

Mr and Mrs T Satterthwaite, Mountain View, Nibthwaite, ~~off~~ N. lanes, aged c. 75 and 78.

August 15th Mountain View
1926 Nibthwaite
Silverston

To Mr T. M. Frett

Dear Sir

We saw your letter in the
"Silverston News", if you would
like to see a programme of
The late Stanton B. Robinson *
any time you wish to call at the
above address,

I called to see the Satterthwaites on the Sunday afternoon, and on that occasion found only Mrs & Miss Satterthwaite in. I was shown the programme, and had some conversation, but had to call again in order to obtain permission to borrow the programme - in the event I was presented with the programme, and a good deal of interesting information to boot.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS

SPARKBRIDGEGRAND JUVENILE FANCY DRESS BALL

PROFESSOR STANTON, B. ROBINSON

Begs to announce to the Inhabitants of Louth, Sparkbridge and the surrounding District,
that he intends holding his
Grand Juvenile Fancy
DRESS BALL

In the above Rooms, on

TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 26, 1893.

Doors open at 6.30. Commence at 7.30 prompt. Carriages may be ordered for 12.0.

Part 1

The Entry. Napoleon's Grand March
The King's and Queens' Hornpipe [by Prince
Charley, King, and 2 Queens]
Hornpipe [4B]
Polka
Hornpipe [2G]
Square Eight Reel
Hornpipe [G]
Hornpipe [2G]
Hoop Dance [8G]
Hornpipe [G]
First Set of Quadrilles
Hornpipe [B]
Hornpipe [G]
Clog Dance [4G]
Hornpipe [B]
Hornpipe [G]
The New Polka
Hornpipe [G]
Hornpipe [B]
Caucasian Circle
Hornpipe [B]
Hornpipe [G]
Nigger Dance [≥ 7 B]

Part 2.

The Skirt Dance [9G]
Hornpipe [G]
Schottische §
Hornpipe [B]
Highland Fling [12 G]
Hornpipe [B]
Hornpipe [G]
Clog Hornpipe [5B, 4G]
Hornpipe [G]
Lancers Quadrilles
Hornpipe [G]
Hornpipe [B]
Waltz
Hornpipe [B]
The New Highland Reel
Hornpipe [G]
Dancing Through The Hoop [7G]
Hornpipe [G]
Varsoviana
Hornpipe [B]
Skipping Rope Dance

B = Boy
G = Girl.
Original given
names. F

Copy Damaged.

Mrs Satterthwaite, 26.8.62.

Mrs Satterthwaite was brought up on a farm in the hills (Hill Park) at Nibthwaite. She attended Stainton Robinson's classes in 1893 - she is the M. Dugdale mentioned on the programme - and then once again later. The classes were held in an old Corn Mill at Lowick Bridge, and the final ball was held at the old Cotton Mill at Sparkbridge. The classes were probably ~~about~~ once a week, and the session lasted about 12 weeks. The actual classes took place from about 6 p.m. to 7.30, and "were never long enough". "Most people" in the class learnt the Lancers, Quadrilles, Polka, Varsouviana, and the Square Eight Reel, and all learnt step-dances. In addition to the dances mentioned on the programme, the boys learnt a Sword Dance (about which Mrs Satterthwaite remembers virtually nothing) and the Jockey Dance, and they also learnt the Three Reel.

I queried one or two points on the programme, and she said that the "Hoop Dance" in Part 1 and "Dancing through the Hoop" in Part 2 were the same dance. The "New Highland Reel" was probably the "Plaidie dance".

I tried very hard to persuade her to dance for me but she wouldn't. I showed her one or two steps, and the only comment of interest was that the Cabriolet step (Norman Robinson's Step 11) was a clog-dance step. For the clog dance the people who danced at the ball had clogs with two different colours of leather in the upper, red and blue, with the bottoms probably rounded off, no irons, and no bell.

Mr and Mrs Satterthwaite, 29.8.62.

Mr Satterthwaite was born and brought up at Sparkbridge.

I asked first where dancing took place in the district. About 1900, there were dancing rooms at the old Corn Mill at Lowick Bridge, at Sparkbridge in a room over the Reading Room (the building is now made into a house), and at Greenodd in the

Drill Hall, now pulled down.

At Lowick Bridge there was a "sixpenny hop" every Saturday evening, and people came far miles to attend it — Mr Satterthwaite himself played the melodeon and used to help to play for these dances. The organiser of these Lowick Bridge dances was Tommy (Scrummy) Hewitson,[†] and to quite a big extent he acted as a teacher. At the beginning of the season he gave some indication of the etiquette of the ballroom, and in his capacity of M.C. he would call the figures of each dance before it was performed. His wife helped out by assisting beginners, and at the end of the winter there was a ball, tickets 2/6 including supper.

The dances performed at Lowick Bridge were

Quadrilles

Lancers

Waltz Cotillions

Square-Eight Reel (this definitely had the Shuffle-off)

Six Reel

Three Reel (done as an exhibition)

Waltz

Polka

Schottische

La Varsoviana

Polka

Cottagers was also done locally, but not at Lowick Bridge.

In the Three Reel, the middle person stepped first to one partner, then turned and repeated the step with the second, who came in on the shuffle off. Then they danced a reel of three.

[†] Almost certainly Hewartson

Tommy Hewitson went to live near Ambleside, and he danced a 3-Reel at the 'Old Folks Do' there at the age of 90.

Mr Satterthwaite's grandmother, who died in 1912 aged c. 86, took the centre position in a 3-Reel at the age of 84. She could certainly step-dance, and her steps were the same as those danced by Mrs Satterthwaite. Mr S.'s grandmother used to talk about the Robinsons as dancing-teachers, but I am not sure which Robinson was meant here.

I returned finally to Stanton Robinson's classes. At the classes attended by Mrs Satterthwaite, there were about 30 pupils, with ages ranging from about 7 to 12 or 13. The classes were for children only, with no adults' session. There was a reduction in the fee if more than two or three members of a family attended. The etiquette of the ballroom was taught.

I asked whether Stanton Robinson advertised his classes in the local paper, but they said that he canvassed personally for pupils, so that he had no need to ~~post~~ advertise. On the other hand, the balls might be described in the paper.

At Lowick Bridge the classes were once weekly for a quarter, and they could have been carried on for a second quarter if the pupils wished.

Stanton Robinson was the owner of the Lakeside Hotel. Old Jos had a carriage business.

I also asked about Ulverston Parade and Hiring Fairs. The Parade took place first in 1900, and was always on Whit Saturday. The Hiring Fairs were on the Thursday following Whit and at Martinmas, and at both there was dancing from mid-day onwards in the Coronation Rooms.

10.9.62

Dear Mr and Mrs Saksenthwaite,

Many I thank you very much indeed for the help you gave me on my visit last week, and for your very kind present of the old ball programme. The information you gave me was most valuable, and I am very grateful.

Yours sincerely

T.M.F.