Highland Laddie

Mrs MacDonalds first step was the same as Donald Walkers except that her Toe Beat step was a four beat one.
1.1. Hop on LF.
b. Beat RF in open 5th posn.
2. Beat RF in open 5th posn.
b. Beat LF behind.
There was little or no catch in.

She could remember no more steps but she checked Donalds steps as correct. However, she said that all the steps were completed by repeating contrariwise.

Scotch Measure

1st step
1-4. Chasse with hop forward four times starting with RF.
5,6. Hop on LF and flatter RF, then flatter LF, RF and LF.
7,8. Shuffle LF and LF again.
8. Jump to land on both feet with RF in front and then with LF in front.

She could remember no more of this dance. Of Miss Forbes she gave me the first step wrongly (i.e. differently to the one she gave Tom when he first saw her) with six chasse with hop starting RF, moving forward on four and turning about on fifth and sixth; then end with shuffles R R and Jumps L R. I did not check either of these dances with her.

Mr Alex MacIntosh, Daliburgh, ca 75.
I stayed with the MacIntoshs but noted these dances on Friday 8th.

Mr MacIntosh is from Benbecula. He learned to dance with his cousin, Roderick MacPherson. They were taught by a MacLeod from the mainland who had a piper Christie MacRae of Skye. Mr MacIntosh' swords are anticlockwise and he says that Roderick must have changed. Roderick told me later that he only danced with MacLeod a little and then learned the rest from his father.

According to Dr MacLean, Donald Walker learned his swords from MacIntosh and a territorial sergeant.

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Sword Dance

1st step
1. Gillie Callum with RF in 1 turning right.
2. - - with LF in 1.
3. - - with RF in 1 facing W.
4. - - with LF in 1 facing W.
5. - - with RF at B facing W.
6. - - with LF at B facing W.
7,8. High cuts at B with LF then RF, LF and RF again.
Repeat the step to C, D and back to A to end facing N.

2nd step
1. Gillie Callum with RF in 1.
2. - - with LF in 4.
3. - - with RF 1, LF 2. } Fourth in front
4. - - with LF 4, RF 3. } of fifth.
5. - - with RF 1, LF 2. }
6. - - with LF 2, RF 1. }
7. - - with RF 2, LF 1.
8. - - with LF 1, RF 2.
Repeat the step to C, D and A to end facing N.

3rd step
1.1. Hop on RF in 1, point LF in 4.
2. Hop on RF in 1, point LF in loose 5th posn.
2.1. Hop on RF in 1, point LF in 2: 4th in front of 5th.
2. Hop on RF in 1, shake LF out; 4th aer posn.
3,4. Perform bars 1 and 2 contrariwise.
5-8 Move to B as in bars 5-8 of 2nd step.
Repeat the step to C, D and A to end in 4 facing E.

4th step
1. Gillie Callum with RF 4, LF 2.
2. - - with LF 4, RF 1.
3. - - with RF 1, LF 3.
4. - - with LF 1, RF 2.
5. - - with RF 2, LF 4.
6. - - with LF 2, RF 3.
7.1. Jump with RF 3, LF 1.
2. Jump with LF 3, RF 4.
8.1. Jump with RF 4, LF 2.
2. Jump with LF 4, RF 1.
Repeat round the swords.

5th step
1,2. Hop on RF in 4 and point L toe, heel, toe, heel in 1.
3,4. Hop on LF in 4 and point R toe, heel, toe, heel in 1.
5, Hop on RF in 1 and point Ltoe and heel in 2.
6. Hop on LF in 1 and point R toe andheel in 2.
7.1. Jump with RF 1, LF 2.
2. Jump with LF 1, RF 2,
8.1. Jump with RF 1, LF 2.
2. Jump with LF 1, RF 2.

July 1956

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Quick Time : the same as Donald Walkers.

Highland Fling

Mr MacIntosh did not use the 2ndposn which he said was ugly, but the 2nd int posn. He also used int posn consistently.

There is no guarantee of the order of the steps. He implied that there were more steps which he could remember at some other time.

Here round the leg means 2nd int posn, back leg, front leg, back leg.

1st step

1. Round the leg RF.
2. Round the leg LF. } Opposite hand to foot.
3. Round the leg RF.
4. Round the leg LF turning right. Hands down.

Perform bars 1 to 4 contrariwise.

2nd step

1.1. Hop on LF with RF in 2nd int posn.
2. Hop on LF with RF in back leg posn.
3. Hop on LF with RF in 4th int posn.
4. Hop on LF with RF in front leg posn.

