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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

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date(s) of Interview(s)	12 October 2020; 16 October 2020; 20 October 2020.
Location	Phone interview – William in Co. Donegal and Regina in Co. Kilkenny,
Name of Interviewee	William Holmes
Gender	Male
Year of Birth	1934
Interview Synopsis William Holmes in the son of William Holmes, who was the Officer in Command of the 5 th Battalion 2 nd Brigade First Northern Division of the IRA during the War of Independence and who was a member of the Free State Army during the Civil War. His uncles were also in the Irish Volunteers and his aunts and mother were in Cumann na mBan. In this series of three interviews, William shares the rich history of the revolutionary period in east Donegal that he has inherited from the stories of his relatives and neighbours and his wide research on this period in the Laggan valley. Descended from both Presbyterians and Catholics, William's interview offers a rich insight into relationships across communities. Themes and topics in this interview include politics, religion, education, sport, military history, agriculture, World Wars I & II, emigration, the Northern Irish Troubles, identity and peace.	
Time-Coded Interview Summary Interview 1: 12 October 2020 00:00 Introduction to the interview. 00:58 William was born in 1934 in Drumoghill, Manorcunningham, Letterkenny. Description of Drumoghill. 02:08 Describes the 'scutch' mill, known in modern times as a flax mill and growing lint. Talks about this industry in East Donegal. 05:19 Describes the farming industry in east Donegal, lint farming being the biggest part of that. Mentions local creamery. Sizes of the farms in the area, mainly large	

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farms. Mentions local flour mill at Milford. Mentions grains, oats and potato crop.

09:18 William's parents both from a farming background. Grandfather from a Presbyterian farming background and he married a Catholic. Both shunned by their families and he went on to work as farm labourer. They had five sons, one who died from TB, the remaining four sons worked hard together, grew lint and bought their own farms. When William's father died, he had built up a large farm.

11:02 The 'mixed' marriage of William's grandparents. William has no memories of his grandmother. All religions got along well in that region but 'crossing the divide' for marriage was disapproved of and people were shunned as a consequence.

13:35 His family originally planted to that area from Scotland in around 1610, these were two brothers called John and Gabriel Holmes. Tradition among Presbyterians, they tended to marry locally.

14:38 Emigration in the family, a long succession of Presbyterian ministers, one of who was the second Presbyterian minister in the US, William Holmes. Family connections with Benjamin Franklin. Emigration of Presbyterians to the US. Persecution of Presbyterians.

15:42 The 'Holmes DNA Project'. His interest in local and family history. Memories of his father limited as his father died when he was young. Joined Donegal Historical Society in 1957. Mentions the research of Belinda Mahaffey on the history of Presbyterian emigration.

18:49 East Donegal was very mixed. Farm owners were mostly Presbyterian or Church of Ireland. Mothers family was Gallagher and they were local Catholic farmers which was unusual.

20:12 Describes the terms 'Castle Catholics'. His experience that Presbyterians are more anti-Church of Ireland than anti-Catholics. Old school roll books in his possession. Presbyterians who attended Catholic national school rather than the local Protestant school. Talks about the historic context to this, tithe payments etc.

23:00 His paternal grandfather who lived with them until he died in 1943 when William was 9 years old. He had converted to Catholicism when he married William's grandmother. Talks about where they were buried and burial customs. Mentions William Arthur who was another Presbyterian who married his grandmother's sister.

26:29 The impact of being the child or grandchild of a mixed marriage. Understanding other perspectives, good relationships with all religions. How this influenced his father's approach in his soldiering days.

28:05 His father's philosophy and approach during the War of Independence and his ability to quell sectarian activity in the area during that time.

29:36 His father's family background. Many Presbyterians were quite anti-British. Doesn't believe that there was much political involvement in the family before him.

31:26 How his father became involved in the Irish Volunteers. Teacher in Raphoe called James Furey who ran night classes that William's father attended. He had a

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connection with Joe Sweeney who was a student in St Enda's School with Patrick Pearse. Sweeney enrolled in the IRB by Pearse. Master Furey may have been the source his father's republicanism.

