

Mr & Mrs Walter Smith, Bank Ends, Tatham Fell, aged 70 & 71.

Mr Smith is the brother-in-law of Mrs Hurd (see pp. 167-8). Mr Smith's family moved to Tatham Fell in 1892, then in 1899 they moved to Croasdale Grange, then to The Manor House above Homby in 1913, & then came to Bank Ends in 1920. Mrs Smith was brought to the district at the age of 5 or 6, lived first at Threshgill, then at Lowgill, & then came to Bank Ends in 1920 when she married.

The dances in use in this district (including Croasdale & Keasden Head) in their young days were

Quadrilles	Lancers	Square 8 " = Figure 8 (?)".
Swinging Six	Circassian ⚭ (another name for Cottagers)	
Waltz	Polka	Swinging Six
Sir Roger de Coverly	Highland Fling	Schottische
La Varsoriana		

They had also heard of a dance called The Caledonians, but not seen it.

This list was their first attempt at remembering the dances in use, and was produced more or less without prompting. I then asked:

"Was there a dance done with handkerchiefs?" "There was one known as Kendal Ghyll"
(Mr S.)

"Had it the handkerchiefs in it?" "I don't think so. It had a three-reel in it, I know that" (Mr S.)

I then tried the "Dales dances". They had "Turn-off-eight", "That's Sir Rogers". I asked about "Brass Nuts", whereupon they told me that they had "Bracelets". There wasn't a separate dance called a "Three-Reel", but a three-reel was a part of Kendal Ghyll. You could also do a three-reel in the Swinging-Six - it made it a bit easier.

In Swinging-Six, the threes went forward & back, & the men passed the ladies over, either turning them under their arms or not (Mrs Smith remembers The Turn, Mr Smith doesn't) then back the same way, etc.

At this stage I returned to Kendal Ghyll.

"How many people were there in Kendal Ghyll?" "Either 4 or 6. I think it was 6. Could be 8. But you wouldn't do it with under 6" (Mr S.)

I described the arching figure of the published Kendal Ghyll, and this clearly rang a bell. Mr Smith was not sure whether it was progressive, and was not sure about the use of hankies in it.

In Cottagers you kept your own partner and moved on round the room.

I think the "Figure 8" as an alternative name for the Square-8 is very doubtful.

The dances Bracelets and Kendal Ghyll were done more in Bowland and Keasden than on the Tatham Fells - Kendal Ghyll mainly at Keasden. In their young days there was a village 'Dale Head' on the top of Bowland, which is now under the Fylde Water Board Reservoir, and ^{Mr Smith} used to go to dances there. They had never been at dances at Slaidburn.

In addition to public dances, there were usually winter parties in the farmhouses. These, however, were "just now and again" - there wouldn't be one a year in each place.

Another occasion for dancing was a "clipping." On a farm with a big stock of sheep, the farmer would ask his neighbours to help with the clipping, and the day usually finished with a supper and a dance in the loft over the cartshed - usually till about 3% - or even sometimes until 7%, when the clipping would recommence.

The men would put on a reasonably good suit under their overalls, & take "their slender shoes" with them. Then for the dance they would simply take their overalls off, & have a good wash. Distances were usually too great for people to go home to change for the dance. Mr Smith attended clippings at Catlaw & Keasden Head.

The music up in this district was mainly piano & fiddle.

Mr Smith has seen a man do a "besom dance" at Catlaw clipping about 1910 — only the head of the besom was on the ground, & the shaft was never laid down. Neither he nor Mrs Smith have ever heard of a dance by 3 men, or of a dance called Greensleeves, or of anything answering to this description.

Mrs Smith has recollections of a dancing-Teacher's trying to hold classes at Lowgill, c. 1910, in the school there. The classes were not a success, & she has no memory of what he taught.

They have never heard of Tubbing

Pace-egging was done on Easter Monday.