

The Irish Jig from Mrs Gunstone

These steps were collected from Mrs Gunstone of Burnley, Lancashire by Julian Pilling in 1959-1961. Originally from Edinburgh, she was retired and living in Burnley when interviewed by Julian Pilling. She had learned to dance from a Miss Barry, a highland teacher in Edinburgh. From her she learned a Lancashire Hornpipe, a Dutch Dance, a Schottische, and the Irish Jig together with the standard country and highland dances, including the Sailors' Hornpipe.

The steps were later published in Pilling, J., "The Lancashire Clog Dance", *Folk Music Journal*, 1, 3 (1967) 174-176. The notations are, for their time, excellent, although naturally there are some inconsistencies and uncertainties. Information is also contained in correspondence between Julian Pilling and Tom Flett 1959-1961. All these resources are available on the Instep Research Team website.

Step 1 - notation description from letter to Tom Flett dated 19/11/1961.

Step 2- taken from FMJ 1, 3 (1967) p 176-7 and the letter of 19/11/1961.

Step 3 - notation from letter to Tom Flett dated 19/11/1961.

Step 4 - notation description from letter to Tom Flett dated 19/11/1961.

Finish - taken from FMJ 1, 3 (1967) p 176-7 and the letter of 19/11/1961.

The dance is clearly a "Scottish" Irish Jig of the type still performed at Highland Dancign competitions today. The preferred music appears to have been The Irish Washerwoman. Danced in hard shoes, vulcanite sole and jungles. Boys put left hand on hip and twirl a shilleagh with right. Girls hold skirt with both hands.

Mrs Gunstone - The Irish Jig - Step 1.

Described as "A light skip beginning with the right foot and hitting the heels together as one foot passes the other. Toes are pointed down, the feet at 45 degrees. Track a circle to the left. Finish with break. Repeat all to the left reversing footing.!"

Mrs Gunstone - The Irish Jig - Step 2

A			
1	<u>spring</u>)	shuffle
&)	
a)	<u>step</u>
2)	
&) shuffle)	
a))	
3	<u>step</u>)	shuffle
&)	
a)	
4	<u>hop</u>)	shuffle
&)	
a)	

A	:	
	:	C.C
	:	
	:	A
	:	C.C
	:	
A	:	
	:	C.C
	:	
A	:	
A	:	C.C
	:	

B			
1	<u>step</u>)	shuffle
&)	
a)	
2	<u>hop</u>)	
&)	shuffle
a)	

A	:	
	:	C.C
	:	
A	:	
	:	C.C
	:	

Step is A A B B and finish

| | | | |
R L R L R

Notes:

1. This is taken from FMJ 1, 3 (1967) p 176-7 and the letter of 19/11/1961. Not danced on the 1964 film.
2. According to the published notation the step is performed first off the R foot and repeated on the L.

Mrs Gunstone - The Irish Jig - Step 3

A			
1	<u>spring</u>		A
a	↑	click heels	XA/F↑
2	<u>hop</u>		A
&		heel tap	:
a		heel tap	A/F
3		<u>spring</u>	:
a	<u>click heels</u>	↑	A
4		<u>hop</u>	F/G↑
&	heel tap		:
a	heel tap		A/F
			A/F

Notes:

1. This is taken from the letter of 19/11/1961 referred to above. The foot positions are somewhat conjectural and the repeat pattern is not known.

Mrs Gunstone - The Irish Jig - Step 4

Circle as in the first step, starting off the R, "beat left heel twice at the side of the R foot, then place weight on L toe in the same position and step again with R foot. Break etc."

Mrs Gunstone - The Irish Jig - Finish

A							
1	<u>spring</u>					A	
&			heel tap			:	
a			<u>heel step</u>			:	C.C
2	<u>step</u>					:	
&)	shuffle			:	C.C
a)				:	
3	<u>hop</u>					:	
&			tip tap			:	RC
a	<u>hop</u>					:	
4			touch			:	Ċ

Notes:

1. This is taken from FMJ 1, 3 (1967) p 177, with the interpolation of a step on beat three which is missing from their published notation but is contained in the letter of 11/11/1961 referred to above.. Not danced on the 1964 film.