

Frank R. Maloney – Nenagh's GAA Pioneer

By Nancy Murphy

Several County Tipperary people made a considerable contribution to the spread of the Gaelic Athletic Association in its early years. One such person was Frank R. Maloney. His support for the Association consisted of constructive action which reflected his great organising ability and leadership qualities. His record of involvement at club, county and national levels is formidable by any comparison for the period, but all the more so when his youth is taken into account. Maloney was only 19 years of age in 1884, the year the GAA was founded.

Maloney is one of Nenagh's most fascinating personalities of the past. Though born in New Zealand,¹ he lived out most of his life in Nenagh until his death there in 1941.² His commercial enterprises were numerous and diverse – partner, and later owner, of corn and wool stores; publican and hotelier; farmer and auctioneer. Coeval with his commercial career was another as public servant, first as an elected Town Commissioner and later as Town Clerk to the Commissioners and their successor, Nenagh UDC, from 1891 until 1922.³

As Town Clerk Maloney presided over the first municipal elections held under the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 in January 1899. He subsequently guided the elected representatives through the legal intricacies of changing Nenagh from an urban sanitary authority with Town Commissioners, to an urban district council with urban district councillors, in 1901. All these diverse activities were in the future for Maloney when he threw his weight and abilities behind the new Association launched in Lizzie M. Hayes's Commercial and Family Hotel and Posting Establishment, Thurles, on 1 November 1884 "for the cultivation and preservation of national pastimes".

Not a Founder

Some GAA historians, notably W. F. Mandle in his 1977 article in *Irish Historical Studies*, "The I.R.B. and the Beginnings of the GAA", and Marcus de Burca in both his *The G.A.A.: A History* and *Michael Cusack and the GAA*, suggest that Maloney was actually present in Thurles at the foundation meeting. However, no documentary evidence has surfaced to support their assumptions.

Both writers claim that Maloney's name was left out of the list of those present because he was a noted member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB).⁴ Maloney's alleged membership of the IRB is based on his name appearing twice in police returns of members of that organisation.⁵ Unlike his two North Tipperary colleagues at national level in the GAA, J.K. Bracken (Templemore) and Patrick T. Hctor (Newport) there is no documentary record of his being under surveillance by the police or of a dossier having been kept on his movements.

Maloney gave no indication that he had been in Thurles on 1 November, 1884 when, at the 6 December 1884 meeting of Nenagh Cricket Club under his chairmanship, an acting committee was appointed "for the revival of national pastimes". That was almost certainly the nucleus of the first GAA club in this county.⁶ However, 21 years later he did make such a claim. In a letter to the *Nenagh News* of 30 December 1905 he stated that three of the delegates in Thurles in November 1884 "were members of the Nenagh Institute".

Three deductions follow. First, Maloney never claimed to have been alone from Nenagh at that meeting. Secondly, to "admit" Maloney to that first meeting on the strength of his recollection would also "admit" two other Nenagh delegates – making a total attendance in Hayes's Hotel of 16 – and would allow the possibility of an extraordinary omission by Nenagh's own *Tipperary Advocate* of three Nenagh names among the 16. Thirdly, it is highly probable, in the light of the 1885 report quoted below, that Maloney's memory was defective as to the number and as to their exact affiliation ("Nenagh Institute").

That *Advocate* report is of the GAA's third meeting held in Thurles on 17 January 1885.

Under the most favourable conditions and backed with the most powerful influence, an effort is being made to revive the fine manly sports and banish the namby-pamby croquet, lawn tennis etc. as effectively as St Patrick banished the more vicious serpent from our isle. We have not the smallest objection to effeminate dandies and romantic young ladies to amuse themselves at the exciting games quoted, but they are far, very far, beneath the brawn and sinew of the hearty sons of Tipperary.

In connection with the matter an important meeting is being held today in Thurles. Thus delegates from all recognised branches have been invited. We are happy to see that Nenagh has promptly responded and a deputation, consisting of Messrs F. R. Maloney, J. Fahey, J. Dunne and Thomas Ryan, started for the cathedral town early this morning as representing the hurling and football clubs. We trust they will join in refusing to be guided by the rules of English clubs if such a proposition be brought forward. With reference to the great old game of hurling which Mr F. R. Maloney had the honour to introduce and which since has made rapid progress, it is hoped that it will be established on a firm basis.

