

THE NORTH-EASTERN LONG SWORD

The major source of information is the "Sword Dances of Northern England" by Cecil Sharp - 2nd edition 1951 - in 3 volumes. The following is supplementary.

AMPLEFORTH

There has been a revival of the dance at the village which had some assistance on difficult parts of Sharp's notation from old dancers. This needs to be followed up.

BELLERBY

Source:- M. Karpeles. Jour. EFDS. 2nd series. No. 2. 1928

Team of 6, numbered clockwise. Skipping step.

1. Link up hilt & point. Circle left 8 bars, circle right 8 bars, face direction moving.
2. Single Over & Under. Nos. 1 & 6 hold down sword. No. 2 jumps over followed by 3, 4, 5, 6 & 1. This leaves No. 6 with hand crossed. Nos. 1 & 6 hold up sword. Nos. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 & 6 in turn pass under to original places. No. 6 takes turn to uncross hands.
1. As before.
3. Lock. Raise hands & make whole turn clockwise to face centre - Lock made at head level - point over hilt. Dancers walk clockwise, king displays lock. Lock then thrown down in middle of set.
4. Reel.

3	4	(a)	hey for 3 on each side - men face up and passing left shoulders. Double step (8 bars)
2	lock 5	(b)	Clog stepping - middles facing tops (4 bars)
1	6	(c)	bottoms (4 bars)
		(d)	Repeat all.
5. Pick up lock and draw.

FLAMBOROUGH

Source:- Schofield MSS.

The following suggestions were made based on either traditional or EFDSS practice.

1. Call Threedling A, "Threadle Over"
Threedling B & C, "Threadle Under"
Double Threedling A, B & C, "Cast & Spin", "Arches", "Pousette".
2. Either let No. 1 go over or under first each time or let every man lead off one movement, going successively round set.
3. Form up in column

8	7	6	5	Start pousette "all together" not progressively.
1	2	3	4	
4. Form straight hey either 1>2<3<4<5<6<7<8 & start progressively, or start "all together", 8><1 7><2 6><3 5><4.

Source:-N.Peacock, Journ.EFDSS Vol.8.No.1.p.29,1956.

6 dancers numbered clockwise.Order of dance:-

The Calling On; First Dance; Play ; Second Dance

Lock:-comes in play not dance - like "Nip-it" in Sleights - each man turns clockwise & finishes with right hand over left.

Step:-a "hitching" step with lift of foot rather than a hop

(as Bellerby).Leader can direct a lapse into a steady tramp.

Order:-figures in any order but Roll & Weaving only in second part and often omitted.

SINGLE UNDER TO THE RIGHT.1 & 2 put up 2's sword and 6 leads under it,going to the left round 1 and returning to his place.5 & 4 follow 6;3 follows 4 through the arch,but turns right,round 2,to his place,3 & 4 carrying 4's sword over the heads of the rest while 1 & 2 turn under 2's.(cf.Third-man-under,Ampleforth).

Repeat with swords raised in clockwise order.

SINGLE UNDER TO THE LEFT.Mirror image of above.3 leading under 2's sword first time.Repeat with swords raised in clockwise order.

DOUBLE UNDER as Kirkby Malzeard with 2's sword raised first and others in clockwise order.

SINGLE OVER TO RIGHT OR LEFT,DOUBLE OVER.As above;the men who hold down sword do not go over it.

THE ROLL. 1 & 2 lead away for a few paces,the rest of the set(still linked)following in two lines

5 6 1. 2's sword is raised and
4 3 2

6,5 & 1 and 3, 4& 2 make small circles passing underneath it.

After a few rounds,leader calls on another pair to lead off.

WEAVING.A pousette without spins,performed by 1&2,6&3,5&4 linked in pairs.At end of each dance each man "draws" dis sword with a flourish outwards from centre of the ring.

At beginning of each dance the dancers link up hilt & point & go clockwise for 8 bars and anticlock for 8 bars.

GRENOSEIDE

Source:-Schofield MSS - based on performances in 1938 & written notations from member of team.It is not necessary to assume that the traditional side had changed its dance since Sharp saw it - inspection of his Field Notebooks show that the differences can be explained by (a) he did not notice all the finer points (b) the side dancing a little sloppy (c) making wrong choices when reconstructing from his notes.The following notes should be read with Sword Dances Part 1.

1. Before starting a movement or for stepping, set is in a column not a circle;with sword going up or down as one end
2. Start left foot first beat of bar, right foot on middle beat. Always try and go over sword right foot first ie.middle beat.
3. JIG:- start tap left foot, marking time, then step forward with right putting swords onto left shoulder. Change shoulders every 6th. step ie.when on right foot (middle beat) Present side every 3rd. Ring then stepping, both ways. Lock. Ring then stepping, each way again but with clashing of swords.(Sharp did not see this) Low clash.

