

2.

If there is anything else you
would like to know, I will
be very pleased to oblige.

I remain

Yours Truly.

Tom Barnes.

114 AINSLIE STREET
 DARROW-IN-FURNESS

19-9-62.

Dear Mr. Helt.

In reply to your letter re. the Robinsons, it has really put me in a bit of a quandary, I could not really say definitely about Josh Robinson being Stanton's brother or father, but we as pupils understood that he was Stanton's brother, and it is rather a long ^{time} to look back on; over 65 years, perhaps Norman at Grange could supply you with that information. I was delighted with our little interview last Friday and only wish I could have given you a lot more information, rather generally.

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it has brought back to me quite
a few more dances. I hope that we
will be able to have in those days. In the
meantime I am getting ready to go into
hospital on Monday, so providing.
I come out alright, I will start
again trying to start the dancing
of seven years ago and will
definitely write to you again.

With kindest regards to
you & your family from your wife and

Yours Sincerely
Chris Robinson

1.10.62
c/o Miss Anne Smith
15 Chapel St, Ulverston.

Dear Mr Burrow,

I was very sorry indeed to hear that you were in hospital - I called to see you once again on September 21st, and one of your neighbours told me then of your fall. I hope your stay in hospital will only be a short one, and that you will soon be up and about.

Thank you very much ~~indeed~~ for the letter which you dictated to your grand-daughter - I think that the identity of the various Robinson dancing-masters is now satisfactorily cleared up. Thank you also for the addresses of your friends who attended the classes - it may be some time before I am back in the Ulverston district again, but I will try to see them as soon as I can.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely

Dear Mr Barnes,

Thank you very much indeed for your reply to my enquiry - I think that this satisfactorily clears up the identities of the various Robinson dancing-masters.

I was interested to hear of your friend who knows of the Robinson family. After I saw you last month I tried very hard ~~though without success~~ to trace the family back beyond Jos. Robinson, but I could not find anyone who knows for certain where either Jos. Robinson or his wife came from. I would be most grateful if you would ask your friend about this for me. Information about where Jos. Robinson's wife Margaret came from would be most valuable, for I would then know where to look for records of their marriage.

With best regards, and many thanks.

Yours sincerely

Tm 7

Dear Mr. Parkinson,

Thank you very much indeed for your reply to my enquiry - I think that I have now satisfactorily established that Jos. Robinson was Stanton's father, though the one looked younger than his years, and the other older.

I hope that you are up and about again after your visit to hospital, and I shall be very pleased to hear from you again when you feel able to write.

After I saw you, I met one of Stanton Robinson's daughter - There were only two left of his family, and she confirmed quite definitely that he taught a Sword Dance. If you should ever come across anyone who knows anything about the steps of this dance as taught by Stanton Robinson, I shall be most grateful.

With best regards to your wife and yourself.

Yours sincerely

T. M. F.

September 12th to October 2nd, 1962.

Wed, Sep. 12th From home to Newton near Slaidburn, saw Jack Walmisley from Dale Head, lunch near Newton, then through the Trough of Bowland to Caton where I bought the old sink, then up via Levens Bridge to Frithwaite to see Joseph Robinson and return his photograph, then a quick call on Mrs Clark at How Wood, and on to Holme Island. Went to Grange to see Bruce Milburn in the evening and stayed at Holme Island for the night.

Thursday, Sep. 13th Visited Ulverston and Barrow Public libraries in the morning, had lunch on the hillside above Askeham looking out towards the Isle of Man, visited Tom Barnes at Askeham, and sat on Askeham beach for half an hour, then drove back to Holme Island via Howick, where I called on Mr Cragg. Out in the evening to Crosthwaite to see Diddy Dixon, and back to Holme Island.

Friday, Sep. 14th Worked in the Barrow News Office till 1.30 on the old Souby's Advertiser, had lunch in Barrow, visited Chris Parkinson in the afternoon, and then tried unsuccessfully to see Mr Langham. Drove back to Ulverston along the coast road & picked up some shells for Lindsay, and on to Holme Island. Came back to Ulverston in the evening to see Mr Burrow, and again back to Holme Island.

