

Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh

le Ruairidh MacIlleathain

A special programme, in the form of a “letter”, designed for Gaelic learners who already have some knowledge of the language. A short vocabulary and comments on points of grammar and figures of speech are included with the text. If you have comments, Ruairidh can be contacted at roddy.macleane@bbc.co.uk. This is Litir 457. Note that there is also a simplified version called An Litir Bheag which is likewise available on the BBC website. Litir Bheag 153 corresponds to Litir 457.

Chan fhada gus am bi an latha oirnn a-rithist nuair a bhios daoine a’ cuimhneachadh na thachair aig Blàr Chùil Lodair air an t-siathamh latha deug dhen Ghiblean, seachd ceud deug, ceathrad ’s a sia (1746). ’S dòcha gum bi barrachd dhaoine nan àbhaist aig Cùil Lodair am-bliadhna leis gu bheil ionad-taisbeanaidh ùr aig Urras Nàiseanta na h-Alba ann.

Tha mi a’ smaoinneachadh air Cùil Lodair oir bha mi a’ leughadh o chionn ghoirid mu Phàdraig Grannd – Dubrach no Auld Dubrach mar a chainte ris. Tha e ainmeil oir **b’ esan am fear mu dheireadh a chaochail** a bh’ air a bhith an làthair aig Cùil Lodair air latha a’ bhatail. Chaochail e ann an ochd ceud deug, fichead ’s a ceithir (1824).

Rugadh Pàdraig Grannd ann am baile beag air a bheil Dubrach, a tha ri taobh Uisge Dè ann an sgìre Bràigh Mhàrr ann an Siorrachd Obar Dheathain. Uill, ’s e Dubrach an dreach Beurla air an ainm. Ann an Gàidhlig ’s e An Dubh-bhruach. Ach ’s e dreach na Beurla a bh’ air Pàdraig mar far-ainm – Dubrach. Bha Seumasachd gu math làidir anns an sgìre sin – anns an robh a’ chuid a bu mhotha dhen t-sluagh nan Gàidheil agus nan Caitligich.

Bha Pàdraig dìreach bliadhna a dh’aois nuair a thòisich ciad ar-a-mach nan Seumasach ann an seachd ceud deug ’s còig-deug (1715). Ach nuair a thàinig Bliadhna a’ Phrionnsa, bha e aig an aois cheart airson a chlaidheamh a thogail as leth Theàrlaich Òig. Leig e dheth a chuid obrach mar thàillear agus chaidh e an cois arm a’ Phrionnsa.

Bha e gu math treun, agus chaidh aithris gun robh e ri gaisgeachd mhòr aig Blàr Sliabh a’ Chlamhain no *the Battle of Prestonpans* mar a chanar ris ann am Beurla. Ràinig e ìre sàirdseant-màidsear agus bha e fhathast ann an arm a’ Phrionnsa nuair a chaill na Seumasaich aig Cùil Lodair, ged a bhathar ag ràdh gun do mharbh e fhèin grunn saighdearan dearga air an latha sin. Chaidh a chur an grèim agus chaidh a chur don phrìosan ann an Cathair Luail ann an Sasainn.

Ach rinn e a dhol-às. Thill e don Ghàidhealtachd. Tha diofar aithrisean ann air na thachair dha an uair sin. Tha cuid ag ràdh gun do thill e don Dubh-bhruach. Ach cha bhiodh sin ro choltach oir chaidh gearastan de shaighdearan dearga a stèidheachadh an sin an dèidh Chùil Lodair. Tha cuid eile ag ràdh gun robh e na thàillear ann an Ach an Droighinn, baile beag ri taobh Baile a’ Chaisteil Bràigh Mhàrr. Ge bith dè thachair dha aig an àm sin, an ceann greis bha e a’ fuireach ann an Gleann Lethnochd ann am **Bràigh Aonghais**.

Phòs e tè Màiri Chuimeanach a bha mòran na b’ òige na e. Tha e coltach gun robh ise cuideachd à Bràigh Mhàrr. Bha dithis chloinne aca. Chaidh na bliadhnaichean seachad agus chaochail Màiri aig aois seasgad ’s a còig (65) ann an ochd ceud deug ’s a h-aon-deug (1811). Chaidh a tiodhlacadh far an robh iad a’ fuireach – ann an Gleann Lethnochd.

