

Betsy Gray's ruined cottage

Location: Six Road Ends, behind Summerhill residential home



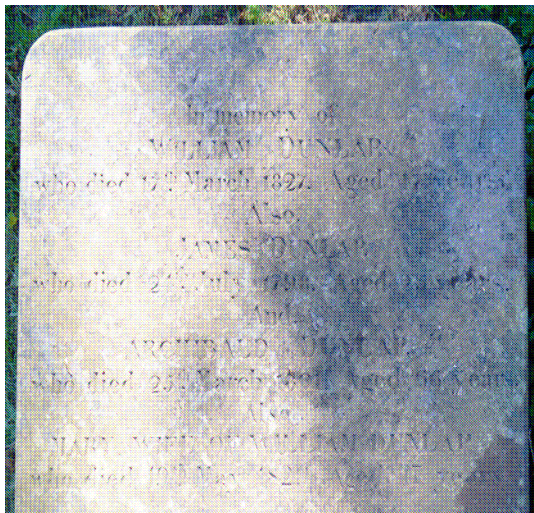
Some have claimed Betsy Gray to be a fictional character; others have claimed that she was not from Six Road Ends, but at Tullyniskey near Waringsford. Local tradition, held by Six Road Ends families whose ancestors lived in the area around the time of 1798, holds that the cottage shown above was Betsy's home.

Photographs of the cottage featured in the 1968 edition of "Betsy Gray or Hearts of Down", with the building and roof intact.

It is a shame that neglect has allowed the building to fall into such a condition.

James Dunlap (hanged at Bangor Pier, 10 July 1798, aged 25)

Location: Bangor Abbey



Inscription: "In memory of William Dunlap who died 17th March 1827 aged 47 years Also James Dunlap, who died 24th July 1798 aged 25 years And Archibald Dunlap who died 25th March 1801 aged 66 years Also Mary, wife of William Dunlap, who died 19th May 1829 aged 47 years."

The date on the stone appears to be wrong. A newspaper report reported that on 10 July:

"...The following persons have been tried and found guilty at Newtownards, by Court-Martial, on charges of Treason and Rebellion: - James Dunlop, Thomas McKnight, and Robert Robinson, all of Bangor, were executed there on Tuesday last.."

– (source: History from Headstones.com)

Rathgaele Yeomanry Infantry Drum

Location: Bangor Abbey



This regiment of yeomanry was raised by James Dowsett Rose-Cleland (1767-1852) of Rathgaele, at his own expense, to suppress the Rebellion. They fought at the battles of Saintfield and Ballynahinch – both places are inscribed on the drum.

Local 1798 Stories

**From the Appendix of
Betsy Gray or Hearts of Down:**

“...Some of the rebels were from the Ballynahinch- Saintfield area, but **the great majority were from the Ards, North Down, and the Lough shore between Newtownards and Killinchy** - men like Hugh Dunn of Holywood, James Scott of Bangor, John Morrison of Donaghadee, Robert Gowdy of Dunover, Thomas Torney of Killinchy, James Wightman of Crawfordsburn, and Thomas McKibben of Portaferry. The list is endless...” “...North Down rose in revolt on Saturday morning, 9th June, and when that evening the Royalist troops were defeated at Saintfield **the whole of North Down and the Ards, with the exception of Newtownards and Portaferry, was in the control of the insurgents.**”

The rebels attacked Portaferry on Sunday, and although they were driven off, the garrison thought it prudent to evacuate to Strangford...” “...But despite the reversal at Newtownards the rebels proceeded to take control of North Down. At Donaghadee, Wm. Blain, a carman, and John Johnston, a grocer, acted as a town committee, while Samuel Boal, armed with a blunderbus, was in command of the rebel garrison...” (all quotations above taken from the Appendix of “Betsy Gray and Hearts of Down”)

From The Story of Comber by Norman Nevin:



...The United Irishmen prepared for rebellion and pikes by the hundred were secretly made in the dead of night in blacksmiths' shops. A pike had a wooden shaft about seven feet long, often with iron spikes in it to prevent the enemy seizing it when attacked. This was set into a sharp pointed head about ten inches long. It was at this time that a cargo of muskets was landed secretly at the "Ghaist Hole", in Comber and never more was the "ghost" required than on that night. ...One Officer halted his men at an inn in High Street (the Coo Vennel), and ordered the proprietor to supply them with drink. The publican enquired, "An wha'll pye me?" - "Serve the liquor and ask no questions", said the Officer. "An' whun wull ye gie me the money?" said the publican. The Officer ordered the publican to be seized, which was done instantly and then they carried out drink until all were satisfied. Not content with that, they turned on every tap in the bar, so that the liquor would run freely everywhere. The Officer then shook his sword in the poor man's face and swore that on his return from Saintfield, he would burn the place. Such was the treatment meted out to the local people regardless of the side they supported.

The Officer was killed in the ambush and some days later his body was carried down the hill of the Coo Vennel, in a cart. The soldiers in charge stopped at the same inn for refreshment. The inn-keeper went out to look at the body, having served his customers, and recognised his troublesome customer. Taking the dead man's hand he said, "An whut wae ir ye the day? Man but am gled tae see ye sae quate, be what ye war tither day."