33:09 His father was first a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and became disillusioned with that. The priests who attended the 1916 leaders before their executions were Franciscans from Church Street in Dublin, mostly young men, two of those priests were Frs Albert and Dominic. At a later stage one of these priests gave a mission in the local church in Drumoghill. During that week, that priest selected young men who he invited to a talk outside church property which led to the formation of that company of volunteers in 1917 and a Sinn Féin Cumann.

36:30 William's mother had memories of that time because her two brothers were very active and his disillusion with the outcome of the War of Independence as it ended in Civil War. 1916 Rising was a non-event in East Donegal. The War of Independence was a quiet affair. The UVF were very strong in that part of the county. Determined that there would not be Home Rule. They would have overcome the Republican forces in that area they were so strong.

38:20 UVF organised a rally in Raphoe in 1913 which was attended by Edward Carson, organised by Donegal UVF and attended by 13,000 Donegal UVF volunteers, second largest anti Home Rule meeting outside of Belfast.

39:32 William's mother often talked about the UVF marching along the roads on summer evenings. They carried wooden rifles, drilling openly. Remembered the people locally who were members. No sectarianism in his mother's family but they were staunchly Catholic.

42:07 James Gallagher and Patrick Gallagher, his mother's brothers were involved in the Irish Volunteers. James was a member of the IRB, enrolled in Derry, they lived nearer the border. Their hesitation to talk about it.

43:36 His mother's family were from St Johnston, very near the border, close to Derry. Patrick talked more about the past, James didn't want to talk about it. Patrick gave William lists of names and told him stories about things that had happened. Story his uncle Patrick told him about being in the Free State Army and occupying the Church of Ireland Cathedral in Raphoe, had fortified the top of the tower with sandbags, a sandbag fell and knocked one of the soldiers off the steps.

46:20 The main activities of the Drumoghill company was as a conduit for moving arms from Derry city to west Donegal where the main volunteer strength was. How the IRA raided RIC barracks generally. How it was done by the IRA in his father's area. They infiltrated the RIC and disarmed it from the inside out by making friends with RIC.

48:22 His mother remained friends with people who were in the RIC locally. Composition of the RIC at the time and their intelligence gathering function. Many were sympathetic to the Volunteers and his father used this sympathy to his advantage.

50:14 Daniel Gillen who was the main dispatch carrier for the company. Means of

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communications.

51:40 William credits his father's Presbyterian background with his ability to keep peaceful relations between communities. Local IRA company arms were never stored by their own members, they had access to a Church of Ireland family who were distantly related to his father who was happy to have the arms stored in their home.

53:12 UVF were well armed and had a lot of arms dumps in the area. William believes that his father knew the location of these dumps, but they were never raided as he didn't believe in antagonising the UVF.

54:08 Order in 1920 to vacate RIC Barracks, IRA issued an order to burn these barracks. Local barracks in Manorcunningham still survived as a dwelling, not destroyed as his father decided that it was better for community relations to maintain the barracks there.

55:01 Father had relatives in the UVF. First time he saw an Orange parade in the 1940s, he saw a cousin of his father's marching in the parade wearing the sash. Never any serious agitation between the republicans and unionists in east Donegal.

56:40 Very strong local Orange Lodges. Local Manorcunningham and Raphoe Lodges still very strong. Very little trouble at marches aside from some episodes of hooliganism, tolerance all around.

57:40 Belief locally that nothing really happened locally during the War of Independence but a lot happened did happen in William's view.

58:25 Black and Tans and Auxilliaris were in the area but it would have seemed to them that the area was quiet and that there was little opposition. They operated mostly in patrols carrying out raids. In the Laggan, none of the usual atrocities seem to have occurred.

59:50 Real trouble in that area was not until the Civil War.

[Short break here]

1:00:06 Story about the acquisition of the Thomas Ashe Hall in Drumoghill, opened on Easter Monday 1918. Procured an ex-British Territorial Army Hut, these were very common. Mentions local priest at the time Fr Denis Moran from Killybegs who was a member also of the Irish Parliamentary Party. Hall opened by Dr McGinley, a leading Sinn Féiner in Letterkenny, later a TD in the second Dáil. Its use as a Dáil or Sinn Féin court. Mentions John Robertson, a barrister from Letterkenny who brought a case there. Also mentions Charles Slattery, a Sinn Féin solicitor (whose father was an RIC man) and who later practiced as a District Justice in Sligo. Mentions a clerical student called James Gallagher from Letterkenny who took part in these court sessions and who William knew. Memories of hearing about a local Presbyterian girl before the court charged with infanticide An exemplary court. Course system one of the best ways of undermining British rule.

