



Amongst the ancient Gaelic and Celts of Ireland and Scotland we find that the property upon which the family lived was known as 'baile' a word from Gaelic whose meaning is described as ones home, dwelling, farm, village and town.

The modern day meaning of baile would be 'town' and 'township' a description which is different from its original meaning as when these Gaelic and Celtic names were first used there were very few towns, hence its original meaning was 'place' and 'home' as in the 'place of' and the 'home of'.

The British in its colonisation outlawed the Irish language and forced them to speak English with the intention of changing the place names as they knew their ancient history was contained within their place names and so to change its future you have to change its past.

Written by James Cooper

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The origin of baile seems to be 'bhu' a word from Sanskrit whose meaning is to 'be' to 'become' to 'exist' and this is seen in 'bhu-alio' a pre Celtic word meaning 'the place where one dwells' 'the place where one is' which then becomes this baile meaning 'dwelling' and 'home' and from this the modern day prefix 'bal' meaning 'town'.

Within his book 'The Rise of the Celts' author Henry Hubert writes "It is even supposed to come from the root 'bhu' meaning 'to be', the word 'baile' implies a word 'balios' which implies a pre celtic 'bhu-alio' meaning 'the place where one is'".

An interesting word related to this is 'husband' and 'husbandry' from the Old Norse words 'hus' meaning 'house' and 'boandi' meaning to 'dwell' as in that which dwells in the home. boandi, like baile, are both formed from 'bhu' a Sanskrit root which means to 'be' to 'become' to 'exist'.

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