

## Two Mountain Names: Slieve Felim and Mauherslieve

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This article deals with two mountain names from Counties Limerick and Tipperary: one the name of a peak, the other the name of a range in which, according to early sources, the peak is located. These names illustrate some issues which arise regularly in Irish toponymy. Mauherslieve exemplifies the difficulties of interpreting names of topographical features for which early sources are lacking. In Slieve Felim we see the re-interpretation of a pre-Christian female name, possibly that of a pagan deity, as a male name, apparently that of a king or chieftain. This is further complicated by the emergence of a ghost name on certain maps and reference works. In both cases there are questions about the location/extent of the feature named. A selection of historical forms relevant to the discussion is cited, but these lists are by no means complete.

### Slieve Felim / Sliabh Eibhlinne

#### Location

Parish: Abington / Tuogh / Doon / Toem (minimum extent, see below)

Barony: Owney Beg / Coonagh / Kilnamanagh Upper

County: Limerick/Tipperary

Maximum height: 462m, 1524 ft. (Cullaun, grid ref. R823574)

The extent of Slieve Felim / Sliabh Eibhlinne as a range varies somewhat from source to source. Nowadays the name is understood locally to apply only to the hills located south of the Newport – Rear Cross road, which follows the valley of the Annagh River, and the highest summit included in it is Cullaun (462m).<sup>1</sup> *Liostaí Logainmneacha – Contae Thiobraid Árann* places it on OS 6' sheet nos. 32 and 38 for Tipperary, suggesting that it extends north of the Annagh River to include at least Mauherslieve.<sup>2</sup> However, on sixteenth and seventeenth-century maps it is indicated as an even more extensive range.

#### Irish forms

<i>Bellum Eblinne</i>	<i>Annals of Inisfallen</i> (AD 531)
<i>Bellum Ebhlinne</i>	<i>Annals of Ulster</i> (AD 533)
<i>Sliab nEblinde</i>	<i>Lebor na hUidre</i> (Middle Irish period, probably after AD 1000)
<i>i nÉblinniu</i>	<i>Lebor Gabála Érenn</i> in <i>Book of Leinster</i> (12 <sup>th</sup> century)
<i>Sliab nEblinde</i>	<i>Lebor Gabála Érenn</i> in <i>Book of Lecan</i> (1418)
<i>Sliabh nEbhlinne</i>	<i>LeabharMór na nGenealach</i> (compiled 1645-66)
<i>dá sliab déc Eiblinne</i>	<i>Silva Gadelica</i> (1765)
<i>Sliabh Eibhlinne</i>	<i>Gasaitéar na hÉireann</i> (1989), <i>Liostaí Logainmneacha</i> (2004)

<sup>1</sup> This was confirmed for me by Mr. James T. Nolan of Rear Cross.

<sup>2</sup> An Brainse Logainmneacha, Pádraig Ó Cearrbhaill (ed.), *Liostaí Logainmneacha – Contae Thiobraid Árann* (2004) p. 261.



English forms

<i>The xii great hylls of phelem</i>	Lythe's map of Munster (1572)
<i>Mountaines of Phelim</i>	Boazio's map of Ireland (1599)
<i>The 12 great Hilles of Phelem Ghe Madona</i>	Speed's map of Munster (1610)
<i>The 12 great Hilles of Phelim Ghe Madona</i>	Speed's map of Ireland (1610)
<i>The 12 great Hilles of Phelem Ghe Madona</i>	Blaeu's map of Munster (1654)

**Discussion**

There are numerous early references to this name and within the scope of this article it is only feasible to mention a few.<sup>3</sup> The earliest of which I am aware is in *The Annals of Inisfallen*, AD 531: 'Bellum Eblinne' (i.e. 'the battle of Éblenn').<sup>4</sup> The nominative of this name is *Ébliu* or *Éblenn* in Old Irish (modern form: *Éibhleann*).<sup>5</sup> It is suggested the first element in the name is Old Irish *oíph*, 'sheen, beauty, radiance.' If so, it would have a similar meaning and etymology to the name *Aífe* (*Aoife*).<sup>6</sup> T.F. O'Rahilly went so far as to suggest that *Ébliu* was the name of an ancient Irish sun-goddess.<sup>7</sup> This idea is also supported by the fact that she is portrayed as the sister of Lugh Lámfhota,<sup>8</sup> who is himself a sun-deity, his long arms representing the long rays of the sun. However, it must be said that the proposed etymology is more convincing for *Aoife* than for *Ébliu*.

