

Dear Betty and Norman

May I thank you both very much indeed for your hospitality last month. I thoroughly enjoyed all my visits to the island, and I am most grateful for all your help in my research.

Since I left you, I have discovered a little more about the Robinson family, though I still haven't solved the problem of where old Jos. learnt his dancing. On the way home from my last stay with you I visited Alf R's daughter near Burnley, and last Tuesday I managed a one-day visit to Lancaster & Morecambe to see other members of the family.

In brief, I discovered that all of Jos's children are now dead. He had nine in all, Stainton, Margaret, Matthew, John, Catherine, Mary, Joseph, Robert, Albert. Of these, Matthew and Mary died at the ages of 5 and 4 respectively; all the rest married, and had children.

Stainton married a Jane Smith, and, as you know, only two of his children are alive, your mother and Mrs Pickthall.

Margaret married a Tommy Stainton, and two of their children are alive in Lancaster. I have seen the daughter, and I doubt if her brother, who is 5 years younger, would add anything to what the daughter has told me.

John had the boats at Bowness, and there are some children alive.

Catherine (Kate) played the piano & helped her father & brothers in the dancing classes. She ~~married~~ married a Mr Booth, and died in 1942. A son and two daughters are still alive; I have the address of the son and will write to him, and will also ask him for his sisters' addresses.

Joseph had the casting contract for the blue mill at Backbarrow. He had two children both of whom I have seen, Mrs Clark at Low Wood, and Joseph Robinson, the postman at Finsthwaite.

Robert drove a lorry on Morecambe prom; he has one daughter still alive, somewhere in the Manchester area, and no-one seems to know her address.

Albert (Alf) had a son and three daughters, but one of the daughters is now dead. I have seen the other three children.

(though some may be wrong)

The story of Jos as I have obtained it so far is that his parents died when he was about 14 or 15, and that he became a bobbin Turner at the old mill at Cunsey. He remained at the bobbin mill until at least around 1880, and may eventually have been in charge of it. The bobbin mill was then damaged by fire, and he left and settled at Lakeside, where he remained until his death.

When he died, the family heirlooms (i.e. the family bible, a photograph or two, and the cups he won for exhibiting the sheepdog in the photo you have and for bird fancying) passed to the eldest surviving child, Margaret (Mrs Stampton). When she died, in 1915, they passed to her daughter, who gave them to Alf. On Alf's death, in 1958, they remained with his children. I have seen the family bible, but it starts only from old Jos, and tells us nothing of his forebears. The cups are in the hands of the husband of Alf's daughter who died, and I will visit him in the near future.

I now have the exact date of old Jos's wedding, and when I have cleared up all the other queries, I will write to Somerset House to see if I can get anything there.

You will doubtless have observed that there is one major stone left unturned here - John's children - I gather they still live in Bowness or Windermere. Do you think it would be possible for you to find where they live and see them for me, please? The principal queries are

- (1) Where did old Jos come from?
- (2) Where did his wife come from?
- (3) Where did old Jos learn his dancing?
- (4) Did he teach dancing while he was at Cunsey?

This must be all for the moment. When I have all the loose ends tied up, I will let you have the full story, with ~~data~~ such ~~data~~ other information as I have.

I have now written out all the steps in detail; the collection numbers 49, of which 39 or 40 are essentially distinct steps!

I have been keeping my fingers crossed that you ^{have} managed to keep the class going. I do hope you succeeded.

Yours.

Tom.

✓
Holme Island

G. O. S. Nov 7th.

Dear Tom.

Since last writing you. I've
visited the Robinsons of Bannock, and
found that John who had the boats an
miscellaneous, had 2 sons and 2 daughters.
Joe Robinson - Herbert Robinson. The Father
and two sons all died between ^{Nov 4th} 1948 -
and Aug. 1949. The Daughter now living

① Mrs Storey

Hill Gate

Gillingate

Heardal.

