



Am Ballan-stiallach - The Pillory

Am Ballan-Stiallach

Tha an sgeulachd fhìrinneach a leanas air a h-aithris mu chailleag òg mu fichead bliadhna dh'aois a bhuineadh do baile air na Lochan, 's docha Marbhaig, aig toiseach a naoidheamh linn deug. A reir cunntas an t-Siorram ann an Steòrnabhagh bha beag-lochd air a chuir as leth a' phaisde nighean seo, agus glè thrice cha robh binn an lagha a reir an lochd aig an àm ud. Mar sin dh'fheumadh duine ann an Leodhus a bhith glè fhaiceallach nach cuireadh lagh na rìoghachd coire sam bith às a leth.

'S e binn an lagha air cailleag na Loch gum biodh i air a giùlain chun an toll-dubh ann an Steòrnabhagh agus air a cumail ann an sin airson còrr agus mìos, agus air a' chiad latha de'n Ghearran, air a toirt a mach le ròpa mu h-amhaich agus pàipear air a broilleach le cunntas an lochd a bha air a cuir às a leth air a sgrìobhadh ann an litrichean mòra, agus an uair sin air a cuir na seasamh air a' bhallan-stiallach airson dà uair a thide eadar deich uairean sa mhadaoinn agus dà uair feasgair. An dèidh sin bha i gu bhith air a fògradh a mach à Siorramachd Rois agus Chrombaidh airson seachd bliadhna.

Mar a bha nàdarrach do nighean òg mu fichead bliadhna dh'aois, rinn an truaghag a rathad air ais dhachaidh gu Leodhus ann am beagan ùine ged a bha fios aice gun deidheadh a fuadach às an dùthaich a rithist nan deidheadh a' glacadh ann an Siorramachd Rois agus Chrombaidh.

Air an dàrna mìos de 1820 chaidh Ciorstaidh fhaighinn a rithist ann an Leodhus agus chaidh a cuir ann an grèim, agus a cuir a rithist na seasamh air a' bhallan-stiallach airson dà uair a thide le pàipear cunntais an lochd a bha air a cuir às a leth mu h-amhaich, agus an dèidh sin chaidh a fuadach às an eilean airson seachd bliadhna eile.

Chan eil fios againn an tàinig an nighean seo riamh air ais gu Leodhus. Co-dhiù chan eil cunntas againn gun tàinig, agus's docha gun deach gabhail rithe nas fheàrr air tir-mòr.

The Pillory

The following true story is told of a young girl of about 20 years of age who belonged to a village in Lochs, maybe Marvig, at the beginning of the nineteenth century. According to the Sheriff's Record, this young girl had been convicted of a petty crime, and very often in these days the sentence did not fit the crime. Therefore people in Lewis had to be very careful that they were not found guilty by the Law of the Land.

The Lochs girl's sentence was that she be carried to the prison in Stornoway, held there for over one month, and on the first of April she was to be dragged out with a rope tied round her neck and a paper pinned to her chest with details (written in big writing) of the crime she was convicted of. Then she was made to stand up on the pillory for two hours sometime between the hours of ten o'clock in the morning and two o'clock in the afternoon. After that she was forced to leave the Sheriffdom of Ross and Cromarty for seven years.

Well, naturally, after a short time (as any young twenty year old would do) the poor girl made her way home to Lewis which was then part of Ross and Cromarty. She was well aware that if she was caught there she would be thrown out of the county.

In the second month of 1820, Kirsty was found again in Lewis and arrested. She was again put on the pillory for two hours with a paper hanging round her neck giving account of her crime. After that she was put off the Island for another seven years.

We do not know if this girl ever returned to Lewis. However, we have no record of this, and maybe she fared much better on the mainland.

Note: A pillory is a wooden frame supported on a wooden pillar and furnished with holes through which the head and the hands of a person were put, so as to expose the person to public derision and ridicule. This practice was abolished in 1837.

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