Logainmneacha
Dhobhair
agus Stair Áitiúil
le
Pádraig
Mac
Gairbhheith
This is a list of placenames from the townland of Dobhar with English explanations.

The locations of these placenames are marked and recorded on the map that can be seen on the website www.meitheal.logainm.ie.

This is part of the www.logainm.ie website which is run by DCU, their aim is to collect and preserve the placenames of Ireland, the website also carries links to folklore, heritage and Irish language projects.

This website can be accessed by using the web address below:

www.logainm.ie

Once you have accessed this page click on Meitheal Logainm at the top left hand side of the screen, then click on the map, magnify Donegal then Gaoth Dobhair, and Dobhar.

The list of placenames is followed by a second list, this list contains other placenames discovered during research but we were unable to pinpoint their exact locations.
The townland of Dobhar is situated in the Parish of Gaoth Dobhair, in West Donegal. The name Gaoth Dobhair is made up of two words. The first word Gaoth has several meanings. It relates to wind, and it also means a sea inlet or estuary, this being the case here. The second word Dobhar is a very old Irish word meaning water. The word Dobhar appears in Bun Dobhráin and several placenames in Munster, Dower and Glandore in County Cork, and Éisc an Dobhair in County Kerry. Dwr (Do-wer) is also the word for water in the Welsh language.

The townland of Dobhar takes its name from the river which was originally called Dobhar. The river is over 3 miles long and runs from Loch an Iúir into An Gaoth. This natural boundary was the strategic border between two powerful tribes, ‘Na Dálaigh’ (Clann Uí Dhomhnaill) in Gaoth Dobhair and ‘Na Baoilligh’ (Clann Uí Bhaoill) in the Rosses. This was also the boundary between the Baronies of Kimacrennan and Boylagh. The name Na Dálaigh was used to signify lineal descent from Clann Uí Dhomhnaill.
The territorial border of Clann Uí Dhomhnaill ran East in a line from Dobhar river to the River Swilly in Letterkenny. In Gaoth Dobhair they had control of Abhainn na Cláidí and Abhainn Dhubhair, two important and lucrative salmon rivers.

In the 19th century the British called this the Gweedore River, and recorded it on their early maps. Later it was called Abhainn Chroithlí, that’s what we know it as today.

Dobhar covers over 976 acres and is bordered by Abhainn na Cláidí on its Northern side and by An Gaoth to the South. The three townlands of Dobhar, Cnoc an Stollaire and Muine Dhubh/Machaire Loiscthe run in an east to west line along An Gaoth from An Clochán.

In the 1901 Census the most prevalent surname in Dobhar was Boyle (Ó Baoill). This accounted for 23 out of the 71 households. The population at that time was 311 people in total, this was made up of 150 males and 161 females.
Buíochas
Mo bhuíochas mór do na daoine seo a leanas:
Máire Mhic Giolla Chomhaill agus foireann Ionad Naomh Pádraig Dobhar.
Mícheál Ó Domhnaill, Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, Ghaoth Dobhair.
Cití Eoghain Éamoinn Mhic Gairbheith, Dobhar Uachtair.
Micí Chit Ó Baoill, Dobhar Uachtair.
Charlie Shéamuis Eoghain Ó Gallchobhair, Cnoc an Stollaire.
Seán Ó Domhaíl, Cnoc an Stollaire.
Noel Ó Gallchóir, Gort an Choirce.
Donnchadh Ó Baoill, Rann na Feirste.
Tina Uí Ghallchobhair, Dobhar Láir.
Marcas Ó Murchú, Rann na Móna.
Pádraig Mac Gairbheith,
Cnoc an Stollaire,
Mártá 2019.
Clár

Logainmneacha Dhobhair 1
Logainmneacha Dhobhair 2
Siopaí Dhobhair
An Píobaire Mór
Clann Airt Uí Dhomhnaill
The Chicago World’s Fair 1893
**Abhainn Dhubhair**
The Dhubhair River runs 3 miles from Loch an Iúir into An Gaoth. It’s recorded in *The Downs Survey of Ireland* (1656-1658), and later in the first ever atlas of the counties, *Hibernia Delinatio* (1685). Up until the 19th century the British called it the Gweedore River, today we know it as Abhainn Chroithlí –The Crolley River.

**Abhainn na Cláidí**
The Clady River. The river is just under 5 miles long. It runs from Loch Dhún Lúiche and empties into Bunbeg Harbour. It was once renowned for its spring, summer and autumn salmon runs. Lord George Hill built a hotel on the banks of the river and developed a salmon fishery for the gentry. The word cláidí means a mountain stream or torrent.

**Ailt Éamoinn**
Éamonn’s ravine/glen. Beside An Abhainn Bheag near the railway line in Dobhar Uachtair

**Aird Mhór Shíle**
Síle’s height or upland. This height is near An Gaoth in Dobhar Láir. There are stories that fairies appeared here and were seen by local people. Síle Mhicí (Nic Fhionnlaoich) was a noted singer from Machaire Loiscthe. Síle and her husband Peadar Dhomhnaill Éamoinn (Ó Gallchobhair) who was also from Machaire Loiscthe lived
in Dobhar Láir. While herding cows she would sit beside a large rock here and sing. She had a vast repertoire of songs and was recorded by the Irish Folklore Commission. She gave songs to Cití and Annie Eoghain Éamoinn Shíle (Ní Ghallchobhair) who both won honours for traditional singing at the highest level. These songs were passed on to Máire Ní Bhraonáin and Maireád Ní Mhaonaigh, who brought them to today’s audiences.

Áit Chití
The area surrounding Teach Chití in Dobhar Uachtair.

Áit na Scoile
The general area around the old school in Dobhar Uachtair.

Áithe Choirce
In 1837 there was six corn kilns marked on the Ordnance survey map in the townland of Dobhar. All grain grown locally was kiln dried, not exclusively corn. The local economy depended on the barter system and corn would have played a big part in that.

This changed when Lord George Hill came to Gaoth Dobhair in 1838. He set about making Bunbeg Harbour the centre of all business in Gaoth Dobhair and planned to create a monopoly on all saleable commodities. He closed local bakeries and opened his own. Fish buyers stopped coming to Bunbeg after he imposed expensive tariffs. Hill then became the sole buyer operating in the harbour. In 1839 Hill built a grain store and kiln, in 1845 he built the
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mill, all grain produced in the area had to go through it. The small kilns that were present in every townland disappeared and the local population were at his mercy.

**Alt an Ghiorría**
This piece of land in An Caorán, Dobhar Uachtair runs to Abhainn na Cláidí, and is so named after the native hare.

**An Abhainn Bheag**
The little river. It runs from Mín na Gaoithe and empties at the head of An Gaoth beside Abhainn Chroithlí.

**An Altóir**
This natural rock formation in Dobhar Láir was used as an Altar to celebrate mass in secret during penal times. It’s situated near Tobar na Spáinneach.

