

Angus John MacLellan, Second visit.

Thu. 28th

Everyone on the island is invited to a wedding and all send a chicken and other food as well as a present. Thus up to 400 may feed at a wedding in many sittings. The bridal party used to sit through all the sitting, but now they only sit through 3 ~~of~~ 4. Those guests who are not feeding at any time usually dance. When all the first meals are over, that is about midnight, the bride and best man and the groom and bridesmaid dance the wedding reel. Then the bride and bridesmaid are taken up by other men for more reels. It used to be said that the first man to get the bride would marry next, but now even married men grab for her. Morning tea is then served to all in turn.

At about 3 a.m. the Rhuileadh na Fhaber is danced. The bride partners the groom and the best man dances with the bridesmaid. It is a Scotch reel and it is only danced once. Boxes of many kinds of artificial flowers are provided so that the ladies can pin them on the men of their choice (or on their first partners of the evening). Thus some men have many flowers pinned on their lapels. There is a normal choice of partners for the general Rhuileadh na Fhaber which follows.

Angus knew nothing about a dance with the veils.

I noted two other things in the evening. His version of the tune Gillial an Fheilidh was as printed, a four bar phrase repeated four times and then a sixteen bar phrase. He gave me 16 bars in 20 seconds. Then I collected from him this version of Highland Laddie. There is one step missing, *the tenth step being the same as the first.*

Highland Laddie

This is a lively dance. Sometimes dancing shoes were worn to obtain better pointing. He gave me the steps in the order 1, 8, 2, 4, 3, 5, 6, 7; and his time was 16 bars in 18 secs.

1st. Step.

Exactly as ours. His shuffles were definite skuffling ones.

O.W. is here very loose with hardly any brush in or lift of the back foot. I described it in my notes as 'spring up, double beat R foot, beat L'. Ronde is here a low loose ronde with low hops and not too much shaking of the working leg.

2nd step

- (1) 1. Hop on L foot taking weight off R foot.
- b. Step on to R toe to R.
- 2. Close L foot to R foot.
- (2) Repeat (1) contrariwise.
- (4) Ronde L and R.
- (6) Repeat (1)-(2).
- (8) Shuffles R L R L.
- (16) Repeat (1)-(8) contrariwise.

3rd step

- (2) O.W. R and L.
- (3) 1. Spring on to both feet with R in front of L.
- b. Step on to R foot to R.
- 2. Close L foot to R foot.
- (4) Repeat (3) contrariwise.
- (6) ~~Repeat (1)-(3)~~. O.W. R and L.
- (8) Shuffles.
- (16) Repeat (1)-(8) contrariwise.

4th step

- (1) 1. Step on to R heel to R.
- b. Close L foot to R foot.
- 2. Step on to R toe to R.
- b. Close L foot to R foot.
- (2) 1. Step on to R heel to R.
- b. Close L foot to R foot.
- 2. Step on to R toe to R.
- (4) Repeat (1)-(2) contrariwise.
- (6) O.W. R and L.
- (8) Shuffles L R L R.
- (16) Repeat (1)-(8) contrariwise.

5th step

- (2) O.W. R and L.
- (3) 1. Spring forward on to L foot.
- 2. Spring forward on to R foot.
- (4) 1. Hop back on R foot.
- b. Hop back on R foot.
- 2. Drop back on to L foot.
- (6) O.W. R and L.
- (8) Shuffles.
- (16) Repeat (1)-(8) contrariwise.

6th step

- (1) Ronde R.
- (2) Back step with hop R and L.
- (4) Repeat (1)-(2) contrariwise.
- (6) O.W. R and L.
- (8) Shuffles.
- (16) Repeat (1)-(8) contrariwise.

7th step

- (1) 1. Hop on L foot with R in 2nd.
- 2. Hop on L foot with R in 5th rear (almost touching the ground).
- (2) O.W R.
- (3) Ronde R.
- (4) Ronde R (nice control is required to ronde again in the same direction as before).
- (8) Repeat (1)-(4) contrariwise.
- (16) Repeat (1)-(8).

8th step

- (1) 1. Spring and land on L foot beating R heel in loose 3rd.
- 2. Beat R heel in loose 3rd.
- 3. Beat L foot.
- (2) As (1) but beat with R toe.
- (3) Ronde R.
- (4) 1. Step on to L heel to L.
- 2. Close R foot to L foot.
- 3. Step on to L toe to L.
- 4. Close R foot to L foot.
- (8) Repeat (1)-(4) contrariwise.
- (16) Repeat (1)-(8).

Roderick MacPherson, second visit.

Fri. 29th

After seeing Angus John's version of Highland Laddie I went back to see Roderick who gave me the following.

Highland Laddie

O.W. is here exactly the same as Angus John's. Shuffle means here place the feet with hardly any indication of skuffing.

The steps were given to me in order from 1 to 10.