



**TIPPERARY HISTORICAL JOURNAL
1991**

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ISSN 0791-0655

Oidhreacht Ghall - Ghaelach: Focail Ghaeilge Ó Cheanntar Chill Náile (1920-1940)

Le Tomás Ó Muiris

Introduction

The following list of words, arranged alphabetically, is of words used in the Killenaule district in the period 1920-1940.

Where the pronunciation of a word is given, it is given before giving the meaning in English of the word, and a phonetic version of the Munster dialect is used.

In many cases it is assumed that the dictionary form of a word is sufficient indication of its pronunciation. Where it seems desirable to indicate the main stress in a word, a period (.) is inserted after the syllable to be stressed. The first example of this occurs in the word "aimleach".

Tá m'áit dhúchais idir Cill Náile agus Dun Drongain i gCo. Thiobraid Arann, agus b'as Baile Beag (Littleton) dom mháthair.

Aerach: adj.; light-headed, frivolous.

A chara: ahorra, a leanbh (alanna).

Áilleán: all-yawn (cf. ailleánach); anything but a beauty!

Aimleach: om. luck; wretched. ("go" rarely used).

Aimpleis: am. plish; unexpectedly. "He came in an amplais on me".

Ainniseoir: miserable person.

Alla-wee: sticky yellow clay, marle (used in making culm balls).

Amadán: fool.

Arrra: ar. ra; an exclamation of impatience or disbelief.

Bacach: bac. ach (accent on first syllable): churlish, mean (not = lame).

Balbhánaí: unready in speech.

Bán: in a "ban" of cows (a herd).

Banbh: bonham.

Bán riabhach (cf. Dineen); fallow land.

Bás, básachán: a languid person.

Bastún: lout.

Bean sídhe: banshee.

Beart: bundle (of hay, sticks, etc.).

Bia, bia, bia: calling turkeys!

Bladar: foolish talk; blather (verb), blathering.

Bladarálaí: blather-aulee; somebody with more words than wisdom.

Bodach (accent on second syllable); a boor, a mean person.

Bodhrán: a deaf person (expressing annoyance).

Bogán: egg without shell.

Bóithreán: bóisheán, (cf. boithrín); dried cowdung, sometimes used as fuel.

Bóithrín: bohseen; laneway or avenue.

Boghaisín: pron. boo.she, a louse.



Bolastar: over-energetic person.
Bos: the flat part of a hurley.
Bothán: house in bad condition; a shack.
Brath: brach, v. "he was brach-ing on getting a lift" = depending on, expecting.
Breall: an uncivil person.
Bréigín (cf bréidín): a fold of hay to which the sugán is tied at the foot of a haycock.
Bricín: a small fish.
Brocais: dirty or untidy person.
Brosna, breasna: bundle (of hay, sticks).
Brus: crumbled, fragmented.
Buachall (not "-aill"): sly or untrustworthy.
Buachallán (buí): ragwort.
Buaileam sciath: boastful person.
Buinneán: an ash-plant, walking-stick (for driving cattle, etc.).
Bundún: the bottom, buttock or backside.

Cac: excrement.
Cadráil: chattering.
Caillitheoir: a sponger.
Caipín: caubeen, a peaked hat.
Caithnín (cawneen): small fragment in one's eye.
Call (cf. Eng.): "he had no call to interfere in my business".
Callóid: gossiping, ("colloquing").
Cam-reilg: deformed foot.
Caorán: fragment, small sod of turf.
Cara: in expression (supra) "a chara, (horra)".
Ceaifléir, ceafráil: caffling, caffler, (indulging in horseplay).
Ceallúir: ruin, cheerless building.
Ceolánaí: unreliable person, "airy-fairy".
Ciaróg: cockroach.
Cibeal: an encounter or a scuffle.
Ciotóg: left-handed person.
Cip, in expression "kip o' the reel": boisterous merrymaking.
Cipín (final i as in "pin"): a light stick ('kippen').
Ciseach: a wattle bridge over a leat or trench-cutting in a bog.
Cliamhain isteach: son-in-law who "marries into" a farm.
Cliathán: hill-side.
Cnáimhseáil: grumbling or complaining.
Cogar-mogar: secret, conspiring talk.
Colaim: cf. Eng. "cull"; only in the sense of rejecting.
Colpa: undesirable person, (rather unpleasant).
Comhar (pron. coor), agricultural co-operation; "Murphys and Ryans used coor with the hay",
ie. an exchange of help.
Craiceálai: person with no sense.
Crói cráite: a stingy, complaining person.
Cromóg: a hooked stick used as a hurley.
Crúibín: a pig's foot.
Cruit: muscular pain, (usually in neck).
Crúst (áil): throwing stones at something or somebody.



