Tommy Fitzpatrick

Male

File 1 0:00:00 – 0:00:38
PERSONAL INFORMATION –

Tommy was born in Tullassa, parish of Inch & Kilmaley in 1919 and lived there up to 60 years ago.

0:00:38 – 0:02:42
MATCH MADE, MARRIAGE & MOVING TO CONNOLLY –

He stayed in digs in Parnell Street in Ennis (he left home when his brother got married) before marrying to Mary Reidy (Mary Jim Dan), Glaun, Connolly at age 31 – match made by John Shannon, Cloonanaha; got married Fr. Stewart in Kilmaley church on Shrove Tuesday 1951; dowry of Â£150 given to wife's parents; reception at Ennis; party at wife's house; moved to wife's home place in Connolly; preferred to live in the country; reconstructed the house. Glaun townland.
Wife's mother lived to age 86 – kidneys problems

0:02:42 – 0:06:03
FAMILY –

12 siblings; 9 siblings survived – 6 brothers and 3 sisters; Tommy youngest of family; 3 died young â€œgone to the graveâ€ (Paddy, Gretta & Timmy) before Tommy was born – probably ailments such as diphtheria & whooping cough; parents from Tullassa –
his father Paddy married Mary Barry – a match; â€œall matchesâ€ then; one sister went to USA on the Star Line & 40 years passed before she made a visit home (by plane);
another sister Lily went to Dublin & later married Pato Barry, Inagh (son of

Garrett Barry, blind piper);
2 siblings alive now – Micho at home place in Tullassa & his sister Kathy (now 92 & in good health) in Inagh (married Michael Callinan & had family of 10)
His brother Jack took over the Tullassa home place married Teresa Hehir & had family of 5; Micko, single stayed in Tullassa too. His nephews P.J. and Bernie live nearby.
Tommy 10th youngest – born on 25th November 1919.

0:06:14 – 0:07:03
HOUSE, FARM & FARMING –

Description of his parents' 2 farms – home place & outside farm at Cappanlea (18 Irish acres bought by his father); location in the parish – 4 miles from Ennis.

0:07:03 – 0:09:40
SCHOOL DAYS, TEACHERS, DISCIPLINE, SUBJECTS –

School days in Kilnamona (nearer than Inch or Kilmaley); walked to school across the fields & some by road; recalls going barefoot on fine days; story of jumping over a hay-machine in a field;
recalls names of teachers -Brigid & Joe Keating (not husband & wife), Julia Keating, Mrs Hegarty & Michael Kelleher (from Kilnaboy/Corofin); mentions some â€œwickedâ€ & slaps with sticks V no hitting now; he enjoyed school – liked reading & writing; left at age 16; recalls playing hurling & kicking football.

0:09:40 – 0:11:23
MORE ABOUT HIMSELF & HIS FAMILY –

More about his siblings; one sister, still alive is older than him; another sister, Bridie went to Ballynacally (married – match); hard times & health in past times; effects of flu.
Tommy was born on 25th November 1919. He is now â€œon the road to 92â€.

0:11:24 – 0:12:12
SCHOOL DAYS, GAMES PLAYED, BRINGING FIREWOOD TO SCHOOL AT WINTER –

Parents brought half creel of turf by ass & cart.

0:12:13 – 0:12:36
BOGS & TURF –

Carmody's bog, between Inagh & Connolly – 365 acres – 1/2p an acre then

0:12:37 – 0:13:12
JOBS IN THE HOUSE & FARM, COMPULSORY TILLAGE –

5 acres of arable land – barley, oats, potatoes, mangles & vegetables; ploughed with horse; plenty of mouths to feed but lots of help

0:13:58 – 0:14:19
DIFFERENT TIMES THEN TO NOW –

No soft hand-outs, dole, social welfare or much education. People â€œlived off the landâ€

0:14:20 – 0:15:12
HOUSE DANCES & WORK DAYS –

House dances held when yanks came home from USA; often walked to the dances; often little sleep before going to work; â€œyouth of today wouldn't do itâ€

0:15:13 – 0:15:50
WORK LIFE WITH CLARE CO. COUNCIL –

Tommy worked with Clare County Council at aged 21/22 on the â€œnew lineâ€, the tar road from Inagh to Ennis through Shallee for 9 months; he travelled all the

local roads by bicycle

0:15:50 – 0:18:20
MUSIC, DANCING, RECITATIONS, STORY-TELLING & SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENT –

Dancing, house dances when â€œyanksâ€ returned home from America or England; Tommy walked with his neighbour Gerdie Commane and his cousin Johnny Hickey; more house dances at Kilnamona than Connolly; names some houses; 7 or 8 musicians on stage; names some musicians; not much crossroads dancing – mostly in houses; they often gathered at Fitz's house before going to a house dance & often this was better than the actual house dance; recalls platform dancing in Kilnamona;
Tommy didn't play music but his brother Micho plays harmonica & regularly plays in pubs; Tommy's brother Jack played melodeon; his uncle played concertina; danced Caledonian set & waltzes; songs & recitations popular at house dances; refers to a neighbour's recitation; Tommy often danced as a girl & taught by Tommy Hogan; often went from dances to work without any sleep.