Saturday, Sep. 15th Ambleside to visit Miss Clay, then an eventually successful attempt to trace the Clifton family, and then lunch in Ambleside. Afterwards I drove to Hawkshead to see Mr Piggott, but he was out, so went on to Sawrey to collect the programme from Mrs Brockbank and to see the church records there. Since they began too late, I went back to Hawkshead to see the records there, then went on to Frithwaite, and was fortunate in finding the minister there for a bring and buy sale (he lives at Staveley). Had tea at Holme Island, picked up the sink again, and went out to see Harold Ridger, then drove home at 10%.

Monday, Sep. 17th Drove from home to Eastngg's, near Annan, to see Theodore Cannon, then back to Workington to see Will Wright. Stayed overnight at The Commercial Hotel at Workington, and arranged to see Marion Cooper & Fred Clifton next day.

Tuesday, Sep. 18. Drove from Warington to Whitehaven, where I had lunch, then saw Marian Couper & learnt her Sword Dance, then back to Penrith, where I spent the evening with Fred Clifton. Stayed overnight at the Castle Private Hotel at Penrith - never again.

Wednesday, Sep. 19 Left Penrith in the morning and drove to Kendal, where I saw Mrs Pickethall and arranged to call later, then saw Mrs Rooking and obtained Muriel Todd's address, and arranged to see her next day. Then drove on to Staveley to borrow the programme from Mrs Tugman, had lunch at Windermere, then on to Hawkshead to see Fred Coward. I also had another look at the Hawkshead records whilst I was there, made a quick visit to Cassie Wilson, and then back to Holme Island. In the evening Norman and I visited Mrs Pickethall, then back to Holme Island.

Thursday, Sep. 20. Visited Mrs Todd & Mrs Bell in Kendal in the morning, had lunch there, then visited Diddy Dixon at Crosthwaite. Afterwards drove on to see A.S. Clay at Windermere and extracted the Harden MSS material. Had very little time to get back to Holme Island for tea, and did it in 20 minutes flat. Stayed in for the evening and showed Norman some steps.

Friday, Sep. 21. Went out to Great Unsworth in the morning and saw Mr Langham - and nearly froze to death whilst doing so - then back to Ulverston for lunch. After lunch I drove back to Barrow to see the newspapers there, then returned to Ulverston along the coast road, with another 15 minutes off for shell-hunting. In Ulverston I tried to see Mr Burrow, but he had had a fall and been taken to hospital, and then went on to see Mrs Rigby. Afterwards I drove up to Satterthwaite to see the Misses Coward, having tea en route, then came back to Haverthwaite to see Mr Leake. I left him about 9.30, made a very hurried call on the wrong set of Robinsons, then drove home, arriving just before midnight.

Tuesday, Sep. 25. Left home about 10% and drove to Crosthwaite, where I had lunch before going to see Diddy Dixon. Afterwards I drove to Kendal to see Mr Wright and fix a session with him, then drove to Holme Island for tea. Stayed in and read for most of the evening (Norman & Betty went out to visit his mother on

her birthday), & then had a short session on steps with Norman.

Wednesday, Sep. 26. Since Norman's mother had the idea that old Jos. was married at Calton, I went there to look at the registers, but had no luck. Drove back to Kendal and spent 15 minutes on a hill overlooking the town looking for fossils, then went in to the town & had lunch, & spent my allotted half hour with Mr Wright. Afterwards I made a quick call on Mrs Bell, tried without success to find Frances Allen, and then went down to see Billy Cannon at Holme. I had no better success here, so went on to see Mrs Chaplow at Burton, then back to Holme Island. In the evening I went to Hookburgh to find Alec Edgar & Mrs Gilpin, but both were out, then spent half-an-hour at Norman's class. Saw the hedgehog whilst waiting half-a-hour driving round the Cartmel lanes before going to the class.

Thursday, Sep. 27. Drove from Holme Island to Rawtenstall, via Clapham, Settle, Grimsbury, Nelson, and Burnley, saw Mrs Riley there, then home via East Lancs Rd.

