Bibliography on Clog and Step Dance


This edition has been substantially rewritten to reflect modern research which suggests that observed differences in clog dance choreographies is a product of individual or family style rather than reflecting supposed geographic distinctions.

ED&S - English Dance and Song
FMJ - Folk Music Journal
JEFDSS - Journal of the English Folk Dance and Song Society

Where unpublished papers are referred to, these can all be found in the VWML collections.

Overview.

1. E. Scott, Dancing as an Art and Pastime, London: Bell & Sons, (1892), 214pp. Apart from being a fascinating book in its own right, Chapter IX, "Ornamental and Solo Dances", in addition to the usual remarks on the Sailor's Hornpipe, includes the earliest description of a "double-shuffle" which I have come across. (Parts of this book were reprinted in E. Scott, Dancing, London: Bell & Sons, (1905), 176pp.


5. V. Alford & R. Gallop, The Traditional Dance, London: Methuen, (1935), 204pp. A general survey, but included here as the authors, unlike those writing similar books both before and since, actually mention Devonshire and Lancashire step dances.


Rhymes, stories and anecdotes.

    More of the same.

    Issued at varying intervals. Covers the whole spectrum of clog and step dancing.


    Simplified outline of the full Newcastle Notation system.

    A consideration of the problems involved in conducting research in this area.

    History of an unusual form of step dance performed on the London stage in the nineteenth century.
    See also subsequent correspondence in *FMJ*, 6.2 (1991).

    An exposition of the history of Lancashire clog from the author’s own experiences.

    Brief history of the Instep Research Team and its activities.

18. C. Metherell, "35 Years of Clog and Step Dance Research", *ED&S*, 77.4: 16-17, (2015)
    Bringing the story of the IRT up to date.

    Outlines the author's work in promoting clog dance in primary schools.

    A project to use a traditional step dance as a basis for workshops with teenage dancers.

    An account of the author's use of clog dancing for his Duke of Edinburgh Award.

**Stage Style Clog Dance.**

Here I have gathered references to the shuffling-style dance, popularised on the English stage during the nineteenth century and taught by dancing masters across the UK. It has formed most of the repertoire of dancers from the folk revival. References are, where possible, grouped by performer with some general items first:

    A very brief description of clog dancing in the North-East.

    Comments from a Lakeland dancer now living in Yorkshire.

The first really serious attempt to provide an history of the dance in a particular area, including notations for many steps.

   General background on clog dancers from the North-East, with one or two good photographs.

   Steps of the author's own composition, based upon his personal collecting experiences.
   Author's own notation. No notational key given, but published later. (see below.)

   An extremely interesting article on the development of clog dancing in Lancashire.

   Records of "wooden shoe" dances on the London stage in the 18th century.

   Popular handbook containing notations for a number of anonymous clog steps. No notational key.

   Fascinating historical background to clog and step dancing in Lakeland.

   An American attempt at publishing a compilation of English clog steps in various styles.
   Author's own notation. Much material obtained by the author second or even third hand. An valuable document however.

   The author's experiences as a competition dancer in the the North East.

   The first in a series of articles covering the available choreographic material relating to a particular style. This survey covers dancers from the North-East.

   An early attempt to demonstrate that personal style and not supposed regional styles dominated clog choreography.

   General guidance on how to start clog dancing, a resume of some of the various styles and a simplified description on the notation system employed. Includes notation examples for various styles and music examples.

    Early references to clog dancing in the N.E. brought to light.

    The second in a series of articles covering the available choreographic material relating to a particular style. This survey includes references to step dances.

A very scholarly account of this late 19th century contest.


**Tiny Allison**


**Sam Bell**


46. J. Williams, *Sam Bell – The Waltz Routine*, Newcastle: Newcastle series (2020) This and the following two booklets contain Sam Bell's complete repertoire. https://insteprt.co.uk/sam-bell-waltz/


**Bert Bowden**


**Cowper Family**
   Full biography of a family of dancing masters from Whitehaven. Includes notations for their waltz routine.

   Hornpipe steps from the same source as above.

**Ellwood Family**

   Quite a good biography of Johnson Ellwood, including his father's songs.

   Johnson Ellwood died in 1976 and so the date on the transcript is presumably the date it was written, not the recording date.

   Obituary of one of Tyneside's best-known dancers.

   Brief background to North East clog.

   Notations for 10 basic steps from the Ellwood family repertoire plus a brief introduction and two music examples.

   In fact beginners clog steps mainly from the Ellwood family. Provides the notational key for the author's other publications.

   The Ellwoods dominated the clog scene on Tyneside for many years. The booklet contains 11 steps with no background.

   Excellent compendium of steps obtained mostly from the Ellwood family.

