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Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall  
Donegal County Council

Peace



LCDC

Northern Ireland - Ireland  
European Regional Development Fund

Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Aitiúil  
Dhún na nGall  
Donegal Local Community Development  
Committee



## Echoes of the Decade – Oral History Strand

### Interview Report Form

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date(s) of Interview(s)</b>	10 November 2020; 13 November 2020; 18 November 2020
<b>Location</b>	Internet-based interview – James in Co. Donegal; Regina in Co. Kilkenny.
<b>Name of Interviewee</b>	James Buchanan
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Year of Birth</b>	1942
<b>Interview Synopsis</b>	<p>James Buchanan is a retired businessman from Burt, Co. Donegal. His father William Buchanan and three of his uncles – John, Stewart and Matthew Buchanan fought in World War I. In this series of three interviews, James talks about his life growing up in Burt. He recounts the stories passed down to him by relatives about the experience of War and the experience of Presbyterians in east Donegal in the revolutionary period. James also talks about his own career in the travel industry and the experience of running businesses in Northern Ireland during the Troubles. Themes and topics featured in this interview include business; education; religion; social and community life in twentieth century Burt; farming; the revolutionary period; World War I; emigration; Northern Irish Troubles and the Peace Process.</p>
<b>Time-Coded Interview Summary</b>	<p><b><i>Interview 1: 10 November 2020</i></b></p> <p>00:00 Introduction to Interview</p> <p>00:40 Born in 1942 in Derry. Had one older brother, Noel. Happy childhood on the farm his father worked on and ran.</p> <p>02:19 His father fought in World War I. His father's emigration to Canada and on to Los Angeles, USA where he worked as a carpenter. The circumstances around his father's return to Ireland.</p> <p>04:36 How his parents met, families known to one another. His mother's family were</p>

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Thompsons. Both singers. Their marriage in 1939, his elder brother was born in 1940 and he was born in 1942. His father's aunt lived with them.

05:45 Going to the local Catholic school in Moness. Subsequently going to nearest Protestant school. Walking to school. Teacher there was Mrs Buchanan from Derry. Mrs Buchanan's death and the school's closure.

08:10 His father's decision to send them to school in Derry and commenting on the way they spoke. Reference to the farm workers on their farm who spoke Ulster Scots. He only learned to 'talk proper' when he went to the model school in Derry. James gives examples of Ulster scots.

09:50 Going to the Model School in Derry with other Presbyterian children from Burt. Travelling by bus to school. Women on the bus who worked in the shirt factories in Derry. on the bus. Description of the Model School in the 1940s.

11:47 Recent celebrations at the school. Describes his journey home from school every day. Going to the shops in Derry while waiting for their bus home.

13:28 Started school in second class and continued to 7<sup>th</sup> class. Mentions rationing and buying coupons from other children in school.

15:17 Stayed in Model School until 7<sup>th</sup> class. Boys and girls segregated in school until seventh class. Only time they mixed was for *Singing for Schools* on the radio.

17:30 Entrance exam for the commercial course at the Londonderry Technical College now the North West Regional College. Wanted to go into business, his uncle was a businessman in Derry. Doing elementary Leaving Cert. Received a good education at the Model School. Skills he learned at the Technical College. Always did well at Geography.

19:13 Only at Technical College for 1.5 years. Getting his first job in a travel agency. Going for interview in the Lewis Travel Agency in Shipley Street, Derry. Describes the journey to Belgium on his school trip which was helpful in his interview for the travel agency with Mrs Aiken. Starting his career in the travel industry in 1958.

23:45 Working at the travel agency in Shipley Street. Mentions Tom Park who was the manager and who had been employed by the Kinnard Line in Belfast. Talks about selling sailings to America. Official who came to the office every month from the Canadian Immigration Office to interview people who wanted to emigrate to Canada. Their passage would then have been booked at the Agency with Canadian Pacific from Liverpool. The Kinnard Line sailed from Cobh and it took it seven days to get to America.

26:40 Going on a cruise from Southampton across the Atlantic on the new Queen Mary in 2006. Going again on a later date with his family.

29:00 His wage when he started working in the 1950s. Developing an interest in the travel business. Starting up his own travel business, getting licences from each of the shipping companies and airlines. Managing his own travel agency with the support of a local businessman in 1969.

