



Irish placenames associated with death

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- *carn* (a heap of stones, especially as burial monument, a passage tomb),
- *duma* (mound, grave-mound, barrow),
- *fert, fertae* (grave-mound, burial place, grave, mound as a boundary mark, an assembly mound),
- *lecht* (grave, tomb, grave-mound, memorial cairn),

2

- *síd* (fairy hill or mound, prehistoric burial place, otherworld entrance),
- *túaim* (ridge, hillock, mound, tumulus),
- *ulad* (tomb, sepulchre, burial cairn, penitential station);

3

- *lige* (bed, couch, grave, flat burial space);
- *imdae* (bed, couch; grave, tomb);
- *lepaid* ('bed, cubicle; burial chamber, grave);
- *úa(i)g* (grave);

4

- *lía* (rock, standing stone, pillar stone, memorial stone)

5

- *túaim* (ridge, hillock, mound, tumulus)'.
 - *Tuaim Tenba*, the original name for *Dinn Ríg*:
 - Dind Ríg / ruad tuaim tenbad
 - Tríchait n-airech / fo brón bebsait.
 - M. A. O'Brien, *Corpus Genealogiarum Hiberniae* (1962, 1976)
 - 'Dinn Rí, strong Túaim Tenba, thirty nobles die there in anguish' (translation by M. Dillon);

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- dorsum Tóimne: ‘Ernene ... he (himself a holy monk) lies buried among the remains of other monks of Saint Columba, and awaits the resurrection with the saints, in the ridge of *Tóimm*’. A.O. & M.O. Anderson, *Adomnán’s Life of Columba* (1961);
- *Drumhome* / **Droim Thuama**, Co. Donegal;

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- ‘the meaning “hill, ridge” will not fit in every case, as *druim* and *túaimm* can hardly be synonyms in the current placename’ D. Greene ‘*túaimm*, *stuaim* : W. *ystum*, *ystwyth*’, *Celtica* 4 (1958);
- D. Mac Giolla Easpaig, ‘Placenames and early settlement in County Donegal’, *Donegal: History and Society* (1995)

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- 781 Abbas Tommae da Olann *AU*
 - 881 princeps Thuama da Ghualann *AU*
- > *Tuam* / **Tuaim**
- *Tomgraney* / **Tuaim Gréine**
-
- **Cill Tuama** -- **cill**, 'church'

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« GLOSSARY OF WORDS COMMONLY FOUND IN IRISH PLACENAMES

tuaim

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English

(grave-)mound, burial-place

Examples

Tuaim, Tuaim Gréine, Cill Tuama

Full list

- *tuaim* v. *tom*, see C. Ó Cruailaoich & A. Mac Giolla Chomhghaill, *Townland names of Co. Wexford* (2016).

tom, 'bush, tuft, hillock, knoll'

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- (1) non-Christian graves of the *geinti*; (2) Christian graves and cemeteries; (3) terms that straddle both belief systems. E. Bhreathnach, 'From fert(ae) to relic: mapping death in early sources', *Death and burial in early medieval Ireland in the light of recent archaeological excavations* (2010)

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Fert(ae)

- *fert* neuter *o*-stem orig.; *fertae* feminine *ia*-stem. D. A. Binchy considered the latter to be originally a collective noun ('Coibnes Uisci Thairidne', *Ériu* 17, 1955);
- *fert(ae)*, 'a grave-mound, burial place, an assembly mound, mound as a boundary mark, grave';

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- 863 *Uam Féirt Boadan os Dubadh AU* ('The cave of Boadán's Mound above Dubad');
- *Dindshenchas Éirenn* ('history of important Irish places');
- *Lebor Gabála Éirenn* ('book of the taking of Ireland'): Fert Scotá;

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- Cluain Ferta ('pasture of the grave-mound');
- *Ardfert* / **Ard Fhearta**

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- C. Swift, 'Pagan monuments and Christian legal centres in early Meath', *Ríocht na Midhe* 9 (1996);
- *Fertae Martyrum* ('the (burial)-mound of the martyrs'), Armagh

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- ‘ ... and the days of mourning for the king’s daughters came to an end, and they buried them beside the well of *Clébach*, and they made a round ditch (*fossa*) after the manner of a *ferta*, because that is what the heathen Irish used to do, but we call it *relic*, that is, the remains of the maidens (*residuae puellarum*). And the *ferta* was made over to Patrick with the bones of the holy virgins ...and he made an earthen church in that place’ (Tírechán), L. Bieler, *The Patrician Texts in the Book of Armagh* (1979).