1:08:53 Story about an IRA raid looking for arms. Mentions UVF demonstration in

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Raphoe. Local commander of UVF was a minor landlord called Captain Stoney, lived in Oakfield House outside Raphoe where demonstration was held. An IRA raid was carried out on Stoney's house and succeeded in getting some arms. Dr McGinley present during this raid. Story about the two ceremonial revolvers acquired during the raid. William's father and Dr McGinley kept one each for their personal use.

1:12:51 Account of a raid on his mother's house during the Civil War by a party of anti-Treatyites coming from Skeoge house which was occupied by anti-Treaty forces at the time. [one phrase redacted from access copy of interview]

1:15:52 His father and his mother's brothers joined the Free State Army. Joe Sweeney's views on the Treaty. Mentions Michael Collins. William's father and Dr McGinley would have followed his steps.

1:17:22 Those in local IRA who were anti-treaty, including Neil Blaney and Sam O'Flaherty - who had also been a student in Dublin during the Rising. O'Flaherty was Officer in Command of a battalion at the straddled the border at Castlefinn but he took no part in the Civil War. Majority of Donegal Volunteers were pro-Treaty.

1:19:50 Reluctance and sadness characterises how his relatives spoke about the Civil War. William's view that the Civil War started on the 4 May 1922 when the local Free State forces under Seán Lehane were on their way to investigate a bank raid in Buncrana and were ambushed by a party of anti-Treatyites from the south of Ireland Four Free State soldiers killed there, a month before the shelling of the Four Courts.

1:21:31 William's changing views of the Civil War. Felt that it was conducted in Donegal by men from the South who did not understand the environment and conditions in the North of Ireland, that their actions were disproportionate and led to the pogroms in Belfast. The prevailing lack of understanding of the North of Ireland.

1:24:29 Replacement of local officers by men from the South under Collin's orders. Joe Sweeney, the Officer in Command of the first Northern Division told to stand aside and his role was taken over by Seán Lehane. His father was in charge of Lifford and Raphoe and he also had to stand aside for men in the south who were going to continue to fight.

1:27:06 A lot of action on the border between Lifford and Strabane. His father was in charge of Lifford. Story told to him by Daniel Gillen who was also in the Free State Army about two men who had come from the south, James Walsh and one other man who were overheard planning to shoot William's father but he was alerted to what was happening and the plan fell through. Fights across the border between the B Specials and the anti-Treatyites, Catholics in the North bore the brunt of that in William's view. Charlie Daly was one of the men who came North was very honourable but later shot at Drumboe.

1:29:25 Memories of attending commemorations at Drumboe on Easter Monday for the four men who were executed. Wonders why there was no commemoration for the men killed in Drumkeen and in Newtowncunningham. Believes his father was on the right in the Civil War.

1:30:00 Cumann na mBan branch locally in Drumoghill. The leader of that was his

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father's sister Mary Anne Holmes who later married a man called James Sweeney. She was not active in Civil War but was never in favour of the Free State. Remained anti-Treaty. Williams' mother and two sisters were also in Cumann na mBan, mother not as active as her two sisters who were very active.

1:32:34 Story about men in jail in Derry who were sentenced to death during the War of Independence and the diversion that was planned. Volunteers all assembled in the Thomas Ashe Hall, Fr Moran heard confessions for these men and each man was to bring a day's food supply and to await orders. They waited for hours and eventually the action was called off after the sentence was commuted.

1:34:25 His mothers name was Ellen Gallagher her sisters were Mary and Catherine Gallagher. Mary Anne Holmes had a supposed relationship with an RIC man and she was the person who took the arms from Raphoe Barracks from a Constable O'Brien (possibly a cover name). Lots of Mill's Bombs (hand grenades) all emptied from the barracks and Mary Ellen took possession of them and they were transported by Mary and Catherine Gallagher. These actions were better suited to women than men.

