



# Scottish Dances Collected by

**Mary  
Isdale  
MacNab**

Danced by  
Members of  
THE ROYAL SCOTTISH  
COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
(recorded between 1990 - 2003)

## CONTENTS

### 1. BECAUSE HE WAS A BONNIE LAD

#### MEDLEY

This Strathspey and reel medley was arranged from a dance collected by Mrs MacNab's brother in North Carolina.

Danced by members of the Edinburgh Branch in 2003. Music by the Muriel Johnstone Ensemble.

### 2. THE BRAES OF BALQUHIDDER

#### STRATHSPEY

This is a square dance in four parts.

Danced by staff and students at the 1990 Summer School in St. Andrews. Music by Green Ginger.

### 3. THE EARL OF ERROL'S REEL

#### JIG

This dance, in 3 couple sets, was collected in Quebec, Eastern Canada, although it came originally from France. The Earls of Errol own extensive lands in Perthshire and Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

Danced by The Thornhill Dancers in 2003. Music by the Muriel Johnstone Ensemble.

### 4. HEBRIDEAN WEAVING LILT

#### RUN

This is an occupational dance from Baleshare, North Uist. Four couples in a longwise set perform movements representing stages in the weaving of cloth with the shuttle, the loom, the threading and winding of the bobbin all illustrated in the dance formations. A running step, heavily accented on the first note of each bar, is used throughout the dance.

Danced by members of Leeds Branch in 1994 to traditional *Puirt a Beul* (mouth music) by Ray Jones.

### 5. KELVINGROVE

#### STRATHSPEY

This dance is for four couples in a square set. Kelvingrove in Glasgow is a classic example of a Victorian park and houses the Art Gallery and Museum as well as numerous other features.

Danced by members of Leeds Branch in 1994. Music by Ian Slater's Band.

### 6. LAMONT OF INVERYNE

#### REEL

This reel for four couples, starting in a longwise formation and moving into a square formation, is said to be from the 15th century and to have been danced on the occasion of the visit of Mary, Queen of Scots to Toward Castle, Argyll in 1563. The castle was the home of the chief of Clan Lamont. Collected from Allan McDonald of Truro, Nova Scotia.

Danced by members of Leeds Branch in 1994. Music by Ian Slater's Band.

### 7. MACDONALD OF SLEAT

#### JIG

This dance is taken from a collection of old Highland Dances from Appin, Argyll. The music for the dance is a well-known pipe tune, *Dovecot Park*, although here it is played by the Muriel Johnstone Ensemble. Danced by The Thornhill Dancers from Dumfries in 2003.

### 8. MCLAINE OF LOCHBUIE

#### REEL

Performed in sets of three couples, this dance is taken from a collection of dances of the Scottish Clans. It was danced in honour of Red Hector, one of the heroes at the Battle of Flodden in 1513.

Danced by members of London Branch in 2003. Music by the Muriel Johnstone Ensemble.

### 9. MACLEOD OF HARRIS

#### REEL

A Wedding Dance from the Isle of Harris, given to Mrs MacNab by Torquil MacLeod, late of Truro, Nova Scotia. The dance depicts the visit of the wedding guests, the reel, the friendship ring and the going home. Each couple stands at the door of their croft and waves goodbye to their friends.

Danced by four couples from the Lynmill Scottish Dancers in 1992. Music by David Cunningham and his Scottish Dance Band.

### 10. MCNICHOL OF THE BLACK ISLE

#### REEL

Danced by members of Lynmill Scottish Dancers in 1992. Music by David Cunningham and his Scottish Dance Band.

### 11. MISS FIONA MACRAE OF CONCHRA

#### STRATHSPEY

Conchra is in Glendaruel, Argyll. Danced at Tonbridge Dancers' Ceilidh in 1990. Music by Green Ginger.

### 12. ST. ANDREW'S NIGHT

#### JIG

Within the MacNab collection, this dance is unusual in being danced by groups of four around the room., all dancing at the same time.

Danced at St. Andrew's Summer School in 1990 to the music of Jennifer Wilson of the Summer School music staff.

### 13. THE SHEPHERD'S CROOK

#### STRATHSPEY

A set dance for one man and two women, the dance contains several steps from *The Highland Fling*.

Danced by members of Edinburgh Branch in 2003. Music by the Muriel Johnstone Ensemble.