Tuesday, Oct 2. Left home about 9.30, and drove to Lancaster, had lunch on Halton Bridge, then saw Mrs Joy in Lancaster. Afterwards I visited Mrs Smiltson in Morecambe, & found Mrs Booth there, had tea on Morecambe prom, and then drove back to Lancaster to find Alf R's son Joseph. Then I drove on to St Annes to try to find Mr Booth's sister, but couldn't find either the road or the house, so came back home.

Total : 50 gallons of petrol (about 1500 miles motoring)

bought lunches at Barrow, Ambleside, Whitehaven, Windermere, Kendal,

Ulverston, Kendal, Rawtenstall ; average 4/6

evenings and night at Worlington, £1-16-6, Penrith £1-2-0, Batty £4-10-0.

March 13th, 1851. "Our townsman Mr Holt last week held his usual Annual Juvenile Ball in the Assembly Room Lancaster at the completion of his pupils course of tuition".

September 23rd, 1852. Advt for "Mr Hunter, Professor of Dancing" in Ulverston. "Day and evening schools will be open each day in the week..."

September 20th, 1855. Advt: "Mr Hunter proposes having a QUADRILLE CLASS in the Assembly Room every Tuesday and Friday Evenings from 8 to 10 o'clock.
Other Classes as usual" [for Ulverston]

January 3, 1867. Advt for R.C. Robinson's Juvenile Ball at Haverthwaite.

January 10, 1867. Advt: "Mr R.C. Robinson's quarter tuition will terminate on Friday evening, Jan. 18th, in the Assembly Room, Ulverston".

January 16, 1868. Report of Juvenile Ball at Ulverston for the classes formed by Mrs Hunter of Morecambe Ville.

May 21, 1868. Advt. for Mr R.C. Robinson's Juvenile Ball at Uriswick on May 22nd.
Also a report: "URSWICK.— Mr R.C. Robinson, professor of dancing, having completed his quarter's tuition at the above place, will hold his ball there tomorrow evening."

September 3, 1868. Advt. for Mr R.C. Robinson's Juvenile Ball at HEECE on Sep. 11th.
"Tickets 1s. 6d. Dancing after the Children's Ball for visitors, free of charge"

March 7, 1878. Advt. Mr G Brocklebank held his juvenile ball at The Green, Millom.

April 11, 1878 Advt. Mr R.C. Robinson to held his Juvenile Ball at Ulverston.

January 5, 1885. Advt. for Miss Harding's dancing classes in Ulverston.

January 2, 1886. A long and glowing account of Miss Harding's juvenile fancy dress ball at Ulverston. The "Fancy Dances" performed were the Scotch Reel (2 Boys and 2 Girls), the Cocooncha, a Spanish dance (2B, 2G), minuet (2B, 2G), Tambourine

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~~The~~ Dance (G), and Sailors Hornpipe (2B, 2G). Then follows a long list of the characters represented by the children, and then a list of the social dances performed by the children in the display - Quadrille, Lancers, Circassian O, Contra Dance, Swedish Dance, Valses, Polka, Schottische, Highland Schottische, Russian Polka.

September 23rd, 1886. Advt: "Dancing and Calisthenics" for Miss Hardinge's classes in Ulverston.

January 3rd, 1867. Advt for "Christy's Minstrels" at Ulverston. Programme included "Pipe and Grotesque Dancing".

December 26th, 1878. Advt for "Chas. Christy's Own Minstrels" at the Drill Hall, Ulverston.

BARROW NEWS.

January 7th, 1893. KIRKBY [in Furness] Mr Moreton had a "long night", in connection with his dancing class, on the 27th December, 1892. Apparently this long night was just an ordinary dance.

December 30th, 1893. ~~Saturday~~ Three reported items:

FLOOKBURGH. Report of Stainton B. Robinson's first Juvenile Fancy Dress Ball held on 21st Dec. The report states that he introduced The Skirt Dance for the first time to Flookburgh.

HAWKSHEAD. Mr J.R. Robinson's children's Fancy Dress Ball at the Town Hall, on 26th December.

MILLOM. Mr T. Wilson held a juvenile ball in connection with his class in the County Hall, on December 27th.

MARRIAGE RECORDS, PARISH OF FINSTHWAITE.