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33:37 Opened a second shop on Duke Street in the Waterside in 1972. His premises bombed out twice and burned out once. Getting temporary premises in the old Northern Counties Hotel which then had a bomb detonated by the police a week later. Reflects on the danger they were in at the time and how they kept going.

35:46 Buying a travel agency in Letterkenny in 1974.

37:39 His younger brother Stewart had Consumption. He was cared for by a Nurse Horner who was the daughter of the woman who owned the travel agency in Letterkenny.

38:45 Buying Deeley's travel agency in Strabane in the 1980s. Mentions Tony Kearny who had supported his first travel agency in Derry. Acquiring larger premises in Strabane through buying a shoe shop. Donating shoes to the jumble sale in the Presbyterian church. Renovating that business and developing it.

43:35 1987-1988 buying Transworld Travel Agency in Belfast. Development of his business skills. His first impression of this business off Shaftsbury Avenue.

46:14 Involvement in the Association of British Travel Agents. Hiring management and staff for his new Belfast agency, mentions Trevor McEvoy. Renovating the property. Official reception to open the business. Development of that business.

48:20 Purchasing Limavady Travel Service.

50:00 Differences in licencing travel agencies at either side of the border. Lewis Fast Travel Ireland Ltd set up to accommodate the Irish business.

52:00 Buying new premises on the Strand Road in Derry in 1986. His mother died in the same year. Opened a business travel centre there also. Description of premises and different departments of the business and his staff.

55:42 Meetings of the Association of British Travel Agents. Setting up of the Northern Ireland Passengers Association which eventually became Consort Travel Group. This is now part of the Advantage Travel Group.

1:00:00 Selling the Letterkenny and Belfast shops. Sold the Belfast shop to the Keith Prowse Group from London.

1:03:07 Facilitated the travel arrangements for the Du Pont plant in Derry in the 1980s. Working with Aer Lingus, British Airways, Eastern Airlines, American Airlines. Receiving awards and incentive payments for their performance as a travel agency. Working with other businesses in Derry.

1:07:00 Leisure travel to places like Spain was increasing through the 1980s. His daughter working with him in the office. Her studies in Hotel Management at the University of Ulster at Magee. Spent her placement year Tara Hotel in London, owned by Aer Lingus.

1:10:17 His daughter, Heather's career. Working in the Row park Hotel Limavady and the Everglades Hotel in Derry, part of the Hastings group and going on to work in

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the travel business. Selling his shops to Coop Travel in Manchester.

1:14:22 Interview 1 ends.

**Interview 2: 13<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

0:00 Introduction to the interview

00:47 Selling his business to Coop Travel in 1995 and working for them looking after business travel. Resigning from Consort Travel. Mentions Laura Adare from Gallagher Travel. Began working for Consort travel taking care of administration in 1998.

05:00 His daughter's career moving into the travel business. Buying Gallagher Travel from Laura Adare in 2003.

07:40 Modernising and computerising the business and moving to new premises.

11:52 Businesses going well until Covid 19. Impact of Covid 19 on the travel industry and their business and their family.

23:49 Considered moving into Northern Ireland when they retired. Compares the health service and pension entitlements on both sides of the border.

25:47 His maternal grandmother the only grandparent that he knew. Going with his mother to 'do the churn' as a child. Describes his granny and his relationship with her. Stories he heard from her about the period of 1912-1923.

28:20 His father's brother Stewart died at the Battle of the Somme. His other brother John was in the Canadian Expeditionary Force having enlisted in Manitoba he went to France, survived the War, contracted the Spanish Flu in 1918 and died.

29:53 The talk in Unionist and Protestant families was all about what was happening in France and on the War front. Easter Rising seen as a 'kick in the teeth'. The establishment of the border and the impact of that on local farmers in terms of access to the market in Derry.

31:45 Talks about the signing of the Ulster Covenant. It was signed in the local Presbyterian Church Hall. Local Protestant and Presbyterian Home Rulers. Power of the Catholic Church in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and the fear at the time of its influence over the Free State Government.

34:05 Independence of thought and knowledge of the bible encouraged in Presbyterianism. The number of irregulars from Derry who were around Donegal during the Civil War. Those left the North when the Free State was established. Their actions when they came to Donegal.

