

Ainm an Tionscadail	Tionscadal Béaloidis Ghaeltacht Thír Chonaill
Buntaifeadadh	T6
Ainm an Agalláí	Richard Boyd
Ainm an Agallóra	Dónall Dinny Ó Gallachóir
Dáta an Agallaimh	13 Aibreán 2006
Suíomh an aAallaimh	Carraig Fhinne
Ainm an Tras-scríbhneora	Gráinne Ní Eireamhóin

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Nóta déanta ag an tras-scríbhneoir

DÓNALL: Tá mé inniu i dteach Richard Boyd agus tá mé gabháil a thógáil uaidh traidhfil seanachas fá Phrotastúnaigh Charraig Fhinne agus mar a tháinig siad anseo ar dtús. Agus ba mhaith liom tosach Richard, we'll start with how many families were here and how they came here originally Richard.

RICHARD: Well the Boyds were supposed to come from an island off Scotland, the isle of Bute and they were shipwrecked off the coast of Donegal, I suppose Carrickfinn and some of them settled there in Carrickfinn and some of them carried on as far as Adara and back in the early 60's as far to my memory there were 6, 5 Boyd families in Carrickfinn and 1 Alcorn family. Protestant families. Now where the Alcorn family originally came from, I do not know. And there's now 6, 6 Boyd families in Carrickfinn to date.

DÓNALL: Yeah, but tell me this Richard, you know when now would that, would that have happened, like when that shipwreck happened like originally. Would it go back over 100 years or more?

RICHARD: Well over a 100 years, yeah. Probably back in, before 7, in the 1700's, yeah.

DÓNALL: Oh right. Ok. So, well anyway Richard we'll probably go on now later about Carrickfinn church and all that like. But, could you tell me now a little bit more about your own life and your family here. There's an old house here beside the pier, it was the original home, like. And your family – were called, what were they called?

RICHARD: Well the Christie's. Christie Boyd was me grandfather. And the old house that Christie lived in was built around 1770, 1780. By a, he was known as, Christie was known as Christie John Mhór and John Mór and his brother built the old house. And Christie was married to a Carrickfinn woman the name of Lizzie Foster and they had 7 of a family. 4 boys and 3 girls. And my father was Tommy Boyd, better known as Tommy Christie and they all went to America because they had 2 aunts already in America. And the last of, the youngest of the family, Richard was only 6 weeks in America when he was killed on construction work. And my father was in the American army in the First Worlds War and they were pretty close to the front line when peace was declared. But he never talked much about it until his last maybe 3 or 4 years towards the end of his life. He never talked much about the army or being in the war. But he returned home then, don't know what year to look after his father and mother and he married Jinnie Boyd from across the other side of Carrickfinn, the west side of Carrickfinn. And they had 6 of a family, 2 boys and 4 girls and I'm still here now and they built a new house. Me father built a new house round 65 years ago. And the first 3 of our family were born in the old house and 3, the last 3 were born in this house here. And I went to school in Carrickfinn here, which was a mixed school, Catholics and Protestants and I worked here, small farm. I did do a wee bit of fishing back in the late 60's, just in the summertime on the

DÓNALL: salmon fishing

RICHARD: salmon fishing. That was for the ESB when they took over the Claddy River.

DÓNALL: Yeah but like fishing at that time would've been quite good, salmon fishing especially Richard.

RICHARD: Yeah there were a lot of salmon then, a lot of salmon. I remember the biggest catch that we took in, the year that I was, one of the year's that I was fishing on the boat which was called a punt, was 93 salmon in the 1 what they called a "ring" or the 1 shot. And that was on a Monday morning. And then there was usually more fish on a Monday morning than there would be on the Friday. Cos ye finished on the Friday evening early and there was no fishing then til the Monday morning.

