

8/10/88

Myself + Ann Crane visited Mrs Elsie Willis of

40 Park Grove.
Shildon.

She is the cousin of Robbie Hamson who I met in Feb. 1983.

I was able to check a certain amount of the info previously obtained by Ann + Julie Jamman on their 3 previous visits.

She had learnt from her father - John George Hamson, known as Jack. He was born + brought up in Plumby, Cumberland but came to the N.E to find work in the pits. He was born in 1881. He married twice, Elsie being the only child of his second marriage. One elder brother (also John George) lives in Ontario, Canada + also danced. Jack came to N.E aged ~20. She has a photo of her sister Reni + a girl by the name of Madge dancing in ~1930. They were called the 'Dancing Wonders'.

Elsie was born c 1919.

Her father taught a number of local people as well as his own family :-

Jessie Welsh - originally from Scotland - now back there.

Jane Willis } - Elsie's children.

Robert Willis }

Robbie Hamson - Elsie's Cousin. Came to live with the family for ~6 months to learn. They used to practise every night in the kitchen - both were under 11 yrs old. Used to dance together at Backworth Club.

Grisie Moncur? - aches from S. Shields.

Ronnie Irving - not very known.

Conn Robbie died aet. 64 - 10/3/1984.

Jack entered a competition in Durham - date unknown. Also danced at such events as Shiremoor Gala. Used to vamp on piano + play banjo + fiddle. Also danced at Backwork Club.

Jack had a dancing mat made of wooden laths, tied with strings. 4' x 6'. Roy had it up to a few years ago. He died in 1959 when Elsie was 36.

He made his dogs by taking soles off shoes + adding wood. Elsie has danced at Seaton Delaval Chapel Hall, the Gala & at Shiremoor Hall. She wore a blue waistcoat + ? full-length trousers. - made of velveteen.

At least four dances :-

- 1 Fust Hampipe. - probably to Woodland Flowers.
- 2 Doubled Hampipe - Woodland Flowers.
- 3 Ragtime Steps - British Grenadiers.
- 4 Waltz - tune not recalled.

Fust Hampipe.

5 steps + double shuffle off both feet - special endsey. She was able to remember all of this.

Remembers odd steps of Doubles + Ragtime + no waltz as yet.

Called a first a first. A flop a 'two'. Possibly a shuffle is a 'two' also. Shuffle, step is a 'two, one'.

All steps begin off L., repeat all off R.

Frost Humpipe 4/4.

Step 1

a 1	tap <u>Step</u>	Hop.	A: A:
a 2		shuffle.	:c,c
a 3		<u>Step</u>	:A
a 4			:c,c:
4	<u>Step</u> .		A:

6 x off alternate feet + finish.

Finish

a 1	tap <u>Step</u>	Hop.	A: A:
a 2		shuffle	:c,c
a 3	<u>Step</u>	<u>Step</u>	:A
a 4		shuffle	:c,c
a 5	hop	<u>Step</u>	A:
a 6	tap <u>Step</u>	Hop.	:Rxé
a 7		shuffle.	A:
a 8	<u>Step</u>	<u>Step</u>	:c,c
			A:

Step 2.

a	tap	}	flop	{	shuffle.	A:
1	step					A:
a		{	step	{	shuffle.	:c,c
2						:A
a		{	hop	{	shuffle.	A:
3	step					:c,c
4	hop					
a						

6 x change off alternate feet + finish.

Step 3.

a	<u>tap</u>	{	flop.	A:
1	<u>step</u>	}		A:
a			<u>heel swivel</u> .	: c, c
2	<u>step</u>			A:
a				: A
3				: A
a				c, c :
4				: A
a	<u>tap</u>	{	flop.	A:
5	<u>step</u>	}		A:
a			<u>heel swivel</u>	: c, c
6	<u>step</u>			XA*:
a				: c, c
7	<u>step</u>		<u>heel swivel</u>	XA*:
8	<u>step</u>		<u>heel swivel</u>	: c, c
				A:

Step is 3x through on alternate feet + finish.

On 3rd repeat beat it becomes a tap to get into the finish.

Clearly the amount of sideways movement used depends to a large extent on the whim of the dancer.

Step 4.

A. a	tap	}	flop.	A:
1	<u>step</u>			A:
a				: É, É
2				
a				
3	<u>step</u>			: xé
a				
4				
<u>a</u>				
B. 5	<u>step</u>			A:
a				: É, É
6				
a				
7	<u>step</u>			: xé
8	<u>hop</u>			A:
*				A:
a				: É, É

Step is A B A B B B + finish.
 L R L R

Foot positions here need checking. Initial 'laz' questionable.
 - perhaps just time only. (in fact could only be on 1st time through).

Step. 5.

A	(a	step }	hop.	A:
	,	<u>Step.</u>		A:
+			clock toe(L), heel(R).	: RB
a			<u>Step</u>	: XE
<u>—</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Step</u>		A:
B.	~		clock toe(R), heel(L)	: RXE/F.
	a		<u>Step</u>	: RC
3		<u>Step</u>		A:
+			clock toe(L) heel(R)	: RB
a			<u>Step</u>	: RXE/F.
4		<u>Step</u>		A:
+		hop		A:
a			clock toe(L) heel(L)	: RXE/F.

Step is ABABABAAABACABABAB + finish.

Notes

- 1 Re initial a, i. occurs at the commencement of the step only.
- 2 On the repeats the initial step is in F rather than A. i.e. Step moves from side to side.
- 3 On final B part. the step is

7		<u>Step</u>		A:
*			clock toe(L) heel(R).	: RB
a		hop		A:
8			<u>Step</u>	: RXE

Step 6

1	<u>stop</u>	}	shuffle	A:
2	<u>hop</u>			: c, c
3		}	shuffle	A:
4				: c, c

12 x change of alternate feet + first.

Last time change, first is replaced by following.

3	<u>Jump =</u> <u>hop</u>	{	clock toe (L), heel (R)	F : F
4	<u>hop</u>			: BB : BB.
5	<u>Drop heel!</u>	{	clock heel (L) heel (R)	A:
6	<u>step</u>			: RXE
7	<u>s</u>	{	<u>step</u>	A: c/D ↑
8	<u>step tone.</u>			: B/c ↑
				: A
				A: