

Dances for October 2, 2017

Video: Lady Mary Menzies' Reel

Lady Mary Menzies' Reel

Book 7 – No. 5

32-bar reel for three couples in a four-couple longwise set

1–8 1st and 2nd couples dance right hands across for three steps and left hands back. 1st couple cast off one place on own sides and 2nd couple dance up to first place.

9–12 1st couple lead up the middle to finish back to back between 2nd couple, 1st man facing 2nd woman and 1st woman facing 2nd man. 1st and 2nd couples set.

13–16 1st couple lead down the middle to finish back to back between 3rd couple, 1st man facing 3rd woman and 1st woman facing 3rd man. 1st and 3rd couples set.

17–20 1st couple turn first corners with the right hand 1st man finishing between 3rd couple facing up and 1st woman between 2nd couple facing down. 1st couple set and advance toward second corners.

21–24 1st couple turn second corners with the right hand finishing between corners. 1st couple set to each other.

25–30 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance reels of three on the sides. 1st couple pass first corners by the left to begin.

31–32 1st couple, giving right hands, cross over to second place on own sides.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

The Register of Dances at Castle Menzies, 1749.

Original tune: Lady Mary Menzies' Reel (Bremner, 1761)

~~~~~

~~~~~

TACNotes:'

13-16 Nearer hand lead. 1st woman, maintaining eye contact with 3rd man, finishes first setting step facing up towards 2nd man & uses the second setting step to advance towards him a little. 1st man moves slightly up on second setting step.

19-20 Set to partner while advancing to face 2nd corner.

Video: Strathglass House

Video: Strathglass House

Strathglass House

Book 13 – No. 9

32-bar strathspey for three couples in a four-couple longwise set

1-4 1st, 2nd and 3rd couples set and dance six hands round to the left halfway.

5-8 3rd, 2nd and 1st couples repeat bars 1-4 to original places, again moving to the left.

9-12 1st couple lead down, cross over below 2nd couple and dance behind 3rd couple to meet below them facing up.

13-16 1st couple lead up to the top and cast off one place on opposite sides to face first corners. 2nd couple step up on bars 15-16.

17-24 1st couple turn first corner with right hand, partner with the left hand, second corner with the right hand, partner with the left hand to finish between corners.

25-28 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples advance and retire.

29-32 1st couple, giving both hands, turn one and a half times

to finish in second place on own sides.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

R Bremner:

A Second Collection of Scots Reels or Country Dances c. 1765.

Original tune:

Mr Muir Mackenzie's Favourite (Mr Sharpe of Hoddum)

~~~~~  
~~~~~

TACNotes:'

1 – 8 On second setting step (bars 2 & 6) 1st man & 3rd woman must begin to move into circle shape so that the half circle is completed in two steps (bars 3-4 & 7-8).

13 – 16 Nearer hand lead. 2nd cpl step up on bars 15-16.

Sorry, no video.

SKIPPIN' BARFIT THRO' the HEATHER

32-bar jig for three couples in a four-couple longwise set by Barbara Anglin

1-8 1st couple cross, giving right hands, and cast off one place as 2nd couple step up.

1st couple dance a half figure of eight round 3rd couple to finish in second place on own sides.

9-12 1st couple dance right hands across with the couple on their right; i.e. 1st woman with 2nd couple and 1st man with 3rd couple.

1st couple finish in the middle, left shoulder to left shoulder.

13-16 1st, 2nd and 3rd couples dance a snake pass, as follows:

1st man, followed by 3rd man and 3rd woman, dances out to the women's side and up, across the top of the set, and down to second place on his own side. 3rd couple finish in top place. Meanwhile, 1st woman, followed by 2nd woman and 2nd man, dances out to the men's side and down, across the bottom of the set, and up to second place on her own side. 2nd couple finish in 3rd place. The two 'snakes' pass by the left. All finish on own sides in order 3, 1, 2 with women facing up and men facing down.

17–24 All chase counter clockwise round the set. On bar 24, all dance into the middle to take promenade hold, facing up.

25–32 3rd, 1st and 2nd couples dance an allemande.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

As I was walkin' doon yon hill, O but she was neatly dressed,
It was on a summer's evening, She neither needed hat nor
feather,
T'was there I met a bonnie lass, She was a queen amang them
a',
Skippin' barfit throw the heather. Skippin' barfit throw the
heather.

"Skippin' Barfit Thro' the Heather",
traditional Scottish folk song

While the traditional song tune is not a jig, I thought that
jig tempo better suited my image of
"skipping barefoot through the heather." BA

Dances for September 25, 2017

I am now posting the dance instructions for the Ardbrae Intermediate class on my web site. If you want to get the instructions for the dances being taught in the class please go to this site: <https://www.ottawadancescottish.org/> and subscribe to that site.

Dances for September 25, 2017

Video: General Stuart's Reel

General Stuart's Reel or
The New Way of Gildon (Reel)
Book 10 – No. 3

1 – 4 1st man sets to 2nd woman and casts off one place. 2nd man steps up on bars 3–4.

5 – 8 1st woman sets to 2nd man and casts off to second place. 2nd woman steps up on bars 7–8.

9 – 12 1st couple turn first corners with the right hand then, passing each other by the right shoulder, face second corners.

13 – 16 1st couple turn second corners with the left hand then, passing each other by the right shoulder, face first corners.

17 – 24 1st couple set to first corners, set to each other across the dance, set to second corners, then set to each other up and down the dance and finish man facing up and woman facing down the dance. 1st couple turn by the right throughout.

