. Armagh on 16.5.20

J. Wilson (Dungannon), P. McGuckian (Dungannon), J. Doris (Dungannon), Jim Donnelly (Omagh), S. O'Grady (Dungannon), Tom Hegarty (Moy), F. O'Neill (Moy), Tim Twomey (Moy), Tom McVeigh (Moy), Pat Loughran (Dungannon), Peter McLernon (Donaghmore), J. Devlin (Mullinahoe), A. Murphy (Dungannon), P. Donnelly (Omagh). (Only 14 played.)

1923 v. Monaghan on 19.8.23

M. Corr, J. Donnelly (Omagh), F.P. Campbell (Coalisland), Joe McBride (Coalisland), Joe O'Neill (Coalisland), D. McElholm (Trillick), T. Magee (Trillick), Pat McCourt (Donaghmore), B. Doris (Dungannon), Jimmy Quinn (Pomeroy), T. Kelly (Ballygawley), P. Carbery (Donaghmore), S. Mullan, Ned McGee (Agher), P. McElroy (Ardboe).

1924 v. Cavan on 24.8.24

Jim Donnelly (Stewartstown), John Hewitt (Fintona), F. P. Campbell, J. O'Neill, D. McElholm, N. McGee,* J. Donnelly (Omagh), Ben Donoghue (Dungannon), A. Murphy (Donaghmore), P. McCourt, T. Bradley (Coalisland), T. McGee, T. Rea, P. McElroy, Wm Neary (Omagh).

*Represented Ulster in Tailteann Games v. Leinster.

1925 v. Cavan on 24.5.25

Wm. O'Hanlon (Ballygawley), J. O'Neill, Henry Owens (Beragh), D. McElholm, Pat Hughes (Dungannon), Malachy Mallon (Dungannon), F.P. Campbell, Dan Saunders (Dromore), N. McGee, Pat McNally (Pomeroy), Michael Daly (Coalisland), Edward Mullan (Dungannon), Joseph F. Doris (Dungannon), Alphonus Davidson (Stewartstown), T. Bradley.

1926 v. Antrim on 4.7.26

Joe Brogan (Omagh), H. Owens, M. Mallon, J. O'Neill, P. Hughes, N. McGee, Peter Keenan (Ballygawley), P.J. Shields (Sixmilecross), J. Doris (Dungannon), Gerard Kelly (Coalisland), J. O'Neill (Strabane), T. McGee, James McMahan (Beragh), Augustus Burns (Coalisland), T. Rea.

1927 v. Antrim on 22.5.27

Robert Simpson (Dungannon), H. Owens, Bernard Farrell (Ballygawley), W. O'Hanlon, P.J. Shields, Dan O'Rourke (Dungannon), Bernard Morrison (Dungannon), J. McMahon, N. McGee, D. McElholm, M. Daly, D. Saunders, T. Rea, T. McGee,* Bernard Corr (Ardboe). Also M. Mallon* and J. O'Neill(*).

1928 v. Derry on 27.5.28

W. O'Hanlon, Jim McLernon (Donaghmore), John Cushnahan (Clonoe), B. Farrell, P.J. Shields, D. O'Rourke, Leo McMenemy (Dungannon), Arthur O'Neill (Ardboe), N. McGee, James Devlin (Moortown), Thomas Devlin (Moortown), Fr. J. McGilligan (Carrickmore), B. Corr, J. McMahon, T. Rea.

1929 v. Monaghan on 16.6.29

W. O'Hanlon, H. Owens, M. Mallon, J. Cushnahan, Wm McElroy (Ardboe), N. McGee, J.H. Campbell (Coalisland), J. Devlin, D. O'Rourke, J. McLernon, P.J. Shields, B. Corr, T. Devlin, F.P. Campbell, T. Rea.

1930 v. Armagh on 8.6.30

R. Simpson, Edward McElroy (Ardboe), M. Mallon, W. McEfray, J. McLernon, N. McGee, Vincent Campbell (Coalisland), J. Devlin, (*) D. O'Rourke, J.H. Campbell, P.J. Shields, J. McMahon, Vincent Donnelly (Dungannon), L. McMenemy, F.P. Campbell.

1931 v. Fermanagh on 19.7.31

(National League, Division 11 Final)

John Reilly (Dungannon), J.H. Campbell, L. McMenemy, Jim Hughes (Coalisland), W. McElroy, N. McGee, J. Devlin, (*) John Skeffington (Dungannon), John McQuaid (Dungannon), Joe Kilpatrick (Washingbay), J.J. Kelly (Ballygawley), Scamus Campbell (Coalisland), Jim Shields (Coalisland), V. Donnelly, J. McMahon.

1932 v. Monaghan on 17.7.32

(Dr. McKenna Cup)

W. O'Hanlon, L. McMenemy, J. Hughes, J.H. Campbell, J. Devlin, J. McGrath, J. Canavan, N. McGee, D. O'Rourke, Mick O'Neill (Clonoe), Tommy Kavanagh (Dungannon), S. Campbell, V. Donnelly, J. McNamara (Fintona), Paddy Donaghy (Dungannon).

1933 v. Fermanagh on 16.7.33

Seamus Bonner (Omagh), W. McElroy, J.H. Campbell, J. Hughes, J. Kilpatrick, N. McGee, Peter Campbell (Coalisland), M. O'Neill, J. Skeffington, L. McMenemy, S. Campbell, J. McNamara, T. Kavanagh, J. McMahon, V. Donnelly.

1934 v. Cavan on 29.4.34

S. Bonner, W. McElroy, Peter Mulgrew (Clonoe), J. Hughes, Patrick Madden (Carrickmore), J.H. Campbell, J. Kilpatrick, Dominic McCrossan (Omagh), L. McMenemy, T. Kavanagh, M. O'Neill, Eugene Kelly (Killyclogher), V. Donnelly, S. Campbell, Frank McGowan (Killyclogher).

1935 v. Fermanagh on 30.6.35

Andy Kerr (Killyclogher), Paddy Turbett (Omagh), Jack Kelly (Killyclogher), Dan McSorley (Trillick), P. Mulgrew, (*) N. McGee, J. McMahon, L. McMenemy, P. Campbell, Jimmy Quinn (Edendork), Jack Gallagher (Dromore), V. Donnelly, Mick McCrory (Killyclogher), Colm McGillion (Omagh).

1936 v. Down on 14.6.36

A. Kerr, Tom McSorley (Trillick), J.H. Campbell, W. McElroy, J. Shields, N. McGee, Ronan Carbery (Donaghmore), L. McMenemy, P. Campbell, T. Kavanagh, M. O'Neill, S. Campbell, C. McGillion, Wm. McKenna (Augher), Peter Crozier (Moortown).

1937 v. Armagh on 31.10.37 (League)

S. Bonner, (*) Jim O'Hagan (Trillick), Brian Donnelly (Omagh), Andy Small (Dungannon), Paddy Gallagher (Omagh), T. McSorley, D. McSorley, P. Turbett, John McCarroll (Fintona), Patrick Begley (Pomeroy), J. McQuaid, Frank McCann (Trillick), Jim Gormley (Omagh), T. Kavanagh, Jim McElduff (Carrickmore). Also M. O'Neill*.

1938 v. Monaghan on 19.6.38

S. Bonner, * M. O'Neill, B. Donnelly, Vincent Hamill (Donaghmore), Bernard McStravog (Clonoe), Gerry Rice (Clogher), Michael Toal (Carrickmore), D. McCrossan, P. Campbell, J. O'Hagan, L. McMenemy, Dermot Devlin (Pomeroy), P. Begley, J.H. Campbell, Jim Colgan (Fintona).

1939 v. Cavan on 25.6.39

Joseph McCrory (Donaghmore), Frank McMullan (Donaghmore), G. Rice, V. Hamill, D. McSorley, Paddy Donnelly (Trillick), P. Crozier, P. Campbell, P. Turbett, P.G. Corey (Coalisland), Joseph McDermott (Dromore), J. McElduff, Brian Cullen (Dungannon), S. Campbell, Brendan Devlin (Pomeroy and U.C.D.). Also J. McCarroll. (*)

1940 v. Down on 30.6.40

J. McCrory, V. Hamill, G. Rice, Leo McGrath (Dungannon), Frank O'Neill (Moy), P. Campbell, * P. Crozier, P.G. Corey, (*) Joe Herron (Coalisland), D. McSorley, P. Begley, Frank Comac (Donaghmore), Tommy Corrigan (Dungannon), M. O'Neill, John Rafferty (Dungannon).

1941 v. Cavan on 3.8.41

Cathal Poyntz (Dromore), M. Toal, J. Herron, (*) G. Rice, L. McGrath, P. Crozier, P. Donnelly, Mick Keenan (Carrickmore), P.P. O'Connor (Tullyallen), B. Devlin, P. Begley, D. Devlin, J. Rafferty, T. Corrigan, B. Cullen. Also P. Campbell.*

1942 v. Armagh on 31.5.42

Paddy Rafferty (Coalisland), Andrew Montague (Dromore), P. Donnelly, M. Toal, Paddy O'Neill (Clonoe), G. Rice, Pat Keenan (Trillick), J. Herron, (*) P.G. Corey, P.K. O'Neill (Dungannon), P.

Begley, F. Comac, M. Keenan, D. Devlin, J. Donnelly. Also B. Cullen, * Fr. P. Campbell*.

1943 v. Donegal on 20.6.43 P. Rafferty, Leo Kelly (Ballygawley), J. Herron, M. Toal, P.K. O'Neill, G. Rice, P. Donnelly, A. Montague, L. McGrath, C. Poyntz, P. Begley, (*) P. Crozier, J. Rafferty, Jimmy Kelly (Carrickmore), James. Devlin (Moortown).

1944 v. Down on 2.7.44

P. Rafferty, L. Kelly, Peter Begley (Pomeroy), L. McGrath, J. Herron, G. Rice, Charles McAleer (Dromore), P. Crozier, Eamon McMenamin (Omagh), John Devlin (Moortown), Wm. McKenna (Augher), Iggy Jones (Dungannon), Donagh Begley (Pomeroy), John Carney (Dromore), Joe McGrath (Killiclogher).

1945 v. Antrim on 16.12.45

(Dr. Lagan Cup)

C. Poyntz, L. Kelly, Iggy Quinn (Dungannon), M. Toal, Hugh Kelly (Strabane), John Doris (Coalisland), John Begley (Carrickmore), Andrew Monaghan (Trillick), Frank Harte (Strabane), Frank Toal (Carrickmore), Tommy Campbell (Dungannon), Matt McBride (Trillick), Olly Slane (Carrickmore), J. Herron, J. Rafferty.

