

The Missing MacNaberries

Typed descriptions from
Tom Flett/ Elizabeth Sutorius/ Hugh Thurston and others

*T16 Whirlygig
For Six Men*

(37b+then as nec.) Running Step



MARY ISDALE MACNAB

SCOTLAND
1889

CANADA
1966

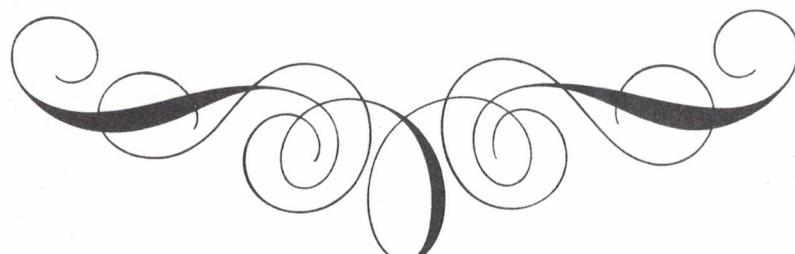
Mary Isdale MacNab, born in Glasgow, Scotland, came to Vancouver, B.C. Canada in 1907 with her family. She began teaching Highland dancing in 1910 and was still actively teaching within two months of her death in November, 1966. She trained hundreds of dancers during her career, among them many, many champions. She will be best remembered for her more recent accomplishments.

A number of dances from her collection of Ancient Highland Dances were presented by her group of dancers, the B.C. Highland Lassies of Vancouver, Canada, at the Edinburgh Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle in 1964. The girls then appeared as featured dancers with the Columbia Festival Royal Marines on their tour of the United States and Canada in 1966, and performed in Ottawa, Canada, in 1967 during the visit of H. M. Queen Elizabeth. These performances of the dances from this collection led to further acclaim and recognition for the dances, the collector and the Lassies.

Mrs. MacNab's dances were collected over fifty years of research. She explored historical records and challenged the memories of friends and acquaintances in Scotland. She continued her search as she probed into recollections of descendants of the Scottish Highlanders who had emigrated to the United States and Canada. In this way she was able to bring these dances back. Without her diligent search over the years, these dances would have been lost to us.

It had been only in this decade that Mrs. MacNab was persuaded to compile her notes for publication. We are indebted to Dr. Hugh Thurston, of the University of British Columbia, an authority on the dances of Scotland, for his help. His untiring efforts, as he worked directly with Mrs. MacNab and carried on after her death, have made the reproduction of these dances possible. We are grateful too, to Miss Joan Frazer, the present spokesman for the B.C. Highland Lassies, for her help and theirs in the preparation of these dances for print.

Mrs. MacNab left all records, rights and title to her collection of dances to her niece, Mrs. Elizabeth Sutorius, of San Diego, California, who intends to make the dances from this famed collection available to teachers of Highland dancing throughout the world, thus establishing a living memorial to this wonderful lady.



WHIRLYGIGMusic

Fast 4/4.

Step

Running-step throughout, four steps
in each bar.

Formation

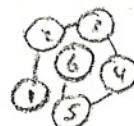
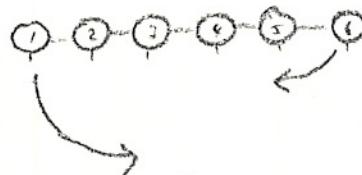
Six men stand as in the diagram.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Bars 1-4 | 1 takes 3's right hand in his left; 3 and 5, 5 and 6, 6 and 4, and 4 and 2 do the same. 1 casts off and dances in a clockwise circle, passing through 5 and 6's starting-places. All end in place (it does not matter if 6, 4 and 2 do not quite get there). |
| 5-8 | 5 and 6 release hands, 1 and 3 form an arch with theirs. 2 leads 4 and 6 under the arch and clockwise round 3 and 5 to places. |
| 9-12 | All release hands. 1 dances a figure-of-eight round 3 and 5. At the same time 2 dances a figure-of-eight round 4 and 6. |
| 13-16 | 5 and 6 dance figures-of-eight similarly. |
| 17-20 | 3 and 4 dance figures-of-eight. 3 starts by dancing round 5 and 4 round 2, clockwise. |

- 2 -

Facing the front

- 21 1, 3 and 5 run to their left, and 2, 4, and 6 to their right, 2 passing behind 1 and so on.
- 22 Dance from spring-points (4th position).
- 23-24 Run back to original places (1 passing behind 2), turn about, and spring-point.
- 25-28 As 21-24.
- 29-36 1 and 2 turn with right hands; on bar 31, 3 and 4 start to turn with right hands; on bar 33, 5 and 6. End side-by-side in line, with right shoulders towards the original front, and with nearer hands joined.
- 37... 6 dances forward and to his right, and 1 leads the others round him.



6 emerges from under the others' arms and leads everyone clockwise into line again.

Then the line closes up. Hands are held low and shoulders touching.



1 rotates anticlockwise on the spot and the line of dancers wraps round him.



Then 6 unwinds the roll of dancers and leads them off.

These movements take as many bars of music as the dancers find that they need.

(Dance collected by Mrs. Allan MacNab - Miss Mary Isdale - of Vancouver, B.C., from Hector MacPherson of Lochboisdale.)