35:15 Story of the Hattrick family who were removed from their home at Skeoge House near Bridgend by Irregular soldiers. House used as a base to raid the Lough Swilly Railway. They also called at his maternal Grandmother's (Agnes Thompson) house and tried to take his uncle Willy, they took a horse and card instead. Proximity of their farm to Derry. Irregulars stopping trains at Burnfoot.

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38:15 Talks about the term 'Óglaigh na hÉireann'.

39:14 The removal of the Irregulars from Skeoge House and Inch Island by the Free State Army. Mentions a similar Dunree and Treaty Ports retained by the British government after the Free State was formed.

42:20 His own research in the British Newspaper Archive and what happened to the Hattrick family after this event. Movement of members of the Presbyterian Church into Northern Ireland during that time. Protestants departure from Donegal, Cork and Leitrim and even Ireland on foot of the actions of the irregular army. Story about a protestant family being forced out their house in Co. Leitrim. Mainly working-class members left, the farmers stayed. By the 1930s and 40s the working-class population had gone.

46:48 People left out of fear. Similar tactics used in Derry – movement of Protestants from the West Bank to the East bank of the Foyle.

47:12 What life was like in the 1930s and 40s for those who stayed. Workers striking for better wages, farmers not getting good money for their produce, no rich farmers in that area, those years were a struggle.

48:40 De Valera's ban on exporting calves to Britain in the 1930s. Story about buying a calf with his father. Prices for agricultural product and Ireland joining the common market

49:40 his father's return home from America in 1927 to take care of the farm of his uncle, James Scott. Description of his journey back to Ireland. Help he received in fixing up the farm from his friend Jim Campbell. Dairy farming there, bottling milk and selling milk door to door in Derry until the Northern Ireland government banned produce coming in from the Free State.

52:32 How his father and mother met. Dances on his mother's farm. McHolmes had a mill nearby. Lunn family also had a barn and held dances regularly. Mentions badminton and cricket clubs in Burt. Very little social mixing between Catholics and Protestants at the time. Most of his father's workers would have been Catholic and he played with other Catholic children in his youth. Catholic domestic servants in his family home when he was growing up.

55:30 His father's orchard, picking apples and giving bags of apples to the workmen.

57:27 Relationships between communities in Donegal were generally quite good. A field on his brother's farm called 'the hurley field' which was lent to the GAA by his great uncle. Most Catholic families worked in Derry or for local farmers. A lot of big but not wealthy farms in Burt. Relationships became strained when the irregulars were around

59:10 Story about the irregulars coming to the home of his Buchanan grandparents looking for shotguns as the house was known for hunting. Describes the raid on the house and the subsequent trauma.

1:01:44 Altnaveigh Massacre, Co. Down. Mentions Frank Aiken, the IRA and the B

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Specials. How some Protestants feel about republicanism.

1:04:08 View of Protestant people towards Sinn Féin, mentions Mary Lou McDonald and Michelle O'Neill. His view on the connection between Sinn Féin and the IRA. Mentions Martin McGuinness. Mentions the UDA and the UVF. Talks about his admiration for John Hume.

1:06:23 Story about a colleague whose father was in the UDR and who lost his leg in a car bomb explosion. The impact of his injuries and the subsequent trauma on his family and their impacting feelings about the IRA.

1:07:40 Relationships between Catholics and Protestants in Donegal, despite the Troubles in the North.

1:08:35 His grandfather came from Ballindrait. How he came to own a farm on land reclaimed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Talks about farming on newly reclaimed land.

1:10:36 His father born into this farm. He and his grandmother had seven sons and one daughter. The eldest was auntie Sadie, born in 1890 and his father born in 1891. His memory of their family home. Two maids worked in the house and several workmen also, a mixture of Catholic and Protestant men. Story about the succession of the farm and why his father enlisted in the British Army.

1:13:04 Father had worked as a contractor for the army buying hay and straw for the War Office. His father's membership of the UVF. He signed up in Derry for the North Irish Horse, the Cavalry. They were recruiting and training in the Brandywell showgrounds in Derry. His father ability with horses. Did well in the army. Was able to sneak over the wall and go home when he wished.

