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The Burn of Deception *by Essie Stewart*

MacLeod of Assynt and Ross Balnagowan was in dispute as to who owned Alltan na Ceilgeach. Alltan na Ceilgeach is on the road to Loch Inver, the Loch Inver - Ullapool road and it was where the boundary line was which divided Ross Balnagowan's ground and MacLeod of Assynt's ground.

And Charles Ross staunchly maintained that Alltan na Ceilgeach belonged to Balnagowan.

MacLeod of Assynt staunchly maintained that, no, it was his ground.

Anyway, a day and a time was set and they were going to meet at Alltan na Ceilgeach and settle the dispute once and for all. So Charles Ross, Balnagowan came from Ross-shire with his man. MacLeod of Assynt came from his side with his men and they met at Alltan na Ceilgeach.

MacLeod said 'Now we are standing here on MacLeod ground'. And Charles Ross said 'No, we're not'. And the argument went back and forth. And Charles Ross said 'I can assure you' he said 'I'm standing on Ross-shire soil'. Take note of the wording, 'Ross-shire soil'.

That morning, before he left Balnagowan castle, he filled his boots with soil from his garden. So he was standing on Ross-shire soil and he won the argument.

Alltan na Ceilgeach - 'the Burn of Deception' - got by deception. So there you have it.

This is the transcript of the audio file available at
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