DÓNALL: Yeah, but the livelihood you know in Carrickfinn here would have been a lot dependant on fishing at the time or

" ____+" [2 talking at one time]

RICHARD: Yeah it would, it would

DÓNALL: Your father would have done a lot of fishing

RICHARD: Me father done a lot of fishing and he worked, he worked at the herring fishing in Bunbeg and he always bought the herring for a man called Harry James in Portadown. That was back in the 50's and the early 60's. And probably before the 50's maybe. And he had the small farm here but there was more money made on fishing back then than there would have been on the farm.

DÓNALL: Yeah so would you now be dealing with the shop in Bunbeg quite a lot rowing across in a wee currach or a boat or

RICHARD: Yeah back then up until, the shop in Bunbeg, Keown's shop, or it was known as Keown's first. It was T J McBride then in my time. And it closed down in 1963 approximately. 63, 64. And up until that a lot of the shopping was all done in Bunbeg. More by the people that lived on this, on the, what did, the east side of Carrickfinn here beside, close to Bunbeg. They all done their shopping in Bunbeg.

DÓNALL: That shop was quite good at the time wasn't it, you could get everything.

RICHARD: You got anything there as they say from a needle to an anchor.

DÓNALL: Right

RICHARD: And the sawmill was there as well. And you got, every so often, especially in the winter time, you would go over and you would get the sawdust. That was for putting under calves, mainly calves for bedding calves and you got so many bags of shavings for lighting your fire in the morning. There was no zip fire lighters or Homestead fire lighters then.

DÓNALL: Not at all, not then no.

RICHARD: And that was, what that was used for. And there was always fishing going in Bunbeg, when the salmon fishing would finish in the summertime, there was always other types of fishing then with not all the boats, but some of them. And, and til the herring fishing would start then in November. And the herring that you got back then there were like wee salmon compared to the herring now, you know.

DÓNALL: So would you go over regularly like twice a week or once or twice a week to Bunbeg for shopping like.

RICHARD: The boat or the currach nearly crossed the channel every day, yeah, yeah.

DÓNALL: So you had a handy wee pier here just beside ye.

RICHARD: Yeah a wee slip there.

DÓNALL: Tell me about now you had a story about that slip once when it was originally built Richard.

RICHARD: Well as far as I know it would have been built to, just before the turn of the century and the stone, it was built solely by stone, very little cement or concrete used then and the stone was all quarried and by, I would say plugs, plug and feather. Back then there was no ammunition much, I wouldn't think. And the stone would have been carried with hand barrows, hand barrows and built.

DÓNALL: And what kind of payment would they get Richard?

RICHARD: Well they tell me that the payment back then, you got a voucher for food like groceries, rather than money. That was how the men were paid back then and a lot of them piers, wee piers and slips was known as the maize, the maize piers or maize slips.

DÓNALL: Minnaweel

RICHARD: Because you, part of the payment was with maize meal. Locally known maybe as Indian meal, it's the yellow maize meal and that was part of the payment that the men got then.

DÓNALL: And would that be supplied in Bunbeg as well Richard

RICHARD: I would think so, yeah, I would think so.

DÓNALL: And do you remember now before we leave the Bunbeg pier, do you remember the ships coming in once or twice weekly like?

RICHARD: No, no I wouldn't, but I heard enough about them. They came in with the timber and all.

DÓNALL: They would.

RICHARD: Yeah

DÓNALL: They came from Norway and

RICHARD: Oh they did, they came from all over and they came so far there til a place called Gabhla Roads and then there was a man that went out then and met them to take them in over the barr and up the channel and he was a man the name of Archie Delap.

DÓNALL: Ah right.

RICHARD: Yeah he was the, the

DÓNALL: He lived in Machaire Gathlan.

RICHARD: Yeah he lived down in Machaire Gathlan at the pier in Machaire Gathlan and there's some of his descendants still

DÓNALL: Oh yeah, yeah

RICHARD: Yeah, I think one of them there in Croithli actually

DÓNALL: That's right, yeah. Called Archie as well.

RICHARD: Yeah he's Archie Delap as well.

