Local Placenames

Seán Mac Labhraí

People at home and visitors to Ireland are frequently amused at the names of certain places e.g. Tannyoky, Ballymacaratty, Knocknamuckly, Lisnacroppin etc. but regrettably their amusement is seldom matched by their curiosity, for if they were to inquire further, in almost every case they would discover that the names derive originally from Gaelic, and that possibly some local scholar might be knowledgeable regarding their meanings. The aim of this brief article is to stimulate interest in the meanings of placenames in Ireland by (1) giving a brief introduction to the study and (2) by illustrating with an attempt to explain a selection of local placenames.

INTRODUCTION

History holds the explanation as to why the majority of placenames in Ireland cannot be immediately understood nowadays. Celtic peoples expanding their influence across the continent finally arrived in the British Isles some time around 500 B.C. and soon after the Celtic invasion, the language and culture of the Celts was dominant in these islands. From this period the Celtic speaking people began to give names to the various physical features in their new environment — mountains, hills, lakes, grasslands, rivers, bogs, fords, swamps, valleys and plains, names which (a) were connected to characteristics which they identified in those places (e.g. Lisnacroppin [Lios na gnapáin] the fort of the boulders; Knocknamuckly [Cnoc na Muc Liath] the hill of the grey pigs) or (b) which related to an historical incident which occurred in the place (e.g. Lisnabrague [Lios na bréige] the fort of the lie; Lissummon [Lios Iomána] the fort of the football) or (c) which recalled someone who had been associated with the place (e.g. Tannyoky [Tamhnach Eochaidh] Eochaidh’s grassy upland; Ballymacaratty [Baile Mag Oireachtaigh] McGarrity’s townland).

While further invasions of England by Romans, Angles, Saxons and Normans meant that many of the original Celtic names were substituted by names from the language of the new inhabitants, the modern placenames of almost all of Ireland, Scotland and Wales and a considerable part of England derive from the tongue of the Celt. Perhaps, the most memorable example of a Celtic placename in England is that of Dover [Dobhar] pronounced either “dober” or “door” meaning water, a name which suits the coastal location of the town ideally. The same word appears in two Donegal towns, Bundoran [Bun Dobhráin] and Gweedore [Gaath Dobhair] both of which are again located on the seaboard. Shakespeare once wrote that “... a rose by any other name would smell just as sweet” and while he rightly pointed out that the names of things and places are arbitrary and could thus be changed at will without affecting the things or the places, the great author’s love of and fascination with language must have made him wonder at the meaning of the title of his place of birth — Stratford-on-Avon, the shallow crossing at the river in the glen. The element avon [Abhainn] appears in the name Craigavon [Creag abhann] the rock by the river, and in Avonmore [Abhainn Mhóir] the big river, while the element strath or Srath [Srath] is found in the town of Strabane [An tSrath Bán] the white river-valley and in the Scottish town of Strathclyde [Srath Claidhe] the river-valley of the Clyde.

Hence the naming of almost every place and feature in the landscape was a gradual process which evolved over centuries and which has ultimately given to Ireland one of the richest and most varied repertoires of placenames in the world. Indeed as we learn from the writings of Dr. Robin Flower, former curator of Gaelic manuscripts in the British Museum, the acquisition of knowledge of the meanings of placenames formed a fundamental part of the training of the Irish classical poets (c.1200 - 1600 A.D.) and it was this body which earned for Ireland the second half of the reputation of being “a land of saints and scholars.”

“For the poets of Ireland cultivated with an unremitting assiduity a study to which they gave the name “dindshenchas,” the lore of the high places, until by the accretion of centuries there came into existence a large body of literature in prose and verse, forming a kind of Dictionary of National Topography, which fitted the famous sites of the country each with its appropriate legend. It was one of the obligations of a poet to have this knowledge ready at call, and if faced by a demand to relate the associations of some deserted rath or lonely pillar-stone he failed to render an exact and credible account, he was shamed to the very roots of his being.” (The Irish Tradition 1979, 1)

We should not conclude however that the Celts were the only civilization to develop an elaborate naming system for places in their habitait — we read an interesting reference in the Bible to the place where Jesus was crucified, ‘Golgotha, which means the place of the skull” (Mat. 27:33) thus proving that the Jewish peoples developed placenames. We also know that it was the North American Indians who gave the names to several of the 52 of the United States and to Niagara...
which means "thundering waters."

