

126. Railway St.
Nelson Lancs.
19th Nov. 61

Dear Tom,

I have just had another session with Mrs Gunstone & am sending you the result. She has promised to teach me this dance and also the Dutch dance & the Schattische etc, she still claims to remember no more of the Lancashire Hornpipe - anyway we'll see. I should be interested to know if the Irish Washerwoman is a common affair or not. She says it was (or is) frequently done at Highland Gatherings and classifies it as a novelty dance which category includes the Dutch dance & the Sailor's Hornpipe & the Lancashire Hornpipe ^{& Tambourine Dance} i.e. apart from Highland dances.

I rather think she is a bit muddled about the Schattische. Previously she told me it was a hard shoe dance but now she says it is a "soft shoe shuffle" & showed me two steps that I should say are "soft shoe", one is a variation of the other.

- 1: shuffle - rt diagonally
step on right crossing behind left
step on left to side
step on right crossing in front of left

one step continues this crossing step, but the other continues by reversing the procedure i.e. shuffle left etc. (I note the EFDSS ~~are~~ in some places are teaching the cross step as above, without shuffle, & call it the 'Wiltshire running step'. They do it in the □s in place of slipping & think it no end of a lark.)

I have at long last persuaded Manchester Men to have a second pair of clogs - after having danced at the Morris Ale & National Gathering in shoes they were in the frame of mind to listen, so I have sent off the order for the first batch today. We are going to the Albert Hall in Jan. but the EFDSS are being sticky about giving any contribution towards expenses. I was talking to some of the die hard EFDSS supporters who are dancing country in Ethyl's lot for the A.H. & even they are a little perturbed about the way she is mucking the dances about. Koudal Ghyll they have always skipped - at New Brighton they did double step & at the A.H. they are going to walk!

~~The~~ Ethyl asked me if I would clog dance for D.N.R. at a dance (last Fri in fact.) so he could see if I was good enough for A.H. (she didn't put it quite like that)

I said I would, but suggested rather that a set did your Westmorland 8 hand Reel as I thought it a wonderful dance for a display. She agreed, not wholeheartedly I thought, but I wrote to Manchester E.D.S.S., ~~but~~ nothing came of it. As it happened I have started working late on Friday evenings & as I wasn't feeling in the mood for the necessary practice I would need for such an affair I used that as an excuse, & nobody suggested an alternative date. I danced at three festivals & gave a lecture demonstration during the year & thought it enough, through this I missed two dates with the Morris men ~~that~~ where I would sooner have been. These week ends also limit collecting activity.

I went to see an old lady of 80 last Sunday who lives in Barrowford whose father played the Bagpipes. I had thought this unusual so long ago in this part of the country, but it was explained by the fact they had a Scots minister living with them who introduced the pipes to her father. She herself used to sing to the banjo in her young days. I asked her what songs did she sing but I might have guessed the answer - she sang hymns with banjo accompaniment.

My regards to Joan

Yours sincerely
Julian

Mrs. Gunstone, taught by Miss Barry.

Irish Washerwoman - Irish jig.

Done in hard shoes; vulcanite soles and with jingles attached.

Boys put left hand on hip + twirl a shillelagh with right. Girls hold skirt with both hands.

1st step. A light skip beginning with right foot + hitting the heels together as one foot passes the other. Toes are pointed down + feet at 45° . Tracks: a circle to left, finish with break.

Break:
Beat with left foot
Right heel beat twice in front.
Right foot shuffle in front
Hop left

Tap right toe at heel of left foot

Hop left

Place right foot in 5th position front.

Repeat all to left reversing footing.

2nd step

shuffle right

shuffle left

double shuffle right (ie. shuffle R. hop L. shuffle R.)

shuffle left

shuffle right

double shuffle left - double shuffle right - double shuffle left. Break

Repeat to left.

3rd step. spring ~~foot~~ from left foot & hit heels in air
land on left & beat Right heel twice at side

Repeat on right

Whether or no the step continues as a repetition of this

I don't yet know.

fin's health break etc.

4th step a light trip in the same pattern as the
first step, with the following step.

step with right foot

Beat left heel twice at side of right foot, then place
weight on left toe in same position and step again
with right foot. Break etc.