4. HORNPIPE:- sword between 1 & 6 always up or down first.

Over Neighbours Sword:-preparatory step on right foot on last beat of bar. Step up to sword with left, over with right, then left & to place with right on last beat.

Single Sword Down:-the men holding the sword down move slowly across the set & retire backwards, without going over the sword. (this is in ShaF but not ShaSi) Couples go over in pairs.

Double Swords Down:-see discussions in "Sword Dance Variants" EFDS News, Sept. 1927 and "Fresh Light on Kirkby Malzeard" Journ. EFDSS, 1947 - Journal Reprint No. 1.

5. REEL:- Sharp has a mistake - taken literally never end in ones place. Start facing other way 1 v. 6 etc, across top of column. Step a jaunty walk in which free foot may strike ground lightly on off beat. Circular hey for 6 bars - stepping for 2. Repeat. Then step for 8 bars. Then all through again.

Roll done with couples very close to each other and very fast.

6. RING-A-RING-O-ROSES:- lay swords aside. Each dancer, starting with Captain goes into middle of set & steps while rest take hands in a ring and circle left and right around him. End with all stepping.

There seem to have been some minor changes to tighten up the dance since the war. (see English Dance & Song Oct. 1964. Vol 26. No. 5. p125) The traditional side has close contacts with the Grenoside Morris Men.

HANDSWORTH

After "Three-divide-down" there is a fast figure, seen by Sharp on his first visit but not on his second, which precedes the Lock.

Ring:-dancers march round with sword in right hand, held vertically up right arm, tucked into side.

Clash:-move slowly round clockwise Then join up hilt & point & circle clockwise, facing centre, slip step.

Snake:-each man takes four steps to go over sword - step over on 3rd. All stamp alternate feet throughout.

Single-Up:-circle keeps flowing anticlockwise & arch going other way, makes it similar to "single guard" of the rapper.

Single-Down:-sword going down does not move.

Fast figure:-start from open circle going anticlockwise. No. 1 turns out c. clock under his raised hands while rest of set bunch up in centre and continue anticlockwise. No. 1 then circles round set going clockwise - always facing centre - till he can drop into his place. Figure really a fast "Single-Up" & even more like a "single-guard". To accomodate the stiff sword each man holds his neighbours sword sloping up over his left shoulder - thus right hands rest on left shoulders in front. eam wears boots and accents steps onto left foot.

GOATHLAND dance reputedly similar to SLEIGHTS. Where is a notation?

RIPON dance reputedly very similar to KIRKBY MALZEARD.

Source:- Sharp MSS. 6 men to a team.(cf.dance to Ampleforth)
 Step:- springy bounding step much as Handsworth all through the dance

3 taps on drum then

CLASH - 8 steps clockwise, 8 steps counterclock in usual way.

THIRD MAN OVER - 1 puts down sword (between him & 6) over which 2, 3
 ...6 jump and return to place. Nos. 2, 3, 5 turn to right round 1.

No. 4 (The 3rd man) to his left round No. 6, No. 6 jumps round after
 No. 5. This repeated 5 times. Nos. 2, 3, ... putting sword down. (clockwise)

THIRD MAN UNDER - as last except No. 1 raises sword & makes arch.

PLAITING - link up in couples 1&2, 6&3, 5&4. Half pousette in usual
 way, 3 turns, till all in places.

ROLL - as usual, spinning between each pass & at each end when
 neutral.

THREE REEL OVER - group in 3's.

	2	3	4	5
				6
	1			

lower swords between 1&3, 6&5. 2 jumps over 1's sword & turns to
 his left round No. 3. No. 1 follows him & both return to places.

Done in stationary position by each set of 3.

DOUBLE OVER - as at Sleights, No. 1 first holding down sword & then
 2, 3, ... 6. No. 6 jumps sword first round.

YOUR OWN SWORD - as usual once around.

SHOULDER LOCK - stand facing c.c.l. with left neighbours sword over
 right shoulder and other sword in left hand. Whole turn clockwise
 and lock.

ROSE - leader raises lock in right hand. All dance round counter-
 clock (8 bars). Then leader places lock on ground, and gives 3 claps
 after which all raise lock & dance round very fast, music quickening
 to end of phrase, when all draw. (8 bars).

KIRKBY MALZEARD

Sources:- see under Grenoside for Kennedy papers.

D.N. Kennedy said in 1927 that there were slight differences
 between Sharp & traditional side in method of dancing single-under
 & single-over. Sharp Fieldnotes say "In single over left upright
 man backwards all time. Then he turns backwards & becomes right
 upright in next round. After first round, 1st man under in single
 under goes backwards." This statement is not reflected in published
 description.

