

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	2 nd Sept 2010
Location	Pierce's home, near Ballinamult, Co. Waterford
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Pierce Butler
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1925 Home County: Waterford
Education	Primary: Touraneen NS, Co. Waterford
Family	Siblings: 1 brother & 1 sister Current Family if Different: Wife (Mary), 3 sons & 1 daughter
Club(s)	Sliabh gCua – St Mary's GAA [Waterford]
Occupation	Farmer
Parents' Occupation	Farmers
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	Fine Gael
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	NACA; ICMSA

Date of Report	21 st June 2012
Period Covered	1930 - 2010
Counties/Countries Covered	Waterford
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Coaching, Refereeing, Administration, Celebrations, Commiserations, Fundraising, Material Culture, Media, Emigration, Involvement in GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Identity, Rivalries, Scór, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Challenges, Alcohol, Violence, Ban on Foreign Games and Dances, Opening of Croke Park, Retirement, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships
Interview Summary	<p>Pierce gives an account of his involvement in the GAA, both as a hurling and football player and as a committee member, from the time of his childhood to the present. He describes how he became involved in his club Sliabh gCua, and discusses the changes in how the game is played from when he was growing up to the present. He describes how the club grounds were bought and how the development has changed since its purchase. He discusses the affect emigration has had on his club throughout the years and tells of his own personal experience of emigration. He explains what the GAA has meant to him throughout his lifetime and tells many stories of his various experiences as a member of the GAA.</p> <p>00:26 Explains where he is from and where his parents were from. He mentions Lackendarra and Dungarvan.</p> <p>00:47 Discusses his parent's involvement in the GAA. He talks about the Brickey Rangers GAA Club, and his two uncles Mike and Jim Lenihan.</p> <p>01:44 Describes the area of Lackendarra and the levels of farming in it. He describes what it was like during World War Two. He talks about travelling by Horse and Cart and mentions Cappoquin.</p> <p>03:18 Discusses various jobs he worked in. He talks about his wife. He tells a story about going to Clonmel to collect newspapers.</p> <p>07:06 Describes past-times he had when he was growing up in Lackendarra. He talks about playing football and discusses</p>

	<p>attending card games in rambling houses and dances in the area.</p> <p>08:48 Describes his level of interest in songs and singing.</p> <p>09:50 Discusses how often rambling houses were open and how they operated. He explains how the card game 45 works. He discusses the rambling houses around Christmas time.</p> <p>11:07 Talks about the fields he played football in when he was growing up. He tells a story about playing in a farmer's field.</p> <p>12:29 Discusses playing Handball in school in Tourneena. He tells why Handball was popular in Tourneena. He mentions Ballypoureen and Dungarvan.</p> <p>14:43 Talks about his teachers involvement in the GAA. He explains how he was disciplined when in school and mentions "the stick".</p> <p>15:24 Describes the level of football and athletics in the area. He talks about a man named Patsy McGrath. Discusses sports days and the level of support they received. Tells a story about Patsy McGrath and Jimmy Power playing athletics.</p> <p>17:51 Compares sports that were played when he was young to those that are played now. He talks about the events played during sports days and lists the different games.</p> <p>19:20 Discusses transport during the 1940s and talks about the number of people who took part in the sports days and.</p> <p>20:00 Tells a story about going to the well to get water to make powdered milk.</p> <p>20:55 Describes the committee that organised the sports days. He discusses his time as an athlete.</p> <p>22:51 Discusses being a member of the NACA and his family involvement in it. He discusses 'The Flings' from Knockmeal.</p> <p>23:52 Talks about when training began for athletics, football and hurling in the area. He tells how Teddy Owens trained senior hurling teams. He mentions Brian Mullins and Pat Spillane.</p> <p>25:09 Talks about two junior football county finals in 1979 and 1980 and mentions Molonys garage in Dungarvan.</p> <p>26:08 Discusses the level of football in the area and explains</p>