The *Tipperary Leader* report of that meeting added the appellation "Nenagh Cricket Club and Literary Institute" to Maloney's and Fahey's names, and "the North Tipperary Hurling Club" to those of Ryan and Dunne. There one sees how easily, 21 years on, Maloney could have telescoped the names of those two clubs, parent and offspring, to the "Nenagh Institute".

Accordingly, one must conclude that Maloney, writing in 1905, confused the date of the foundation meeting with the one 10 weeks later which he *did* attend. That 1885 meeting, which drew up the rules and appointed the first vice-presidents, may very well have fixed itself in the young man's mind as the one which really launched the infant GAA.

This view gains further support when one realises that no minutes of the GAA foundation meeting survive – or indeed for the first decade of its existence. Who is to say if minutes were actually kept or read at the meetings? Due to the lack of the vital minutes, the newspaper reports of the day are the main primary source as to who was there. And though such reports of the occasion vary as to the names and numbers, the fairest conclusion would be that all the persons named in the various contemporary accounts should be included in the roll of honour.

For instance, the *Tipperary Advocate* named eleven: Cusack, Davin, John Butler, Ballyhudda; William Foley, Carrick-on-Suir; John McKay, Cork Athletic Club; D. C. Culhane, Thurles; William Delahunty, Thurles; Jos. Ryan, Solr., Callan; M. Cantwell, Thurles; Mr Bracken, Templemore; and D. I. McCarthy, R.I.C. Although the name of John Wyse Power is not listed in "the following were present" (as above), the report concludes "... Mr Cusack, Mr J. Wyse Power and Mr John McKay, Secretaries ..." That makes twelve.⁷

Local historian, T. K. Dwyer, Turtulla, Thurles, writing in the Munster Hurling Final Programme in 1979, added another probable name to the roll in the person of his grandfather and namesake, T. K. Dwyer, an athlete of note, one-mile champion of Ireland in 1878, and a friend of Maurice Davin. The reason for his inclusion was based on the fact that William

Dooley, the broadcaster and journalist, in his book *Champions of the Athletic Arena* (1946), quoting from an unnamed newspaper source, gave the names of 12 people present in Thurles. T.K. Dwyer (junior) found that this list corresponded with those in *The Irish Sportsman* newspaper of 8 November 1884.

Both the book and paper give the full name of Culhane as Dwyer C. Culhane. Was this one person or two? T. K. opted for two: C(harley) Culhane, a well-known Thurles athlete and businessman, and T. K. Dwyer, the athlete already referred to. That makes 13. Culhane later became a member of Thurles Town Commissioners and of its successor the Urban District Council. He is also listed in the directories of the late 1880s and 1890s and always there as 'C', or 'Charles' – never D. C. or Dwyer Charles Culhane. He signed himself Charles in the 1901 Census.

To me the contemporary *Tipperary Advocate* listing, as elaborated on above and totalling 13, is conclusive evidence vis-a-vis the vagaries of memory, taking into account also the bizarre contribution of none other than Michael Cusack in April 1906. He wrote to the *Nenagh News* on April 7: "... Four of the nine Irishmen who founded the GAA in Thurles were from Nenagh and Frank R. Maloney was one of them ...". (my italics).

Before the founding of the GAA Frank Maloney's sporting pre-occupation was cricket. He is to be found in the dual role of player and Hon. Secretary of Nenagh Cricket Club in 1884, and was to the forefront in organising the club's annual sports in June of that year. He was even at that stage identified as a man of property, since he was able to "place his rooms and a field" at their disposal.⁸

The highlight of the 1884 Nenagh cricket season was the match at Smithfield between William Chumney's X1 and Frank Maloney's X1. Two of Chumney's team were George Corbett, later a well-known Nenagh solicitor, and Joseph Gleeson, who was already making a name for himself as a skilled rugby player with the newly-founded Nenagh Ormond Rugby Football Club.⁹ Maloney's fast bowler was Joseph's brother, Michael Gleeson, later Crown Solicitor for Co. Tipperary (and father of the future historian, District Justice Dermot Gleeson) and credited in his obituary as being involved in framing the early rules of the Association. Although Séamus Ó Riain's biography of Maurice Davin makes no mention of him having any input, Michael Gleeson remained a life-long friend of Maloney.

