

Roderick MacPherson, Liniclett Muir, ca.75 Wed. 27th
In his house in Benbecula.

Roderick had very little information about Ewen; his only remark being that Ewen was a tall man, he could put out the lamps hanging high on the wall with his feet.

He learned his solo dances from his father (who learned from Ewen an Eocher) and his mother, a MacIntosh of Garrynamonie who worked for Fr. MacIntosh (no relation) in Eocher and learned her dancing there. Roderick had seen Miss Forbes, Highland Laddie, Highland Fling, Gillial an Fheilidh, Swords etc. He had picked some of them up but had never been taught them properly. I give part of his sword dance and part of Gillial an Fheilidh here, and his Highland Laddie on Fri. 29th.

Roderick thought that Cailleach an Dudain was a dance for one person. He had heard of no other Gaelic dance except Dannsa na Dunnag, and he would say nothing about that. A woman of about 25 who was in the house smiled at the mention of Dannsa na Dunnag but said that she knew nothing about it. He had not heard the tune Tri Chosan Coarach.

He had however heard of a solo dance Carraig Fhearguis, but he had neither seen it nor heard a tune of that name. He knew of no song or dance Mailie a Chrandonn.

The first wedding reel is still danced. Roderick had heard of steeling the bride and groom away, though not from the middle of a reel. There used, however, to be a Rhuileadh na Fabhair (favour, flower, bouquet). In this reel the pipes were decorated with ribbons and the men wore flowers. He could not give me a clear idea of how it was danced.

All dances used to end with the Cockade. After all have sat down in a circle one man chooses a partner by throwing her a handkerchief. The handkerchief is thrown from one to another until all are on the floor, when they turn into fours and dance a Scotch reel to end the dance. There is no kissing, no solo dancing and no Pog a Toshach.

He could remember dancing outside to the pipes in the summer. There was no mention of dancing to Puirt-a Beul at the cross-roads.

Of the dances performed in his youth he could remember the Scotch reel, eightsome reel, Petronella haymakers jig, Flowers of Edinburg, polka, schottish, strip the willow, quadrilles, circassian circle.

Normal shoes were worn for social and for solo dancing. The hands were allowed to hang loosely for the Hebridean solos, and sometimes ladies held their skirts.

Gillial an Fheilidh.
Lads wi' the kilt.

Roderick gave me two steps of this dance. I took them on Wed. 27th. and checked them on Fri. 29th. His tune was as written (as near as I could tell) and he gave me the first ~~8~~ bars in 10 secs. while dancing. Throughout the dance the arms hang loosely. It is a free flowing dance with little precision of footwork. In both steps which he gave me, the dancer moves round a circle in a clockwise direction. It is not clear whether he takes 16 bars for the circle or whether he completes his circle in 8 bars and then goes back or round again in the other 8 bars of each step.

1st. step.

- (1) 1. Hop on L foot and shake R foot from loose 4th low aer to 5th low aer and out again.
- c. Hop or rise on L foot and shake R foot in and out again.
- 2. Drop on to R foot and take weight off L foot.
- {2} Repeat (1) contrariwise.
- {3} Repeat (1).
- {4} 1. Jump and land on both feet with L in front of R.
- 2. - - - - - R in front of L.
- {8} Repeat (1) - (4) contrariwise.
- {16} Repeat (1) - (16) contrariwise.

2nd. step.

- (1) 1. Hop on L foot and beat with R foot in loose 3rd posn.
- c. Hop or rise on L foot and beat with R foot there again.
- 2. Beat with L foot.
- (2) 1. Hop on L foot and beat with R foot in loose 5th rear posn.
- c. Hop or rise on L foot and beat with R foot there again.
- 2. Beat with L foot.
- {4} Repeat (1) - (2) contrariwise.
- {6} Repeat (1) - (2).

- (7) 1. Jump and land on both feet with R in front of L.
- 2. - - - - - L in front of R.
- (8) Repeat (7).

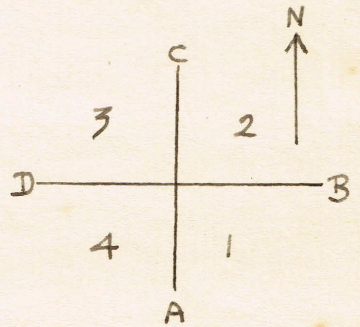
I presume that these 8 bars are repeated contra.

Sword Dance

A sword dance done clockwise!

1st. step.

- (1) ~~Pas de Basque~~ L foot at A facing N.
- (2) ~~Gille Callan~~ R foot at A facing N.
- (3) - - - L foot in 4 turning L.
- (4) - - - R foot in 4 facing E.
- (5) - - - L foot at W facing E.
- (6) - - - R foot at W facing E.



*7 or
with 4
bar*

He then said something about high cuts but went on to complete the circle in 116 bars.

2nd. step.

- (1) ~~Pas de Basque~~ L foot 4, R foot 3.
- (2) ~~Gille Callan~~ R foot 1, L foot 2.
- (3) - - - L foot 3, R foot 2.
- (4) - - - R foot 3, L foot 2.
- (5) - - - L foot 2, R foot 1.
- (6) - - - R foot 2, L foot 1.

He went on to do some jumps which I could not get down.

7 to B, C & D.

3rd. step.

- (1) Pas de Basque L foot 4, R foot 3.
- (2) ~~Gille Callan~~ R foot 4, L foot 3.
- (3) - - - L foot 3, R foot 2.
- (4) - - - R foot 3, L foot 2.
- (5) - - - L foot 2, R foot 1.
- (6) - - - R foot 2, L foot 1.

He went on to indicate high cuts. *at B.*

Quick Time.

He was most energetic about this but quite incoherent. I only saw the first four Pas de Basques.

- Pas de Basque L foot 4, R foot 2.
- - - R foot 4, L foot 2.
- - - L foot 3, R foot 1.
- - - R foot 3, L foot 1.