

Controversy

Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn once became involved in a bitter dispute between two branches of the Ó hEadhra (*O’Hara*) family, the Ó hEadhra Buí (*Yellow*) & the Ó hEadhra Rua (*Red*) clan:

<https://amayodruoid.blogspot.com>

Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn was involved in an unfortunate dispute between two branches of the Ó hEadhra (*O’Hara*) family or the Ó hEadhra Buí (*Yellow*) Clan with the Ó hEadhra Rua (*Red*) clan:

<https://straideprideofplace.ie/historical-cultural-society/>

Customs

As was the custom in ancient Ireland poets or bards composed works to highlight the hospitably or nobility of the hieftains. Those reports would have enhanced the reputation of the ruling chiefs. The result of a bard’s contribution would then have been reflected on. If the result was positive the reputation of the chieftain would be enhanced in the eyes of people through the public reading of the poem or verse. [xxv]

One specific poem by Bard Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn referenced his visit to Cormac Ó ‘Hara of the O ‘Hara Bui’ clan that was received with extremely favourable hospitality. He praised the chief’s clan members in battle, their genealogy & lineage. [xxvi]

Within Connacht another branch of the O ‘Hara Rua became extremely angered at Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn successes. (*previously they had been in contention with him in a matter of a Land Title*):

<https://amayodruoid.blogspot.com/>:

Retaliation

O ‘Hara Rua Clan perceived the success of Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn as another insult. They decided to retaliate. One night (*while he was absent from home*) six members O ‘Hara Rua broke into his house, they stole food & drink. [xxvii]

Later the clan feared that Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn would recall or report on their activities. Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn did produce a poem with the result that the O ‘Hara Rua became a laughing - stock throughout the country. Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn’s sharp tongue cost him his life at Banada Friary one Sunday afternoon during 1591. [xxviii]

Unfortunately his satirical poem that referred to the six robbers of the Ó ‘Eadhra family of Cashel Carragh, Kilmacteige led to a disastrous conclusion. [xxix]

Ambush

Several members of the O ‘Hara Rua family ambushed Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn. He managed to escape: he fled to the nearby priory where he requested Protection of God’s House. As the prior was a member of O Hara Rua Clan he refused Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn’s request. [xxx]

Demise

The ambush resulted in the horrifying demise of the poet at just forty – one years of age on 31st March 1591. (*The death of his wife & child were ordered at the same time*) [xxxi]

According to legend Tadhg was murdered in Banada Co.Sligo at the Corpus Christi Friary (*on a Sunday afternoon of March 1591*) by members of the Ó hEadhra Rua clan:
<https://straideprideofplace.ie/historical-cultural-society/>

Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn met a very traumatic demise circa 1591 as result of a feud with members of the O'Hara family: <https://www.dib.ie/index.php/biography/o-huiginn-tadhg-dall-a6383>

His son Tadhg Óg Ó hÚiginn was nine years old when his father was killed by members of the Ó hEadhra. He inherited his father's lands at Dooghorne in Achonry.[\[xxxii\]](#)

Straide Abbey

Tadhg Dall O ‘Huiginn was buried in the grounds of Straide Friary as his ancestors had lived in the area. The grave is marked by a simple gravestone marker that is inscribed with a carving of a matchstick man superimposed on a Celtic cross: <http://www.straideparish.com/sample/wp-content/uploads/POPfinal.pdf>)

Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn is interred in Straide Friary in Co. Mayo where his grave is marked with the image of a ‘Stickman.’ [\[xxxiii\]](#)

According to this site it was believed that Tadhg Dall O ‘Huiginn was buried within the grounds of Straide Abbey: <https://straideprideofplace.ie/historical-cultural-society/>

Aftermath

Those six O ‘Hara Rua family assassins responsible were eventually apprehended during 1593 They were sent to Sligo for trial but due to lack of witnesses or evidence they were all released. [\[xxxiv\]](#)

An inquisition was held during 1593 at Ballymote, Co. Sligo where it was recorded that Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn had died at Coolrecuil on the last day of March 1591. [\[xxxv\]](#)

A Chancery Inquisition held during 1617 provided evidence that members of the Ó hEadhra family of Cashel Carragh, Kilmacteige were responsible in 1591 for ‘*murdering one Teige Dall O Higgen [sic] his wife and childe in the year one thousand five hundred nineteen and one or thereabouts.*’ [\[xxxvi\]](#)

In an inquisition taken at Ballymote during 1593 it was testified that Tadhg Dall had died at ‘*Cowlrecoyll*’ on the last day of March 1591. Also that his son Tadhg Óg was aged nine years at the time of his father's death & he became his legitimate heir (*page 15*):
<https://www.dib.ie/index.php/biography/o-huiginn-tadhg-dall-a6383>

The murderers were eventually captured. Brought to Sligo for trial for their crime during 1593. Due to lack of witnesses & evidence they were released without charge:
<https://straideprideofplace.ie/historical-cultural-society/>

The six O ‘Hara Rua family assassins responsible were eventually apprehended during 1593 They were sent to Sligo for trial but due to lack of witnesses or evidence they were all released. [\[xxxvii\]](#)

Tributes

Daniel William *Tiomna Nuadh* praised Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn’s contribution in the opening pages of his translation into Irish of *The New Testament*. He said that he had relied on him to proof - read his work prior to printing. Seaán Ó Cearnaigh trial - printed a broadsheet during 1571 that contained a poem re. *Judgement Day* by the fifteenth century poet Pilip ‘Bocht’ Ó ‘hÚiginn. [\[xxxviii\]](#)

Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn was a signatory to the 1585 Composition of Connaught that sought to extend the Elizabethan Government’s hold over the West of Ireland. (*Marsh’s Library*) *Modern History (1500 -1700)* features issues (Sept – Oct 2012) vol 20. [\[xxxix\]](#)

Knott Eleanor penned that ‘*He shows in most of his poems a calm acceptance of the contemporary strife as though it were the natural order. Poetry flourished on it, & for him, like most bardic poets, the profession was the thing. The apprehension & sorrows which troubled Irish Poets of a slightly later period did not affect Tadhg Dall. Shadows palpable enough to us in his own poems, portended no disaster to him. We may take him as a typical figure, the roughly adapted in mind & customs to the existing order: utterly unaware of the imminent dawn of a new world.*’ Quoted may be viewed in *MacCana’s Prionsias’s 1984 Early Irish Ideology & the Life Concept of Unity, The Irish Mind* (ed. Richard Kearney) vol 1 (Dable Wolfhound Press) (page 76) [\[xl\]](#)

Tadhg Dall Ó ‘hÚiginn was described as ‘*The Chief Teacher of the Poets of Ireland & Scotland.*’ [\[xli\]](#)

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

[\[xii\]](#) Threatened Destruction (<https://westernpeople.ie/>) [Assessed September 28th 2019]

[\[xiii\]](#) 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 of Bardic Poets (<https://oldmooresalmanac.com/>) [Assessed 30th September 2019]

[xxiv] History Ireland (<https://www.historyireland.com/>) [Assessed 30th September 2019]

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

[xxvi] Ibid

[xxvii] Ibid

[xxviii] Ibid

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

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

[xxxi] Ibid

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

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

[xxxiv] Ibid

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

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

[xxxvii] Ibid

[xxxviii] Ibid

[xxxix] History Ireland (<https://www.historyireland.com/>) [Assessed 30th September 2019]

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

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

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

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

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

[iii] Ibid

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

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

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

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