2. Perform bar 1 contrariwise.

3.1. Hop on LF with RF in 4th int posn.
2. Hop on LF with RF in front leg posn. / Opposite hand.
3. Drop on to RF with LF in back leg posn. / Hands up.
4. Drop on to LF with RF in front leg posn.

4. Back step with RF, LF, RF and LF again.

Perform bars 1 to 4 contrariwise.

3rd step

1.1. Hop on LF with RF in 2nd int posn.
2. Hop on LF with RF in back leg posn.
3. Hop on LF with RF in 5th posn.
4. Hop on LF with RF in 4th int aer posn. / Opposite hands.

2.1. Drop on to RF with L toe in 5th rear posn. / Hands down.
2. Drop on to LF with R toe in 5th posn.
3. Drop on to RF with L toe in 5th rear posn.
4. Drop on to LF with R toe in 5th posn.

3,4. Perform bars 1 and 2 contrariwise.

5-8. Perform bars 1 to 4 again.

4th step
1. Round the leg RF.
2.1. Hop on LF with RF in 2nd int posn.
2. Hop on LF with RF lifted high in front of and close to body.
3. Drop on to RF on the dancing spot.
4. Hop on RF with LF in 5th posn. / Opposite hand.
3,4. Perform bars 1 and 2 contrariwise.
5-8. Perform bars 1 to 4 again.

5th step
1.1. Hop on LF with RF in 2nd int posn.
2. Hop on LF with RF in back leg posn.
3. Hop on LF with RF in front leg posn.
4. Drop on to RF with LF in 5th posn.
2. Perform bar 1 contrariwise.
3. Perform bar 1 again. / Opposite hand.
4. Round the leg with LF turning to right. / Hands down.
5-8. Perform bars 1 to 4 contrariwise.

6th step
1.1. Round the leg RF.
2.1. Hop on LF with RF in 4th int posn.
2. Hop on LF with RF in front leg posn.
3. Hop on LF with RF in 4th int posn. / Opposite hand.
4. Drop on to RF with LF in 5th rear posn.
3,4. Perform bars 1 and 2 contrariwise.
5-8. Perform bars 1 to 4 again,

7th step
1. Round the leg RF. / Opposite hand.
2.1. Hop on RF with L heel in loose 5th posn. / Hands down.
2. Hop on RF with L toe in loose 5th, posn.
3. Hop on LF with R heel in loose 5th posn.
4. Hop on LF with R toe in loose 5th posn.
3. Round the leg RF. / Opposite hand.
4. Round the leg LF turning right. / Hands down.
5-8 Perform bars 1 to 4 contrariwise.

8th step
1. Round the leg RF.
2.1. Hop on LF with R heel in 2nd int posn.
2. Hop on LF with R toe in 2nd int pointing in.
3. Hop on LF with R heel in half 2nd int.
4. Hop on LF with R toe in 5th posn.
3,4. Perform bars 1 and 2 contrariwise. / Opposite hand.
5-8. Perform bars 1 to 4 again.

9th step

1. Round the leg RF. / Opposite hands.
2. Back step with LF, RF, LF and RF again. / Hands down.
3,4. Perform bars 1 and 2 contrariwise.
5-8. Perform bars 1 to 4 again.

Mrs MacIntosh (who comes from the mainland) while she was living in Eriskay in 1920 was told by an old boatman of a dance Cailleach an Dudain performed at weddings by two men (never women), one the Cailleach and the other an old man. She never saw it herself.

Mrs Margaret MacAskill, South Boisdale, 80. Fri 8th.
In the house with Mgr MacKellaig.

Mrs MacAskills grandmother was Isabella MacLachlan who came from Motherwell to Loch Eynort and then to South Boisdale. She was the first wife of Donald MacDonald. Mrs MacAskill was not brought up in her fathers house but with her mothers peopole in Smerclett. She did not see much of Ewens dances but she did learn some dances which were done in the crofts at Smerclett:
Highland Fling, Shean Trews, schottishe, Scotch reel.
She said that Ewen had short arms.

She knew nothing of interese about Gaelic dances (having merely heard their names) except Dannsa na Dunnag in which partners hunkered facing each other and holding hands to no set pattern, and Rhuidhleach na Coileach Dubh which is danced as foolows to the tune Rhuidhleach na Coilleach Dubh, Dannsa na Dunnag.

Four people start in pairs facing each other with the ladies on the right of their partners.

4 bars. Cross over to oppostie place passing opposite person with right shoulder.
4 bars. Set to opposite person.
4 bars. Turn opposite with R hand (L hand on waist, R hand on shoulder).
4 bars. Turn opposite with L hand.

4 bars. Ladies change places passing right shoulders and immediately after men change places passing right shoulder.
4 bars. Set to partner.
8 bars. Turn partner with R hand and then with L hand.