First GAA hurling match

The acting committee appointed "for the revival of national pastimes" at that December 1884 meeting of Nenagh Cricket Club consisted of James Dunne, Joe Dillon, Patrick Gleeson, Patrick O'Brien, Cunahurt, P. Bonfield, with Frank R. Maloney as chairman. Their enthusiasm for the concept extended to planning "for a hurling match next Sunday".¹⁰ It was, however, near the end of March 1885 before the club's planned hurling match became a reality.

The teams in this first hurling match under GAA rules in North Tipperary were Nenagh and Silvermines. Maloney refereed it and the game resulted in a scoreless draw. This somewhat



Frank R. Maloney – a sketch in a Dublin newspaper of 1915.

unusual result probably reflects a lack of hurling skill – there were probably plenty of wides! While the two local newspapers do not name the venue, it may well have been in the field rented by Nenagh Cricket Club in 1884 from “Mr Walsh ... at Riverston between the bathing house and railway line”, as there is mention in the report that “the Cricket Club marquee was brought into requisition and good things were dispensed impartially between all parties” There is no indication whether the “good things” was the traditional cricket tea, or a less prissy beverage suitable for the “hearty sons of Tipperary”.¹¹

Captain Carroll’s field at Capparoe was the scene of the replay, with Frank Maloney again the man in the middle of the 42 players. Three thousand spectators were present, “amongst them a fair proportion of the fair sex”. Again the match resulted in a draw.¹² Even at this early stage of the GAA political overtones had been imported. The field fences were decorated with white and green flags, and at Capparoe Cross a banner with the inscription “National Independence” had been erected; another banner proclaimed “God Save Ireland”.¹³ Nenagh Brass Band and Silvermines Fife and Drum Band were in attendance and to round off the day the fair sex and gentlemen danced (whether or not in “a fair proportion”) into the late hours.

In May 1885 Frank R. Maloney purchased the Castle Hotel, 35 Castle Street, Nenagh. The following month he was heavily involved in the organisation of Nenagh Athletic Sports, run under GAA rules.¹⁴ No further hurling matches were played that summer, but the cricket club played occasional matches.

October 1885 saw the “second annual meeting of Nenagh Hurling Club”. Michael Haugh, Silver Street, Nenagh, a prominent member of Nenagh Land League branch in the early 1880s, who had spent several months in Naas gaol as a “suspect”, was President. Maloney, in his capacity as Hon. Secretary, read correspondence from Michael Cusack regarding a proposed match between a team from North Tipperary and one from Dublin city and county.¹⁵

Maloney now threw himself into the task of soliciting the co-operation of the North Tipperary clubs and making the arrangements for selection of the eventual players. The Nenagh colours of green and amber were chosen as the colours. The match was played in Dublin in early February 1886 and was actually against a selection of South Galway clubs, not Dublin ones as originally mooted. The result was a draw; there was a replay in Limerick in February.¹⁶

As well as being secretary of the hurling club, Maloney was also secretary of Nenagh Literary Institute. This non-denominational and non-political body came into being in 1884. Membership was confined to males, who enjoyed its recreational and social facilities for an annual membership fee of six shillings (30p).¹⁷

Vice-president of GAA

Maloney’s commitment did not go unnoticed, and the Association was only 15 months old when he was co-opted to the prestigious position of vice-president which gave him a seat on the Central Executive. The appointment was made at the national convention held in Thurles in February 1886.¹⁸ He replaced J. F. Murphy, Cork, who was removed from the panel of VPs. Cusack proposed Maloney, and Bracken seconded him. He was then 21.

Why and by whom vice-president Maloney was chosen to chair the Central Executive meeting held in Thurles in July 1886, which saw Michael Cusack removed from the position of Secretary, must remain a mystery since no minutes of the meeting survive. Association President Maurice Davin had chosen not to attend the meeting. Though obviously an efficient secretary, the youthful Maloney had no hands-on experience as a chairman and there were

more senior VPs present – J. K. Bracken, for instance. It may be that the outspoken and articulate Bracken decided that he could exert more influence from the floor.¹⁹

The Thurles meeting was convened by Cusack's two under-employed assistant secretaries to resolve the long-standing complaints coming from all quarters about Cusack's inefficient handling of his secretarial role. The position was a vital one since it handled club affiliations and affiliation fees. Cusack had never delegated functions to his assistants.

The outcome of the meeting was the dismissal of Cusack by a majority vote.²⁰ Marcus de Búrca in his *Michael Cusack and the GAA* states, without attributing the source, that though Nenagh club supported Cusack, Maloney vacated the chair and voted against him – a gesture, de Burca says, which led to "a life-long feud between the two". However, Cusack's high praise for Maloney in his letter to the *Nenagh News* in 1906 suggests that the feud had abated by then. Cusack died in December 1906.

