

Mr and Mrs Wannop, Sandgate, Penrith, both aged 76.

Mr Wannop was a musician in a brass (?) band, and has been connected with dancing throughout his life.

Mr Wannop had heard his father speak of "Bobby Miller's dancing classes". These were apparently "proper classes. They went in far it much more strictly in those days". So far as Mr Wannop knows, the Long-8, Square-8, and 6-Reel were all taught by Bobby Miller. Bobby Miller was already oldish when teaching Mr Wannop's grandfather, so that he was presumably teaching about 100 years ago; Bobby Miller's grandchildren are roughly of the same age as Mr Wannop (their present whereabouts are not known).

Mrs Wannop attended classes in Penrith held by Jack Iveson, a mason by trade and an amateur fiddler. He lived a room somewhere, and charged 3^d per night - just working lads and lasses came along. There was definitely some tuition, but I gathered that the tuition was mainly in the form of 'calling' for the dances. Mr Wannop said that Jack Iveson didn't really hold classes in the sense that Bobby Miller did.

The dances 'taught' by Jack Iveson were Quadrille, Lancers, Cuckoo Circle (the big circle version), Caledonian Circle, Square-8, Long-8, Sir Roger de Coverly, La Vassourane, Barn Dance, Military 2-Step.

All these dances were also in Mr Wannop's repertoire, and he also knew the 6-Reel (much as usual). In addition, he has heard old people speak of Haste to the Wedding, and he has heard his father talk of Petronella and Ninpinis.

Step-dancing had gone out in Mr Wannop's young days.

In the summer-time some of the country places, e.g. Langwathby, would hold picnics - some young people would arrange them. There were no village halls in those days - this refers to Mr Wannop's young days - so they used a farmer's barn. Supper was laid in the barn, and, if the weather was bad, the dancing was also held there.

If dry, They danced on the grass near the barn. They engaged a brass band to play for the dancing, and admission was 1/6, including supper. The dances performed at such picnics were Quadrilles, Lancers, Square-8, Long-R, 6-Reel, etc. (but Mr Wannop has never seen a 3-Reel at such affairs).

In the old days they used to hold harvest homes in the farm barns, but those were before Mr Wannop's time.

In Penrith itself there was definitely social distinction in social dancing. The upper classes danced in The Assembly Rooms. Since about 1895 the ordinary working people danced in the Drill Hall; Before that, they danced in the Market Hall, and in such gatherings as Jack Iveson's (and others like him) classes.