

Princess Beara

Beara-Breifne Way
Slí Bhéara-Breifne



In the early centuries AD, Conn Céad Cathach (Con of the Hundred Battles) fought a fierce battle against Eoghan (Owen) Mór, King of Ireland, at Cloch Barraige. Eoghan was badly injured in the battle. Those of his followers who survived took him to Inis Greaghraighe (now known as Bere Island) as a safe place for him to recover. There, the fairy Eadaoin (Aideen) took him to her *grianán* (bower) where she nursed him back to full health. Nowadays, this place is known as Greenane.

Eoghan and his followers then sailed southwards until they reached Spain. There he met and married Beara, daughter of the King of Castille.

Later Eoghan and Beara, sailed from Spain with a large army and landed in Greenane. Owen took his wife to the highest hill on the island and, looking across the harbour, he named the island and the whole peninsula in honour of his wife. Rossmacowen, Kilmacowen, and Buaille Owen are probably named after Eoghan Mór. According to local tradition Eoghan's wife, Princess Beara, is buried in the valley between Maulin and the Knocknagree Mountains.