

RODERICK MACPHERSON, LINICLETT, ISLE OF BENBECULA.

13. 4. 53

(Aged 73)

Mr MacPherson's father was taught dancing by John MacMillan, and was able to dance a number of the Hebridean dances, namely *Sue the Water*, *The First of August*, *Highland Laddie*, *Tacky Tar*, *Miss Forbes*, *Flowers of Edinburgh*, *Gillean ar eilidh*, but not *Tullochgorm*, *Blue Bonnets*, or *Sue the Hills*. Mr MacPherson however, heard of these last three. He had never heard of *Bonnie Anne* nor *Aberdonian Lassie's*. The dances were always done to the pipes.

He was himself able to dance *Highland Laddie*, but could not do it now. He showed me Jack McConachie's 7th step exactly as recorded by Jack, saying that it was sometimes used as a reel setting step. He also confirmed that the *Sue the Water* step was as done by John MacLeod (*brisk tap*, etc.) or not as done by Farghar MacNeill (*point*, *tap*, etc.)

He remembered the first step of *Gillean ar eilidh*: [it had 8 or 10 steps].

- Beat
1. Hop on L and shake R out twice in with aerial pos.
 2. R of 1.
 3. As 1.
 4. Spring landing on both feet with L leg across in front of R leg and then R.
 - 5-8 Repeat 1-4.

This was danced clockwise round in a circle.

Scottish Ceil. The men used Highland Fring steps and the ladies danced quietly. The men used their hands, & the ladies had their arms across. Only the men danced. He had never seen the figure 8 replaced by a circle. In his youth, suitable steps were P.d. 3, P.d. 3 + balance, P.d. 3 + backstep with a hop, and Plain balance. He had seen his father do Angus John MacNeill's open step, but said that it was a step from Tacky Tar. Some of the steps from Highland Laddie could also be used, in particular the one which he demonstrated.

had also seen