1946 v. Cavan on 23.6.46

Andrew McCormack (Dromore), Kevin McGarvey (Gortin), C. Poyntz, J. Begley, H. Kelly, J. Doris, C. McAleer, Kevin Teague (Mountjoy), Jack Kettle (Carrickmore), I. Jones, P.K. O'Neill, P. Begley, Sean O'Neill (Derrytresk), F. Harte, Benny Colton (Tattyreagh).

1947 v. Armagh on 29.6.47

A. McCormack, P.K. O'Neill, G. Rice, Dermot Gallagher (Strabane), H. Kelly, I. Quinn, J. Doris, Barry Devlin (Coalisland), C. McAleer, Peter McGrath (Clonoe), Jim Devlin (Coalisland), I. Jones, Sean Mallon (Dungannon) Malachy Comac (Donaghmore), T. Campbell.

1948 v. Antrim on 4.7.48

Thady Turbett (Omagh), J. Doris, G. Rice, Liam Campbell (Coalisland), H. Kelly, I. Quinn, T. Campbell, P.G. Corey, Eddie Devlin (Coalisland), Malachy Dargan (Cookstown), P. McGrath, I. Jones, * S. Mallon, M. Comac, J.J. Kelly (Moortown).

1949 v. Cavan on 12.6.49

Tom Magner (Moortown), Joe Crozier (Moortown), I. Quinn, Jim Devlin, J. Doris, G. Rice, T. Campbell, H. Kelly, C. McAleer, L. McKenny (Dromore), Frank Fee (Dungannon), B. Colton, P. O'Neill (Gortin), J.J. Kelly, I. Jones, * Also E. Devlin.*

1950 v. Cavan on 11.6.50

Frank McSorley (Gortin), J. Crozier, G. Rice, Donal Donnelly (Omagh), J. Doris, T. Campbell, Brendan Mullan (Omagh), H. Kelly, Hugh Conlon (Moortown), E. Devlin, (*) F. Fee, Paddy Clarke (Gortin), J.J. Kelly, J. McNally (Coalisland), I. Jones.

1951 v. Armagh on 17.6.51

T. Turbett, J. Doris, G. Rice, D. Donnelly, O. Slane, T. Campbell,* Paddy Quinn (Derrylaughan), E. Devlin, Mick Cushnahan (Derrylaughan), Jack Poyntz (Dromore), P.K. O'Neill, H. Conlon, I. Jones, P.J. Murphy (Cookstown), Dan McCaffrey (Omagh).

1952 v. Armagh on 15.6.52

T. Turbett,* O. Slane, T. Campbell,* D. Donnelly, Pat Donaghy (Dungannon), L. Campbell, P. Quinn, Sean McGrath (Clonoe), Malachy Connolly (Clogher), Frank Donnelly (Carrickmore), Scan Donnelly (Omagh), I. Jones, Kevin Murphy (Omagh), Tom McGuire (Clogher), J.J. Kelly. Also E. Devlin.*

1953 v. Cavan on 5.7.53

T. Turbett, (*) D. Donnelly, Jim Devlin, L. Campbell, S. Donnelly, T. Campbell, P. Quinn, Jack Taggart (Omagh), M. Cushnahan, F. Donnelly, E. Devlin,* S. McGrath, F. Fee, O. Slane, I. Jones.

1954 v. Cavan on 11.7.54

T. Turbett, (*) D. Donnelly, Paddy O'Reilly (Moy), L. Campbell, P. Donaghy, S. Donnelly, P. Quinn, Jim McAleer (Beragh), M. Cushnahan, H. Conlon, J. Taggart, I. Jones,* Jody O'Neill (Coalisland), F. Donnelly, Jack Twomey (Moy). Also E. Devlin.*

I. Jones represented Ireland against Combined Universities.

1955 v. Armagh on 27.4.55

(Dr. Lagan Cup final)

T. Turbett, P. Quinn, T. Campbell, L. Campbell, J.J. O'Hagan (Clonoe), Frank Higgins (Ballygawley), Patsy Devlin (Donaghmore), Brian McSorley (Clogher), M. Cushnahan, J. O'Neill, J. Taggart,* I. Jones, Hugh Sweeney (Urney), J. Devlin, F. Donnelly. (*)

1956 v. Cavan on 29.7.56

T. Turbett, (*) B. McSorley, J. Devlin, P. Donaghy, S. Donnelly, Paddy Corey (Omagh), J.J. O'Hagan, J. O'Neill, P. Devlin, I. Jones, J. Taggart,* F. Donnelly, Mick Kerr (Beragh), F. Higgins, D. Donnelly. Also M. Cushnahan. (*)

1957 v. Derry on 28.7.57

T. Turbett,* B. McSorley, J. Devlin,* P. Donaghy, P. Devlin, E. Devlin, J.J. O'Hagan, J. O'Neill,* M. Cushnahan, D. Donnelly, J. Taggart,* Mick McLkenny (Derrylaughan), S. Donnelly, F. Higgins, F. Donnelly. (*) Also I. Jones. (*) J. Devlin represented Ireland against Combined Universities.

1958 v. Down on 6.7.58

T. Turbett,* B. McSorley, J. Devlin,* J.J. O'Hagan, Anthony Connolly (Dromore), P. Corey, (*) P. Devlin, E. Devlin,* M. McLkenny, S. Donnelly, J. O'Neill,* Tom Fox (Clonoe), I. Jones, F. Higgins, F. Donnelly.* T. Turbett and F. Donnelly represented Ireland against Combined Universities.

1959 v. Down on 26.7.59

T. Turbett, (*) B. McSorley, J. Devlin, Michael Martin (Carrickmore), D. McCann (Donaghmore), P. Corey, J.J. O'Hagan, J. O'Neill, Sylvester Kirk (Urney), Mick Donaghy (Moy), P. Devlin, Brian Hackett (Coalisland), T. Fox, F. Higgins, F. Donnelly.

1960 v. Monaghan on 26.6.60

Ian McGarrity (Carrickmore), B. McSorley, M. Martin, Sean Lavery (Moy), M. Donaghy, P. Corey, T. Fox, J. O'Neill,* S. Kirk, Eugene McSorley (Clogher), P. Devlin, P.J. Hughes (Dungannon), Seamus Taggart (Omagh), F. Higgins, F. Donnelly. Also T. Turbett.*

1961 v. Derry on 11.6.61

I. McGarrity, B. McSorley, P. Corey, S. Lavery, M. Donaghy, P. Devlin, Larry Strain (Newtown Stewart), F. Higgins, Mick O'Neill (Clonoe), Charlie O'Hagan (Clonoe), J. O'Neill,* Patsy McDonald (Cookstown), Harry Donnelly (Clonoe), T. Fox, F. Donnelly.

1962 v. Down on 15.7.62

T. Turbett, B. McSorley, P. Corey, Art McRory (Dungannon), Eugene McMeel (Clogher), Des McMahon (Beragh), M. Martin, F. Higgins, J. O'Neill, C. Lavery, P. Devlin, M. Donaghy (*), Seamus O'Kane (Urney), F. Donnelly, Peter Harte (Ballygawley).

1963 v. Antrim on 2.6.63

T. Turbett,* Greg Park (Stewartstown), P. Corey, Liam McGrath (Beragh), E. McMeel, A. McRory, M. Donaghy, J. O'Neill,* F. Higgins, Seamus O'Brien (Clogher), P. Harte, S. O'Kane, D. McMahon, Peter McCaughey (Donaghmore), F. Donnelly. (*)

1964 v. Antrim on 31.5.64

Jim McCallan (Dungannon), A. McRory, Mena Devlin (Derrylaughan), Tom McKeagney (Fintona), John McCaffrey (Clogher), J. O'Neill, (*) P. Harte, Seamus McElroy (Ardboe), M. O'Neill, S. O'Brien, S. Taggart, S. O'Kane, Patsy Forbes (Ardboe), M. Donaghy, Declan O'Neill (Omagh). Also F. Donnelly.*

1965 v. Down on 13.6.65

J. McCallan, A. McRory, M. Devlin, T. McKeagney, J. McCaffrey, Peter Muigrew (Stewartstown), L. McGrath, Jim Hughes (Dungannon), S. Taggart, P. Forbes, J. O'Neill,* M. Martin, Mick Fee (Stewartstown), F. Donnelly, P. Harte.

1966 v. Down on 12.6.66

J. McCallan, G. Park, A. McRory, T. McKeagney, J. McCaffrey, P. Mulgrew, L. McGrath, J. O'Neill, S. Taggart, Colm O'Neill (Ardboe), M. Martin, P. Harte, Niall Timlin (Coalisland), J. Hughes, Barney McAnespie (Trillick).
1967 v. Cavan on 9.7.67

J. McCallan, G. Park, M. Devlin, T. McKeagney, B. McAnespie, P. Mulgrew, S. O'Brien, C. O'Neill, S. Taggart,* P. Harte, J. O'Neill,(*) P.J. Hughes, P. Forbes, Sean McElhatton (Ldmh Dhearg, Belfast), N. Timlin.
1968 v. Fermanagh on 2.6.68

J. McCallan, G. Park, M. Devlin, T. McKeagney, B. McAnespie, P. Mulgrew, P. Forbes, Joe McElroy (Ardboe), S. Taggart, C. O'Neill, Iggy Donnelly (Dungannon), J. O'Neill, Ciaran McElduff (Dromore), S. McElhatton, D. O'Neill.
1969 v. Derry on 1.6.69

Anthony Gallagher (Donaghmore), T. McKeagney, P. Mulgrew, Donal O'Neill (Derrylaughan), Pat King (Trillick), A. McRory, B. McAnespie, Brendan Dolan (Aghyaran), I. Donnelly, Seamus Graham (Brackaville), S. McElhatton, Seamus Donaghy (Dromore), Kevin Teague (Ardboe), Pat O'Neill (Derrylaughan), Paddy Park (Stewartstown).
1970 v. Derry on 7.6.70

Joe Harper (Urney), Peter Corr (Coalisland), Gerry Taggart (Derrylaughan), Jim Martin (Carrickmore), Jack O'Neill (Coalisland), P. Mulgrew, B. McAnespie, P. King, B. Dolan, P. Park, S. Donaghy, K. Teague, C. O'Neill, Patsy Lynn (Omagh), P.J. Hughes.