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	<p>what happened when a new curate came to the parish and formed a hurling club.</p> <p>26:36 Tells how he attended the first hurling club meeting in 1945 in Cappoquin. Describes fundraisers and tells a story about tournament that his club, Modeligo, Fourmilewater and Newcastle played in in 1945 which a priest referred.</p> <p>28:42 Describes the tournament in 1946. He tells a story about Father McDonald and going to a pub after the match.</p> <p>31:31 Discusses when the football and hurling club became amalgamated and how he was a member of the hurling committee.</p> <p>32:50 He talks about the Creamery manager in Ballinamult and the re-organisation of hurling in the area.</p> <p>33:28 Describes the Sliabh gCua Football Club.</p> <p>33:58 Explains what clubs he used to play hurling and football against.</p> <p>34:14 Discusses the Avonmore team and his involvement with them. He mentions the Western Board.</p> <p>35:50 Describes how he became involved in the Sliabh gCua Football Club.</p> <p>37:01 Talks about travelling to Sliabh gCua matches with his neighbour on a bicycle.</p> <p>37:25 Recalls a match between Sliabh gCua and Tallaght in 1934. He mentions John F. O'Donnell's GAA Club. He tells a story about a match and picking apples.</p> <p>40:36 Explains who his football icons were growing up. He talks about Tommy Power and Tommy Hickey. He tells a story about Tommy Hickey in Fraher's Field in Dungarvan.</p> <p>42:26 Explains how he became a member of the Sliabh gCua football team and compares the difference in football when he was young and today.</p> <p>42:48 Tells a story about an injury he got during a match.</p> <p>44:23 Discusses the levels of fighting at games when he was young.</p> <p>44:58 Recalls the rivals of Sliabh gCua. He talks about Donore, a neighbouring parish.</p> <p>45:45 Tells a story about playing a match in Ballymacarbry in</p>
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	<p>1940. He mentions the Munster Council and the County Board.</p> <p>47:23 Names Aglish as a Sliabh gCua rival and explain why. He recalls playing Ballyduff in 1954, and talks about the western board establishing junior football league in 1953.</p> <p>48:18 Discusses Ballyduff and tells how they were referred to as Mocollop in football. He talks about their experience in the Junior hurling and junior football championship.</p> <p>48:52 Describes his football team in February 1954 and why there was a lack of numbers. He describes a final he played on St Patrick's Day and mentions Fr Jim Coyle, Jimmy Lundy, Charlie Daly and Mick Beaty.</p> <p>53:52 Describes the clothing he wore to matches when he was playing the final in 1954.</p> <p>54:52 Describes how people from rival teams interacted when out socially at dances.</p> <p>56:03 Describes training with his Sliabh gCua team and the clothing worn while training. He talks about where they trained and how they got there.</p> <p>56:00 Describes what was done at training and hoe the training was organised.</p> <p>57:22 Explains how he travelled to matches, he talks about cycling and buses trips. He mentions Cappoquin and Lismore.</p> <p>58:15 He talks about people's everyday lives and the exercise people got when he was growing up.</p> <p>58:52 Discusses his team mates in the 1940s and 1950s and explains what they worked as.</p> <p>59:33 Explains how he got a place on the Sliabh gCua team and describes how desirable this was.</p> <p>59:56 Explains what position he played on his team.</p> <p>01:00:24 Tells when he got his first pair of football boots.</p> <p>01:00:41 Tells what the club colours were and talks about the price of jerseys.</p> <p>01:01:39 Discusses his involvement in the Sliabh gCua committee. He explains why the club went out of existence in the 1960s. He tells how Fr Brendan Crowley came to</p>
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	<p>Touraneena in the 1970s and discusses the club at that time.</p> <p>01:02:31 Describes the 1972 Western Final and talks about the level of hurling in the club compared to football. He mentions Declan Fitzpatrick, John Dalton, and Tom Conlon.</p> <p>01:03:08 Talks about the Junior Hurling Championship in 1978 between Sliabh gCua and Rathgormack. He talks about the Western Intermediate Final in 1979 and County Final against Fourmilewater.</p> <p>01:03:31 Discusses 1980 Intermediate County Final, and tells how he became County Chairman in 1980.</p> <p>01:03:58 Explains the experience of the club in the 1979 and 1980 Junior Football County Final. He discusses Teddy Owens and the Junior Football County Final in 1980 and the Intermediate in 1983.