

## **An Litir Bheag** **le Ruairidh MacIlleathain**

An Litir Bheag is a shortened and simplified version of Ruairidh's Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh (also available on the BBC website), designed for those who are at an earlier stage of learning Gaelic. The topic each week is the same as Litir do Luchd-ionnsachaidh so that, once the Litir Bheag is mastered, a student of the language might wish to try the full Litir. This is Litir Bheag 182 (which corresponds to Litir 486). Ruairidh can be contacted at [rodgy.maclean@bbc.co.uk](mailto:rodgy.maclean@bbc.co.uk).

*A few months ago I was in Campbeltown. That's in Kintyre. It's called Campbeltown in English. Next to the community centre in the town, there is a memorial/monument. It is to William MacKinnon, or Sir William MacKinnon.*

*A few weeks after that, I got hold of a book. The name of the book is "Keil School – a History". It's a man from Barra – Roddy MacAskill – that wrote it. He was a pupil at Keil School in the thirties.*

*What is the link between the book and the memorial? Well, William MacKinnon gave away a lot of money. With the money, the school was established. But who was William MacKinnon?*

*He was born in 1823 in Campbeltown. He was working in a shop in the town. He didn't enjoy it all that much.*

*When he was twenty-four, he went to India. He and a friend set up a company in Calcutta. They had offices in Calcutta and Glasgow.*

O chionn beagan mhìosan bha mi ann an Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain. Tha sin ann an Cinn Tìre. 'S e Campbeltown a tha air ann am Beurla. Ri taobh an ionaid-choimhearsnachd anns a' bhaile, tha carragh-cuimhne. Tha e do dh'Uilleam MacFhionghain, no Sir Uilleam MacFhionghain.

Beagan seachdainean an dèidh fhuair mi grèim air leabhar. 'S e an t-ainm air an leabhar "Keil School – a History". 'S e fear à Barraigh – Ruairidh MacAsgaill – a sgrìobh e. Bha esan na sgoilear aig Keil School anns na tritheadan.

Dè an ceangal a tha ann eadar an leabhar agus an carragh-cuimhne? Uill, thug Uilleam MacFhionghain tòrr airgid seachad. Leis an airgead, chaidh an sgoil a chur air chois. Ach cò bha ann an Uilleam MacFhionghain?

Rugadh e ann an ochd ceud deug, fichead 's a trì (1823) ann an Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain. Bha e ag obair ann am bùth anns a' bhaile. Cha do chòrd e ris cus.

Nuair a bha e fichead 's a ceithir, dh'fhalbh e do na h-Inns-eachan. Chuir e fhèin is caraaid companaidh malairt air chois ann an Calcutta. Bha oifisean aca ann an

*William was very successful. His ships went to Singapore and Persia. He had steam vessels, rather than sailing vessels. In 1862, his company got a new name – The British India Steam Navigation Company.*

*William was also interested in East Africa. He set up a new company – The Imperial British East Africa Company. The company was governing a large area in East Africa. The British Government bought that country from the company. They created British East Africa.*

*William was supportive of the Free Church. He gave financial assistance to the Church. They were sending missionaries to Africa. He knew the explorers, Livingstone and Stanley. Stanley had a good opinion of him.*

*.Next week, I'll be explaining the link between William and Keil School. Cheerio just now.*

Calcutta is Glaschu.

Bha Uilleam gu math soirbheachail. Bha na longan aige a' dol gu Singapore agus Persia. Bha soithichean-smùide aige, seach soithichean-seòlaidh. Ann an ochd ceud deug, seasgadh 's a dhà (1862), fhuair a' chompanaidh aige ainm ùr – *The British India Steam Navigation Company*.

Bha ùidh aig Uilleam cuideachd ann an taobh sear Afraga. Chuir e companaidh ùr air chois – *The Imperial British East Africa Company*. Bha a' chompanaidh a' riaghladh sgìre mhòr ann an Afraga an Ear. Cheannaich Riaghaltas Bhreatainn an dùthaich sin bhon chompanaidh. Chruthaich iad *British East Africa*.

Bha Uilleam taiceil don Eaglais Shaoir. Thug e taic-airgid don Eaglais. Bha iad a' cur miseanaraidhean a dh'Afraga. Bha e eòlach air an luchd-rannsachaidh, Livingstone is Stanley. Bha beachd math aig Stanley air.

An ath-sheachdain, bidh mi a' mìneachadh a' cheangail eadar Uilleam agus *Keil School*. Mar sin leibh an-dràsta.