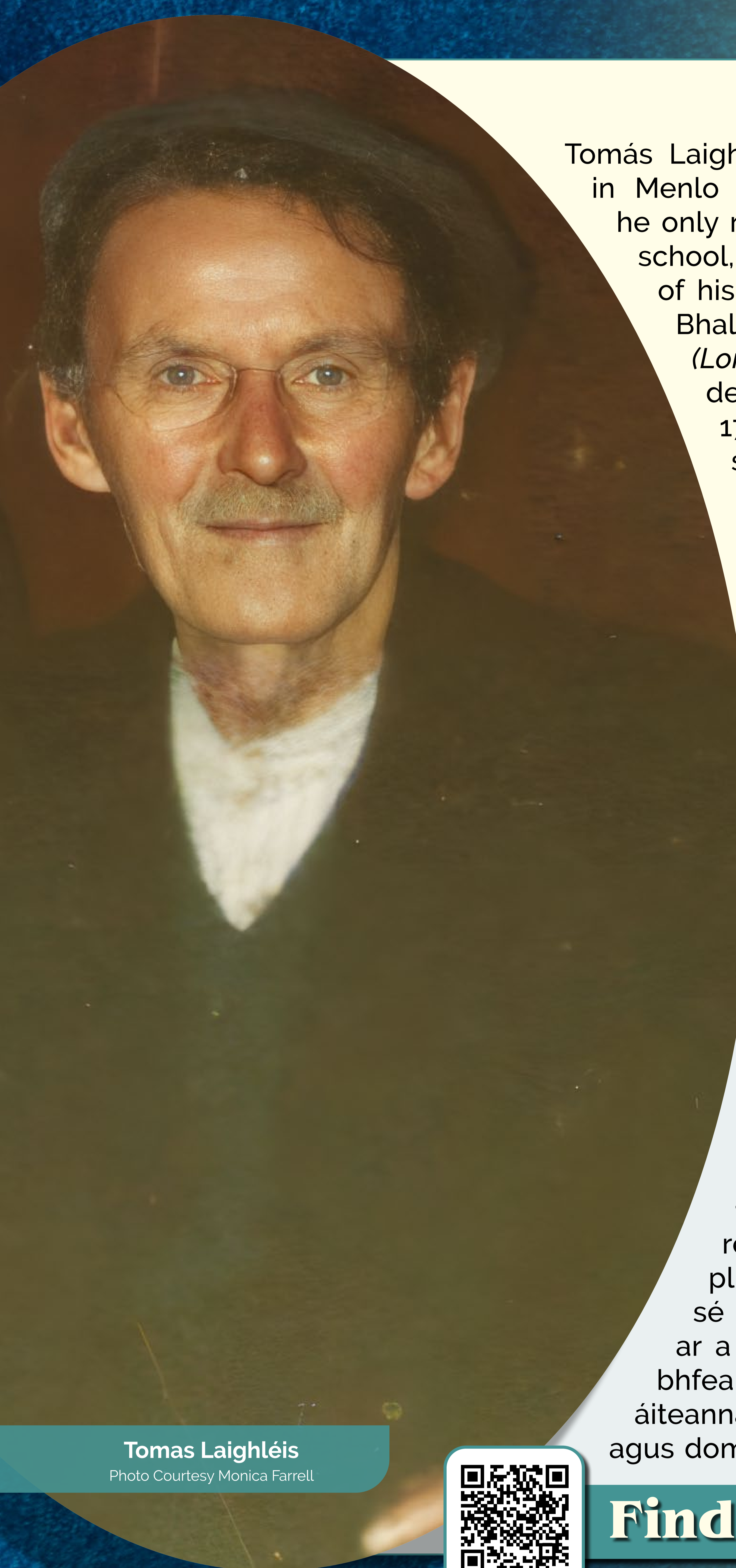


# Thomas Lawless

(1895–1984)

Traditional Storyteller  
Seanchaí



Thomas Laighléis  
Photo Courtesy Monica Farrell

Tomás Laighléis (Thomas Lawless), was born and died in Menlo on the edge of the River Corrib. Though he only received a basic education at Menlo national school, he had a remarkable sense of observation of his native area. Guided by Professor Tomás de Bhaldraithe, he wrote *Seanchas Thomáis Laighléis (Lore of Thomas Lawless, 1977)*. The book vividly describes the social history of the area from 1780 to the 1980s. It recorded religious events, salmon poaching and flour stealing when hunger struck. He chronicled the behaviour of the wildlife of the area but was at his best when describing the gatherings of men on Sundays around the large stones, hallowed meeting places, to discuss local and world affairs.