There was one other background factor in the Maloney-Cusack relationship. In 1885-6 Cusack had played anything but a conciliatory role in Archbishop Croke's efforts (supported by the *Freeman's Journal*) to resolve the conflict between the GAA and the Irish Amateur Athletic Association (IAAA) over the ban each had imposed on its members participating in sports organised by the other. Shortly after the removal of the ban by the GAA, a resolution passed by North Tipperary GAA Committee, of which Maloney was secretary, appeared in the *Freeman's Journal*. It was highly critical of the paper's attitude to the GAA and of its alleged antipathy to Dr Croke.²¹

The truth was that Cusack had drafted and planted the resolution. It caused offence to Croke and put the willing sponsors, North Tipperary and Maloney, in the firing line. It is likely that Maloney resented having been thus used.

The second Annual Convention held in Thurles in November 1886 saw the unanimous adoption of the Constitution drafted by the President, Davin. Amongst the clauses were tight procedures for the election of county committees and for the changing of any rules. The meeting also adopted Davin's revised rules for hurling, football and handball. The Central Executive which emerged from the convention had Davin as President and Maloney as one of the VPs.²²

First County Convention

It is apparent from a report of a Nenagh Literary Institute meeting that there was in existence at that time a North Tipperary GAA Committee, distinct from the local hurling club. Maloney was one of the secretaries of a sub-committee appointed in October 1886 by the "executive of the North Tipperary Branch GAA" to solicit subscriptions for the proposed monument to Charles Kickham.²³

That month also saw the launching of the "North Tipperary Gaelic Hurling Tournament", organised by people drawn from the North Tipperary GAA Committee, plus the two national VPs, Bracken and Maloney. Invariably, Maloney was in attendance at the subsequent matches, acting as umpire or referee.

It is also clear from newspaper reports that the "North Tipperary Convention of affiliated branches of the GAA", held in the Institute, Nenagh, on Monday 27 December 1886, was not an inaugural meeting. Present were vice-presidents Michael Ryan and William Gleeson, Treasurer Joseph Dillon, Nenagh, and Hon. Secretaries M. J. Lambe, Borrisokane, John Hayes, Ballinwear, and Frank R. Maloney.

The election of officers saw Ryan elected to the presidency when Michael Quirke declined to go forward. William Gleeson, Thomas Corcoran, Honey Mount, Roscrea (father of Rev. T. Corcoran, later Professor of Education, UCD), James Coughlin, Latteragh and D. W. Hayes, Birdhill, were elected vice-presidents. Dillon continued as Treasurer. The four Secretaries voted in were: E. M. Walsh, Nenagh; J. Millar, Upperchurch; S. Darcy, Ballina; J. Madden, Borrisokane.

Maloney did not go forward for re-election as a secretary and this gave rise to some discussion. He could not be persuaded to change his mind. By afternoon the reason became obvious; promotion to a higher grade was on the cards. At 1 o'clock the first County Tipperary GAA Convention was held, and the first County Committee elected – just six weeks after the adoption of the Constitution which advocated them. J. K. Bracken chaired the meeting and he was unanimously elected as first chairman.²⁴

Maloney was elected Hon. Treasurer. E. M. Walsh, Nenagh, became the Hon. Secretary, with Pat O'Brien, Cunnahurt, Nenagh, on the committee. The new County Committee set about organising the first round of the inter-club championship (within the county), which would eventually lead to an overall national winner.²⁵

Séamus Ó Riain, in his biography of Davin, has summarised the GAA scenario after the 1886 convention, thus:

... To an undiscerning observer the association was an united movement advancing confidently to achieve its objectives, but in reality a bitter struggle was unfolding in its councils between the physical force IRB supporters and the constitutional National League for control of its affairs.²⁶

Ó Riain also details how the officers of many emerging county committees were known supporters or members of the IRB.²⁷

Maloney is not named as having attended the new Executive's first quarterly meeting held in Wynn's Hotel, Dublin, in February 1887. Davin was also absent. Bracken took the chair. Notwithstanding procedures laid down by the recently-adopted constitution, they proceeded to introduce new rules, notably one which debarred members of the Royal Irish Constabulary from membership of the GAA and from participation in their sports, and one which made Executive members *ex officio* members of county committees.²⁸

