



Cé Mhachaire Uí Rabhartaigh

Luach saothair an tsaoil chrua
The rewards of a hard life

Is ar éigean gur éirigh le feirmeoirí beaga slí mhaireachtála a bhaint as an ithir charraigeach. Chinn go leor fear óg dul ar imirce.

Small farmers barely made a living from the rocky soil. Many sons chose to emigrate.

Thus
Ag fágáil slán leis an mbaile go deo: teaghlaich de bhunadh na háite taobh amuigh dá dteach ceann túi, deireadh an 19ú haois
Le caoinchead ó Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann

Ar dheis
Bunaithe ar scéal Mhicí, 'The Hiring Fair' leis an dealbhodóir Maurice Harron atá le feiceáil i gCearnóg an Mhargaidh, Leitir Ceanainn
Le caoinchead ó Maurice Harron

Above
Leaving for good: a local family outside their cottage, late 19th century
Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland

Right
Inspired by Micí's story, 'The Hiring Fair' by sculptor Maurice Harron in the Market Square, Leitir Ceanainn (Letterkenny)
Courtesy of Maurice Harron



Teach an teaghlaigh

Is i dtithe ceann túi a raibh urlár amháin agus seomra amháin idir thosach agus chúl an tí iontu a mhair teaghlaigh. Is de chloch gharbh a rinneadh na ballaí, agus is minic gur chabhraigh na comharsana na ballaí a thógáil. Bhíodh téada in úsáid chun an díon ceann tuí a chosaint in aghaidh na gaoithe. Uaireanta bhíodh bóitheach sna tithe freisin.

Leagann Micí lámh ar ór

Mhair Micí Mac Gabhann, an duine ba shine de mhuirín mhór – 12 páiste, i dteach ceann túi cosúil leis an gceann seo. Nuair a bhí sé ag fás anfós bhíodh sé i mbun tréadaíocht eallaí. Chuaign sé ó phost go post trasna Mheiriceá sular tháinig sé ar a shaibhreas le linn Fhuadar Óir Klondyke. D'fhill sé ar Dhún na nGall in 1901 agus dóthain airgid ina phóca aige chun feirm a cheannach. Níor fhill formhór na ndaoine a chuaigh ar imirce riámh.

The family home

Families lived in one-storey cottages, one room deep. Walls were built of rough stone, often with the help of neighbours. The thatched roof was tied down with ropes against the wind. Sometimes the building included a byre for the cows.

Micí strikes gold

Micí Mac Gabhann, the eldest of a family of 12, lived here in a cottage like this. As a child he was hired out to herd cattle. He worked his way across America before making his fortune in the Klondike Gold Rush. He returned to Dún na nGall (Donegal) in 1901 with enough money to buy a farm. Most emigrants never returned.

