

The "Béicéasán" or "Béicéasán"

The legend of the Béicéasán is a well-known one in the area and districts around. It is related that a man and his wife, who lived in Bearnalyra wood, had a son at work in England. They were written to saying that he was coming home and they set about preparing for his visit. The son brought a friend with him, and arriving in Dooleda, they walked from that town home to Bearnalyra. After being feasted and made comfortable the conversation drifted to many subjects - one of which was the making of money. The son's friend here produced a large amount of money in proof of his earning capacity.

The son and his friend, being fatigued, went early to bed. They shared the same bed in a room beside the kitchen. The son was soon fast asleep but his comrade found sleep hard to get, and lay awake half-listening to the voices of the man-of-the-house and his wife as they conversed by the kitchen fire. His attention was roused by an argument between the pair - and listening intent he discovered that the father conspired to kill him that night and take his purse. The woman objected strenuously - the father, however, was not dissuaded.

The stranger, hearing the father coming stealthily to the room, changed his position in the bed from the outside to the inside... the father, armed with a latchet, crept to the bedside and, thinking the stranger still to be on the outside of the bed - slew his son in mistake.

The stranger, escaped but ever after, the ghost of

The son, without a head, weeps sadly and with unceasingly crying - through Bannalyra wood. This is the "Beesooan" and its plaintive cry is said to be, "cursed be the father and blessed the mother," in Irish idiom. Many people say they have heard the "Beesooan."

Cnoc Ruao

Cnoc Ruao is a hill near Charlestown. It is said that in 1798 a French soldier, having wandered from his battalion after the "Castlebar Races", was set upon and slain by people of the locality. Repenting, and fearing the consequences, they disinterred his body twice and (to kind time) finally interred him in Cnoc Ruao. The hill is supposed to be haunted and some people fear to pass by it at night.