The major problem remains however, that in the last 150 years a majority of the population of Ireland has changed from speaking Irish to speaking English and nowadays only a small minority speak the former language daily. As such we no longer understand the language of our native placenames which tradition has handed down to us and we must therefore look to scholars of Irish to assist us in our understanding of placenames.

**SOURCES**

Even before the Gaelic Literary renaissance at the end of the last century, much important work had been completed by the likes of John O’ Donovan and Eugene Curry both of whom assisted the Ordinance Survey which was commenced in 1836. They travelled around Ireland at a time when Irish was still generally spoken and gleaned valuable information regarding the meanings of placenames from local oral tradition. Unfortunately however, this research was never directly published and remains even today in the form of letters and notes among the manuscripts of the Royal Irish Academy.

The first major publication on this subject in 1869 *The Origin and History of Irish Names of Places* volumes I - III by the Limerick schoolteacher Patrick Weston Joyce, remains until today as the major reference work for students of this field of study. Volumes I and II deal with the primary elements in Irish placenames while Volume III is a gazetteer of placenames with their original Gaelic forms and translations. Yet not even as monumental a work as that of Joyce could hope to provide a comprehensive and accurate list of all the placenames of Ireland, so research into this field was commissioned by the Dublin Government and ever since a team of scholars, whose headquarters are in the Phoenix Park, are actively engaged in researching Irish placenames.

In Ulster the Celtic Department of Queen’s University has made a major contribution to the study having had 3 periodicals whose sole concern was with placenames. The first of these *Dindshenchas* was succeeded by the *Bulletin of the Ulster Placename Society* and since 1986 the current publication is entitled *Aimn*.

These latter works tend to be geared towards the academic student however and are therefore not really suited to the needs of the casual reader for whom Joyce still has a much more rapid appeal. While Joyce’s original work is long since out of print an abridged pocket edition is available from the Appletree Press since 1984. One work which is to be avoided however on account of its lack of authority is *The Meaning of Irish Placenames* by James O’ Connell published by the Blackstaff Press in 1979. The attempted translations make no reference to the original Gaelic nor to the geographical location of the places mentioned and indeed are frequently far-fetched and erroneous. The author has volunteered up to 3,000 meanings and given the impression that research into placenames is a simple and exact discipline, but we will presently discover that such is far from being the truth as the search to unveil the authentic meanings of Irish placenames is fraught with many difficulties and dangers.

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Lisraw—The fort which gave its name to a townland, now the site of a water tower.
IRISH LOCAL NAMES
EXPLAINED.

BY
P. W. JOYCE, LL.D., M.R.I.A.

Gnallam gmiéall na Pobla.

NEW EDITION.

DUBLIN:
MCGlashan & Gill, 50, Upper Sackville-Street
Edinburgh: John Menzies & Co

The Title Page of one of P. W. Joyce's books on the subject.
Linguistic corruption is what renders the study of placenames a rather inexact science. This corruption is two-fold — oral and written. The first cartographers (makers of maps) who recorded placenames in the various surveys were almost invariably of English planter extraction. As such they had a poor ear for the exact Gaelic pronunciation of a placename and often wrote down an approximate rendering of the sounds in phonetic English. This initial inaccuracy was frequently compounded when the first written form was further corrupted by mistaken transcription or perhaps by a desire to simplify the pronunciation for English speakers who had difficulty with the Irish names. A good illustration of this is the case of the townland Monclone, near Scarva. In attempting to arrive at the original Gaelic form of the townland I worked for a long time on the assumption that the first element in the word “mon” was the Gaelic word, ‘móin’ meaning turf. This working hypothesis appeared to have been supported by a local tradition that there are coal deposits in the townland which some locals remembered having been mined. Not until I discovered the early written form of the word “mincloiny” was I in any doubt that my original assumption was correct. In actual fact the prefix “mion” simply means small and has nothing whatsoever to do with either coal or turf! The lesson, of course, is caution and open-mindedness and indeed between presenting this study as a talk and later preparing it for print I have altered on my suggestions for the meanings of a number of names on the list where continued research has brought fresh evidence to light. Indeed it is quite likely that some of my readers will be able to clarify certain doubts that still exist on the list, as it is now presented, but in the meanwhile I hope I have not been too inaccurate in my attempts to offer meanings to local placenames.

