

NOTES ON LANCASHIRE CLOG DANCING.

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Notes on Lancashire Clog Dancing

May 1956. Fred Coward, Hawkshead, shoemaker age 74.

Learnt from Jos. Robinson of Lakeside (Charlie Brown says he kept a pub there but came, he thinks, from Grange), who gave lessons in all the surrounding villages. (Mrs William Woods of Langdale also learnt from him.) He played the fiddle and was tough a big fellow a good dancer, running a dancing school. Mr. Coward learnt from him at the age of 10-12, at which time Robinson was '40 to 50' (confirmed by Mrs. Coward who also learnt from him). This makes it about 1892 - 1894.

They dressed up in 'old-fashioned clothes' (Mrs. C.) and gave shows in halls, wearing clogs with no irons, and the uppers often bright red or blue (Mr.C.).

There were a number of tunes used, among them the Flowers of Edinburgh. The various steps followed each other in no regular order. One step would be done for a strain (16 bars) (this in 2/4 time.FR). The dancer would move on to another step for the next strain. Every 16 bars (2/4) ended with the "shuffle off", (which used up the last 4 of the 16). The dancer used also to come in on the shuffle off, presumably at the end of once to yourself.

[The dance notations were given under lettered notes in the music, which was usually given in 2/4 time, though sometimes in 4/4 time and once in 6/8 time. Since the tune usually used was Manchester Hornpipe, I give all the dance instructions in 4/4 time. FR.]

Shuffle off with RF.

1.1. Stamp LF in place.

- &. Beat RF in flat 3rd position.
- 2. Step on to RF in 1st position.
- &. Beat LF in flat 3rd position.
- 3. Step on to LF in 1st position.
- &. Beat RF in flat 3rd position.
- 4. Beat RF back through 1st position.

2.1. Step on to RF in rear 5th position.

- 2. Step on to LF in 5th position.
- 3. Step on to RF in 5th position.

The Cranch.

1.1. Step on to RF crossed before L.

- 2. Step on to LF in 1st position.
- &. Beat RF in place.
- 3. Beat LF in place.
- &. Drop on to flat of RF with a heel beat.
- 4. Drop on to flat of LF with a heel beat.

2. Perform bar 1 contrariwise.

3-6. Repeat bars 1 and 2 twice.

7,8. Shuffle off with RF.

The Treble Shuffle.

Uncertainty noted.

1.1. Stamp LF in place.

- &. Beat RF out through semi 4th position.
- 2. Beat RF through semi 4th opposite 3rd position.
- &. Step onto RF in flat 5th position.
- 3. Stamp LF in place.
- &. Beat RF out through semi 4th opposite 5th position.
- 4. Beat RF in through semi 4th position.
- &. (Query - beat LF.)

The Agworm Crawl.

- 1.1. Start with toes touching and heels apart.
2. Pivot on L toe and slide R toe back to rear 5th position.
3. Pivot on L toe and slide R toe forward to original posn.
4. Pivot on R toe and slide L toe back to rear 5th posn.

This would often be done moving forwards up the room (ending, as usual, with a shuffle off).

Backwards movement. (Mr. C. remembers no name.) Used to return to place after moving forward with Agworm Crawl.

- 1.1. Stamp LF in place.
 - &. Beat RF forward through flat 3rd position.
 2. Beat RF back through 1st position.
 3. Step on to RF in rear 5th position.
 4. Step on to LF in flat 3rd position.
 - &. Beat RF in place.
2. Perform bar 1 contrariwise.
- 3-6. Repeat bars 1 and 2 twice.
- 7,8. Shuffle off with RF.

Mr. Coward also mentioned 2 country dances in which stepping was used (any step according to dancer's preference).

1/. The three reel

Three dancers in a row. (A) Centre dancer faces one of the others and they both step. Other dancer stands still, but comes in on the shuffle off. This takes one strain. (B) Reel of 3, polka step (not crossing feet: like scottish pas de Basque). (C) Centre dancer faces his other partner and they step while the 1st partner rests, joining in on the shuffle off. (D) Reel of 3, etc..