DÓNALL: But now earlier and I didn't break the, didn't break the conversation Richard, but you talked about a family here in Carrickfinn called Fosters. They are no more, there's no "_____"

RICHARD: No, no. I don't know where the Foster family came from now, but the, Lizzie, Lizzie Foster who was my granny, that was married to Christie. Her brother's family then went to New Zealand. That's where they headed for and there, but there is some of, there'd be, there was a grand-daughter of John Foster's married to Moore in Letterkenny and some of that family are still alive. Around Letterkenny.

(pause)

DÓNALL: Yeah. Now Richard there was you know in your youth as well a lot of people would have their own cattle and sheep and all that like. Would there have been common land, commonage land down here further back like or

RICHARD: Oh there was aye, aye. Still is

DÓNALL: So you had grazing rights.

RICHARD: Yeah, yeah it was usually, way back then it would be grazed in the wintertime, but then in later years it was grazed in the summertime and part of it would be, part of the commonage was in the Dunmore Banks as it was called Sandy Banks and then there's another area between Carrickfinn and Braide and it was known as the Molly Finns. Molly Finns Banks. And you now have the airport there on part of that today. But there's still quite a lot of cattle graze there in the summertime.

DÓNALL: Oh yeah you see them there in the summer.

RICHARD: Yeah and along with the grazing, you got bent for to thatch your house or your outhouses, whatever the case would be.

DÓNALL: So every family had rights.

RICHARD: Yeah

DÓNALL: Yeah

RICHARD: Even families from Gaoth Dobhair, Knockastollar, Dobhair, Doire na Mainsir had shares of bent on the Molly Finn Banks for cutting for to thatch their houses.

DÓNALL: See now when we're talking about that and Carrickfinn airport, it must have, you know it really changed Carrickfinn, all the new houses that have been built up in the last 20 years and all that like. See the land, you know, would that not originally have been common land like that is part of the airport and now especially the runway's built on it.

RICHARD: Yeah it was, it was. But it was sold then in the late 80's. It started off there was a small airstrip started off in 75, 76 and then it progressed from that to what it is today to the airport we have today. And that then was in 89, the spring of 89 they started to develop it for the bigger airport that is there today.

DÓNALL: Yeah, it has fairly changed Carrickfinn though hasn't it?

RICHARD: It has, it has.

DÓNALL: All the tourists and all that

RICHARD: Yeah, yeah. There would be double the amount of houses in Carrickfinn today that there was back in 89, 90. Yeah I know that for a fact.

DÓNALL: So there would have been Protestant, a small group of Protestants in Braide as well wouldn't there, there Richard? No?

RICHARD: No, no.

DÓNALL: It's further up Donegal like.

RICHARD: Yeah Tubberkeen, Tubberkeen was the next, was the next settling of Protestants, yeah.

DÓNALL: And then did your group meet with them and inter-marry with Dunfanaghy?

RICHARD: More Dunfanaghy. Yeah. Now, my granny on my mother's side was (pause) Dudgeon. Annie Dudgeon. No sorry, Nellie Dudgeon, Nellie Dudgeon. And she came from over close to Kincassla. Now whether she was a Protestant then or not, I don't know or mixed marriage or what but, she was Nellie Dudgeon. And she married James Boyd, in Carnboy and they had (pause) 6 I think it was 6 of a family they had. 7, maybe 7 of a family and 4 of them, 4 of the boys went to New Zealand and 2, the 2 girls married in Loughros Point in Ardara to men the name of Boyd's. Which were probably some of the first settlers from the shipwreck. And 1 of the family that stayed at home was, he was known as Jamesie Nellie, after his mother Nellie Dudgeon and he married a Nanny Wilson from Horn Head and they had 12 of a family, 9 boys -- 10 boys and 2 girls. And 1 of them girls would've been my mother, Jeannie. And 8, 8 boys and 1 girl, Ellen went to New Zealand because of the 4 uncles that had been there before them. Now the 4 uncles actually set out for Australia, to the gold diggings. And things just wasn't as good in Australia as they had hoped, so they ended up in part of New Zealand called Kakora. And there would be hundreds of Boyds there today, descendants of those Boyds that left Carrickfinn.

