

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Regina Fitzpatrick
<b>Date of Interview</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> April 2011
<b>Location</b>	Paddy's home, near Birr, Co. Offaly.
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paddy Molloy
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1934 <b>Home County:</b> Offaly
<b>Education</b>	<b>Primary:</b> Killyon NS, Co. Offaly.
<b>Family</b>	<b>Siblings:</b> N/A <b>Current Family if Different:</b> Wife, 3 sons & 2 daughters
<b>Club(s)</b>	Drumcullen GAA Club [Offaly]
<b>Occupation</b>	N/A
<b>Parents' Occupation</b>	N/A
<b>Religion</b>	N/A
<b>Political Affiliation / Membership</b>	N/A
<b>Other Club/Society Membership(s)</b>	N/A

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<b>Date of Report</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1800 – 2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Offaly, Kilkenny, Americas, USA
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Managing, Coaching, Refereeing, Officials, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Sponsorship, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Irish History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Sacrifices, Alcohol, Violence, Politics, Opening of Croke Park, Relationship with the Association, Professionalism, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>Legendary Offaly hurler Paddy Molloy looks back on his GAA experiences. As a young boy he played with Drumcullen and possessed a steely determination which saw him put in many hours at home trying to perfect his skills. It paid off in the end as he went on to represent the club at many different levels and was also selected to play for Offaly. They enjoyed many battles with Kilkenny over the years and Paddy was on a team that reached a Leinster final, which was a memorable experience for him. He soon caught the eye of Leinster selectors and made the provincial team, becoming the first Offaly player to win a Railway Cup medal. Paddy also served as a club selector, trainer and chairman. During his time he came into contact with some of hurling's most famous figures - Christy Ring, Ollie Walsh, Eddie Kerr. There were bad times too - the economic climate was extremely tough as he was growing up without a father, and he was controversially suspended for a significant length of time over an incident that he felt he was not to blame for. But the good outweighed the bad as Paddy enjoyed his time at the coalface of Offaly GAA and marvelled at the county's hurlers finally landing an All-Ireland title during the period after he had hung up his boots.</p> <p>00:15 Born in 1934. Originally from Killeigh. What it was like growing up there. Going to the local school. Father died in 1941. Three boys and two girls in the family. Father's interest in hurling. Father chairman of the county board and a Fianna</p>

	<p>Fáil politician.</p> <p>03:10 Family's GAA involvement dating back to late 1800s. Uncles Paddy and Mick, and his father playing for Drumcullen. Mick also playing with Birr and winning county championships. Father elected chairman of county board in 1920s. Going to the hurling field in the pony and trap. Watching Killeigh play Birr in Dooley's field. Colours teams wore.</p> <p>04:35 What they used for hurleys when playing at school. Pucking balls around in Dooley's field. Teacher allowing them to play at lunchtime. Reading GAA coverage in the Irish Press. Brother Seán a talented hurler who became a priest. Going to Dooley's field on a summer evening. What Mrs Dooley was like. Calling into their house.</p> <p>07:50 Radios scarce at the time. Micheál Ó Heiher commentating on games. People gathering to listen to All-Ireland finals. Limerick player Mick Mackey a crowd favourite.</p> <p>09:15 Going to a 1947 All-Ireland semi-final between Kilkenny and Galway in Birr. Jimmy Donegan, Diamond Hayden, Paddy Prendergast, Jimmy Kelly, Jimmy Heffernan, Dan Kennedy, Paddy Grace all playing. Fondness for Kilkenny. Josie Gallagher, Seánie Duggan talented players. Knowing the other Duggan brother, Jimmy.</p> <p>10:40 What the atmosphere was like on the day of a match. How they travelled to games. Money scarce. Tournament in Birr in early 1950s to assist people living in poverty. Carrickshock from Kilkenny playing. Roscrea from Tipperary, Ahane of Limerick, Ballinasloe and Ardahan of Galway there too. Liam Mellows playing. Cork's Jimmy O'Riordan playing with Ahane. Meeting Mick Mackey at half-time. Coolderry of Offaly reaching the final. Tullaroan playing and Seán and Jimmy Cloughesy on that team.</p> <p>15:00 Playing minor hurling for Drumcullen. Where he was positioned. Louis Hughes also playing. Mick and Eugene Spain on the team. Winning a final. Fr Kevin starting the team. Tom Dooley involved.</p> <p>16:30 Team graduating to senior level in the 1950s. More success. Captaining the team in 1960.</p> <p>16:55 Coolderry, Birr strong teams at the time. Much poverty at the time and people working hard to keep the GAA going. Playing with Cloghereen and beating Coolderry. Objection lodged.</p>
