

Angus John MacLellan, Benbecula,  
On the bridge with Ian MacLachlan

Sat 9th

Angus knew only  
Highlad Laddie  
Shubhain Trews

Swords  
Fling.

I did not collect anything from him as I wanted to go to see Roderick, who of course was at the peats when I got there. When I saw Roderick on the Monday he gave me the same story as Angus John except that he had a bit of Gillial an Fheilidh also.

Angus John had not heard of  
Over the water to Charlie  
Over the hills and far away  
First of August

Scotch Measure  
Miss Forbes.

He had however, often seen his father do a solo dance Bottom of the Punch Bowl. Yet Roderick had not heard of this dance.

Angus O'Henley, Loch Boisdale ca 76  
By the croft.

Mon 11th

Angus was taught the lancers quadrilles etc by MacLeod in Loch Boisdale: but he had a sore foot when dances were taught by Morrison to Rotchain so he had no formal teaching in the solos and picked them up himself. His attitude to them was summed up by his insistence that you should keep going at all costs: if you had forgotten a step you just made one up. I take the rest of his information with a pinch of salt.

Angus said that Gillial an Fheilidh is the same dance as Blue Bonnets. He gave me bits of the first three steps of this dance which I noted from brief though clear demonstrations. The tune was the pipe setting of Blue Bonnets.

1st step As Donald Walkers first step of Blue Bonnets.

2nd step

- 1.1. Step forward on to RF:
    - c. Close LF to RF.
    2. Small step forward on to RF.
    - c. Hop on RF with LF in rear leg posn.
  - 2.1. Drop back on to LF with RF in front leg posn.
    - c. Hop on LF with RF in back leg posn.
    2. Drop back on RF.
  - 3,4. Break L R (as Donald's).
  - 5,6. Perform bars 1 and 2 contrariwise.
  - 7,8. Close R R L R.
- Perform bars 1 to 8 contrariwise.



3rd step

- 1.c. Hop on RF with LF in front leg posn (Not 4th int aer).
- 1.1. Drop back on to LF with RF in front leg posn
  - c. Hop on LF with RF in back leg posn.
2. Drop back on to RF with LF in front leg posn.
  - c. Hop on RF with LF in back leg posn.
- 2.1. Drop back on to LF with RF in front leg posn.
  - c. Hop on LF with RF in back leg posn.
2. Jump to land on both feet R behind L.
- 3,4. Break R and L.
  - c. Hop on LF with RF in front leg posn.
- 5,6. Perform bars 1 and 2 contrariwise.
- 7,8. Close R R L R.
  - Perform bars 1 to 8 contrariwise.

In bars 1 and 2 move backwards through a small clockwise circle, and in bars 5 and 6 move backwards through a small anticlockwise circle.

Angus had the tune Gillial and Fheilidh but he said that the dance was not done to that tune. Roderick MacPhersons first Gillial an Fheilidh step Angus said was from Jack-a-Tar, but he had not seen the second step.

Donald Allen Morrison, Kilpheder ca 60  
By the croft.

Sun 10th

D.A.M. was taught the swords and the fling by Cuthbertson while they were both srving in the first world war. I spent some time talking to him and seeing his steps but I did not note them. He had the back of a lightly bent hand on the hip for hands down and used the positions 2nd in line with the heel, intermediate, 5th, pand, 4th in front of 5th.

He had no Hebridean solos though he did knw that they were taught by Ewen who died ' where the new (Daliburgh) shool is now'.

Neil MacLellan, Loch Boisdale ? ca 70  
In his post office

Mon 11th

Unfortunately he was much too buisy to see me since he was in the middle of preparing mail for the boat. He said that he could no longer remember the solos but that he would be able to check them.

Both he and Archie Monrowe (whome I saw on the quayside) denied that Gillal an Fheilidh and Blue Bonnets were the same dance.