2/. The Eight Reel

Square set of 4 couples. (A) Top couples right hands

across, left hands back, polka step, finishing with shuffle off in positions. Meanwhile 2nd step in position (or rest and come in on the shuffle off). (B) Side couples ditto while tops step or rest. (C) Grand circle. Repeat.

June 1956. Miss Mary (Sissie) Willson, Galloway Hawkshead.

Learnt from Jos. Robinson. Schoolteacher, and has since taught dances in the village school. Very fond of dancing. Over 70. Insists on the spring: get off the ground. Steps as Fred Coward, with some differences. Probably more reliable (she is nimbler on her feet, and has kept up the dancing more than he has). Says she sometimes used a cranch (or 2?) ~~instead of the shuffle,~~ for variety.

Shuffle off with RF. (keep on the toes)

1.1. Spring on to LF.

&. Beat RF in ^{Semi 4th opposite 3rd} ~~flat-3rd~~ position.

2. Spring on to RF in 1st position.

&. Beat LF in semi 4th opposite 3rd position.

3. Spring on to LF in 1st position.

&. Beat RF in semi 4th opposite 3rd position.

4. No movement.

&. Hop on LF.

2.1. Step on to R toe in rear 5th position.

2. Step on to LF in position.

3. Step on to RF in flat 5th position with toe pointint out.

Single Shuffle

As in Fool's Jig.

- 1.1. Spring on to RF crossed before L.
2. Hop on to RF in place.
3. Spring on to LF crossed before R.
4. Hop on to LF in place.

Double Shuffle

- 1.1. Spring on to LF and beat RF diagonally across in front of LF.
2. Hop on LF and beat RF across again.
3. Spring on to RF and beat LF diagonally across in front of RF.
4. Hop on RF and beat LF across again.
- A big spring when changing feet.

Treble Shuffle

- 1.1. Spring on to LF.
 - &. Beat R F out through semi 4th position.
 2. Beat RF in through semi 4th opposite 3rd position.
 - &. Step on to RF in flat 5th position.
 3. Stamp LF in place.
 - 4 Hop on LF.
 - &. Beat RF out through semi 4th opposite 3rd position.
 - a. Beat RF in through semi 4th position.
2. Perform bar 1 contrariwise.

Cranch (Step over and cranch)

As Fred Coward. Leg must be lifted well over: rather a grotesque movement. Jump as high as you can before the cranch. She thinks the cranch is toe, heel, toe, heel.

Agworm Craw 1

As Fred Coward. To move forward on this, instead of returning to position, the moving foot (as opposed to the pivoting one) goes in front of the other.

Backward Step1.1. Spring on to LF.

- &. Beat RF out through semi 4th position.
- 2. Beat RF in through semi 4th position.
- & $\frac{1}{2}$. Hop back on LF.
- 3. Step on to RF in rear 5th position, toe pointing out.
- & $\frac{1}{2}$. Beat LF out through semi 4th position.
- 4. Beat RF in through semi 4th position.
- &. Hop back on RF.

Music - She had two tunes. Tried to whistle one, but thought she was mixing them result attached.

(It does not seem to go like a jig to me. I suspect that it is just the A music of a hornpipe . FR .)

June 1956. Frank Atkinson, (farmer and dairyman) Hawkshead age 49.

Formerly of Underbarrow, near Kendal, where he learned his dancing first, aged about 5, from Stainton Robinson, later, aged about 10-12 (i.e. c.1920) from Thomas Cannon of Underbarrow, who subsequently left with his wife and son Theodore (about 5 or 6 years older than Atkinson, and also a dancer and musician) to go to Gretna Green. Wore coloured clogs with no cokers. Speaks of 'the step dance'. Used also to do a 'jockey dance' of which he remembers only that the number taking part was 'in the teens', and that they were dressed as jockeys, with whips that they cracked during the dance. As with the others, he would do 12 bars of stepping and then shuffle off, but would sometimes mix the steps within a measure. He did all Miss Wilson's steps (though not all quite the same) and more besides.