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	<p>18:30 Rivalry with Coolderry. Loughnane brothers against the Spain brothers. Big families at the time. Cloghereen and Kinnitty training hard. Some of those players winning All Star awards later in life.</p> <p>20:00 Minor success with Drumcullen in 1949. Celebrations. Alcohol not popular amongst the players.</p> <p>20:50 Brother too busy to play with the seniors. Mother not interested in hurling. Her opinion on his involvement. Injuries he suffered. Being selected for a Leinster team and the game due to be televised. His mother watching it. What she thought of the game.</p> <p>24:25 Jimmy Lenihan of Rath club helping them with their hurling when they were young. Playing at Under-14 level. Developing as a player. Observing Tommy Waldron of Kilkenny in Birr. His style of play. Playing junior a challenge game against Galway in Ballinasloe in 1953. How he fared. Watching Kilkenny's Dan Kennedy.</p> <p>27:20 Mick Quilligan making a hurl for him.</p> <p>27:55 People telling stories in the dressing-rooms. Some contradicting each other.</p> <p>28:40 Playing at minor level with Offaly hurlers. Louis Hughes giving him a hurl. Playing Kilkenny. Talking to a Kilkenny player afterwards.</p> <p>30:10 Poverty widespread. Jerseys Drumcullen had. Getting good use out of them. Carrickshock playing in Birr and what they wore. Jimmy Kelly and Dan Kennedy playing. Noticing something about their jerseys.</p> <p>32:15 Selection committee at Drumcullen in the 1950s. Peter Lyons on that. Dinny Brien, Jimmy Lenihan, Joe and Tom Dooley also involved.</p> <p>33:15 Support they had in the 1950s. Annual game against Roscrea. Playing Kilruane McDonaghs of Tipperary in a final. Gerry Sludden writing a book and recalling playing for Offaly against Tipperary after a lay-off. Beating Tipperary the following year in the National League.</p> <p>35:30 Playing with Offaly juniors. Not being allowed play in a game. Reason for that. Selected for the Offaly senior team as a goalkeeper soon after. Playing Westmeath in Mullingar. What that was like.</p> <p>37:20 Being informed that he had been selected to play for</p>
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	<p>the Offaly seniors. Travelling to games in a car. County board short of money. Fr Ned Vaughan elected chairman of county board. Getting a visit from him before a game. What was said. Mick Spain and Pat Spain on that team along with other Drumcullen members like the O'Briens and other Spain family members. Players retiring over the years and Ofaly team changing. Battles with Kilkenny in the 1960s. Playing them in a final. Ollie Walsh a tricky opponent.</p> <p>41:15 Winning Division 2 of the National League with Offaly. John Dowling secretary of the county board. Tullamore a strong team at the time. St Rynaghs arriving on the scene in the 1960s. Offaly senior hurling championship played on a knock-out basis. Trying to get that changed in 1965. Outcome. St Rynaghs playing Drumcullen in 1965. How the championship played out that year.</p> <p>44:05 Offaly team improving. Playing Kilkenny in Portlaoise in the late 1960s. Playing Wexford in a Leinster final. Playing Kilkenny in the 1969 Leinster final. Offaly winning a Leinster final in 1980 for the first time.</p> <p>45:40 Organisation surrounding the county team when he first played for them. Matt Spain training the Offaly hurlers in 1957/1958. Playing Wexford in Kilkenny. How that went.</p> <p>47:00 Being suspended the following year. Playing Banagher in a tournament. Referee from Killeigh. Trying to mediate in a dispute and getting in trouble. Charged and suspended. How he felt about the incident. People talking. Offaly and Carlow playing a Division 2 final in Carlow and being invited back to play. Trouble at a game between Wexford and New York at Croke Park the week before. Nicky Rackard involved. GAA wanting to bring in new rules to calm things down. Andy Gallagher in goals for Offaly. Striking a ball and referee having a word with him. Run-in with a priest later in the game. Seán Robbins at the game. Robbins not happy about what happened. Disciplinary hearing before Leinster Council. Fr Delaney of Kilkormac on Leinster Council. Outcome of hearing.</p> <p>58:15 What it felt like to be wronged. How other people felt about it. Jealousy. What DJ Carey said about jealousy and Kilkenny hurling. Identifying with his statements.</p> <p>01:00:35 Offaly footballers doing well. John Dowling taking an interest in the hurlers. Tullamore players passionate about hurling. Team's fortunes improving.</p> <p>01:02:30 No training in the 1950s. Going to Mullingar. Patsy</p>
