

## **The Hills Around Bellair** (version from Mick Clancy)

Ye gallant sons of Offaly, I hope you will draw near  
Til I sing for you a verse or two I know you'd like to hear  
I'll sing in praise of one dear spot, none other can compare  
For its many the pleasant day I spent on the Hills around Bellair

In the evil days of Black & Tans, those Hills I oft times roamed  
Among the kind old neighbours there I always had a home  
But as night did fall and bugle call, our lads they did prepare  
The green and gold for to unfold on the Hills around Bellair

To stand upon those lovely hills and take a look around  
Right o'er the bogs of Deravan, from that to Ballinahowen  
From Boher school right into Coole, no scenery was so fair  
You can view them all, both great and small from the Hills around  
Bellair.

You may talk about Killarney's Lakes and places of renown  
And the men that fought in '98, in history went down  
But the men that licked the Black & Tans, to them I think it fair  
My voice in praise I now must raise for the lads around Bellair

When Johnny Bull's two hands were full, not knowing what to do  
Those Black & Tans tried every plan our boys for to subdue  
But they held the hill with right good will, surrounded front and rear  
But their planes and tanks or boys outflanked on the Hills around Bellair.

Now the Tans are gone but still lives on the name of the IRA  
And the men that died on Vinegar Hill, we have just as good today  
Though some did roam far o'er the foam, their hearts do not despair  
They are willing still the ranks to fill on the Hills around Bellair

Tony Monaghan Saturday, 05 May 2007