

BANNER LOOP

Tom Conneely

(1872–1941)

Fisherman & Gillie
Iascaire & Giolla

Born in Galway city, Tom Conneely worked all his adult life on the river as a salmon fisherman for the owners of the Galway Fishery. He also worked as a gillie, bringing visiting anglers upriver to show them where the best fishing grounds were located on Lough Corrib.

One of Tom's many work duties was to check the fish traps (or cribs) at Queen's Gap, between Salmon Weir Bridge and O'Brien's Bridge, where most of the salmon were caught. In April 1937, Tom noticed a very large salmon in the crib. It weighed 43 pounds and was 4 feet in length, and 27 inches in girth. The salmon was donated to the Zoological Department of University College, Galway.



Fairhill Road, Claddagh,
where Tom Conneely was born
Photo Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland

I gCathair na Gaillimhe a rugadh Tom Conneely. Chaith sé a shaol ar fad, agus é ina fhear fásta, ar an abhainn agus é ag iascach bradáin d'úinéirí iascach na Gaillimhe. Bhí sé ina ghiolla freisin, agus é ag tabhairt slatiascairí suas an abhainn, mar a dtaispeánadh sé na háiteanna ab fearr iascaireacht ar Loch Coirib dóibh.

Ar cheann de na dualgais go leor a bhí ag Tom bhí na cléibh éisc a sheiceáil ag Queen's Gap, idir Droichead na mBradán agus Droichead Uí Bhriain, áit a mbeirtí ar an gcuid is mó de na bradáin. I mí Aibreáin 1937, thug Tom bradáin an-mhór faoi deara sa chliabh. Bhí 43 punt meáchain ann agus bhí sé 4 troithe ar a fhad agus 27 n-orlaí ar a leithead. Bronnadh an bradáin ar Roinn Zó-eolaíochta Choláiste na hOllscoile, Gaillimh.



Site of fish cribs at Queen's Gap on Corrib River
Photo Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



J.J. Hession, P. Francis, T. Barrett and Tom Conneely 1937,
with large salmon caught at Galway Fisheries
Photo Courtesy Tommy Conneely



MÚSAEM CATHRACH NA GAILLIMHE
GALWAY CITY MUSEUM



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