

THE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCER

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Manager's Message

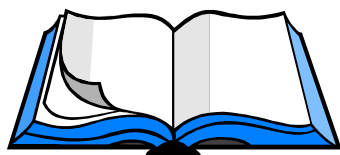
Geri Stuart

Happy New Year Everyone!

Hope you're ready to start a new century with dancing. Bring family, friends, and co-workers along to enjoy the fun.

We need to work on expanding our dance group. We're working on a Web page to get info out there, but do you have any other ideas? Please let me know.

Meanwhile, see you on the dance floor!



Tidbits from Old Times

By John Shaw

I recently received a copy of Ken McFarland's newsletter wherein he describes many items of interest from his recent travels to Scotland. Ken spent some time at the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh, researching country dances and dancing, and he describes some of his findings in his newsletter.

Ken also mentions a Library of Congress Web site called "An American Ballroom Companion, Dance Instruction Manuals". The Web address is given at the bottom of this page.

That Web page gives you a text box for entering a word (or words) for which to search. I entered "Scottish", of course, and it presented me with a list of about 70 books containing something about

Celebrating Dances Through the Centuries

That's the theme for this year's Annual Dinner Dance, hosted by the VancouverUSA Scottish Dancers. On the program for the evening are dances from each (or at least *many*) of the centuries Scottish Dance has been around.

This will be our 15th Annual Dinner Dance! It will be held at the Rudy Luepke Center (adjacent to the Marshall Center), 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd. Vancouver. The dinner starts at 6pm, followed by family dancing and introductory "audience participation" at 7, with the Grand March and dancing beginning at 7:45. For more info, please see the enclosed flyer.

The following dances comprise the program, though not necessarily in this

order:

Strathspeys:

The Enchanted Garden
Gang the Same Gate
Miss Gibson's Strathspey
Belle of Bon Accord
The Birks of Invermay

Jigs:

Roaring Jelly
The Kelloholm Jig
Light and Airy
The Cutty Sark
The Starry Eyed Lassie

Reels:

Red House
Clutha
Shiftin' Bobbins
What a Beau My Granny Was
Cromdel Hill

Scottish dance. The publication dates on these books ranged from the 1700's to the early 1900's.

The two excerpts below are from a book by Elias Howe, first published in 1862, titled American Dancing Master, And Ball-Room Prompter. (Actually, the full title fills most of the title page, as you can see on the next page.)

This first excerpt is Howe's description of Country Dance; I noticed among his list of "most fashionable" dances two that I recognized: Money Musk and The Sailor's Hornpipe:

Country Dances, or Contra Dances

The term "Country Dance" is the one invariably used in all books on dancing that have been published in England during the last three centuries, while all the works issued in France within the same period, employ the term Contra Dance, or in French, "Contre Danse,"

from being placed on contra sides. As the authority is equally good in both cases, either term is therefore correct...

Fifty years ago or more, the Country Dance was the only one danced in this country, except in the cities and large towns, where several fancy dances were occasionally performed; but even in those places the Country Dance reigned triumphant.

The dances that were at that time the most fashionable were: "Fisher's Hornpipe," "Chorus Jig," "Sir Roger de Coverley," "The Cushion Dance," "Money Musk," "Speed the Plough," "The Devil's Dream," "College Hornpipe," "Rustic Reel," "Six Handed Reel," "Reel fore and after a straight four," "Durang's Hornpipe," "The Sailor's Hornpipe," &c.

Continued on page 2, Tidbits

Tidbits (continued from page 1)

This next excerpt is Howe's explanation of the dance, Money Musk; can you follow it?

MONEY MUSK

First couple join right hands and swing once and a half round, go below 2d couple, (the 1st lady goes below 2d gent. on the outside, 1st. gent. at the same time goes below and between 2d and 3d ladies), forward and back six, 1st couple swing three quarters round, 1st gent. goes between 2d couple (on the inside), first lady goes between 3d couple inside, forward and back six, 1st couple swing three quarters round to place (below one couple), right and left four.