1:36:50 They would have drilled but weapons were scarce, mostly they were transported through that area between Derry and West Donegal. Flying Column weapons would also have been stored there and the women's role was to transport these.

1:37:45 His mother had less involvement as she was caring for her mother.

1:38:22 William knew these women, Mary and Catherine very well. They were Pro-Treaty. Story about the breakout of Republican prisoners from Derry Jail in 1943 and his uncle and aunt's role in aiding one of these men, John McCready.

1:44:01 Mary Anne Sweeney and Catherine Gallagher were very staunchly Republican right up to their deaths in 1979.

1:44:35 End of Interview 1.

Interview 2 – 16 October 2020

00:00 Introduction to interview

00:36 Account recounting Peadar O'Donnell staying at the family home of his mother, Gallaghers of Ardagh, a well-known as a safe house for people going between Derry and West Donegal.

08:16 O'Donnell did not fit well with Republicans in that area. In the 1950s, William remembers being in Dublin with his uncle Charlie Holmes who was also in the IRA and him pointing out Peadar O'Donnell's house.

10:30 Other stories his mother had about an IRA man from Derry called Seamus McCann who was part of Peadar O'Donnell's flying column and who was on the anti-Treaty side of the Civil War. Talks about how poorly treated the anti-Treaty side were supported. He stayed in Gallaghers often training local volunteers. He was in charge of a firing party at his father's funeral even though they were at different sides of the

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Treaty. Mentions this man's son's involvement in the border campaign in the 1950s.

14:05 Old Seamus McCann had a lot of stories about the War of Independence and the Civil War. Most anti-Treaty people remained friendly with his father.

14:45 Real bitterness in the Civil War in Donegal was between the local IRA who came up from the South. 16:30 Story about his father getting a new car and knocking the Union Jack off the enamelled badge from the front. Anti-Englishness came from the old Presbyterian tradition. Church of Ireland was the Established Church. Presbyterians were penalised and many had to emigrate so there was a strong anti-English sentiment there.

19:50 His father's mother's people were not politically minded people. Story about his cousin Tom Holmes to exemplify the enmity between Presbyterians and Church of Ireland.

22:32 Story about a raid on his mother's house during the Civil War. The house was never suspected or never raided during the War of Independence. Possibly because of their respectability in the community and possibly because of their good relations with the unionists in the area, many of whom may have suspected that it was a safe house.

26:15 Family memories of Ernie O'Malley being in Donegal as an organiser for Sinn Féin in 1918. He stayed in William's father's house and was looked after by Mary Ann Holmes, leader of the local Cumann na mBan and who had smuggled arms out of the (RIC) barracks in Raphoe. Mentions his father buying the book he published in 1936 called *On Another Man's Wound*.

29:15 Regrets that he did not ask more questions of his relatives when they were alive. Talks about alcoholism and the place of alcohol in society in the 1940s and 1950s. Few sources of entertainment other than bars. It was a male preserve.

35:10 Local republicans were very weary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Compares them with the Orange Order. Mentions their demonstrations on the 15 August; faith and fatherland, resolutions of loyalty to the Pope. Run by the Catholic Church and very pro-British in their outlook. Catholic Church's relationship with the British Administration. New allegiance to the Free State after independence. His views on the Catholic Church and sectarianism.

38:14 William's father died in a road accident when he was 10 years old, the impact this has had on his life. His feelings about the Catholic Church and about religion in general. The role of the Catholic Church in local history in his area.

40:42 Influence of the Catholic Church in that area. Mentions his brother who was a priest but left priesthood after 12 years. Talks about the death of his two brothers, both who were 71 when they died. Mentions his sisters, one of whom visits her daughter in New York regularly.

42:55 His father starting a slate quarry which employed up to 700 people at its peak. Grew up with accusations from others this his father was a turn coat as he had switched from Cumann na nGaedheal to He had resigned from the army in 1923.

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Reasons his father left Cumann na nGaedheal – mentions the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the establishment of the Blueshirts, fighting at local polling booths Neil Blaney had been Officer in Command of a Battalion in Fanad, had been Anti-treaty but was very friendly with his father and his father joined up with Neil Blaney.

