

GAA Oral History Project

**Interview Report Form**

<b>Name of Interviewer</b>	Julian O'Donoghue and Martin Lynch
<b>Date of Interview</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2011
<b>Location</b>	Interviewee's home, near Blarney, Co Cork
<b>Name of Interviewee</b> (Maiden name / Nickname)	Paddy Coleman
<b><u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u></b>	
<b>Gender</b>	Male
<b>Born</b>	<b>Year Born:</b> 1924 <b>Home County:</b> Cork
<b>Education</b>	N/A
<b>Family</b>	N/A
<b>Club(s)</b>	Blarney Hurling and Football Club [Cork]
<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>	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2012
<b>Period Covered</b>	1930-2011
<b>Counties/Countries Covered</b>	Cork
<b>Key Themes Covered</b>	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Facilities, Playing, Training, Material Culture, Education, Religion, Role of Clergy, Role of Teachers, Role of the Club in the Community, Volunteers, Identity, Rivalries, All-Ireland, Club History, County History, Earliest Memories, Family Involvement, Childhood, Impact on Life, Career, Food and Drink, Socialising, Purchase of Grounds, Relationships, Economy / Economics
<b>Interview Summary</b>	<p>This is one of two interviews conducted with 87 year- old Paddy Coleman. It begins with commentary on his school days in Blarney and the sports that were played there. Coleman was a child and teenager in the late 1920s and 30s and recalls the success of the Blarney club throughout that decade, shedding light on the array of grounds used for matches and training, travelling to watch games with his father and the players involved with Blarney and competing clubs. He continues his account of Blarney and Cork GAA through the 1940s and 50s and offers perspectives on the intensity of local club rivalries, the great county players, the procurement of hurleys and other gear. Towards the end of the recording, Coleman selects Christy Ring as the greatest player he has ever seen and comments on the one player in Cork who could ‘mind him’.</p> <p>Tape 1: 00:00:07 Recollections of growing up in Blarney and attending ‘Comhaltas’ school in the late 1920s. Recalls the three teachers in the schools and the requirement to attend until the age of 14.</p> <p>00:01:54 Comments on athletics and bowl playing in school.</p> <p>00:02:38 Mentions that he is 87 years old and refers to the age of some of his contemporaries.</p> <p>00:03:12 Comments that lack of hurling played in school.</p> <p>00:03:40 Talks about being taken to games with his father and club winning three county titles in a row.</p> <p>00:04:08 Mentions having played with some of the 3 in a row team towards the end of their playing careers.</p> <p>00:04:15 Discusses Blarney’s appearances in county finals in</p>

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	<p>the 1930s.</p> <p>00:04:50 Travelling to games: refers to use of cars and lorries and legal concerns around the latter.</p> <p>00:05:40 Refers to players meeting at 'the gully' and notices with teams and times being placed on gully wall prior to games.</p> <p>00:06:20 Talks about the county championship winning Blarney team of the 1930s, commenting on many of the players involved.</p> <p>00:08:40 Recalls the excitement around those county finals in the 1930s.</p> <p>00:09:11 Mentions that team in the 1930s trained in 'The Level' and refers also to Fr. O'Neill, the curate who he describes as a 'great man for the club'.</p> <p>00:09:30 Talks about the 1945 mid Cork final being played at the Level and how teams would access it.</p> <p>00:11:02 Comments on the size of the attendance in the 1945 final.</p> <p>00:11:45 Considers why the pitch was called The Level, the slope on the field, the absence of nets, the lining of pitch, timber posts.</p> <p>00:13:30 Names of the referee of the mid Cork final.</p> <p>00:13:50 Talks about training in the Square when young, playing among themselves on a Sunday morning.</p> <p>00:14:14 Refers to attending match at a pitch known as 'no man's land' and to the star-studded Blackrock team c. 1928</p> <p>00:15:10 Talks about the 'trouble' over pitch known as 'no man's land' and touches on the reasons why the club left it to move to The Level.</p> <p>00:16:30 Recalls Blarney playing senior in 1939 and the opinion within club that they should have played at that grade after first Intermediate championship success.</p> <p>00:17:38 Says some of the players by 1939 were 'looking for transfers'.</p> <p>00:18:09 Talks about club returning from senior ranks and the retirement of many players. Mentions also the death of one hurler at a young age to TB.</p>
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	<p>00:20:00 Refers to absence of juvenile hurling in Blarney club, starting to play at Minor grade (for 3 years). Mentions some of the players he played alongside and the clubs they played against.</p> <p>00:21:10 Conversation about Peter Carrigy, who was described as a 'great cyclist' and runner.</p> <p>00:21:44 Tells story about watching a Munster final standing on a turnstile in Thurles.</p> <p>00:22:10 Mentions travelling to Thurles by train from Blarney.</p> <p>00:22:50 Interviewer recalls the opening of railway station in Blarney.</p> <p>00:23:10 Talks about All-Ireland winning Cork winning teams bringing trophy to Blarney in the 1940s – lists many of the players involved including Jack Lynch, Con Murphy and Christy Ring.</p> <p>00:24:20 Refers to his friendship with Con Murphy and to meeting other Cork players when playing for Muskerry.</p> <p>00:24:40 Mentions winning mid Cork hurling title in 1943, 1944, 1946 as well football titles.</p> <p>00:26:00 Talks about a 'fierce row' in 1943 when Blarney defeated Donoughmore in mid Cork final at Coachford.</p> <p>00:26:50 Responds to question on the prevalence of fighting at games at the time.</p> <p>00:27:00 Discusses rivalry with Inniscarra, Donoughmore and Ballincollig; working alongside players from other clubs and the paucity of pitches in mid Cork.</p> <p>00:29:12 Refers to changing 'under a bush' and to clothes getting wet during game. Describes also the boots worn and the cost involved.</p> <p>00:30:20 Talks about the hurleys used and where they were sourced. Tells story of sourcing a couple of dozen hurleys before a final.</p> <p>00:31:21 Mentions buying his own boots in 'Elvery's mostly'.</p> <p>00:31:46 Comments on working in the mill for 35 years and the jobs and money the mill brought to Blarney.</p> <p>00:32:30 Talks about what happened when hurleys broke.</p> <p>00:32:44 Mentions continuing to play after his marriage in</p>
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	<p>1950 and winning two football medals.</p> <p>00:33:20 Talks about the venues that Cork county teams played at and attending the games when he 'was young and single'.</p> <p>00:34:30 Discussion about travelling to local and county games: refers to use of car and bicycle.</p> <p>00:35:53 Declares Christy Ring the best player he has seen, but also remarks on the quality of Limerick team with the Mackeys and others from Ahane and Castleconnell.</p> <p>00:36:40 Talks about Christy Ring and the 'one man who could mind him' – Willie John Daly of Carrigtwohill. Talks also about Carrigtwohill's sporting history.</p> <p>00:39:00 Discussion around bringing interview to an end and returning on another occasion.</p> <p>00:40:20 Refers to his involvement in multiple sports, naming hurling, football, swimming, road bowling. Comments on getting 'a few lads from other teams' to play the football.</p>
<p><b>Involvement in GAA</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input 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>N/A</p>
<p><b>Record as an Administrator</b> (Positions held; how long for)</p>	<p>Secretary, Treasurer and PRO of Blarney GAA Club at various periods</p>
<p><b>Format</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual</p>
<p><b>Duration</b></p>	<p>Length of Interview: 00:41:11</p>
<p><b>Language</b></p>	<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:            Julian O'Donoghue

Date:              8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2011