



## Irish placenames associated with death

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- *carn* (a heap of stones, especially as burial monument, a passage tomb),
- *duma* (mound, grave-mound, barrow),
- *fert, fertae* (grave-mound, burial place, grave, mound as a boundary mark, an assembly mound),
- *lecht* (grave, tomb, grave-mound, memorial cairn),

2

- *síd* (fairy hill or mound, prehistoric burial place, otherworld entrance),
- *túaim* (ridge, hillock, mound, tumulus),
- *ulad* (tomb, sepulchre, burial cairn, penitential station);

3

- *lige* (bed, couch, grave, flat burial space);
- *imdae* (bed, couch; grave, tomb);
- *lepaid* ('bed, cubicle; burial chamber, grave);
- *úa(i)g* (grave);

4

- *lí*a (rock, standing stone, pillar stone, memorial stone)

5

- *túaim* (ridge, hillock, mound, tumulus)'.
  - *Tuaim Tenba*, the original name for *Dinn Ríg*:
  - Dind Ríg / ruad tuaim tenbad
  - Tríchait n-airech / fo brón bebsait.
  - M. A. O'Brien, *Corpus Genealogiarum Hiberniae* (1962, 1976)
  - 'Dinn Rí, strong Túaim Tenba, thirty nobles die there in anguish' (translation by M. Dillon);

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- dorsum Tóimne: ‘Ernene ... he (himself a holy monk) lies buried among the remains of other monks of Saint Columba, and awaits the resurrection with the saints, in the ridge of *Tóimm*’. A.O. & M.O. Anderson, *Adomnán’s Life of Columba* (1961);
- *Drumhome* / **Droim Thuama**, Co. Donegal;

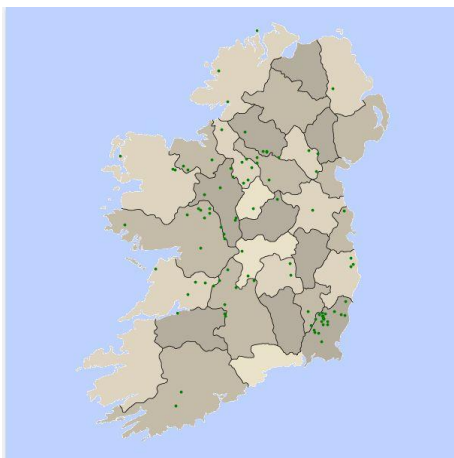
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- ‘the meaning “hill, ridge” will not fit in every case, as *druim* and *túaimm* can hardly be synonyms in the current placename’ D. Greene ‘*túaimm*, *stuaim* : W. *ystum*, *ystwyth*’, *Celtica* 4 (1958);
- D. Mac Giolla Easpaig, ‘Placenames and early settlement in County Donegal’, *Donegal: History and Society* (1995)

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- 781 Abbas Tommae da Olann *AU*
  - 881 princeps Thuama da Ghualann *AU*
- > *Tuam* / **Tuaim**
- *Tomgraney* / **Tuaim Gréine**
- 
- **Cill Tuama** -- **cill**, ‘church’

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« GLOSSARY OF WORDS COMMONLY FOUND IN IRISH PLACENAMES

## tuaim

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### English

(grave-)mound, burial-place

### Examples

Tuaim, Tuaim Gréine, Cill Tuama

[Full list](#)

- *tuaim* v. *tom*, see C. Ó Cruaíoch & A. Mac Giolla Chomhghaill, *Townland names of Co. Wexford* (2016).

*tom*, 'bush, tuft, hillock, knoll'

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- (1) non-Christian graves of the *geinti*; (2) Christian graves and cemeteries; (3) terms that straddle both belief systems. E. Bhreathnach, 'From fert(ae) to relic: mapping death in early sources', *Death and burial in early medieval Ireland in the light of recent archaeological excavations* (2010)

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## Fert(ae)

- *fert* neuter *o*-stem orig.; *fertae* feminine *ia*-stem. D. A. Binchy considered the latter to be originally a collective noun ('Coibnes Uisci Thairidne', *Ériu* 17, 1955);
- *fert(ae)*, 'a grave-mound, burial place, an assembly mound, mound as a boundary mark, grave';

