

18/10/80

Today Aree, myself, Cath Hays + Julie Jamman visited Newbiggin.

Aree + myself tried to find Lily + Wheaty Fanell. Their correct address is

144 Newbiggin Rd.
Ashington.

They were not at home.

Next we visited Ivy Sands, + her husband of

15 Northview
Newbiggin tel. 852115.

She had been taught to dance by Charlie Hunter who had learnt from Dickie Fanell.

Charlie ~~Fanell~~ had come from Barnington and Ivy from Bedlington Station.

She just began to dance at the age of 4. She said she was advised to begin dancing ~~to~~ by her doctor. She stopped having lessons after 4 years.

She used to dance at go as you please for small prizes such as pieces of beef.

In 1935 she danced in a competition in Durham. This was organised by drawing dancers to dance against each other in pairs i.e. a knockout competition. There were held twice a night for a week as part of a Cavendish Show with the semi-finals on Friday and the Finals on Saturday night. She was drawn against Herbert Turner in the first round who was a friend of hers + also learnt from Charlie. She beat him. She was confused as to who

was just or second but Piscilla Spenser. She also said that Dickie Fanell was there - her husband said she was a judge. She also said that Jimmy Ellwood was one of the competitors. George Macintosh who was the world champion was one of the judges, and also gave an exhibition after the competition. Mr Aster was possibly also a dancer. She was 4th. + got a gold medal. She was 4th.

During the war she entered another competition this time organised by Harry Robinson in Stanley who was a judge. Because of the war they had trouble getting cups and Harry gave 3 of his trophies as prizes. Ivy was 3rd and got a large pewter trophy which she still has. She could remember no more about it.

During the 1960's she was asked by Johnson Ellwood to judge a competition. She was 4th judge mis-beats. Another of the judges was Alan Brown. A drummer was judging time. She remembered Mary Jamieson's daughter making a mistake and she gave top marks to the eventual winner - another girl. Other judges (there were 5 altogether) judged stance + execution - she could not remember the SR category. The contestants were all either Johnson or Mary's pupils - some were from Kings College. The music was a piano. The competition was held at a church hall in Westgate Rd. She felt that Mary's daughter was supposed to win, and that Johnson never spoke to her again after that competition.

Presumably prior to this she danced for the last time (c. 1960) in a competition which Johnson organised at Boldon Colliery. There were many classes for kids + she had to wait until 6pm. (The competition began at 2.00 p.m.) until she could dance. The only two other competitors were Mary and a very old man. Mary won by 8pt and she was 2nd. She was awarded a

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medal with which she was so disgusted - it wasn't even silver - that she gave it to her son to use as a fishing weight. She gave the impression I thought, that she thought the whole thing was a vehicle for money.

Prior to the Westgate Rd competition Ivy was invited to tea with Johnson and afterwards he got her to dance + she says he pitched part of one of her steps which she later saw one of his pupils doing. She seemed to have a rather low opinion of Johnson.

When learning off CH she pd a 1/- a lesson. He sent her to a 'go as you please' at N. Seaton Miner's welfare Hall with a teenager (she was 5) named Tommy Makepeace who was 6' tall - they were supposed to be 'Mutt + Jeff'. Tommy M. lived with his grandfather at Choppington Station and was another of CH's pupils. They did a 'single hempipe' together then he did a 'double hempipe' and she joined in on the double shuffles at the end.

At the age of 13 she danced at Black's Theatre Blyth in a 'go-as-you-please' which was reported in the Sunday Sun + got her mother into trouble with the school-board inspector.

When doing shows or concerts on her own Mr Bower played the concertina for her, she said she did mostly charity work and had never been 'exploited'.

At competitions you did 10 steps and a shuffle-off but at concerts she used to do ~8.

The music at competitions was a full orchestra (i.e. the theatre orchestra). They ~~also~~ played the same tune for everyone and you had to take your time from them.

You could do the steps to either a 'schottische' or a 'hempipe' but the latter was 'proper' and was used at competitions. Her favourite tune however was a schottische called 'The Blackberries'.

she hummed a phrase of this which I did not recognise

She said the speed was 'bustk', and that Hyllton Pomeroy (who she had seen at Deleva Hall and Jackie Toaduff danced) far too fast. Her husband said that at that speed it was just 'step dancing' meaning tap-dancing + not clog dancing. 'Hyllton didn't know how quick to dance' - she said however that in a concert you had to do it at an 'interesting speed' for the audience. When dancing at a concert she would set the time for the concertina player, by shuffling her right foot.

Her clogs were of black leather with a turned up toe, very thin soles and high heels - these had 'had' extra pieces added to heighten them - she said that many competitors did this to make cracking heels easier. When young she wore velvet breeches with a stripe down the outside seam, blouse + a berber jacket. Later she wore a shortish tafeta skirt with a plain blouse, and ankle socks.

The competitions she danced in were done on a stage but there were some pedestal dancers - she said Mary Jamieson had one.