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	<p>Hynes their mentor. Joe Dunphy sent off. Lack of substitutes. Crowd turning on Dunphy.</p> <p>01:03:45 Starting to train after 1965. Collective effort. Brother Denis of Cork steering them. His ethos. Level of his involvement. Wanting to win for Brother Denis.</p> <p>01:05:45 Playing a Division 2 final in Croke Park. Food and drink they were given. John Dowling doing his best to provide for them under the circumstances.</p> <p>01:07:35 Being selected for Leinster in 1962. Dublin losing to Tipperary in the 1961 All-Ireland final. Dublin crucial in decision to give a wider pool of players a chance to make the Leinster. Marking Fran Whelan in a game. Playing with Leinster until 1971. Playing with Ollie Walsh, Noel Dromgoole. What it felt like to play for Leinster at Croke Park. Nerves. What it felt like to hurl with Kilkenny players like Ollie Walsh, Ted Carroll. Martin Coogan and Eddie Kerr. Advice they gave him.</p> <p>01:11:55 Being the first Offaly man to win a Railway Cup medal. Popularity of that competition in the 1960s. Ollie Walsh's theory on why that faded. Rivalry with Munster.</p> <p>01:13:35 Marking Cork hurling legend Christy Ring, Kilkenny's Martin Coogan, Seán Cloughesy. Clash with Cloughesy on the pitch.</p> <p>01:14:25 Getting an Ireland jersey in 1966 at a reception before a Railway Cup final. What happened at the reception. How people were dressed. His impressions of the event. Chatting to Eddie Kerr. Ted Carroll a hurler he admired. Marking Limerick's Kevin Long in a Railway Cup game. Positions he played in for Leinster and Offaly.</p> <p>01:17:35 Experiences with Leinster team helping to improve his game.</p> <p>01:19:20 Witnessing Offaly reach their first All-Ireland hurling final.</p> <p>01:20:05 Going to the Cardinal Cushing Games in New York in 1965. Wexford's Tom Neville, Jimmy Duggan of Galway and Christy Ring of Cork there. What that was like. John 'Kerry' O'Donnell central to organising Games. Why they were held. Busy schedule. Brian Feehan, O'Donnell's right-hand man. Staying in the Hotel Manhattan. Where they ate. Room sharing. Some of the players wanting to make a prank phone call. How that went.</p>
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	<p>01:26:20 What they did during the daytime in New York. Games they played. Offaly playing Cork. Christy Ring intimidating opponents. Crowds at the games. Hot weather. Meeting people. Frank Feagery organising sightseeing. Playing in Washington against Tipperary. Joe Carey a defender for Tipperary. Chatting to him during a game and Christy Ring objecting to that. His response. What Ring was like as a person. Seeing the sights of Washington and struggling with the heat.</p> <p>01:31:10 Playing football with Drumcullen. Nature of games they played. Tullamore asking him to play football with them in 1962. Winning a championship in 1963. Marking Neddy Murphy. Praise for his performance. Enjoying football.</p> <p>01:33:05 Drumcullen setting up a junior football team in the early 1970s. Joining them. Meeting Cappagh Cullen in a final. Playing Walsh Island at senior level. Attitude to football in Drumcullen.</p> <p>01:34:40 Love for game of hurling. Work required to excel at the sport. Improving his skills. Reading about preparation Christy Ring used to do. Breaking a window. Importance of using the right hurl. Asking Christy Ring about hurls. Where he got his own hurls from. Randles of Wexford making hurls. Mick Verney of the Leinster Council bringing him hurls. Tyoe of hurl he preferred.</p> <p>01:40:20 Working on his game at home on the farm. His sister helping him. Maintaining fitness. Striking the ball properly. Borrowing a hurl from Pat Saor for an inter-county game against Clare. How he fared with the hurl. Mick Hayes in goal for Clare.</p> <p>01:45:00 Talking to Donncha O Dualaing about getting Christy Ring on television. Ring not understanding what was happening. Ring being asked questions about his game.</p> <p>01:46:50 Emphasis placed on skills when he was playing. Negative style of playing.</p> <p>01:48:45 Emigration. Séamus Finan and Noel Hughes leaving the area. after 1960. Drumcullen badly hit by emigration. Reason for that. Dearth of talent in Drumcullen in 2011.</p> <p>01:51:50 Reaching the Leinster final in 1969. What that was like. Being stuck for a hurl before a game against Wexford that year. How he solved that problem. People asking him for predictions on Offaly games. How the Leinster final went. Robbing a ball from Kilkenny's Ollie Walsh. Talking to</p>
