

The Esperence Morris Book Vol.1 p4, refers to stick dances collected from two Instructors at Fishguard, South Wales, who had a side there - this may still be worth following up. -

It was danced on connection with a mummings play with characters like Nelson, Wellington, Prince George, St. Patrick etc. According to the booklet "Christmas Rhymes & Mummings in Ireland" by Alan Gailey the characters include also Czar of Russia, Napoleon, Polish King, Doctor, Little Devil, Panfool etc - obviously in matched pairs, as dance is for 12 men.

1st DANCE

Sticks - about 15" long, with tassel on handle, rest position on right shoulder - flat side long sword not round - hit flat to flat.

Music - Jigs (both dances)

- 1) Once to yourself : No jump to start dance (nor anywhere through it)
- 2) Foot up : 8 bars stepping (1 2 3 hop) on spot facing partner/left foot start.
- 3) Repetitive Movement:

- A) Bar 1 : 1 bar morris step facing opposite, stick on shoulder
- Bar 2 : Ditto
- Bar 3 : Clash partner with stick (hitting flats)
 - a) 1st beat - hit from left to right, stick sloped up to left, so that stick moves away from body during the hit
 - b) Middle beat - hit from right to left, with stick sloped to right.

No stepping in this bar.

Bar 4 : Hit neighbour along line the same way as one hit opposite in bar 3 (a), (b).

Note : as progression is like a country dance, neighbour standing on the same side (as dance done in units of 4) 'til one reaches the end of the set.

[Note - Neutral couples at ends of set in alternate repeats remain static for the 32 bars - just like a country dance]

Bar 5 : hit partner, as bar 3 (a) on 1st beat only (no stepping)

Bar 6 : hit corners stick - 1st corner hits over top of 2nd corner (as in bar 3 (b) - no step)

Bar 7&8 : Corners cross with 2 morris steps 2nd corners crossing first.

B) Repeat all A to place but new second corner hits over 1st in bar 6 and 1st corner crosses first in bar 7.

hits

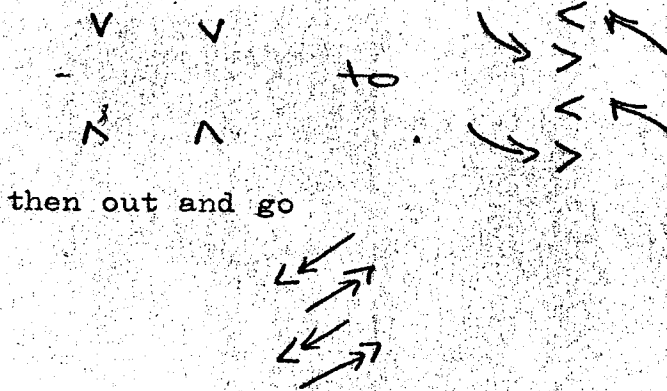
Music ob. | d d d d | d d d d | d d d d | d d d d | d d d d | d d d d | d d d d | d d d d |

step step stationary step step

on spot turn turn corners cross

x opp x neighbours x opp x corner

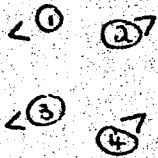
C) Step into line and step in line, thus from



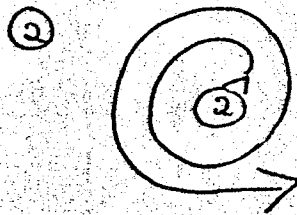
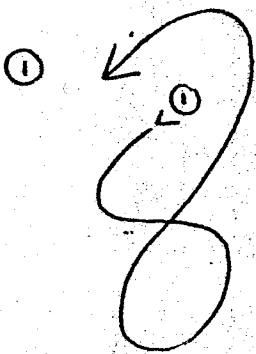
D) Progression

Each man does something different.

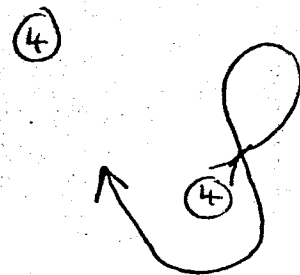
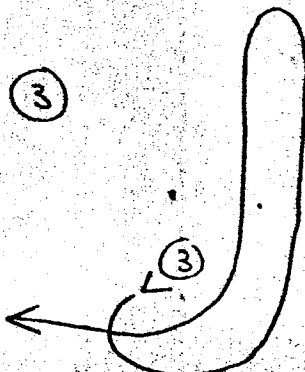
starting from C) which is