   More of the same. A follow-on volume from (59).

**Eddie Flaherty**


**John Frith**

   The story of John Frith, clog dancer from Coppull, Lancashire.
Bill Gibbons


Kit Haggerty


Dan Leno


Viona Marhoff


Dot Murphie


Robinson Family

A compilation of most of the material collected by the Fletts in the Lake District. Mainly information on steps learned from one or other of the Robinsons, but some information on other dancers.

Obituary of one of Tom Flett's major Lakeland informants.

Full details of this routine as danced by one of the Flett's main informants.

The author's own version of a 17 step Lakeland routine culled from a number of sources.

An evaluation and interpretation of steps collected in Lakeland by Douglas Kennedy in the late 1920's.

A close analysis and notation of a film clip of Norman Robinson performing in 1969.


Mostly concerning the Robinson family and their pupils. Contains notations for some steps not recorded elsewhere.

An account of the Robinson family's dancing classes in the Lake District.

Veronica Ryan

The first attempt of the folk revival to deal in any way with clog dance. Includes a try at notating steps from Mrs Veronica Ryan.

A compilation of several steps taught at one time or another as elements of this routine.

Ivy Sands

This and the following two entries detail biographical information, together with all of Mrs Sands' clog repertoire. Even the Sailor's Hornpipe is danced in clogs.


Sam Sherry
Background to Sam Sherry's dancing.

An autobiography of Sam Sherry, with photographs.

Biography of the Sherry family, including their clog dancing activities.

Transcriptions of taped interviews with Sam Sherry.

Notations for six steps utilised by Mr Sherry as a beginners' routine for many years. This and the following six booklets comprise Sam's complete teaching repertoire.

15 steps, with a very brief biography, the first attempt to chart changes in a dancer's steps over a period of years.


Sam Sherry's Obituary.

**Steele Family**

Descriptions of steps notated by Sam Steele himself.

**John Surtees**

Mr Surtees' full repertoire (hornpipe, waltz and schottische steps) with background information.
Obituary with brief notation.

**Jackie Toaduff**


Notations for Jackie’s hornpipe steps with which he won the Northumberland and Durham Championship in the early 1950s.

Biography with a step notation, for one of the EDFSS's best known clog dancers.

104. R. Smedley, "Jackie Toaduff Gold Badge Citation", *ED&S*, 74.4: 21
Brief biographical details.

**Pat Tracey**

Notations for this simple hornpipe routine.

Notations for this hornpipe routine from Pat Tracey's repertoire

Notations for a second hornpipe routine from Pat Tracey's repertoire.

Notations for this advanced level hornpipe routine from Pat Tracey's repertoire.

Notations for this intermediate level hornpipe routine from Pat Tracey's repertoire devised for classes at the Whitby Folk Festival.

Notations for this beginners waltz routine from Pat Tracey's repertoire.

Notations for this waltz routine from Pat Tracey's repertoire, set to the well-known waltz tune.

Notations for this routine from Pat Tracey's repertoire featuring steps in various time signatures.

Notations for a beginners' routine routine from Pat Tracey's repertoire of steps collected from two Irish immigrant families.

Notations for an intermediate level routine routine from the same source as the above.
Notations for an advanced level routine routine from the same source as the above.

Notations for this four step routine to the well known Lily of Laguna tune.

**Brenda Walker**

Notations for a short routine written by Brenda Walker, who won the Northern Counties Championship on several occasions, for the Lancashire Wallopers’ Weekend of Dance in 2003.

**Elsie Willis**

This and the following two entries, comprise a biography and notations for Mrs Elsie Willis' entire clog repertoire.


**Alex Woodcock**

Biography and notations for the waltz steps collected from Mr Woodcock, originally of Alnwick, Northumberland.

Biography and notations for six schottische steps, as taught in 1994.

Biography and notations for six further schottische steps from Alex’s repertoire.

Biography and notations for nine steps in fast 4/4 rhythm.

**Vernacular Style Clog Dance.**

Characterised by the use of mainly heel and toe movements rather than shuffles, this seems to have been the style of clog dance which remained solely part of the social milieu rather than finding its way onto the stage.

Placed here because the article makes the case for the separation of the stage and vernacular styles of clog dance.

A brief history of the "heel & toe" style.

Steps and reminiscences of a Northumbrian traveller.

The author's experiences teaching clog dance to the cast of Serjeant Musgrave's Dance.

Although covering both Tracey's vernacular and stage dance styles, placed here with the rest of material relating to her.

Pat Tracey's autobiography, containing a huge amount of background, explaining her views on the history of her dance, together with many notated steps.

Notations for Pat Tracey's original heel and toe routine.