**An Baile Dearg**
The red place. This was said to relate to the number of houses with the doors painted various shades of red in Dobhar Láir

**An Bealach Garbh**
The rough road. This track is marked on the 1837 Ordnance survey map. This track ran from Cosán an Ghaoith beside An tSeanbheairic in Dobhar Íochtair up to the present day road, across the bog and over to the Abhainn na Cláidí at the upper end of Cois Claidí. This would have been an regarded as the main thoroughfare at that time.
An Bealach iarainn/An Líne
The old Londonderry and Lough Swilly Company railway line. This stretch of the line ran between the stations of Gaoth Dobhair and Croithlí. The line terminated at Ailt an Chorráin.

An Bealach Mór
The Dobhar to An Bun Beag road. The road was built by Lord Hill in the 1840s, and was part of his plan to transform Gaoth Dobhair into his vision of a model estate.

An Bhinn Bhuí
The yellow cliff or rise. This referred to the colour of the vegetation in this area of Dobhar Uachtair

An Canáil
The ESB Canal. The canal in Dobhar Uachtair is part of the ESB system that was built to generate power locally. Work began in 1954 and the system was fully operational in 1959. Local lore has it that a prediction was made long ago that Abhainn na Cláidí would one day flow into An Gaoth. When the ESB set up the system to generate power, water from the river was diverted across the bog and into a pipeline that ran to the station on An Gaoth. The prophesy did indeed come to pass.

An Caorán Íochtair
The bog in Lower Dobhar.
An Caorán Láir
The bog in Middle Dobhar.

An Caorán Uachtair
The bog in Upper Dobhar.

An Chaslaigh
This would be a landing place for a curragh or a small punt. Most small holdings that ran along An Gaoth had a suitable landing place, this one is in Dobhar Uachtair.

An Chloch Bhreac
The streaked or spotted rock. This field in Dobhar Uachtair was strewn with rocks and boulders.

An Choill Bheag
The little wood or forest. The wood sits on the sloping plain that runs down toward An Gaoth in Dobhar Íochtair.

An Clochán Beag/An Coradh
The little stepping stones/rocky crossing place. An Clochán is the old crossing between the Rosses and Gaoth Dobhair that’s been used since time immemorial.

An Clochar Ard
The high rocky ridge.

An Clochar Mór
The (large) stony place.
An Coillín Darach
The little dark wood. This is the first townland in the Rosses after crossing Abhainn Chroithlí.

An Crosbhealach
Dobhar Uachtair where the three roads meet, Dobhar, An tArd Donn and Croithlí.

An Dún Bán
The white fort or rock. This height is near An Dún Mór in Dobhar Uachtair.

An Dún Mór
The large fort or rock. This is a prominent landmark near An Clochán. Given its name it was most likely a place of importance in ancient times. The fact that Carraig an Aifrinn is situated here means that this was a place of gathering and worship.

An Dún/An Caiseal
The Archaeological Survey of County Donegal (1987) lists this as the site of a ring fort in Dobhar Láir. This was a place of significance to the local community through the ages as the field system also contains An Altóir (altar), where mass was celebrated in penal times, and Tobar na Spáinneach. These three important sites are literally within yards of each other.

There are several other ancient sites in the area. An Stollaire is a standing stone in the the next townland, Cnoc
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an Stollaire. The stone dates back to the bronze age (3200-600 BC). In Rann na Feirste on the Rosses side of An Gaoth there is another large standing stone that had fallen and has recently been re-erected. Archaeologists believe these stones to be ancient boundary markers.

Several placenames in the neighbouring townland of Muine Dubh/Machaire Loiscthe at the mouth of An Gaoth indicate the possibility of settlement in ancient times.

An Caiseal, An Dún Mór and An Grianán are three very prominent, elevated sites situated along An Gaoth. At this time no archaeological work has been done on these sites.

**An Gaoth**
The estuary is around 3.5 miles long. The Gaoth Dobhair side runs from An Clochán passing the townlands of Dobhar and Cnoc an Stollaire, and Muine Dhubh/Machaire Loiscthe. The estuary widens at the point of Machaire Loiscthe and joins the channel which runs North, passing the entrance to Bunbeg harbour, the islands, and out to the open sea.

**An Garradh Beag**
The small garden. Most small holdings would have had fields called An Garradh Beag, An Garradh Mór, and An Mhainnear to name but a few.

**An Garradh Fada**
The long garden.
**An Garradh Mór**
The large garden.

**An Lag**
A hollow or low place.

**An Liosachán**
It’s said this was the site of a fairy fort in Dobhar Láir. Sceach Gheal (hawthorn bush) grows beside it. The hawthorn was sacred to the ancient Irish because it flowered in Spring and was associated with the festival of Bealtaine.

**An Mhainnear**
An enclosed field. A common placename on most small holdings

**An Mhalaidh Ard**
The high slope or brae. Next to Lag Mhéidgí in Dobhar Íochtair.

**An Mhalaidh Bhuí**
The yellow slope/brae in Dobhar Uachtair, so called because the vegetation had a yellow hue in summer.

**An Mhalaidh Mhóir**
The large slope/brae, a common placename. This was one of many paths that led down to An Gaoth. The ESB acquired this land in Dobhar Uachtair for the construction
of the pipeline to their station which ran across the bottom part of the path.

**An Píopa Mór (An Phíblíne)**
The ESB pipeline in Dobhar Uachtair, this runs from the canal down to the station on An Gaoth. From the road to the station the pipeline descends over 90 feet, which is one of the steepest drops in Ireland.

**An Pollán Beag**
A small pool or hollow place in Dobhar Iochtair.

**An Pollán Cam**
A crooked stream that runs through the bog in Dobhar Uachtair and joins Abhainn na Cláidí at the top of Cois Claidí.

**An Rampar**
This crossing is shown as a causeway on the 1837 Ordnance survey map. Through time it was developed and now a small bridge crosses Abhainn Chroithlí where it joins the track that leads to An Clochán.

**An Riascán**
From the Irish word riasc meaning bog or marshland, wet ground.

**An Sceailpín**
The little rock sits on the Dobhar side of Sruthán Leac na nArm.
**An Scoil Úr**
Scoil Dhobhair was established in 1882 and functioned till 1932. Work began on the new school, and it was officially opened in 1934.

**An Screabán Mór**
This is a large stony patch of land that runs alongside the old railway line in Dobhar Uachtair.

**An Seanlána**
The old lane at the bottom of An Bealach Garbh, Dobhar Íochtain.

**An Sruthán Beag**
The little stream runs through An Choill Bheag in Dobhar Íochtain and empties into An Gaoth.

**An Sruthán Mór**
This large stream runs from the hills above Croithlí into Abhainn na Cláidí. This is the land boundary between Dobhar Uachtair and An tArd Donn.