DÓNALL: And do they come here to visit like? I'm sure they do.

RICHARD: Yeah the younger generations do now, yeah. Cousins of mine and second and third cousins would come in the summertime.

DÓNALL: Very good.

RICHARD: Yeah but that family, my mother's family they're all dead and gone now since 1990, the last of them died.

DÓNALL: Now Richard, we had a good conversation the last day, you were talking about you used to cut turf in Ard Donn, would that be right?

RICHARD: Aye I suppose it would be Ard Donn, yeah, across from the old Gaoth Dobhair hotel, now known as the Cúirt. And the turf were cut there and first of all they were

carried out in a creel, which was a basket that you put on your back and they were carried across the turf banks to the, an old building that was known as the Old Barracks. They were then carted across the river by horse and cart, there was a wooden bridge across the river, they were carted across that. In the early years they were probably carted down to the quay, pier at Bunbeg, but in later time then they were lorried down. They were emptied there, they were carried into a boat by creel again and taken across to Carrickfinn and carried out of the boat with the creel again and built in a stack close to the house. So you had a lot of filling and emptying and clodding of turf.

DÓNALL: That was tough going wasn't it Richard?

RICHARD: It was. Yeah.

DÓNALL: You know there was no other way, cos you had no oil or gas.

RICHARD: That was the way it was done, even folk from, that, that cut on the Annagry and Mulladuff mountains or the bogs there, they would cart them to Annagry up there close to where the dispensary is now. They would cart them there and then they would boat them down the channel at high tide and they were put out on the shore then up at the top of Carrickfinn, known as Tubberhanny. And they were carted then from there to the house. So there was still quite a lot of work with them even on the Annagry, Mulladuff side.

DÓNALL: Aw there was yeah.

RICHARD: Yeah, yeah.

DÓNALL: So your dad's livelihood was fishing like.

RICHARD: It would have been more or less fishing, yeah. And then you got the

DÓNALL: Raising cattle and selling the odd one.

RICHARD: A small amount of cattle and well very few sheep at that time, yeah.

DÓNALL: I suppose you walked up to the Dungloe fair with them.

RICHARD: That's right, yeah that's right. And we would buy an odd small animal in, down in Derrybeg. It was known as Briney's fair and that was on the last Monday of every month. And the only one that, calf that I remember him buying there and taking across in the boat would've been in the last Monday of October 1956. Approximately. (laughs) 1956 yeah.

DÓNALL: You would've tied the calf on the boat.

RICHARD: Yeah well they would stand, the animal would stand on the boat. The animals back then were much quieter than animals today like. Cos they were handled, the, all cows were hand milked then, the calves were bucket fed, a lot of them were used on [used to] tethers and they were much quieter than the animals you would have today cos they're nearly all sucking and the only time they would be handled now is when they're been tested or put into the shed or the byre for to be loaded on the wagon for the mart. You know?

DÓNALL: So you remember often not only that incident of one calf, but do you remember like taking cows across and

RICHARD: Yeah I remember cows being swam across, yeah. They would just be too big for the size of the boat or maybe wouldn't feel happy about that special animal in the boat. You know they would be a wee bit

DÓNALL: Taken into Bunbeg like?

RICHARD: Yeah, yeah. They used to, in Gabhla, they would come in from Gabhla and they would have their, sometimes the feet would be tied, and they would be lying on the

nets in the boat, you know. And I remember them telling about a horse being taken from the wee slipway up there into Gabhla and it was tossed on the pier up there and on a big cover tarpaulin and its legs tied and then maybe ten men lifted the horse, beast into the half decker and headed off for Gabhla.

DÓNALL: My God. That was tough going, wasn't it Richard?

