

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	17 th Nov 2010
Location	Willy's home, near Newbawn, Co. Wexford
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Willy Foley
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1923 Home County: Wexford
Education	Primary: Carrigbyrne NS, Co. Wexford Secondary: Good Counsel New Ross; Technical School New
Family	Siblings: 4 brothers & 4 sisters Current Family if Different: Wife (Elizabeth); 4 daughters & 2 sons
Club(s)	Adamstown GAA [Wexford]
Occupation	Retired Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	Irish Farmers Association

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Date of Report	22 nd August 2012
Period Covered	1880s – 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Wexford, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Limerick, Cork, Offaly, Kerry, Dublin
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Playing, Training, Celebrations, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Career, Retirement, Relationships, Economy/ Economics
Interview Summary	<p>Willy discusses his family's involvement in the GAA. He talks about the history of the GAA in Adamstown, and recalls his earliest memory of the GAA. He recollects listening to matches on the radio, and also discusses playing hurling in school. Willy discusses his playing career with Adamstown and Wexford, plus other clubs also. He recalls the players he played with, and recollects matches won and lost. He describes living in Wexford during the Second World War, before talking about training routines in his playing days and the club's main rivals. Willy recollects travelling to matches, describing the modes of transport and events that took place. He recalls retiring from playing, and recollects meeting his wife. Willy talks about the number of All-Ireland finals he has attended, and recollects some of the homecomings for Wexford All-Ireland final teams. He discusses the best matches and players he has seen, and describes his best memories from the GAA.</p> <p>00:32 Willie recalls being born and raised in Carrigadaggin, near New Ross.</p> <p>01:04 Discusses family involvement in the GAA. Mentions his uncle Willie Foley and his father. Also mentions Paddy Breen of Castlebridge.</p> <p>01:56 Recalls stories concerning his uncles Willie and Thomas Foley. Mentions them walking to Pallas East train station to travel to Dublin for matches. Mentions North Star Hotel on Amiens Street. Also mentions Tom Foley. Recalls story concerning Paddy Breen from Carrig-on-Bannow.</p> <p>04:37 Discusses his father's cousin Tom Foley who gave pre-match speeches to Wexford teams. Also recalls Sim Doran.</p> <p>05:50 Discusses history of GAA in Adamstown. Mentions the Raheen Heartbreakers, and recalls county final. Discusses formation of team in Adamstown. Recalls early successes of</p>