There was clearly an error in Sharp's description of Over-Double-
 Sword, due to a mis-reconstruction. In his Fieldnotes Sharp has
 Kirkby Malzeard "same as Grenoside" - yet for Grenoside he did not
 note the order in which they went over. Obviously he guessed wrong!

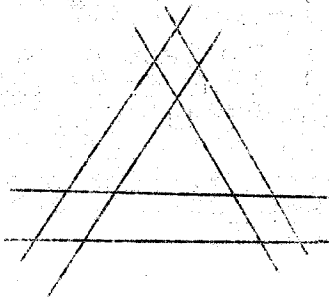
Rolf Gardiner wrote to Artur Heffer on 15.9.24 having seen the
 traditional side on 14.9.24 and said:-

"There was no running but a very speedy quick-march step, the feet
 slithering over the ground, not shuffling quite, yet still never
 leaving the floor for more than a fraction of an inch. The dance
 was far compacter than we generally make it & gave rather more the
 impression of a rapper dance than the open Handsworth fashion.

Ralph Woods, the captain, would have none of "the doggeral business!" The tune used was "the auld wife O'Dallow Gill"

Double Sword:-Nos. 2, 3 down, No. 1 goes over putting his right hand down & jumping backwards over his own sword. Then the order over Nos. 6 (not 4) 5, 4, etc. This gave a much neater appearance to the movement.

Lock:-They all stoutly affirmed that the hexagonal lock was not traditional in Kirkby but the triangular one was.



Made right over left, under one hand and over t'other.

One man gashed his forehead badly on a sword sharpened on both edges."

KIRBYMOORSIDE

Source:- Sharp MSS. Team of 6 numbered cl. (cf. Ampleforth)

Tune:- Girl I Left Behind Me. Step:-a walk not springy.

CLASH:- 4 bars clockwise, 4 bars anticlockwise, then repeat in a ring hilt & point.

THIRD MAN OVER (never under) No. 1 puts down sword, 6 goes over first. 5 leaps over & turns to left round 6, No. 4 goes to right round No. 1. & Nos 3 & 2 go to left round 6. No. 4 is 3rd man over and only one to turn to right. This continued, opening clockwise, sword being held down successively by 2, 3, 6.

THREE REEL:- 2 sets of 3 each.

No. 2 goes under No. 1 sword, turns to left round 3 to place. No. 1 follows No. 2 round No. 3 to place. This repeated Nos. 2, 3 raising swords. The whole figure generally done 2 or 3 times, then "fall-in" called. The 3 men could if they liked go on doing this moving round the room at the same time.

LOCK:- All go round a while clockwise hilt & point. Then all make whole turn c.cl. & face centre & tie in ordinary way. Walk round a while joining swords. Then No. 1 exhibits lock while all walk round 4 bars clockwise & 4 bars c.cl.

Then Rose at waist height, 4 bars each way & all draw, raising lock preparatory to doing so as at Sleights.

RING:- ring round clockwise for 2 or 3 times.

FOURTH MAN OVER (never under):- As 3rd man but 4th man to right.

WEAVING:- whole not half pousette. Neutrals spin in reverse direction to that they have previously been moving in.

ROLL:- as Grenoside - spinning at ends only. 1st cu over 2nd, under 3rd, spinning as they go over but not as they go under. At each end spin twice, reversing direction.

RING:- ring once or twice then Lock & Draw as before, all shouldering swords at finish.

SKELTON-IN-CLEVELAND, NORTH SKELTON, BOOSEBECK, LOFTUS, LINGDALE & Skelton Green form a family that need more investigation.

THIRSK/SOWERBY

Source:- Sharp MSS .Assume these are the same dance.

Tune:- Girl I Left Behind Me.

6 dancers.Part of action of a play as Ampleforth or Bellerby.

CLASH:- "Beat-up"- as at Kirkby Malzeard.

YOUR OWN SWORD (& YOUR NEIGHBOURS SWORD) - as Kirkby to.

SINGLE OVER - "Single Shuffle" (& SINGLE UNDER) - as Kirkby to.

DOUBLE OVER (& DOUBLE UNDER) - "Double Shuffle" -

HIGH LOCK - ring clockwise - half turn clockwise to face outwards

& tie lock above head.Place lock around Clown's head.Then each

holding own hilt,dance round 8 bars & draw.Clown falls down &

feigns death.Cry for doctor,ending with revival of clown.

WAVES OF THE SEA:- as at Sleights,those going down passing over

each of other couples,those going up passing under.

THREE REEL:- as Kirbymoorside.