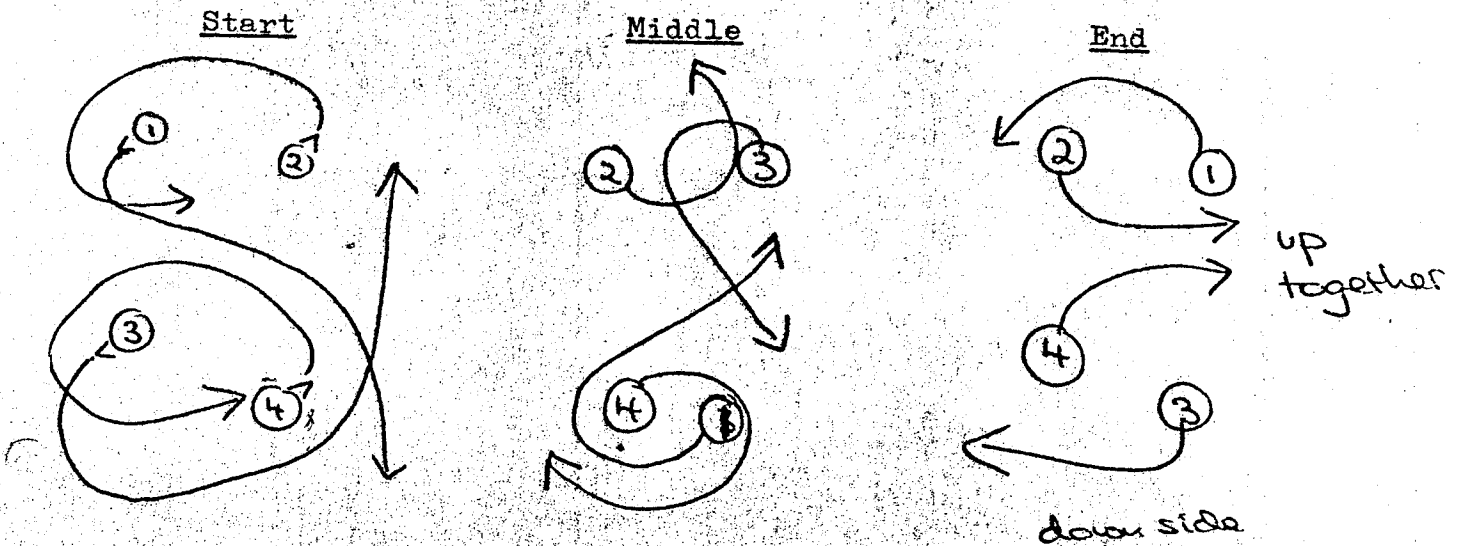
showing the direction by the arrowhead, that the men are facing, they go



(teach it individually)



To illustrate what happens when they all move together



Assuming you are confused it goes,

- a) 1 & 3 facing \swarrow both turn to their left to face back (not on the spot) and then cross sides with each other, while 2 & 4 both circle round to their left.
- b) 3 & 1 continue round in 'fig 8' i.e. 3 to his left and 1 to his right and cross back while 2 & 4 follow them round the circle left and right respectively.
- c) 2 & 4 go up the middle together, while 1 & 3 go down the outsides (or down and up if you like)

Dance continues in country dance fashion as long as liked - i.e. 'til back to start if like.

- 4) Dance ends with the Foot Up as 2.

There is nothing magical about 12 men - would find 8 equally acceptable but then in each alternate repeat only middle 4 would be moving.

PROCESSIONAL

ON In 2 files : at dance spot do several outside casts - end facing out (not up) and bow to audience.



OFF Foot up facing partner then casts and lead of up middle.

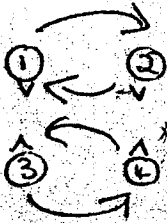


2nd DANCE - Music - jigs : working in 4's again

A) Partners face:

Bars 1 & 2 : Neighbours change places with sidestep
Irish step - "a seven" meaning 7 movements.
1st step, assuming moving to the right, is
to put left foot behind the right, right to
side, left behind etc.

(hop on r) /l r l r/l r l -/



Irish equivalent to morris long sidestep to right

second couple moves up between first

Bars 3 - 4 : step on spot : Irish step "two threes"
- as a rant step but foot behind not in front

/r l r. -/l r l -/

[This stepping behind is sidestep and ordinary step is Southern England as well]

[You could translate directly into morris terms and use open and closed morris steps!]

Bars 5 - 6 : hit partner and neighbour as in dance one bars 3 - 4.

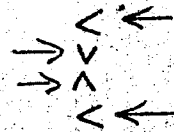
Bar 7 : Corners cross with 2 plain step



Bar 8 : Face partner and hit 2 times /r to 1 and 1 to r

B) Repeat A to place.

C) Bars 1 - 4 as A 1 - 4 but into line only.



D) Pairs face up and down line - step and change places for the progression