October 11th, 1890. Marriage of Thomas Stainton, aged 23, cabdriver, Finsthwaite
(father Robert Stainton, profession Joiner) to Margaret Robinson, aged 24, Lakeside
(father Joseph Robinson, profession "Dancing-master").

BURIAL RECORDS, FINSTHWAITE.

October 13th, 1902. Stainton Battersby Robinson, aged 39.

July 28th, 1908. Joseph William Robinson, aged 70
(his wife died a few years previously)

BAPTISMAL RECORDS, FINSTHWAITE.

1892. Birth of a daughter, Annie, to Joseph Richard Robinson, Coachman, of Landing
Cottages, Lakeside, and his wife.

1894 Birth of a daughter, Olive, To the same

1897 Birth of a son, Frank, to the same.

[In 1897 Thomas and Margaret Stainton have a child, & their address is given as Landing
Cottages, Lakeside]

1904 Birth of a daughter, Emma, to Albert Threlfall Robinson, ^{Coachman} West View Villa,
Lakeside.

1910. Birth of a son to Joseph Stainton Robinson, Hotel Manager, Lakeside Hotel
and his wife.

These are the only entries for the Robinson family in the Finsthwaite records for
1890-1910. There are no records for ~~the~~ a Robinson family at Cunsey in the
Hawkshead records c. 1810-1860. Note that there was a Carradus at the bobbin
mill at Cunsey c. 1830-40.

59 Sharp St.

Askham-in-Furness
Lancashire

August 12th 1962.

J M Frettl Esq.

Dear Sir,

Regarding your enquiries
about the Robinson dancing masters
I was one of their pupils.
My dancing master was Mr. J.
Robinson Lake-side Hotel Windermere
I was taught to dance when I
was nine years old & I am
still dancing at 69. I am a
retired Blacksmith, I can give
you a programme which we
did in 1905. As a Kestley-in-
Furness lad, this (Ball) was held
in Mr Wenders barn at Kestley
Hall. You will be made very
welcome if you call at the above
address. I remain yours Truly.
Tom Barnes. P T O.

1905

The ball opened with Kapahe's grand march. The girls dressed were white silk. The boys' suits were blue velvet. While celebrating blue ribbon boys carrying their partners while their boy could did the dance. The partner dances consisted of the Polka.

The Patka
The Bara dance
The Kathak
The Attangas
The Steel Drum & singing dance
The Highland Flang.
James's dance.
The foot dance

3 utterly bore [This is a short dance
 in style, if not in name]
 Gortland Dance
 3 days dances. Dancers alternate. Forget dance
 forget dance.

Mr Robinson taught us all
these dances to the music of
his fiddle, which I play myself.
There was another brother
Marion Robinson; He taught in
his dances, Doin, Aladdin,
Gypsy etc; These dances were
all taught in one quarter
at 10/- a quarter.

22 Quebec St - 12.8 - 62.
Liversdon

Mr T. M. Felt-

Dear Sir

asking for information about "Old Time Dancing" by the old Robinson family of Dancing Marywell & wife & agent to you for to contact young Robinson who has an Electric Shop in Ganges who as far as I know is the only male member left of this family. And this generation I think the war would take some of them. But to me you want to meet someone of the generation between mine and the present - this family died on about 1895. 6.7 This Robinson (Dor) was a man about 6 stone very active for his size. who had a class in every country village this would be where you would find the material, you are seeking - As for my generation there are not many left & an 8 1/2 Therefore I feel confident if you contact young Robinson he will help you. Dancing in my day was a very profitable pleasure & I do not know how my friends would describe the modern way. And hope I may have been some help to you

Yours truly Ed Burrow

Cross Syke Ambleside

I cannot help about the nature of local dances³³⁵⁶ but there are some entries on dancing & dancing classes in the journals of John & Jessy Harden of Brathay Hall n^r Ambleside one of their girls danced with the Poet Wordsworth. A mention of a dancing school at Bowmers^{in 1803} also one at Ambleside in 1826. ^{I think} If you want these references I can look them up for you.

