

<b>Ainm an Tionscadail</b>	Tionscadal Béaloidis Ghaeltacht Thír Chonaill
<b>Buntaifeadadh</b>	T75
<b>Ainm an Agalláí</b>	John Charles McLaughlin
<b>Ainm an Agallóra</b>	Dónall Dinny Ó Gallachóir
<b>Dáta an Agallaimh</b>	31/08/2006
<b>Suíomh an Agallaimh</b>	Gleann Domhain
<b>Ainm an Tras-scríbhneora</b>	Gráinne Ní Eireamhóin

(gáire)

(sos)

(--)

Tús bréige

" \_\_\_\_\_ "

Focal dothuigthe

" \_\_\_\_\_ + "

Níos mó ná focal amháin dothuigthe

....

Beirt ag caint ag an am amháin

[ ]

Nóta déanta ag an tras-scríbhneoir

**DÓNALL DINNY:** *Traidifíl scealtaí* with John Charles (Séarlais) McLaughlin *agus, em, tá sé a dhul ar cheol cúpla píosa amhrán dom fosta agus ligfidh muid ar aghaidh* John, eh, you understand Gaeilge but you're, you're not as...

**JOHN CHARLES:** I'm not confident in talking it.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** No.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** So would you tell me a bit of your history John here.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Well I was born, I was born in Stramore, Glendowan/*Gleann Domhain*. I was born in the old house which was built in the mid 1800's by my great grandfather. And the post office was in that house for about, for 50 years longer than anywhere else in Glendowan/*Gleann Domhain*. And, and I'm not sure of the year that, that, that the post office ceased to be in that house, you know? But me, me, me mother always talked about the post office being there, you know? And she always talked about me grandmother having very good *Gaeilge*. But me, me grandfather didn't speak the *Gaeilge*. She had a fair knowledge of *Gaeilge*, but she then again she didn't speak it either. So em, me

grandfather was born in 1861, the year of the evictions in Derryveagh. And he died in 1947. So.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Would he have told you bits and pieces about the evictions?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah, yeah. I heard from me uncle about the evictions and about, me mother would tell me bits, bits about the evictions as well. About the time that were that time and about the landlords and what they did and all that. And em, we weren't in that area. Colonel Humphrey was the landlord with us round here, that's why we weren't evicted. Probably if we'd have been in Derryveagh, we'd have been gone as well, you know? But, eh, that's the difference. They are two different estates. Like Derryveagh estate and this, this estate here was two different landlords who owned them, you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** And John George Adair was the one

**JOHN CHARLES:** He was the one that owned the Derryveagh estate, right up almost into Lough Barra, up until Doochary. From, from Gartan round, round by the Gartan Lake, round there.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** And how many families in all did he evict?

**JOHN CHARLES:** 46 families. Probably an average of 10 people per family, you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** My God.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah. The, the funny part about it, nobody ever came back to live there again. From 1861 it remained, eh, unoccupied since you know. Even to this present day there's nobody ever, ever lived there. Apart from people owning the land and. The Land Commission probably away back in, in the 1920's they divided the land and people that had had relatives evicted got land in Derryveagh and they would still own that land there yet, you know? But, eh, mostly the Sweeney, the Sweeney people were evicted and

different names you know? It's amazing how many different names were there, at that time.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah, O'Doherty's were there?

**JOHN CHARLES:** O'Doherty's were there as well probably. And Ward's, there was Ward's you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** But them names all died out then with the people going and all that. But there's some Sweeney's even in Glendowan/*Gleann Domhain* yet, you know? There's a few Sweeney's but they're be descendants of the ones that would be evicted, you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah, and did they then go off to Australia John, or...?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Well the older ones went, the older ones went into the workhouse. The people that couldn't work or travel. The younger ones all went, went to Australia. They got assisted passage or something like that. I think it's a £5 note you could go to Australia then, you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah. So their descendants come back still, don't they?

**JOHN CHARLES:** They still come back enquiring about their ancestors and what all that, you know? Yeah.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** So that was the story of Derryveagh.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** But the main reason would have been like, you took in, you took, you took a bailiff in from, from Scotland.

