

Cross Syke Ambleside
3356

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

[Miss] Noel I. Clay

Jerry 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 Grasmere (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

408

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

Yours sincerely
Noel I. 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 go to a 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 dance 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 Grasmere. 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. Hett