② Mrs Walker

"Rondale"

Slieve-with-Hest.

Mr. Tuncovers

Herbert Robinson's wife now named
Mrs Devian could give me no information
at all, to any of the Questions, although
she said Joe may have held a card

at Lunsey. He has two sons and
one daughter named Jack. Tony and
Christine. could not throw any light
on the subject. There were
sister the two Daughters of
John the Boatman. whose addresses
are included. Do you wish me to
visit them? there may be a
chance of securing a little information
from them. and it would be no
trouble for me to do this for
you. Since your last visit as I
told you in my last letter. I met
an old friend of Didi's who said
she wished to see me. So Betty
and I went with her to visit
her. Didi has been a good one in
her younger days. she invited us

me showing her my steps which
I did, and of course she showed
me hers. I got 3 of hers off Pat
now. She's invited me to see her
any time, but owing to her being
in her present state of health I
not going to bother her too much
although she was very insistent that
I visit her as often as I wished
She showed me some old Photos
of her as the Queen at the
Jewville Ball. of her day. She's
a grand Character and a very good
Musician. in fact very Versatile. Am
enclosing an old Dance Programme.
dated 1904. which was lent me by
the gentleman I mentioned previously
B Luman. would you please

Let me have it back as it is
of sentimental value to him. well
I'm you will see by the post
mark. Betty and I are on holiday
at Chesterfield.. until Sunday. Hope
everyone at yours end well and happy.
Regards to yourself and Family.

Sorry not being able to help you
regarding Toton. But will call at
Hendal and Hancocks if you wish
me to. Cheers for present.

Yours

Norman & Betty



SCHOOL - ROOM - CROSTHWAITHE.

THE BALL OF THE SEASON

Mr. ROBINSON, Dancing Master from La keside, in offering his sincere thanks to the inhabitants of Crosthwaite and surrounding district for the kind support accorded to him in his past Classes, begs to announce that he will hold his

Grand Juvenile Fancy - Dress - Ball;

IN THE ABOVE ROOMS, ON

Friday Evening, May 6th, 1904.

Doors open at 7. Children's Ball commences at 8. Carriages may be ordered for 11-30.

The Ballroom will be at the service of Visitors for Dancing after the close of the Juvenile Ball until 4 o'clock the following morning, free of charge to those attending the Children's Ball. Anyone under the influence of liquor, using bad language, or annoying the audience will be expelled from the room and their tickets cancelled. No Smoking allowed.

TICKETS: Reserved Seats, 2/-; Second Seats, Gen's, 1/6; Ladies, 1/-
May be obtained from Mr. Robinson or at the Ballroom Door.

MR. ROBINSON will be glad if intending visitors will come early as the programme is large, and he is anxious to give the adults an enjoyable Dance after the Juvenile Ball is over. Refreshments will be in the efficient hands of Mr. Fothergill at reasonable charges.

The Second Ball will be held in the above Rooms, on Friday Evening, May 20th.



NARROW NEWS AND MAIL, LIMITED

From a Mr B. Thomas (2) via Noman

Programme.

PART I.

The Ball will be opened with Lord Roberts' Grand March into Pretoria.

HORNPIPE by the Two Kings (Messrs. Airey and Strickland) and two Queens (Misses Walling and Strickland).
 HEEL AND TOE COUNTRY DANCE
 HORNPIPE ... Messrs. Shepherd, Thornburrow, & Leek.
 BALLROOM POLKA
 HORNPIPE ... Misses Shepherd, Stewardson, and Wilson.
 BUTTERFLY SKIRT DANCE, Misses Gardener, Pearson, Inman, Wilson, Airey, Stewardson, Strickland, Shepherd, Walling, Airey, and Park.
 HORNPIPE ... Misses Walling, Shepherd, and Walling.
 CIRCASSIAN CIRCLE.
 HORNPIPE ... Masters Medcalfe and Strickland.
 BALLROOM WALTZ.
 HORNPIPE ... Master R. Clark.
 BERLIN POLKA
 HORNPIPE ... Misses Milburn, Medcalfe, and Milburn.
 HIGHLAND FLING, Misses Stewardson, Park, Gardener, Shepherd, Inman, Airey, Pearson, and Inman.
 HORNPIPE ... Masters Inman and Milburn.
 PLADIE DANCE, Misses Shepherd, Walling, Airey, Park, Medcalfe, Milburn, Walling, Milburn (Queens) Strickland, and Walling.



