

MRS MADGE FRANKLAND

17-5-86

Visited by Alice Metcalf.

Aged 85 but looking very fit and alert I found Mrs Frankland without too much difficulty.

Her daughter Iris is a good friend of Ronnie Collis who put Paula Earwicker onto her.

She discovered her father could step dance when there ~~was~~ ^{were} some tap dancers at a local concert. He started to teach her, one of her sisters and a friend, but Madge was the only one to persevere. She would be about 10. They were living at 2 Mill Street, Maryport at the time. She had 8 sisters and 1 brother (+ 2 who died). She does not know who taught her father, but thinks he may have performed in an amateur nipper ~~and~~ minstrel act. She thought he might have been taught by Bobbie Doran, because he knew of him, although no mention had been made of him before. (Some time prior to a competition at the Blackpool Winter Gardens her father (Robert William Graham) said she should stay with her sister and go to Bobbie Doran for lessons. So she went for about 3 weeks every day to Bobbie Doran and learned about 6 steps. When she learned the steps she was made to practise them on Bobbie Doran's pedestal. This is described in Tom's book as 18" square and about 3 feet high. So she was most disappointed to discover at Blackpool that the pedestal was a piece of slate in a wooden frame on the floor! There were 250 competitions in all the different sections and Madge was left to go into the competitors' room on her own. She thought she was quite smart in her best velvet

Sunday dress and white socks but all the other girls were really smart. Midge wasn't worried about performing but got very upset when she couldn't find the pianist. She came second and has a certificate - Section 6 Class 16-1 Solo Dance in the Step-dancing competition on the 9th May 1921. Harry Wood was the Musical Director. She thought that the competition was probably 6 steps - definitely off both feet. The finish for the competition was a "ramp" (Dum daddy um dum; dum, dum).

The only other time she competed was at a local picturehouse in Clitheroe. She won her heat on Monday night, the semi-final on Friday and a cup on Saturday. She danced to 4 Little Blackberries.

Her father taught her about 6 steps. She was able to remember 3 steps (Steps 1/2/3) + the finish to Step 1. which were her father's. Had no idea who father learnt from. Father's steps had more 'tapping' [i.e. flaps] + Bobby Deran's were shuffles. (her word but not quite one what a shuffle was). Father's steps performed off both feet, always starting L.

Step 1.

1	<u>step</u>	} shuffle.	B/c:
a			
2		<u>step</u>	A:
a			
3	tap.	} flop.	: B/c
4	<u>step</u>		
a		<u>step</u>	: B/c a.
5			
a	} shuffle	} flop.	A:
b			
a	<u>step</u>	} flop.	: B/c
7			
8.		<u>step</u>	: A.

3 x through of same foot + finish.

Finish

1	<u>step</u>	} flop	A:
a			
2		} flop.	: B/c
a			
3	tap	} shuffle.	: 1
4	<u>step</u>		
a		} shuffle.	: F, F
5	<u>hop</u>		
6		<u>step</u>	: Rxc.*
a			
7	tap	} flop.	
8	<u>step</u>		
a		} shuffle.	
7			
a	<u>hop</u>	} shuffle.	
8			
		touch.	: c.

Step 3.

a		} Shuffle	
8			
a		<u>step</u>	: A/F*
1	<u>step</u>		Xc*:
a		<u>step</u>	: A /F*
2	<u>step</u>		Rxc:
a		<u>step</u>	: A/F*
3	<u>step</u>		Xc*:
a		tap } flop.	: A
4		touch } flop.	: Aex.
a		tap } flop.	: A
5		<u>step</u> }	: Aex.
+	<u>step =</u>		!:
a	<u>drop heel</u>		A:
6		<u>drop heel =</u>	: A
a		tap } flop	: A
7		<u>step</u> }	: Aex.
+	<u>step =</u>		A:
a	<u>drop heel</u>		A:
8		<u>drop heel =</u>	: A.

She attempted to do step 3x through on alternate feet, but always did the curls on the same foot so when beginning on R. the first flop becomes tap, step rather than tap, touch.

First not remembered.

Step 2

a	<u>heel swivel</u>	<u>heel</u> ^{step} / <u>swivel</u>	: ċ, ċ
1	<u>step</u>		
a		<u>catch in tap</u>	: ea , A, exact
2		<u>step</u>	: RXC
a	<u>heel swivel</u>		ea ċ, ċ:
3		<u>step</u>	: A
a	<u>tap</u>		A:
4	<u>step</u>		RXC:
a		<u>heel swivel</u>	: ċ/e, ċ/e
5	<u>step</u>		XAX:
a		<u>heel swivel</u>	: ċ/e, ċ/e
6	<u>step</u>		XAX:
a		<u>heel swivel</u>	: ċ/e, ċ/e
7	<u>step</u>		XAX:
a		<u>tap</u>	: A
8		<u>step</u>	: RXC.

3 x through an alternate feet + firm.

Madge said that this step had a different firm from step 1 but was unable to remember it + said that the other firm 'would do'.

It should be noted that the steps are not in any particular order - they were just remembered at random by Madge.