Note that the place-name in *The Annals of Inisfallen* is simply *Éblenn*, identical with the personal name. It is not attested in combination with the element *sliabh* until later, although there is no reason to doubt that the reference is to the same mountain group. No details of the battle of Éblenn are given in *The Annals of Inisfallen*. However, *The Annals of Ulster* record the same battle ('Bellum Eblinne') two years later in 533, naming a Muirchertach as the victor.<sup>9</sup>

*Ébliu* is also the name of the wife of Mairid, king of Munster, in the tale of the Death of Eochaid, son of Mairid, which is contained within *Lebor na hUidre*. We are told that *Ébliu* is the daughter of Guaire: 'Ebliu im ingen Gúari a Bruig Meic ind Óc<sup>10</sup> is í ba ben do Maírid.' It is also explained that *Sliabh Eibhlinne* is named after her: 'is ond Eblind sin dano ainmnigther *Sliab nEblinde*.'<sup>11</sup> In this tale *Ébliu* makes advances to her step-son Eochaid, who eventually elopes with her, taking his brother Rib and a huge complement of men. This tale explains how Lough Neagh was formed.

The district is also mentioned in *Lebor Gabála Érenn* (often called 'The Book of Invasions', contained within the *Book of Leinster*) and again the name occurs as a simplex: 'Acallsat Fotla i nÉblinniu.'<sup>12</sup> It is here that the newly-arrived Milesians meet with the goddess Fódla, who appeals to Amergin, leader of the invaders, to name the country after her. This is the second such encounter: they had already met with the goddess Banba on Sliabh Mis, and subsequently at Uisnech they meet Ériu, to whose wish they accede. The country is then named Éire after her, although Banba and Fódla are retained as by-names. It is worth noting that, in addition to the three goddesses encountered by the Milesians, two more goddess-names feature in this passage in the mountain names, since both Mis and Ébliu can be regarded as deities.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>3</sup> For further references, see Edmund Hogan, *Onomasticon Goedelicum* (1910) p. 608.

<sup>4</sup> Seán Mac Airt (ed.), *Annals of Inisfallen* (1944) pp 68-9.

<sup>5</sup> Donnchadh Ó Corráin & Fidelma Maguire, *Irish Names* (1990) p. 82.

<sup>6</sup> Ó Corráin & Maguire, *Irish Names*, p. 16.

<sup>7</sup> Quoted in Ó Corráin & Maguire, *Irish Names*, p. 82.

<sup>8</sup> James McKillop (ed.), *Dictionary of Celtic Mythology* (1999) p. 148.

<sup>9</sup> Seán Mac Airt & Gearóid Mac Niocaill (eds. & trans.), *The Annals of Ulster* (1983) p. 69.

<sup>10</sup> *Brug Meicc ind Óc* is identified as Brú na Bóinne (Newgrange) by Hogan, *Onomasticon Goedelicum*, p. 130.

<sup>11</sup> Richard Irvine Best and Osborn Bergin (eds.), *Lebor na hUidre: the Book of the Dun Cow* (1929) p. 95, lines 2926-9. I am indebted to Janet Crawford for drawing this reference to my attention.

<sup>12</sup> R.I. Best, Osborn Bergin and M.A. O'Brien, *The Book of Leinster*, vol. i. (1954) p. 50, line 1593. For English translation see R.A.S. Macalister (ed. & trans.), *Lebor Gabála Érenn*, vol. v (1956) pp 34-5.

