

Send him anything we write on 'Greensleeves.'

9. 4. 60

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Mr Dick Winder, 4 West View, Hollins Lane, Foston, Lancs, aged 69.

Born and brought up at Swanshead Hall in Wyresdale, and lived in Wyresdale until these last ten years or so. His father was a cousin of Mrs Percy's father.

Greensleaves. Mr Winder danced "Greensleaves" [not "The Greensleaves Dance"] quite often with Bartle Dodding and John Winder, and also with one of these and Septimus Brindle (who is still alive, aged ca 70). It was not infrequent for someone to ask to see it at some gathering, and he was usually called into it as one of the three dancers. "It was a bit on the rough side". It was most often done at weddings or parties, but was also occasionally done at dances. Mr Winder last performed it about 20 to 30 years ago, but I am pretty certain he could still do it. He has never heard it referred to as a Morris dance. [There was once some Morris dancing in Wyresdale, associated with plaiting a maypole. But I suspect that this was Esperance Morris, or some of Cecil Sharp's disciples from elsewhere.]

The following is, I think, a very reliable description of the dance as he performed it. I was a bit dense on this occasion, and misunderstood him at first. In consequence he explained the movements much more carefully than he might have done had I been quicker on the uptake.

Figure I. The 3 men join hands in a ring and dance round to the left, & back to the right, using a slow galop step (i.e. slip-step).

Figure II. They now dance round to the left again in the same manner as before, but

now each man in succession raises his right leg over his own right hand & his right-hand neighbour's left hand. The number of legs on which they are supported is thus successively reduced to 3 as they move round (each man hopping as soon as his leg is up). They then stop and lower their legs, and repeat this in the opposite direction, raising the left legs.

[Mr Winder said that this figure required a little care - it was easy to receive a kick in the mouth!]

Figure III. They now release hands, and begin to walk round clockwise. Then the first man, whilst still moving round, claps his hands together, "bats" his R knee with the flat of his R hand, then claps the man on his left on the back with the flat of his L hand, then "punches" his behind with his R knee. The second and third men now do this in turn, still circling clockwise. They then reverse the direction of circling, and perform these movements counter-clockwise.

The order in which these operations are performed (i.e. the numbering 1st, 2nd, 3rd) is arbitrary, and is decided by the three participants when they do the dance.

Brush Dance. Mr Winder also knew a brush dance. When he was a lad at home in Wyresdale, they had "dancing classes" in the granary on the farm. They "had a chap to play the concertina", and all the youngsters of the neighbourhood gathered there. There were no formal lessons, but the older ones used to teach the younger ones to dance. Someone there taught him how to do this brush dance.

Done with a broom, handle in hand, head on floor. The handle is passed from R.H to L.H under R Leg, with a hop on LF, then put RF down & lift LF, then pass broom back from L.H to R.H under L leg, with a hop on RF.

Continue to do this ad lib., the music speeding up gradually.

Sometimes someone would pick up the head of the boom, and then both people would continue dancing over the horizontal handle.

Frog dance. Both Mr & Mrs Winder have done "Frog dancing" at school in the playground - simply the usual lolly step, with legs shot out alternately to either side, - but not to music. Sometimes they had a race in this manner.

Step-dancing. Mrs Percy's mother could do "clog-dancing." Mr Winder once saw her dance on top of a "dolly-tub" (i.e. a washing tub inverted) at a wedding. The steps were of hoppy type, with beating.

The dances done in Mr Winder's young days in Wyrresdale were

Quadrilles	Lancers	Highland Fling (for 2)
Schottische	Cottagers (just going out - he can't remember it).	

He has never heard of Square-8 or Swingig-6.