

Dances for October 30, 2017

Video: The Countess of Dunmore's Reel

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The Countess of Dunmore's Reel

RSCDS Book 49

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

1 – 6 1st couple set, dance down between 2nd and 3rd couples and cast up to second place. 2nd couple step up on bars 3–4.

7 – 8 1st couple set advancing, passing by the left to face first corners.

9 – 16 1st couple turn first corners with the right hand, pass partner by the right, turn second corners with the right hand and, passing partner by the right, face out in second place on own sides. Corners dance for four bars.

17 – 24 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples dance a chain progression for three couples, all finishing facing clockwise.

25 – 28 3rd, 1st and 2nd couples dance clockwise halfway round the set.

29 – 32 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples set and, giving right hands, cross to own sides.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

Devised by Deirdre MacCuish Bark, Toronto Branch.

In the mid 19th century, the Earl of Dunmore owned the whole of the Island of Harris. After the passing of the 1872 Education (Scotland) Act, Catherine, Countess Dowager of Dunmore, gave lands in favour of the School Board of the

Parish of Harris for the building of schools. These included Finsbay School, which was attended by members of the deviser's family.

Video: The Glenora Ferry

The Glenora Ferry

An Itch to Dance, A Collection of Scottish Country Dances by Terry Glasspool

A 40 bar jig for 3 couples
by Terry Glasspool

1 – 8 First couple set and cast then dance half rights and lefts below with the third couple.

9 – 16 Second couple set and cast then dance half rights and lefts below with the first couple.

► The order is now 3 1 2, with third and second couples crossed over.

17 – 24 First couple dance down the middle and up, finishing in second place in the center of the dance, facing up in promenade hold.

On bar 24, third and second couples step in to the middle of the dance to take promenade hold with partner, facing down.

25 – 32 Third, first, and second couples dance a circulating allemande:

First couple dances the center couple's part of a "normal" three couple allemande to end in second place on own side while third and second couples change places by dancing the lead and trailing couple's parts of an "upside down" three couple allemande:

Third and second couples, after dancing out to their own right, dance down the men's side of the dance, across the bottom, and up the women's side.

► The order is now 2 1 3, with second and third couples crossed over.

33 – 36 First couple dance a half figure of eight up through the second couple, while second couple set and cross giving right hands in passing.

37 – 40 First couple dance a half figure of eight down through the third couple, while third couple set and cross giving right hands in passing.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

This dance is dedicated to Sheila Keller and the Picton, Ontario, Scottish Country Dancers for their patience and warm welcome.

While driving from Kingston to Picton on a balmy summer evening, Kay "Pretty Face" Munn took us by way of the Glenora ferry. Halfway to to the Island of Prince Edward County she turned to me and said, "You should write a dance about this ferry." My immediate response was, "The wind is so pleasant the dance will need a down the middle and up."

The figures of the final dance represent a trip across the Bay of Quinte. First, the cars arrive at the dock and drive on to the open ferry deck. (There are two ferries, one on each side of the bay.) During the voyage you can leave your car and stand on the deck with the wind in your hair while you watch the ferries pass each other in mid-channel. Finally, the ferries unload on the opposite shore.

Music: Any good jig, not too fast.

For example: "The Golden Pheasant" on Scottish Dances Vol. 4

by Ian Holmes and his Scottish Dance Band with Ian Powrie,
Highlander Music, HRMCD504.

Notes: To work, the circulating allemande requires only that the dancers trust their body to dance a three couple allemande correctly. This variation of the allemande does, however, enforce the initial step to the right and looks best when the men advance while turning the women under so that all three couples are lined up in the middle and can retire together.

To introduce the circulating allemande I suggest having the top three couples of a set step in to walk a normal three couple allemande. Then have all three couples cross over to partners side and walk an upside down allemande. Finally, have only the middle couple cross back to their own side and, after the couples step in and have a moment to get their bearings, walk the circulating allemande by telling them to “do what you just did.”

Dances for October 23, 2017

Video: The Kelloholm Jig

Video: The Kelloholm Jig

No. 1 – THE KELLOHOLM JIG

RSCDS Leaflet 32, Four Modern Dances, 1997
(Jig)

1 – 4 1st couple set to each other and cast off to second place. 2nd couple step up on Bars 3–4.