I think descriptions of Scottish Country Dances have come a long way!

To the right is an image of the title page of Elias Howe's book. Notice the line near the handwritten date, "DEPARTMENT AND THE TOILET". I determined, from this book and a couple of others, that "Toilet" refers to *the proper dress for the occasion*.

Yeah, me neither.

February Dance in Portland


On February 12, the Portland branch is holding a SCDance Party at the Odd Fellow's Hall, 13720 SW Pacific Hwy, Tigard (just north of the Portland Branch's practice hall). The dance starts at 7:30pm. For info, call John 503-635-3885 (email blackjohns@aol.com), or Don 503-692-5963 (email dlgerzt@teleport.com).

Dance program (not in order):

- Miss Gibson's Strathspey --- IS --- Leaflets
- Staffin Harvest ----- IS ----- 4/78
- Fair Donald ----- BIS ----- Bk 29
- Land o' Cakes ----- BIS ----- Bk 29
- Red House ----- IR ----- Bk 7
- Sailor ----- BIR ----- Bk 24
- Pinewoods Reel ----- IR -----
- Reel of the 51st ----- BIR ----- Bk 13
- Flowers of Edinburgh ----- BR ----- Bk 1
- <Teachers' Choice ----- R ----- ???
- Immigrant Lass ----- BIJ ----- Bk 39
- White Heather Jig ----- IJ ----- Cosh
- Light and Airy ----- BIJ ----- Bk 4
- Hollin Buss ----- BJ ----- Bk 24
- <Teachers' Choice----- J ----- ???

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DEPARTMENT AND THE TOILET,
AND THE
ETIQUETTE OF DANCING.
BY ELIAS HOWE,
ASSISTED BY SEVERAL EMINENT PROFESSORS OF DANCING,
BOSTON:
ELIAS HOWE.
1862.

Astronomical Trivia

This doesn't really have anything to do with Scottish stuff, but hey! they probably saw this in Scotland, too!

Did you notice the full moon on Dec 22? The 22nd was the winter solstice, which just happened to be the point in the earth's orbit when we were closest to the sun.

Also, that full moon occurred at the point in the moon's orbit when IT was

closest to the earth. The result: that full moon was the biggest and brightest in 133 years -- supposedly headlights were unnecessary in some areas. The last time this happened (on Dec 21, 1866) the Dakota Sioux took advantage of the light and launched a devastating attack on soldiers in the Wyoming Territory. Apparently, that configuration of astronomical factors won't happen again for another hundred years or so.

Back-to-Basics Workshop in Seattle

In Seattle there will be a Dance and Back-to-Basics Workshop on Saturday, February 19, at the Congregational Church, 4545 Isle Crest Way, Mercer Island. Sessions will include fine tuning of steps, both traveling and setting; teamwork; recovery; music; entry and exit to figures; and preparing for party programs. Live music will be provided for both the classes and the dance.

The workshop is \$10, and will be from 1:00 to 4:00pm. The dance is at 7:30pm, and is \$8.50 for members, \$11.50 for non-members. To register, contact Eileen Hsu (425) 462-0507, or eileen_hsu@agilent.com.

The following dances will be on the program:

Le Papillon	J	Light and Airy	R	The Royal Deeside Railway	R
Jessie's Hornpipe	R	Major Ian Stewart	J	Cherry Bank Gardens	S
The Byron Strathspey	S	Belle of Bon Accord	S	Bratach Bana	R
The Last of the Lairds	J	Duke of Perth	R	Lord Elgin's Reel	S
Rovin' Robin	R	Gang the Same Gate	S	Laird of Milton's Daughter	J
				The Reel of the 51 st Division	R

Seattle Spring Workshop and Dance

On Saturday, March 18, the RSCDS Seattle Branch will hold their Spring Workshop and Dance. The teacher will be Ron Wallace, and the music will be provided by The Wild Rose.