Bha Pàdraig – no Dubrach – gu math aithnichte mar fhear a bh’ air a bhith a-muigh leis a’ Phrionnsa. Ach bha e gu bhith a’ fàs na b’ ainmeile buileach. Oir nuair a bha e ceud ’s a h-ochd bliadhna a dh’aois, choinnich e ris an Rìgh. Am biodh an seann Seumasach seo deònach aideachadh gun do rinn e mearachd ann am Bliadhna a’ Phrionnsa? Chì sinn dè thuirt e ris an Rìgh an ath-sheachdain.

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Faclan na Litreach: Blàr Chùil Lodair: *The Battle of Culloden*; ionad-taisbeanadh: *exhibition/visitor centre*; Pàdraig Grannd: *Peter Grant*; Dubrach: *An Dubh-bhruach (W of Linn of Dee)*; Uisge Dè: *River Dee*; far-ainm: *nickname*; Seumasachd: *Jacobitism*; Blàr Sliabh a’ Chlamhain: *The Battle of Prestonpans (originally Gladmuir)*; Cathair Luail: *Carlisle*; Màiri Chuimeanach: *Mary Cumming*; aithnichte: *well-known*.

Abairtean na Litreach: chan fhada gus am bi an latha oirnn: *it won't be long until the day is upon us*; gum bi barrachd dhaoine nan àbhaist: *that there'll be more people than normal*; Urras Nàiseanta na h-Alba: *The National Trust for Scotland*; Bràigh Mhàrr ann an Siorrachd Obar Dheathain: *Braemar in Aberdeenshire*; anns an robh a’ chuid a bu mhotha dhen t-sluagh nan Gàidheil agus nan Caitligich: *in which most of the people were Gaels and Catholics*; ciad ar-a-mach nan Seumasach: *the first Jacobite rebellion*; airson a chladheamh a thogail as leth Theàrlaich Òig: *to pick up his sword on behalf of Young [Bonnie Prince] Charles*; a chuid obrach mar thàillear: *his work as a tailor*; chaidh e an cois arm a’ Phrionnsa: *he joined the Prince's army*; gun robh e ri gaisgeachd mhòr: *that he was involved in heroism*; ged a bhathar ag ràdh gun do mharbh e fhèin grunn saighdearan dearga: *although it was said that he himself killed several redcoat soldiers*; chaidh a chur an grèim: *he was captured*; rinn e a dhol-às: *he made his escape*; chaidh gearastan de shaighdearan dearga a stèidheachadh an sin: *a garrison of government soldiers was established there*; Ach an Droighinn, baile beag ri taobh Baile a’ Chaisteil Bràigh Mhàrr: *Auchendryne, a village next to the Castle of Braemar (now Braemar village)*; ge bith dè thachair dha: *whatever happened to him*; an ceann greis bha e a’ fuireach ann an Gleann Lethnochd: *some time later he was living in Glen Lethnot*; chaidh a tiodhlacadh: *she was buried*; na b’ ainmeile buileach: *even more famous*; am biodh X deònach aideachadh: *would X be willing to admit?*

Puing-chànain na Litreach: Bràigh Aonghais: *the upland country of Angus. The original for the anglicised Angus is the Gaelic Aonghas (just like the personal name and, in fact, the county/district name probably derives from a personal name). But in Gaelic we differentiate between the high ground (the “Angus Glens”) and the low ground to the south and east of Strathmore, including the strath. The high ground is Bràigh Aonghais and the flat country is Machair Aonghais and it would be normal in Gaelic to be more specific than just saying “Aonghas”.*

Gnàthas-cainnt na Litreach: b’ esan am fear mu dheireadh a chaochail a bh’ air a bhith an làthair aig Cùil Lodair air latha a’ bhatail: *he was the last man to die who had been present at Culloden on the day of the battle.*

* Tha “Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh” air a maoinachadh le Seirbheis nam Meadhanan Gàidhlig.