

# PLACENAME BOOK GIVES SOME ODD TRANSLATIONS

**LIMERICK** has been chosen for the first ever full study of placenames. And some of the old names translate in a very unusual way, others are easy.

Here are a few:

**BALLINACURRA**; the town of the wet land., or the fordmouth of the weir.

**BALLYCLOUGH**; the town of the stone (structure).

**BALLYNANTY**; the town of the nettles.

**BALLYSIMON**; the fordmouth of Siomon.

**BALLYSHEEDY**; the town of Sioda.

**BOHERBOY**; the yellow road.

**CORBALLY**; the noticeable town.

**DOORADOYLE**; the animal enclosure of the blind person.

**GALVONE**; the bog of the foreigners.

**GOULDAVOHER**; the fork of the two roads.

**KILLALEE**; the church of Feilim.

**KING'S ISLAND**; the island of the king.

**MONALEEN**; the bogland of the flax.

**MOUNTKENNETT**; possibly just "Cinit's Hill".

**MOYLISH**; derelict enclosure.

**PARK**; the field.

**PROSPECT**; the black stone.

**RAHEEN**; the small ring fort (rath).

And it seems that our prehistoric name-givers had a long-term eye on the EC. The county townland of Blossomhill actually means the hill of buttermilk.

Some places are far from flattering for their inhabitants. There are four Ballynamudaghs in County Limerick and all translate as 'the town of the low-bred persons'. Ballygaddy is 'the town of the thief'. Ballysalla and Ballysallagh each mean 'the dirty town'. Boherbraddagh means 'the road of thieves'.

And others are just obscure: Knockaunavad means 'the hill

of the lea ground of the boat', without explaining what a boat was doing on a hill. Lyre means 'the high ground between converging glens or streams'.

Quite a few place names are only partially translated or have been lost in the mists of time. Not surprisingly, the older the settlement, the harder it is to trace.

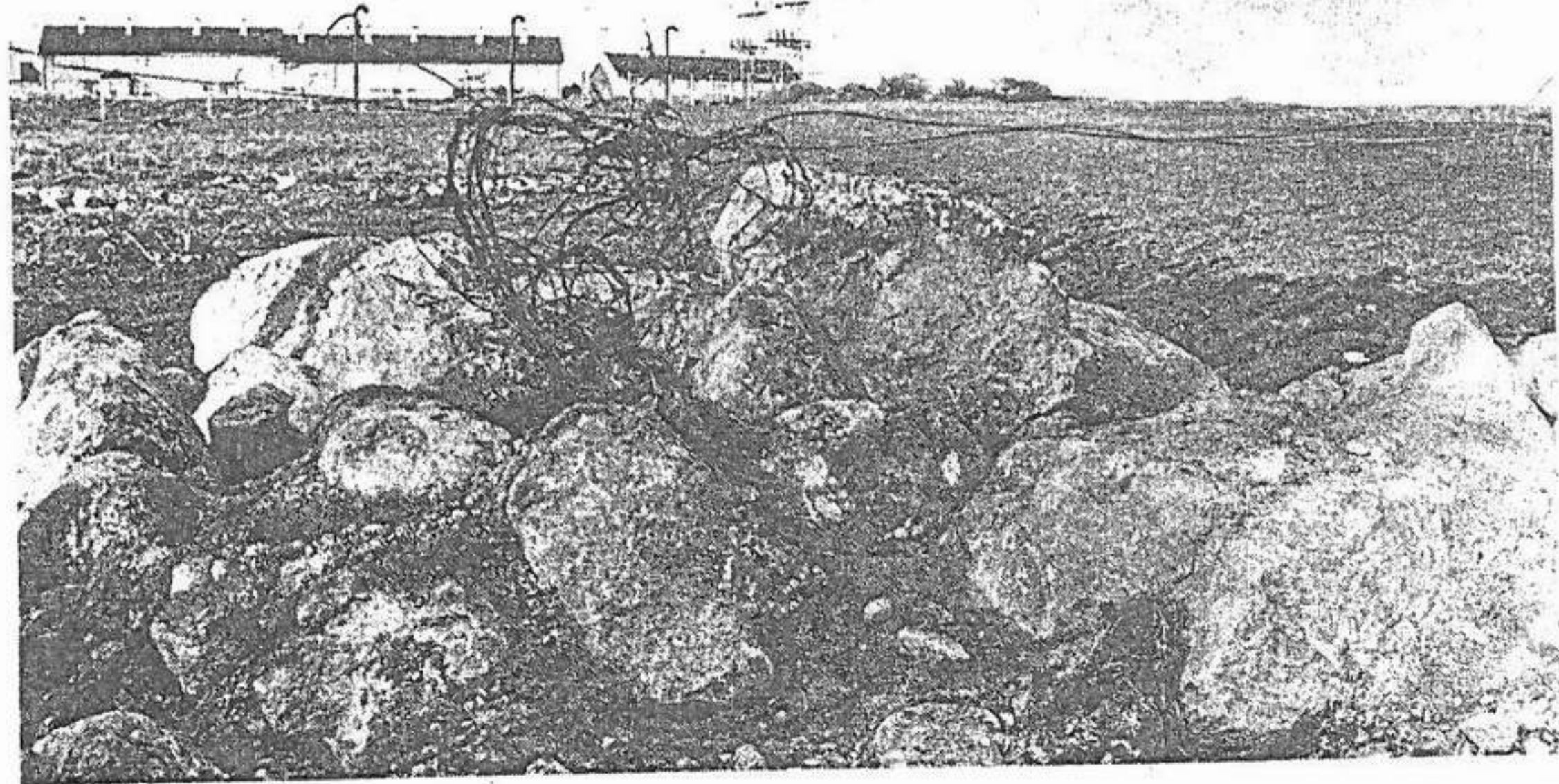
Limerick itself falls into that category, and its naming is highly speculative.

The book, 'Logainmneacha na hEireann' was compiled by Art O Maolfabhail and his

staff at the Ordnance Survey. It covers all of the townlands of Limerick, city and county. The various references to them over the centuries are listed, and the changes in pronunciation or spelling noted.

It was launched at Friday's meeting of the County Council. It is on general sale, price £10, or from the Government Publications Sales Office, Sun Alliance House, Dublin 2.

Although written in Irish, it is readable by the person with just a smattering of the language, and there is an easy-to-use English index at the back.



Large boulders now secure the breach in the fence through which itinerant caravans had entered the Southhill field of the Society of St Vincent de Paul. The caravans moved out before the weekend and the breach was plugged.