PART II.

HORNPIPE ... Miss F. Gardener.
 HORSE TO NEWMARKET, Masters Stewardson, Airey, Leek, Inman, Milburn, and Clark.
 HORNPIPE ... Master W. Leek.
 VELETA WALTZ.
 HORNPIPE ... Misses Park and Airey.
 HEEL AND TOE POLKA.
 HORNPIPE ... Misses Stewardson and Strickland.
 DANCING THROUGH THE HOOP, Misses Stewardson, Park, Gardener, Inman, Airey, and Pearson.
 HORNPIPE ... Miss E. Inman.
 BALLROOM SCHOTTISCHE.
 HORNPIPE ... Master R. Airey.
 NIGGER DANCE, Masters Shepherd, Clark, Thornburrow, Strickland, Leek, Medcalfe, Strickland, and Airey.
 HORNPIPE ... Miss S. Inman.
 TAMBOURINE DANCE, Misses Inman, Wilson, Stewardson, Strickland, Shepherd, Walling, Park, Airey, Milburn, Medcalfe, and Milburn.
 HORNPIPE ... Miss Park.
 SAILORS HORNPIPE, Masters Leek, Medcalfe, Clark, and Strickland.
 HORNPIPE ... Master G. Stewardson.
 ECLIPSE WALTZ.
 HORNPIPE ... Miss E. Pearson.
 WESTMORLAND REELS.
 HORNPIPE ... Miss M. Airey.

The Ball will conclude with the Grand Garlands Redona.

SCHOOL - ROOM - CROSTHWAITHE

THE BALL OF THE SEASON

Mr. ROBINSON, Dancing Master from Lakeside, in offering his sincere thanks to the inhabitants of Crosthwaite and surrounding district for the kind support accorded to him in his past Classes, begs to announce that he will hold his

Grand Juvenile

Fancy Dress Ball

IN THE ABOVE ROOMS, ON

Friday Evening, May 6th, 1904.

Doors open at 7. Children's Ball commences at 8. Carriages may be ordered for 11-30.

The Ballroom will be at the service of Visitors for Dancing after the close of The Juvenile Ball until 4 o'clock the following morning, free of charge to those attending The Children's Ball. Anyone under the influence of liquor, using bad language, or annoying the audience will be expelled from the room and their tickets cancelled. No Smoking allowed.

TICKETS: Reserved Seats, 2/-; Second Seats, Gents, 1/6; Ladies, 1/- May be obtained from Mr. Robinson or at the Ballroom Door.

MR. ROBINSON will be glad if intending visitors will come early as the programme is large, and he is anxious to give the adults an enjoyable Dance after the Juvenile Ball is over. Refreshments will be in the efficient hands of Mr. Fothergill at reasonable charges.

The Second Ball will be held in the above Rooms, on Friday Evening, May 20th.

[Mr. Robinson's Ball, May 6th, 1904, Crosthwaite : cont.]

Programme.

PART I.

The Ball will be opened with Lord Roberts' Grand March into Pretoria.

HORNPIPE by the Two Kings (Messrs. Airey and Strickland) and Two Queens (Misses Walling and Strickland).

HEEL AND TOE COUNTRY DANCE

HORNPIPE ... Messrs. Shepherd, Thornburrow, ~~and~~ Leek.

BALLROOM POLKA.

HORNPIPE ... Misses Shepherd, Stewardson, and Wilson.

