

Angus John MacLellan, Hacklett, Benbecula. ca.73.
In the croft with his wife and child. Wed. 27th

Angus said that Ewen MacLachlan came from South Uist where he taught the catachism. He had no idea where or when Ewen died.

Angus sang the song Mailie a Chrandonn as recorded by Dr. MacLean, but he had not heard of a dance of that name. He had heard of a dance Carraig Fhearguis, but had not seen it or heard a tune for it.

He said that the tune for the First of August is the White Cockade; and the tune for Tri ~~Chosan~~ Coarach is Cailleach an Durdain. Neither he nor his wife had heard the tune Tri Chosan Coarach which Tom Flett gave me.

In the middle of a very fine evening of singing and dancing I collected this fragment of a sword dance from Angus.

Sword Dance

1st. step.

This is the same as Roderick MacPherson's first step. Angus was clear that there were high cuts at the points, and he said that they did not do Pas de Basque, spring, high cuts at the points. The step is repeated round to the original place.

2nd. step.

- (1) 1. Hop on L foot in 4 and point R foot in 1.
- 2. - - - - 4 and point R foot in 4 (5th).
- (2) 1. - - - - 4 and point R foot in 1.
- 2. - - - - 4 with R foot in front leg posn.
- (4) Repeat (1) - (2) contrariwise.
- (5) ~~Pas de Basque~~ L foot in 4 turning L.
- (6) ~~Mailie Callan~~ R foot in 4 facing E.
- (8) High cuts at D.
Repeat round to original place.

3rd. step.

- (1) ~~Pas de Basque~~ L foot 4, R foot 3.
- (2) ~~Mailie Callan~~ R foot 4, L foot 3.
- (3) - - - L foot 4, R foot 3.
- (4) - - - R foot 4, L foot 3.
- (5) - - - L foot 3, R foot 2.
- (6) - - - R foot 3, L foot 2.
- (8) High cuts at C.
Repeat round to original position. It is not clear whether the step is repeated to make it up to 32 bars.

4th. step.

4th. step.

A very rough indication of this step was given. It is a quick time step danced diagonally across the swords. I noted that the Pas de Basques are danced in 4h (with L foot), then 2, 3 and 11.

I saw Angus again the next day.

Roderick MacLean, Kilauley, Eochar ca. 67.

Postman; I met him on his rounds and went with him to his brothers house. Thu. 28th

Roderick and his brother said that for the first wedding reel the bride danced with the best man and the groom danced with the chief bridesmaid. For the second wedding reel the bride and groom danced together. This was followed by the Rhuidhleadh na Bainnse. They had vague memories of steeling, but could tell me nothing about it.

I got the same account of wedding reels from Mrs. MacKay, wife of Peter the Row, Liniquite, Eochar. Peter was still in bed and I was not able to see him.

Roderick showed me a very little of his sword dance which is an ordinary anticlockwise dance. I managed to take down some of his First of August. He constantly quoted John MacLeod as the man who knew this dance.

First of August

I took these steps while with Roderick on his rounds and in his brothers house. He danced to the tune White Cockade. His catch in was a hardly visible flicker and his treble was performed very close in to the foot.

1st. step.

- (1) 1. Hop on L foot and shake R foot from loose 4th aer to low 5th aer and out again.
- b. Hop or rise on L foot and shake R foot again.
- 2. Drop on to R foot and just take weight off L.
- (2) Repeat (1) contrariwise.
- (3) Catch in R and treble L.
- (4) Repeat (3) contrariwise.
- (6) Repeat (1) - (2).
- (8) Catch in R and double treble L.
- ←(16) Repeat (1) - (8) contrariwise.

2nd. step.

- (2) Catch in L and double treble R.
- (4) Repeat (1) - (2) contrariwise.
- (5) Catch in L and treble R.
- (6) Repeat (5) contrariwise
- (8) Repeat (1)-(2).