**An tÁth Beag**
The little ford, the crossing here led to Cosán Coise in Dobhar Uachtair.

**An tÁth Mór**
The large ford, this ford crossed An Abhainn Bheag below An Dún Bán.
Ard an Chuain
The word cuan means a haven or harbour, Ard an Chuain sits where the land joins An Abhainn Beag in Dobhar Uachtair.

Ard na Maoile
A prominent rounded hillock on the lower side of the main road in Dobhar Láir.

Barr Dhobhair
This refers to the general area of Dobhar Uachtair.

Bealach an Aird Dhoinn
The road to Ard Donn, the main road splits the townland in two, the lower half runs to the canal and the upper half stretches towards the hills.

Bealach a fhad le Loch na Caillí
The long road to the loch of witches. This is where the furthest away turf banks can be found. In olden times people had to walk out here when cutting their turf. Residents of the townland of Machaire Loiscthe had plots here and for them it was a ten mile round trip on foot.

Bealach an Chaoráin, Dobhar Uachtair
The bog road in Upper Dobhar.

Bealach an Chaoráin, An tArd Donn
This road leads to an expanse of bog where local people cut their yearly turf supply. This road is used by sheep farmers
going out to check their animals when they are grazing on upland commonage.

**Bealach an Chaoráin, Croithli**
This road leads to the bog above Mín na Gaoithe. The number of people cutting turf declines every year and with the possibility of a complete ban another facet of Irish country life may disappear.

**Bealach an Chlochán**
The road to An Clochán. This track is marked on the 1837 Ordnance survey map, it led to An Clochán from Doire na Mainséar.

**Bealach Chnoc an Stollaire**
The road to Cnoc an Stollaire.

**Bealach Chroithlí**
The road to Crolly.

**Bealach Fheargail Bhig (Ó Baoill)**
Feargal’s road. This road leads to the bog in Dobhar Láir and the track continued on to the Abhainn na Cláidí. This track was used by local people as a short cut.

**Bealach go Mín Uí Bhaoill**
The plain of the Boyles. This road leads to the remote townlands that stretch into the hills above Croithlí. For hundreds of years people walked the tracks that run through these mountains when travelling to the south of the county.
This road passes Teach Pobail Mhín Úí Bhaoill. With the opening of this chapel in 1936 it made it easier for people who lived in these remote areas to attend mass. Before 1936 people going to mass faced a round trip of over ten miles or more to Teach Pobail Mhuire at Doirí Beaga. It’s said Loch Leathbhealaigh in Cnoc an Stollaire got the name because it was the halfway point for people walking from An Tor. They would stop here to rest before completing the journey.

**Bealach an Chaoráin**

Originally this was cart track that led to the bog in Dobhar Óchtaic and continued to Plainc Thaidhg Hiúdaí. This was a footbridge that crossed the river into Cois Claidí. Every townland was criss-crossed by tracks and by recognised walking paths, used by the general population as they walked everywhere.

**Bealach Rubastúin (Robertson)**

William Robertson was an agriculturist and the landlord’s agent. He was also a member of of the Dunfanaghy poorhouse Board of Guardians. At that time the majority of people did not speak English and the name was pronounced as ‘Rubastúin’. We don’t know why this road was named after him, possibly he lived nearby. There was also a pool on the river called Poll Rubastúin. William Robertson is buried in the Curch of Ireland graveyard in Bunbeg.
Binse P. J.
This bench beside An Clochán was erected in memory of the late P. J. Ó Domhnaill from Cnoc an Stollaire. He worked for his community and he was proud of his language and his culture.

Bruach na hAbhanna
The river bank below An tÁth Mór near An Clochán.

Carraig an Aifrinn
Mass was said here in secret. This mass rock sits on An Dún Mór which was a place of prominence. After the coming of Christianity many ancient sites in Ireland were then used by the community for Christian worship.

Cearta Slí
This recognised right of way led to Cosán Coise.

Cloch an Amhairc
From this lookout stone in Dobhar Íochtair people watched for British soldiers when mass was being said during penal times, and also if there were impending evictions.

Cloch Mhór Léim an tSionnaigh (An Coillín Darach)
The large rock of the leaping fox, also known as the giant’s teardrop. This huge rock is called a glacial erratic, these boulders were left behind at the end of the ice age (10,000 BC). This erratic is one of the largest, if not the largest in Ireland.
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**Cloch na Cuaiche**
It is said the first cuckoo was heard here in Dobhar Láir every summer.

**Cosán an Chaoráin**
This was a walking path through the bog.

**Cosán an Ghaoith/An Seanbhealach**
This path/track is marked on the 1837 Ordnance survey map, it ran the length of An Gaoth from An Clochán down to Sruthán Leac na nArm in Cnoc an Stollaire. Here it joined a network of paths that ran through Machaire Loiscthe and Baile an Droichid. In 1837 the inhabitants of the townland lived along An Gaoth This track was the main thoroughfare through Dobhar at that time. Curraghs were used by the men of Gaoth Dobhair and the Rosses to transport goods by sea to all the townlands along An Gaoth. The sea was the highway of its day and people made suitable landing places where their holdings met the sea.

This changed with the coming of Lord George Hill in 1838. He had the road between Dobhar and An Bun Beag built, and he then redistributed the land and moved the tenants. This left us with Dobhar as we know it today.

**Cosán Coise**
In every townland there were recognised walking pathways/cart tracks. This track in Dobhar Uachtair was marked on the 1837 Ordnance survey map and it joins the road that leads to the village of Croithlí.
**Cosán na hAbhann**
The path to the river, it ran from the An Caoran, Dobhar Íochtair to Plainc Thaidhg Hiúdaí at Abhainn na Cláidí.

**Creag na Malacha Buí**
The prominent rock or rocky place around the yellow brae in Dobhar Uachtair.

**Creag Nóra Ruaidh (Ní Ghallchobhair)**
This large mound is on the main road in Dobhar Láir.

**Críoch an Bhaile**
This is the boundary of the townland of Dobhar where it meets Croithlí. The word críoch means the limit or boundary. In olden times the natural features of the land, rocks, rivers and streams would have marked boundaries.

**Cuibhreann na Farraige**
This field is beside An Gaoth and refers to the nearby sea. Most small holdings in Dobhar would have had a field called Cuibhreann na Farraige as the all the farms ran down to An Gaoth.

**Cuibhreann Sheáin (Ó Baoill)**
Seán’s field.

**Dobhar Íochtair**
Lower Dobhar. From Sruthán Leac na nArm to Teach Rose Marie.
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**Dobhar Láir**
Middle Dobhar. From Teach Rose Marie to An Canáil

**Dobhar Uachtair**
Upper Dobhar. From An Canáil to An Crosbhealach
Dobhar Uachtair.

**Doire na Mainséar**
The enclosure of little oak grove. This townland is in the Rosses and looks over at the sloping fields of Dobhar that run down to An Gaoth.

**Droichead Bhraighní**
This was the original bridge that crossed Abhainn na Cláidí at Mín Doire Dhamh before the ESB built the present structure.