**JOHN CHARLES:** From Scotland, yeah.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** McMurray was he?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah, he looked. He was a sheep man you know? And he was Murray from Scotland, yeah. And, em, he never got on with the tenants. He blamed them for stealing sheep and sheep went missing and sometimes sheep died. But then the tenants were blamed for the sheep. They were accused of stealing the sheep and it turned out that the sheep died and they didn't steal any sheep at all.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** So he took, but he took a different breed of sheep over from Scotland, didn't he?

**JOHN CHARLES:** He took the Blackfeet, Blackfeet sheep yeah. They're still there yet some of the Blackfeet sheep, some of them. They seem to do well because the terrain in the Highlands of Scotland and, and, and, and the land. The terrain and land is much the same around here you know as the Highlands of Scotland. Cattle and sheep, it'd seem to be cattle would survive it as well. Red deer even.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** And then the tenants they, they certainly killed the bailiff Murray didn't they?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah well. Somebody, somebody murdered the bailiff. Yeah. There was, there was a land agent called Grayson as well. He had a land agent one other time and somebody shot him called Bradley. There was a big trial in the courthouse in Churchill. It went on up to the High Court in Dublin then. But they never could, Bradley wasn't, they could never find him guilty of shooting this Grayson was his name, you know.

He was Scottish as well. So, em, the case never went any farther you know? But they never found any, they never found who killed Murray. It never was found out.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Nobody was charged.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Nobody was ever charged for it.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah, but, but they were punished for it though.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Well, at the, at the end of the day (cough). At the end of the day the tenants were punished when they were evicted out of their houses.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** It had repercussions, you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Certainly.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** And what about then at the aftermath of all this? Like, did people generally, then different people came in to settle in, in Derryveagh and...?

**JOHN CHARLES:** No, that, that was the thing about it. Nobody ever came in to settle in it.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** No.

**JOHN CHARLES:** No, even yet there's nobody there. There's a, there's an old building. You can see it over across, just across the valley there. That used to be a barrack. Maybe even, there'd be nobody looking at that either. It belongs to the Glenveagh estate. Inside

the fence. You know, anything inside the fence then was the Glenveagh Estate then for, for the deer and all that, you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** They, em. They had to fence them all in, you know? That fence goes right round by Dunlewey and Poisoned Glen, right round there. Yeah.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Oh it does yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Couple of thousand acres or that you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Then after John George Adair, like, eh, another, another landlord took over like and wasn't he a bit better? That wasn't as harsh as...

**JOHN CHARLES:** No, I think he was a bit better than John George, yeah. I'm not sure his name, now. I mean, there are no records of who he was or what he was like, or... Then, then the, the whole Land Act changed then. The, the Landlord Tenant Act changed then and the tenants had more rights then. You see the time they were evicted, the tenant didn't have any rights. He could put, he could put them out. They didn't really own the land they were on, they only paid rent on it you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Paid rent to a landlord.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah, so they could be evicted at will, you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah. But was it not said that the, you know the marks that the log cabins are, the sod cabins they used to live in are still to be seen?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Oh yeah they're still to be seen. Yeah, if you look for them you'll find them.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** There's still evidence of people living there, still there. And even, em, the stone walls where they kept in, where they found the sheep, where he found the sheep and all.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** And the, the stone ditches. They didn't have any fences. They just built stone ditches to keep the, divide the different farms you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** So they're still there to be seen, yeah. Maybe evidence of crops as well you know and ridges of spuds and. It's amazing you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Sure is. John you later went on to. You said, you said, we were talking to you when I was coming in here. You went on to Rannafast, as a youngster did you not?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Aye. I used to play at *céills* down in Gortahork hall when I used to have a wee band at school. And em, we, we, I still do a lot of playing there yet in Derrybeg and even in, even in, in older days or me younger days I used to play in the Foreland Heights and Glassaigh and all over *Gaoth Dobhair*, you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah. So I would know the area pretty well.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Definitely do.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** John, you are going to sing one or two Gaelic songs for me first of all, are you not?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah, I'm going to sing one, one song that I learned at a *feis*, at a *feis* when I was a wee boy called *Caisleán de na nDeor*. But that's the only Gaelic song I'm pretty confident at, you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Right.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Right John.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Amhrán - Caisleán de na nDeor**

**Focail dothuigthe**

\*\*\*\*\*

**DÓNALL DINNY:** *Bulaí fir, John, maith tú.*

**DÓNALL DINNY:** *Anois a John, eh, tell me about the first woman evicted, eh, in the Derryveagh evictions that John George Adair evicted.*

**JOHN CHARLES:** Well I often heard that she was a widow woman called *Mac A' Bháird*. And she must've been an elderly lady, but, em the shock of the evictions and the hassle she got, I think she died later on. Later on that day I think it was, you know. After the evictions. She would've been the very first, yeah.



