

22/3/86.

I visited Mrs Gwen Nayler of

Lords Lane
Brighouse

in company with Liz Yates of Yorkshire Rose Clog. They had met her at one of their performances. She had been to one of their practices some 2 weeks ago & Liz had taken a short video of her. She lives with her second husband and her stepson. Her maiden name is Bestock. Her family tree is:-

George Rhodes. (1)

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Leo Rhodes (known as 'George')

George (d. Oct. 21) Percy Ronald Ada ? = — Bestock.

|
Gwen = — Nayler.

George (1) was a clog dancer & Leo may have learnt from him. Leo was the Yorkshire Professional Clog Champion. She thinks he won this c. 1880. He came from Sheffield & competition may have been there. She has the cup he won. He won many competitions & had many trophies - most of these he sold. Leo probably did all his dancing in Sheffield. He taught many professional dancers but she thinks no-one else except her & his family. At age of ~ 56 he moved to Wyke & gave up dancing. All of family used to dance a bit & Leo used them as part of his stage act.

In particular he danced with Percy ('Uncle Percy') as a double act. Percy was 'the clever one', - played piano + read music. Leo was just a dancer but played banjo as well.

Double act with Percy consisted of dancing on two marble slabs + then jumping up onto 2 three legged stools fixed to stage. Whole set-up was surrounded by lights.

Percy moved to Worcester when he was ?~ 60. Percy taught no-one else except Gwen. Her mother could 'do the double shuffle' at least. She was faintly taught by her mother who used to cuff her when she got it wrong. She was very particular that Leo + Percy used to do crisp round shuffles. She was also very keen to distinguish between Tap + clog steps. Leo + Percy had always danced in clogs. She never had although she learnt some of their steps. She wanted to become a dancer + went to tap + ballet classes. She was offered a place with ENSA during the war but her mother in consultation with her grandfather would not let her go.

Leo had begun by showing her how to do the shuffle - very neat round shuffles in : c, e. She then did the 'double shuffle' rotated later - also on the tape. These were not the names Leo + Percy used. The 'shuffle' she knew was the special last step used in competitions.

She showed 2 waltz steps although she didn't really recognise that they were in waltz time. Both from Leo + Percy.

Her favourite steps were in Schottische time - the preferred tunes being Nolah + Little Dolly Daydream. She called on 8 bar phrase an 'eight' + spoke of 'on the other foot' as 'on the other side'. She seemed to naturally go for 32 bar units in 2/4 time. She kept handing that you could

break up the bits + use them as you wish.
She did not seem to have any 'fear' as such.
I showed her wobbles, swanee + kicks + calls
but she recognised none of these.

of the older members of her family, George +
Ada are both dead (as is Percy). Ronald is alive,
married + living in Newcastle.

She showed me two tap steps - 1st + 2nd time
steps - but I did not note or film these.

#4 Unit. A

+
8
+
a
1
a
2
a
3
a
4
a
5
a
6
a
7

hop (spring)

step
step
step
step
step
step
step
step

} shuffle
step
step
step
step
step
step
step

A : F, F
A/F* : E/F
A/F* : xc/E
A/F* : E/F