

Shimmey dooinney ayns ny Hellanyn Sheear ta enmyssit Donald John ny Dòmhnall Iain, myr shen cha nyrrys da Màiri Anna NicLeòid yn ennym shen y chur er e trass lhiannoo rish yn dooinney Germaanagh-Americaanagh eck, Fred Trump. Ta'n mac shen nish ny Eaghtyranteiyt er ny Steatyn Unnaneyssit, as choud's ta fys aym, she eh yn chield eaghtyrann ta Gaelg ec e voir ny e ayr myr çhengey ny mayrey. Va Màiri ruggit ayns 1912 ayns Tong ayns ellan Lewis, yn nane saa jeh jeh paitçhyn. Va e hayr ny eirinnagh, ny eeasteyr as ny er-oik va cur er cloan goll gys y scoill.

Ta clein Trump er ve lhiggey er ry foddey dy daink Màiri quail Fred Trump tra v'ee er "laghyn seyrey" ayns New York. Nish ta pabyryn arraghey-stiagh er jeet gys soilshey (Yn Ashoonagh, 21 Boaldyn 2016) ta soilshaghey dy re trooid ymmyrch, as cha nee son taitnys, haink Màiri NicLeòid gys America. Haink ee harrish y cheayn lesh \$50 ayns e sporrann, as v'ee son sharvaant thie rish kiare bleeaney ec y chooid sloo. V'ee geiyrt er e shuyr Catriona ny Katie, hie gys America erreish jee v'er chur lhiannoo oainjyragh son y theihll ayns Lanarkshire. T'eh jeeaghyn dy jagh Katie ersooyl as ee shirrey bea noa dy chur cooyl rish yn nearey. Daag ee yn lhiannoo dy ve troggit ayns Tong as ayns traa gerrid phoos ee Albinagh ayns New York. She maroosyn ren Màiri fuirraght tra raink ee gys America 'sy toshiaght.

T'eh jeeaghyn dy ren Màiri meeiteil rish Fred Trump ec daunse marish e shuyr. V'eshyn ny lhiaseyder-shelloo va hannah berçhagh, ga dy row eh jeh slught injil eh hene. Ren e ayr Friedrich Trumpf scughey gys America ass balley beg ayns Bavaria (nish ayns Rheinland-Pfalz), as hie eh er eebyrt liorish reiltys Bavaria son shaghney shirveish 'syn armee (Yn Guardian, 21 Mee Houny 2016). Dinsh Màiri as Fred breag er yn choontey-sleih ayns 1940, edyr eh ve marran ny jeh nyn yioin, as ad screeu dy re seyraanagh Americanaagh va Màiri, ga nagh row ee dooghyssit gys 1942. Ta Donald Trump dy mennick loayrt mysh cur smaght er arraghey-stiagh, agh dy beagh ny polaseeyn echey hene er ve ayns bree kiare feed blein er dy henney, s'goan my veagh Donald hene er y theihll—er-nonney veagh eh ny yiulean Gaelgagh ayns Lewis.

There are many men in the Western Isles of Scotland called Donald John or Dòmhnall Iain, so it is no surprise that Mary Anne Macleod gave this name to her third son with her German-American husband, Fred Trump. That son is now the President-elect of the United States, and so far as I know, he is the first president to have a Gaelic-speaking parent. Mary was born in 1912 in Tong, Lewis, the youngest of ten children. Her father was a crofter, fisherman and truancy officer.

The Trump family have long claimed that Mary met Fred Trump while “on holiday” in New York. Now immigration papers have come to light (The National, 21 May 2016) which show that it was necessity rather than leisure that brought Mary Macleod to America. She arrived with only \$50 dollars in her purse, and worked as a domestic servant for at least four years. She was following her sister Catherine or Katie, who emigrated after giving birth to an illegitimate child in Lanarkshire. It seems that Katie went away seeking a new life to escape the shame. She left the child to be raised in Tong and in a short time married a Scotsman in New York. Mary stayed with them when she first came to America.

It seems that Mary met Fred Trump at a dance with her sister. He was already a successful property developer, although he was of humble origins himself. His father Friedrich Trumpf emigrated to America from a village in the Kingdom of Bavaria (now in Rhineland-Palatinate), and indeed he was banished by the Bavarian government for failing to complete military service (The Guardian, 21 November 2016). Whether inadvertently or not, Mary and Fred lied on the census of 1940, claiming that Mary was an American citizen, although she was not naturalized until 1942. Donald Trump often talks of restricting immigration, but it is interesting to speculate that if his policies had been in force eighty years ago, Donald himself might not exist—or he would be a Gaelic-speaking crofter in Lewis.