

21
12/9/80.

Today myself + Julie Jamieson visited Mr John
Suttee of

37 Lincoln Cottages, Cowper Estate-
Buntingham. age 81.

He was an excellent clog dancer although he told us he had never won a championship. He said he was at school with Johnson Ellwood and remembered dancing the Step we call Fandango in the playground - they used to bet each other cigarette butts to see who could do it the best.

His 'Uncle Billy' used to be a clog dancer and had taught two of Suttee's brothers (and John S. himself) had learnt some steps from him including the break given below, which he described as 'one of the old steps' *(to begin ten simé).

He learnt most of his steps from Jack Bunell, a clog dance teacher - he paid 2/- a week for lessons. Each pupil attended on his own on a different night - he went on Tuesdays with a friend and it seems that they almost always danced together. Jack Bunell had a son and a daughter both of whom danced and in the winter the family used to dance & sing in the halls. This was a proper 15 min act with scenery & some sort of 'plot'.

He said that there were 4 teachers in the area.

Jack Bunell.

Jimmy Ellwood - Johnson's father.

Harry Robinson of Sons & Merr.

Tony Allison a bit older than J.S.

25

His favourite dance was the waltz, 'because you could move about + express yourself', and he normally danced this as a duet with his friend (who died in 1935 - he did not name him), but he had also learnt the hornpipe and 'schottische' from Burnell.

When doing the waltz he said that as a duet they always did the same steps, except that when dancing on his own he used to make them up using bits of steps he knew as a basis. He always did 6 steps off both feet, the last step being the same as the first.

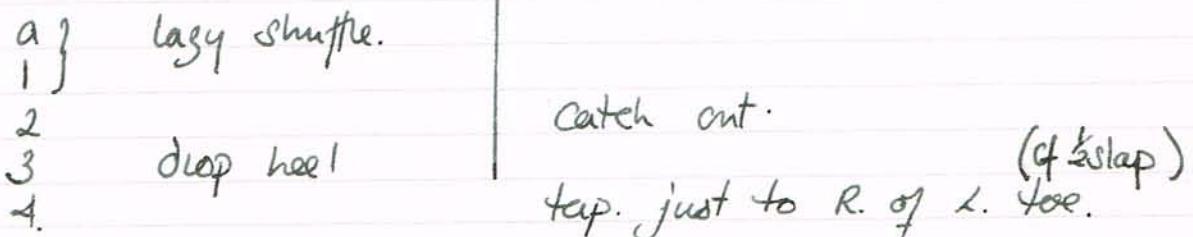
His first step was.



Repeat 12x off alternate feet.

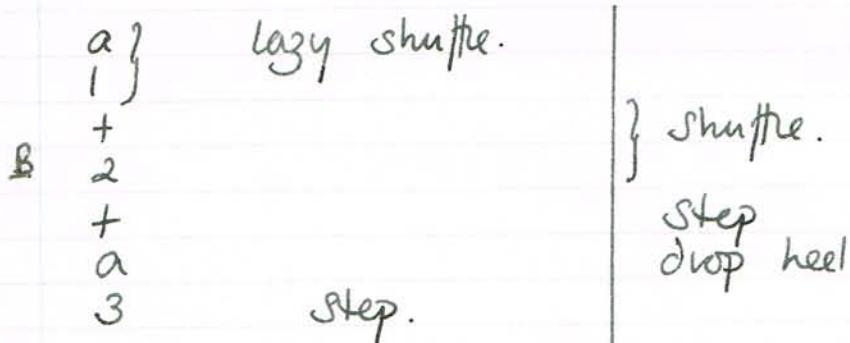
His break (he called this a 'shuffle') was.

2x through his foot A part above ten.



Repeat all off opposite foot. Catch in to begin next step.

His 2nd step 'They didn't have names' was.



Repeat 12x off alternate feet + break (but using Step B to start)

Repeat all off opposite foot.

4th.

He showed us, though did not teach his 3rd Step. Which may have been.

2x through Step 1. A pt. on alternate feet (begin on P2). Then.

1. jump ft. apart ~ 1'6"
2. Spring off both ft. → hit R heel onto L toe.
moy R → L.
- + land on toe.
- a drop heel.
- 3

Step c. rear st.

(J.J. says.)

Repeat 3 times - I didn't notice same foot whether or not he alternated feet. Then break.

Repeat off opposite foot.

He likewise showed us his 3rd step. This may have been.

2x through Step 1. A pt. on alternate feet (begin on L).

1	Step	} shuffle
+ a		
2		Step
+ a	shuffle.	
3	Step	} shuffle.
+ a		
4 1		Step.
2	tap. (in est.?)	
3		hop. or more <u>likely</u> flat stamp

3x off alternate feet then break.
 Repeat (off same foot) then lazy into next.
 off other foot.

I seem to remember that he did this step moving forwards + backwards. He stressed that you could do the steps moving all over the stage + that Rat was the nice thing about it.

He later showed us another 'shuffle' or break. - this one was for turning round on the spot.

1	Step	catch out
+ a	hop.	
2		Step
+ a	catch out	
3	Step	hop.
+ a		
4	hop	catch out
		Step.

This done turning on the spot.

28

He said that the above steps were learnt from Jack Bunell + were the ones he used when dancing as a duet.

He sang us the first verse of his 'walk song' which he used as an introduction. He said there were 3 verses but sang us only the first. I did not record the tune but it was of the 'Threshing Machine' type.