5 – 8 Staying in the side lines, 1st couple set to first

corners, and then, giving right hands, change places with them.

9 – 12 On opposite sides, 1st and 3rd women, and 2nd and 1st men, set to each other, and then, giving left hands, change places.

13 – 16 1st couple turn each other with the right hand one and a half times to finish in second place on own sides.

17 – 20 Staying in the side lines, 1st couple set to second corners, and then, giving right hands, change places with them.

21 – 24 On opposite sides, 1st and 3rd men, and 2nd and 1st woman, set to each other, and then giving left hands, change places.

25 – 32 3rd, 1st and 2nd couples, joining nearer hands, advance and retire and then dance six hands round half way to the left.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

Devised by Peter Hyssett of Ayr, who also composed the tune.

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TACNotes:'

5-8 1st cpl finish by turning R about, 1st woman to face down & 1st man up.

17-20 Second corners finish by turning R about. 3rd man to face up & 2nd woman down.

Video: Culla Bay

Video: Culla Bay

Video: Culla Bay

Culla Bay (Strathspey)

## Book 41 – No. 2

Dancers arranged in a square set as for the Eightsome Reel.

1 – 4 1st man and 3rd woman, and 1st woman and 3rd man, turn with the right hand half way round to face each other then, pulling back right shoulders, cast out to opposite places and remain facing out.

5 – 8 1st and 3rd couples continue dancing on clockwise one place round the set, curving in to finish back to back in the centre of the set, 1st couple facing fourth place, and 3rd couple facing second place. Meanwhile, 2nd and 4th couples repeat bars 1-4.

N.B. on bars 7 – 8, 1st and 2nd women, 1st and 2nd men, 3rd and 4th women and 3rd and 4th men dance in a curve round each other to new places, passing right shoulder.

9 – 16 All dance reels of four across the set.

17 – 20 2nd and 1st couples, and at the same time 3rd and 4th couples, dance four hands once round to the left.

21 – 24 Joining nearer hands with partner, all set, then 1st and 2nd couples and, at the same time, 3rd and 4th couples, dance right hands across half way.

25 – 28 2nd and 4th couples dance left hands across once round, to finish facing out.

29 – 32 2nd and 4th couples, passing 1st and 3rd couples by the right shoulder, dance out and progress on one place clockwise to finish with 2nd couple in first place and 4th couple in third place. All couples have now progressed one place anti-clockwise round the set.

Repeat, with original 2nd and 4th couples leading.

Culla Bay (pronounced 'coola') is on the island of Benbecula

where Sheila Jupp spent part of her childhood.

Devised by Ann Dix, London Branch.

Tune: The Macaulays of Benbecula (copyright Frank Reid).

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The Manual of Scottish Country Dancing:

Bars 5–8 2nd and 4th couples finish facing in.

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TACNotes:'

5–8 2nd & 4th cpls finish facing in on bar 8.

23–24 2nd & 4th cpls shorten steps in order to flow directly  
into LH across on bar 25.

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## Dances for October 16, 2017

No Video

ECCLEFECHAN FELINE

Le Petit Chat Celtique

32 bar Jig for 3 couples – McMurtry – 2006

1–8 1st couple dance a figure of eight on their own side. 1st  
couple dance between the 2nd couple to begin, taking nearer  
hands briefly wherever possible.

9–16 1st, 2nd and 3rd couples dance a mirror reel of three on  
the sides, 1st couple dancing in and down, 2nd couple up and  
out and 3rd couple in and up to begin.

17–24 1st couple dance down for three steps, back for three  
steps and cast off one place, 2nd couple stepping up on bars  
23 & 24.

25–28 1st man with 3rd couple and 1st woman with 2nd couple dance right hands across, passing right shoulders on the last bar to change places.

29–32 1st man with 2nd couple and 1st woman with 3rd couple dance left hands across. 1st couple finish in second place on own sides.

Repeat having passed a couple.

Dance Notes: 1st couple phrase step to finish on the sidelines at the end.

Recommended Recording: Track #8 Just in Time on CD, Campbell's Birl with Muriel Johnstone and Keith Smith

Try to say the title quickly, 3 times in a row.

Video: Maxwell's Rant

Maxwell's Rant

Book 18 – No. 10

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

1–16 1st couple, with 2nd and 3rd couples, dance reels of three on opposite sides and then on own sides. 2nd and 3rd couples remain on own sides throughout.