**Droichead Chroithlí**
This bridge is the boundary between Gaoth Dobhair and the Rosses, it joins Croithlí and An Coillín Darach.

**Droichead Dhomhnaill ‘ic Aoidh**
Dónall McGee’s Bridge. This small bridge crosses An Sruthán Mór and marks the road division between Dobhar and An tArd Donn.

**An Droichead Gorm**
The blue bridge. This bridge was built over the canal by the ESB, and has undergone recent renovation.
Faoi Thobar Pheadair Dhomhnaill Éamoinn (Ó Gallchobhair)
The field below Peadar’s well, this well is close to An Liosachán. There is usually a well near a fairy fort. Christianity abolished the old beliefs and took over many of these sites. The wells then became holy wells.

Faoin Dún Bán
The field below An Dún Bán.Dobhar Uachtair.

Foinse an Sceailpín
The spring of the little rock. In Gaoth Dobhair the word scealpín describes a small fissure or cleft in a rock. It sits on the Dobhar side of Sruthán Leac na nArm just before Lag Mhéidgí Úí Bhaoill.

Garradh an tSeantí/Áit an tSeantí
Garden/Place of the old house. This field beside Mín na gCat in Dobhar Láir takes its name from an old house that once stood here. The house appears on the 1837 Ordnance survey map.

Garradh Anna (Ní Bhaoill)
Anna’s garden. Small fields like this were usually for growing vegetables. Near Malaidh Pheigí (Ní Bhaoill) in Dobhar Uachtair.

Garradh na mBratach/Garradh na mBratóg
The garden of the clothes or cloth. The word bratach is the Irish word for a flag or a piece of cloth. During penal times,
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if a priest was preparing to celebrate mass, notice would given to the local population by the placing of a large piece of cloth, usually white, on a rock in this field in Dobhair Uachtair.

**Gealasacha Dhobhair**

The field formation running down to An Gaoth. The long thin strips were said to resemble men’s braces by the people looking at them from Doire na Mainséar on the other side of An Gaoth.

Lord George Hill attempted to change the manner in which land had been distributed after he bought his estate. The old rundale system whereby tenants held land in several locations was done away with. He wanted all tenants to have a central cottage situated on the holding surrounded by the land they would farm. Hill met with resistance in Dobhar. He eventually compromised and the holdings were laid out running North to South between Abhainn na Cláidí and An Gaoth. This resulted in long narrow cuts. Many holdings were so narrow that cottages had be built longways. This gave rise to the description, Gealasacha Dhobhair.

**Gort an tSrutháin**

The field of the stream in Dobhar Uachtair, behind Páirc Den Dhónaí.
Heath Cottage
Lord George Hill came to Gaoth Dobhair in 1838 and started purchasing the first of his 23,000 acres. This cottage was built by him as his primary residence in Mín Doire Dhamh.

Idir an Dá Dhún
Between Dún Mór and Dún Bán.

Lag an Chaoráin
The low bog.

Lag Chit Róise (Nic Ruairí)
Chit Róise’s place.

Lag Mhéidgí Uí Bhaoill
Méidgí’s place, this stretch of road is where Cnoc an Stollaire ends and Dobhar Íochtair begins.

Lag na hÁithe
The site/place of the kiln, on the 1880 Ordnance Survey map there are six lime kilns in Dobhar, the kilns were usually built near the source of the limestone. The lime from the kilns was used to fertilise the soil and to make lime mortar for building. The shells of oysters and mussels were burned to produce lime which was used as a bleaching agent for whitewashing houses and out buildings. By the end of the 19th century industrial, mass produced lime became readily available in rural areas and lime kilns fell out of use.
Lána Mhalaidh Hughie Phadaí (Ó Baoill)
The brae where the lane to Hughie Phadaí’s house joins the the main road in Dobhar Uachtair.

Lána Trasna
Two lanes cross here in the patchwork of fields that run down to An Gaoth in Dobhar Uachtair. Banna Ceoil Dhobhair practiced here. The band was formed by An tAthair Seámus Mac Pháidín around 1894 and they were taught by Tarlach Mac Suibhne, An Píobaire Mór (1). Tarlach spent two winters tutoring the band and it was said that the Banna Ceoil Dhobhair played tunes a note higher than other bands because they were taught to play by a piper.

Tarlach would travel up to Dobhar on horseback and if the weather was bad he would stay overnight with his relations, Clann Jimí Dhonnchaidh (Mac Suibhne) who lived beside An Bhinn Bhuí in Dobhar Uachtair. Jimí’s wife was Peigí Phádraig Airt (Úí Dhomhnaill). She was a cousin of Pádraig Mhicheáil Airt and a granddaughter of Art Ó Domhnaill. (2)

In 1893 Tarlach Mac Suibhne and a group of Gaoth Dobhair people had made the long journey to ‘The World’s Fair’ in Chicago. (3)

(1) See paragraph An Píobaire Mór
(2) See paragraph Clann Airt Úí Domhnaill
(3) See paragraph The Chicago World’s Fair 1893
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**Leac an Locha**
The flagstone beside the loch. This flag overlooks what was Loch Bun Ruibhe, Dobhar Íochtair

**Leachta Tharlaigh Uí Chomhaill**
Tarlach Uí Chomhaill’s memorial or flag stone. There are several stories about this stone. One was that newborn babies who died before baptism were buried here. Another story says that a cave beneath this stone runs underground and ends at Mín na gCat, and that a hoard of gold is buried here.

The legend of caves and buried gold is told in relation to other sites locally. It’s said that a cave ran from An Caiseal in the townland of Muine Dhubh/Machaire Loiscthe to the ancient standing stone An Stollaire, in Cnoc an Stollaire.

**Loch an Lín**
Líon is the Irish word for flax. There is little record of flax being grown locally in the recent past although it’s known some was sewn in small amounts. This small lake in Dobhar Uachtair is now covered in vegetation. It’s visible on the Ordnance Survey Ireland website aerial map as it’s a green patch surrounded by brown bogland.

**Loch Bun Ruibhe**
A small lake in Dobhar Íochtair, long since dried up. The Irish word ruibh means sulphur. Sulphur occurs naturally in sediment deposits. It has many health benefits and is also used as fertiliser.
Loch Fhada
This long thin loch is now filled with vegetation. It sits on the boundary between the two townlands, Dobhar and Cnoc an Stollaire. Sruthán Leac na nArm runs from An Gaoth to Abhainn na Cláidí, passing through Loch Fhada.

Mainnear na hEasóige/Garraí na hEasóige
The enclosure or garden of the weasel. Beside An Bealach Garbh in Dobhar Íochtair.

Malaidh Éamoinn
Éamonn’s brae or slope. Dobhair Láir

Malaidh na Casláí
This brae leads down to An Caslach. (small landing place) on An Gaoth, a common placename anywhere the land meets the sea.

Malaidh Pheigí (Ní Bhaoil)
Peigí’s slope/brae in Dobhar Uachtair. This brae passed Peigí’s field hence the name.

