

Septimus Brindle, Wham's Lane, Bay House, N. Lancs, aged 71.

Dick Winder [Notes, 9.4.60] had told me that Mr Brindle was one of the people who used to dance the Wyresdale Greensleeves, and F.R. and I went to see him. We asked him particularly about Greensleeves, and he gave us a demonstration of it, accepting F.R. for the purpose.

Figure I. The three dancers join hands in a ring, facing inwards. They circle to the right with four slow slip-steps (Mr Brindle used the term "chasséed" for this, i.e. they chasséed), then back to the left in the same way, then forward in to the centre (2 steps), back out again, then in & out again.

Figure II [When he described the dance at first, Mr Brindle omitted this figure, but when I prompted him concerning a figure where you lift your leg over the hands, he recollects it immediately]. The three dancers stand still, with hands joined in a ring, & hands held low. Then each man in turn lifts his right leg over his own right hand (& R+ neighbour's left). Then they all hop round, 3 hops to the right, & 3 to the left. They then ^{release} ~~drop~~ hands, & lower their legs, & then repeat this with the left leg, hopping now to the left, & back to the right.

Figure III. For this figure there was an appropriate verse:

"Hey up & about she went
Hey up & about she went
Hey up & about she went
By God, she did at Raynow."

The dancers faced anticlockwise round the circle, and No 1 man (appointed beforehand) began. He clapped his hands together (on "Hey"), slapped his R hand on his R thigh (on "up", lifting his R knee up for this), then clapped the next man round on the back with his R hand (on "about"), and then kicked him on the seat with the side of the foot (on "she went"). As soon as No 2 man is kicked, he jumps halfway

round ~~ab~~ on the spot, turning in a clockwise direction to face No 1 man, at whom he glares. The music pauses slightly for this jump. Then on the music starting again, No 2 man completes his turn, making 3 jumps in all, and clapping on the "hey" on the turn. No 2 man now repeats this with No 3, and No 3 with No 1. On the final turn, all 3 men turn clockwise on the spot with 3 jumps — ^a By God she did at hay mow — on the underlined beats. Then finally they repeated this sequence in the opposite direction.

In Mr Brindle's younger days it was danced quite often, usually by the older men; very occasionally at Dalmaholme, but much more regularly in the farmhouses up on the fells in Wylsdale & up at Abbeystead. It was usually done at local weddings. It was also done regularly at a dance which was held at ^(School) Abbeystead following the Abbeystead Field Day (this was a local sports meeting). Another place where it was performed was an old Corporation hut put up for navvies who started to clean the reservoir — after the navvies left, the local people used this hut as a dance hall and reading-room. At the Abbeystead Field Day dance & other bigger functions there might be 2 or 3 sets of three dancers on the floor for it. Mr Brindle has never seen it done out of doors, and has never heard it called a Morris Dance. He has no idea of its origin.

It is worth noting that the dance was performed by some of the more substantial men of the community. Mr Brindle himself owns a garage & haulage business. He can also remember it being done by John Dodding, a local farmer, & Tim Lambert, the estate man for Wentworth Hall (^{one such} ~~the~~ occasion is worth recording; Tim Lambert and John Dodding were dancing together, & Lambert used the toe of his boot by accident; John Dodding turned to him & said "By God, Lambert, thou dod punch".

The other dances done in Wryesdale in his younger days included the Swinging Six, Square-8, and a 3-Reel (the older people did these), and also Cottagers. It is possible that there was also a 6-Reel, but he can't be sure of this.

There was a lot of step-dancing in the old days - either in clogs or in ordinary shoes. His mother was very good at it, and she did it in slippers.

Years ago, they used to clear the barns and have dancing classes where the older lads used to teach the younger ones - there was no formal teaching, though. His brother who was 13 years older than him, attended one such set of classes.

Mr Brindle also knew of the broomstick dance & the frog dance. In the broomstick dance, he had the figure in which the broom is laid down & the dancer jumps first straddling it with ~~legs~~ apart, then with legs crossed, then with legs apart, & so on.