<sup>13</sup> Dr. Kay Muhr (personal comment, September 2006) has remarked that these references suggest that *Ébliu* was a deity of place rather than a sun-goddess.



Another version of the Milesian invasion is given in *Leabhar Mór na nGenealach*, compiled by Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbhisigh. Here the same three places are mentioned: ‘Tíagaid as sin go *Sliabh Mis*, a-sidhe go *Sliabh nEbhlinne*, as sin doibh go *hUisneach Midhe*.’<sup>14</sup> This passage provides confirmation that *ÉbliulÉblenn* and *Sliabh Eibhlinne* are synonymous as place-names.

In certain later versions of *Lebor Gabála Érenn* it is said that these mountains were named after a Milesian chieftain, Eblindi son of Breogan, king of Spain: ‘*Eblindi mac Breguin*, a quo *Sliab nEblinde*.’<sup>15</sup> If there were any doubt, it is made clear from the word *mac* (‘son of’) that *Eblindi* is intended as the name of a man in this passage. However, since one of the purposes of this passage is to explain a list of Irish place-names, many of them mountain names, it is quite likely that the person was invented to suit the occasion. As there are no other sources which expand on this character, we need not set too much store by this reference to a male *Eblindi*.

The name *ÉbliulÉblenn* in *Sliabh Eibhlinne* seems to have been confused in late medieval/early modern times with the male name *Feidhlimidh/Feidhlim*, perhaps because the former was no longer widely used as a name, and *Feidhlim* was more familiar.<sup>16</sup> The intrusive *F-* arises, of course, from the final consonant of *sliabh*, so that *Sliabh Eibhlinne* came to be interpreted as \**Sliabh Feidhlim* or the like.

It is not known exactly when this confusion arose and how widespread it was,<sup>17</sup> but the transformation is apparent on Lythe’s map of Munster (1572), which refers to *The xii great hylls of phelem*.<sup>18</sup> It is not clear whether the name was understood to refer to a particular historical personage named *Phelem*. There were several kings of this name, though the best known is probably *Fedelmí mac Crimthainn* (d. 847) of the Eóganacht Caisil, an ecclesiastic and king of Munster who attempted to gain control of all of Ireland.<sup>19</sup>

To the best of my knowledge, this is the earliest reference to *Sliabh Eibhlinne/Slieve Felim* as a group of twelve peaks. However, the group of twelve was not any map-maker’s invention. It also occurs in the tale of ‘In Gilla Decair’ (‘The Hard Servant’) in *Silva Gadelica*. Although this version of the tale was copied in 1765 in Co. Meath, the composition of the tale has been dated to the late 15th or early 16th century.<sup>20</sup> Here the group of twelve is used in combination with the original name *Éblenn*: ‘ocus co dá sliab déc Eiblinne’ (‘...and to the twelve mountains of Éblenn.’)<sup>21</sup>

The group of twelve is a familiar motif in dinnseanchas. There were considered to be twelve great mountains, twelve great lakes and twelve great rivers of Ireland.<sup>22</sup> The formula is also preserved in the range known in English as ‘The Twelve Bens of Connemara’, although the names of the exact twelve peaks are no longer known.<sup>23</sup> Similarly, I am unaware of any source which lists the Twelve Great Hills of Phelim, but is worthy of note that this grouping would probably necessitate the older, larger definition of the range, since the modern definition seems too limited in area to include 12 distinctive peaks.

<sup>14</sup> Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbhisigh, *Leabhar Mór na nGenealach*, *The Great Book of Irish Genealogies*, ed. & trans. Nollaig Ó Muraile (2003) p. 270.

<sup>15</sup> R.A.S. Macalister (ed. & trans.), *Lebor Gabála Érenn*, vol. v (1956) pp 22-3. The *Book of Leinster* version of *Lebor Gabála Érenn* simply includes the name *Ebleo* in a list of Milesian chieftains at this point, without any reference to the mountain name.