Cattle graze on what was formerly a lake—Loughadian.
Below is a selection of local placenames with their meanings. The list is arranged alphabetically and the criterion for selection is purely random choice. As such the list is incomplete so I must apologise for this shortcoming and hope that the list nevertheless satisfies the readers' curiosity regarding at least some of our local placenames. Where the meaning of the placename is uncertain this is indicated by an asterisk * and in such cases more than one meaning may be volunteered. I would gladly welcome any information readers could supply to amend or extend this small effort to begin research into a very interesting topic of local history.

To conclude this introductory article I supply a list of basic elements or root words which may assist interested readers in their efforts to unveil the meanings of other townlands, local and further afield.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placename</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACTON</td>
<td>Curach a' toir</td>
<td>The swamp of the tall rock.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGHADERG</td>
<td>Achadh dearge</td>
<td>The red field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNACLONE</td>
<td>Eanach cluain</td>
<td>The meadow marsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUGHANTARRAGHAN*</td>
<td>Achadh an tsoracháin / Achadh an toracháin</td>
<td>The field of the miser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUGHLISH</td>
<td>Each Laisc</td>
<td>The field of the strong man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLYARGAN</td>
<td>Baile Argana</td>
<td>The horse enclosure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLYDOHERTY</td>
<td>Baile Dochartaigh</td>
<td>The townland of the plunder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLYGOWAN</td>
<td>Baile gabhann</td>
<td>The townland of Doherty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLYMACARATTY</td>
<td>Baile Mag oireachtaigh</td>
<td>The townland of McGarrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLYMORE</td>
<td>Baile mór</td>
<td>The big townland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLYNAGREAGH</td>
<td>Baile na gcroich</td>
<td>The townland of the boundary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLYNALECK</td>
<td>Baile na Leac/Leice</td>
<td>The townland of the flat stone(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLYNASKEAGH</td>
<td>Baile na sceach</td>
<td>The townland of the Whitethorn bushes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLYREAGH</td>
<td>Baile réidh</td>
<td>The level/smooth townland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLYSHIEL</td>
<td>Baile Siadhail</td>
<td>The townland of Shields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLYVARLEY*</td>
<td>Baile a' mharlaigh</td>
<td>The townland of the clay, limestone soil.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARR</td>
<td>Barr</td>
<td>The summit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALLYNABECK</td>
<td>Baile na bpeacach</td>
<td>The townland of the sinners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRANNOCK</td>
<td>Breathnach</td>
<td>The Englishman's land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARGANS</td>
<td>Carraigín</td>
<td>The small rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARNBANE</td>
<td>Carn Bán</td>
<td>The white mound / cairn area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARNMEEEN</td>
<td>Carn Mín</td>
<td>The smooth cairn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARRICKBRACK</td>
<td>Carraig breac</td>
<td>The speckled rock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARRICKDRUMMAN</td>
<td>Carraig dromán</td>
<td>The rock on the small ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARRICKROVADDY</td>
<td>Carraig re mhadaigh</td>
<td>The rock of the dogs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLOGHOGUE</td>
<td>Clochóg</td>
<td>The stony patch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COOLNACRANN</td>
<td>Cúl na (g)crann</td>
<td>The nook of the tree(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORLUST</td>
<td>Corr lúst(an)</td>
<td>The projecting rock of the weeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORRERNAGH</td>
<td>Corr Aircheannach</td>
<td>The projecting rock of the church-farmer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRANKEY</td>
<td>Cramachaidh</td>
<td>The branchy place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREEVY</td>
<td>Craobhaigh</td>
<td>The woody place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CREWBEG/CREWMORE</td>
<td>Cruach beag/mór</td>
<td>The Big/small stack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CULLENTRAGH</td>
<td>Coll an Trá</td>
<td>The hazel tree at the shallow water?</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONAGHMORE</td>
<td>Domhnach móir</td>
<td>The big churchland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DROMANTINE*</td>