Accordingly, it was an irate Davin who presided at the April 1887 meeting in Limerick. Maloney was there, and party to the Executive's refusal to nullify the decisions taken at the Dublin meeting. Davin left the meeting and resigned the presidency within a few weeks. The Executive's July 1887 meeting at Limerick Junction was the focus of attention of press and police. Maloney rowed in to support Bracken's motion calling for the suspension of the Dublin County Committee for its stance about handicapping in a dispute between the Executive and some Dublin clubs.²⁹

He was left on his own to explain the Executive's point of view at the convention of delegates from North Tipperary and King's County (Offaly) clubs, which assembled in Nenagh in September 1887. (VPs Bracken and Patrick Hctor, both from Co. Tipperary, sent apologies.) The meeting was loud in its support of the Executive's action in the handicapping issue and assured them of their support at the forthcoming national convention fixed for Thurles on 9 November.³⁰ In contrast, delegates from west Tipperary and some Limerick clubs, meeting in Tipperary town, adopted a resolution to oppose the re-election of Bracken and Maloney.³¹

There was intense police surveillance at this time of Executive members like Bracken and Hctor (Tipperary), Peter Kelly (Galway), and Frank Dinneen (Limerick).³² No report has surfaced to show that Maloney was under surveillance.

Thurles 1887 Split

The *Nenagh Guardian* noted in its 9 November 1887 issue that "four brakes and two jaunting cars, with contingents from Nenagh and other branches of the GAA, left here to attend the Convention." Maloney made all the travel arrangements and Nenagh Brass Band accompanied them.³³

Maloney's name does not, however, figure in press or police reports. But he remained with the Executive and main body when the dissenting group left the convention; Bracken, on the other hand, left with the dissenters. Rev. John Scanlan, C.C., Nenagh, was a vocal spokesman for the dissenting group. As far as can be gleaned from press reports, Maloney was not proposed as vice-president. Hctor was elected a vice-president as was a P. O'Brien, Nenagh – presumably the Pat O'Brien, Cunnahurt, who had been elected a member of the first Tipperary County Committee in 1886.³⁴

Until then there had been no priests on the Nenagh Hurling Club or the County or North Tipperary committees. However, the clergy were heavily involved at club level elsewhere – mostly as officers. Likewise they were to be found in the numerous branches of the Irish National League which, though suppressed by the Government in August 1887, continued to function as a powerful political group enjoying considerable mass support.

Obviously the feed-back from the turbulent national convention was sufficiently favourable to Fr. Scanlan's group to warrant calling a convention of North Tipperary clubs in Nenagh Literary Institute premises two weeks after Thurles. Thirty-five clubs were represented by two delegates each. Over 20 priests were in attendance. Nenagh club was represented by Michael Quirke.

Resolutions were adopted "repudiating all allegiance to the men elected to the Executive in Thurles".³⁵ This was a complete turn-about on the September 1887 convention; Maloney was now out of favour. Neither had he any place in the new Central Executive which emerged after the second Convention held in January 1888, which saw Maurice Davin back at the helm again.³⁶ Similarly, he was absent from the 1888 Tipperary County Committee of which his friend Michael Gleeson, the Nenagh solicitor, was President.³⁷

On the home front Maloney faced censure by his fellow Town Commissioners in mid-November at a meeting specially convened for the purpose of proposing a resolution "entering our solemn protest against the treatment accorded to Rev. J. Scanlan and the priests around Nenagh at the late Convention in Thurles ..." Maloney and Michael Ryan (former secretary of the Land League, who had served a term in gaol as a suspect in 1881) maintained that the newspaper reports of the Convention were false; but they failed to get support for an amendment to this effect. "Very strong language was used on both sides during the discussion on the resolution and the amendment", noted the *Nenagh Guardian*.³⁸ On that note of discord concluded Frank R. Maloney's contribution to the early years of the Gaelic Athletic Association; but it was not his final involvement.

Frank Maloney married Mary Anne Gleeson of Nenagh in February 1887. Rev. Daniel Flannery, C.C., Nenagh, officiated and J. K. Bracken was his best man. He had two younger brothers, Robert and Ambrose; both were living with him and his wife at 35 Castle Street when the 1901 Census was taken.³⁹ Another member of the household was William Chumney, aged 5 years. William was a son of Maloney's cricketing colleague, William Chumney, whose young wife had died after the birth of their twin sons.⁴⁰ The Maloneys had no children, so they adopted the surviving twin.

