

An Litir Bheag **le Ruairidh MacIlleathain**

An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 161 (which corresponds to Litir 465). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.maclean@bbc.co.uk.

Calum Cille [St Columba] is not the only person who links Scotland with Gleann Cholm Cille in Ireland. Some people say that Bonnie Prince Charlie was in the glen.

The story goes back to the summer of seventeen forty six (1746). That was after the Battle of Culloden. The people of Scotland say that the Prince [Young Charlie] was in Scotland at that time. A French ship came for him. He sailed to France.

But there is another story in the oral tradition of Gleann Cholm Cille. In the summer of seventeen forty six (1746) a stranger came to the area. There was a servant with him. They were living to begin with in a little village called Gleann Locha.

They didn't stay there long. They moved to another house in another village. Then they moved to another house in yet another village. It's pretty much certain that the gentleman was a Jacobite. Every day he and his servant were going out to a promontory. They were looking out to [on the] sea.

Chan e Calum Cille an aon duine a tha a' ceangal Alba ri Gleann Cholm Cille ann an Èirinn. Tha cuid ag ràdh gun robh Teàrlach Òg Stiùbhart anns a' ghleann.

Tha an stòiridh a' dol air ais don t-samhradh seachd ceud deug ceathrad 's a sia (1746). Bha sin às dèidh Blàr Chùil Lodair. Tha muinntir na h-Alba ag ràdh gun robh Teàrlach Òg ann an Alba an uair sin. Thàinig long Fhrangach air a shon. Sheòl e don Fhraing.

Ach tha stòiridh eile ann am beul-aithris Ghleann Cholm Cille. As t-samhradh seachd ceud deug ceathrad 's a sia (1746) thàinig srainnsear don sgìre. Bha searbhant còmhlà ris. Bha iad a' fuireach an toiseach ann am baile beag ris an canar Gleann Locha.

Cha do dh'fhuirich iad an sin fada. Ghluais iad gu taigh eile ann am baile eile. An uair sin ghluais iad gu taigh eile ann am baile eile a-rithist. Tha e an ìre mhath cinnteach gur e Seumasach a bha anns an duin-uasal. Gach latha bha e fhèin is a' shearbhant a' dol a-mach gu rubha. Bha iad a' coimhead air a' mhuir.

They were for a few weeks in a village called Málainn Mhóir. The two men arose this day. They gave a purse of gold to the family that owned the house. They went to another house for the night. On the next day they got up early. They went to the shore. A ship came in and the two men went on board. They left for France.

Well, who was the stranger? According to oral tradition it was Bonnie Prince Charlie [Young Charlie]. Had somebody else gone in his stead in Scotland? Were the Jacobites pretending [giving the belief] that the Prince was in Scotland – when he was in Ireland?!

I don't know if there is any truth in the story. Perhaps the stranger was just one of the Jacobite gentry. But there is a song from the area called Lá Chois Cuain. It is a love song. In the song a man is waiting for a period for a ship. And some people still say that the man in the song is Bonnie Prince Charlie [Young Charles Stewart], who was hiding in Gleann Cholm Cille after Culloden.

Bha iad beagan seachdainean ann am baile ris an canar Málainn Mhóir. Dh'èirich an dithis latha a bha seo. Thug iad sporan de dh'òr don teaghlach leis an robh an taigh. Chaidh iad gu baile eile airson na h-oidhche. Air an làrna-mhàireach rinn iad mocheirigh. Chaidh iad don chladach. Thàinig long a-steach agus chaidh an dithis air bòrd. Dh'fhalbh iad don Fhraing.

Uill, cò bha anns an t-srainnsear? A rèir beul-aithris, 's e Teàrlach Òg a bha ann. An robh cuideigin eile air a dhol na riochd ann an Alba? An robh na Seumasaich a' toirt a' chreidsinn gun robh am Prionnsa ann an Alba – nuair a bha e ann an Èirinn?!

Chan eil fhios agam a bheil firinn sam bith anns an stòiridh. Ma dh'fhaodte gur e dìreach fear de dh'uaislean Seumasach a bha anns an t-srainnsear. Ach tha òran às an sgìre air a bheil *Lá Chois Cuain*. 'S e òran gaoil a tha ann. Anns an òran tha fear a' feitheamh fad ùine ri long. Agus tha feadhainn ag ràdh fhathast gur e am fear anns an òran Teàrlach Òg Stiùbhart, a bha am falach ann an Gleann Cholm Cille às dèidh Chùil Lodair.