

PETER MACKAY, KILAULAY, ISLE OF S. UIST.

(Aged 80)

Mr Mackay knew two of Ewen MacEachlan's pupils, namely Archie MacPherson and John MacMillan, both of whom taught dancing in Easdale. He himself was a pupil of John MacMillan. He had seen them both dance the Hebridean dances, namely Over the Water to Charie, Tullochgorum, Highland Laddie, The Frist of August, Blue Bonnets, Oree the Hills and Far Away, Miss Forbes, Jacky Tar, and Bonnie Anne. He thought the last was "a country dance." He had never seen "set dances".

He remembers some of the "Highland Fling" steps taught by John MacMillan, which he learnt about 1890.

- (1) First step of the Fling, normal style, with full extension to side.
- (2) Beats 1. Hop on L, place R heel down in intermediate position though with leg not fully extended  
2. Hop on L, and place R toe down in the same place.  
3. As 1.  
4. Hop on L, and place R in 5th normal aerial (front).  
5-8. ~ of 1-4  
9-12. As 1-4.  
13-16. Double shuffles.  
17-32. ~ of 1-16.
- (3) Beats 1-4. As in first step of the Fling.  
5-8. As 1-4 of (2)  
9-32. ~, repeat, and ~ of 1-8.
- (4) Beats 1. Spring to land with feet apart, weight equally on both feet.  
2. Spring to land with R in 5th (front).  
3. As 1.  
4. ~ of 2.  
5-8 As 1-4 of (2).  
9-32 ~, repeat, and ~ of 1-8.

When he was young, the young girls danced the same steps as the men in the Scotch Reels, but John MacMillan also taught some quieter steps for the older women. He demonstrated these, whistling "Green grows the rashes o'." They were as follows.

- (1) Beat 1. Place R in 5th rear pos"  
 2 Small step to 2nd pos" on L  
 3 Close R to 5th rear pos"  
 4 Hop on R. No particular pos" for left.

This is, of course, the "Single Cenn-coisiche" of Peacock.

- (2) Beat 1. Step forward on R  
 2. Hop on R and bring L to 5th rear normal aerial  
 3. Step back on L.  
 4. Close R to L in 1st
- (3) Beat 1. Step forward on R  
 2. Hop on R and bring L to 5th rear normal aerial  
 3. Step back on L  
 4. Hop on L and bring R to 5th (front) normal aerial  
 5. Step on R to left, crossing R leg over L leg.  
 6. Step on L to 2nd pos"  
 7. Close R to 5th front pos"  
 8. As 2.
- (4) Beat 1. Place R in 5th front pos"  
 2 Step on L to 2nd  
 3 As 1.  
 4 Hop on R and bring L to low 3rd front aerial.

Mr Mackay was sent a copy of Anderson's book about the year 1900 by a friend working in Cupar; and taught some of the dances from it to the islanders. In particular, "Patticat or Barn Dance" (?), and "The Royal Visit". He remembered this latter quite clearly, and gave us the figures without hesitation.

The Royal Visit. Longways country dance formation. Tune: Bonnie Dundee.

Top couple set	4 bars
Turn partner	4 bars
Set with opposite partner (M <sub>1</sub> with L <sub>2</sub> , M <sub>2</sub> with L <sub>1</sub> )	4 bars
Half ladies chain	4 bars
Turn partner.	4 bars
Top couple down centre	4 bars
Top couple pousette	4 bars (8 bars?)

The dancing couple walked down the centre. For the pousette they used waltz hold, the step being a 'chassé' with a hop up in front.

His setting step - in Strathspey time - was as follows.

- Beat 1. Step to 2nd on L
- 2. Close R to L
- 3 As 1.
- 4 Kick R across L to 2nd.

They also danced Glasgow Highlanders - probably also taken from Anderson's book.

RONALD MACDONALD, ARDNAMONIE, ISLE OF S. UIST.

13. 4. 53

(Aged c.70)

He was another pupil of Archie MacPherson's. He cannot remember any of the dances now, but knew their names; at least, he knew the five still known by John MacLeod, and also knew Miss Forbes, Jacky Tar, and Gillean ar eilidh.

He thought Ewen MacLachlan came from Greenock.

DONALD MACPHEE, NUNTON FARM, ISLE OF BENBECULA.

13. 4. 53.

(Aged c.70)

An expert Highland dancer in his youth, but knows nothing else. His father was a pupil of Ewen MacLachlan's. He said that his father told him that the Hebridean dances were French, and that his father got this from Ewen MacLachlan himself. But D.G. MacLennan's theory of their French origin is now so well known in the island that I hesitate to accept this information.