1:15:37 Happiness of his father's childhood. God fearing people. Walked to church every Sunday, the church built in 1895/96. A large congregation at that time. Social side was the badminton club and cricket club, the Women's Missionary Association also. Lots of social intermingling of families through the generations. Talks about parties with music. His grandmother Buchanan was a good singer and played piano. All the family were good singers, including his brother Stewart who is also a musician. Memories of his mother playing the piano which she got as part of her dowry when she got married. Talks about his mother's dowry.

1:19:08 His mother bred turkeys. She spent the money she earned from the turkeys on the children and on the house. Strong social scene among Protestants. Jumble sale held by the Church and attended by Catholics also.

1:20:28 The cricket club was a mixed club. Catholics also played, despite the GAA ban on 'foreign games'.

1:21:12 Talks about a new young minister who came to Burt from Co. Monaghan. The building of a tennis court in Burt. James played tennis and badminton and travelled all over Donegal to play in the Donegal League. Badminton club was also mixed since the 1960s. Talks about the different clubs in the league.

1:24:17 The reasons his father and uncles enlisted to fight in World War I. The

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importance of the uniform, being encouraged to wear it when you were out and about to help with recruiting. Benefits of joining up to working class people. How the army took care of people.

1:25:56 His father went on from the Brandywell to the Masereene Barracks in Co Antrim. They had a sabre to use in the charge. They practiced charges – description of a charge.

1:27:30 Went to France to serve, possibly through Dun Laoghaire on a ship to La Harve, had to always travel with his horse. Went to Rouen in 1915/16 – ended up at the Somme on the 1 July where they were absorbed into the Royal Irish Fusiliers. His injuries from the battle. Taken to a hospital in Leicester for treatment.

1:31:44 His father's acceptance into the Leinster Regiment of the Royal Irish Fusiliers. Officer training in Fermoy, Co. Cork. His involvement with aircraft there. Mentions his friend Sammy Cole who did his officer training in Fermoy at the same time, he was also from Burt. Description of the Leinster Regiment.

1:34:00 Shipped to Portsmouth in England and returned to France with the regiment for a short time. At Portsmouth he studied aeronautical engineering and did training for the RAF, he was about 27/28 at the time. Was not demobbed until 1921, returned home after that, then worked for the dept of Agriculture in Northern Ireland based in Ballygawley.

1:36:30 James's father went to Canada subsequently on foot of an IRA threat. His brother Matthew who died after the War of the Spanish Flu had had a farm / section in a place called Peace Water Crossing, in Manitoba. Worked for the Canadian National Railway, worked with farmers etc. Travelled across Canada, ended up in Vancouver where his aunt lived. She was married to another ex-soldier, Kirby. Got a job in the building trade, got a carpenter's ticket.

1:39:08 Involved in the building of a dam on the Fraser river outside Vancouver with the BC Electric company. Mentions a photo of his father there and James himself going there in later years and getting his picture taken in the same spot.

1:40:17 His father's carpentry skills and the type of work he did in Canada. His move down to Los Angeles. Returning home to his uncle's farm. His friend Jim Campbell helped him to fix up the place.

1:42:57 His father and his brother Stewart did not meet at the Somme. Stewart was killed on the first day of the Battle, but his body was never found, and he has no known grave. His name is on the Faithful Memorial it is also on the war memorial in Derry and on the war memorial in their church. Their other brother Matthew was also at the Somme. The three brothers did not know each other were there. His grandmother getting the telegraph to say that Stewart was missing. One of hundreds of soldiers to fail to answer the role call that night. She didn't know that Matthew had died of the flu until after.

1:45:32 His uncle John had been in Canada before the war, he was in the 49<sup>th</sup> Canadian Infantry and he died in Belgium of pneumonia after the war. James has

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gotten his records from the Canadian Veterans Office.

1:47:11 His father's brothers' involvement in the War. John signed up in Canada, survived the War, took the flu and died of pneumonia in Belgium. Stewart was killed at the Somme and is lost. Matthew was an officer in the Royal Irish Fusiliers. He was smart and studious; he had gone to Foyle College in Derry. Went Magee College and started studying for a BSc, got a job in customs and excise in Belfast, then joined the War. After the war he went to Canada, where his brother John had been. These men went to the various Servicemen's clubs. Then he went on Australia. While he was injured during the war, he finished his BSc in Metallurgy. He went from Canada to Australia mining for opal. Lost an eye, never married, died in 1936. Story of how they tracked down Matthew's death certificate and found where he was buried. Talks about how his nephews who were in Australia visited the grave. Family decision to put up a headstone at his grave.