V.1. I bought a young hen a few days ago
I thought it would lay eggs this morning
you know.
Next morning I went I got a terrible shock.
This hen says I can't lay eggs because I'm a cock.

Chorus. Oh e-e., Oh e-o., well a whack for the
diddle-i-a.

He would sing the song + then do his dance.

He and his friend used to dance in pubs + go-as-you-please on Fridays + Saturdays. They danced to the piano - because most pubs had them in those days.

He said that the 'schottische' was the handest of the lot. He whistled the tune which he said a friend of his who was a pianist had made up for him. I did not record this.

He danced a step which may have been something like the Military / hempipe Step but with a double heel beat ^{on} + a pick behind ^{with}. I wasn't sure of the rhythm.

29

He refused to teach us any schottische steps.

He said he had won 2 medals. These were not for proper competitions but ones held in a pub.

In one of these he beat 3 or 4 other men, in 2nd place was Billy Barker, now dead, who used to dance with his feet up in the air.

He said the proper competitions were all fixed because of the betting on each man. The last competition he remembered was at the Hibernian Hall, Stanley. At first he said it was won by a man called Stobart but he later said it was a 'lad' called Kilvanagh (or something like that) from S. Shields. This was in c1935/6.

He said Nat the competitions suddenly stopped + also said Nat Johnson & Wood had never won one. He said Sammy Bell would know all the names + dates.

Tiny Allison was the only woman he knew who danced.

Nat could afford it dressed up in waistcoats + breeches but it didn't matter if you didn't although it was preferable to do so.

The music was always a piano + you didn't have any practice time with the musician who was provided by the competition.

One of the judges at the Hibernian competition was Harry Robinson.

The dancers never stopped steps although they used to pick each other's steps.

The only competitions were for humpipe not for any other sort of dancing.

His clogs used to belong to his friend who

His wife said he had a white pair too.

In 1935. They were quite flat (he didn't approve of raised toes), brown leather uppers with a two-tone 'brogue' pattern.

He said that almost all the competitions were held on pedestals, very rarely on a full stage.

He had never heard of George Osborne, Rip Sodds or Arthur Bloom.

He taught us some of his humpie steps. He said he used to do 6 steps + double shuffles + that they were always the same six you couldn't change them around or swap them about or drop one out because you'd forget.

He showed us his 'shuffle' [or break.]

This was.

1	Step	} shuffle
+		
a		step
2		
+ a	shuffle.	} shuffle.
3	step	
a		step
4		
+ a	step	} lazy shuffle.
5	drop heel	
a		step w/ toe next to l. heel
6	lazy shuffle.	
a		} lazy shuffle w/ toe next to l. heel
7		
+ a	toe	step. (toe slightly fwd of l. toe?)
8	drop heel	

31

He said this was different from Johnson's which
was just the 'Bobs Your Uncle' break with the
feet well crossed.

He did his break shuffle whenever he did
a step.

He also showed us his 'break' - this was
the final shuffle-off at the end of double
shuffles. This was:

- 1 }
- + } shuffle
- a
- 2 }
- + } shuffle.
- a
- 3 }
- + } step
- a
- 4 }
- + } hop
- a
- 5 }
- + } hop
- a
- 6 }
- + } step
- a
- 7 }
- + } shuffle
- a
- 8 }
- + } step
- a
- 9 }
- + } shuffle.
- a
- 10 }
- + } step across L.
- a
- 11 }
- + } step in posn
- a
- 12 }
- + } step across R.
- a
- 13 }
- + } step in posn
- a
- 14 }
- + } drop heel
- a
- 15 }
- + } step (almost a slap).
- a

- step
- hop
- shuffle
- step.
- shuffle.
- step across L.
- step in posn
- catch out
- step moving L foot fwd

This is off the R foot as it was the final.
break. He learnt this from his uncle Billy +
said it was an old step.

32

His 1st Step was.

a	}	lazy shuffle	}	shuffle. step drop heel
1				
a				
2				
a			}	shuffle. step drop heel
3				
+	}	shuffle.		
+				
a			}	step drop heel.
4				

6x off alternate feet + shuffle off.

Repeat off other foot.

He showed us his 2nd step but we did not note it.

He said that he didn't have many steps with kicks + rolls in & that these were a later development. He did say that had just 1 step with kicks in. This goes.

a	}	lazy shuffle.	}	shuffle. step drop heel
1				
a				
2				
+			}	shuffle. step drop heel
a				
3	}	shuffle.		
+				
a			}	step drop heel.
4				

2x off alternate feet Ren.

1. Step
 +
 a
 2 Step.
 +
 a drop heel.
 3.
 + kick. R heel
 a Step behind R.
 4
 + kick. R heel. brsg. fwd.
 a

kick. L heel
step behind L.

kick. L. heel brushing fwd.
Step.

Step.

drop heel.

Step was AABAA B. break. beginning 3rd
A on same foot as 1st A. (i.e. no change of feet).

Repeat off other foot.

The other hornpipe step he showed us was one
which he got from Johnson Ellwood. Rather like
our Fandango.

1 Step
 +
 a
 2 hop
 +
 a
 3 hop
 a
 4 hop.
 a
 5 Step
 a
 6 Step.

} shuffle.

} shuffle.

brush fwd. - toe well down, heel out

heel step - turn foot in to out.

Step.

34

7 beat .
+ click heels | tog in mid air.
a land .
8 Step.

3x through off alternate feet.

He also told us that Dons' father had learnt
of Jackie Bunell. (His g.father kept the Jigging Gate
pub).