RICHARD: It was, it was, aye.

DÓNALL: But there was a good living here though and people were happy and they were independent like.

RICHARD: People were happy surely, and that was the way of life and I suppose at that time you didn't know of any other way of life.

DÓNALL: Yeah.

RICHARD: There was no television back then. Up until the early 70's I suppose, the late 60's there would've been a few televisions in Carrickfinn. Then in the 70's they became more popular, but back then you see you had a lot of folk what you call arnialing at night. That was visiting and that was I suppose an Irish name on it was arnial or garnial at night.

DÓNALL: Garnialing.

RICHARD: They would come to the house and you know they'd be there, they'd be here 2 or 3 hours you know. And you would hear all the latest that would be going on from maybe other parts of the Rosses and what have ye. But that doesn't happen today. You nearly need to make an appointment now when you go to visit somebody, you know?
(laughs)

DÓNALL: Oh you would, certainly. But the people have changed and the ways have changed like.

RICHARD: Yeah.

DÓNALL: Richard, tell me now about the Carrickfinn church, just briefly even like.

RICHARD: Yeah well.

DÓNALL: Would that have been built a long time ago or

RICHARD: It was, it was, what would we say (pause) 1870 I think it was dedicated as a church and there was a thatched roof on it in the beginning. It was originally a dwelling to do with the coast guards as far as I know.

DÓNALL: Oh was it?

RICHARD: Yeah, yeah. And there's rings on the top of the hill beside the church yet, where there was a flag pole and that had to do with the coast guards raising a flag to give a warning or a sign til somebody further on. But it was renovated then some years later and part, some of the slates that are on Carrickfinn church were slates that were left over from the chapel in Annagry. And that was when it was damaged and re-roofed. Yeah. And back in the 60's we had, we had about there was 6 Protestant families, 1 Alcorn family like and we would have had around 25, 26, 28 parishioners every Sunday and today we would still have 22, 24 mostly every Sunday yeah.

DÓNALL: Sunday Service.

RICHARD: Sunday Service. But in the summertime this last number of years, last 20 years you would get up to a hundred and there was one Sunday in particular a few years ago when the camp was there that, Scouts is a, Scripture Union camp from The North and there was 132, yeah I think it was 132 maybe 137 worshippers in the church.

DÓNALL: It's small enough really.

RICHARD: Yeah it is. Well they were packed in everywhere that day (laughs)

DÓNALL: Standing around

RICHARD: They were actually, the clergyman actually went outside to put on his robes, he hadn't room in the vestry, cos the vestry was full as well. But that doesn't happen too often.

DÓNALL: And would people like even, or have you heard of it in your youth, would people have gone across to Bunbeg for service occasionally like or

RICHARD: Naw, naw.

DÓNALL: Stayed with your own

RICHARD: The clergyman always came across on the boat from Bunbeg, by boat and that was a man the name of Hugh Boyd was the ferryman, known as the ferryman then, and like good Sunday, bad Sunday the clergyman would come even some Sundays he would arrive and the water would be running out of him (laughs). He still came ahead, yeah. He still came...

DÓNALL: But like your community are very strong, very closely bonded.

RICHARD: Yeah, yeah they would be.

DÓNALL: And always were.

RICHARD: Yeah.

DÓNALL: Right Richard, you have a lot of information about that old church in Carrickfinn and the first Rector and all that. Could you tell me a bit of info about that Richard please?

RICHARD: Well it's now known as St Andrews Church in Carrickfinn and we go back to 1858 actually and the first Rector was Thomas Wolfe. He was a curate in Carrickfinn and he was there from 1858 until 184 - - no that's wrong. The next, the next man was a Reverend F Caulfield [perhaps Cawfield] and then in 1866 to 1876 there was a Reverend A Delap and then you had the Reverend Cowan up until 1975, from 18, 1873 til 1875 and from 1875 until 1890 there was a Reverend Carson. And from 1891 until 1907 there was a Reverend Chapman and from 1908 until 1921 there was a Reverend Mullan and from 1922 until 1945, Canon J Williams and it was then the Gweedore Union with Templecrone. It was 3 churches in the group then and from 1945 until 1976 which would be in my time then, we had the Reverend, Dean he was Dean Watson when he died in 1976. And he would come across in the, he even came across to Carrickfinn from Bunbeg in the summertime by boat.