1:55:35 The first time James and his wife went to France in 1992/93. Visiting Thiepval. Describes the book there that lists everyone who is buried there and who has no known grave there. Found lots of Buchanans on the list including his uncle Stewart. A very emotional experience.

1:57:23 His father's name was William and his brothers John, Stewart and Matthew all enlisted. He also had two other brothers James, who stayed at home on the farm and Samuel was too young at the time of the war. The scale of the loss on their family and his grandmother's pragmatism.

1:59:01 Talks about his own siblings, the eldest of whom would inherit the farm. His brother Stewart went to Foyle College. Two brothers now run the farm together.

2:02:16 Talks about a family photo of his father and brothers in the 1920s and also a photograph of his Aunt Sadie's wedding – she married an officer from the Royal Inniskilling's, Jim Caskey, reception was at their home. Photos of his grandparents and granduncles and aunts. Mentions a presentation he has given about their story called '5 bothers from Burt'.

2:07:05 The toll World War I took on the family compounded by the subsequent War of Independence and the Civil War. a very worrying time. His grandmother died in the 1930s. His Aunt Sadie had married Jim Caskey and moved to Larne and then to Portstewart after his death.

2:08:45 When his father returned from America, his uncle James Scott was there along with two unmarried aunts, Letitia and Aunt Alice. Aunt Alice lived with them and Aunt Letitia would visit. Description of their room in the house where he grew up in in Bridgetown.

2:11:14 Britishness of his household growing up. Christian Presbyterian background very central. Sunday school and Protestant religious education. Lots of Presbyterian farmers in Burt. Socially, they went to mixed dances in the 1960s. Badminton dances in the hall would have been mostly Protestant. Then going on to the ballrooms such as The Borderland in Muff and The Plaza in Bunrana and the big one in Letterkenny. Dances in Orange Hall such as Raphoe. Attending these dances with



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his wife Jane. Brought up not to smoke or drink. His father was very into the 'Protestant work ethic', talks about this concept.

2:16:50 Commemoration of World War I soldiers in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Catholic neighbours who served in the War, but they had no memorials. Paddy Harte's work on the Donegal Book of Honour. The memorial at Dunree Fort.

[Pause in recording to make arrangements for final interview, one final segment then recorded beginning here]

2:19:29 Talks finally about a letter sent home by an officer from the locality from the front reflecting on the 1916 Rising.

2:21:00 End of Interview 2.

**Interview 3 – 18 November 2020**

00:00 Introduction to interview.

00:28 Crossing the border and customs everyday going to school in Derry from 1949. Going to work in Derry in 1958 and finding bigger premises there in 1969. Famous march that was stopped in the Waterside of Derry in October 1968. Talks about the shopping areas of Derry. Their view of marches out the windows of their offices. Being at a concert in the Guildhall on the night of that march in 1968. Stones started to come through the windows, heard the crowd outside in Guildhall Square. Reaction to the march earlier in the day.

03:52 Protests and marches in 1960/70. The bombs start in the 1970s. Recalls the first bomb up the street when they were told to evacuate, bomb went off as he was still getting the staff out. Keeping in contact with his wife, she worked by a shipping company, Anglo-Irish Transport they would contact each other to check in. The aftermath of the bomb.

6:30 A lot of bombs in early 1972. The Chamber of Trade meeting regularly to try to get some protection. His premises were near the bog side. Pressure on politicians and police to protect them. Arrival of the army in 1969 and the impact of this. Mentions barbed wire barricades on the Strand road and car bombs. How bomb warnings were given. How staff reacted. Bomb in a bread van outside his premises in July 1972. James's hearing damaged in the explosion. Premises destroyed, relocated to the old Northern Counties Hotel while the shop was being renovated. Shop on Duke Street never bombed or burned. Detonator blown off a bomb in their temporary premises two days after they moved in.

13:22 Getting their office back up and running again. Process of making damages claim when these things happened. Impact on the business. Derry Construction Company rebuilt the shop. A worrying time, his father suggesting that he might emigrate to Canada.

15:04 Never hesitated in re-building or re-opening after his shop was bombed out twice and burned out once. Solidarity and community between traders who were all in the same situation. Talks about paper files being in metal cabinets to protect

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records. Processes and roles each person had drilled in the shop for when a bomb scare.

