

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 407 (which corresponds to Litir 711). Ruairidh can be contacted at rodny.macleon@bbc.co.uk.

I was speaking about the vessel, the Admiral. She sailed from Lochboisdale in 1851. There were 450 natives of Barra on board. The landlord, Colonel John Gordon of Cluny, cleared the people.

When the people left their houses, the landlord's agents destroyed the buildings. Some refused to go on the Admiral in Lochboisdale. The agents went after them with dogs.

The agents went to Barra as well, where they got hold of other people. They put them to Lochboisdale – and on board the Admiral.

But they didn't get hold of everybody. On Beinn Bhaslain, the daughters of John MacDougall hid. They saw their father being taken away. In Balnabodach, Michael Maclean, a lad of 16 years of age, hid. He was on a ledge on the cliffs.

Two years after the Admiral sailed from Lochboisdale, there was another vessel in island waters. She was also going to Quebec. But the story of the Annie Jane is different. The people on

Bha mi a' bruidhinn mun t-soitheach, an Admiral. Sheòl i à Loch Baghasdal gu ruige Quebec ann an ochd ceud deug, caogad 's a h-aon (1851). Bha ceithir cheud gu leth Barrach air bòrd. Dh'fhuadaich an t-uachdaran, an Coirneal Iain Gòrdan Chluanaidh, na daoine.

Nuair a dh'fhàg na daoine na taighean aca, rinn maoir an uachdarain sgrios air na togalaichean. Dhiùlt cuid a dhol air bòrd an Admiral ann an Loch Baghasdal. Chaidh na maoir air an tòir le coin.

Chaidh na maoir a Bharraigh cuideachd, far an d' fhuair iad grèim air daoine eile. Chuir iad gu Loch Baghasdal iad – agus air bòrd an Admiral.

Ach cha d' fhuair iad grèim air a h-uile duine. Air Beinn Bhaslain, bha nigheanan Iain MhicDhùghaill am falach. Chunnaic iad an athair, agus e air a thoirt air falbh. Ann am Buaile nam Bodach, chaidh Mìcheal MacIlleathain, gille sia bliadhn' deug a dh'aois, am falach. Bha e air leac air na creagan.

Dà bhliadhna às dèidh gun do sheòl an Admiral à Loch Baghasdal, bha soitheach eile ann an uisgeachan nan eilean. Bha ise cuideachd a' dol a Quebec. Ach tha stòiridh an Annie Jane eadar-dhealaichte. Chan e eileanaich a bha anns na daoine air

board weren't islanders. And, unlike the people on the Admiral, who died on the far side of the ocean, most of the people on the Annie Jane died in the islands.

Nearly 160 years have gone by since then. The Annie Jane sailed from Liverpool in August 1853. Like the Admiral, there were around four hundred people on board. Many of them were from Ireland. About a hundred people were from the Lowlands of Scotland. They were tradespeople. Tradespeople were in high demand in Canada.

There were also some from Lancashire in England. There were some who were rather well-off. They were going to a new life in Canada. I'll tell you what happened to all of them at the mouth of the Bàgh Siar in Vatersay.

bòrd. Agus, eucoltach ris na daoine air an *Admiral*, a fhuair bàs air taobh thall a' chuain, fhuair a' chuid a bu mhotha de na daoine air an *Annie Jane* bàs anns na h-eileanan.

Cha mhòr nach eil ochd fichead bliadhna air a dhol seachad bhon uair sin. Sheòl an *Annie Jane* à Liverpool anns an Lùnastal ochd ceud deug, caogad 's a trì (1853). Coltach ris an *Admiral*, bha timcheall air ceithir cheud duine air bòrd. Bha mòran dhiubh à Èirinn. Bha mu cheud duine à Galltachd na h-Alba. 'S e luchd-ceàirde a bha annta. Bha fèill mhòr air luchd-ceàirde ann an Canada.

Bha feadhainn ann cuideachd à Lancashire ann an Sasainn. Bha feadhainn a bha rudeigin beartach. Bha iadsan a' dol gu beatha ùr ann an Canada. Innsidh mi dhuibh an-ath-sheachdain mar a thachair dhaibh uile aig beul a' Bhàigh Siar ann am Bhatarsaigh.