</p> <p>01:04:22 Discusses his son James and how he and others emigrated to New York. He describes the final of 1987 and the county final of 1989 and how people returned from New York for these games.</p> <p>01:05:59 Discusses Ciaran Power from New York and his involvement with football. He talks about football in New York at that time. He mentions Shannon Airport.</p> <p>01:08:00 Talks about bringing players home from New York to play matches and people's reaction to this. He mentions Vincent Mulligan, the Shamrock's, and Tallaght.</p> <p>01:10:02 Comments on how the club could afford to bring people home from New York to play matches.</p> <p>01:10:49 Discusses places he has travelled.</p> <p>01:11:14 Talks about the level of people in New York compared to in the 1980s. He talks about John Phelan, the Mitchells and Tom Hunt.</p> <p>01:12:26 Talks about his son James going to New York and how he travelled home under a false name.</p> <p>01:15:06 Describes the work his son James was doing in New York and tells how he became a Steal Carpenter.</p> <p>01:17:33 Describes how the Sliabh gCua club grounds were bought when he became chairman of the club in 1980. He explains who the field was bought from, mentions a league match in Lismore, and tells what price the field was bought</p>
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	<p>for.</p> <p>01:25:33 Describes the problems with the field and work that was put into the club field when and since it was bought. He mentions Munster Council men and a new development for a Handball alley.</p> <p>01:27:16 Describes how the money was collected from the parish for the club development. He discusses other development of the club grounds and mentions past president of the GAA, Nicky Brennan.</p> <p>01:28:18 Discusses the shortage of players in the club and talks about emigration and the affect it has had on the parish. He mentions Fourmilewater, Clonmel, and Australia.</p> <p>01:30:22 Discusses the junior hurling and football teams in the club. He mentions the western football semi-final.</p> <p>01:31:05 Discusses the age differences on the club teams and the affect emigration will have on these teams.</p> <p>01:32:24 Tells a story about a match between Waterford and Tipperary in Clonmel in 1940s. He talks about herding cows and people travelling in a Donkey trap.</p> <p>01:33:37 Talks about the prices of tickets for All-Irelands and compares this to an All-Ireland he attended between Waterford and Dublin in Croke Park in 1948. He mentions stopping in Kilkenny, Barry's Hotel in Dublin, and Nelson's Pillar.</p> <p>01:37:40 Discusses attending the All-Ireland Final in 1959 and travelling by train from Clonmel.</p> <p>01:38:10 Discusses attending the League Final in 1961 between Tipperary and Waterford and travelling by car. He mentions the All-Ireland in 1963.</p> <p>01:38:37 Talks about a national league match in 1963 between Waterford and Tipperary. He tells a story about travelling home on the train with two companions and stopping in Templemore. He mentions Tom Ryan, a Tipperary Hurler and Matt O'Gara.</p> <p>01:40:37 Describes what the GAA has meant to him throughout his lifetime. He mentions the changes in the roads, and Thurles and Cork.</p> <p>01:41:56 Describes what he feels about the modern GAA and how he feels about the level of injuries and the level of skill.</p>
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	<p>He talks about the changes Teddy Owens brought to the club.</p> <p>01:43:29 Talks about his granddaughter winning an All-Ireland in Rugby and his feeling no Soccer and Rugby and the opening of Croke Park to foreign games.</p> <p>01:44:01 Discusses the impact of the GAA in Ireland and talks about the level of Scór in Sliabh gCua and their success in it. He talks about his grandchildren's involvement in the GAA and other sports.</p>
Involvement in GAA	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Coach <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steward</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input checked="" 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>
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	<p>Played football from 15 yrs until 38 yrs with Sliabh gCua and hurling with Fourmilewater; Also played senior hurling with Avonmore.</p>
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	<p>Has held many positions in the Sliabh gCua club including chairman, 1980 – 1991 and as a member of various sub-committees. Also served as a delegate on the West Waterford GAA Board.</p>
Format	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
Duration	<p>Length of Interview: 01:46:15</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: 21st June 2012