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- 863 *Uam Féirt Boadan os Dubadh AU* ('The cave of Boadán's Mound above Dubad');
- *Dindshenchas Éirenn* ('history of important Irish places');
- *Lebor Gabála Éirenn* ('book of the taking of Ireland'): Fert Scotá;

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- Cluain Ferta ('pasture of the grave-mound');
- *Ardfert* / **Ard Fhearta**

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- C. Swift, 'Pagan monuments and Christian legal centres in early Meath', *Ríocht na Midhe* 9 (1996);
- *Fertae Martyrum* ('the (burial)-mound of the martyrs'), Armagh

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- ‘ ... and the days of mourning for the king’s daughters came to an end, and they buried them beside the well of *Clébach*, and they made a round ditch (*fossa*) after the manner of a *ferta*, because that is what the heathen Irish used to do, but we call it *relic*, that is, the remains of the maidens (*residuae puellarum*). And the *ferta* was made over to Patrick with the bones of the holy virgins ...and he made an earthen church in that place’ (Tírechán), L. Bieler, *The Patrician Texts in the Book of Armagh* (1979).

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- Cluain Ferta Mo-Lua, Cluain Ferta Brénainn;
- Fert nAilbe – P. Ó Riain, *Beatha Ailbhe / The Life of Saint Ailbhe of Emly* (2017);

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- ‘This resulted in the cessation of use of many familial or ancestral cemeteries after the eighth century, although others continued in use until the church reforms of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, occasionally even later ...’ foreword to *Death and burial in early medieval Ireland ...* (2010)
- 

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- ‘dú itá ind Ferta indíu’ K. Mulchrone, *Bethu Phátraic / The Tripartite Life of Patrick* (1939);
- G. Toner, ‘The definite article in Irish place-names’, *Nomina* 22 (1999);
- Maigh F(h)earta (Co. Clare);
- Cluain an Fhearta (Co. Roscommon);

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## feart (also: fearta)

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**English**  
(grave-)mound

**Examples**  
[Cluain Fearta](#), [Fearta](#), [Dún Feart](#), [Feartach](#), [An Feartán](#)

[Full list](#)

## definite article

- *Cloghnart* / **Cloch an Fhearta**
- *Drumnart* / **Droim an Fhearta**
- *Nart* / **An Fhearta**

- *Lecht*, ‘grave, tomb, sepulchral monument, resting place’; ‘death’ *DIL*
- < Latin *\*lectus*, ‘couch, bed, funeral bed, bier’;

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## Lía Úaland

- Úalu a ainm ... atá a lecht 7 a lía forsin tsliigi ocon glais .i. Lía Úaland a ainm (‘His grave and his headstone are on the road beside the stream. Lia Úalann is its name.’) *TBC* (Rec. 1);
- Úalu a chomainm ...Rádis Medb ar co tucthá anís 7 claitte a fhert 7 ara túargabtha a lía. Conid de atá Lía Úaland i crích Cúalnge (‘Medb ordered him to be brought up (out of the river) and his grave dug and his stone raised. Whence the name Lia Úaland.’) *TBC* (LL).

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- cen fert do dul inna lecht ('no tumulus should be put on his grave') J. Carney, *The poems of Blathmac son of Cú Brettan* (1964);

25

- five examples of memorial cairns named *leachta*, or *leachtaí* / *leachtanna* in the plural on Achill Island -- F. Mac Gabhann, *Logainmneacha Mhaigh Eo 3: Paróiste Acla* (2014);

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## leacht (also: sleacht)

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**English**  
grave-mound, monument

**Examples**  
Leacht na mBard, Leachta, Corr Leacht, Sleacht Mhánasa

Full list

### *Lattacrom* / **An Leachta Crom**

- ‘Mr. Marran says that by *Leata* the Farney men always understand any honorary or commemorative monument, such as where a man was nearly killed ....’. J. O’Donovan, Ordnance Survey Namebook (1835)

- 'In the south Ulster drumlin belt ...townlands normally contain drumlin cores, often with hill-top raths or ringforts reflecting dry-point settlements from the early medieval period' P. Duffy 'Townlands: territorial signatures of landholding and identity', *The heart's townland: marking boundaries in Ulster* (2004).