Malaidh Sheáin Tharlaigh (Ó Gallchobhair)
Seán Beag’s slope or brae. He lived in Dobhar Íochtair and worked for Cóp Dobhair delivering goods on a horse and cart.

Mín na Gaoithe
The windy plain, this is on the left hand side of the road approaching the village of Croithlí.
**Mín na gCat/Páirc na gCat**
Cat is an Irish word for knotted roots in the soil and this means the plain of roots. This is poor land near Áit na tSeantí in Dobhar Láir.

**Na Tomógaí Bána**
This refers to an area of white grass growing in An Caorán Uachtair. The word tomach means bushy or tufted.

**Oileán Mhaoin Dhobhair/An Reannaigh Fhada**
The island sits in An Gaoth between Gaoth Dobhair and the Rosses. The word maoin can mean treasure or wealth. The island was also called An Reannaigh Fhada. Reannaigh comes from the word rinn, which means point, tip or promontory, often pronounced as Rann.

**Páirc an Chlochair Mhóir**
The stony field, Dobhar Uachtair.

**Páirc an Dúin**

**Páirc Charlie Jimí Dhonnchaidh (Mac Suibhne)**
Charlie Jimí’s field, Dobhar Uachtair.
**Páirc Charlie Óig**
Young Charlie’s field, Dobhar Uachtair

**Páirc Chití (Níc Ruairí)**
Cití’s field, Dobhar Uachtair.

**Páirc Choilm**
Colm’s field. The field at the river before Poll Neidí.

**Páirc Den Dhónaí (Mac Aoidh)**
Den Dhónaí’s field, Dobhar Uachtair

**Páirc Eoghan Éamoinn Shíle (Ó Gallchobhair)**
Eoghan’s field, Dobhar Láir.

**Páirc Faoin Lána**
The field below the lane. Under LánaTrasna in Dobhar Uachtair

**Páirc Jimí Dhonnchaidh (Mac Suibhne)**
Jimí Dhonnchaidh’s field, Dobhar Uachtair.

**Páirc Mhánuís (Ó Baoill)**
The field of the family of Mánus Ó Baoill, Dobhar Uachtair.

**Páirc na gCruach**
The field of the stacks. This relates back to when all the land was worked and there would have been stacks of hay
or corn here. This field is behind Ard na Maoile in Dobhar Láir.

**Páirc na hAbhna**
The field beside the river. Beside Plainc Joe Thaidhg in Dobhar Íochtair

**Páirc na Siógaí**
The fairy field. The field is below An Dún Mór which would have been a significant place to local people stretching back hundreds of years. It could have been a sacred site and because of this there is an association with Na Síogaí

**Páirc Neid (Mac Aoidh)**
Ned’s Field, Dobhar Uachtair.

**Páirc Pheadair (Mac Ruairí)**
Peadar’s field, Dobhar Uachtair.

**Páirc Thaidhg Hiúdaí (Ó Gallchobhair)**
Tadhg’s field ran from his house to Abhainn na Cláidí beside An Plainc.

**Plainc Joe Thaidhg Hiúdaí (Ó Gallchobhair)**
Cosán na hAbhna passed Teach Thaidhg Hiúdaí and led to An Plainc. This was a busy path as people used it travelling in both directions. Joe spent most of his working life in the USA, eventually retiring back to the family holding. Far away from the hustle and bustle of America he lived the
simple life beside the river watching over An Plainc. He passed away in 1977 and the house was closed. Today Plainc Joe Thaidhg is in a state of disrepair and unsafe for public use and Cosán na hAbhna overgrown.

**Poll an Choraidh**
The weir pool. This pool is at the head of An Gaoth beside An Clochán.

**Poll an Ghainimh**
The sand pit in Dobhar Uachtair. Local people used sand from this pit.

**Poll Bhraighníst**
Bhraighníst’s pool. This pool is below the site of the original bridge at Mín Doire Dhamh before the ESB built the present bridge.

**Poll Dhonaíí (Mac Aoidh)**
Donaií’s pool, this where the land meets An Gaoth at the power house.

**Poll Frainc Shéamuis Dhonnchaidh (Ó Colla)**
Frank’s pool.

**Poll John Thaidhg (Mac Pháidín)**
John Thaidhg’s pool. In front of Reannaigh Fhada on An Gaoth.
Poll Mór Neidí (Mac Suibhne)
This is a deep river pool in Dobhar Uachtair.

Poll na Carracha
The word Carrach has several meanings and relates to rocky, or rock encrusted or rough. This is the narrowest point of An Gaoth between the Rosses and Gaoth Dobhar.

Poll na Casláí
The pool is in front of An Chaslaigh.

Poll na gCnámh
The hollow of the bones. It’s said this field was used to bury unbaptised children, another story says that this field could have been used when animals were being butchered. It’s near Garradh Anna in Dobhar Uachtair.

Poll Rubastúín/Robertson
This river pool beside Plainc Thaidhg Hiúdaí was named after William Robinson, the landlord’s agent. The Irish name for this pool that would have been used by local people long before it was called Poll Rubastúín has been lost in time.

Seanbheairic Dhobhair
This was a building erected by the British. It stood in Dobhar Íochtair beside Sruthán Leac na nArm. It was strategically placed near An Gaoth and close to the track that ran from An Clochán to Cnoc an Stóllaire. The Ordnance survey map of 1837 shows a sizable structure
here but on the 1888 map there are no buildings in the area. When Lord Hill bought his Gaoth Dobhair estate he had the road from Dobhar to An Bun Beag road built and he made An Bun Beag the administrative and commercial centre of the area. After a new barracks was built on the road to the harbour, there was no longer any need for the building in Dobhar. The book Dobhar: ár nOidhreacht (1999) referred to the building. It stated at that time stones that had been part of the walls were visible.

Patrick Phadaí Antain (Ó Gallchobhair) from Dobhar Íochtair grew up in the late 20s and as child he played among the remnants of the building. When interviewed in September 2015 aged 89, he spoke about it, he said;

“Bhí an bhearic sin trasna, b'fhéidir, ar cheithre chuid: cuid Uí Churreáin, cuid s'againne, cuid Dhónaill Néill agus cuid Sheáin Bhig (Ó Gallchobhair). B'fhéidir cuid Ned John Fheargail (Ó Baoill). Bhí sé ag gabháil trasna cineál do mhullach a bhí ag gabháil trasna agus gheobhfeá giota do chlocha coimhthíocha ar mhullach an talamh ansin, clocha donna a bhí chomh ghear chóir a bheith le barr piocáide agus nuair a bhí muidinne inár bpáistí bhí iontas orainn ach níor choinnigh muid a' cheann ariamh nach a dháth”.

