

MARSTON, near Northwich

Music: 100 Pipers etc. "All sorts of music including a piano"

Sticks: two short sticks or one ended Carnival wavers

Step: almost everything is danced to the sequence 2 polka steps, 4 hopsteps.

Hands: in general hands up & waved forward & back at head level each bar of polka and down at sides in the hopsteps. In turns free hand up at same height as hand doing the turn/star

Source: from a woman aged 50 living on edge of Reading, Berks in late 60's. Taught by a Mr & Mrs Sherrif. Danced as a teenager. Changed dance while in team. Did not remember dances but the following movements.

All figures have "Up-Street" between.

On road - 2 polka steps forward up street and skip across to other side of road, 2 polka up street on other side and skip back. Repeated at conductor's whim. Believed two bars of each but may have been twice as long.

On stage - the 2 polka are done travelling backwards, so that in the skip across they return to their starting line etc. At end stop in single file, 1 hand on sh in front, r up. Was not danced slow like the clog morris

1. Up into line: sort of gipsy up the set. Face up throughout - 2 bar polka on spot, 2b move up into line of 4, 2nds between 1sts who move back a bit. 2 bar polka in line then 2nds skip forward to 1st's original place, 1st's falling back into 2nd's place. Repeat 1sts going up between to place, 16 bars in all. Work in 4's.
2. Turns: corners turn by right once around to place, believe taking 8 bars. Other corner polka on spot, then move forward/back to other corners place, step in their place & return to starting place. Repeat other corner, who turn right hand as well. Do not know if non turning two turn on spot in polkaing.
3. Inside: cast inside and change sides to reverse set - odds inside evens. In the last two bars cross back to own side passing right shoulders and $\frac{1}{2}$ turn down to face down. Repeat to place coming in at the bottom, odds inside again.

Some figures had turns on spot - not sure if all figures did or whether it was only the one year. All turns seemed to be up ie towards music so dancers did not always turn same way but it was dependent on the way they were facing. In turn, inside hand straight up.

4. Cross Over: turn single and skip into line, turn single again & skip to other side and end facing up. Turn single to face back across and into line again, turn single in line and skip back to starting place and end facing up again.
5. Turn on spot and change places. Really a sort of half hey, like Lichfield involving all 8. Done as two half heys and called "First Hey" and "Second Hey" separated at least by an Up-Street. Bars 3-4, in 4's, corners cross, presume 1st corner first but did not know. Bars 7-8 cross at tops and sides. Bars 11-12 cross corners in 4's etc. All passes are right shoulder. It is possible for all of the 4 to pass together if they take care to keep their relative position round the 4 and get their shoulder well into the centre. The Up-Street between could be down instead of up (so could some of the others)

There were other more complex figures but the detail could not be recalled. She distinctly remembered two movements for 8 quite unlike the rest called "Clover Leaf" & "Scots Reel".

In each the middle 4 do part of right hand star to polkas and then turn a corner by left hand, and star on and turn etc.

6. Clover Leaf: move on one place each time, so turn each corner in turn
7. Scots Reel: move on two places each time, so always turn the same two corners.

An order to use these figures is 1, 2, 6, 3, 4, 7, 5I, 5II with Up-Street to start, between and end

It has become common to do this dance with garlands and in clogs. Variants that have been done (A) Throatle's Nest;

Up-Street: crossing over can not be symmetrical. Fig 1: top pair turn in and face down in line of 4 while 2nds face up, go down & turn out to face up in 2nd's place etc. Fig 4: into line and all face down, away from music, each time. Fig 5: 1st corner cross, tops and sides, 2nd corner cross, tops and sides, so not a symmetrical movement. In Fig 5 do not turn on spot but do 2 polkas on spot facing in and crossing sticks low down. In Fig 2 corner turns only $\frac{1}{2}$ way so that at end of bar 4 all 4 in line as corner turning, turns in to come back other hand to place. Step on spot facing original direction 1 bar, turn 180 deg on hop & 1 bar on spot facing back - figure done with polka throughout.

(B) Knots of Hay:

Fig 4: all turns down. Fig 2: right and left turns 4b each. Fig 7: neutrals do not turn on spot

Fig 3: change sides & ends in 4b, on spot 2b, cross over 2 b, etc. Heys: alt r & l shoulders.