**14. BONNIE ANNE – LAGACH ANNA****JIG**

Also known as An Rioghal Leanabh, The Royal Child. The story, together with the steps and music, was given to Mrs MacNab by an elderly lady from Argyllshire who had settled in Prince Edward Island.

Danced by The Thornhill Dancers in 2003. Music by the Muriel Johnstone Ensemble.

**15. BRIG O' DOON****STRATHSPEY**

Danced in sets of three couples, this dance was collected at Dalmellington in the early 19th Century: the dance was a great favourite at the balls in that district.

Danced by the Lynmill Scottish Dancers in 1992. Music by David Cunningham and his Scottish Dance Band.

**16. JEANNIE O' THE WITCHIN' E'E****JIG**

This dance was collected originally in Ayrshire but gifted by Mrs Fassiefern Bair of Vancouver, late of Appin. Mrs MacNab dedicated it to her friend, Jear Milligan.

Danced by members of London Branch in 2003. Music by Green Ginger.

**17. LAIRD O' DOCHART'S REEL****JIG**

The dance was collected from Archie MacNab of Toronto, Ontario. Toronto was named York in the old days, near to where Chief Archebald MacNab and some of his clansmen settled on their arrival from Scotland in 1823. The chief built a house on the banks of a stream which he named Dochart after a river in Scotland. The proud and haughty chief was named the Laird o' Dochart.

Danced by Lynmill Scottish Country Dancers in 1992. Music by David Cunningham and his Scottish Dance Band.

**18. THE LERWICK REEL****STRATHSPEY**

Danced at the Tonbridge Dancers' Ceilidh in 1991. Music by Robin Ellis and the Caledonian Band.

**19. LOCHANSIDE****3/4 TIME**

An old Highland dance. Danced by members of the RSCDS in Edinburgh in 2003. Music by the Muriel Johnstone Ensemble.

**20. MACLEOD OF DUNVEGAN****REEL**

Dedicated to Dame Flora McLeod of McLeod, Clan Chief at the time of that dedication. On the Isle of Skye, Dunvegan Castle is the ancestral home of the McLeods. The dance represents the formation of the castle. It was collected from Allan McDonald of Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Danced at the Tonbridge Dancers' Ceilidh in 1990. Music by Green Ginger.

**21. MCNEIL OF BARRA****MEDLEY**

This dance for six women and one man was recorded by members of Leeds Branch in 1994. Music by Ian Slater's Band.

**22. MOULIN DHU – THE BLACK MILL****RUN**

This dance shows the movements of the millwheel. It was collected in North Uist. A running step, heavily accented on the first note of each bar, is used throughout the dance.

Danced by members of Edinburgh Branch in 2003 to traditional *Puirt a Beul* (mouth music) by Gillin Anderson.

**23. OVER THE DEE AND OVER THE DON****JIG**

The Rivers Dee and Don are famous for encircling the City of Aberdeen in north-east Scotland. The weaving in and out of the dancers as they enter is supposed to represent the winding of the two rivers.

Danced by members of RSCDS London Branch in 2003. Music by the Muriel Johnstone Ensemble.

**24. ROTHESAY AT THE FAIR****REEL**

This dance was collected from a Mrs Peter Nimmo of Vancouver. It is said to have been danced in Glasgow about 1860 and children danced it as a game.

Danced by Lynmill Scottish Dancers in 1992. Music by David Cunningham and his Scottish Dance Band.

**25. THE ROYAL SALUTE****REEL**

The dance honours the visit of Queen Victoria to Scotland in 1842. It was collected from Mrs A McLean of Vermont, USA, who was originally from Oban, Argyll.

Danced by members of London Branch in 2003. Music by the Muriel Johnstone Ensemble.

**26. ROUKEN GLEN****STRATHSPEY**

This name of this dance refers to another of the many beautiful public parks in Glasgow.

Danced by members of Leeds Branch in 1994. Music by Ian Slater's Band.

**27. ST. ANDREW'S CROSS****REEL**

Collected in Elie, Fife, the dance honours the Patron Saint of Scotland.

Danced by members of Royal Tunbridge Wells Branch at the London Festival in 1990. Music by Frank Reid.

**Note** that the first figure is danced only once instead of four times.

## **The Duke of Gordon's Welcome to Aberdeen**

## **Reel**

The dance was collected from Mr Graham Forbes of Hamilton, Ontario, who was taught it by his grandfather in Scotland.

Danced by Lynmill Scottish Dancers in 1992. Music by David Cunningham and his Scottish Dance Band.