17:00 Did consider leaving but decided against it. The business was going well, he could see it had a good future, the travel industry was opening up at this stage, the advent of the jet engine which opened up the Mediterranean resorts to Ireland and the UK. Their focus was on getting back and getting the business going again. Loyalty of customers.

18:15 In 1972, the bombs and bomb scares were very frequent, one or two per week in the early part of the year. Hearing bombs during the night but most of them were during the day. Talks about the curfew in July 1972. Impact of that on entertainment and the social life of people. The benefit of living in Burt, that you could go home to a different world that was quiet and safe.

20:05 Talks about a big bomb outside Woolworths store. The impact of that bomb and his wife's proximity to it at the time. The following week Ulster Bank was completely bombed out. Loss of Derry's Georgian architectural heritage. This particularly applied to Shipley Street, Waterloo Place, Shipley Place. Changed the face of the architecture of the city. Ended up with a lot of modern looking red brick building.

23:07 Portacabins in the city as temporary shops. Mentions his uncle in England who had worked for Customs and Excise in Southampton and property prices in Derry.

24:51 The burning out of his shop in 1972. It shared a building with the Embassy Ballroom. Firebombs had been smuggled into an event in the ballroom and a fire ensued. Describes the ballroom and the damage to his shop.

27:15 Describes the second bombing occasion in the building. Bomb was in Litton's grocery store on the ground floor. Talks about people being killed carrying bombs. Recounts an occasion on the Diamond at Austin's Chemist shop when those who left the bomb in the shop were caught and forced to diffuse the bomb. The second bomb didn't damage the premises that badly.

30:01 Managing people during the troubles, with bombs and personal tragedies that people were having. Recounts story about an injury sustained by a colleague's father after a car bomb and the lasting impact of that.

31:54 His daughter was born in 1975 and his son was born in 1978 and the bombing had eased off at that stage. Visiting his father and talking about the bombs. His father didn't go into the market in Derry during those years. Church on a Sunday and market day on a Wednesday were their big social days. Derry was a great market town and the border cut off the Donegal part of that market. Describes the market and going there with his father. His brothers would have brought him into Derry to meet his friends, but they were not at ease there. The worry of his family when he had to go back into Derry at night to do overtime.

34:48 Talks about impact of Covid 19 on his daughter and her business.

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[Internet connection issue; interview stops and re-starts].

36:26 The business community during the Troubles. The Chamber of Trade and the Chamber of Commerce. Mostly the shops were impacted, IRA's economic war, the cost of re-building on Britain. Protestant owned businesses ended up moving their homes and businesses to the Waterside. 1972, mass exodus of Protestants from West to East Belfast and up to Coleraine where there were jobs available for young people. Consequences of that still being felt in Derry. Now West bank of Derry almost entirely Catholic/Nationalist.

39:17 Most people did not feel safe, fear of the Provisional IRA. Tells the story of Ranger Best in Derry. Talks about his customer records bearing out the movement of Protestants to the Waterside. Atmosphere of fear.

41:30 The aftermath of Bloody Sunday the funeral afterwards. Mentions the IRA and Sinn Féin. James had Catholic employees. Closing the shop for the funerals.

42:41 A difficult period. Businesses were struggling, people were not coming into the town to shop from Strabane or East Donegal. Bombings in Strabane.

43:41 Talks about Operation Motorman 1972, the day the army moved into the Bogside in Derry. Tells the story about trying to get home from a Sunday day out through Derry on that day and trying to get into work on the following day. Describes the operation and how they felt about it. This stopped the bombing for a while.

49:07 Military post built at Coshquin. Description of going through this checkpoint. Meeting the soldiers there, his father-in-law, who was English talking to soldiers from the English midlands where he was from.

50:31 Queues leaving the city to go out to Donegal to be checked at check points. The bombing of Coshquin check point and the story of the kidnapping and killing of Patsy Gillespie and the soldiers at the checkpoint. Shop and bar at the other side of the road also destroyed. That road was closed subsequently, and they built a concrete barricade in its place. Talks about the strategic location of Coshquin and describes the checkpoint and shootings at it over the years. Eventually it was re-opened over two years later.