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	<p>Kilkenny's Willie Murphy after the game. Playing with John Joe Whelan. Sadness when Ollie Walsh died. What he was like. Walsh promoting Beamish stout. Jimmy Guinan talking to him about Walsh. Jimmy changing his opinion on Walsh.</p> <p>02:00:20 Fr Vaughan training Coolderry. Flask of tea at training. People asking whisky to the flask. Fr Vaughan becoming suspicious and asking questions of a mentor.</p> <p>02:02:00 Age profile of mentors changing. Father and uncle winning titles with Drumcullen in 1908. Peter Lyons' involvement in the 1920s. Reunion when he was chairman of the club. Paddy Joe Teehan of Coolderry attending a meeting in Tullamore. Jim Brien and Dinny Brien's dedication to the GAA. Pat Coogan a dedicated player.</p> <p>02:05:30 Togging out near ditches and what that was like.</p> <p>02:06:35 Involvement in administration in the 1960s. Becoming chairman of the club and how that game about. Joe Dooley stepping down as secretary. Joe Dooley and Jack Kinsella taking up positions. Being chairman while he was still playing. Working as a selector and trainer. Reaching a semi-final against Coolderry. No dressing-rooms in Rath when they were playing a game there. Players not happy. Resigning a trainer. Reflections on that period.</p> <p>02:12:20 What it was like when he stopped playing. Other commitments in his life. His son Paul a talented hurler. Giving him advice on hurling matters.</p> <p>02:14:30 Getting involved with Birr. Local shop owner's brother on the Drumcullen team and marking his son Enda, who enjoyed All-Ireland minor success with Offaly. Feeling proud of his son. Other son Paul winning a Leinster Under-21 title. Issues over team selection ahead of a game against Kilkenny. Reassuring players. Giving Paul advice.</p> <p>02:21:50 Admiration for Kilkenny hurler Henry Shefflin. Seeing him play when he was a schoolboy. Tracking his career. Shefflin taking Galway by surprise in Tullamore.</p> <p>02:24:55 Scrums in hurling and what should be done about that. Money creeping into the game. Things that annoy him about hurling.</p> <p>02:27:30 Offaly's All-Ireland win in 1991. Comments John Doyle made about Tipperary's right to win All-Irelands. Lack of support for Kilkenny hurlers from the media. Seeing things he didn't like in modern-day All-Ireland finals. Controversy in</p>
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	<p>Louth-Meath Leinster final of 2010. His reflections on that.</p> <p>02:30:40 Changes in the GAA over the years. Facilities. Opening of Croke Park. GPA. Reading about what it was reported to have cost Tipperary to win the All-Ireland in 2010.</p> <p>02:33:25 Legendary Offaly player Brian Whelahan and what he was like. Whelahan playing against Roscrea in a Community Games final in Mosney. Inconsolable after losing the game. How that made him feel. Duels Whelahan had with Kilkenny's DJ Carey.</p> <p>02:36:00 Involvement with Birr. Going to minor board meetings. His son playing with Birr.</p> <p>02:38:00 Importance of taking care of the small things in hurling. Accommodating new players when they come into the team. Dealing with young players the right way as a trainer. A black player captain of a youth team that played Kinvara in a Community Games final.</p> <p>02:40:10 Winning a hall of fame award. Singer John Dunne singing on the night. Enjoying that. What he sang.</p> <p>02:41:45 Brother's ordination in 1956. Best GAA memory.</p> <p>02:43:15 Fr Reddin talking about him from the altar at mass.</p> <p>02:44:55 What the GAA has meant to him.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____</p>
<p><b>Record as a Player</b> (Titles won; Length of time played)</p>	<p>Played for Drumcullen from age 12-39yrs.</p> <p>Played minor hurling for Offaly (1952); Junior hurling for Offaly (1953); Senior hurling for Offaly (1955-71); Railway Cup hurling for Leinster (1962-71).</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Chairman of Drumcullen GAA (1960s)</p>

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<b>Format</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
<b>Duration</b>	Length of Interview: 02:46:48
<b>Language</b>	English

**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:      23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012