In ~~1986, my interest in South English trad. music had been piqued by hearing that the English author Thomas Hardy (Under the Greenwood Tree) had been a fiddler in a family of trad fiddlers. I'd obtained a cassette and book of his tunes, issued by the Dorsetshire Museum and Library, Dorchester, and had been impressed by the tune Jacob (or Enrico), said to be his favorite. On a family vacation to the region, I arranged for my son Greg (then a pretty good whistle player) and I to spend a day at the museum, where Hardy's musical manuscripts had been preserved along with his literary ones. (##)

The staff of the museum were most helpful and supportive. One of the mss preserved there (on microfilm) was a tunebook from James Hook, given in about 1820 to Thomas Hardy I (1778-1837) of Puddletown, Dorset; grandfather of the author and fiddler Thomas Hardy (1840-1928). One of the tunes that attracted our attention at the microfilm reader, as a potential "unmined" contra tune (&&), was Paddy Carey - tune #6 in the Hook mss. We hand-transcribed it and checked it against the microfilm. After we we were cross-eyed staring at old paper mss and microfilms, we found ourselves someplace to sit and sight-read the tune on whistle and melodeon. After we played it a while it got to sound like contra dance music. I had to install chords (the 1820's long preceding the beginnings of chord rhythm dance backup), along with repeats (absent in the mss which was just A-B), and transition pickups from A part to A, A to B, etc. These prevent the version here from being a perfect scholarly replica of the mss. Sorry.

I'd suspected that Hardy's collection might have been more diverse than the mss preserved by other musically literate local English fiddlers. No doubt Hardy's literary fame gave him the motivation and finances to travel, and he lived on into the railway era, giving him easy ability to do so. Indeed his own mss (later than Hook) gave evidence of tunes collected throughout England and Scotland, many of which have since come to be "standards" in US an British Isles music.

I've acquired two tunebooks abstracted from Thomas Hardy's mss collection. The one published by the Dorset County Museum, and another publisned by the well-known Dorsetshire band "The Yetties". For a period of time the Yetties were joined by the Dorsetshire fiddler Roger Trim, who had a scholarly interest, and local access to the collection.

Roger Trim and the Yetties issued a CD (?2-CD set) of Thomas Hardy Tunes. You're welcome to peruse any of this at my house, and copy tunes or audio cuts that interest you.

## Interestingly, I found that Dudley Laufman had visited a year earlier.

&& Much later, I discovered that Paddy Carey appears in Loughran and Gammon, A Sussex Tunebook (1981), from the ms tunebook of the Welsh family Bosham, which ms was begun in 1800. So Paddy Carey was not unique to the Hook mss in Hardy's collection; indeed you can find a good nunber of versions on the John Chambers site. A man by that name had a song written about him. Images of the sheet music (in C) can found online, and parts of it closely resemble the fiddle tune in Hook. (There was also a famous Gaelic footballer of the same name over 100 years later; be careful in your googling.)