<td>Drom na tine?</td>
<td>The hillock of the fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRUMBANAGHER</td>
<td>Drom beannachar</td>
<td>The ridge of the peaks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRUMHORC</td>
<td>Drom a’ choirce</td>
<td>The ridge of the oats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRUMILLER</td>
<td>Drom ilair</td>
<td>The ridge of the eagle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRUMINARGLE</td>
<td>Drom an airgil</td>
<td>The ridge of the oratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRUMINURE</td>
<td>Drom an úir</td>
<td>The ridge of the yew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRUMNAMETHER</td>
<td>Drom na meadar</td>
<td>The ridge of the chorns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRUMSALLAGH</td>
<td>Drom Seileach</td>
<td>The ridge of the salty trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUNBOY</td>
<td>Dún buí</td>
<td>The yellow fort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDENDERRY</td>
<td>Éadan daire</td>
<td>The face of the wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEDERNAGH</td>
<td>Fiodharnach</td>
<td>The wooded place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLASSDRUMMAN</td>
<td>Glasdromán</td>
<td>The small green hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLEN</td>
<td>Gleann</td>
<td>A Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLENLOUGHAN</td>
<td>Gleann lochán</td>
<td>The valley of the small lakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GORAGHWOOD</td>
<td>Gabharach</td>
<td>The place abounding in goats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GREENAN</td>
<td>Grianán</td>
<td>The high sunny spot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEADYMORE</td>
<td>Ceideadh mór</td>
<td>The big flat-topped hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KILLYBODAGH</td>
<td>Coileadh Bodach</td>
<td>The wood of the rude persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KILLYSAVAN</td>
<td>Coileadh sabbhán</td>
<td>Wood of the smallrods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KILREA</td>
<td>Coill réidh</td>
<td>The flat wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNOCKDUFF</td>
<td>Cnoc dubh</td>
<td>The black hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KNOCKNAMUCKLEY</td>
<td>Cnoc na muc liath</td>
<td>The hill of the grey swine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEGANANNY</td>
<td>Liag an Fhánaidh</td>
<td>The flat stone on the slope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LESH</td>
<td>Lís</td>
<td>Holder of land by feudal tenure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISBANE</td>
<td>Lios bán</td>
<td>A White fort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISNABRAGUE</td>
<td>Lios na bréige</td>
<td>The fort of the lie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISNAGADE</td>
<td>Lios na gcéad</td>
<td>The fort of the hundred (forts ?)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISNAGREE</td>
<td>lios na gcróich</td>
<td>The fort of the boundary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISNALEE</td>
<td>Lios na lao</td>
<td>The fort of the claves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISRAW</td>
<td>Lios ratha</td>
<td>The ringed fort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LISSUMMON</td>
<td>Lios Iomána</td>
<td>The fort of the football</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOUGHADIAN</td>
<td>Loch a’ daingin</td>
<td>The lake of the fortress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOUGHBRICKLAND</td>
<td>Loch Bricreann</td>
<td>The lake of King Bricriu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOUGHRONE*</td>
<td>Loch amhrán</td>
<td>Doherty’s lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAGHERADOUGHERTY</td>
<td>Maighreacht Dorch-argh</td>
<td>The plain of the mill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAVEMACULLEN</td>
<td>Maigh a’ Mhuilinn</td>
<td>A small level place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEENAN</td>
<td>Minín</td>
<td>Small strips of grassland in a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONCLOSE</td>
<td>Mionchluainte</td>
<td>wooded area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MULLABRACK</td>
<td>Mullach breac</td>
<td>A speckled hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MULLAGHGLASS</td>
<td>Mullach glas</td>
<td>A green hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MULLINARY</td>
<td>Mull an áirí</td>
<td>The milking hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAVALBEG/-MORE</td>
<td>Sabhall beag/mór</td>
<td>A small/big barn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCARVA</td>
<td>Scaribbeach</td>
<td>A shallow rugged ford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHANECCRACKEN</td>
<td>Seanchreagáin</td>
<td>An old rock</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
POYNTZPASS AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