46:46 How his father's outlook differed from other Free Staters. Story about Anthony McGinley who had been a prisoner in Drumboe when the executions took place and what he had recounted about events. This account features Joe Sweeney, Charlie Daly, Willie Tom McMenamin, General Richard Mulcahy, Barney Sweeney and William Holmes. Neil Diviney is also mentioned as having been falsely accused. Talks about republicans being forced to emigrate.

52:26 James Diamond from Derry was another prisoner in Drumboe at that time and he was a very close friend of William's father. Description of conditions at Drumboe. Conditions enduring by anti-Treaty IRA in Donegal were very bad. A lot of petty criminals masquerading as IRA at the time around east Donegal so anti-Treaty men also had to endure that they were being associated with these people.

56:44 Immediate aftermath of the Civil War. Most of the anti-treaty side quietly made their way back south. Their leader Sean Lehane went back and lived in Cork thereafter. Charlie Daly and his friends caught carrying arms were shot. Anti-Treaty emigration. The Church and Cumann na nGaedheal's attitude at the time,

59:04 Terminology used to describe Northern Ireland / six counties / the North. The Boundary Commission. East Donegal had a majority of unionists, so they were almost included in Northern Ireland. Neglect of Donegal from both sides.

1:02:54 Farm broken up by the border at Drumnashear rented by his father. Smuggling. American camps in Derry. White loaves and de Valera's black bread. His father was smuggling at a larger scale. Story about special branch coming to raid the house.

1:07:30 Father smuggled lorry tires, equipment, machinery, big and bulky stuff. Had connections with the Americans

1:08:29 Death of his father when William was 10 years old. Remembers the day World War II started, remembers the Spanish Civil War. Remembers being in his uncle's house where they were pro- Fine Gael and pro-Franco. Talked about his father's car and about an incident he had only a pony and trap.

1:11:59 Large tillage farm that his father owned, along with a foundry in Letterkenny and a quarry. Had about 60 men working for him. Had bought a hackney licence and did hackney driving also. The day that he was killed he was doing a hackney run. Talks about his death at the age of 55 years old and the impact of that on their family and on William's life. Mentions the proceeding court case and the other side being represented by a barrister called John A Costello who went on to become Taoiseach. They were unsuccessful in the case. Financial impact on the family.

1:18:15 Talks about his siblings and how life changed for the family after his father's death

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1:19:52 Starting secondary school at St Eunan's College in Letterkenny and subsequently leaving the school. Mentions St Columbs in Derry. Talks about the GAA, the Irish language and the attitude towards soccer.

1:22:43 Going to an agricultural school in Ballyhaise in Co. Cavan and his enjoyment of that experience. His experience of education and his love of books.

1:25:16 His life in farming, a successful tillage farmer. Farmers in the 1950s and 1960s that were either Fine Gael supporters or unionists. History of farming in the Laggan, mentions hiring fairs known as 'rabblies' held in Letterkenny, Strabane and Derry. Hiring native Irish speakers from West Donegal. Ulster Scots spoken in his young days in east Donegal. Farmers living in poor circumstances.

1:29:37 Boom in farming during World War I and poor times returned during the Economic War in the 1930s. Things picked up again for during World War II. Talks about 'local football' in the area or soccer as it is generally known. Soccer brought to the area by two cousins of his father who had come to Ireland to avoid conscription. Brought their love of Celtic with them and started up local football clubs. In the 1950s, they couldn't even field a team of 11 because of emigration which had a massive impact on that area. His older brother emigrated to America others went to Scotland.

1:33:43 Interview 2 ends.

Interview 3 – 20 October 2020

00:00 Introduction to the interview

00:48 World War I and the soldiers who came home after it. Talks about Charlie 'War' Doherty who returned from the World War I and talked about the war a lot. Many of the returned veterans did return to state/official jobs.

03:04 Only soldier he knew to be victimised was a Free State soldier, Jimmy Hegarty who was part of the army ambushed in Newtowncunningham and he remembers him being falsely accused of cowardice in the pub.