DÓNALL: I actually remember him.

RICHARD: Yeah you would do yeah.

DÓNALL: Up beside the school.

RICHARD: A well educated man, yeah, a well educated man. He died Reverend Watson, or he was then Dean Watson died in March of '76 and from '76 then until '79 we had Reverend Ian Knox. And in 1985 then until '87, Carrickfinn, Bunbeg churches were amalgamated with Dunfanaghy. But that only lasted the 2 years or so. And in 1988 we then had the Reverend Stephen White up until 1993. And we were vacant then again from '93 until '98 and in 1998 the Reverend Richard Kelly was the clergyman then. And he died in January of '98. He died from cancer. And too, in October of '98 then we had the Reverend David Cole from that until, (pause) wait til we see now (pause) I think it was '02, yeah we had the Reverend Johnson then from December '02 and he is our present Rector, yet. And he is known as a Bishop's Part-time Curate. And he comes to the rectory there on a, from a Thursday evening until a Sunday evening, maybe Monday morning.

DÓNALL: Does he come from Dunfanaghy?

RICHARD: He comes from Coleraine.

DÓNALL: Alright.

RICHARD: Yeah he was the Rector in Castlerock in Derry for over 20 years. He was previously in Portnoo, the Portnoo group parishes. Leitir Mac A Bhaird, Glenties, up until the early 1980's. Yeah. About '82 and he is now back with us here in Carrickfinn, Bunbeg and Dungloe. And that is the present man we have today.

DÓNALL: Now Richard, you have some information on the roof and where it came from and when it was done and that, Richard.

RICHARD: Well the rafters on the roof in Carrickfinn church, they were sawn out of logs that came ashore in Carrickfinn. They were actually sawn on a sawpit by a William Boyd and his brother John. Sawed with a rip saw and the saw pit is still there today and even the pews

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RICHARD: the pews in Carrickfinn church, they were made from, from planks and timber that was sawed out of pine logs that came ashore in Carrickfinn, way back in the early 1900's maybe late 1800's I suppose. And they would be descendants, there's still descendants of the John Boyd living in Carrickfinn today. And as I said the, the slates, some of the slates on Carrickfinn church were ones left over from the roof of Annagry chapel.

DÓNALL: When that was damaged?

RICHARD: When that was damaged, yeah. Yeah

DÓNALL: When was that Richard? 1930's

RICHARD: It would have been. It would have been yeah. And the roof, the roof on Carrickfinn Church. Carrickfinn Church was hit by lightening, round about 195-, 54, 55, in the month of June. It went in one side and out the other. And it then split a huge big rock sitting on the hill, close by to it. Just split it in 2.

DÓNALL: Good God.

RICHARD: Yeah. And the men then that fixed the roof on Carrickfinn Church that time were Dunleavey's from Falcarragh area, Baltany, yeah.

DÓNALL: What about the old school up there, I was looking at it now, it's been renovated and used as a home Richard

RICHARD: It, it's a

DÓNALL: It's not a registered school? [Unsure of this sentence]

RICHARD: That's the school I went to, it was built in 1905, the year my mother was born. And that's the school I went to. It's, it's now a holiday home and I had 8 different teachers there, yeah, 8 different teachers. And that was a mixed school of course and the most Protestant children that would've been in it in my time would've been 6. We always got out at 12 o'clock, a half an hour earlier than the rest of the scholars. They were doing their catechism and religion teaching, religious teaching and we got out the half hour earlier. And that would be the only difference that we saw in the school then.

DÓNALL: You got on quite well with your community here?