(Patrick Phadaí Antain (Ó Gallchobhair) interview with Seán Ó Domhnaill, Cnoc an Stollaire, 2015)
“The barracks crossed maybe four fields, cuid Ó Churreáin, cuid s'againne, cuid Dhónaill Néill and cuid Sheáin Bhig, maybe even cuid Ned John Fheargail. It went across a sort of mullach. You would get pieces of odd-looking rocks on the ground; brown-coloured rocks that were almost as sharp as the point of a pickaxe. We used to be amazed at them as children but we never kept any of them”.

Patrick talks of the barracks crossing four fields. The 1837 Ordnance survey map shows the building running North to South in one field. Beside it a structure can be seen crossing four fields. This looks like a livestock pound. The footprint of this building and fragments of stone from the walls can still be seen today.

**Seanhalla Dhobhair**
The old Dobhar hall. The hall was the focal point of the local community. It was used for dances and social gatherings and Banna Ceoil Dhobhair used it for practice. The hall fell into disrepair and was eventually demolished. In 2006 Ionad Naomh Pádraig, the new community centre opened in Dobhar Uachtair beside Scoil Phádraig. Today all community-based activities revolve around Ionad Naomh Pádraig.

**Seanscoil Dhobhair:1882-1932**
This school house sits at the top of Dobhar Uachtair. It eventually became the home of Leo Brennan and his wife Máire Ní Dhúgáin. They nurtured a love of music in their
children who, with their uncles, Noel and Pádraig Ó Dúgáin, joined together and went on to make their name in the world of music. As Clannad they sang new versions of the old songs in our language.

**Sruthán Leac na nArm**
The stream of the flagstone of weapons/army. This name probably pre-dates the British barracks and refers to an earlier battle. The stream runs from An Gaoth to Abhainn na Cláidí via Loch Fhada. It marks the boundary between Dobhar and Cnoc an Stollaire.

**Stáisiún Chroithlí (An Coillín Darach)**
The little oak wood, the site of the old station.

**Stáisiún Ghaoth Dobhair**
The West Donegal branch line of the Lough Swilly and Londonderry Railway came through Gaoth Dobhair station on its way to Ailt an Chorráin. This was a great boost to the developing local fishery as it gave access to new markets.

The coming of the railway made it easier for the people from Gaoth Dobhair and the Rosses to leave in search of employment. After getting the train to Derry they went to Scotland, England, or the USA. Some went for seasonal work but the majority who left made their lives away from Donegal, returning only for holidays.

**Teach an Gheafta, Dobhair Uachtair**
This was railway gate house No17, and was one of a series
of gatehouses that serviced the line of the Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway. After the railway closed in 1947 most of the gatehouses eventually became private dwellings. This gatehouse is situated on the main road in Dobhar Uachtair and was the site of a level crossing.

Teach an Gheafta, Croithlí
This small railway gate house in Croithlí, stands on the left hand side of the road on the brae that approaches the village from Dobhar. Charlie Duggan from Croithlí lived here. He operated the gate for the railway and was known as ‘Charlie an Gheafta’. Padaí Mhuiris Phadaí Néill (Ó Duibhir) was originally from Machaire Loiscthe. When he married Charlie’s daughter, Sarah, they lived here and reared their family. He was then known as ‘Padaí an Gheafta’.

Teach an Ghréasaí
The house of the cobbler. Charlie Hughie Phadaí (Ó Baoill) mended shoes in a shed beside his house in Dobhar Uachtair. His father, Hughie Phadaí was a weaver. He was with the party of Gaoth Dobhair people that included Tarlach Mac Suibhne who travelled to the ‘Chicago World’s Fair’(1) in 1893. Banna Ceoil Dhobhair practised in this house in the forties.

(1)See paragraph The Chicago World’s Fair 1893

Teach Chití
Citi’s house. This house in Dobhar Uachtair is marked on the 1888 Ordnance survey map. We don’t know who Citi
was but this small house was a teach airneáil or gathering house for song, stories and recalling history. In times gone by, when a newspaper could be obtained, one man would read the newspaper to the people who gathered here.

**Teach Dhonnchaidh (Ó Connacháin)**

In February 1888 an eviction was attempted in the village of Croithlí next to the townland of Dobhar. Donnchadh Ó Connacháin and his wife Siubhán Mhicí Tharlaigh (Ní Dhuibhir), who was from Oileán Ghabhla were to be evicted from their house that stood on the corner of the Croithlí to Mín Uí Bhaoill road. Over one thousand people surrounded the house, making it physically impossible for the eviction to take place. The eviction was postponed and the troops and baliffs withdrew. The arrears were eventually settled at a later date and no eviction took place. This incident is described in the book, *A History of Landlordism in Donegal* (1962).

**Teach Éamoinn Bhig (Ó Baoill)**

This was one of the four households in Dobhar where the 1911 census form was completed in Irish when English was the language of officialdom. The use of Irish by the people was encouraged by the Gaelic League, founded in 1893. The Irish language was banned under the 17th century Penal Laws and it suffered a huge decline. The 1831 National Schools Act made children wear tally sticks around their necks, earning a severe slapping by teachers for a child caught using Irish in school. It often takes
several generations to return to the natural language of an area thus affected.

Éamonn’s wife was Maire McI Tharlaigh (Ní Dhuibhír) from Oileán Ghabhla, she was a sister of Suibhán Uí Chonnacháin. Suibhán and her husband Donnchadh resisted eviction from their cottage in Croithlí in the land war of 1887/8.

**Teach Eoghain Éamoinn Shíle (Ó Gallchobhair)**
This was the family home of the noted Gaith Dobhair and Donegal footballer Hiúdaí Beag Ó Gallchobhair and his sisters, the traditional singers, Annie and Cití. They were neighbours of the singer Síle McI who taught them many songs.

**Teach Mhéidgí Sheimí (Uí Bhaoill)**
This was the first house in Dobhar when coming from Cnoc an Stollaire toward Dobhar. Mheidgí’s maiden name was Ní Dhúgáin and this was her family’s farm. This was a well-known teach airneáil and with this being the first house in Dobhar, it was known as landmark that gave people their bearings in the times when people walked everywhere.

**Teach Mhicí Mháiní (Ó Domhnaill)**
Micí lived in Dobhar Íochtair. He was noted for his knowledge of local history and in particular the genealogy of his family. He went to live with his sister in An Charraig, Doirí Beag in the 70s and his house was closed. He was the
last descendant of the name of Clann Airt Uí Dhomhnaill (3) to live in Dobhar.

3. See chapter Clann Airt Uí Domhnaill

**Teach Pheadair Dhomhnaill Éamoinn (Ó Gallchobhair)**
The home of Peadar Dhomhnaill and his wife, the noted singer Síle Mhicí Nic Fhionnlaoich. Banna Ceoil Dhobhair practiced here in the late forties and early fifties.