BUTTERFLY SKIRT DANCE, Misses Gardener, Pearson, Inman, Wilson, Airey, Stewardson, Strickland, Shepherd, Walling, Airey, and Park.

HORNPIPE ... Misses Walling, Shepherd, and Walling.

CIRCISSIAN CIRCLE.

HORNPIPE ... Masters Medcalfe and Strickland.

BALLROOM WALTZ

HORNPIPE Master R. Clark.

BERLIN POLKA.

HORNPIPE ... Misses Millburn, Medcalfe, and Millburn.

HIGHLAND FLING, Misses Stewardson, Park, Gardener, Shepherd, Inman, Airey, Pearson, and Inman.

HORNPIPE ... Masters Inman and Millburn.

PLADDIE DANCE, Misses Shepherd, Walling, Airey, Park, Medcalfe, Millburn, Walling, Millburn (Queens) Strickland, and Walling

PART II

HORNSPIPE ... Miss F. Gardener.

HORSE TO: NEWMARKET, Masters Stewardson, Airey, Leek, Inman, Millburn, and Clark.

HORNSPIPE ... Master W. Leek.

VELETA WALTZ

HORNSPIPE ... Misses Park and Airey.

HEEL AND TOE POLKA

HORNSPIPE ... Misses Stewardson and Stickland.

DANCING THROUGH THE HOOP, Misses Stewardson, Park, Gardener, Inman,
Airey, and Pearson.

HORNSPIPE ... Miss E. Inman

BALLROOM SCHOTTISCHE

HORNSPIPE ... Master R. Airey

NIGGER DANCE, Masters Shepherd, Clark, Thornburn, Stickland, Leek, Medcalfe,
Stickland, and Airey.

HORNSPIPE ... Miss S. Inman

TAMBOURINE DANCE, Misses Inman, Wilson, Stewardson, Stickland, Shepherd,
Walling, Park, Airey, Millburn, Medcalfe, and Millburn.

HORNSPIPE ... Miss Park

SAILORS HORNSPIPE, Masters Leek, Medcalfe, Clark, and Stickland.

HORNSPIPE ... Master G. Stewardson

ECLIPSE WALTZ

HORNSPIPE ... Miss E. Pearson

WESTMORLAND REELS

HORNSPIPE ... Miss M. Airey

The Ball will conclude with the Grand Garlands Redone.

Dear Betty and Norman,

Thank you very much for your letters. I am delighted to hear that you have managed to keep the class going - I hope you have some more pupils as good as the two girls I saw. I was very pleased also to hear that you have been visiting Diddi Dixon; I didn't dare suggest off my own bat that you should visit her because of the state of her health, so I am delighted that she should have taken the initiative and asked you to come and see her.

Thank you for visiting John's relatives - I am only sorry that your visits were so unproductive. Could I bother you, please, to visit the two remaining daughters when you can conveniently do so; they are virtually our last chance of information among Old Jos's descendants, for Kate's son, Henry Booth, knew nothing, and his sisters are younger than he is, so are likely to know no more. I still haven't visited the son-in-law of Alf who lives in Bickenhead, but I am in any case writing to Somerset House this weekend to see what information I can glean there.

I am returning your friend's programme which I have copied by hand - I didn't dare send yet another to my sister, for she has just finished off the last set - 7 programmes, 14 photographs, and a sketch! She has copied them all beautifully and in many cases improved on the originals. Would you thank your friend for lending me the programme - it was most kind of him, and I am very grateful.

I'm not sure when I shall be able to make another visit North - I hoped to sneak a Monday off during term, but I'm not sure now that I shall be able to do so. If I can't, I shall have to wait till the Christmas Vacation, and hope that the weather will be better than it was on my first visit in 1960.

We hope you both enjoyed your holiday - the weather has been none too kind, I'm afraid, but here at least it has been reasonably dry. With best wishes

Yours
Tom.