55:40 Impact of the Troubles on the Presbyterians of east Donegal. Church lost a lot of its congregation because people moved out of the area. James had built his house and his children were born at that stage, so he wasn't going to move. Taking the children to school through that check point, bringing the McArthur and Irwin children to school. How the children reacted to the checkpoints.

58:22 Troubles didn't have an impact on the relationship between the communities in Donegal. Recounts one incident in the 1980s, a murder carried out by the UDA outside Burnfoot. James coming under suspicion by the Gardaí but subsequently cleared of any suspicion. Baseless suspicions about terrorist activity in their community hall.

1:02:05 Impact of the Peace Process. Protestants more interested in Northern Irish politics than local Donegal politics. Concern at the time that Northern Ireland would

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be handed over to the Republic.

1:04:24 Legacies of 1912-1923. Protestants were still fearful, many moved into Northern Ireland. Protestant association with British identity.

1:07:40 The Decade of Centenaries. Mentions a documentary *Bloody Sunday, 1920* that was recently aired. Anticipating the commemoration of the foundation of the Northern Irish State. His Church and the Orange Order will want to celebrate that. References a recent documentary presented by Michael Portillo *Hawks and Doves: Ireland's War of Independence* in relation to the first meeting of the Northern Ireland parliament in Belfast City Hall and subsequently meeting in Assemblies college – where Presbyterian ministers are trained. King coming over to open the first session of parliament.

1:10:40 The Reunification of Ireland. The place of Protestants in the Republic of Ireland. The signing of the Ulster Covenant. The Treaty selling out Protestants. The promises of the Covenant. Influence of the Catholic Church on the new Free State. Mentions Ne Temere, mixed marriages and the loss of members of their Church.

1:14:07 Declining numbers in their church. Young people are leaving, they leave to go to University, where local Presbyterians go to university. Views on Queens's University. The closing of Presbyterian churches in Derry and Bunrana and others struggling on like Burt, Fahan, Inch Island, Greenbank, Merville, Carndonagh, Malin – still going but small in numbers. 55 families are members of the Church in Burt. Further West in the Laggan valley mentions Newtowncunningham, Manorcunningham, Ramelton and Letterkenny who are doing better, most of their members are farmers or in businesses relying on farming community. Mentions the Royal and Prior Comprehensive school in Raphoe, now an integrated school.

1:18:19 Final reflections. Was born in Derry, still considers himself British. Has a British passport. Story about why his mother and other local mothers gave birth to them all in Derry. Many went to Ms McCabe's nursing home in Derry where a lot of Donegal women went to have their children.

1:22:04 Sees his future in Burt. Now retired. Talks about the new graveyard in Burt where he will be buried. Talks about the care of graveyards in the area.

1:25:04 End of interview 3.

<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Restricted Information</b>	Yes – see project database
<b>Field Notes</b>	This interview took place using a podcast platform called Squadcast which allowed for a video conversation with audio only recording. It is noteworthy that this interview took place in the context of Level 4 lockdown during the Covid 19 pandemic. Additionally, negotiations were underway between the EU and Britain around Britain's exit from the EU with its consequences for the Northern Ireland border still unclear at the time of the interview. These

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	events feature in the interview. There was a brief connectivity issue with James's internet during interview 3 but other than that no technical issues. One interview had to be re-scheduled due to a power outage in Burt. James gave very generously of his time and memories in these interviews and was pleasure to record.
<b>Audio File Details</b>  Recording Format: 48kHz 16 bit stereo  Length of Interview(s): Interview 1 (1:14:22); Interview 2 (2:21:00); Interview 3 (1:25:04)  No. of Files: 6  File Types: 3 uncompressed WAV files and 3 corresponding MP3 copies	
<b>Documentation Completed by Interviewee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Registration Form</li><li>✓ Pre-questionnaire Monitoring Form</li><li>✓ Participation Agreement</li><li>✓ Post-questionnaire Monitoring Form</li><li>✓ Recording Agreement</li><li>✓ Participant Sign-in Sheet</li><li>✓ Photograph of Interviewee</li></ul>	

**To be completed by Interviewer:**

I hereby assign the copyright of the content of the above to the Cultural Division, Donegal County Council on the understanding that the content will not be used in a derogatory manner. I understand that I am giving the Culture Division, Donegal County Council the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 18 December 2020