**DÓNALL DINNY:** And there was, there was a man you said, eh, a bailiff called Stewart. Tell me about him.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Well he, he owned the land across the lake from Adair, you know. He owned the Belbin/Bulbin (?) Estate. And me uncle always told me that, em, the two men they, they had a wager. They bet a wager of a fiver at the bench in Churchill. There used to be a courthouse in Churchill that time. And, eh, Adair said to Stewart, "You're a, you're a, you're a worse[r] man than me. I'm supposed to be very bad, put out 46 families. But you put out more people on average than I would have put out. Over a longer period of time". And they, they counted up all they put out alright and it turned out that, eh, Stewart was a worse man than Adair, he had out more people. But he didn't put them out all in the one day or couple of days. He put them out over a period of years, you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** That's what I often heard from me uncle you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** I know. Much the same in Scotland you were saying?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Well in the Highlands of Scotland, the Highlands. I was just looking at a programme on television on the British Isles. On the, on the history of the British Isles and, it, it turned out that the Highlands of Scotland there, there was a vast area of people put out there as well. And the, the landlord put them out to put in black sheep or black faced sheep I should say. That they paid, they would've paid better than the tenants. And they, they put them along, along the seashore and they didn't. Too, they found it very hard to make a living along the sea because they weren't used to, they weren't, they weren't sea faring people for a start. Which, which was very awkward for them as well. But I don't know how they survived, you know. But, there's still, they reckon there's still commemorate that, the time they were put out. Yet the people do come back to the area where they were evicted. They come to the area, the area where they were, where they were shifted to the seashore. Just watching a programme that night, last night about just the very same, the very same subject you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah. Just the same as the Derryveagh .... "\_\_\_\_+"

**JOHN CHARLES:** Much the same, probably the same time as well you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah, yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** But there was no land, there were no tenant landlord act. Nothing to protect the tenants, you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Nothing at all.

**JOHN CHARLES:** No.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Right John, you're going to sing a few more ballads for me, are you?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Ah, yeah.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** And, which ones are you going to sing?

**JOHN CHARLES:** I'd like to sing a song which I wrote about Glendowan/*Gleann Domhain* called 'The cottage in Glendowan/*Gleann Domhain*'.

**Amhrán – The Cottage in Glendowan/*Gleann Domhain*:**

**JOHN CHARLES:**

Fourteen miles from the town of Letterkenny,  
There's a place I love and always call my home.  
It's nestled in the hills of old Tír Chonail,  
It's my little Irish cottage in Glendowan/*Gleann Domhain*.  
All around that little house the flowers are bloomin',  
And the evergreens sway gently in the breeze.

In the summertime the fish swim in the river,  
That flows along the meadows and the trees.  
Was there that I was born one sunny mornin',  
My life began with those rolling hills so fine.

The place looks much the same as in the old days,  
Touched lightly by the gentle hands of time.

Now the hills of Derryveagh lie close beside me,  
And Gartan lakes lie plainly in my view.  
Sure Gartan is the home of Saint Columba,  
And many other Irish poets too.

When they take me to far and distant countries,  
There never was a place I called my home.  
There was a yearnin' deep inside for dear old Ireland,  
And my little Irish cottage in Glendowan/ *Gleann Domhain*.

And now I'm back at home among my own folk,  
I feel contented never more to roam.  
I'll settle down and live in old Tír Chonaill  
In my little Irish cottage in Glendowan/ *Gleann Domhain*.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Bulaí fir, John.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** You wrote the words yourself.

**JOHN CHARLES:** I wrote the words and the music. Well I didn't write the music. It was music that was in my head, you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah. Fair play to you.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah, yeah.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Good man. (pause) John, you mentioned Colmcille there in your song and, would you have a bit, bits of knowledge of his prophesies and all that, John?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Well there was old sayings that Colmcille's curse, you know they "\_\_\_\_\_" certain things you weren't supposed to do. That if you were cutting turf there, making turf there with a spade. That time everybody cut with spades and you were supposed to leave one step so Colmcille could get out of the bog, you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** At the end of the bank.

