

Mrs Clara Boyle, Eller How, Ambleside, aged 67.

Interviewed in company with Miss Short at Mrs Boyle's house (see pp 1-11).

Mrs Boyle was EFDS HeadTeacher for the Lake District branch before the second world war, and at one time was also HeadTeacher of the Cumberland branch. She was thoroughly familiar with the surviving traditional dances of her district, partly through the Ambleside 'Old Folks do', and tried to interest EFDS headquarters in them. She was particularly keen to have the Westmorland step-dancing recorded.

About 1925, she took D.N.K. to see old Mr Clifton & his son in Ambleside. Old Mr Clifton had 21 steps in his repertoire and some of these were noted by D.N.K. However, Mr Clifton was rather scornful of D.N.K.'s ability in this direction and told him he "would never make a dancer" - he flung his feet about too much. According to Clifton, you should move only from the waist down in step-dancing. You must keep your knees straight, and keep your feet under your body.

Mr Clifton taught his sons to do these steps, and they put on a show at one of the Ambleside Old Folks do's, wearing clogs.

About 1925, too, she discovered Richard Allan at Edenhall, near Penrith. He may not have been a full-time teacher; and may not even have had properly organized dancing classes - Mrs Boyle isn't sure of this. He gave Mrs Boyle Cucassian (the couple meeting couple version), Speed the Plough (as "God Speed the Plough"), Cumberland Square-8 and Long-8.

Cucassian was women change places, then men change, then women return, then men, set and turn partners, ladies chain (usual way, without turning under arms), forward and back and progress.

Riflemen was collected by Miss Una Bleazard, No. 2. The Grill, Ambleside, one of Mrs

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Boyle's assistant Teachers. Miss Blegard collected the dance from people who had done it at dances in Troutbeck. Probably not the same version as in the Community Book.

Mrs Boyle told me that the country people in Westmorland called the 'ballroom-hold turn' by the name of "dollying". She thought that "dollying" was done with the pivot step, but Mrs Short told me that it was done by stepping with alternate feet [what George Young in Jedburgh called the 'Belgian waltz'], and gave me the impression that it was not regarded as very proper.