1971 v. Armagh on 6.6.71

J. Harper, Des Bleeks (Windmill), Mick Jordan (Eglisli), Pat McNally (Stewartstown), J. O'Neill, P. King, G. Taggart, S. McElhatton, S. Taggart, Jim McCreesh (Rock), Aidan McMahon (Coalisland), S. Donaghy, K. Teague, Patsy Barrett (Trillick), P. Harte.
1972 v. Donegal on 30.7.72

Kieran Harte (Carrickmore), Olly Nugent (Pomeroy), P. Mulgrew, Jack Duffy (Ldmh Dhearg), M.J. Forbes (Ardboe), G. Taggart, Mick Hughes (Killyman), B. Dolan, S. Donaghy, Patsy Hetherington (Donaghmore), S. McElhatton, Paddy McMahon (Omagh), Hugh Crawford (Omagh), K. Teague, John Early (Coalisland).
1973 v. Down on 29.7.73

Liam Turbett (Omagh), G. Taggart, P. Mulgrew, B. McAnespie, J. McElroy, M. Jordan, M. Hughes, Frank McGuigan (Ardboe), A. McMahon, S. Donaghy, P. King,(*) P. Hetherington, S. McElhatton, Brendan Donnelly (Trillick), K. Teague.
1974 v. Donegal on 16.6.74

L. Turbett, G. Taggart, P. Mulgrew,(*) M.J. Forbes, Colm McAleer (Beragh), J. McEiroy, M. Hughes,* F. McGuigan,* Patsy Kerlin (Owen Roe), A. McMahon, P. King,(*) S. Donaghy, Scan Coyle (Ardboe), P. Hetherington, S. McElhatton.
1975 v. Monaghan on 1.6.75

Barry Campbell (Dromore), M.J. Forbes, P. Mulgrew,* A. McMahon, M. Hughes, M. Jordan, G. Taggart, B. Donnelly,(*) L. Turbett,* Dominic Daly (Eglisli), P. Kerlin, F. McGuigan,* Brendan Beggs (Pomeroy), Eugene Bradley (Killiclogher), P. Forbes.
1976 v. Derry on 27.6.76

B. Campbell, G. Taggart, P. Mulgrew, Canice Woods (Carrickmore), M. Hughes, M. Jordan, P. King, Des McKenna (Agher), Eugene Devlin (Moortown), Eugene McKenna (Agher), F. McGuigan,* B. Donnelly, Joe McGrade (Trillick), Bosco O'Neill (Clonoe), Michael Harte (Ballygawley).
1977 v. Derry on 19.6.77

B. Campbell, Peadar McCallan (Carrickmore), P. Mulgrew,* C. Woods, M. Hughes, G. Taggart, Sean Donnelly (Trillick), Wm. McKenna (Agher), D. McKenna, Kevin McCabe (Clonoe), E. McKenna, Ciaran McGarvey (Aghyaran), A. McMahon, B. Donnelly, Tom Donnelly (Trillick). Also F. McGuigan* and P. King*.
1978 v. Derry on 18.6.78

B. Campbell, M. Hughes, P. Mulgrew,* S. Donnelly, P. King, D. McKenna, Ciaran Hagan (Eglisli), E. McKenna,* A. McMahon, B. Donnelly, K. McCabe,* Frank Daly (Carrickmore), Seamus Daly (Agher), Hugh O'Hagan (Derrylaughan), P. Hetherington.

1979 v. Donegal on 17.6.79

L. Turbett, P. King, G. Taggart, C. Hagan, K. McCabe,* Frank Rafferty (Carrickmore), S. Donnelly, Jarnes Devlin (Moortown), Kevin Toner (Gortin), B. Donnelly,* S. Daly, Oliver Hetherington (Donaghmore), Ciaran McGarvey (Aghyaran), Eugene Devlin (Moortown), M. Harte.
1980 v. Armagh on 20.7.80

B. Campbell, C. McGarvey, F. Rafferty, Ciaran McRory (Ballygawley), K. McCabe,* S. Donnelly, P. King, K. Toner, P. Kerlin, P. Hetherington, G. Taggart, Damian O'Hagan (Coalisland), Paul Donnelly (Agher), E. McKenna, M. Harte. K. McCabe received an All-Star Award.
1981 v. Monaghan on 17.5.81

Aidan Skelton (Drumquin), S. Donnelly, D. McKenna, F. Rafferty, Michael Bradley (Killiclogher), K. McCabe,* Noel McGinn (Killiclogher), P. Kerlin,* J. Devlin, M. Harte, E. McKenna,* D. O'Hagan,* B. Donnelly, Patrick Ball (Aghabrack), G. Taggart.

1982 v., Fermanagh on 27.6.82

A. Skelton, S. Donnelly, H. O'Hagan, N. McGinn, John Lynch (Castlederg), A. O'Hagan, F. Rafferty, E. McKenna, M. Bradley, K. McCabe, B. Donnelly, S. Daly, G. Taggart, F. McGuigan, Tommy Fiddis (Dromore). Also P. Ball(*).

1983 v. Cavan on 19.6.83

A. Skelton, F. Rafferty, C. McGarvey, N. McGinn, (*) Brian Barker (Dungannon), Gerry Raflewski (Omagh), J. Lynch, E. McKenna, * J. Devlin, Pat Hannigan (Dromore), F. McGuigan, S. Donnelly, Plunkett Donaghy (Moy), S. Daly, E. Bradley.

1984 v. Armagh on 15.7.84

A. Skelton, (*) F. Rafferty, C. McGarvey, S. Donnelly, K. McCabe, N. McGinn, H. O'Hagan, E. McKenna, * P. Donaghy, P. Kerlin, D. O'Hagan, Colm Donaghy (Moy), S. Daly, F. McGuigan, * Paddy O'Neill (Moortown).

*Member of Ulster Railway Cup team.

(*)Substitute on Railway Cup team.

Tyrone's Ulster Champions Minor

1931 John Reilly, Pat McQuaid, Peter Mullan, John McQuaid (captain), Tommy Kavanagh, Vincent Donnelly, Michael Hughes and Paddy Donaghy (all Dungannon), John Fay, Frank McCullagh and Michael Comac (Donaghmore), Frank Fullan and Peter Campbell (Coalisland), Neil McSloy (Washingbay), Michael McGuckian (Ballinderry).

1934 Harry McGrath (Killyclogher), J.P. McDermott (Dromore), John Campbell (Dromore), Ronan Carbery (Donaghmore), Mick Fearon (Dungannon), Dermot Kelly (Killyclogher), John (Mor) O'Neill (Clonoe), Brendan McCaul (Killyclogher), Frank McCarroll (Eskra), Pat McCaffrey (Moy), Leo Kelly (Ballygawley), M. Rafferty (Killyclogher), Mick Healy (Drumquin), Patrick Hamilton (Donaghmore), Eugene Gallagher (Dromore), Richard McCann (Washingbay), Peter Crozier (Ardboe), Patrick Donnelly (Trillick), Malachy Campbell (Kildress), John Rafferty (Dungannon), Frank Kelly (Moy), Leo ("Hawk") McGrath (Dungannon).

1935 Won Ulster final; subsequently disqualified.

P. Teague, Gerry Rice (Clogher), John Campbell (Dromore), Jim McVeigh (Omagh), John Colgan (Fintona), Ronan Carbery (Donaghmore), Jim Donnelly (Omagh), John McCarroll (Eskra), Paddy Donnelly (Trillick), Brian Cullen (Dungannon), Willic McKenna (Augher), Packie Begley (Pomeroy), Jim Speers (Aughnacloy), Pat McCaffrey (Moy), Paddy Devlin (Coalisland).

1946 Joe Bonner (Omagh), Robert McNulty (Urney), Jim Devlin, captain (Coalisland), John MacRory (Omagh), Donal McSorley (Omagh), Eddie Devlin (Coalisland), Frank Reid (Strabane), Malachy Dargan (Cookstown), Peter McGrath (Clonoe), Michael McGread (Omagh), John Mulholiand (Omagh), Jackie McConnell (Gortin), Dan McCaffrey (Omagh), Tom Sullivan (Coalisland), Joe Hamill (Ballygawley). Subs: W. Melly (Urney), K. O'Reilly (Dromore), G. McSorley (Omagh), M. Cushnahan (Derrytresk), P. Hughes (Carrickmore), S. Tierney (Edendork), J. Donnelly (Carrickmore), W. Stevenson (Edendork), P. Donnelly (Omagh).

1947 All-Ireland Champions.

Michael Bradley (Brackaville), Liam Campbell (Coalisland), Robert McNulty (Urney), Vincent Cullen (Dungannon), Michael Vaughan (Dromore), Eddie Devlin captain (Coalisland), Mick Cushnahan (Derrytresk), Sean McGrath (Clonoe), Jack Poyntz (Dromore), Harry Hartop (Dromore), Malachy Dargan (Cookstown), Jackie McConnell (Gortin), Dan McCaffrey (Omagh), Tom Sullivan (Coalisland), Paddy Donnelly (Fintona). Subs: G. Donnelly (Pomeroy), P. Donnelly (Omagh), J. Colton (Dromore), G. Jones (Dungannon), J. Carlin (Newtownstewart), J.J. O'Hagan (Clonoe), C. Fox (Dungannon), P. Clarke (Gortin).

1948 All-Ireland Champions

Jimmy McGaghra (Omagh), Donal Donnelly (Omagh), Malachy Connolly (Clogher), Eddie Knox (Omagh), Louis Campbell (Brackaville), Eddie Devlin, captain (Coalisland), Pat O'Hanlon (Ballygawley), Scan McGrath (Clonoe), Harry Hartop (Dromore), John O'Reilly (Dromore), Malachy Dargan (Cookstown), Barney Eastwood (Cookstown), Leo Devlin (Coalisland), John Joe O'Hagan (Clonoe), Jack Twomey (Moy). Subs: S. Donnelly (Omagh) for J. O'Reilly (injured), D. Cummins (Brackaville), B. Loughran (Ballygawley), T. Carney (Dromore), B. Corr (Coalisland), M. McIlkenny (Clonoe), E. Leonard (Trillick), J.J. Donnelly (Beragh), F. McIlvenna (Brackaville).

1967 Anthony Gallagher (Donaghmore), Brian McLaughlin (Urney), Raymond McKenna (Augher), Joe McLernon (Derrylaughan), Dominic Fitzpatrick (Cookstown), Brendan Hetherington (Donaghmore), Eugene Mulligan (Cookstown), Paddy McKenna (Omagh), Seamus Donaghy (Dromore), Paddy Park (Stewartstown), Eamon Morgan, captain (Dungannon), Kevin McArt (Trillick), Ben McQuaid (Beragh), Noel Coyle (Pomeroy), Joe Daly (Donaghmore). Subs: P. McGarvey (Beragh), G. Murphy (Trillick), T. Bradley (Benburb), D. O'Neill (Derrylaughan), F. Quinn (Pomeroy), J. Gallagher (Kildress), C. Devlin (Gortin), B. French (Leckpatrick), J. Gallagher (Beragh), N. Barbour (Omagh), J. McNulty (Leckpatrick).

1971 Liam Turbett (Omagh), Peter Brady (Clonoe), Alphonsus Nugent (Pomeroy), Dominic Daly (Killeeshil), Barry Lowry (Tattyreagh), Brian McGinn (Augher), Scan McKnight (Killyclogher), Frank McGuigan (Ardboe), Willie McKenna, captain (Augher), Kieran Hagan (Eglish), Patsy Hetherington (Donaghmore), Martin McCrory (Killyclogher), Peter McDermott (Greencastle), Malachy McAleer (Trillick), Scan Coyle (Ardboe). Subs: H. Crawford

(Omagh), S. Gorrnley (Trillick), O. O'Neill (Omagh), P. Toal (Killyclogher), E. O'Neill (Ardboe), P. Sharkey (Omagh), D. McKenna (Agher), D. Rocks (Moortown).

1972 All-Ireland Finalists

Patsy Kerlin (Owen Roes), Gerry Goodwin (Dungannon), Hugh Mooney (Edendork), Dominic Daly (Killeeshil), Oliver O'Neill (Omagh), Colm McAleer (Beragh), Justin O'Doherty (Omagh), Frank McGuigan, captain (Ardboe), Des McKenna (Agher), Michael Quinn (Stewartstown), Jimmy Hughes (Coalisland), Bosco O'Neill (Clonoe), Tommy Campbell (Omagh), Michael Harte (Ballygawley), Paul Quinn (Aghaloo). Subs: D. Kennedy (Dungannon), M. Coyle and F. Grugan (Carrickmore), J. Cunningham (Pomeroy), P. Owens (Beragh), J. McDaid (Omagh), B. Campbell (Dromore), M. Lennon (Kildress).

1973 All-Ireland Champions

Barry Campbell (Dromore), Gerry Goodwin (Dungannon), Martin Lennon (Kildress), Hugh Mooney (Edendork), Sean Gorrnley (Carrickmore), Colm McAleer (Beragh), Justin O'Doherty (Omagh), Patsy Kerlin (Owen Roes), Des McKenna, captain (Agher), Sean O'Kane (Strabane), Eugene McKenna (Agher), Joe Cunningham (Pomeroy), Michael Quinn (Stewartstown), Bosco O'Neill (Clonoe), Kieran Currie (Edendork). Subs: P. Scullion (Coaisland), S. Coyne (Moy), J.

McGee (Cookstown), E. Devlin (Moortown), T. Marlowe (Agher), P. McCuskey (Dungannon).

1975 All-Ireland Finalists

Aidan Skelton (Drumquin), Barney Campbell (Ballygawley), Ciaran McGarvey (Aghyran), Peadar McCallan (Carrickmore), P.J. Treanor (Agher), Kevin McCabe (Clonoe), J.J. Campbell (Dromore), Turlough O'Rourke (Brackville), Gerry McCallan, captain (Fintona), Peter Teague (Ardboe), Michael McCay (Urney), Paul Donnelly (Agher), Damien O'Hagan (Coalisland), Martin McAnenny (Urney), Seamus Daly (Agher). Subs: S. Donnelly (Trillick), E. McCann (Drumragh), P. Fox (Carrickmore), J. McCioghlan (Fintona), P. Devlin (Coalisland), F. McMahon (Dromore).

1976 Aidan Skelton (Drumquin), John O'Reilly (Dromore), Peadar McCallan (Carrickmore), Barney Campbell (Ballygawley), Peter Herron (Coalisland), Kevin Toner (Gortin), Cathal McCann (Fintona), James Devlin (Moortown), Patrick Ball (Owen Roes), Ciaran Campbell (Dungannon), Damien O'Hagan (Coafisland), Malachy Donnelly (Beragh), Seamus Daly (Agher), Paul Donnelly, captain (Agher), Finbar McNamee (Newtownstewart). Subs: A. Hamilton (Dungannon), M. McAnenny (Urney), L. Farrell (Ballygawley), G. Connolly (Dromore), F. McMahon (Dromore), C. Lynch (Castlederg), C. Maneely (Brackville), P. McGeary (Moy).

1978 Noel McGinn (Killyclogher), Gerard McGinn (Killyman), Cathal Maneely (Brackville), Anthony McSwiggan (Cookstown), Charles Lynch (Castlederg), Aidan O'Hagan (Derrylaughan), Brian Barker (Dungannon), Aidan McGinn (Fintona), John Lynch (Castlederg), Sean McElhinney (Fintona), Damien O'Hagan (Coalisland), Paul Madden (Dungannon), Patrick McGeary (Dundalk), Brendan McKenna (Agher), Don O'Kane (Dregish). Subs: E. Mullen (Rock), R. Hetherington (Donaghmore), M. Bradley (Killyclogher), A. Gallagher (Newtownstewart), L. McLaughlin (Drumquin), P. Kelly (Dungannon), B. Robinson (Derrylaughan), A. Lagan (Omagh), S. Brogan (Fintona), J. Bayne (Coalisland), J. McCullagh (Killyclogher).

Under 21

1972 Kieran Harte (Carrickmore), Alphonsus Nugent (Pomeroy), Eamon Hetherington (Donaghmore), Scan Bleeks (Windmill), Jim McCreesh (Stewartstown), Gerry Taggart, captain (Derrylaughan), Michael Hughes (Killyman), Willie McKenna (Agher), Frank McGuigan (Ardboe), Patsy Hetherington (Donaghmore), Pat McMahon (Omagh), Hugh Crawford (Omagh), Sean Coyle (Ardboe), Frank Quinn (Donaghmore), Tommy Woods (Coalisland). Subs: M. Harte (Ballygawley), F. McGurk (Kildress), P. Forbes (Ardboe), S. Gormley (Trillick), K. Hagan (Eglish), F. McMahon (Coalisland), J. O'Neill (Coalisland), M. McCann (Dromore), P. Brady (Clonoe), A. Donaghy (Omagh).

1973 Liam Turbett (Omagh), Oliver O'Neill (Omagh), Alphonsus Nugent (Pomeroy), Tom O'Kane (Drumquin), Martin Harte (Ballygawley), Seamus Gormley (Trillick), Michael Hughes, captain (Killyman), Frank McGuigan (Ardboe), Kieran Hagan (Eglish), Hugh Crawford (Omagh), Frank Quinn (Donaghmore), Patsy Hetherington (Donaghmore), Joseph McGrade (Trillick), Michael Harte (Ballygawley), Tommy Woods (Coalisland). Subs: D. McKenna (Agher), C. McAleer (Beragh), P. McDermott (Greencastle), P. Kerlin (Owen Roes), M. McRory (Killyclogher), W. McKenna (Agher).

1980 Eugene Mullan (Rock), Sean Slevin (Dungannon), Liam Farrell (Ballygawley), Ciaran McCrory (Ballygawley), John Lynch (Castlederg), Aidan O'Hagan (Derrylaughan), Noel McGinn (Killyclogher), Michael Bradley (Killyclogher), Colm Lynch (Castlederg), Oliver Hetherington (Donaghmore), Patrick Ball, captain (Aghabrack), Damien O'Hagan (Coalisland), Cathal Mancely (Brackville), Austin Hamilton (Dungannon), James Devlin (Moortown). Subs: S. McAlinney (Fintona), K. Loughran (Donaghmore), C. Donaghy (Moy), F. Lynch (Castlederg), B. Barker (Dungannon), F. McNamee (Newtownstewart), E. Duffy (Killyclogher), F. Conlon (Agher), M. Haran (Killyclogher).

Junior

1968 All-Ireland Champions

Anthony Gallagher (Donaghmore), Donal O'Neill (Derrylaughan), Peter Coyle (Ardboe), Michael Jordan (Eglish), Seamus Graham (Brackville), Authur McRory (Dungannon), Frank McCartan (Carrickmore), Pat O'Neill, captain (Derrylaughan), Charlie O'Hagan (Clonoe), Pat McGonagle (Dromore), Seamus Donaghy (Dromore), Kevin Teague

(Ardboe), Frank Donnelly (Carrickmore), Brendan Dolan (Aghyaran), John Early (Coalisland). Subs: B. Hetherington (Donaghmore), G. McGahan (Killyman), H. O'Brien (Dromore), M. McGonagle (Owen Roes), J.B. O'Hagan (Ardboe), J. Campbell (Coalisland), P. McGahan (Killyman), V. Daly (Eglis), S. McCartan (Carrickmore), P. McKenna (Omagh), I. Donnelly (Dungannon), D. O'Neill (Omagh).

1983 Martin Dorman (Edendork), Michael Slane (Beragh), Paul Byrne (Aghyaran), Eugene McCann (Fintona), Kieran Kelly (Kildress), Eugene Donnelly (Killyman), Scan MacRory (Drumragh), Ciaran McGarvey, captain (Aghyaran), Martin Lynch (Castlederg), Jerome Bayne (Brackaville), Patrick McKee (Clonoe), Martin Early (Brackaville), Finbar McNamee (Newtownstewart), Jim McCloghan (Fintona), Scan McAliskey (Clonoe). Subs: M. Lennon (Kildress), P. Gallagher (Drumragh), P. McDermott (Greeneastle), J. O'Neill (Coalisland), P. Maxwell (Edendork), J. McNamee (Kildress), S. O'Neill (Derrytresk), M. McMullan (Fintona), T. Hughes (Stewartstown), E. Mullan (Rock), H. McClure (Clonoe), C. Donaghy (Moy), L. Grugan (Fintona).

Senior

1956 Thady Turbett (Omagh), Brian McSorley (Clogher), Jim Devlin (Coalisland), Pat Donaghy (Moy), Scan Donnelly (Omagh), Paddy Corey (Omagh), J.J. O'Hagan (Clonoe), Jody O'Neill, captain (Coalisland), Patsy Devlin (Donaghmore), Iggy Jones (Dungannon), Jack Taggart (Omagh), Frank Donnelly (Carrickmore), Michael Kerr (Beragh), Frank Higgins (Bailygawley), Donal Donnelly (Omagh). Subs: H. Kelly (Urney), P. Quinn (Derrylaughan), D. McCluskey (Cookstown), M. Quinn (Carrickmore), H. Donnelly (Omagh), P. McSorley (Clogher). Also E. Devlin (Coalisland) and T. Campbell (Dungannon) for All-Ireland semi-final.