25 – 30 1st couple dance reels with their corners. 1st couple begin the reels by giving right shoulders to second corners.

31 – 32 1st couple, giving right hands, cross over to own sides in second place.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

Source: The Register of Dances at Castle Menzies, 1749.

Music: The Stuarts' Rant, Bremner, 1768.

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
The Manual of Scottish Country Dancing:
Bars 9-16 Corners dance two steps when turning.

~~~~~  
~~~~~  
TACNotes:'

9-16 Corners must dance into middle to meet 1st cpl on bars 9 & 13 then out to places on bars 10 & 14 releasing 1st cpl to face up & down the set.

Video: Wisp of Thistle

Video: Wisp of Thistle

Wisp of Thistle
Book XXXVII No.4
(Strathspey)

1 – 4 1st and 3rd couples dance "Petronella turns" into the middle of the dance (1st man and 3rd woman back to back) and set to partners.

5 – 8 1st and 3rd couples dance a half reel of four.

9 – 10 3rd and 1st couples dance "Petronella turns" to own sides. (3rd couple are in first place and 1st couple in third

place.)

11 – 12 3rd, 2nd and 1st couples set joining nearer hands on the sides.

13 – 16 3rd, 2nd and 1st couples turn partners with right hand to finish ready for allemande.

17 – 24 3rd, 2nd and 1st couples allemande.

25 – 28 1st couple cross over giving right hands and cast off one place. 2nd couple step up on bars 27–28.

29 – 32 1st couple dance a half figure of eight round 2nd couple.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

Note: At the end of their second turn at the dance, 1st couple finish the half figure of eight by dancing down to fourth place while 4th couple step up to third place on bars 31–32.

Choreographed by Pat Kent in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, who, when she had seen the Scottish Country dancers perform in the Tattoo in Nova Scotia, stated that they looked like “wisps of thistle”.

Devised by Pat Kent (Nova Scotia Branch).

Video: The Wild Geese

Video: The Wild Geese

The Wild Geese

Book 24 – No. 3

32-bar jig for three couples in a four-couple longwise set

1 – 4 1st and 3rd couples set advancing to join nearer hands in a line up and down the set, men with partners on their

right. 1st and 3rd couples set.

5 – 8 1st couple, retaining right hands, turn three quarters and cast off to third place on own sides and, at the same time, 3rd couple turn with the right hand and lead up to first place.

9 – 16 3rd and 1st couples repeat bars 1-8 but in bars 15-16, 3rd couple cast off and 1st couple lead up to places.

17 – 24 1st couple lead down the middle and up to second place on own sides.

2nd couple step up on bars 19-20.

25 – 32 2nd and 1st couples dance rights and lefts.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

Collected by Miss Jenny MacLachlan.

Original tune: Mrs MacPherson of Cluny (Joseph Lowe)

Dances for September 18, 2017

I am now posting the dance instructions for the Ardbrae Intermediate class on my web site. If you want to get the instructions for the dances being taught in the class please go to this site: <https://www.ottawadancescottish.org/> and subscribe to that site.

Dances for September 18, 2017

Saxie's Baa

The Green Lady Book of Scottish Country Dances by Barry Priddey

J 32 2

Saxie and Herman were two Shetland giants. In a quarrel each hurled a rock at the other. Saxie's rock, now known as Saxie's Baa, fell into the water, just short of Herman's home.

1 – 8 1M and 2W dance a figure of eight round partners; to begin they pass each other by the right, dance round partner by the left then pass each other right again to complete the figure on own sides.

9 – 16 1C and 2C dance rights and lefts.

17 – 24 1W and 2M dance a figure of eight round partners; to begin they pass each other by the left, dance round partner by the right then pass each other left again to complete the figure on own sides.

25 – 32 1C and 2C dance the Knot progression.

Video: Delvine Side

Delvine Side

Book 2 – No. 9

32-bar strathspey for three couples in a four-couple set

1 – 4 1st and 2nd couples set and, passing partners by the right, cross to opposite sides.

5 – 8 1st and 2nd couples repeat bars 1-4, back to places.

9 – 16 1st couple lead down the middle and up to finish in the middle of the set facing up. 2nd couple step in.

17 – 24 1st and 2nd couples dance an allemande. 1st couple finish facing first corners.

25 – 32 1st couple, giving both hands, turn first corners, dance round partner by the right, turn second corners and, passing by the right, cross to second place on own sides.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

William Campbell: 15th Book of New and Favourite Country Dances and Strathspey Reels, London 1794 as Delvin Side.
Original tune: Delvine Side (McGlashan's Collection)

Delvine is near Dunkeld.

Video: Flowers of Edinburgh

Video: Flowers of Edinburgh

Flowers of Edinburgh

Book 1 – No. 6

32-bar reel for three couples in a four-couple longwise set

1 – 6 1st woman casts off two places, crosses to the opposite side and dances up behind 2nd and 3rd men to her partner's original place. 1st man follows his partner, crossing over and dancing behind 2nd and 3rd women, and up the middle to his partner's original place.

7 – 8 1st couple set to each other.

9 – 14 1st couple repeat bars 1-6, with 1st man casting off and 1st woman following. 1st couple finish in original places.

15 – 16 1st couple set to each other.

17 – 24 1st couple lead down the middle and up to finish facing each other in the middle of the set with both hands joined. 2nd couple step in.

25 – 32 1st and 2nd couples dance a poussette.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

Kate Hughes' Dancing Book (MS), Dundalk 1867.

Original tune: Flowers of Edinburgh (Traditional)