You must bang your feet down when you get going.

Music - Tune attached. 'The old people' used another tune, Yorkshire square. *White Gockade*

7Shuffle off with RF

A cross between Miss Wilson and Fred Coward, in that that the right foot is tapped in place on 4, but the left foot also taps on (4)&.

1.

4. Beat RF back through 1st position.

&. Drop onto flat of LF with heel beat.

2.1. Step on to R toe in 5th rear position.

2. Step on to LF on position.

3. Step on to RF in flat 5th position with toe pointing out.

Single Shuffle

as Miss Wilson.

Double shuffle

1.1. Stamp LF in place.

&..Beat RF forward through flat 3rd position.

2. Beat RF back through flat 3rd position.

&. Beat RF forward through flat 3rd position.

Perform these movements contrariwise.

Treble Shuffle

As Miss Wilson, except that there is only one tap coming back, instead of two (i.e. 4. Hop LF, &. Beat in RF). See also 'alternative treble shuffle.

Agworm Crawl

As Fred Coward.

Crow Walk

Moving forward on balls of feet (rather like Charleston).

&. Left foot moves out in a circular movement, heel kicked out, toe pointing in, while right foot pivots on the ball, heel moving to the right.

- 1.1. Left foot comes in, pivoting as soon as the toe touches the ground so that the heel moves to the right; while the right foot pivots, heel moving to the left.
 2. Right foot moves out in circular movement, heel kicked out, toe in, while left pivots on ball, heel moving to left.
- Perform these movements contrariwise.

To come back either do these backwards or do the backward step.

Heel and Toe

- &. Hop on LF.
- 1.1. Beat R toe in rear 5th position, pointing left.
- &. Hop on LF.
2. Beat R heel in 5th position.
- &. Drop on to RF in flat 5th position.
3. Beat L toe in rear 5th position, pointing right.
- &. Hop on RF.
4. Beat L heel in 5th position.
- &. Drop on to LF in flat 5th position.

Alternative to Shuffle off

1.
 4. Step on to RF in 1st position.
 - &. Step on to LF in 1st position.
- 2.1. Drop on to RF in 1st position, weight now on both feet.
 2. Drop on to flat of LF with heel beat.
 3. Drop on to flat of RF with heel beat.

Backward Step

As Miss Wilson.

Sideways Cranch

(Not really a cranch.)

- 1.1. Step on to RF crossed before left (lift R leg right up over knee).
 2. Step on to LF in 1st position.
 - &. Beat RF in place.
 3. Beat LF in place (heels apart).
 4. Crack heels together.
- Perform bar 1 contrariwise.

Heel and toe and treble shuffle

'I am not sure of this'

- 1.1. Beat R toe in flat 3rd position.
 - &. Beat LF in place.
 2. Beat R heel in 3rd position.
 - &. Beat LF in place.
 3. Beat RF out through semi 4th position.
 - &. Beat RF in through semi 4th position.
 - a. Beat R F against L heel.
 4. Hop on LF.
 - &. Beat RF forward through semi 4th int position.
 - 2.1. Beat RF through semi 4th position.
 - &. Drop on to RF in flat 5th position.
 2. Beat LF in place.
 - &. Beat LF in place.
 3. Beat RF Out through semi 4th position.
 4. Drop on to RF in rear 3rd position.
- Note; from 1.4. on is treble shuffle.
- Perform bars 1 and 2 contrariwise.

Diagonal Cranch

Notation given, but corrected in Dixon notes. (Shuffle + Cranch)

Alternative Treble Shuffle

Frank Atkinson simply says that this is another way of doing treble shuffle, but Mrs Dixon calls it side shuffle.