**Taobh an Locha**
The area above the now dried up Loch Bun Ruibhe.

**Taobh an tSrutháin**
The area around Sruthán Leac na nArm above Loch Fhada.

**Teach Pheigí Eoghain (Uí Bhaoill)**
In October 1887, an incident took place here that is long remembered by the people of Dobhar. A force of one hundred soldiers and baliffs arrived to evict the widow Peigí Eoghain who lived in Dobhar Uachtair. Three attacks by the force were repulsed by five defenders, two men and three women, including Peigí. Both sides reached a stalemate and withdrew. No eviction took place but the defenders were later imprisoned. This was the last attempted eviction in Dobhar. A plaque marks this site.

This story is also notable for the fact that before the third attack the soldiers were told to prepare to open fire. One
soldier, Tomás Ó Haughrey from Tír Eoghan refused to fire on his compatriots and laid down his rifle. He was taken from the ranks and escorted back to barracks. After being disciplined, he left the army. This story is told in great detail in the book *Dobhar: ár nOidhreacht* (1999).

**Teorainn an Bhaile**
This is the boundary of the townland of Dobhar and An tArd Donn beside Droichead Dhomhnaill ‘ic Aoidh.

**Tobar an Lána**
The well on the lane, near the pipeline in Dobhar Uachtair.

**Tobar Beag**
The little or small well. The land in Dobhar drops significantly from the main road and all water gravitates toward An Gaoth. This meant there were many wells here, families didn’t have far to go for water. Today these wells are mostly overgrown and covered in.

**Tobar Eoghan Éamoinn Shíle (Ó Gallchobhair)**
Eoghan Éamoinn’s well is behind the old Ó Gallchobhair family home in Dobhar Láir.

**Tobar Hughie Phadaí (Ó Baoill**
Hughie Phadaí’s well. The well in the field beside Hughie’s house in Dobhar Uachtair.
Tobar Mhicí (Ó Baoill)
Micí’s well. This well is not far from Malaidh Pheigí (Ní Bhaoill) in Dobhar Uachtair.

Tobar na Spáinneach
The well of the Spanish. Tales are told that sailors from the ill-fated Spanish Armada (1588) sailed up An Gaoth and drew water from this well. There’s no written documentation to support this but ships from the Armada were wrecked on this coastline. At that time the estuary would have been a lot deeper than it is today and large ships would have been able to enter it with ease.

Tobar Nóra Ruaidh (Ní Ghallchobhair)
Nora’s well, near Cloch na Cuaiche in Dobhar Láir.

Tobar Pheadair Dhomhnaill Éamoinn (Ó Gallchobhair)
Peadar’s well, this well is in the field above An Liosachán, Dobhar Láir.

Tóin na Mainnre
The bottom of the enclosed field, this is a recurring placename.
The exact locations of these placenames discovered during research could not be confirmed.

**An Bhinn Mhór**
The high cliff or ledge.

**An Chloch Bhán**
The white rock, a common placename.

**An Chreag Bheag**
The small rocky place.

**An Cuibhreann Mór**
The big field, this common placename appears in most townlands.

**An Díog Mhór**
The big ditch or drain.

**An Droichead Beag**
The little bridge. This referred to a small bridge that crossed An Sruthán Mór.

**An Droim**
The ridge.

**An Garradh Dubh**
The black garden. This would refer to good soil.
An Garradh Úr
New garden. In this case it was several gardens that were joined together to make a new, larger field.

An Ghreallóg
This is the Irish word for puddle.

An Lag Mór
The large hollow or low place.

An Paiste Bán
A white patch, referring to a field or piece of ground.

An Seascann Beag
The little marsh or swamp.

An tArd Bán
The white high ground/upland.

An tArdán Beag
The small height.

Ard an Sconsa
The word sconsa relates to earthworks, a trench, drain, or fence.

Ard na Leice Báine
The height of the white flagstone.

Béal na Mainnre
Grassy place; grassy riverside or shore. Creeping bent-
Dobhar

grass, (fiorin). This refers to grass which was used as cattle feed. It was known as feoirthín.

**Binn Éamoinn**
Eamonn’s peak or cliff.

**Caisleán na mBaoilleach**
The Boyles were chieftains of West Donegal until the early 16th century. Lore has it that the Boyles had a fort or stronghold in Dobhar. Supposedly it was taken over by Clann tSuibhne but there’s no documentary evidence to support this and no remnants of any buildings exist. *The Archaeological Survey of County Donegal* (1987) recorded Dobhar Láir as the site of a ring fort.

**Cloch na Míol**
The word míol can relate to animals or insects.

**Cloch na Stucaí**
The rock of the stooks. This comes from a recording where the speaker talks about three piles of stones that resembled stooks of corn, hence the name.

**Cuibhreann na Leice Móire**
The field of the large flagstone, flatstone or rock.

**Cúl an Droma**
Back part of the ridge.
Faoi Bhinn Éamoinn
Under/below Eamonn’s peak.

Garradh an tSiogail
The garden of rye grass.

Garradh na Ceárta
The garden of the forge. The forge was somewhere in Dobhar Uachtair, around the top of An Gaoth. It was said pikes made here were used in engagements with crown forces in turbulent times.

Mullach an Droma
Top of the ridge.

Na Scraithe
Scraith or scraw is a piece of the top sod that’s been pared off the land.

Páirc an Smutáin
A smután is a stump of wood or a piece of bogwood.

Páirc na gCloch
The field of stones.

Páirc na Scóig
Scóig is the Irish word for neck, this relates to a narrow strip of land.
Poll na Mac Tíre
The hollow or hole of the wolves. The last recorded wolf in Ireland was killed in 1786.

Scealpín an Ghabhair
The splinter of rock of the goats. This is an old placename as there have been no goats in the townland of Dobhar for many years.
There have been eight shops in Dobhar:

An Cóp, Siopa Thaidhg John Thaidhg (Mac Pháidín), Dobhar Íochtaír.
Druideadh an siopa sa bhliain 1978.

An Seanchóp, Siopa Joe Fheargail Mhánuis (Ó Baoill), Dobhar Íochtaír.
Druideadh an siopa sa bhliain 1952.

Siopa Mhary Thomáis Thuathail (Ní Cholla), Dobhar Íochtaír.
Druideadh an siopa sa bhliain 1963.

Siopa Mhéabha Chonaill Ailic (Úí Bhaoill), Dobhar Láir.
Druideadh an siopa sa bhliain 1936.

Siopa Sally Mhór Sheáin a’ Dualtaigh (Úí Fhearraigh), Dobhar Láir.
Druideadh an siopa sa bhliain 1961.

Siopa Den Jimí Dhonnchaidh (Mac Suibhne), Dobhar Uachtair.
Druideadh an siopa sa bhliain 1949.

Siopa Tom Farley, Dobhar Uachtair.
Druideadh an siopa sa bhliain 1935.

Siopa Bhríd Ní Dhúgáin, Dobhar Uachtair.
Druideadh an siopa sa bhliain ????
Tarlach Mac Suibhne, was known as An Píobaire Mór. He was born in Ard Leathan, Gleann Fhinne (c 1831) and died in 1916 in An Luinnigh, Gaoth Dobhair. He was famed for his prowess as a musician, and has been called one of Ireland’s greatest ever pipers.