Frank R. Maloney's involvement in the GAA at local level was sporadic during the 1890s. But

he re-entered the arena in the early 1900s as secretary of the Nenagh club, secretary of the North Tipperary Board (1907), and chairman of the Tipperary County Board, 1907-9.⁴¹

He achieved a high profile in 1906 when his brainchild of a monster hurling tournament, to be staged in Nenagh, attracted widespread support; 58 teams entered. Michael Cusack, writing from Carron, Co. Clare, was enthusiastic about the concept and laudatory of Maloney's initiative. The first round was on Easter Sunday in Nenagh Showgrounds.

Cusack was among the 7,000 who arrived by road and rail. Three matches were played that day, followed by a series in May, July, August, September and October. The tournament resumed on Easter Sunday 1907. Meanwhile, other clubs began to organise similar tournaments and interest in the Nenagh one waned.⁴²

A Public Servant

As already stated, Frank R. Maloney became Town Clerk of Nenagh – elected by his fellow Town Commissioners in 1891. Reports of their monthly meetings show him to be an amicable, efficient and knowledgeable Clerk, enjoying a good relationship with the 21 elected members. Nenagh acquired its first piped water scheme and a rudimentary sewerage system in the 1890s. The first local authority houses were built in 1906. He became a justice of the peace (magistrate) in 1913.

In January 1920 he fell foul of the local branch of Sinn Féin when, in his role as Returning Officer for the UDC elections, he declared invalid the nominations of five candidates, three of whom were of that party. Sinn Féin decided to test the legality of his ruling.

Space does not permit recounting the story in any detail. Suffice it to say that it culminated in a High Court hearing in Dublin on 14 January. The court was asked to issue an order requiring the Returning Officer (Maloney) to declare certain nominations valid. The application was refused on the grounds that the court would not grant an order that was not capable of being put into effect. Polling day was next day, 15 January, and legislation prescribed an interval of 8 days between nomination and polling.⁴³

In the election Sinn Féin won 10 seats, Labour 7, and Town Tenants 4. Sinn Féin subsequently won the chair at the first meeting. Sinn Féin now proceeded to mount an attack on Maloney through the columns of the *Nenagh News*. Retaliatory action against his business interests was promised. The latter created a complex and potentially explosive situation, since his employee (soon to become his partner) was Frank McGrath, O/C 1st Tipperary Brigade, one of the candidates whose nomination had been refused.

McGrath was arrested on 30 January and committed to Wormswood Scrubbs prison for IRA-related activities. Meanwhile UDC business was conducted amicably and efficiently while the Sinn Féin statements continued in the press. It appears that a boycott was put in place by Sinn Féin against the auctioneering firm owned by Maloney.⁴⁴

At the May 1920 UDC meeting Maloney announced that he would be submitting his resignation as Town Clerk the following month. He outlined the work he would have to do in preparation for the end-of-June audit. He gave no reason, nor was he asked for one, as to why he was resigning. He had 30 years' service and was 55 years of age.⁴⁵

The urban council decided to follow Sinn Féin policy and have the new Clerk appointed by competitive examination to be conducted by Dail Éireann's Local Government Department. Maloney was appointed to continue as acting Town Clerk in the interim.⁴⁶ The Truce and Treaty were in the past and Civil War rumblings were getting louder before Maloney was relieved of his post in April 1922.⁴⁷

In 1923 a Local Government Board audit, carried out at the request of the Urban Council, found serious irregularities in the management of the Council's finance for the period that Maloney was the acting Town Clerk. Surcharges were imposed on him and on some of the councillors. It soon emerged that he was also in serious financial difficulties as a businessman. Litigation followed on both fronts.

Maloney had owned the Castle Hotel in Nenagh since 1885. Around 1905 he joined the firm of John F. Tumpane, who traded at 56 Castle St as "grocer, vintner, auctioneer, seed merchant and wool stores".⁴⁸ He became a partner and subsequently owner of that business. In early 1920 his employee, Frank McGrath, became a partner and manager, and then "sole owner" of the business.⁴⁹ Maloney's financial problems led to the sale of the hotel and other property. He lived out the remainder of his life at a private residence in Cudville.