Cuardaíoch (t), (coordeeuch): social visiting of neighbours.
Cybosh: "That put the cybosh on it" (i.e. destroyed it — caidhp a'bháis?)
Cúirliún: curlew.

Dailtín (derog.): a forward youth.

Dearga-daol: insect; also a mythical being, malign and fearsome.

Diúg: "not a diug in the bottle", nothing left.

Dornán: hand-grips on scythe-handle.

Dosaire (dhussy, dhuss. yeh): forward young person (usually a girl).

Dromán: part of a horse's tackling, leather strap across the animal's back to support chains leading to an implement.

dúidín (dim.): a pipe (for smoking tobacco).

Earc luachra: (art/luchar) lizard.

Earras: in ploughing: "to raise an earras", two sods making a ridge (iorras).

Fogha: attack, lunge, ("he made a fogha at him").

Feabhrán: a tubular plant, e.g. cow parsnip, hogweed (cf. Dineen).

Fadhb: push, blow, kick.

Fear bréig (e): scarecrow.

Feic: a sight or spectacle.

Feirc: hat at an angle.

Feoir-ing: creating a slope (batter) on the side of a rick of turf.

Flaithiúil: generous.

Flip: (fleep); to throw (violently).

Fuadarliú: commotion.

Fulcais (tulcais): big clumsy fellow.

Fustráil: fussing, blundering, ("foostering").

Futa fata: fussing about.

Gabháil: armfull (of hay, turf).

Gabhlog: hooked stick.

Gad: hinge-piece between two parts of a flail; hence "as tough as a gad".

Gág: cracks in skin of hands, or in clay when very dry.

Gaigín: a pretentious person or a 'swank'.

Gaisce: "he did it out of gaisce" = 'showing off'.

Gam (o as in "rob"): fool.

Gamhain: (pron. goon) young in-calf heifer.

Geab: chatter.

Geanúil: used ironically = unctuously, 'smarmy'.

Geaitsáil: showing off, ("garching").

Geocach: trickster.

Giodam: restlessness.

Gíog (s): a cheep or chirp.

Giolla: "a ghiolla" - affectionate address.

Giorrachs: drills which become shorter in an angle of a field.

Glám: grab, clutch; double-fistfull.

Glámhán: complaining, whining.

Gligín: a shallow or 'rattle-brained' person.

Gliogar: addled egg.
Gob (o as in “rob”): mouth.
Gobán: Gobán Saor (cf. Doire na bhFlann): an over-precocious young fellow.
Go leor: plenty, ‘galore’.
Grabaire: (grob. ayeh) a precocious brat.
Grámhar: affectionate, kindly (sometimes used derisively).
Griogadh: tantalising (participle), ‘grigging’.
Gríosach: live sparks among the turf ashes.
Groga: on his hunches, “sitting on his grug”.

Héing: pron. heg; sob or moan.
Hob ná hae: no response.
Hulla; hulla-hulla; excitement, chase, as when (e.g. when encouraging dogs).

Ladhar: lyres = prongs of a fork (never of fingers).
Lán a’ bheilt: plentiful meal.
Láthair: in haysaving, a windrow or long row of hay.
Leadhb: pron. libe, “leidhbs of boots” = worn-out footwear.
Leadradh: beating, thrashing (“leathering”).
Leanbh: alanna, a leanbh.
Léas: thrashing, (“lacing”).
Leeching: dawdling; leech = a slow-moving person.
Leipreachán: a fairy, or diminutive man.
Leis: “he had a lesh on him” = limping.
Liúdar: an awkward blow; “he hit him a liúdar”.
Loch: lough, pool of water.
Lochán: a puny one in a litter of bonhams or pups.
Lorgadán: a misshapen person.
Lúbán: doubled-up, “in a lubán” = crippled (temporarily).
Luid: lud, a rag or tatter, “not a lud on him” = nude.

Maiseach: elegant, ‘swanky’.
Maith go leor (moggalore): fuddled with drink.
Maíomh: nagging, complaining (“meeving”).
Mar dh’eadh: as it were.
Meag: “in a mag” = exhausted, collapsed.
Meas: esteem.
Meilt: in expression “breaking my melt” = severe exertion.
Meitheal: a group of people assembled to do a job, e.g. hay-saving.
Mí ádh, Mí ádhmharach: of a person or event, unfortunate.
Mothall: a mop of hair (on a man).
Múirín: pron. moo-yeen, turf-dust.

Nea-spleách: independent, unabashed.
Niúidí Neáidí: a dead-and-alive (lifeless) person.

Oighear: ire, skin irritation.
Óinseach: (oonshuck) fool (female only).