	<p>the club.</p> <p>07:10 Discusses his father's playing career.</p> <p>08:09 Recalls his earliest memory of the GAA. Mentions 1932 Junior Hurling Final, Adamstown v Ferns. Also recalls 1932 All-Ireland Football Final, Kerry v Roscommon. Recalls listening to match on radio in Sim Doran's house. Also recalls 1932 All-Ireland Hurling Final between Clare and Kilkenny. Mentions PJ Mehigan and Mícheál Ó hÉithir.</p> <p>10:02 Recalls cricket being played in the area.</p> <p>10:11 Discusses Adamstown winning competitions in 1934 and 1935.</p> <p>10:57 Recalls hurling at Carrigbyrne National School. Mentions Ms Grayson and Mrs Curtis. Recalls conditions in the school.</p> <p>11:52 Recalls hurling on the farm with his brothers.</p> <p>12:20 Recalls getting hurleys locally. Mentions Randalls in Killurin. Recalls balls that were used.</p> <p>13:05 Recalls hurling and football at Good Counsel. Mentions Eamonn Young from Cork and his brother Jim.</p> <p>14:30 Recalls working at Pierces Foundry in Wexford.</p> <p>15:20 Recalls playing minor hurling with O'Hanrahans of New Ross. Mentions county semi-final match with Glyn-Bartown when Nicky Rackard was playing. Mentions playing with Adamstown and also Gusserane.</p> <p>16:32 Recalls being selected for Wexford minor hurling team. Recalls match against Dublin in Enniscorthy. Discusses training and travelling to matches.</p> <p>17:51 Discusses his GAA heroes. Mentions Mick and John Mackey of Limerick, Timmy Ryan and Christy Ring. Also mentions his brother John Foley and Jimmy Langton.</p> <p>19:18 Recalls positions he played in.</p> <p>19:44 Recalls winning 1942 senior hurling championship with Adamstown. Mentions cycling to New Ross for the county final. Recalls travelling to Leinster Senior Hurling Championship match between Kilkenny and Wexford in New Ross. Mentions referee in match, his brother John was marking Paddy Phelan.</p> <p>21:21 Recalls players on the Wexford senior hurling team.</p>
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	<p>Mentions Tom Butler, Mick, John and Tom Foley, Tom Butler, Mattie O'Neill and Ben Nugent.</p> <p>21:56 Discusses hurling in the Adamstown area. Recalls cup that Adamstown played for, also mentions Castlebridge.</p> <p>23:15 Recalls Adamstown's record in the senior hurling championship. Recalls 1942 county final against Rathnure in New Ross, mentions Nicky Rackard and Mick Foley.</p> <p>25:13 Recalls living through the Second World War in Wexford.</p> <p>26:04 Recalls his playing career with Adamstown and Wexford. Mentions Tom Butler and Tom Doyle.</p> <p>28:07 Recalls training, mentions Newbawn, Adamstown and Raheen. Mentions Tom Quigley's field and Foley's field in Carrigadaggin.</p> <p>29:55 Mentions rivalry with Raheen Heartbreakers and Newbawn Rangers. Recalls encounter between Adamstown and Raheen Heartbreakers. Mentions the Walsh family in Castlebyrne and the Foleys in Newbawn and Carrigadaggin on the Adamstown side.</p> <p>31:52 Recalls Adamstown players such as Tom Foley, Tom and Lar Shannon and Dick Eustace.</p> <p>32:53 Recalls going to matches, mentions mode of transport. Mentions going to matches in Kilkenny. Recalls 1950 Leinster Hurling Final against Kilkenny. Recalls cycling to Thurles in 1944 for Munster Hurling Final between Limerick and Cork with Tom Butler, Tom Shannon and Jimmy Fuller. Recalls scene in Liberty Square. Mentions Mick Mackey and the Ryans, plus Christy Ring. Recalls equalising goal from John Quirke of Cork. Mentions clash between Con Curtin and Timmy Ryan. Recalls stopping in Inistioge for a dance.</p> <p>37:28 Recalls match between Wexford and an Army selection in New Ross. Also mentions 1942 Leinster Hurling Final between Wexford and Kilkenny.</p> <p>38:28 Recalls playing gear for inter-county matches.</p> <p>38:58 Recalls retiring from playing.</p> <p>39:50 Recalls meeting his wife. Mentions evening of Adamstown v Rathnure county final.</p> <p>40:54 Recalls supporting the Wexford hurling team in the fifties. Mentions Kilkenny. Also mentions the Rackard</p>
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	<p>brothers, Ned Wheeler and Nick O'Donnell of Graiguenamanagh.</p> <p>42:05 Mentions attending 118 All-Ireland finals. Mentions attending Munster football finals in Cork and Killarney, and Munster hurling finals in Limerick and Thurles. Recalls crowds of over 60,000 at Munster finals in Limerick and Thurles.</p> <p>43:18 Recalls buying his first car.</p> <p>44:29 Recalls best matches he saw. Mentions Kerry v Dublin in 1977 All-Ireland Football semi-final. Also mentions Tipperary v Kilkenny in 2009 and 2010 All-Ireland finals. Also mentions Wexford v Cork in 1956. Recalls being in Croke Park for that match. Recalls National League final between Tipperary and Wexford.</p> <p>47:21 Recalls homecoming for Wexford teams after All-Ireland finals. Mentions Gorey, Enniscorthy and Wexford Town. Recalls 1960 All-Ireland victory against Tipperary.</p> <p>48:16 Recalls his favourite players on Wexford teams. Mentions Billy Rackard and Tim Flood.</p> <p>48:56 Discusses training underage teams in Adamstown.</p> <p>49:37 Discusses change of emphasis to Gaelic football in Adamstown. Mentions Eric Bradley and John Cooper playing for Wexford senior football teams.</p> <p>50:42 Discusses his children's involvement in the GAA. Mentions Tom and Mark, who played with Ratharogue-Cushinstown. Mentions going to matches with them.</p> <p>51:52 Discusses the biggest changes he has seen in hurling and Gaelic football.</p> <p>53:02 Recalls story regarding Michael Cusack. Mentions Willie Foley and a meeting at Hayes' Hotel in Thurles. Mentions museum in Croke Park.</p> <p>55:53 Recalls his best memories from the GAA. Mentions 1982 All-Ireland Football Final between Kerry and Offaly. Mentions Seamus Darby. Also mentions Blaise Brosnan and bet on match.</p> <p>57:49 Recalls the role of the GAA in the parish. Mentions Jimmy McDonnell.</p> <p>59:00 Discusses getting tickets for All-Ireland finals.</p> <p>59:33 Discusses the GAA in Adamstown.</p>
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	<p>1:00:17 Discusses his involvement in the IFA.</p> <p>1:00:50 Recalls first cousin of his father, Tom Foley, addressing Wexford team before 1899 All-Ireland Final. Also mentions Tom 'Hoey' Redmond.</p> <p>1:02:47 Discusses Wexford's nickname 'The Yellabellies'. Mentions match in Wales.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): Driver</p>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Played 1939 – 1950 with Adamstown. Won the 1942 Wexford Senior Hurling Championship playing with Adamstown. Played Minor (1941), Junior (1942), Senior (1943-47) hurling with Wexford.</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Selector for Adamstown GAA at various times; On selection committees for Wexford Senior Hurling panel, 1942.</p>
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 1:03:57</p>
Language	<p>English</p>

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To be filled in by Interviewer:

I hereby assign the copyright of the content of the above to the GAA Oral History Project on the understanding that the content will not be used in a derogatory manner. I understand that I am giving the GAA Oral History Project the right to use and make available to the public the content of this interview.

Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 22nd August 2012