[Miss] Noel I. Clay

Jessy Harden had attended a dancing school in London before she came to live here in 1804

Sept. 17th 1962

Dear Dr Flett,

I have today seen in a hotel in Garsmere (The Rothay) four tapestries (about $4 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ ft) with village scenes. At least two of them had dancing. There was an exhibition of Tweeds in progress, so that I could not investigate. They might be Flemish, or done

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by Flemish people in this
country. They looked very
old & Mrs Dand says that
they are valuable.

Yours sincerely
Noel L. Clay

I have told my brother
about your visit. He is
busy finishing up his
yachting for the season
(end of this month). He would
have more time next month -
but in any case he does not
yacht every day.

Dear Miss Clay,

I must apologize for my long delay in writing to you, but I have been awaiting the return of the photograph of John Harden's sketch, which I had sent to be copied. I enclose it with this letter - it has copied excellently, and I am most grateful for your kindness in lending it to me.

You have probably heard that I visited your brother at Stott Park, and that he allowed me to go through the journals. You had in fact already found all the important passages concerning dancing, namely the descriptions of the dancing at Holy Cross in 1797, the dancing class at Bowness in 1802, and the reference to Ritchie's Ball in 1804. Although there were many places in the journal where Jessy Harden referred to dancing of some unspecified sort. The description of the dancing class at Bowness is particularly valuable to us at the moment for it will provide excellent historical background material for our study of the local dancing-masters of the more recent past, and I am very grateful to you for telling us of it.

Thank you also for telling me of the Lapestries at Grassmere. I haven't managed to visit them yet, but will do so as soon as I have the opportunity.

Once again, thank you for all your help.

Yours sincerely

T. M. Flett

Dear Mr Burrow,

When we were talking on Friday evening, I now feel that we may have been talking ~~about~~ at cross-purposes ~~when we were talking about~~ ^{regarding} Jos. and Stanton R. I was quite under the impression that the Jos. R who taught dancing about 1900 was S.R.'s father but you said he was S.'s brother. On looking through my notes I feel you must be correct, but I wonder if you could clear up this muddle for me once & for all? Can you remember whether the J. R who taught you at Compton and Kirkby had a beard or only a moustache? As far as I know S.R.'s father had a beard, & would have been about 60 in 1900, but S.R.'s brother J. had only a moustache, & in 1900 would have been about 30.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your help in my research. The information you gave me was most valuable, & I am very grateful.

Yours s.

T.

Dear Mr Barnes. Parkinson

Modify accordingly.

15 Chapel St.,
Uxbridge,
Herts

26/9/02

Dear Mr. Flett,

I am writing on behalf of my Grandfather who at the moment is ill in hospital. This is the letter he has dictated to me to forward on to you.

I don't think that we were at cross purposes in our talk. You seem to forget, that we were talking about the way of life during three generations. Jos Robinson was in my opinion the elder brother of Stanton Robinson and was very easily identified by his short stubby beard and rosy complexion. Further evidence of this can be got from people who were chosen as

of many of his classes and some whom
I have given you names and addresses
namely Mrs. Butcher. and her brother.

I am sorry this was sprung on
me suddenly and I could not get up
to the market to contact people who
would be likely to know.

Sorry I have taken to be worse
and in hospital but I will trust
to my family to give you any
further information but none of them
seem to have any information of
the 'sword dance'.

Trusting that this will give
you some clue to your research.

Yours sincerely,
W. E. Burton.

These are the addresses of 3 people
who used to attend the classes.

Mrs. G. Butcher Aged 75-80

The Bungalows,
Levens Girth,
HAVERTHWAITE.

James Walker, Aged 80
The Square,
BROUGHTON - in - FURNESS.

Albert Gaskell Aged 80
62 Fountain St.,
ULVERSTON.

Yours faithfully
Miss Anne Smith.

59 Sharp St.
Askam-in-Furness
Sep 18th 1962.

Dr J M Flett

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter received this morning. I have been talking to a friend of mine since you were here. He was brought up amongst the Robinson family, he belonged to Back-Barrow. He said Jose Robinson was the father, & had a moustache & no beard. & that's how I knew him. He was a big man, 18 or 20 stone & his wife was a big lady & they lived in a cottage at Lake-side, (Now) How, Stainton was his son & he lived at Lake-side Hotel. He was a heavy drinker & he died young. This means what you thought was correct. P.T.O.