

Family

Tadhg Dall Ó hÚigínn has a daughter Maire also a son Tadhg Óg. He inherited his father's land at Dooghorne in Achonry. [iv]

Knott Eleanor claimed that there was another brother Tomultach who was known as a 'rhymer.' [v]

Tadhg Dall Ó hÚigínn had a daughter Máire:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tadhg_Dall_%C3%93_hUiginn

Stick Man

The well - known late - Gaelic era poet Tadhg Dall Ó hÚigínn was often referred to as the 'Bard of Straide' or the 'Match - Stick Man of Straide.' [vi]

Called Dall ('blind') suggested that Tadhg Dall Ó hUiginn's vision was poor or absent:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tadhg_Dall_%C3%93_hUiginn

Education

Tadhg Dall Ó 'hÚigínn received training within his family circle also at the Bardic School of Cill Clunaigh where former ancestors studied. Subjects besides poetry were taught at the school ie. history, sagas, genealogy also traditional lore. [vii]

Tadhg Óg reported that students were sorry to hear the cuckoo's first song as they then had to break up for that term: (his quote) 'O ye who were in the house & sough the Art & residence well might it be hateful to you to hear the utterances of the cuckoo.' As the Waters Flow - Banada through the Years. [viii]

Tadhg Dall received his bardic training within his family clan. It was possible that he studied at a bardic school in Ceall Cluaine (in modern Co. Galway) that was associated with the Ó hUiginn bardic family: <https://www.dib.ie/index.php/biography/o-huiginn-tadhg-dall-a6383>)

Bardic Schools

Kilclooney Castle was a bardic school which was possibly constructed during the fifteenth / sixteenth centuries. During 1574 the castle was occupied by Donell Ó 'hÚigínn. There were three separate parts of the school held by Brien, Hugh also Tully during 1641. [ix]

The renowned Ó 'hÚigínn family established the school. The students studied filíoch for twelve years. Castle was known as (Cíil Cluanaig Church of the Meadow that suggested it was a site with cells) Traces of stone structures near the ruins of the old church are visible. [x]

Records portray that Donell Ó 'hÚigínn was in position during 1574 when he concluded that 'a well renowned bardic school' had its days numbered. There is very little left of the original tower house ruins. The ground floor with its vaulted roof & part of the second story remains. There are remains of a bawn or an enclosed lawn that possibly may have been lightly defended beside it. [xi]

An image of the ruined first floor of Cill Kilclooney may be viewed at this link:
<https://www.geograph.ie/photo/2329534>)

A news item from a Claremorris reporter for *The Western People* 28th February 1903 referred to Kilclooney Castle. (page 13) [xii]

Studies

The students studied *filíoch* for twelve years: <https://milltown.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>

Tadhg Dall referred in a poem (*see below*) that students attended from Ulster & Scotland. Cells provided privacy for students to study. Pupils not only had to remember what they had written but it was required that they recite the lesson verbatim! Academic year lasted from November to the following March with a Christmas break. [\[xiii\]](#)

‘So apparently the Kilclooney pupils had to not only write but also remember what they wrote and be able to recite it all verbatim. There were some curious ideas about student life including the rather bizarre suggestion that they would lay on their backs in their cells with stones on their chests to assist concentration. It is hard to comprehend the thinking behind that particular rule if indeed it was true.’ [\[xiv\]](#)

Tadhg Dall Ó hÚigínn recalled the Ulster students at the bardic school within this poem: ‘*Cáslean Chell Cluaine agus Scoil na bFile,*’

‘Seacht bhfir dhéag d’éigaibh Uladh

Do chuaidh d’Iarraich ealadhan

Dal an chuaine fhinn Ultaigh

Go o Cill Chluaine I g Connachtaibh.’ [\[xv\]](#)

Property

Tadhg Dall Ó hÚigínn possessed lands at Doughrane, Achonry also at Coolreuil at Kilmactigue apart from various other sites. Knott Eleanor translated his works for the *Irish Text Society*. She suggested that those lands were originally granted to his ancestors by the Sligo O ‘Conner Don family: <https://www.dib.ie/index.php/biography/o-huiginn-tadhg-dall-a6383>

Tadhg Dall Ó hÚigínn had lands at Achonry, Kilmactigue with numerous lands scattered throughout Co. Sligo: <https://straideprideofplace.ie/historical-cultural-society/>

Tadhg Dall Ó hÚigínn possessed lands at Doughrarane in Achonry also Coolreuil in Kilmactigue, various lands were situated among other areas in Co. Sligo. [\[xvi\]](#)

Tadhg Dall Ó hÚigínn became one of the largest native landowners in the county. He was appointed sheriff of Sligo in 1634 plus selected as a delegate to the Kilkenny Confederate Assembly during the 1660’s. [\[xvii\]](#)

Sheriff

Tadhg Dall Ó hÚigínn was appointed sheriff of Sligo in 1634: <https://www.dib.ie/index.php/biography/o-huiginn-tadhg-dall-a6383>

County Juror

Tadhg Dall Ó hUiginn served as a juror at various inquisitions taken in Sligo during 1584 & 1590. He was described as ‘*Tege Dall O Higgen de Dughorne*’ & ‘*Thadeus O Higgin de Cowlerecoll*’: <https://www.dib.ie/index.php/biography/o-huiginn-tadhg-dall-a6383>

Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn was appointed as a juror in the county: <https://infogalactic.com/>

Tadhg Dall Ó hUiginn served as a juror in Co. Sligo:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tadhg_Dall_%C3%93_hUiginn