1957 T. Turbett, B. McSorley, J. Devlin, P. Donaghy, P. Devlin, E. Devlin, J.J. O'Hagan, J. O'Neill, M. Cushnahan (Derrylaughan), D. Donnelly, J. Taggart, M. McIlkenny (Derrylaughan), S. Donnelly, F. Higgins, F. Donnelly. Subs: S. O'Neill (Clonoe), T. Campbell, T. Fox (Clonoe), A. Connolly (Dromore), P. O'Neill (Omagh). Also I. Jones, captain (Dungannon) for All-Ireland semi-final (after injury).

1973 Liam Turbett (Omagh), Gerry Taggart (Derrylaughan), Peter Mulgrew (Stewartstown), Barney McAnespie (Trillick), Joe McElroy (Ardboe), Michael Jordan (Eglis), Michael Hughes (Killyman), Frank McGuigan, captain (Ardboe), Aidan McMahon (Coalisland), Seamus Donaghy (Dromore), Pat King (Trillick), Patsy Hetherington (Donaghmore), Scan McElhatton (Ldmdh Dhearg, Antrim), Brendan Donnelly (Trillick), Kevin Teague (Ardboe). Subs: J. Early (Coalisland), P. McMahon (Omagh), H. Crawford (Omagh), A. Nugent (Pomeroy), M.J. Forbes (Ardboe), J. Duffy (Ldmdh Dhearg), E. Hetherington (Donaghmore), P. Forbes (Ardboe), T. Woods (Coalisland), S. McCann (Derrylaughan).

1984 Aidan Skelton (Drumquin), Frank Rafferty (Carrickmore), Ciaran McGarvey (Aghyaran), Scan Donnelly (Trillick), Kevin McCabe (Clonoe), Noel McGinn (Killiclogher), Hugh O'Hagan (Derrylaughan), Eugene McKenna, captain, (Aghyaran), Plunkett Donaghy (Moy), Patsy Kerlin (Aughabrack), Damian O'Hagan (Coalisland), Colm Donaghy (Moy), Seamus Daly (Aghyaran), Frank McGuigan (Ardboe), Paddy O'Neill (Moortown). Subs: Declan Muldoon (Dungannon), Liam Donnelly (Trillick), John Lynch (Castlederg), Audie Hamilton (Dungannon), Ned Coyne (Moy), Gerry Taggart (Derrylaughan), J.J. O'Neill (Moortown), Stephen Coney (Ardboe), Eugene Bradley (Omagh), Eugene Mullan (Rock).

Dr. McKenna Cup Winners

1957 T. Turbett, B. McSorley, J. Devlin, S. O'Neill, S. Donnelly, E. Devlin, J.J. O'Hagan, P. Devlin, F. Higgins, I. Jones (captain), M. McIlkenny, J. O'Neill, T. Fox, F. Donnelly, Des Ryan (Kinturk). Subs: A. Connolly, M. Devlin (Derrylaughan), P. Donaghy, B. Hackett (Coalisland).

1973 Liam Turbett, Gerry Taggart, Peter Mulgrew (captain), Barney McAnespie (Trillick), M.J. Forbes (Ardboe), Joe McElroy, Mick Hughes, Aidan McMahon, Frank McGuigan, Seamus Donaghy, Pat King, Patsy Hetherington, Scan Coyle (Ardboe), Scan McElhatton, Paddy McMahon. Subs: Tommy Woods (Coalisland), John Early (Coalisland), Kevin Teague (Ardboe).

1978 Liam Turbett (Omagh), Mick Hughes (Killyman), Wm. McKenna (Aghyaran), Scan Donnelly (Trillick), Pat King, captain (Trillick), Des McKenna (Aghyaran), Ciaran McGarvey (Aghyaran), Eugene McKenna (Aghyaran), James Devlin (Moortown), Kieran Hagan (Eglis), Seamus Daly (Aghyaran), Frank Daly (Carrickmore), Michael Harte (Bailygawley), Eugene Bradley (Killiclogher), Patsy Hetherington (Donaghmore). Subs: P. Ball (Owen Roes), P. O'Hagan (Derrylaughan), B. Campbell (Dromore), P. Mulgrew (Stewartstown), C. Lynch (Castlederg), P. Hand (Aghyaran), K. McCabe (Clonoe), B. Donnelly (Trillick), A. McMahon (Coalisland), H. O'Hagan (Derrylaughan).

1982 Aidan Skelton (Drumquin), Scan Donnelly (Trillick), Hugh O'Hagan (Derrylaughan), Noel McGinn (Killiclogher), Aidan O'Hagan (Derrylaughan), Mick Bradley (Killiclogher), Frank Rafferty (Carrickmore), Eugene McKenna (Aghyaran), Kevin McCabe (Clonoe), John Lynch (Castlederg), Brendan Donnelly (Trillick), Patsy Kerlin, captain (Aughabrack), Paul Donnelly (Aghyaran), Seamus Daly (Aghyaran), Eugene Bradley (Killiclogher). Subs: Michael Harte (Bailygawley), Ciaran McGarvey (Aghyaran), Brendan Rafferty (Killeeshil), Colm Donaghy (Moy), Gerry Taggart (Derrylaughan).

1984 Aidan Skelton, Frank Rafferty, Hugh O'Hagan, Aidan O'Hagan, Kevin McCabe, Noel McGinn, John Lynch, Ned Coyne (Moy), Plunkett Donaghy (Moy), Seamus Daly, Eugene McKenna (captain), Colm Donaghy (Moy), Declan Muldoon (Dungannon), Damien O'Hagan (Coalisland), Paddy O'Neill (Moortown). Subs: (injured): Ciaran McGarvey, Frank McGuigan.

Dr. Lagan Cup Winners

1942 Paddy Rafferty (Coalisland), Leo Kelly (Ballygawley), Joe Herron (Coalisland), Michael Toal (Carrickmore), Paddy Donnelly, captain (Trillick), Gerry Rice (Clogher), Leo McGrath (Dungannon), Andrew Montague (Dromore), Peter Crozier (Moortown), Fr. Peter Campbell (Coalisland), Packie Begley (Pomeroy), Cathal Poyntz (Dromore), Brendan Devlin (Pomeroy), Jimmy Kelly (Carrickmore), John Rafferty (Dungannon). Subs: P. O'Neill (Dungannon), P. O'Neill (Clonoe), F. McAtee (Fintona), F. Quinn (Moortown), J. Gormley (Omagh), J. Devlin (Moortown), B. Cullen (Dungannon).

1956 T. Turbett, P. Corey, J. Devlin, B. MeSorley, P. Devlin, E. Devlin, J.J. O'Hagan, J. O'Neill, M. Cushnahan, S. Donnelly, J. Taggart, I. Jones (captain), D. Donnelly, F. Higgins, F. Donnelly. Subs: P. Donaghy, S. O'Neill, T. Campbell, T. Fox, M. McIlkenny.

1957 T. Turbett, B. MeSorley, J. Devlin, P. Corey, A. Connolly, E. Devlin, J.J. O'Hagan, M. Cushnahan, J. O'Neill, E. McElroy (Ardboe), M. McIlkenny, I. Jones (captain), D. Ryan, F. Higgins, F. Donnelly. Subs: S. Donnelly, P. Devlin.

Board Officers COUNTY BOARD Chairmen

Michael V. O'Nolan	Strabane	1904-08	
H.K. McAleer	Sixmilecross	1909-10 and	1913-14
M.M. Quinn	Mullinahoe	1916-17	
Fr. James McManus	Kilskeery (Trillick)		1917-20
Joseph O'Neill	Cookstown	1923-27	
P.T. Tobin	Moortown	1928-32	
Fr. James McGilligan	Carrickmore	1933-40	
Peter Tohall	Moy	1940-44	
Fr. Thomas Kirke Trillick		1945-46	
Fr. Peter Hughes	Pomeroy	1947-49	
J.H. Campbell	Coalisland	1950	
Patrick Cullen	Cookstown	1951-69 (except 1960)	
Jim Devlin	Coalisland	1960	
Patrick Corey	Brackaville	1970-74	
Patrick McCartan	Beragh	1975-77	
James Treacy	Clonoe	1978-80 and 1984	
Brendan Harkin	Killyclogher	1981-83	

Secretaries

William F. McNancy	Dungannon	1904-05
Michael F. Greaney	Dungannon	1905-06
John J. Mallon	Coalisland	March-May 1906
Cathal O'Toole	Donaghmore	May 1906-September 1907
Joseph Donnelly	Omagh	September 1907-1909
Richard McManus	Dromore	Feb. 1909-End of 1909
John Coleman	Dungannon	July 1913-Summer 1914
Michael J. Coen	Carrickmore	Sept. 1916-Feb. 1917
Patrick Holland	Dungannon	Feb. 1917-Sept. 1918
Patrick Crawford	Coalisland	Sept. 1918-June 1919
Thomas Hewitt	Fintona	July 1919-End of 1920
Michael Coney	Ardboe	1923-35
John Anderson	Pomeroy	1936
Michael McElduff	Carrickmore	1937
Thomas Donnelly	Omagh	1938
Edward McGowan	Killyclogher	1939-43 & Jan-July 1950
John McQuaid	Dungannon	1944-49
Patrick K. O'Neill	Dungannon	July 1950-76

Dermot Conway	Coalisland	1977-83
Brendan Harkin	Killyclogher	1984

Treasurers

Edward Carbery	Donaghmore	January-September 1904
Cathal O'Toole	Donaghmore	Sept. 1904-March 1905
Joseph Morrison	Coalisland	1905-07
H.K. McAleer	Sixrnilcross	1907-08
J.W. Gavan	Coalisland	1909
J. McAleer	Pomeroy	August 1913-Summer 1914
Thomas Devlin	Pomeroy	Sept. 1916-1918
Thomas Hewitt	Fintona	1919
Peter Tohall	Moy	1920
John Morrison	Stewartstown	1923-26
F.V. Quinn	Dungannon	1927-32
F.J. McGurn	Beragh	1933
James Slevin	Castlecauffield	1934-36
Peter Tohall	Moy	1937-41
Ben Donoghue	Dungannon	1942-43
Edward McGowan	Killyclogher	1944-45
J.H. Campbell	Coalisland	1946
Andrew Montague	Dromore	1947-49
Frank O'Neill	Coalisland	1950-51
James Casey	Dungannon	1952-81 (except 1975)
James Treacy	Clonoe	1975
Paul Doris	Drumragh	1982-84