<sup>16</sup> Note that the name *Eibhlín* (Eileen, equivalent to Evelyn) is of a different origin and was first introduced to Ireland by the Anglo-Normans. Ó Corrain & Maguire, *Irish Names*, p. 84.

<sup>17</sup> Note that this re-interpretation has only affected the anglicised version of the name. The official Irish version remains *Sliabh Eibhlinne*, a modernised version of the form attested in *Lebor na hUidre*.

<sup>18</sup> Ascribed to Robert Lythe, *A Single Draght of Mounster* (c. 1572). Map held at the Public Record Office, London. Ref: MPF 1/73.

<sup>19</sup> S.J. Connolly (ed.), *The Oxford Companion to Irish History* (1998) pp 196-7.

<sup>20</sup> Robin Flower, *Catalogue of Irish Manuscripts in the British Museum* (1926) pp. 339-41.

<sup>21</sup> From the tale ‘Tóraighecht in ghilla dhecair ocus a chapail’ in Standish O’Grady (ed.), *Silva Gadelica, A Collection of Tales in Irish* (1892) p. 258.

<sup>22</sup> Whitley Stokes, ‘The Second Battle of Moyturra’, *Revue Celtique*, vol. xii (1891) p. 81.

<sup>23</sup> The Irish name of these mountains, *Beanna Beola*, makes no reference to a specific number.



Next to *The xii great hylls of phelem* on Lythe's map is another name: *Ghe madona* or possibly *Glie nadona*. These two names were erroneously read as one by several subsequent cartographers whose work relies to some extent on Lythe's survey.<sup>24</sup> Speed (1610) renders the name as *The 12 great Hilles of Phelem Ghe Madona* on his map of Munster<sup>25</sup> and *The 12 great Hilles of Phelim Ghe Madona* on his map of Ireland.<sup>26</sup> These are reported by O'Donovan as *The 12 great Hilles of Phelemghe Modwena* and this is cited as a source by Hogan, in both cases without explanation. I am not clear what Lythe's *Ghe madona* represents,<sup>27</sup> but I am quite convinced that he intended to name a separate feature, judging by the capital G<sup>28</sup> and from the fact that it is not quite aligned with *The xii great hylls of phelem*.<sup>29</sup> If I am correct, *The 12 great Hilles of Phelim Ghe Madona* and its variants are ghost names.<sup>30</sup>

Joan Blaeu has an identical form to Speed's on his map of Munster (1654).<sup>31</sup> On this map, which has quite clear marking of relief, the name seems to apply to a group including Mauherslieve, Keeper Hill and the Silvermines Mountains. O'Donovan had a similar understanding of the range, describing *Sliabh Eibhlinne / Sléibhte Eibhlinne* in his supplement to O'Reilly's Dictionary as 'mountains extending from the baronies of Oweybeg and Coonagh, in the county of Limerick, in the direction of Cashel [south-east] and Nenagh [north], in the county of Tipperary'.<sup>32</sup>

To summarise, the district of *Slieve Felim / Sliabh Eibhlinne* is first attested simply as *Éblenn* in early medieval sources. Later it appears as *Sliab nEblinde* and the like. Sometimes the range was regarded as a group of twelve mountains, as shown by forms such as *dá sliab déc Eiblinne*. In the late sixteenth century English language versions of the name arise which show that the female name *ÉbliulÉblenn* has been re-interpreted as the male name *Feidhlim*. Through the conflation of two distinct place-names, the name was incorrectly rendered *The 12 great Hilles of Phelem Ghe Madona* by Speed in 1610, a ghost name which was repeated on several other maps and in reference works. The modern Irish version of the name, *Sliabh Eibhlinne*, has resisted any re-interpretation. The name seems once to have applied to an extensive range of hills, but is now understood to apply only to a sub-section of this range. Due to the wealth of early references, further research on this name is called for and it is likely that much remains to be said.

## Mauherslieve or Moher Mountain

### Location

Grid reference: R873619, approx. 3km NE of Rear Cross (OS 6' sheets 38, 39)

Townland: at the junction of Foilduff, Coumnagillagh and Laghile

Parish: on boundary of Abington and Dolla

Barony: on boundary of Owey & Arra and Ormond Upper

Height: 541m, 1783 ft.