She said that dancers used to make up steps and that the last time she saw Chaunce Hunter before he died (c1960) he had just invented a new step - he did not however teach her. She did not know which of the steps he taught her he had made up. He had also taught the sailor's hemp pipe in clogs - she did a step which was very similar to the Scottish version. The only waltz steps which she knew were tap steps - she had not done them in clogs.

Other names she mentioned were Norman Pamplin who was a pupil of Dieter Farnell and when I asked her about Geo Gohightly she said the name rang a bell. She had not heard of Eddie May but mentioned a one-legged clog dancer called Green.

who came from Bedlington.

She had seen Dickie Farnell on TV many yrs ago and also a woman at Alnwick Fair who did Cumbrian clog dancing - this was ~3yr ago.

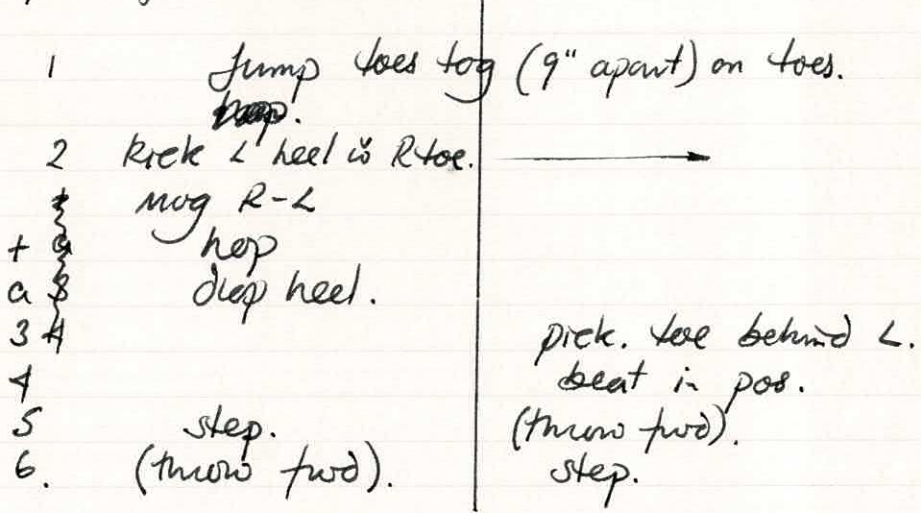
She divided her steps into the following sets.

- 1) Single Hornpipe - 6 simple steps + a shuffle off.
- 2) Double hornpipe - 8 more complicated steps, 'shuffle off' 'shuffle steps'
- 3) New set. - ~8 complicated competition steps.

She also knew some 'odd' steps. Ch. taught in the sets as given above.

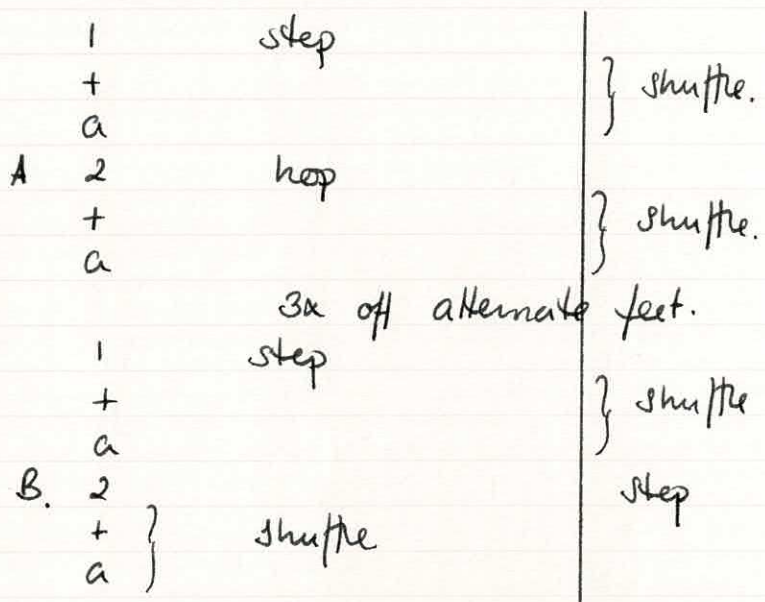
Steps were always done off both feet. She called a 'break' a 'cast off'. She had a 'finish' which she would do in shows but not for competitions, in lieu of the final 'cast off'.

This final finish was.



Rhythm uncertain.