Publications

A constant theme throughout Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn’s manuscripts included a distinct sense of Irish nationalism as he was acutely aware of the late sixteenth century political situation. Irish sovereignty that was under threat from Britain appeared in numerous his poems. He produced invasion studies in the *Lebor Gabel Erenn*. Several of his compositions were included in *The Book of O ‘Conner Don* also several are compiled in the O ‘Gadha Manuscript (*Ostend 1631 & Brussels / Lille c,1658*): These are available to peruse at RIA MS 23 F16. [\[xviii\]](#)

‘The Book of the Burkes’ is one surviving manuscript created by Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn with Dommhall’s son Ruaidhrí Ó ‘hÚiginn Dommhall. (*b. 1574 who was the scribe of Leabhar Cloinne Aodha Buidh*) [\[xix\]](#)

Status

Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn enjoyed a high status during his lifetime as reflected in the notable lords to whom he addressed his poetry. [\[xx\]](#)

Tadhg Dall Ó hUiginn enjoyed high status during his lifetime. He was welcomed at the great houses of Ireland where he was wined & dined extremely well by the hosts. It was reflected in the lords also the powerful & influential leaders that he performed his poems to. An indication of his status among contemporaries during the following decades were the numerous compositions found in important compilations of that era. [\[xxi\]](#)

His selection during the 1640’s as a delegate to the Confederate Assembly in Kilkenny reflected his local standing & influence: <https://www.dib.ie/index.php/biography/o-huiginn-tadhg-dall-a6383>

Addresses

Lords & chiefs addressed by Tadhg Dall Ó hUiginn's poetry included the following: Aodh Mac Seáin Ó Broin (*d. 1579*), Seán mac Oliver Bourke, Lord of Mac William Íochtar (*also called 'John Burke' died 1580*), Brían na Múrtha Ó Ruairc (*died 1591*), Conn Ó Dónaill (*died 1583*), Myler Burke (*died 1586*) Turlough Luineach O'Neill (*died 1595*) Cú Chonnacht Mag Uidhir (*died 1589*), Aodh Ó Dónaill (*died 1600*), Aodh Mag Uidhir (*died 1600*), The 7th Baron Dunsany Patrick Plunkett, (*died 1601*) also Cormac Ó hEadhra (*died 1612*) [\[xxii\]](#)

United Ireland

In a poem Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn endeavored to push the leader of the clan to unite all the clans against England: a challenge that Brian O ‘Rourke obeyed. Calls to unify against England or against some local enemy were a frequent theme in the bardic poems of that time. The province had split into small divisions under separate Leaders as each fought for their own piece of Land. Numerous bards believed that a United Ireland would give Irish people a better chance of fending off the enemy. Tadhg Dall O ‘hÚiginn’s address was possibly recited during 1566. (*below are the first & last stanzas*)

‘The man of war is he who dwells in safety,

*A well-worn adage that shall never cease,
Save only when it girdeth on its armour
May many-wooded Banba hope for peace.
Why sit ye still? the Clans of valorous Eoghan,
The Clans of Conn and Conor round you stand;
Do ye not hear the troops of Saxon England
March o'er your plains and trample down your land?
Let Brian, son of Brian, son of Eoghan,
Ponder if one man ever came away,
Arouse thee, valiant Brian of the Bulwarks!
And God be with the champions of the Gael!
The children of the seed of Conn and Eoghan
Stand round thee; canst thou fail?' [xxiii]*

Signatory

Tadhg Dall Ó hÚiginn was a signatory to the 1585 Composition of Connaught re the Elizabethan Government's hold over the West of Ireland. (*Marsh's Library*) (*Modern History (1500 - 1700)*) features issues (*Sept - Oct 2012*) vol 20. [xxiv]

Footnotes

[iv] Milltown's Bardic School (<https://milltown.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>) [Assessed 29th September 2019]

[v] Ibid

[vi] Straide Parish (<http://www.straideparish.com/sample/wp-content/uploads/POPfinal.pdf>) [Assessed 27th October 2020]

[vii] Tadhg Dall Ó hÚiginn (<https://infogalactic.com/>) [Assessed 29th September 2019]

[viii] Tadhg Dall Ó hÚiginn (<https://amayodruoid.blogspot.com/>) [Assessed 28th September 2019]

[ix] Kilclooney Castle (<https://visitgalway.ie/kilclooney-castle/>) [Assessed 28th September 2019]

[x] Milltown's Bardic School (<https://milltown.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>) [Assessed 29th September 2019]

[xi] Ibid

[xii] <https://westernpeople.ie/>

[xiii] Milltown's Bardic School (<https://milltown.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>) [Assessed 29th September 2019]

[xiv] Ibid

[xv] Castle in Galway (<https://visitgalway.ie/kilclooney-castle/>) [Assessed 29th September 2019]

[xvi] Tadhg Dall Ó hUiginn (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tadhg_Dall_%C3%93_hUiginn) [Assessed 29th September 2019]

[xvii] Tadhg Dall Ó 'hÚiginn (http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/o/OhUiginn_TD/life.htm) [Assessed 30th September 2019]

[xviii] Tadhg Dall Ó 'hÚiginn (<https://infogalactic.com/>) [Assessed 29th September 2019]

[xix] Kilclooney (<https://howlingpixel.com/i-en/Kilclooney>) [Assessed 28th September 2019]

[xx] Tadhg Dall Ó 'hÚiginn (<https://infogalactic.com/>) [Assessed 29th September 2019]

[xxi] Tadhg Dall Ó hUiginn (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tadhg_Dall_%C3%93_hUiginn) [Assessed 29th September 2019]

[xxii] Ibid

[xxiii] Long Lost Verses (<https://oldmooresalmanac.com/>) [Assessed 30th September 2019]

[xxiv] History Ireland (<https://www.historyireland.com/>) [Assessed 29th September 2019]