<sup>24</sup> For his influence on Boazio and others, see J.H. Andrews, *Shapes of Ireland* (1997) pp 57-85.

<sup>25</sup> John Speed, *The Province of Mounster* (1610).

<sup>26</sup> John Speed, *The Kingdome of Irland* (1610).

<sup>27</sup> Identifying this name is made harder by the fact that the region immediately west of Lough Derg is largely devoid of names in contrast to the rest of the map, suggesting that Lythe did not manage to survey this district. There are therefore few neighbouring points of reference. The feature one would most expect to be named at this location is *Slievekimalta / Keeper Hill*, but the attested form does not seem compatible with this. Comparison with other maps of the same era has not yet clarified this name, but further research may provide a solution.

<sup>28</sup> Note that Lythe uses capitals very sparingly, e.g. only for the initial of the first word in *The xii great hylls of phelem*.

<sup>29</sup> I am indebted to Dr. Kay Muhr for drawing Lythe's map to my attention and for her help in interpreting the names on it. Part of it is reproduced in Michael Swift, *Historical Maps of Ireland* (1999) p. 29.

<sup>30</sup> Professor Sean de Courcy has drawn attention to the value of sixteenth and seventeenth century maps for the investigation of Irish mountain names in a recent article, sadly published after his death in 2004: John W. de Courcy, 'Mountains and Summits Shown on Maps of Ireland before AD 1700', *Journal of the Irish Mountaineering and Exploration Historical Society* (2005) pp 24-9.

<sup>31</sup> Joan Blaeu, *Momonía* (1654).

<sup>32</sup> Edward O'Reilly, *An Irish-English Dictionary*, revised edition with a supplement by John O'Donovan (1864) p. 701.



O'Donovan made an uncharacteristic error in his supplement to *O'Reilly's Irish-English Dictionary*, giving *Máthair-shliabh*<sup>33</sup> as an alias for *Sliabh Coimeálta* or Keeper Hill, which is, however, about 7km to the NW and much higher at 694m. This is repeated by Hogan in his *Onomasticon Goedelicum*<sup>34</sup> but does not seem to be supported by any other independent source. *The Ordnance Survey Complete Road Atlas of Ireland* shows the name *Mauherslieve or Mother Mountain* in a trough about 3km W of the 541m peak.<sup>35</sup> This also seems erroneous. The location on the OS 1:50,000 Discovery Series and 6' maps is the correct one.

#### Pronunciation

/mɔ̃hər'kle:/ = Moherclea (local pronunciation collected in Rear Cross, 2005).

/mɔ̃hər/ = Moher (local pronunciation collected in Newport, 2005).

#### English/anglicised forms

<i>Maherlea</i>	cited in OSNB
<i>Mauherslieve or Mother Mountain</i>	OS 6' map sheet 38 and OSi Discovery map sheet 59
<i>Mauherslieve or Moher Mountain</i>	<i>Liostaí Logainmneacha</i> (2004)
<i>Motherslieve Mountain</i>	Gleeson, <i>History of the Territory of Ely O'Carroll</i> (1915)

#### Irish forms

<i>Máthair-shliabh</i>	O'Donovan's supplement to O'Reilly's Dictionary (1864)
<i>Motharshliabh</i>	OSi Discovery Map sheet 59
<i>Máthair Shléibhe</i>	<i>Liostaí Logainmneacha</i> (2004)

#### **Discussion**

This mountain seems to have suffered more than most from false identifications and locations. There is also considerable uncertainty about its correct names in both Irish and English. To my knowledge, the only written Irish language forms available for this name are modern attempts at interpretation based on English language forms. The various forms attested on maps, in the OSNB and in local pronunciations are not easy to reconcile. Indeed, it is necessary to consider the possibility that more than one name may lie behind this range of forms. However, despite these difficulties, I would like to offer a tentative solution.

