



CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF
FRANK R MALONEY
(1865-1941)

National GAA Vice-President



A Lasting Tribute

The Nenagh Éire Óg GAA Club, in partnership with Tipperary County Board and the National GAA History Committee, proudly commemorate the extraordinary contribution of Frank R Maloney to Gaelic Games and to the civic life of Nenagh, County Tipperary, and beyond. This recognition honours his unwavering dedication to the promotion and development of Irish sport and culture.



Early Life & Introduction to the GAA

Born in New Zealand in 1865 to Irish parents (Partick Maloney & Mary Hogan) serving in the British Army, Frank Maloney returned to Ireland as a young child, settling in Nenagh with his family. By age 19, he had immersed himself into “the cultivation and preservation of national pastimes” which began shaping the future of Irish sport.

- **November 30, 1884:** At just 19, Maloney was Founder – Chairman of a branch of Nenagh Cricket Club ‘for the revival of national pastimes’ which then evolved into a hurling club. The first hurling practice was held on December 21 with 40 players using ‘cricket bats and hedge sticks’—inspired by 13 - man foundation on 1 November under Maurice Davin and Michael Cusack.
- **March 1885:** Maloney organised and refereed the first local inter-club hurling matches between Nenagh and Silvermines at Riverston. The replay between both teams at Capparoo drew over ‘3,000’ spectators marking the start of a rich tradition of local rivalries that echoes throughout the GAA today.
- **February 11, 1886:** He played a pivotal role in organising the first inter-county match—North Tipperary v South Galway—held at Phoenix Park, Dublin. Maloney addressed the crowd from a window of The Castle Hotel as thousands marched from the railway station up through Nenagh in celebration. The hotel which later was used for National GAA Convention meetings.
- **February 1886:** The Association was only 15 months old when at the National Convention Cusack proposed and Bracken seconded Maloney to the prestigious position of National Vice-President of the GAA.
- **March 1886:** Co-founded North Tipperary GAA, serving as joint honorary secretary.
- **May 1886–1887:** Maloney spearheaded local sporting events, tournaments (Alderman Cochrane Cup + Coster, Johnston Siver Cup), and club reforms. He became North Tipperary treasurer at the inaugural County Convention and later led the local club transformation into the John Mitchel Hurling and Gaelic Football Club with William Chumney senior as senior football captain.
- **February 14, 1887:** Married Mary Anne Gleeson, Barrack Street, Nenagh with another GAA founder JK Bracken as his Best Man. Adopted Willie, henceforth Maloney, baby son of friend William Chumney.

Leadership and Influence in GAA

Frank R Maloney was undoubtedly a talented player and coach. However, his true genius lay in his ability to organise and grow the GAA at both local and National level.

- **1884 – A Vision Takes Shape** with the formation of the Nenagh GAA club
- **1885 – The First Local Challenge Match** which marked the beginning of a tradition that has carried forward for generations.
- **1886 – The Birth of Inter-County Hurling** which united communities through sport and cemented his place as a key figure in the formation of the GAA which resulted in his promotion to **National Vice President** at the young age of 21.
- **1900 – Secretary of Nenagh GAA Club** which allowed him shape the course of the GAA locally.
- **1906 – A Record-Breaking ‘Monster Hurling Tournament’** was organised by Maloney with 56 teams drawing over 7,000 spectators and laid the groundwork for future club competitions across the country.
- **1907 – Secretary North Tipperary Board**
- **1907-09 – Chairman of the Tipperary County Board**, a post that allowed him drive the growth of the association in the region.

Civic Engagement & Entrepreneurship

Beyond sport, Frank R Maloney was a key figure in Nenagh’s civic and business life.

In 1885, at just 20, the family acquired **The Castle Hotel at 35 Pearse Street** where he lived with his wife Mary Anne Gleeson and their adopted son, William Chumney (later Maloney).

- A successful businessman—publican, hotelier, corn and wool store owner, farmer, and auctioneer.
- He became partner and owner of the firm John F. Tumpane where his then manager Frank McGrath (Former Tipperary player and manager and who the North Tipperary Hurling Cup is named after) later took over.
- Elected Town Commissioner and later Town Clerk (1891–1922), where he oversaw significant infrastructure projects including Nenagh’s first piped water and sewerage systems, and council housing.
- Crown Appointed Justice of the Peace in 1913

A Family Legacy Continued

Frank’s legacy extended through generations:

- **William Chumney Maloney** introduced electricity and cinema to Nenagh. In 1922, he built the town’s first cinema—the Ormond Picture House.
- **Noel Maloney** (grandson) proprietor of The Dapp Inn was a standout rugby player for Nenagh Ormond RFC winning the Triple Crown of Munster trophies in 1947-48.

- **Frank Maloney** (great-grandson) proprietor of The Dapp Inn and noted angler together with his siblings, notably Billy Maloney (Nenagh & Shannon RFC) and Gail O'Meara (international tennis), continued the family tradition in sports.
- **Noel, Hugh, and Maeve Maloney** (great-great-grandchildren) proudly represented Nenagh, Duharra and Tipperary in hurling and camogie (Hugh - All-Ireland Senior Hurling Winner 2010).

An Enduring Impact

Frank R. Maloney's passion for Irish culture, his civic dedication, and his vision for Gaelic Games laid the foundation for generations of sporting excellence and community development in Nenagh and beyond.

His legacy remains an enduring inspiration.

Frank R Maloney – Nenagh’s GAA Pioneer

By Nancy Murphy, Tipperary Historical Journal 1997

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APPENDIX

The Castle Hotel, 35 Pearse Street Nenagh – Early National GAA Meetings held



140th anniversary of the formation of the GAA in Hayes Hotel,
Picture Nov 2024 – Frank R Maloney’s contribution was acknowledged



The GAA History Committee and guests celebrate the Association’s 140th anniversary at Hayes’s Hotel in Thurles last Friday, from left: Simon McKay (descendant of GAA founder), Cian Murphy, John Arnold, Richard McElligott, John Doyle (Tipperary Central Council delegate), Dónal McAnallen, John McKay (great-grandson of GAA founder John McKay), Damian White (Chairperson of GAA History Committee), Jack Halley (Hayes’ Hotel), Ger Ryan (Chairperson, Munster GAA), Hugh Maloney (descendant of GAA Vice President Frank Maloney), Tom Hunt, Michael Foley, Murtagh Brennan (CEO, Tipperary GAA)

Nenagh Éire Óg GAA Club

NENAGH EIRE OG DEVELOPMENT



5 May 2025

**Plaque unveiled in Frank Maloney's honour
at Nenagh Éire Óg GAA Grounds**