17–20 1st couple, giving right hands, cross over and cast off one place. 2nd couple step up on bars 19-20.

21–24 1st couple dance a half figure of eight round 2nd couple.

25–28 1st couple dance down between 3rd couple and cast up to second place on own sides.

29–32 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples, giving right hands, turn once round.



Repeat, having passed a couple.

Rutherford: Compleat Collection of 200 of the most celebrated Country Dances both old and new... Vol 1, London, c. 1755 as Maxwell's Rant.

Original tune: Maxwell's Rant (Traditional)

Video: The Saint John River

The Saint John River

The New Brunswick Collection of Scottish Country Dances  
Dance devised by Prudence Edwards, 1966

32 bar Strathspey for 4 couples in a 4 couple set.

1-8 1st woman casts off one place, crosses and casts behind 3rd man, crosses and casts behind 4th woman and crosses to finish below 4th man on opposite side of the dance; 1st man follows his partner to finish below 4th woman on opposite side of the dance.

9-16 1st couple, with nearer hands joined, dances up under the arch formed by 4th couple, turns one and a half times with two hands, then dances up under the arch formed by 2nd couple, finishing in first place on own sides of the dance. 4th couple holds the arch on bars 9-10 only and 2nd couple makes the arch on bars 15-16.

17-24 1st couple leads down the middle and up, followed by 2nd, 3rd and 4th couples: 2nd couple dances up for two bars, leads down for two bars, up for two bars and dances down to place for two bars; 3rd couple dances up for three bars, leads down for one bar, up for one bar and dances down to place for three bars; 4th couple dances up for four bars to meet at the top of the set but does not join hands, then casts out and dances down to place for four bars.

25-28 All four couples dance back-to-back.

29–32 1st couple wends its way down own sides of the dance, changing places with 2nd couple with right hands, 3rd couple with left hands and 4th couple with right hands to finish in fourth place, 1st man and 4th woman making polite turns.

Repeat with new top couple.

#### EXPLANATION OF THE FIGURES

The Chase (bars 1–8) describes the meandering course of the River.

The Bridges and Pools (bars 9–16) is explained by its title.

The Reversing Falls (bars 17–24) describes the reversing falls at Saint John; when the tide is ebbing, the River runs downstream over a shallow waterfall and when the tide comes in, it forces the River to flow upstream up the fall.

The River Meets the Sea (bars 25–32) is described in the wave-like back-to-back movement of all four couples, and the 1st couple wending its way down to fourth place describes the River disappearing into the sea.

#### CANADA'S CENTENNIAL DANCE

The Saint John River won first place in a contest to select a Scottish country dance to commemorate Canada's Centennial in 1967. Organized by the Deep River Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, this group published the twenty-one dances submitted in *Scottish Country Dances – A Centennial Collection*. Unfortunately this publication is now out of print. Music for the dance was recorded in 1970, helping to make The Saint John River popular with Scottish country dancers around the world. A former member of the Fredericton Scottish Country Dance Group, Pru Edwards is now living in British Columbia.

Video: The Reel of the Royal Scots

Video: The Reel of the Royal Scots

# The Reel of the Royal Scots

Leaflet – No.7

(Reel)

1–2 1st and 2nd women turn with the left hand, while 1st and 2nd men turn with the right hand, 1st couple finishing back to back in the centre of the set in second place.

3–4 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples set as in double triangles.

5–6 1st and 3rd women turn with the right hand, while 1st and 3rd men turn with the left hand to change places.

7–8 2nd, 3rd and 1st couples set as in double triangles.

9-16 1st couple followed by 3rd couple, dance up between the 2nd couple and cast off, then dance down to third place and cast up to second place, 3rd couple finishing in original places. (1st and 3rd couples join nearer hands with partner on every occasion when dancing up or down in the centre). (Fig.).

17–24 1st couple turn first corners with right hands. 1st couple pass each other by the right shoulder.

1st couple turn second corners with right hands. 1st couple passing right shoulders cross to second place on own sides.

25 – 32 2nd, 1st and 3rd couples six hands round and back.

Repeat, having passed a couple.

Devised by Roy Goldring to celebrate the 350th Anniversary of The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment) in 1983.

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TACNotes:'

17-24 Corners dance for 4 bars.