Firstly, the problem can be made a little easier by stating that the form *Mother Mountain* does not seem to have any local currency today, nor is it supported by any local folklore. A leaflet for walkers on the Slieve Felim Way gives the mountain's name as *Mauherslieve* and makes no mention of *Mother Mountain* as an alias.<sup>36</sup> O'Donovan's explanation in his supplement to O'Reilly's Dictionary ('This is locally termed *Máthair-shliabh*, as being the largest of the mountains of *Sliabh Eibhlinne*') carries no weight since the identification with *Sliabh Coimeálta* Keeper Hill, as already mentioned, is incorrect. Admittedly, *Mother Mountain* is recorded in the OSNB as an alias known to three local informants ('*Maherlea or Mother Mountain*, John Hunt Esq, ditto, John Kennedy Esq, ditto, Mr. P.O'Callaghan').<sup>37</sup> However, since this curious name, which cries out for an explanation, is not discussed in the OSNB - nor is there even

<sup>33</sup>Ibid.

<sup>34</sup>Edmund Hogan, *Onomasticon Goedelicum*, pp 537 & 606.

<sup>35</sup>Ordnance Survey Ireland and Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland, *The Complete Road Atlas of Ireland* (2004) p. 43.

<sup>36</sup>Shannon Development, *Slieve Felim Way Walking Trail*, (leaflet, no date available).

<sup>37</sup>The Ordnance Survey Name Books were compiled in preparation for the first national survey of Ireland at 6 inches to the mile (1824-46). They are unpublished, but the OSNB for Co. Tipperary is available to view in typescript at Tipperary County Library, Thurles. I am indebted to Mary Guinan-Darmody of the County Library at Thurles for supplying me with the above forms from the OSNB.



a comment about the want of an explanation - I am inclined to wonder whether the name they provided may have rather been \**Moher Mountain*, this being subsequently altered to *Mother Mountain* by the Ordnance Survey officer who recorded the information. This would be consistent not only with the form /mɔ̃hər/, which I obtained from local informants in 2005, but also with Gleeson's *Moherslieve Mountain*.<sup>38</sup> The shortage of evidence for *Mother Mountain* may well explain the decision by An Brainse Logainmneacha to amend the English language form of the name to *Mauherslieve* or *Moher Mountain* in their recent publication,<sup>39</sup> removing the *t* from the form previously used on Ordnance Survey maps. This change is to be welcomed, since the new form eliminates a confusion and is closer to local usage.

The first of the Irish forms, i.e. *Motharshliabh* from the Discovery map, seems the most likely on the basis of the attested English language forms, the modern local pronunciation and other data gathered in the area. The element *mothar* ('thicket' or 'overgrown wilderness') is common in this area. There are several townlands whose names include this element within 12km of Mauherslieve: *Moher / An Mothar* (parish of Upperchurch), *Moheragh / Na Mothracha* (Donohill), *Moher East / An Mothar Thoir* and *Moher West / An Mothar Thiar* (Toem),<sup>40</sup> as well as another *Moher / Mothar* in Co. Limerick (parish of Abington).<sup>41</sup> *Motharshliabh* would be consistent with the English forms *Mauherslieve* and perhaps *Maherlea* (but only if this spelling indicates /i:/ rather than /e:/ for the final vowel).

However, the local pronunciation /mɔ̃hər'kle:/ (= Moherclea), noted in 2005, presents a difficulty. It would seem at first sight to suggest *Mothar Cléibh*, 'overgrown wilderness of the basket.' The element *cliabh* is occasionally found in placenames and may refer literally to a basket, or to a landform such as a deep hollow or glacial cirque which resembles a basket. Indeed, it occurs in *Béal Átha Chléibh*<sup>42</sup> / *Bealaclave*, a townland in Abington parish on the western slopes of Mauherslieve. Elsewhere it appears in *Macha na Cléibhe*<sup>43</sup> / *Maughanaclea*, Co. Cork (where it appears to be feminine) and under a diminutive form in *Mullach Cliabháin*,<sup>44</sup> Mullaghcleevaun, Co. Wicklow (where it almost certainly refers to a mountain hollow containing a lake). There is a deep hollow cut into the east side of Mauherslieve, visible from the Inch – Dolla road (see photo), which could be the feature alluded to in this name, and there are similar hollows on the western side near Bealaclave.