1.1. Hop on LF.

&..Beat RF

2. Beat RF

&. Beat RF 'I think once forwards and twice coming back!

Repeat this movement.

2. Perform treble shuffle.

3,4. Perform bars 1 and 2 contrariwise.

5. Treble Shuffle

6. Treble Shuffle

7,8. Shuffle off.

Feet do not cross, except in changing direction.

Frank Atkinson also has

1. a figure in which the feet are knocked together in mid air.
2. a figure in which the feet are crossed and ankles rock, going forwards.

June 1956

Kendal, Underbarrow and Crosthwaite

Mrs Braithwaite, 32, Serpentine Road, Kendal.

Used to work for Atkinsons when she left school (at the $\frac{1}{2}$ year), and was May Queen (?). Did some clog dancing, but was older than most of those who did it. Learnt from Thos. Cannon.

Mr Strickland, Tullythwaite House, Underbarrow (farmer).

Used to dance when young: says he still remembers it.

Mrs Diddi Dixon(née Harrison), Low Cartmell Fold, Crosthwaite.

'Nearly fifty'. A fine dancer. Learned from Thos. Cannon. Used to dance at Kendal between the silent cinema films. Also sang. Dance steps much the same as Thos. Anderson, but she has more. Used to dance to 'Billy Kelly Billy Kelly did ye see Pat White?' (not her words).

Shuffle off, Single Shuffle, Heel and Toe,
Double Shuffle, Treble Shuffle.

All as Frank Atkinson.

Side Step

- &. Hop on LF.
- 1.1. Step on to RF to left of rear 5th position.
- 2. Step onto RF in semi 2nd position.
- 3. Step on to RF to left of rear 5th position.
- 4. Beat LF out through semi 4th position.
- & Beat LF in through 4th position.
- a. Hop on RF.
- 2. Perform bar 1 contrariwise.

Shuffle and Crunch

- 1.1. Hop on LF.
- &. Beat RF forward through semi 4th position.
- 2. Beat RF back through semi 4th position.
- &. Hop on LF (or drop on to L heel - FA.)
- 3. Step on to RF in rear 5th position.
- 4. Step on to LF in flat 5th position.
- 2.1. Hop on LF.
- 2. Hop on LF.
- a. Drop on to E-heel flat of LF with heel beat.
- &. Beat RF in 1st position.
- a. Drop on to flat of RF with heel beat.
- 3. Beat LF in position
- 4. Step on to RF in flat 1st position.
- Accentuate beats 1.1,4, 2,1,3,4.

*By taking out forward
in a circle, the facing
is. The signature is
not the same.*

Dick Strickland, Tullythwaite

Crack Heels

1.1. Hop on LF.

- &. Beat RF out through semi 4th position.
- 2. Beat RF through 4th opposite 3rd position.
- &. Step on to RF in flat 5th position.
- 3. Beat LF in place.
- 4. Beat RF in place.

2.1. Step on to RF in 2nd position.

- 2. Step on to LF to right of flat 5th position (knee well up). Then spring into the air.
- 3. Crack heels together in the air.
- a. Land on LF.
- 4. Beat RF in 1st position.

3,4. Perform bars 1 and 2 contrariwise.

5,6. Perform bars 1 and 2.

7 &. Hop on LF.

7.1. Hop on LF and beat RF forward through 4th position.

- &. Beat RF back through 4th position.
- 2. Hop on LF and beat RF forward through 4th position.
- &. Beat RF back through 4th position.
- 3. Hop on LF and beat RF forward through 4th position.
- 4. Step on to RF to left of flat 5th position.

8.1. Step on to LF in 2nd position.

- 2. Step on to RF to left of ^{flat 5th} ~~2nd~~ position.
- 3. Step on to LF in 2nd position (knee well up).
- 4. Crack heels together, pivoting on ball of foot.