SHANEGLISH
TANDERAGEE
TANNYOKEY
TERRYHOOGAN
TULLYMACANN
TULLYNACROSS

Seaneaglais
Tóin re gaoith
Tamhnach Eochaidh
Doire shúgán
Tulaigh Mac Catháin
Tulach na croise

An old church
Ass-to-the-wind
Eochaidh’s green field
The oak-grove of the straw ropes
Mac Catháin’s hill
The hill of the crosses

Poyntzpass village viewed from the townland of Lisnabrague, with Tullynacross townland in the background.

A general view of Brannock townland—Acton House is on the right.
ROOT WORDS

Abhainn (owen), a river; owen, avon, and in the end of words with the h of the article, hown, howna, hvnia

Achadh (aha), a field; it is generally represented in modern names by agha, agh, or augh, but these also often stand for ath, a ford

Alt, a height, a cliff, a glen side

Ard, high, a height

Baile (bally), a town, a townland; bally, balli, vally and in the eastern counties bal.

Bán (bawn), white or fair coloured; bane, baun, bawn, vane, vaun.

Barr (baur), the top, the highest point; bar, baur. The Bar of a townland (used in the north) is the high or hilly part

Beag (beg), little

Beannchar (banaher), horns, gables, peaks; banagher, bangor.

Bearn, bearna, bearneas (barn, barna, barnas), a gap, a gap in a mountain; barna, barny, varna, varny, barnis, varnis, and often in the north barnet.

Béil, béil (bale), the mouth, an entrance, a ford; often joined to ath in the compund béil-atha (bellaha, bella), a ford-mouth or ford entrance.

Bo, a cow; bo, boe, and by eclipse, moe (mbo).

Brocach (bruckagh), a badger warren; brochagh, brocky.

Bun, the end or bottom of anything; the mouth of a river

Cabhan (cavan), a hollow; in some parts of Ulster it signifies a round hill; cavan.

Caiseal (cashel), a circular stone fort; cashel, castle,

Carn, a monumental heap of stones; carn; carna

EXAMPLE

Craiganon (Creag abhann) The rock of the river

Finaghy (Fionnachadh) The fair-coloured field (Belfast)

Altinamackin (Alt na meacan) The glenside of the carrots

Ardglas (Ard glas) The green height (Co. Down)

Ballyjamesduff (Baile Shéamais Dhuibh) The town of black-haired James. (Co. Cavan)

Mullaghbawn (Mullach bán) The long white hill

Barr (Barr) The summit

Savalbeg (Sabhall beag) A small barn

Drumbanagher (Droim beannchar) The ridge of the peaks

Lisdoonvarna (Lios Dubh an Bhearna) The black fort in the gap. (Co. Clare)

Ballybay (Béal Átha Beithe) the mouth of the ford of the birch trees. (Co. Monaghan)

Ardboe (Ard Bó) The height of the cows. (Co. Tyrone)

Artabrackagh (Aird an bhrocadh) The height of the badger’s warren. (Between Tandragee and Portadown)

Bundoran (Bun Dobhráin) The mouth of the stream. (Co. Donegal)

Cavanakeeny (Cabhán an chaonaigh) The hollow of the moss.

(A townland comprising three fields formerly owned by John Lynch from Acton)

Drumcashel (Droim Caisil) The fort on the ridge

(Townland off Rathfriland Road, Newry)

Carnmeen (Carn mín) The flat mound of stones
POYNTZPASS AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Carrag (corrig), a rock; carrig, carrick, carriga

Ceann (can), the head, front, or highest part of anything; kan, can, kim, ken

Ceide (keady), a hillock, a hill level and smooth at top; keady, keadew, keadagh, cady, caddagh.