Alternatively, it is possible that the second element is *sliabh* rather than *cliabh*, and that the pronunciation /mɔ̃hər'kle:/ could represent the local realisation of *Máthair Shléibhe*, the Irish form proposed by Pádraig Ó Cearrbhail in *Liostaí Logainmneacha – Contae Thiobraid Árann*.<sup>45</sup> The realisation of the lenited *s-* as a velar plosive would be unusual, but finds a parallel in the townland of *GortatlealGort an tSléibhe* (parish of Ballymacelligott, Co. Kerry), where *Gortaclea*<sup>46</sup> is found as an alternative anglicisation alongside the official spelling. However, there are two objections to *máthair* as the first element. Firstly, we have seen that the equation of *Moher-/Mauher-* in anglicised spellings with Ir. *máthair* is questionable. Secondly, it is hard to find any parallels for the occurrence of *máthair* as a generic element in Irish place-names. If the second element in /mɔ̃hər'kle:/ is *sliabh* rather than *cliabh*, I would suggest that it is more likely to be derived from *Mothar Shléibhe* or *Mothar an tSléibhe*, 'overgrown wilderness of the mountain/moorland'.

<sup>38</sup> Fr. John Gleeson, *History of the Territory of Ely O'Carroll* (1915) p. 63.

<sup>39</sup> Ó Cearrbhail, *Liostaí Logainmneacha – Contae Thiobraid Árann* (2004) p. 260.

<sup>40</sup> All these forms from Ó Cearrbhail, *Liostaí Logainmneacha – Contae Thiobraid Árann*, p. 106.

<sup>41</sup> Art Ó Maolfabhail, *Logainmneacha na hÉireann, iml. I, Contae Luimnigh* (1990) p. 223. However, the historical forms for this particular townland are problematic (e.g. *Moehgorr* and *Moegore* in the *Civil Survey* (1655), and *Moohger* in the *Down Survey* (1657)). Ó Maolfabhail comments: 'Is léir nach é *Mothar* a bhí san ainm seo tráth.' ('It is clear that this name was something other than *Mothar* at one time.') Whilst this is true, it is not easy to say what the earlier form of the name may have been.

<sup>42</sup> Ó Cearrbhail, *Liostaí Logainmneacha – Contae Thiobraid Árann*, p. 33.

<sup>43</sup> OS Discovery map, sheet 85.

<sup>44</sup> An tSuirbhéireacht Ordanáis, *Gasaitéar na hÉireann* (1989) p. 141.

<sup>45</sup> Ó Cearrbhail, *Liostaí Logainmneacha – Contae Thiobraid Árann*, p. 260.

<sup>46</sup> I am grateful to Mr. Dermot Curran of Tralee, who provided me with a local pronunciation which accords with the spelling *Gortaclea*.



**Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank the people of Newport and Rear Cross, Co. Tipperary, for their help in researching this article, particularly Joe Sweeney and Hugh Sweeney of Newport, and James T. Nolan of Rear Cross, all of whom shared their valuable local knowledge and provided me with local pronunciations; thanks also to Mary Guinan-Darmody of the County Library at Thurles; to Dermot Curran of Tralee, Co. Kerry; to Janet Crawford; to Aidan Dillon of Nenagh who provided the photograph via the Mountain Views website: <http://www.mountainviews.ie/>; and to Simon Stewart, creator and administrator of Mountain Views, who facilitated this contact. Finally I would like to thank Dr. Kay Muhr for her valuable comments, help and advice, particularly in dealing with the early sources for Sliabh Eibhlinne and the 16th/17th century maps.



**Fig. 1** Mauherslieve from the east (Photo: Aidan Dillon).

