

## Dunbell

By DAN BRYAN

DR. CARRIGAN : History and Antiquities of the Diocese of Ossory (Vol. III, p. 368), writes of the townland and civil parish of Dunbell — “If there were ever a church or churchyard here no tradition of such appears to have come down to our time.” Local people of at least a more mature age were familiar with what was known as the “old graveyard” in the townland of Holdenstown. It was situated on a little elevation, just over the stream that divides Dunbell from Holdenstown, about opposite the “avenue” that runs from near Prospect House into the fields towards Holdenstown : It was quite small, unfenced, but surrounded by a ring of old, large, whitethorn bushes. It is understood to have disappeared recently during land reclamation.

Dr. Carrigan writes that Dunbell, which belonged to the Abbey of Jerpoint, only became a civil parish after the suppression of Jerpoint. He then refers to the case of Ardaloo (Vol. II, p 207) where he writes “all or nearly all the outlying farms of our great abbeys were provided with chapels, for the use of tenants, labourers and religious brethren dwelling thereon.” Dunbell, worth £6 per annum, was one of the most valuable and extensive possessions of Jerpoint at its suppression in 1540 (Carrigan, Vol. IV, p 290). It therefore seems probable that it had a “chapel” and the “old graveyard” in Holdenstown was possibly the site of and had its origin in the “chapel.”

The late Thomas Whyte of Dunbell allowed the writer to copy a letter written by his uncle or grand-uncle, Rev. Richard J. Whyte, S.J., from Clongowes Wood College (Feb. 14th, '71), to J. A. Prim, one of the founders of the original Kilkenny Archaeological Society.

Fr. Whyte writes : “Have you visited Holdenstown graveyard as yet. I should like much to have the result

of your investigations. . . . . With regard to Holdentown grave yd. (though no marks of graves are visible) old Stephen Bryan—father of young Jemmy, yet living, used to say that he had heard his father tell of a funeral which he had seen coming from towards Ballyreddin to the said church yd. There used to be in old times a lane leading from Holdentown to Forrestals, and out to B Bridge.” The “Jemmy Bryan” referred to as living in 1871 would then have been at least 70 and his grandfather would have been born, very approximately, about 1735 or 1740. As the context would indicate the funeral was probably a youthful recollection, the funeral might be roughly dated to about 1750.

The purpose of this note is to indicate that there was a “graveyard” and, if Fr. Whyte’s wording at one point is accepted, a “churchyard” in the civil parish of Dunbell and that to this extent Dr. Carrigan’s very definite assertion requires correction. It is also desirable to record that the graveyard which is now understood to have disappeared did exist.

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## Malicious Damage to Machines

On Tuesday night two reaping machines were maliciously broken, for the purpose of preventing their use being continued. The machines belonged respectively to Mr. John Bryan and Mr. James Sexton, Dunbell, and had been left out for the night, each in the field in which it had been at work during the previous day. Both machines were badly damaged, but Mr. Bryan was able to have his repaired locally and lost only one day’s work. Mr. Sexton, however, has to wait on parts from Dublin and this is holding up his harvesting operations considerably. Both men are very popular in the area and it is a mystery why this dreadful outrage has been committed apart for the dislike of machinery by labourers.—(Sept., 1866).