**JOHN CHARLES:** At the end of the bank, yeah.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** "\_\_\_\_\_"

**JOHN CHARLES:** And, eh. If you were putting on your shoes, you were supposed to put on the 2 socks, 2 shoes. Not put on one shoe and one sock and then another shoe and the other sock. You're supposed to put on the 2 socks first and then the 2 shoes.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah. Some, some old legends that he had, you know. Whatever happened him at the time, you know. That he would put a curse on anybody who would do it, do it different to normal you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** (Laughs). His way, yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah. But, em. Ah, he prophesised a lot of things, he. He prophesised that there'd be people coming back to Ireland if there "\_\_\_\_\_" come back to Ireland, he

reckoned there'd be, with black with people coming back again, you know. So the people are coming back again now right enough.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Some of them coming through you know. And he reckoned there'd be no difference in the winter and summer seasons. Be, only the trees would be the only difference you would see. It is gettin' very close to it now where you get bad days in the middle of summer and

**DÓNALL DINNY:** It is quite "\_\_\_\_\_+"

**JOHN CHARLES:** Hot days in the middle of the winter. In my, in my time the seasons have all changed, definitely.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Summers are, they, they're even hotter now you know. But I remember several bad years away back in the 70's you know. And the winters are much harder as well.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** So his prophesies are coming?

**JOHN CHARLES:** They are coming true to a certain degree you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah, yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** John, you're going to sing another one or two ballads for me, are you?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah, I'll sing a song about the hills around Glendowan/*Gleann Domhain*. A song that I composed you know.

**Amhrán – The Hills around Glendowan/ *Gleann Domhain*:**

**JOHN CHARLES:**

Early in the morning,  
I hear the cuckoo call.  
It brings me back to childhood days,  
In dear old Donegal.

I still recall the old folk,  
Who have passed along the way,  
All have gone to their reward,  
In a better land to stay.

I can clearly hear the sparrows chirp,  
And the blackbird sing his song,  
I think how quickly time does fly,  
How it surely moves along.

I feel the warm sun on my face,  
As I walk outside my door,  
I fell happy and contented,  
In my dear old home, once more.

I've been to many places,  
And so many sights I seen.  
But there is none that can compare,  
With my little isle of green.

I've been to New York City Grand,

Niagara's waterfall.  
But my heart was back in Ireland,  
In the county Donegal.

Oh far off lands were lovely,  
And the people they were grand.  
But there was a yearnin' deep inside,  
For dear old Ireland.

I miss the country dances,  
And the fiddlers as they played.  
I missed the Irish way of life,  
While in America.

While sitting on the big jet plane,  
I was headin' home at last.  
And all the sights and scenery,  
Could not erase my past.

I missed the friendly faces,  
Of that land I called my own.  
I missed those happy days I spent,  
In the hills around Glendowan/*Gleann Domhain*.

I missed the friendly faces,  
Of that land I called my own.  
I missed those happy days I spent,  
In the hills around Glendowan/*Gleann Domhain*.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Bulaí fir, John. Amhrán ar dóigh.

**Amhrán:**

**JOHN CHARLES:**

Attention pay a countrymen,  
And hear my latest news.  
Although my song is sorrowful,  
I hope you'll me excuse.

I left my peaceful residence,  
A foreign land to see.  
I bade farewell to Donegal,  
Likewise to Gleann Swilly.

It was on a summer's mornin',  
At the dawnin' of the day.  
When I left my peaceful happy home,  
To wander far away.

And as I viewed that grand old glen,  
Perhaps no more to see.  
I thought my heart would surely break,  
While leaving Gleann Swilly.

Great stalwart men around me stood,  
Each "\_\_\_\_\_" kind and true.  
And as I clasped each well known hand,  
To bade my last adieu.

Says I "My fellow countrymen,  
I hope you'll soon be free.  
For to see the sun burst  
Proudly over the hills of Gleann Swilly".



No more among the sycamore,  
I'll hear the blackbirds sing.  
No more to me the blythe cuckoo,  
Will welcome back the spring.

No more I'll plough your "\_\_\_\_\_" fields,  
"\_\_\_\_\_"  
On foreign soil I'm doomed to toil,  
Far, far from Gleann Swilly.

God bless you dear old Donegal,  
My home, dear native land.  
In dreams I'll oft time see your Glens,  
And lovely mountains grand.