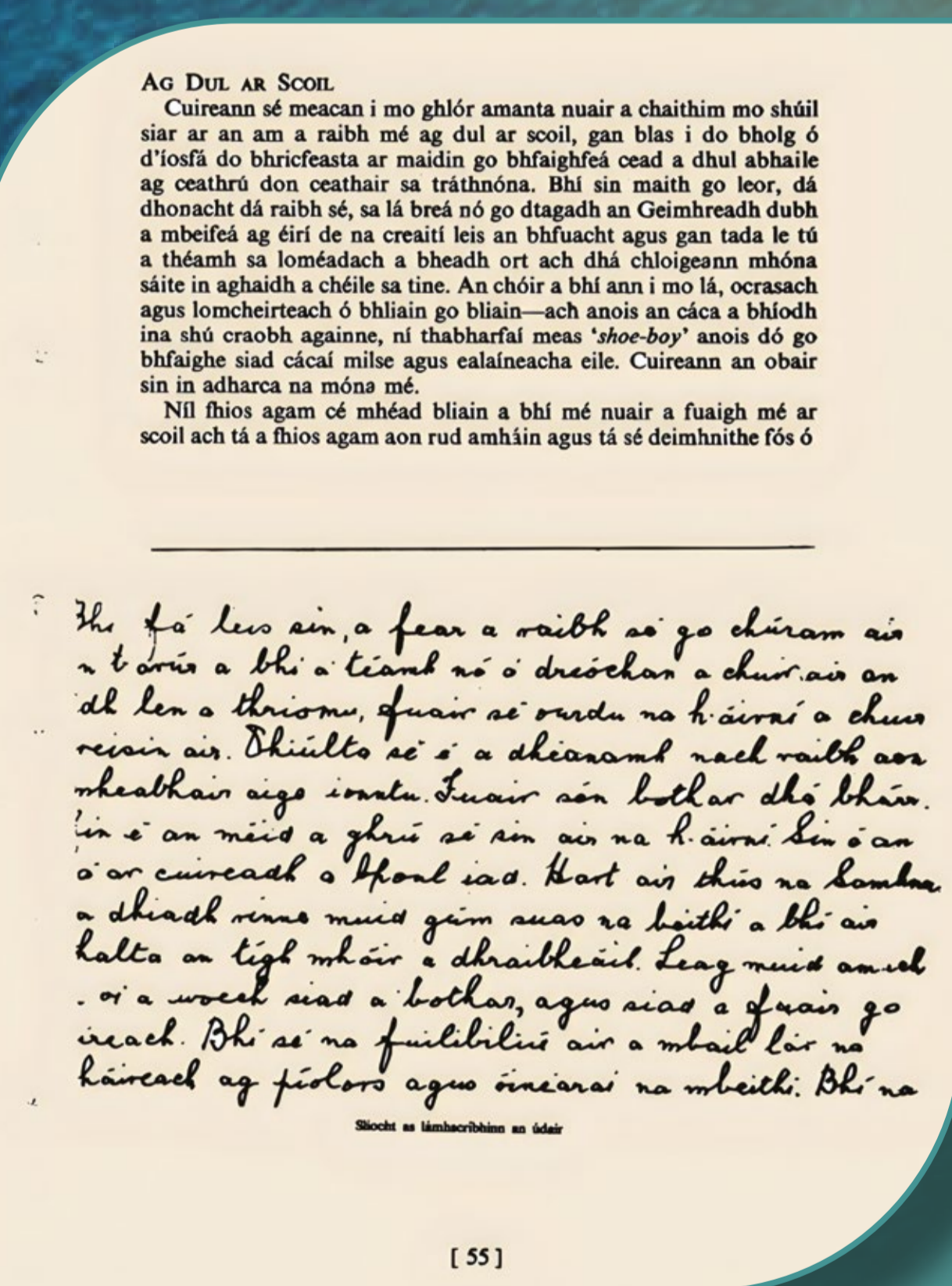
Rugadh agus fuair Tomás Laighléis (Thomas Lawless) bás, i Mionlach ar bruach Abhainn na Coiribe. Cé nach bhfuair sé ach bunoidreachas i scoil náisiúnta Mhionlaigh, bhí tuiscint shuntasach aige ar a cheantar dúchais. Agus é á threorú ag an Ollamh Tomás de Bhaldraithe, scríobh sé *Seanchas Thomáis Laighléis I* 1977. Déanann an leabhar cur síos beoga ar stair shóisialta an cheantair ó 1780 go dtí na 1980í. Taifeadadh imeachtaí reiligiúnacha, póitseáil bradán agus goid plúir nuair a tháinig an t-ocras orthu. Chroch sé iompar fhiadhúlra an cheantair ach bhí sé ar a dhícheall agus é ag cur síos ar thionóil na bhfear ar an Domhnach thart ar na clocha móra, áiteanna cruinnithe sainiúla, chun cúrsaí áitiúla agus domhanda a phlé.



Find Out More



Thomas Laighléis with his nieces, 1981  
Photo Courtesy Monica Farrell



Extract from *Seanchas Thomáis Laighléis* including his handwriting  
Photo Courtesy Monica Farrell



Thomas at his home in Menlo  
Photo Courtesy Monica Farrell



Coiste Poball Dúchais  
Mionloch, Gort an Chaladh, Coill  
Uachtara agus Cúil Each.



MÚSAEM CATHRACH NA GAILLIMHE  
GALWAY CITY MUSEUM

