

Tuesday April

Mr Gertrude Burton, 1 Manor Cottage,
Synodsbury. Aged 95. Sister of Alfie Tuck

Born & brought up at West Rd just above
Chideock.

Grandfather taught her & her brother in the
house - at that time they used to dance in the
houses - there were 13 of them in the family
& all her father's brother were musical - used to
have regular dances in the house - invited friends in
This was regular ~~at the~~ every Saturday - she was
12 at the time. Dances were

4-handed Reel

Polka, Schottische, Waltz.

Grandfather taught the 4-handed Reel - used to watch
them step & see that they did it right.

Reel:

② ①⑦ ① - ②

1-16 ~~Fig~~ Figure 8 (they had no name for it)

Go round twice to the music.

17-24 Dance Twice - the centre pair only dance.
the end pair stand still

33-44 "Figure 8, & 2's come into centre & ~~dance~~
finish facing each other

49-64 2nd couples dance, others stand still.

Finish when music stops - no swinging as pivot
[There is a photo of the village team showing
the dance to ~~the~~ some Society people ~~at~~ -
particularly Peter Kennedy. The middle couple are
face to face, & ~~they~~ hands akimbo, others standing
still.]

After some years, people started dancing half to centre,
half to people behind them, & then turn back to
begin the reel.

Grandfather was fairly old, didn't dance himself - he
was deformed, wouldn't dance. In Grandfather's time,
the dance was done at harvest supper.

Harvest supper: These stopped about 1st world war.
Started with a sit-down supper in the barn, with
tables. Cleaned out, decorated with flags, greenery
& whatever they could get hold of. Food supplied
meat. Friends, farm hands & families. Occasional speech
bunnet of beer laid on - no bottles. After supper there
was dance until about midnight. Old-fashioned
dances. Polka, Schottische, Waltz [?], No Lancers

as Quadrilles, Four-handed Reels. (as many sets or flows
 as room would hold - some rattling of hoots on back
 wood floors - people put in own step as they liked
 First went at age of 6 with parents, then when she
 came down to village at age of 23 went on her
 own. Everything in village had 4-handed Reels
Never heard of 3-handed reel.

From bar & inn.⁵⁹ The dance passed from Harvest
 suppers into public dances, when he was young.
 Still requested, but really stopped when musicians (B.P. &
 A.T. died) Always included in
 Mr B questioned about hands in chain - "that isn't the
 proper way" - at least not what I learnt it." He also
 asked about bow & custody - but definitely not in his
 young day.

~~The other~~

The steps. There were no lessons in steps, so everybody
 had a different step. No same numbers

- a Spring onto RF
- 1 Tap L toe
- 2 Hop on RF & top L toe
- 3 "



Steps

For travelling - a walking step.
 Hands by side throughout.

Tambourine was played with a double-ended short
 stick about 7/8" long, tied on with a bit of string
 with a 3/4" knob on each end, string on middle finger
 stick between 2 index & middle, & the for dancing
 with the thumb - held & then shaken as it
 come across. Tambourine was big - about 15" across.
 skin made of still-born calf, treated with lime to get
 hair off.

Don't remember 4 men doing it. Always just a
 woman & a man.

Pas de Basque not even with 8 feet
 Rant step yes with 8 feet
 No Rant

Mr Burton says no to Rant step
with double beat

~~Both~~ No to toe-heel-toe
nob in young days.

No to rant step with heels.
on toes. some with
flat feet

In her young day. walked the
in + out

Never heard of 3-handed reel

23 went to Rectory 10 yrs there
learnt Quadrilles, Lancers
Valeta.

No dancing classes in village
Marching Lancers - walk round
room as a set + take up sets
"Up sides down the Middle"

Several ^{dances} in two long lines

You + your partner came into
the middle 1st time
+ come back to same place.

Son
As chain finished 2 inside
ones did an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ turn

Part A of 1st tune was the
tune used.

~~Some~~ ^{The} musicians did play
other tunes

No hands in chain in earliest
days. Walked round figure.
Give R-hand to start,
other left-hand

→ When danced it
Cannot have lady behind
a lady

drumming when marching
shackles when dancing

Landlord has it
Sister gave it to landlord.

2' diameter 21"
4" deep
6-5 ^{shackles} + a thumb hole.

Retired Mr Norris ←

Berwick - near Burton Bradstock
Son of Pigeon still has

Alfie -

Mrs Buxton only 1 living out of
13 children + 1 adopted

Son. Parties in houses went
on a long time. Sons went
when 15-16 yrs old

Son cannot remember old
harvest supper.

Oddfellows. dinner in marquee
in field