But alas, three thousand miles do lie,  
Between your hills and me.  
I'm a poor feloorin' exile cast,  
Far away from Gleann Swilly.

May peace and plenty reign supreme,  
Around Lough Swilly's shores.  
May discord never enter,  
Our happy homes no more.

And may the time soon come around,  
When I'll return to thee.  
To live as my fore fathers lived and died in Gleann Swilly.

**Amhrán - The Mountains of Old Donegal:**

**JOHN CHARLES:**

Oh I wish I was back in old Ireland, t'is a land that I love and adore.  
To see once again her valleys and glens, and her green fields of beauty once more.  
To watch the sun rise in the mornin', o'er her lakes and her rivers supreme.  
To hear the birds sing in an evenin' in spring, such joy and such grandeur to see.

But I'm livin' in this lonely city, with no friends nor companions at all.  
Oh I wish I was back in the tumbledown shack, in the mountains of old Donegal.

To see the folks work in the meadow, making hay on a bright summer day.  
To stroll through the glade with a pretty fair maid, all my troubles will soon fade away.  
And when the dark winter "\_\_\_\_+", and cold winds from the north brings the snow,  
We'd sit round a blazin' turf fire, and tell stories of long, long ago.

But I'm livin' in this lonely city, with no friends nor companions at all.  
Oh I wish I was back in the tumbledown shack, in the mountains of old Donegal.  
Oh I wish I was back in the tumbledown shack, in the mountains of old Donegal.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** *Maith tú, John.* You, you composed that one?

**JOHN CHARLES:** I composed that one, yeah.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** The Mountains of Old Donegal.

**JOHN CHARLES:** A good few years ago now, I can't remember how long it was ago, you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** And it's been around a long, it's a good wee while now.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Aha. And Mickey McGinley composed 'The Hills of Gleann Swilly'?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Well, no. Mick McGinley, a fella called Mick McGinley.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Yeah. Aye, he lived across the, just across, (--). Gleann Swilly. Gleann Swilly he's just, just across the hills there now. You could even walk. They used to walk across in the old days you know. The roads weren't that good, so they just took the hills for it. (laughs).

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah. He wrote a lovely song though.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Ah, it's a brilliant song you know. It's been, been living, it's living for years now. And many people seem to like it you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** It'll never die you know. It'll still keep on going.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Do you know a bit of Mickey's history?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Well, he must've went, he must've went, he must've done a lot of travelling. He must've went to America probably and he wrote going to America. He, he went to New Zealand as well. He wrote a, he wrote for a song was going on the ship to New Zealand you know. And he would, em, he would've done a lot of that kind of. He used to come to Glendowan/*Gleann Domhain* on a Sunday afternoon to visit friends of his you know. There's another fella, a man called James Bán Mac Lochlainn. The two men must've known each other pretty well. He lived in Glendowan/*Gleann Domhain*. He would've wrote 'Lovely Old Fintown' and he wrote a song called 'Lovely Green Gaoth Dobhair' even, the time of Fr Mac Fadden, the time of the land troubles. That time, the time Mac Fadden, that Fr Mac Fadden was arrested you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** So, John Bán Mac Menamin wrote that?

**JOHN CHARLES:** 'Lovely Green Gaoth Dobhair'?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah. Is that what you said?

**JOHN CHARLES:** No. Seán Bán Mac Lochlainn.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Seán Bán Mac Lochlainn wrote that.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Aye, James Bán Mac Lochlainn is a "\_\_\_\_+"

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah. Do you know the words of that song?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Ah, I wouldn't know it, but I would have it. Have the words of it alright.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** But, eh, I don't know what music would go to it you know. But you see, he wasn't a musician, he was a, just a poet you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Right.

**JOHN CHARLES:** See he didn't write music. He just, the problem would be now you would need to put music to all the stuff he did write, you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** But he wrote.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** In the case of Mick McGinley's. Eh, he was one of the Fenians.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Oh definitely, aye. Very, very strong Fenian blood and “\_\_\_\_\_”

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. So he went on to America?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Aye, off to America. Wrote the song when he, when he, when he was going away, you know? He mi..., he might of wrote other songs which was lost probably, you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah, well he wrote ‘Drumbo Martyrs’ too didn’t he?

**JOHN CHARLES:** Oh aye, probably wrote that one as well, yeah.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Do you know that one?