0:18:20 – 0:19:10
FARM WORK –

Farm jobs after school – looking after cattle, gathering hay, picking stones, building walls, spreading manure, etc
Tommy worked at home on the farm, other farmers & a gardener after leaving school as a teenager; in the evenings; not much free time; digging potatoes â€œpratiesâ€; Tommy often worked for local farmers when not with the Council – cutting turf, etc – paid work. low wages

0:19:10 – 0:19:25
CLOTHES –

Recalls his grandfather buying him a short trousers & pullover

0:19:25 – 0:19:46
DRUMCLIFF –

Some family members buried in Drumcliff, near Ennis

0:19:46 – 0:22:00
MORE ABOUT FARM WORK –

Animals – 8 cows, horses, pony, no sheep, milked cows by hand;

Butter-making – separating the milk churns & selling 1 or 2 firkins (some kept for own use) to Joe Malone in the Cornmarket in Ennis on Saturdays – done to the 40s/50s; sent 60-70lbs butter by bus to Ennis; mentions Reidy's yard; testing the butter for water
main form of income was selling cattle (weanlings) & butter; he often with his parents to the market in Ennis on Saturdays

0:22:00 – 0:24:15
FAIRS –

Held during the summer & in winter at the Fairgreen in Ennis & Clarecastle; Tommy helped with taking animals to fairs; often got up at 3am & walked with his cousins in Garrynagry (2 miles west) to Kilmaley (3 miles away) with over 20 cattle, bought by one buyer & taken to the railway station in Ennis; payment of 5 shillings & dinner for helping

0:24:15 – 0:24:49
STONE WALLS & THATCHING –

He could build stone walls & thatched his house at Connolly.

0:24:49 – 0:26:07
WAGES –

First wages at Clare County Council were small – 35 shillings weekly.

Best money he ever got was working with ESB (digging holes & laying pole lines) for few months in 1942 at Kilnamona & West Clare; gave some money to parents; Tommy worked at home on the farm when not employed with the Council.

0:26:07 – 0:26:33
PARISH INVOLVEMENT –

Mostly with Kilnamona though in the parish of Inch/Kilmaley; went to Kilnamona church.

0:26:33 – 0:26:56
SPORT –

Played hurling & kicked football as a pastime at Tullassa in Hickey's field.

0:26:56 – 0:28:04
F.C.A. & SPORT & SOCIAL ACTIVITIES –

Tommy went to summer (2 week) training camps in Lahinch from age 18/19 for 11 years; also Collins Barracks in Cork; had a great time – played football on the strands at Lahinch & Youghal & went to dances in Cork City hall (ballroom & sets).

0:28:04 – 0:30:16
CHURCH, MISSIONS, STATIONS & HOLY WELLS –

Went to church in Kilnamona (nearer) though in Kilmaley/Inch/Connolly parish (crossed up through the felds); recalls the missions held every few years; stalls – rosary beads, holy medals, etc sold; Holy Father – great voice & preacher; sermons at the 3 masses;

Recalls house stations at Tullassa; every house got a turn; mass & confessions

held; describes the breakfasts; tells a story – â€œMass was both good for the body & soul!â€

0:30:16 – 0:31:20
GARDAÃ –

Story of cycling home by night & stopped by GardaÃ. Local Garda station in Inagh; had been a station in Maurices Mills

0:31:20 – 0:32:45
HOLY WELLS –

Holy Well of the 9 Yellow Daughters at Gortmore near Tullassa – cure for sore eyes; story of his eye cured; St. Peter & Paul Well, Newhall on 29th June – recalls doing rounds & saying prayers; more about the Holy Well of the 9 Fridays at Gortmore near Tullassa

0:32:45 – 0:33:22
WREN DANCES/SOIREES –

Recalls wren dances/soirees – held at Inch & Lough Burke; often 2 nights held at Christmas

0:33:22 – 0:33:42
MUSIC –

Says his family got the music (strain) from his mother's side (Barrys) – learned out of their own heads or heard from others; his brothers played – Micho plays harmonica & regularly plays in pubs & Jack played melodeon.

0:33:42 – 0:35:07
TULLASSA PIPE BAND –

His brother Jack, melodeon, 2 Commanes & Bernie Moran played in drums &

pipes; started by Michael McMahon; band played at sports days eg Cree & Clonbony; collected money to support the band.

0:35:07 – 0:36:06
SPORTS DAYS –

At Inagh & Kilnamona, shot putt, races, wheel of fortune, skittles; recalls rhyme at wheel of fortune- â€œdevil of hairâ€¦â€; mentions athletics; played for fun & exercise; recalls drinks – pints 10p.

File 2: 0:00:00 – 0:00:52
SONG –

Sings song â€œBrigid Hoganâ€ (Patsy McGann)

File 3: 0:00:00 – 0:01:32
FAMILY INFORMATION –

More about his family and the farm in Tullassa; his father passed away in his 80s; his mother was married at 19 & passed away at age 55 (heart attack).

0:01:33 – 0:01:54
LONGEVITY & HEALTH –

Blessed with good health due to work & exercise; age is only a number.

File 4: 0:00:00 – 0:00:25
HOLY WELL –

More about the Holy Well of the Nine Yellow Daughters at Gortmore near Tullassa.

0:00:26 – 0:02:21
SPORTS & GAMES –

Road bowling played before he was born; recalls pitch & toss – coins at crossroads in Tullassa; value of money.