She did three varieties of shuffle-off. Firstly normal double-shuffles. 2ndly a step which seemed to be continuous X-buckles. 3rdly :-

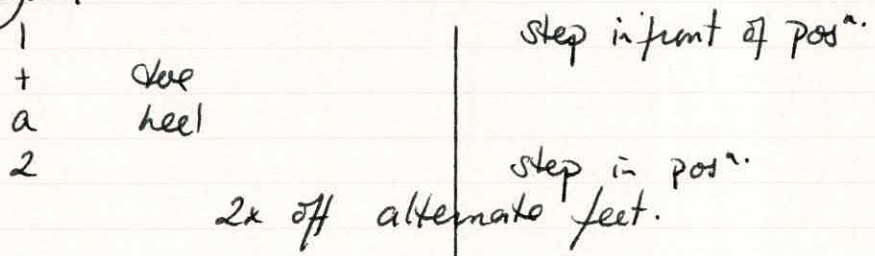


i.e. whole step 2(A.B). 2(A.B). + break.

She gave the names of other steps which she knew - the following were names given by CH :-

- Thummel - in
- Crab walk (? kicks).
- Walking step.

The next step was one which she called Go To Bed John. It began.



Then continue similarly to 'Toe-heel quadrants'

She also did 'hebe + hop' + 'hebe + flatter' which she described as beginners steps. With these she did a 'Bob's your uncle' break but had her own break for her more complex steps, which we were unable to learn.

She also did a step which looked like Kicks + Rolls and another which had a combination of wobbles + heel clicks.

She also did a step which was very similar to the first part of 'plain cunch'. The cunch was however 'step toe-heel step'

Her dogs were made in Castrogarth, Newcastle.

Ivy phoned us on 19/10/80 to say that she would be willing to teach us her steps at £1 a lesson.

While we saw Ivy, Ceith + Julie visited Kit Haggerty of:-

5. Miners Cottages.
Newbroggin (nr. Meldon Terrace).

He was born in 1908 + was the 13th of 15 surviving children. His family were quite musical but none of them danced.

His father knew Dickie Farrell who at that time lived in Lynwood Ave + arranged for Kit to have lessons. DF was ~50's when he taught Kit when he was either 10 or 14. He was confused about this but may have meant that he began learning at 10 + began performing when he was 14. He stopped dancing when he was 17, to play in a band instead (mandolin, banjo + guitar).

He paid DF 1/- per lesson of 2hr - 1hr. The lessons took place in the scullery which had a concrete floor. If DF was on the back shift he would eat his tea in the living room while Kit danced in the scullery (or kitchen). He would make him do the same step over + over again till he got it right - "That were champion - I couldn't do it better myself". DF taught him bits of steps seperately + then the steps as a whole. These he taught in what seemed to be a specific order. When Kit started there was a more advanced dancer - Louis Dixon who went into the navy. He never learnt to music + just danced to music at his first performance.

He got his clogs from Geddes in Glasgow. They were flat soled without much rise, rounded toes + fairly plain - no brass tacks. He didn't know what tune they danced to.

He used to dance with DF + his daughter Lily who he thought was 1 or 2 yrs older than him. His first performance was at the Hippodrome on the main rd. between Newbiggin + Stakeford. He danced in the middle, DF on his L., Lily on his R. They would all start together, do a step in turn from L to R + then finish. They would perform ~ 10 steps, of which 7 would be the 'usual ones' + DF would add in 2 or 3 others. DF had no names for the steps, just numbers.

Kit wore white silk shirt, black velvet breeches, white socks + a bow-tie. They used to dance at charity concerts.

Each step done off each foot + on the spot 'on a 3rd bit', standing straight. DF insisted on this + Kit said it was one of the points on which competitions were judged.

He had once danced to 'Bye Bye Blues' but although this fitted it was not the usual tune.

He said DF was beaten in the championship

by 2 pt. DF knew clog dances from Cumberland + Lancashire.

He showed the following steps. He always started with No 1.

No 1. = 'First Lanes' - no further information. + Break. 1.

No 2 = 'Tieble + Flatter' + Break. 1.

No information on foot position or type of shuffle!

His timing was difficult to judge but seemed to be dotted.

No 3. = Step 3 from Joy Sands. (I showed Julie this step as collected from Joy + she said that she had been unable to judge the timing of the 2 pt + had written it as a standard kick.)

<u>No 4.</u>		
1	step	} shuffle into st.
a		
2		} step
a		
3	step	} shuffle. to pos ⁿ .
a		
4		} step
a		
5	step.	} shuffle into st.
a		
6		} step.
a		
7		} deep heel.
a		
+ or	7 kick. R. heel big fwd.	
a	a	
8	8 step.	

He said 'just you do it to the back + then do the front' for steps 3+4 but on being shown a roll

he said this was wrong. No information on the pattern for step 4.

This was as far as he went in the order but he remembered 3 others.

No 5 Swanee [which?] - at first not turning feet - then he did but after he'd seen Julie do it.

No 6 Re difficult step [??].

No 7.

1.	step	
a		heel (straight ft. - no swirl)
2	step	
3		step
a	heel	
4		step.
5	step	
a		heel
6	heel	
a		toe click.
7		toe click.
+		drop toe - [? perhaps a step]
a	drop toe	
8		heel click.

No information on pattern of step. - drop does may have been steps - this would certainly make the step more possible.