Ceis (kesh), a wicker basket, a wickerwork causeway; kish, kesh.

Cill (kill), a church; kill, kil, kyle, keel, cal, kille, killa

Cloch, a stone, a stone castle; clogh, clough, clo, clohy, cloy, naglogh.

Cluain (cloon), a meadow, a fertile piece of land among bogs, marches, or woods; cloon, clon, clin, cloony.

Cnoc (knock), a hill; knock, nick, nick, crock, cruck

Coill, a wood; kil, kyle, cuill, cullia

Cor, a round hill, etc.

Craebh (crave), a branch, a large braunchy tree; creeva, crew, creevy, nagreeve

Cruach, cruachán (cruagh, cruhaun), a rick, a round stacked up hill; crogh, cruagh, croagh, croghan, croaghan

Cuillionn (culion), holly; cullion, cullen

Dair (dar), an oak; dar, der, dara, darra, darraigh

Dearg (derg), red; derg, derrig, darrig

Domhnach (downagh), Sunday, a church; donagh, donna, donny, doun, dun

Driochead (drohced), a bridge; droghed, diehied, dright, drait

Druim (drum), the back, a ridge or long hill; drum, drom, drim.

Eaglais (aglish), a church; aglish, eglis, eagles, eglis, eglish, acest, aglish, agleise, agles, eglis, aglish

Carrickasticken (Carraig an Stoicín) The rock by the small tree-stump.

Kintyre (Ceann Tire) The head of the land.

Keady (Keadeh)

Kesh (Ceis) A wickerwork causeway, trees, strewn criss-cross over soft ground to permit transport.

Killleavey (Cill Shléibhe) The church on the mountainside.

Cloghogue (Clochóg) A stony place (near Tandragee, Co. Armagh)

Clontarf (Cluain Tairbh). The meadow of the bull (Suburb of Dublin)

The “knocks”. The hills, (There’s such a name in almost every county in Ireland)

Killylea (Coilleadh Liath) The grey wood

Corcrum (Cor Crom) The stooped round hill (Townland near Poyntzpass, Co. Armagh).

Creewy (Craobhach) An area shaded with overhanging branches.

Creevyle (Cruaghach) A large stacked-up hill (Townland near Tandragee, Co. Armagh)

Siegeve Gullion (Sliabh gCuilinn) The mountain of the holly tree.

Derrybeg (Doire beag) A small copse of oak trees.

Castlebreg (Caislein Derg) The red castle.

Donaghmore (Domhnach Mór) The big church.

Dundrod (Dún Drochid) The fort by the bridge.

Drumore (An Droim Mór) The large ridge
Eanach (annagh), a marsh; annagh, anna, anny
Fidh (fith), a wood; free, fi, feigh, feth, fith, fid
Fuininse, fuiniseasean, fuinsonseig (funshas, funshan, funshogue), the ash tree; funcheon, funshin, funshinagh, funchoge. The f is omitted in the north, giving rise to such forms as unshin, unshinagh, unshinagh, unshog, hinchoge
Gabhar (gour), a goat; gower, gour, gore
Glas, green; gower, gower, gower
Gort, a tilled field; gort, gurt, gart.
Grian (greean), the sun; green, greg, greany
Iolar (iller), an eagle; iller, ulla, ilra, ulra, illard
Iubhar (yure), a yew tree; ure
Leac, lic, liag (lack, lick, leeg), a flagstone; lack, leek, lick, leeg.
Leitir (letter), a wet side of a hill, plural leatracha (latraha); letter, lattera, lettera, letteragh
Liath (leea), grey; lea
Machaire (mahera), a plain; maghera, maghery
Madadh, madradh (madda, maddra), a dog; maddy, maddoo, maddra, vaddy, vaddoo, vaddra
Magh (maw), a plain; moy, ma, may, moigh, moig, maff, mo.
Min (meen), smooth, fine, small; meen.
Mulleann (mullen), a mill; mullen, mullin, willin
Muine (money), a shrubbery; money
Mullach (mullagh), a summit; mullagh, mulla, mully, mul
Rath (raw), a circular fort; rath, raw, rah, ray, ra, raha
Reidh (ray), a coarse mountain flat; rea, rey, rey
Ros, generally means a wood in the south, and a peninsula in the north; ross, rus, rush