Notations for Pat Tracey's second heel and toe routine.

Notations for Pat Tracey's third heel and toe routine.

**Step Dance.**

A vernacular style, danced in hard shoes or boots. Although probably found nationwide until the late 20th century it is now mainly found in the south of England.

Note of step dance contest held in February 1951 at South Zeal.

A first report of the author's collecting in Norfolk. This work was later followed up by Hulme & Clifton. See below.

136. V. Smith, "Interview with Scan Tester", *Traditional Music*, 4: 4-10, (1976).
Contains some background on step dancing in Sussex.


A survey of music in East Suffolk. Contains much fascinating information on step dancing.

Basically concerns singing traditions in east Suffolk, but has many references to step dancing and a lot of very well researched background material.

A most scholarly survey of step dancing within North Norfolk.

   Essentially a family history, including references to step dancing.

   A most comprehensive survey of music, song and dance of the mid-Suffolk area. Many
   references to step and broom dancing.

   1st Rev 11/85,
   2nd & 3rd Rev 1986,
   Notations for steps collected from Bob Cann and Leslie Rice, with some background
   material.

   Transcript of tape recorded interview of this concertina player and step dancer.

   148pp.
   A marvellous book about Scan Tester. Many references to step dancing and the Broom
   Dance. See particularly Chapter 5.

   Full biography and notations for Bob Cann's steps.

   (1991), [16pp].
   Effectively a slightly modified version of the above. The step notations are identical.

149. C. & A. Metherell, *Devon Step Dancers 2. Leslie Rice*, Newcastle: Newcastle Series,
   (1991), [16pp].
   Full biography and notations for Leslie Rice's Devon steps.


   Another Dick Hewitt obituary.

   Obituary of this Suffolk step dancer and melodeon player.

   Another interview transcript of the Sussex musician and step dancer.

   MT001. https://www.mustrad.org.uk/articles/duckett.htm
   Biographical account of this New Forest step dancer and bones player.

   A good overview of this form of dance.

   (2009), 155pp.
   Mostly social dance, but includes notations for step dancing collected in north Cornwall as
   well as several broom dances.
I have grouped these together as step dances sharing the common theme of utilising a prop during the dance, often simply laid on the ground and danced over rather than handled during the course of the movements. See also (156).

**Broom Dances and other "Dances Over Things"**

Mostly, of course, morris, but includes, in the following parts, notations for the Bacca Pipes Jig:
- Pt II, 1st edn (1909), 46pp, Headington (Oxon)
- Pt II, 2nd edn (1919), 68pp, Headington (Oxon)
- Pt III, 1st edn, (1910), 104pp, Headington (Oxon), Bampton (Oxon), Brackley (Nthants).
- Pt III, 2nd edn, (1924), 124pp, Bampton (Oxon), Brackley (Nthants). The latter is now accepted as coming from Hinton in the Hedges.

Contains an early notation for the Broom Dance.
   Amongst the Morris dances is a notation for "Over the Sticks", with a little background information.

   Merely a mention of a dance performed over crossed whips.

   Just a mention of the Broom Dance.

   Full notation for a dance collected from Mr Rowe of Bradninch.

   A compilation of information from the C.J. Sharp MSS, including, amongst other references, a notation for a version of the dance collected in Lew Trenchard.

   Merely a mention of a broom dance performed in the 1920's.

   A tantalising letter giving a few details.

   Rather general article, mentioning step dancing in addition to the Broom Dance.

   Has become the standard notational work on Cotswold and some other morris. Presupposes that the reader has a prior knowledge of the dance. Notations for various versions of Bacca Pipes from; Bampton (Oxon), Headington (Oxon) and Hinton in the Hedges (Nthants). Mentions of dance at Ascott under Wychwood (Oxon), Ilmington (Warks), Leominster (Herefs) and Oddington (Gloucs).

   Contains background and notation for the author's version of the broom dance which has become known as the Comberton Broom Dance.

   Notation for the dance with a little background.

   Stated to have been collected by members of Chanctonbury Ring Morris Men from Scan Tester

   Essentially a reprint of the author's 1974 article but with some extra information.

   A recasting of the 1984 booklet above.

184. A.G. Barrand (Ed), Roy Dommett's Morris Notes. 5 Vols.
   Vol 2, in addition to Cotswold Morris covers versions of Bacca Pipes. Vol 5 contains, in fact, quite a lot which is not morris at all. Includes notations for Over the Sticks, Sussex Four Handed Broom Dance (p158) and the Hop Pickers Broom Dance
On the clog side there is a notation for a Lancashire dance collected by Julian Pilling.

Contains chapters on step dances and broom dancing, including full notations. A video cassette is also available.

**Sailor's Hornpipe**