Class Levels: Participants should have attended Class regularly for at least 5 months. The morning session is for those who have been dancing for 2 years or less, and know the basic steps and common formations. The afternoon session is for those who have attended for *at least 2 years* and are proficient in footwork and most formations. The afternoon session participants are welcome to attend both classes.

Schedule Saturday, 18 March 2000:

Check in 9:00-9:25am
Warm up 9:30-9:45am

Class, basic/intermediate 9:45-12:00
Lunch break

Class, intermediate/advanced 1:00-3:15

Sherry Party 7:30pm

Dance 8:00pm

FEES

	Members	Non-members
Workshop&dance	\$25	\$30
Workshop only	15	18
Dance/Sherry only	12	15
Workshop lunch**	5	5
Non-dancer (Dance)	6	6

**A light vegetarian lunch may be ordered with advance registration.

Registration deadline: **10 March 2000**. Send Registration and check made out to RSCDS-Seattle Branch, to Elsie Spinning, 2829 NW 69th Street, Seattle, WA 98117.

For information, call (206) 789-5622

Program:

Mrs Stewart's Jig	J
The Gentleman	S
Workshop Jig/Reel	
Sarona	S
The Royal Deeside Railway	R
The Sailor	R
The Byron Strathspey	S
The Whistling Wind	R
Jennifer's Jig	J
Workshop Strathspey	
General Stuart's Reel	R
Bratach Bana	R
Staffin Harvest	S
Gothenberg's Welcome	J
Miss Milligan's Strathspey	S
Clutha	R

Note: all dances will be briefed

Celtic Muse	Harp-Flute Recorder-Harp
Jennifer Pratt-Walter	(360) 693-4715 Lyrica@prodigy.com
Valerie K. Blessley	(360) 576-8111 Blesses@pacifer.com

Cobblestone	Vicki Clark (503) 636-2913
Celtic Music	Gail Gibbard (503) 650-4492
	Doug Hamar (503) 245-6593
PO Box 794 Lake Oswego, OR 97034	

Calendar of Events

- Jan 25 **Robert Burns Birthday**
- Feb 12 **Portland SCDance Party:** 7:30 PM, Tigard Grange, Tigard, OR.
- Feb 19 **VancouverUSA Annual Dinner Dance** - music by Lisa Scott and Linda Danielson. Rudy Luepke Center (adjacent to the Marshall Center), 1009 E. McLoughlin Blvd. Vancouver; for info, see Article and Insert in this issue, or call 360-834-3757 or 360-576-5678.
- Mar 11 **Portland SCD Workshop/Ball** in Tigard; for info call John 503-635-3885.
- Mar 18-25 **Dance Workshop in Hawaii**, on the island of Kauai. Music will be provided by **Alisdair Frasier**. Contact Ken McFarland, 800-822-3435, or email farlands@ptialaska.net.
- Mar 18 **Seattle Spring Workshop and Ball** see article this issue.
- Mar 19 **Seattle Stepdance Workshop** info: Bruce Miller 206-782-8345 or Adrian Price 206-365-6653
- Apr/May?? **VancouverUSA Spring Dance** - planning is just beginning, right now we think it will be late April or early May. Stay tuned!
- May 20 **Seattle May Ball** formal banquet; more info as it becomes available.

Wild Irish Designs (360) 882-2980
 5620 NE Gher Rd
 Suite I
 Vancouver, WA 98662

DancElite
 Sylvia Zingeser Ph (503) 244-2669
 8605 SW 8th
 Portland, OR 97219

Celtic Harp (360) 693-4715
 Jennifer Pratt-Walter

The Celtic Corner (503) 287-3009
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*Do you have an item of Celtic interest
 you would like to see in print?*

You can contact me in any of the following ways:

By mail:

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 Battle Ground, WA 98604-2438

By email: bcjs@pacifier.com