

25/3/81. [see also Hayden MS. f402 et seq.]

This afternoon J. Jarman, A. Smith, E. Wilson + myself visited Amble to find the Flanagan family who we knew to be clog + sword-dancers.

E.W. + myself found Mr Eddie Flanagan of Greenfield

Greenfield Terrace
Amble.

He was 70. He had learnt to clog dance from his father, who had been Champion of North + Durham. Eddie was unsure of the date when he won - it might have been before he was born (1911) but perhaps afterwards. He thought his father had been to Newcastle for the competitions. He was eventually beaten by his pupil Eddie May who was the only person he had taught to dance apart from his sons + some tap-dancers & from the local theatre.

He had taught his sons:-

Mark Flanagan - now dead (c1979) - widow still alive in Hodston nearby

John Flanagan - now dead.

Eddie said that they also danced ~~the~~ 'step dances' by which he said he meant moving about the stage whereas clog dancing was on the spot.

Eddie had never danced in clogs but the others had - they had metal heel + toe plates, not like wons - (prob more like taps) & danced on a dancing mat to improve the sound. He tried to describe this but it didn't make much sense.

He said the music was jigs - 'The Washerwoman' + occasionally hornpipes - anything would do

His father used to dance with John + Mark as a duo - all doing exactly the same thing - in a line. His father also danced on his own.

He said that the S-dancers had been down to perform in at Crystal Palace + his father had been a champion before this.

He showed us how to dance. His father always started by teaching 'kicking the stone' - this was merely a single beat outdoors (straight).

He had no other names for the steps + said they could be done in any order you liked - 'just as you pleased'. The dance consisted of a 'chorus' of single shuffles, interspersed with more complex movements which EF called 'steps' - no breaks + no 8b phrases as such.

The single shuffles were straight. in part. B.

Step 1. - timing uncertain. -

4 1	ae	step	} shuffle.	A:
2	ae	step		: É, É
3	ae	step	} shuffle.	: XÉ
1	ae	step		A:
2	ae	step	} shuffle.	: A.
3	ae	step		É, É:
	ae	step	} shuffle.	XÉ:
	ae	step		: A

Repeat as desired.

This would be in hornpipe time. In jig time a more probable count would be.

6/8. 1+a2+1+a2+

Eddie also said that after the shuffle you could put in several beats e.g:-

6/8	1	<u>Step</u>	} Shuffle.	A:
	+			: é, é
	2		tap.	: c
	+		<u>step</u>	: xé
	2	<u>Step</u>		A:

repeat of alternate feet .

This certainly fits better with a jig rhythm.

Step 2. either:-

6/8	1	<u>step</u>	↑ catch out	A: F/Rét
	2			<u>step</u>
	3			: XB
	4	click toe(L), heel(R).		A:
	5	<u>step</u>		: A.
	6		touch	

or more unlikely =

1/8	1	<u>step</u>		
	2		↑	A: F/R ↑
	3	<u>hop</u>	catch out	, B, X B ↑
	4		<u>step</u>	A:
	5	click toe(L), head(R).		* : X B
	6	<u>step</u>		A:

Step 3.

1/8	1	<u>step</u>		
	2	click toe heel(R), heel(L) ↓	↑	A: F ↑
	3	<u>hop.</u>		A:
		repeat off other foot.		