**JOHN CHARLES:** No, but I eh, no I don’t know that one now. But I heard my mother telling about the Drumbo Martyrs. About, eh, the, thats time, The Civil War time in Ireland you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Charlie Daly was a Cork man, I, I think he visited Glendowan/*Gleann Domhain* on a few occasions, you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Oh he would have. Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Aye, the time they were on the run.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** They’d have safe houses.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Safe houses do you see, they could’ve went to, yeah. It was, was great hard times but.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Oh yeah. Do you want to sing more, one more John or...Hold on.

**(briseadh)**

**JOHN CHARLES:** " \_\_\_\_\_ " called ` *Tír Chonaill's* Lovely Glens'.

**Amhrán – *Tír Chonaill's* Lovely Glens:**

**JOHN CHARLES:**

I'm dreaming of Old Ireland, as the tears fall from my eyes,  
In the far and distant USA, far from home by many miles.  
I often dream of Mama, I can see her once again.  
Oh, I'm dreaming of Old Ireland and *Tír Chonaill's* lovely glens.

Glendowan/*Gleann Domhain*, " \_\_\_\_\_ ", Glencolumbkille/*Gleann Cholm Cille*, Glenfinn's a sight to see.

The Glen of Glens is home sweet home and the song of Glen Swilly.  
See the red deer on the hillside as you pass through sweet Glenveagh.  
See this beauty in old Ireland, I'm going back again some day.

To be at home for Christmas, how much joy you'd want to see.  
As we gathered round the turf fire, on a snowy Christmas Eve.  
With tales to tell and songs to sing, with the oil lamp on the wall.  
With the family altogether, back in dear old Donegal.

But here I am so far away, where the lights shine bright at night.  
When you're lonesome and you're all alone, thoughts of home are very nice.  
As I sit and gaze across the waves, I smell the turf fire once again.  
Oh, I'm dreaming of Old Ireland and *Tír Chonaill's* lovely glens.

But now I'm going back again, to the glens I love so well.  
I've been away so many years, many stories I can tell.

But now my days are over, soon they'll lay me down again.  
For to rest in peace in Ireland in *Tír Chonaill's* lovely glens.  
Oh, I'm dreaming of Old Ireland and *Tír Chonaill's* lovely glens.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** *Maith tú* John. Right, you want to tell me a piece about, eh, the old railway and the old train, John.

**JOHN CHARLES:** The old Swilly Railway. There was a...

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** There, there was a train that ran from Burtonport to Derry and it didn't go through any towns. It was, it was the funny thing about it that it didn't go through any town, but I used to hear my mother talking about walking to Foxhall which was almost, em, almost in Letterkenny, about ten mile, be five mile maybe from Foxhall to Letterkenny. But she, she walked, they'd get the train there into Letterkenny. And there was another stat..., there was a Churchill station down from Churchill village, she used to walk down there as well. But she always talked about the, that many different people on the, talked about all the music they would have on the train and all. I mean a lot of *Gaoth Dobhair* people used to travel on it as well and she used to talk about them playing accordions and fiddles and singing and, she, she used to reckon the *craic* used to be great on the train altogether.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** It would have been, yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Oh aye. But, eh, it's amazing you know, it wa..., it wasn't much good to us up here because we were that by wee bit farther from it. But that and all, they thought it was very good to get into Letterkenny on the train, may..., you know. Part of the journey anyway, you know?

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah, you would've been cut away kind of, eh...

**JOHN CHARLES:** We were cut away pretty bad, you know.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** Yeah.

**JOHN CHARLES:** Here you know. If I, I was to go to Glasgow the morrow morning, I would have to ring a taxi. There are no buses goes by. If I was living in *Gaoth Dobhair*, I'd be better off, probably, you know. Or even Falcarragh or even, even, even along the Breenagh Road round Glen Swilly there. Andy Doherty goes down from there, you know. Andy Doherty from Dungloe, he travels down there. McGeehans even travel. I would get a bus to Glasgow quicker there you know (laughs). It's amazing.

**DÓNALL DINNY:** I know. Alright John. *Go raibh míle maith agat fá choinne na rudaí sin, anyway. Go raibh maith agat do do chuid sheanchais agus do chuid cheoil, go raibh maith agat.*

**JOHN CHARLES:** *Aye, go raibh maith agat féin.*