EAST TYRONE BOARD

Chairmen

P.T. Tobin	Moortown	1933
F.V. Quinn	Dungannon	1934-36
Peter Tohall	Moy	1937,1941
Fr. John Murphy	Clonoe	1938-40
Fr. Eamon Devlin	Donaghmore	1942-45
John McQuaid	Dungannon	1946-48
Frank Devlin	Coalisland	1949
Patrick Cullen	Cookstown	1950-65
Patrick Duffy	Ardboe	1966
Patrick Corey	Brackaville	1967-74

Secretaries

Michael Coney	Ardboe	1933-36
P.J. Devlin	Cookstown	1937-38
Aloysius Kelly	Dungannon	1939-1940 (April)
P.P. O'Neill	Edendork	1940 (April-Dec.)
Patrick McElhatton	Pomeroy	1941-43
J.F. Skeffington	Dungannon	1944-45
Frank O'Neill	Coalisland	1946-48
Patrick Cullen	Cookstown	1949
Malachy Quinn	Ardboe	1950-51
Kevin Doherty	Brackaville	1952
Liam Campbell	Coalisland	1953-70
Frank McAlinden	Killyman	1971
James Treacy	Clonoe	1972-73 (April)
Dermot Conway	Coalisland	1973-74

Treasurers

F.V. Quinn	Dungannon	1933
Laurence Fox	Edendork	1934-46
Frank Devlin	Brackaville	1947-51

John Dillon	Coalisland	1952
John Devlin	Moortown	1953-54
Dermot Devlin	Coalisland	1955-57
Hugh Cullen	Edendork	1958-62
Joseph O'Neill	Coalisland	1963-70 & 72-74
Patrick Hughes	Brackaville	1971

West Tyrone Board Chairmen

Joseph Higgins	Ballygawley	1931-32 & 1935-36
Fr. James McGilligan	Carrickmore	1933-34 & 1937-40
Fr. Thomas Kirke Trillick		1940-46
Peter Coleman	Fintona	1947-49 & 1959-65
Brian McBride	Newtownstewart	1952
Hugh Kelly	Urney	1953-58
Fr. Brendan McAvoy	Ballygawley	1969 & 1971
Patrick McCartan	Beragh	1969 & 1971
Patrick McCaffrey	Omagh	1970
Joseph Martin	Carrickmore	1972
Edward McCaffrey	Omagh	1973-74

Secretaries

Frank J. McGurn	Beragh	1931-32
Thomas Montague	Ballygawley	1933 (until April)
Malachy Morris	Greencastle	1933-34
James McGowan	Killyclogher	1935-37
Edward McGowan	Killyclogher	1938-39
James McGartiand	Dromore	1940 (until July)
James Gormley	Omagh	1941-43
Andrew Montague	Dromore	1944-46
Brian McBride	Newtownstewart	1947-49
Patrick O'Neill	Gortin	1950-51
Sean Bennett	Beragh	1952-54
Patrick Higgins	Ballygawley	1955-57
Jack Woods	Beragh	1958-59
Eugene McSorley	Clogher	1960-62
Edward McCaffrey	Omagh	1963-71
Patrick Holland	Urney	1972-74

Treasurers

Frank Kerr	Beragh	1931-35
Michael O'Neill	Dromore	1936-42
James O'Hagan	Trillick	1943-51
W.J. Conway	Beragh	1952-54
Donal Donnelly	Omagh	1955-59
Patrick Devlin	Omagh	1960-74

ALL-COUNTY LEAGUE BOARD, 1969-78 ACTIVITIES BOARD, 1979-84

Chairmen

P.K. O'Neill	Dungannon	1969-72
Patrick McCaffrey	Omagh	1973-74
Eddie McCaffrey	Omagh	1975-79
Seamus Woods	Carrickmore	1980-81
Tony McKenna	Clogher	1982-84

Secretaries

Eddie McCaffrey	Omagh	1969-74
Dermot Conway	Coalisland	1975-76
Brendan Holland	Killeeshil	1977-79
Frank Rodgers	Beragh	1980-84

Treasurers

James Casey	Dungannon	1969-78
Patrick Holland	Urney	1979
Paul Doris	Drumragh	1980-82
Patsy Gallagher	Donaghmore	1983-84

Tyrone Clubs

Aghaloo O'Neills

Established in 1970. Previous clubs existed in the Aghnacloy area in 1904-09, 1930-34, 1954-55. Aghaloo won East Tyrone and county junior championships in 1974. Strong tradition of camogie in 1930's; and Moybridge (drawn from both sides of Tyrone-Monaghan border) won Tyrone championship in 1934. Aghaloo club grounds (22 acres along River Blackwater) purchased in 1973-75 and vested in GAA.

Aghyaran St. Davog's

Founded in 1956, entered West Tyrone competitions in 1957. Previous club existed in 1947-48. Won West Tyrone junior league (1962), West Tyrone intermediate championships (1965 and 1969), All-Co.- league, Division 3 (1977), county intermediate championship (1981); finalists in intermediate championship (1983). Camogie team played in competitions in 1976 and 1979. Hurling team being formed. Club grounds developed.

Ardboe O'Donovan Rossa

Clubs existed in Ardboe under the name of Owen Roes (1908-10 and 1916-19) and Pearses (after 1923). Continuous succession (with brief interruptions only) since 1923. Present club - O'Donovan Rossa - established 1944. Pearses were finalists in SFC in 1926 and 1927. O'Donovan Rossa won SFC in 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, finalists in 1976 and 1983; JFC in 1962 and 1971; MFC in 1951 and 1958; All-Co. league (Division 1) winners in 1970, 1972, 1974, 1975, 1978 and 1981. New pavilion completed in 1984. Grounds owned by club.

Aughabrack Daniel O'Connells

Established in 1979 as junior club. Previous club existed in the area in 1948-52. Promoted to Division 2 at end of first season of competition, and to Division I at end of second season. Club won two Tyrone titles at Adult Sc6r. Two playing members have represented Tyrone and Ulster. Grounds leased; club rooms provided.

Augher St. Macartan's

Affiliated in 1957. Previous club (Young Irelands) existed in 1931-37. Players from the area also assisted Clogher teams. Won SFC in 1976 and 1982, finalists in 1970 and 1973; won IFC in 1966, JFC in 1964 and MFC in 1974 and 1978. Camogie club formed in 1984. Very extensive development of grounds and club facilities undertaken in recent years. Grounds vested in GAA.

Baliygawley St. Ciaran's

First club played in 1913-14 and again in 1916-17. In almost continuous existence since 1924. SFC finalists in 1925, winners in 1926 and 1931. Won JFC in 1959, Juv. FC in 1955, St. Enda Cup in 1963, McElduff Cup in 1969, 1970, 1971, All-Co. league, Div. 2, in 1974, MF league in 1979, U-21 FC in 1980 and 1982, Reserve championship in 1981; MFC finalists in 1979. Cardinal MacRory Park, vested in GAA, opened in 1956; new dressing rooms to be completed in 1984.

Beragh Red Knights

First club (Sixmilecross Wolfe Tones) formed in 1906. GAA carried on intermittently since then by Red Knights (formed 1923), Shamrocks (1926), Sons of the Gael (1931), Brackey Wolfe Tones (1933), St. Mary's (1944), Red Knights (1972). Successes include JFC (1947), West Tyrone Senior league (1935) and Intermediate league (1972), All-Co. league, Division 3 (1981), St. Enda Cup (1956), McElduff Cup (1972). Red Knights won AIB Club of the Year awards (1979 and 1981) and McNamee award (1979). Grounds purchased in 1954, developed in 1970's. Handball alley built (1981). Camogie team formed in 1977 and hurling team in 1983.

Brackaville Owen Roes

Established in 1938; in existence in 1938-42, 1946-54 and 1959-84. Prior to 1938 players from the area played for Coalisland; separate team existed in 1932-34. Won Tyrone junior football championship in 1940; finalists in 1979; minor team finalists in Tyrone MFC in 1946 and 1947. Grounds vested in GAA; extensive developments, including social club, in recent years; new pavilion almost completed.

Brockagh Emmets

Formerly Mountjoy Emmets (until 1980). Founded in 1925; went out of existence with emergence of Washingbay; re-formed in 1937. Played in junior competitions (1937-M) and in senior competitions (1945-47). Re-formed in 1950; in continuous existence since then. Won JFC in 1939, 1943, 1944 and 1981; East Tyrone Junior league in 1970. Club grounds and pavilion officially opened in 1981. Grounds vested in GAA.

Carrickmore St. Coimciills

First clubs played in 1906, 1916-18 and intermittently in 1920's. Present club formed in 1932. Won SFC in 1940, 1943, 1949, 1961, 1966, 1969, 1977, 1978, 1979; finalists in 1936, 1958, 1967, 1971, 1974, 1981. Won MFC in 1956, 1957, 1972; Juv. FC in 1955. Hurling established in 1969, camogie in 1934 (briefly) and again in 1978. Grounds

vested in GAA, officially opened in 1971. Very extensive developments (including the provision of two covered stands) completed. Club won AIB-GAA awards and the 1983 MacNamee award for best club history.

Castlederg St. Eugene's

Present club formed in 1975. Previous clubs existed in 1932-36, 1949-50 and 1963-65. Promoted to intermediate status in 1980, relegated in 1983. Tyrone under-14 champions in 1982; under-15 team represented Tyrone in O'Gspórt finals in Gormanston in 1983. Finalists in Juvenile Football championship in 1966.

Clogher Eire Og

Present club in existence since 1938. Team existed in Clogher (Rapparees) for a brief period in 1907-08. Clogher were a strong force in West Tyrone competitions in the period 1940-60; won West Tyrone senior league in 1951 and 1957, St. Enda Cup in 1961; finalists in SFC in 1948. Won JFC in 1972.

Attempt made to promote camogie in 1960's; handball team currently participating in inter-club competitions.

Clonoe O'Rahillys

Club founded in 1916 (named in honour the The O'Rahilly). Previous club in existence in 1905-06 (Fir-a-Chnuic). In continuous existence since 1923. Won SFC in 1958,1959,1960; finalists in 1941,1952,1953 and 1956. Won MFC in 1954 and 1955, IFC in 1976, 1979 and 1983, Juv FC in 1958. Club grounds vested in GAA; social centre provided; extensive development of facilities carried out in 1982-83.