Palltóg: a blow or thump.
Peidhceán: (? peidhleachán): in phrase “as yellow as a p.”
Pisheog (accent on second): superstitious act (alt. pisreog).
Plámás: flattery (‘blarney’).
Pluc: cheeks.
Poitín: (accent on second): privately distilled spirits.
Pollóg: a hoard of money (alt. poltóg elsewhere in Co. Tipperary).
Práis: a mess.
Práiscín: a canvas apron.
Praiseach: (accent on second), charlock weed.
Préata (r=y): potato, (cf. *Knocknagow*, p’yeata).
Pross: marle (clay).
Púicín: blinkers (on a horse).
Puisín: kitten.
Pus: mouth or face; “he had a puss on him” = grimace.

Rabhtag: a small fish.
Ráiméis: rubbish, nonsense.
Reiteoir (ray-thoshe): a pipe-cleaner, (cf. bóithrín, supra).
Riabhach (bó riabhach): harsh weather in March-April.
Rí-rá: noisy confusion.
Ruacán: rough, ungainly fellow.
Rop. ach: commotion, fighting.

Saileach: sally, willow.
Scaimh: grimace.
Scairt: (skurt), burst of laughter.
Sceach: white-thorn.
Sceallán (sciollán): potato ‘set’.
Sceilp: a blow.
Scib: a female of little character.
Sciodar: curdled milk.
Scolb: a twig used in thatching (a ‘scollop’).
Scrábach: showery, cold weather.
Sraith: a sod (‘scraw’).
Scríd: (Eng. screed) ‘he hadn’t a screed on’ = naked.
Scrog(all): neck of a bottle.
Seach: e.g. of a pipe, a period of smoking; a turn or spell at a job or act; ‘dreas’ is an alternative generally in Co. Tipperary.
Seachrán: “on the seachran”, drinking heavily.
Searbhas: (sharros); irony, mockery.
Seift: plan, stratagem.
Seilice púca: a snail (pron. sheligy-bookey).
Seoinín: Shoon. yeen, a ‘West Briton’.
Seordán: hoarseness; ‘goo’ in a pipe-stem.
Síbín: unlicensed drinking house (cf “seibin”, apud Dineen).
Sí-ghaoith: whirlwind.
Síofra: (pron. sheevra), a ghost (also in W. Waterford).
Siolla: (pron. shulla), a push given to something already in motion.



Sceabha: distorted, crooked, at an angle ('skeow-ways').
Sleán (pron. slain): a turf-spade.
Slig, slaty stone.
Slíbhín: a sly, treacherous fellow.
Slog: slugging = drinking; a slug = a mouthful.
Slogaire: (slugger), where a stream goes underground.
Smeachán: a nip, taste.
Smidiríni: tiny fragments (of a broken object).
Smuilc: (smullick), flick of thumb or other finger.
Snig: a glancing blow.
Sniog: in milking a cow, drawing the last of the milk.
Soc: part of plough.
Spág: a clumsy, ungainly foot.
Splinc: a hurried look.
Sponc: coltsfoot; also, in 'He has no sponc in him' = he has no courage.
Spraói: 'booze'.
Spríos: embers.
Starrfhiacail: prominent teeth.
Stiall: slice, strip.
Stiorc: dumpy, fat person.
Stolltach: "stubborn" land, sticky soil (cf. stolptha).
Stracáil: struggling or dragging along; strac leat: to person struggling to survive.
Straip: (derog.) a loose woman.
Straoille: untidy woman. "streele". Also streelish: (rather than striallach).
Stuacán, stuch: stupid, obstinate person.
Stucking, stothadh: dragging at or wrestling with something.
Suc: when calling calves—"suc-suc-suc..."; of a sooky-calf.
Súgán: (pron. suggan, accent on first; *a* is short, hay-rope).
Súgach: fuddled.
Suím: (pron. seem), interest.
Sutachán: a brat.

Taoibhín (teeveen): side patch on a boot; a small addition.
Taoscán: small quantity of liquids, e.g. tea.
Teagmhálaí, (tangavau lee): a person who wastes one's time.
Tilly: extra measure, extra helping (der. of 'tuilleadh' = extra).also (alt.) the foot-rest on a spade.
Tiuc tiuc tiuc = calling hens.
Toice, (thecka, hecka): uncomplimentary name for a woman; a wench.
Tóir: bias against; "the Guards had a tóir on him".
Tráileach (thraw'lach): stiffness or strain in wrist.
Tráithnín (trauneen): blade of grass.
Truslóg: a long stride.
Tuairlis: blunder, or *faux pas*.
Twig, (tuig): understand.