04:09 To William's knowledge ex-British army men came back and got on with their lives without victimisation. Good relations in that area between people of different faiths and politics, the only bitterness that persisted was between opposing sides of the Civil War.

05:30 Friendly with James Duffy, known as 'The VC' as he had won a Victoria Cross for bravery in World War I. In the medical core and based in Palestine. He told William a lot of stories.

10:04 Men from both sides of the community that joined up from the district of Manorcunningham, a list of about 30 men probably 50-50 Catholic -Protestant.

11:10 A lot of the men who returned from World War I did not want to talk about it but William heard stories about being gassed and injuries, shock at the horror of it, the scale of the loss and the injuries that they had witnessed. Mentions Robert Sweeney used to talk about fighting at Ypres where he was injured.

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13:30 Shell Shock. People who took part in World War I or in the Civil War were very reluctant to talk about it, both wars had a serious impact on people who took part.

14:40 Little action in east Donegal during the War of Independent. Diversion created by a raid on barracks in Letterkenny because of a larger raid happening in west Donegal.

15:50 Ambush in Newtowncunnigham in May 1922 as the start of the Civil War. Civil War was a 'savage' event in East Donegal. So many divisions locally – the unionists, the B-specials on the border, the Free State army locally, the people sent from the south to take control of the Free State army in Donegal, the anti-treaty people, lawless people who took advantage when there was no law and order. The effect of it ran deep, most people disillusioned with fighting for freedom.

17:49 Impact of it even now is that a lot of people in Donegal feel that they were let down, that the south didn't want them, the six counties didn't take them so it has been isolated ever since. Poor road conditions. Feeling of being isolated, Free State people feeling that they had been side-lined by the Free State government.

20:46 Raids for cattle, sheep and poultry on local farmers who were not very political became politicised because of these raids by anti-treaty IRA because they were hungry. Lasting impact of this.

21:52 Irish people's understanding of unionists. Persistence of Unionism and the fear of Catholicism. His views on unionist thinking. Mentions slogan 'Home Rule is Rome Rule'. The Free State as a cold place for Protestants.

24:00 Fears of religion were there before the Civil War but they were exacerbated by the Civil War because of these raids on farms. Unionists felt the need to stand together and close ranks for their own protection. Fear of being considered to liberal or open.

26:09 This attitude amplified during the Northern Irish Troubles. Talks about the friendship that developed between Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness after the Peace Process. The impact of this on the DUP who were fearful of this.

28:20 His views on Presbyterians in relation to Church of Ireland members. His views on various shades of unionism, mentioning, the DUP and Drumcree. Talks about the Irish tricolour and the fear of the orange in the flag, gives the GAA as an example of this.

30:25 People from the south do not understand the northern part of the country, few holiday there, little understanding and communication. Mentions one benefit of Covid 19 that it brought a lot of holiday makers to Donegal that might not have travelled there otherwise.

32:07 Thoughts on the GAA. Saw his first Gaelic football match at St Eunan's. Talks about the ban on 'foreign games'. His fondness for the Irish language, attending Irish language classes in later life. The garrison games of the British Army. The foundation of the GAA. Story about friends who had got a place on the Donegal Minor team who

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lost their places on foot of the actions of vigilance committees.

36:30 His experience of the GAA was of an intolerant organisation. Hopes for a day when there will be more open minds in the future.

39:23 Playing and going to soccer matches with Joe Gilbraith who was an elder in the Presbyterian church. In his experience soccer was a unifying sport in that part of Donegal. Talks about his father organising soccer and tug of war, set up Drumoghill football club and went on to present a cup for soccer, this was the first competition held on a countywide basis in Donegal, the Holmes Cup. He and his family were shunned because of his support for soccer even though he was a republican.

41:50 His belief in a united Ireland but it will require more tolerance.

43:30 Practical example of the Dublin government's lack of understanding towards the North. Road between Dublin and Derry.

45:36 The Northern Ireland Troubles – his parents generation disillusioned by the earlier conflicts and did not want to talk about it. William's own opinion is that he is opposed to shedding the blood of fellow Irishmen. Need for the British Army to leave Ireland. Mentions Randolph Churchill's report back to his party that 'the orange card is the one to play' which he believes to be the British attitude towards Ireland.