Coalisland Fianna

Founded in 1904, flourished 1904-11, 1913-14, 1916-20 and since 1923. Fianna won first SFC in 1904/05, and Coalisland Owen Roes won first JFC in same season. Also won SFC in 1907/08, 1928, 1930, 1946 and 1955, finalists in 1913/14,1929,1968,1969;JFCin 1946,MFCin 1950,1952,1961, 1982; Juv. FC in 1960, 1966, 1967, 1973 and 1975. Hurling and camogie teams played in 1930's. McRory Park (county grounds - vested in GAA) officially opened in 1949. Social Centre and extensive club facilities provided.

Cookstown Fr. Rock's

Cookstown Owen Roe O'Neills (1 889-9 1) were Tyrone's first club; played in Ulster final, 1890. Cookstown Brian 6g flourished in the years 1905-1 1, 1916-20, and 1923-37; won SFC in 1916/17 and 1917/18. A second club -Geraldines - formed in 1932. Both amalgamated to become Fr. Rock's in 1938. Hurling and camogie teams played in 1930's. Finalists in 1938 SFC, won JFC in 1978, MFC in 1953, IFC in 1962 and 1964, Juv. FC in 1977. Club grounds, purchased in 1945, vested in GAA clubhouse officially opened in 1972.

Derrylaughan Kevin Barrys

Previous clubs existed in 1903 ('Rising Sons of Goff), 1917-19 and 1923 (Aughamullan Erin's Hope/Pearses and Kevin Barrys). Washingbay Shamrocks flourished in period 1929-36 and 1939-48; won junior league in 1929, Dr. Collins Cup in 1932, SFC in 1934 (finalists in 193 1), JFC in 1942. Present club formed in 1944. Won JFC in 1949, SFC in 1967 and 1981 (finalists in 1957, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1966), MFC in 1977. New playing fields opened in 198 1; new dressing-rooms in 1984. Grounds vested in GAA.

Derrytresk Fir-a-Chnuic

Club first established in 1905. A strong force in East Tyrone football, especially in 1930's and 1940's. Won JFC in 1955; finalists in SFC in 1949. Camogie played in the area in 1940's; camogie club re-formed under the name of Kingsisland in 1978/79 (now Derrytresk Cailini-a-Chnuic). Grounds vested in GAA; Social club provided. Additional facilities under construction.

Donaghmore St. Patrick's

Present club founded in 1942. Eire Og club, formed in 1903, among the earliest in Tyrone; contested 1905/06 county final. Team in existence in 1917 and since 1923 until present time (St. Joseph's in 1929, St. Patrick's in 1942). Won first O'Neill Cup (1927), junior league championship (1927), JFC (1 933 and 1954), East Tyrone senior leagues (1952 and 1956), Feis Shield and Juv. FC (1959), IFC (1965 and 1968), MFC (1967), All-Co. league, Div. I B (1 97 1, 1973 and 1976) Camogie played in early 1950's and 1966-67. Fr. Eamon Devlin Memorial Park opened in 1974; new dressingrooms and other facilities opened in 1981.

Dregish Pearse Og

Established in 1968. Previous club existed in 1931-34. Won JFC in 1970,1976 and 1983; finalists in 1969. Camogie existed for a brief period in the 1970's. Club presently participating in GFC handball league; Scór well established in club. Grounds shared with Drumquin while club's own grounds are under construction.

Dromore St. Dymphna's

Present club established in 1933. Previous clubs existed (football and hurling) in 1904-09, 1914 and 1924. Dromore took part in North Fermanagh competitions in early 1930's. Were a very strong force in West Tyrone football in 1940's, winning senior league in 1939, 1940, 1941 and again in 1945, 1946, 1947, and the Premier Cup in 1944 and 1947. Won JFC in 1937 and 1963, MFC in 1975, IFC in 1974, Juv. FC in 1963 and 1974. Finalists in SFC in 1946, 1977, 1978 and 1982. Camogie club formed in 1983. Club grounds vested in GAA, extensively redeveloped in mid-1970's; dressingrooms under construction.

Drumquin Wolfe Tones

Present club established in 1968. Gaelic football played in the area in 1907-08 and in early 1920's. Clubs intermittently in existence in Drumquin since 1932. Won Thomas Davis Cup (West Tyrone junior competition) in 1946 and 1948;

minor team won West Tyrone league in 1960 and were finalists in 1980 MFC. Team promoted to Division 2 in 1982. Strong tradition in Sc6r competitions. Grounds purchased in 1977, vested in GAA; development work in progress. Drumragh Sarsfields

Established in 1971 as an amalgamation of Tattyreagh and Tattysallagh (Tattyreagh subsequently re-formed). In continuous existence since 1971. Finalists in under-21 championship in 1977; won All-Co. league, Division 4, in 1976; won Division 3 league in 1983. Strong emphasis on Youth football; under-12 team county finalists in 1982. Dressing-rooms built in 1981; grounds being re-developed in 1984.

Dunamanagh St. Patrick's

Registered as junior club in 1953; won JFC in 1956. Played in Derry City league (1960-65). Re-established in 1967 and won JFC in that year. Amalgamated in 1970 with Leckpatrick Pearse 6g to form Owen Roe O'Neill's. Won intermediate league and championship in 1970. Finalists in SFC in 1975. New playing fields, vested in GAA, developed in 1969-72; changing-rooms and community hall erected in 1981. Club re-formed as St. Patrick's in 1981. Hurling team won SHC in 1981.

Dungannon Thomas Clarkes

Established in 1917. Previous clubs were Ldmh Dhearg (1901-03), Emmets (1903-07), Craobh Ruadh (1907-19). Craobh Ruadh won SFC in 1908/09 season; Clarkes won SFC in 1925, 1929, 1933, 1935, 1936, 1944, 1947, 1951 1956; JFC in 1931; IFC in 1963, 1972; under-21 FC in 1980, MFC in 1962, 1963, 1966, 1973, 1976, 1980; Juv. FC in 1961, 1962, 1971, 1972, 1981; Feis Shield in 1956, 1960, 1971, Mid-Ulster Towns Cup in 1932. Hurling and camogie promoted in 1930's. Eoghan Ruadh hurling club in the forefront of Tyrone hurling since 1940's. O'Neill Park, county ground, vested in GAA, opened in 1947. Dressing-rooms erected in 1956, extended in 1957, destroyed in explosion in 1971. New dressing-room completed. Social Centre opened in 1981.

Edendork St. Malachy's

Founded in 1932. Gaelic football played in the area towards end of last century; attempts to form club in 1909, 1921 and 1926. Major successes include East Tyrone junior league in 1936, 1937, 1938, 1946, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1965; JFC in 1938 and 1957; IFC in 1969, finalists in 1975. Reached SFC semi-finals in 1958 and 1971. Camogie team formed in 1930's and again in 1970's; won senior county championship in 1976. Grounds purchased in 1952, vested in GAA, opened in 1965; extensive development of facilities completed in 1969. Club history published in 1982.

Eglisk St. Patrick's

Established in 1956. Previous club in Brantry for short periods since 1920's. Won SFC in 1970, JFC in 1973, Senior League in 1976, ET junior league in 1960, 1963, 1972, 1973, East Tyrone intermediate league in 1966, Feis Shield in 1969, Jim Devlin Cup in 1983 and 1984. Finalists in JFC in 1963 and 1972 and in IFC in 1966. Camogie team in 1930's; St. Teresa's camogie club, formed in 1966, won every senior championship except 1976 and played in three Ulster finals. Club grounds acquired in 1965, vested in GAA; very extensive building developments in 1979 and 1980.

Eskra Emmets

Established in 1929, played in 1932-35, 1939-43, 1950, 1971-73. Re-formed in 1978. Won West Tyrone junior championship in 1929 and West Tyrone junior league in 1971. Camogie promoted in the area since mid-1960's. New playing fields developed in 1980-81; new dressing-rooms to be provided.

Fintona Pearses

Fintona Davitts existed in the years 1907-09, 1913-14 and 1916-17; won SFC in 1913/14, finalists in 1907/08 and 1908/09. First camogie team in Tyrone - Fintona Rose Kavanagh's - established in 1907. Pearses established in 1917; won West Tyrone SL in 1932, SFC in 1938; finalists in SFC in 1939 (uncompleted) and 1979; won St. Enda Cup in 1953, West Tyrone junior league in 1969, JFC in 1975, IFC in 1978. Grounds vested in GAA; dressingrooms built in 1974, Social Centre in 1981.

Galbally Pearses

Registered in August 1949. Previous clubs in the area in 1905 (Rapparees), 1917 (McDermotts) and 1931-42 (St. Joseph's). St. Joseph's finalists in JFC in 1931 and 1942 and in East Tyrone JFC in 1934 and 1935. Pearses won East Tyrone junior league in 1954, Clarke Cup (East Tyrone minor) in 1956 and 1971, JFC in 1958, Feis Shield in 1962, Division 5B of All-Co league in 199. Finalists in IFC in 1962 and SFC in 1963. Camogie played by St. Brigid's team (1934-38), St. Dyrnpna's (1955-59, 1967-70 and 1973-84); won junior and minor leagues in 1974 and Division 2 league in 1983. GAA hall opened in 1937; grounds vested in GAA in 1961.

Gortin St. Patrick's

First affiliated in 1932. Played in 1932-36, 1945-57, 1960-68 and 1972-84. Very successful period in 1940's when Gortin won West Tyrone junior league and Premier Cup (1945) and West Tyrone senior league (1948-1949). Finalists in St. Enda Cup in 1946 and 1950. Reached SFC semi-final in 1949. In 1960's, Gortin won JFC (1961) and McElduff Cup (1965). Team promoted in successive years from 1975 Division 5A to Division 1. Club grounds open in 1981.

Glenelly St. Joseph's

Serves the parish of Badoney Upper which includes the villages of Cranagh and Plumbridge. Previous GAA clubs existed in the area - Plumbridge (1932-36), Cranagh (1932-39 and 1947-57) and Glenelly (late 1960's). Cranagh were

finalists in JFC in 1948, 1954, and 1955. Players from the area played for Gortin, Newtownstewart, Strabane, Owen Roes and Aughabrack. Present club admitted to league in 1981; finalists in JFC in 1983; promoted to Division 2 at end of 1983 season.

Greencastle St. Patrick's

Formed in 1932. In existence 1932-37, 1945-53, 1969-84. Won West Tyrone junior league in 1934, West Tyrone JC in 1949, North Tyrone junior league in 1972. Minor team from the area won Tyrone minor league in 1983. Won JFC in 1936; finalists in 1935, 1946, 1971, 1977 and 1978. Camogie club formed in 1984.