Tarlach, son of Éamonn Rua was also the hereditary, lineal chieftain of ‘Clann tSuibhne na dTuatha’, his bloodline stretching back over 500 years.

The family were dispossessed in 1689 after the Williamite war and remained homeless and landless, moving frequently. They moved to An Dúchoraidh, then to Droim na Tine, An Fál Carrach, then on to Doire Bheatha. There they lived on the farm of Éamonn Óg, Tarlach’s brother.

In April 1861 all 244 tenants were evicted were from the Doire Bheatha estate by the landlord, John George Adair. He wanted to clear the land of people and replace them with sheep. The journey of the family is recorded in the book ‘The Sweeneys, Fánaid, Báinigh, na dTuatha’ (1997).

In 1990 a plaque was erected to the memory of all the people who were evicted that day. It reads:

‘April was the month of the shattered hearth’.
Around 1870 Tarlach moved to Gaoth Dobhair and lived in An Luinnigh. He had relations in Dobhar, Cnoc an Stollaire and An Clochán Liath, in the Rosses. He was a prominent figure in Gaoth Dobhair because of his musical ability, and he was sought after to provide music and song in a time when people struggled with the hardships of everyday life. He often clashed with authority in the form of the parish priest.

It was said that all his life he carried himself with great dignity and bearing, befitting a man descended from the chieftains of Clann tSuibhne na dTuatha. Tarlach is buried in Machaire Gathlán cemetery.

Clann Uí Dhochartaigh were hereditary craftsmen and musicians to Na Dálaigh (Clann Uí Dhomhnaill). Dispossessed after Imeacht na nIarlaí (1607), they took to the road like Clann tSuibhne.

At the beginning of the 19th century Aodh Ó Dochartaigh married Neansaí/Nannie Rua Nic S’huibhne who was a sister of Éamonn Rua and an aunt An Píobaire. It’s believed they were living in around An Clochán Liath. Both of them had numerous relatives in West Donegal in Gaoth Dobhair and the Rosses.

From the union of Aodh and Neansaí descended the Dohertys, one of the great musical dynasties of Ulster, with three generations of gifted pipers, fiddlers and singers. Neansaí was the greatgrandmother of the famous Doherty
Dobhar

fiddlers, Johnny, Mickey and Simon. This branch of the family spent their time living and travelling in South Donegal but it’s believed they would visit with their relatives in Dobhar occasionally.

Up until, and including the 20th century, the tradition of the Dohertys being tinsmiths and travelling musicians continued but times were changing and their way of life would soon disappear forever.

They were the last of the Bards.

Two documentaries were made that tell the story of the family, *Fiddler on the road* (UTV 1990), and *Ar leirg na Gaoithe* (TG4 2012).
Dobhar

Clann Uí Dhomhnaill as Dobhar

Art Ó Domhnaill and his family lived in Dobhar Láir. Listed in the Tithe Book of 1829 Art was farming over six acres and for this he was paying 2 shillings and six pence of a tithe. He farmed his small holding and had a large family circle around Dobhar, Croithlí and Cnoc an Stollaire but his grandchildren would write the name Ó Domhnaill into the history books and it would be known far outside of their native townland of Dobhar.

Life in Gaoth Dobhair was very harsh and many young men and women left home to seek employment and make a new lives for themselves. Mánas Airt (Ó Domhnaill) and his family moved to the USA and lived in coal rich Pennsylvania. Mánas’s children were reputedly involved with a group known as ‘The Molly Maguires’, an Irish American secret society active on behalf of Irish immigrant coal miners in Pennsylvania. They agitated on behalf of the miners for better conditions and fair wages but the forces of the establishment were ranged against them. In tit-for-tat exchanges violent atrocities were committed by both sides.

It culminated in what was known as ‘The Wiggans Patch Massacre’. Charlie Mhánais Airt (Ó Domhnaill), his sister, Ellen O’Donnell McAllister and her unborn baby were murdered that night on December 10th 1875, after their house was attacked. Their mother Maighréad (Ní Dhuibhir)
survived. James Mhánais Airt escaped with his life that night. He fled to New York, hiding out with relatives.

No one was ever prosecuted for the murders but it’s suspected it was set up and carried out by vigilantes, employed by the mining companies and trained by the Pinkerton detective agency.

The purge of the The Molly Maguires was completed between 1877/78. Twenty men were hanged for a variety of crimes, including murder. The men were all found guilty in showtrials but some of these men were certainly innocent. One of the men was John ‘Black Jack’ Kehoe the husband of Mary Ellen O’Donnell, sister of Charlie and Ellen.

In January 1979 the Governor of Pennsylvania Milton J. Shapp issued a full pardon to John ‘Black Jack’ Kehoe, calling the 1877/78 trials “A gross miscarriage of justice”.

To this day The Wiggans Patch Massacre looms large in the history of mining in Pennsylvania and in the rise of the organised labour movement in the USA.

Pádraig Mhícheáil Airt followed the path of emigration. It’s known that Pádraig travelled to Scotland, and then to America for work.

It’s probable that Pádraig spent time with his cousins in Pennsylvania and returned to Ireland for a visit before deciding to go to South Africa and seek his fortune.
Aboard the ship Melrose Pádraig met James Carey who was calling himself Power. They initially became friendly but sometime into the journey a row developed between the men, and Pádraig drew his pistol and shot Carey.

Carey was on his way to South Africa to start a new life after he had betrayed a group of Fenians known as the Invincibles after their killing of English Lord Lieutenant Cavendish and Under Secretary Burke, in the Phoenix Park in May 1882.

Pádraig was arrested and sent back to London to stand trial. Pádraig Mhícheál Airt (Ó Domhnaill) was hanged on the 17th December 1883 in Newgate prison, London, for the shooting of the police informer James Carey aboard the ship Melrose, enroute to South Africa.

We cannot be sure if Pádraig had any involvement with ‘The Mollies’ or that he had been sent to kill Carey but for many writers this was a romantic story. He was a gallant Irish man who had fought for downtrodden miners, then he had been sent to kill an informer who had betrayed Irish patriots, finally meeting his death on a scaffold at the hands of the English.

The World’s Fair was set up in the mid 19th Century by the emerging nations to exhibit their cultures, also primarily to highlight all new innovations and advances in industry and technology. Mrs. Alice Hart and her husband, Ernest, were English philanthropists, who, on discovering the extreme poverty in Donegal, sought to alleviate conditions.

They hoped to create employment opportunities by reviving local cottage industries and advertising the products in Ireland and the UK. She decided to showcase these products and skills at the 1893 World’s Fair in Chicago. With this in mind she took a group artisans and musicians from Donegal that included a group from Gaoth Dobhair. For local Donegal people who had probably never even left their native parish this would have been an unforgettable trip, something which they would talk about for the rest of their lives.