49:03 Boris Johnson's approach to Ireland. Talks about Scottish independence and what that might mean for Northern Ireland and the relationship between unionists in Ireland with unionists in Scotland.

51:18 Legacy of 1912-1923 in William's view – distrust and intolerance that it caused all around. Talks about how the Republic have overtaken Northern Ireland in terms of prosperity. Loss in industries in Northern Ireland. More modern industry in the Republic. Legacy of the border is fear and ignorance of the other side.

55:26 Control of the Catholic Church in the New Free State. Gives the example of Noel Bröwne who had helped to eradicate TB and his sacking from government. Influence of the Catholic church on the governing of Ireland in the 20th century. His views on religion and its impact on Ireland.

57:48 Talks about his children and grandchildren and their diversity of faiths. Talks about the continuing influence of the Catholic church in Ireland. His belief in the separation of religion and state. Example of the Catholic bishops approaching An Taoiseach to have the churches re-open despite Covid-19.

1:01:13 Feels the influence of Protestantism is reducing even faster than Catholicism. Talks about inter-marriages. Talks about taking a parish priest to the funeral of a local Presbyterian many years ago and not being allowed to go inside the gate. These customs are now disregarded. These are good signs in William's view.

1:04:10 The legacy of William's family involvement in the Revolutionary period. Believes that this part of history is being forgotten about. His parent's generation's hope for that period and their disappointment about how it turned out.

1:06:45 Divisions in the community in the 1930s in particular at the time of the

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Blueshirts.

1:08:21 His view on Brexit. Talks about Michael Collins actions after the signing of the Treaty. Mention the US Government and the Irish governments approach to it.

1:13:28 His view on current Fianna Fáil / Fine Gael coalition. His father changed leaving Cumann na nGaedheal to join Fianna Fáil. His memories of his father canvassing for Fianna Fáil. Story about going to a by-election rally in Letterkenny attended by Eamon de Valera. His mother's cousin was a Fine Gael TD and she was Fine Gael and William grew up being a Fianna Fáil supporter. Close connection with the Blaney family. Left Fianna Fáil after Neil Blaney's removal from the party. His views on the fate of the Fianna Fáil, Fine Gael and Sinn Féin parties. Believes the future will be right and left politics.

1:18:25 His final reflections, his views of Irishness and unity and hope that common sense, tolerance and understanding will prevail.

1:21:29 Interview 3 ends

Additional note: Having listened back to the interview William was concerned that he appeared to undervalue the contribution of Cumann na mBan during this period and he wished to add that their contribution was considerable, particularly in relation to operating safe houses. This, he said, involved much more than letting people stay for the night, it also involved keeping people for long periods of time, cooking for them, taking care of them and washing and mending their clothes which was a big task. William often heard the women talk about his.

He also wanted to add a story to offer an example of Presbyterian liberalism. One of the leaders of the Tenant Rights League in Donegal at the end of the Nineteenth century was Rev John Kinnear who was a Presbyterian Minister in Letterkenny and a Liberal MP returned for Donegal in 1880 for his opposition to absentee landlords and his support of tenant rights. William notes that concurrently at this time Cardinal Patrick O'Donnell was collecting money from poor people to build St Eunan's Cathedral in Letterkenny.

Language	English
Restricted Information	Yes – see project database
Field Notes	This interview was recorded on the telephone in three sessions. The additional notes were added in subsequent conversations with William after he had listened to the interview recordings. William gave very generously of his time over three mornings and was a pleasure to interview. 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 events are referred to in

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	the interview.
Audio File Details	
Recording Format: 48kHz 16 bit stereo	
Length of Interview(s): Interview 1 (1:44:35); Interview 2 (1:33:43); Interview 3 (1:21:29)	
No. of Files: 6	
File Types: 3 uncompressed WAV files and 3 corresponding MP3 copies	
Documentation Completed by Interviewee	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Registration Form✓ Pre-questionnaire Monitoring Form✓ Participation Agreement✓ Post-questionnaire Monitoring Form✓ Recording Agreement✓ Participant Sign-in Sheet✓ Photograph of Interviewee	

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