Kildress Wolfe Tones

Formed in 1952; preceded by a series of teams in the area, the first being in the early 1900's. Dunamore St. Patrick's and Kildress St. Mary's both played in 1930's. St. Mary's were finalists in East Tyrone JFC (1938). Wolfe Tones won East Tyrone JFC in 1961, 1964 and 1966, county JFC in 1966 and IFC in 1971; East Tyrone junior league in 1960 and intermediate league in 1967 and 1974. Strong camogie club existed in 1930's revived in 1980; won senior league (Division 2) in 1981. Club grounds purchased in 1967, vested in GAA, opened in 1969., dressing-rooms built in 1970; new pavilion provided in 1983/84.

Killeeshil St. Mary's

Established as a junior club in 1956. Previous club existed in the late 1930's and early 1940's in Tullyallen. Camogie club existed in 1960's. Team promoted in 1969 to intermediate grade; relegated in 1971. Won Feis Shield and East Tyrone junior league in 1974, All-Co. league, Division 5B, in 1976, All-Co. league, Division 3, in 1980. Grounds and dressing-rooms opened in 1970. Grounds vested in GAA.

Killyclogher St. Mary's

Clubs in existence in the area since 1905: St. Patrick's (1905-09, 1912, 1914, 1918), Arvalee Emmets and Beltony Sarsfields (1920's), St. Mary's (founded in 1932), Mountfield (1933-36, 1967-68, 1974-83), Cappagh - hurling and football (1946-53). St. Mary's re-formed on parish basis (1965-84). Major successes include SHC and JFC in 1905/06, McAleer Cup in 1932 and 1935, SHC in 1947, 1950, 1953 and 1977, Thomas Davis Cup in 1951 and 1952, West Tyrone junior league and championship and McElduff Cup in 1968, JFC in 1977, MFC in 1981, Juv. FC in 1969, 1979, and 1980; IFC finalists in 1978. Camogie played in 1930's; hurling club re-formed in 1975. Club grounds vested in GAA; dressing-room complex being completed.

Killyman St. Mary's

Established in 1964. Football played in the area in the 1920's; affiliated clubs in 1932-33 and 1944-49. Won JFC in 1968. East Tyrone intermediate championship in 1971, IFC in 1973, All-Co. league, Division 3, in 1975. Under-age players played for Naomh Mhuire team whose successes included Juv. FC in 1972, MFC in 1973 and 1976, Clarke Cup in 1977 and 1981 and under-21 championship in 1983. Won Scór na nOg county and provincial titles. St. Brigid's camogie club existed 1971-74. Grounds purchased and vested in GAA in 1981.

Loughmacrory St. Teresa's

Formed in 1972. Previously, players from the area played for Carrickmore. Won West Tyrone JFC in 1974, county JFC in 1980, juvenile championship, Grade 2, in 1982, and AIB 'Club of the Year' award. Has played an active part in Scór competitions. Traditionally a stronghold of handball, its handball facilities are among the best in the county. Mick Conway from the club won All-Ireland junior singles title in 1970. New football grounds officially opened in 1983.

Moortown St. Malachy's

Formed in 1925. Previous teams in parish since early 1900's. Won SFC in 1941, 1942 and 1950; finalists in 1943, 1944, 1947 and 1951; JFC in 1934, 1948, 1950 and 1969; finalists in 1967; East Tyrone leagues - senior (1940, 1947-50), junior (1934 and 1969), minor (1959); IFC in 1975; finalists in 1963, 1968, 1971, 1973; intermediate league in 1963, 1971 and 1975 (Division 4); Dr. Collins Cup in 1940, 1941 and 1942. Received Tyrone award for sportsmanship in 1982-83. Hurling team won South Derry league in 1971. Camogie team played in South Derry league in 1947; re-formed in 1956, 1960, 1970 and 1982. Grounds and pavilion opened in 1972; Gaelic Centre opened in 1974. Grounds vested in GAA.

Moy Tir na nOg

First club established in 1908. Played in 1908-09, 1916-20 and almost continuously since 1924. Won SFC in 1920, JFC in 1953 and 1979, IFC in 1982, East Tyrone junior league in 1972 and intermediate league in 1973, Feis Shield in 1964, Clarke Cup in 1957 and 1958. Finalists in SFC in 1961, MFC in 1981, Juv. FC in 1956; runners-up in All-Co. league (Division 1) in 1983.

Newtownstewart St. Eugene's

Present club established in 1945. Previous clubs in existence in 1907-08, 1926-29, 1932-34. Won West Tyrone junior league in 1946; Thomas Davis Cup (West Tyrone junior competition) in 1945; finalists in 1951, 1952 and 1956. Finalists in West Tyrone senior league in 1957 and 1960. Won Tyrone juvenile league in 1975, finalists in Tyrone under-14 championship in 1983. Camogie team (St. Attracta's) in existence in 1930's. Club grounds purchased in 1968, vested in GAA.

Omagh St. Enda's

Founded in 1932. Previous clubs existed in 1904-09 (including hurling and camogie), 1917-20 and intermittently in 1920's. Among outstanding achievements were victories in SFC in 1948, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1957 and 1963 (finalists in 1918, 1920, 1924, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1942, 1959, 1980), IFC in 1977, MFC in 1946, 1947, 1949, 1965, 1970, 1971,

1983; Juv. FC in 1954, 1956, 1970, 1976, 1982 and 1983. Hurling and camogie strongly promoted. Club won four All-Ireland Sc6r titles (Irish dancing). County grounds, purchased in 1962, vested in 1972; magnificent new Social Centre and very extensive facilities almost completed. Club history published in 1982.

Owen Roe O'Neill's

Formed in 1970 as an amalgamation of Leckpatrick and Dunamanagh. Won I FC and West Tyrone intermediate league in 1970; retained senior status until 1978. Finalists in SFC in 1975 and IFC in 1979. Won All-Co. league (Division 2) in 1981; relegated in 1982. Previous teams in the area in 1921-22 (Leckpatrick Emmets), late 1930's (Glenmornan), and late 1940's (Leckpatrick - football and hurling). Leckpatrick club, re-formed in 1961, won MFC and Juv. FC in 1964. Adult team from Leckpatrick continued in existence until amalgamation with Dunamanagh in 1970.

Pomeroy Plunketts

First Pomeroy club (Emmets) founded in 1908; played in competitions also in 1913/14. Plunketts formed in 1916/17 season; transferred from East to West Tyrone in 1946. Won JFC in 1935 and 1945; East Tyrone JFC and league in 1945; West Tyrone minor league in 1959; senior league in 1960; St. Enda Cup in 1958; South Tyrone juvenile league in 1964, 1965 and 1969; McElduff Cup in 1966 and 1967; intermediate league and championship in 1967; under-21 championship in 1976. Camogie club formed in 1934. Strong centre of handball since foundation of handball club in 1927. Hurling club began in 1982. Plunkett Park (county ground, vested in GAA), officially opened in 1948. New handball court and recreation centre almost completed.

Rock St. Patrick's

Rock team (McDonaghs) first established in 1916; participated in competitions after 1923. Great difficulties encountered in keeping club in operation due to emigration and limited number of players. Re-formed as St. Patrick's in 1932 and again in 1946. Won Tyrone junior league in 1969, promoted to intermediate status, relegated in 1970 and went out of existence until 1977. Won JFC in 1982; currently in Division 2. New changing rooms recently constructed.

Stewartstown Harps

First registered club in 1916-18; re-formed in 1923., played in 1923-25, 1929, 1933, mid 1940's, 1956-84. Major successes included SFC in 1924 and 1962, finalists in 1971; winners of intermediate league in 1964, All-Co. league, Division 1, in 1971 and Division 2 in 1973; winners of Feis Shield in 1966 and IFC in 1980. Club grounds vested in GAA@ dressing-rooms provided.

Strabane Sigersons

Strabane among the earliest centres of GAA activity in Tyrone. Hurling and football clubs formed in 1902; active 1902-09, 1912, 1917, 1921-22, 1926. Winners of SHC and finalists in SFC in 1904/05, winners of SFC in 1905/06, SHC in 1926. Camogie team formed in 1920's. LAmh Dhearg football team competed in Finn Valley league (1933-37) and in Derry City league (1943); won Tyrone SFC in 1945 and MFC in 1948. Difficulty in keeping club alive in 1950-70. Strabane team won Juv. FC in 1968, finalists in JFC in 1973. Re-formed as Strabane Sigersons in 1983.

Tattyreagh St. Patrick's

First team in the area established in 1919. Team formed in Carnalea in 1932, continued for a short time only and became Tattyreagh Wolfe Tones. Tattyreagh St. Macartan's won Omagh mid-week league in 1938. Club named St. Patrick's in 1967. Camogie team formed in 1981. Club grounds and dressing-rooms opened in 1979.

Trillick St. Macartan's

Established in 1931. Previous clubs existed 1907-12, 1916-18, 1924-28. Won SFC in 1937, 1974, 1975, 1980, 1983; St. Enda Cup in 1940, 1974; All-Co. league, Division 1, in 1973, 1977, 1982, 1983; West Tyrone senior league in 1938; MFC in 1968, 1969; Juv. FC in 1965. Hurling played in the parish during 1907-09, 1936-38 and 1946-50 by Glassmullagh. Grounds purchased in 1932, vested in GAA; hall built in 1949; extensive developments undertaken in 1970's. Competitors from Tyrone and Fermanagh took part in annual Aeridheacht Mh6r (organised by Fr. Matt Maguire, PP) for twenty years after 1907 (and later in 1940's).

Urney St. Columban's

Established in 1932; in continuous existence since 1945. Previous clubs existed in 1907-08 (Clady Rory Og) and 1921-22 (William Pearses). Major achievements included victories in Thomas Davis Cup in 1953 and 1956, Fr. Campbell Trophy in 1964 and 1966, West Tyrone senior league (McElduff Cup) in 1961, St. Enda Cup in 1955 and 1970, MFC in 1959; finalists in JFC in 1934. Grounds leased; dressing-rooms under construction.

Windmill St. Patrick's

Established in 1934 and continued in existence until 1950. Re-formed in 1954 and continued until 1972. Amalgamated in 1972 with Littlebridge, Co. Derry, to form Ogra Cholmcille, which played in Derry competitions until 1983. Windmill reapplied for admission to Tyrone football in 1984 and are presently in Division 3. Won an East Tyrone junior league in early 1960's.

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