Annaghmore (Eanach Mór) A large marsh
Federnagh (Fiodharnach). A wooded place
Correnshigo (Cor Fuinnsceige) The hill of the ash tree (Townland near Newry)

Goraghwood (Gabharach “wood”) A wood abounding with goats (?)
Mullaglass (Mullach glas). The green hill.
Gortahork (Gort an chairce) The corn-field.
(Co. Donegal)
Greenan (Grianán) A high sunny spot
Drummillar (Droum Iolair) The ridge of the kestral.
Newry (An tūr) The yew tree.
Lack (An Leac) The flagstone. (Co. Fermanagh)
Lettermacaward (Leitir Mhic an Bhaird) Ward’s wet hillside.

Leitrim (Liath - Droim) The Grey ridge.
Magheradougherty (machaire Dochartaigh) Doherty’s plain. (Townland near Markethill)
Limavaddy (Léim an mhadaidh) The dog’s leap.
(Co. Derry)
Moyallen (Magh Ílainn) The fair plain.
(village near Gilford)
Meenacuddy (Mín an chladaigh) The smooth land on the seaward.
(Co. Donegal).

Castlewellan (Caisleán an Mhuilinn) The castle near the mill.
Ballymoney (Baile an mhuine) The townland of the shrubs. (Co. Antrim)
Mullaghmore (An mullach mór) The great hilltop. (Co. Sligo)
Rathfriland (Rath Faolinn) Freelans fort.
Cloughrea (Cloch réidh) A flat stone
Roslea (Ros Liath) A grey wood
(Co. Fermanagh)
Saileach (saulagh), a sallow; sillagh, sallagh, sill
Scairbh (scarriff), a shallow rugged ford; Skarriff, scarry, scarva, scarvy, scarragh
Sceach (skagh), a whitethorn bush; skeagh, skhey, skye, ske, skeha, skew
Sean (shan), old; shan, shanna
Seiscenn (skeskin), a marsh, a quagmire; sheskin, seskin teskin
Sliabh (sleeve), a mountain; slieve, slie, sle, lieve, lie; and by an eclipse of s. tleva, tlieve, tea
Tamhnach (tawnagh), a green field; tawnagh, tawny, tonagh, tannagh, tanny
Tate, tath, a measure of land; tat, tate
Tobar, tipra (gen, tioprad), a well; tober, tubber, tipper, tubbrid, tibret
Tor, a tower-like rock; tor.
Traigh (tra), a strand; tra, traw, tray
Tulach (tulla), a little hill; tulla, tullow, tullagh, tully, tul
Uisce (iska), water; iska,isky, isk
Drumsallach (Droim Saileach) The ridge of the sally tree.
Scarva (Scairbheach) A shallow stoney ford
Lisnaskea (Lios na Sceach) The fort of the whitethorns (Co. Fermanagh)
Shankill (Seanchill) An old churchyard (Belfast)
Siskinore (Seisceann an òir) The marsh of the gold. (Co. Tyrone)
Slieve Comedagh (Sliabh Coimheadach) The mountain of the lookout post (Mournes)
Fintona (Fionntamhnach) A fair green field (Co. Tyrone)
Tattyreagh (Tátaí réidh) A flat stretch of land (Co. Fermanagh)
Tobermore (Tobar Mór) A large well (Co. Derry)
Tormore (An Tor Mór) The large towering rock (Townland near Saval)
Tramore (Trá Mór) A large beach. (Co. Waterford)
Tullymacross (Tulach na croise) The hill of the cross
Lisanisk (Lios an Uisce) The fort of the water.

"Tannyoky" Road—a modern attempt at spelling a townland name.