FOOTNOTES

1. 1901 Census.
2. *Nenagh Guardian* (hereafter NG) 20 Dec 1941; he was buried in the old cemetery at Lisboney. However, his name is not inscribed on any gravestone there.
3. NG., 2 Dec 1891. He was an elected Town Commissioner when he was voted in as Clerk; NG, 22 April 1922. His successor was John/Seán T. O'Neill.
4. W. F. Mandle, 'The IRB and the Beginnings of the GAA' in *I.H.S.*, xx no. 80, Sept 1977.
5. S.P.O., C.B.S. 126/S
6. *Tipperary Advocate* (hereafter TA), 6 Dec 1884.
7. TA, 8 Dec. 1884.
8. TA, 26 April 1885.
9. NG, 30 Mar. 1884.
10. TA, 6 Dec. 1884.
11. TA, 14 Feb. 1885.
12. TA, 18 Apr. 1885.
13. *Ibid.*
14. TA, 13 June 1885.
15. TA, 17 Oct. 1885.
16. TA, 20 Feb 1886; NG, 17 Apr 1886. Tipperary won by 15 points to 1.
17. Bassett's Directory of Co. Tipperary, 1889.
18. TA, 8 May 1886; Séamus Ó Riain, *Maurice Davin*, p. 89
19. Ó Riain, *Maurice Davin*, pp. 96-7.
20. Marcus de Búrca, *Michael Cusack and the GAA*, pp. 107-8, 141; *Nenagh News* (hereafter NN), 7 April 1906.
21. de Búrca, *Michael Cusack and the GAA*, pp. 128-32.
22. Ó Riain, *Maurice Davin*, pp. 108-9.
23. TA, 2 & 10 Oct. 1886.
24. NG, 1 Jan 1887. In his opening remarks Bracken justified the selection of Nenagh as the venue for the meeting by explaining to the 'southern clubs' the reasons why - '... that North Tipperary constituted the larger proportion of the Association'.
25. TA, 1 Jan. 1887.
26. Ó Riain, pp. 111-2.
27. Ó Riain, p. 114.
28. TA, 19 Mar. 1887; *Freeman's Journal* (hereafter FJ), 2 Nov 1887, interview with Davin.
29. S.P.O., C.B.S. 126/S; FJ, 27 July 1887.
30. NG, 3 Sept 1887.
31. FJ, 31 Oct., 1, 5 Nov. 1887.

32. S.P.O., C.B.S. 126/S.
33. NG, 9 Nov. 1887.
34. FJ, 10 Nov. 1887.
35. NG, 23 Nov. 1887.
36. FJ, 5 Jan. 1888; Ó Riain, p. 140-151, covers in some detail the post-1887 convention negotiations which culminated in a resumed convention and Davin's restoration.
37. Canon Fogarty, *Tipperary's GAA Story*, p. 37.
38. NG, 16 Nov. 1888.
39. Civil marriage record, Tipperary Nth Family History research centre; 1901 Census, TNFH research centre. The brothers ran the Imperial Mineral Water factory located in the yard of 35 Castle St.
40. Civil birth and death records, TNFH research centre. Mrs. Chumney died four weeks after the birth. There were two other children in the family. In time William Chumney took the name Maloney. He worked as a farmer and in the auctioneering business. However, his forte was cinema, and he graduated from the rented Town Hall cinema in 1915 to his own, the Ormond, followed by the New Ormond, Summerhill.
41. NN, 14 Jan. 1903; NG, 23 Feb. 1907.
42. NN, 7 April, 21 Apr. 1906; NN, 6 April 1907. Séamus Ó Riain, "Frank R. Maloney (Nenagh)", in *Clár Oifigiúil Chuimhneacháin an Chéid* (N Tipperary Board Centenary Special, 1984), p. 22.
43. NN, 17 Jan. 1920.
44. NN, 26 April & 1 May 1920. Maloney was also victim of a "cattle drive" in April 1920, when his cattle were released from his land and left to roam a long distance away.
45. NG, 8 May 1920.
46. NG, 29 May 1920 & 15 Jan. 1921.
47. The first applicants were given six months to learn Irish in preparation for the examination. In January 1921 the UDC decided to postpone the appointment for a further year. The exam was finally held early in 1922 and the successful candidate (John T. O'Neill) took over in April 1922.
48. George Henry Bassett, *The Book of County Tipperary*, 1889.
49. NG, 3 April 1920. It remained in McGrath ownership until disposed of by his son (due to failing health) in the 1960s.