RICHARD: Definitely, yeah, yeah.

DÓNALL: Both Catholic and Protestant, there was no difference.

RICHARD: There was never any difference.

DÓNALL: No, that's the way it should be.

RICHARD: For when you need somebody you don't think will I call on a Protestant or will I, Catholic. You call on your neighbours.

DÓNALL: They're your neighbours and your friends and that's that.

RICHARD: And relations couldn't be better.

DÓNALL: Not at all.

RICHARD: And always was, in all of my memory. Like no matter what trouble was going on anywhere else, there was never any, any trouble around here and we would depend a lot on our Catholic community for you know support with anything that we would run for the church, yeah

DÓNALL: Of course, of course, yeah.

RICHARD: and we'd be badly lost without them.

DÓNALL: It's a pity now you live in a great place, but the only thing you need most would be good roads, Richard, they're

RICHARD: Well, yeah they would be a help, they would be a help.

DÓNALL: They haven't improved any have they?

RICHARD: You would have good roads for a while and then if there's new houses being built well

DÓNALL: It rips it up again

RICHARD: Well the heavy lorries come in then sort of mess it up again.

DÓNALL: And there are quite a few houses built in Carrickfinn.

RICHARD: There would be double the amount of houses in Carrickfinn in the last 15 years, actually, yeah. I can't tell ye how many houses would be in it now. There's way over 40 I suppose, yeah.

DÓNALL: Anyway, Richard I'll go back to when ye were fishing and it would have been 1960's, mid 60's, sometime.

RICHARD: That's right, that's right.

DÓNALL: What kinda wage would ye earn at that time Richard?

RICHARD: Well the week's, week's wages back then was 6 pound, 10 shillings. It wasn't a lot but it was the first week's wages. When it's the first week's wages you earn, it's a whole lot.

DÓNALL: Oh yeah, you think it's precious like gold.

RICHARD: Yeah, yeah definitely. A big change from then til today. It would be nearly that an hour now I suppose.

DÓNALL: Oh, for God's sake.

RICHARD: (laughs)

DÓNALL: But you often rowed from here over to Bunbeg.

RICHARD: I did indeed, from I was I suppose 14 years of age and when I was 15, I went over and back on me own in the currach and a boat with an outboard engine on her.

DÓNALL: Up to the shop in Bunbeg.

RICHARD: Yeah the shop, yeah.

DÓNALL: And did you ever go further up to Bunbeg?

RICHARD: Well you would go up to the post office. That time the post office was up at the crossroads in Bunbeg. John Joe Breslin had it and you went to Johnny McFadden's garage for your petrol for the engine, for the outboard engine and the oil to mix the petrol and all that.

(pause)

DÓNALL: Yeah. Sorry go on Richard.

RICHARD: It would have been 1955, 56 the outboard engines sort of came into light around here. Before that it was all rowing. There was a man Hugh Boyd who was the ferryman and he would have been the first man to have a wee outboard engine on the boat and that time they were just a straightforward engine, there was no gear on them, no neutral or nothing. You couldn't even leave her running at the side of the pier, you had to stop her. And start off again in the new.

DÓNALL: But Richard, you weren't into building boats, but your brother Jim was and you have a wee story about a boat he built, he built many I'd say but

RICHARD: Yeah he built quite a lot of boats, but he, and currachs and one currach in particular that he built, he built it in 1962 into 63 and it was the currach that went to Iona. There was 13 men rowed her from Derry to the island of Iona and it took them 5 days and that, she was about 30 foot long. And they, they took the route that St Colmcille was said

to have taken in, whatever year that was. And there was big celebrations at that time when the currach left and when the crew members all got back again. And the currach is now in a museum in Northern Ireland.

DÓNALL: Right.

RICHARD: Yeah.

DÓNALL: Now, OK, ansin tá sin fíor mhaith and thank you very much for your time

RICHARD: You're welcome.

DÓNALL: Go raibh míle maith agat.