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- Cluain Ferta Mo-Lua, Cluain Ferta Brénainn;
- Fert nAilbe – P. Ó Riain, *Beatha Ailbhe / The Life of Saint Ailbhe of Emly* (2017);

18

- ‘This resulted in the cessation of use of many familial or ancestral cemeteries after the eighth century, although others continued in use until the church reforms of the 11th century, occasionally even later ...’ foreword to *Death and burial in early medieval Ireland ...* (2010)
-

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- ‘dú itá ind Ferta indíu’ K. Mulchrone, *Bethu Phátraic / The Tripartite Life of Patrick* (1939);
- G. Toner, ‘The definite article in Irish place-names’, *Nomina* 22 (1999);
- Maigh F(h)earta (Co. Clare);
- Cluain an Fhearta (Co. Roscommon);

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« GLOSSARY OF WORDS COMMONLY FOUND IN IRISH PLACENAMES

feart (also: fearta)

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English
(grave-)mound

Examples
[Cluain Fearta](#), [Fearta](#), [Dún Feart](#), [Feartach](#), [An Feartán](#)

[Full list](#)

definite article

- *Cloghnart* / **Cloch an Fhearta**
- *Drumnart* / **Droim an Fhearta**
- *Nart* / **An Fhearta**

- *Lecht*, ‘grave, tomb, sepulchral monument, resting place’; ‘death’ *DIL*
- < Latin **lectus*, ‘couch, bed, funeral bed, bier’;

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Lía Úaland

- Úalu a ainm ... atá a lecht 7 a lía forsin tsliigi ocon glais .i. Lía Úaland a ainm (‘His grave and his headstone are on the road beside the stream. Lia Úalann is its name.’) *TBC* (Rec. 1);
- Úalu a chomainm ...Rádis Medb ar co tucthá anís 7 claitte a fhert 7 ara túargabtha a lía. Conid de atá Lía Úaland i crích Cúalnge (‘Medb ordered him to be brought up (out of the river) and his grave dug and his stone raised. Whence the name Lia Úaland.’) *TBC* (LL).

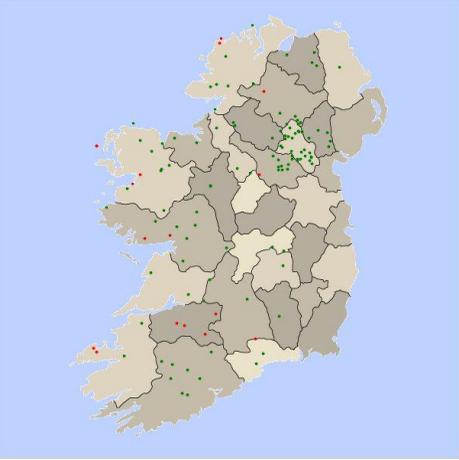
24

- cen fert do dul inna lecht ('no tumulus should be put on his grave') J. Carney, *The poems of Blathmac son of Cú Brettan* (1964);

25

- five examples of memorial cairns named *leachta*, or *leachtaí / leachtanna* in the plural on Achill Island -- F. Mac Gabhann, *Logainmneacha Mhaigh Eo 3: Paróiste Acla* (2014);

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« GLOSSARY OF WORDS COMMONLY FOUND IN IRISH PLACENAMES

leacht (also: sleacht)

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English
grave-mound, monument

Examples
Leacht na mBard, Leachta, Corr Leacht, Sleacht Mhánasa

Full list

Lattacrom / **An Leachta Crom**

- ‘Mr. Marran says that by *Leata* the Farney men always understand any honorary or commemorative monument, such as where a man was nearly killed’. J. O’Donovan, Ordnance Survey Namebook (1835)

- 'In the south Ulster drumlin belt ...townlands normally contain drumlin cores, often with hill-top raths or ringforts reflecting dry-point settlements from the early medieval period' P. Duffy
'Townlands: territorial signatures of landholding and identity', *The heart's townland: marking boundaries in Ulster* (2004).