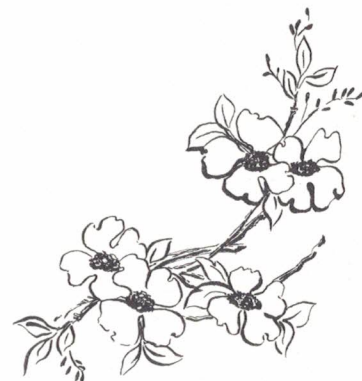


# THE HUNTLY REEL

A TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH DANCE  
FOR EIGHT MEN

Collected by  
MARY ISDALE MACNAB  
of  
VANCOUVER, CANADA



**MARY ISDALE MACNAB**

SCOTLAND  
1889

CANADA  
1966

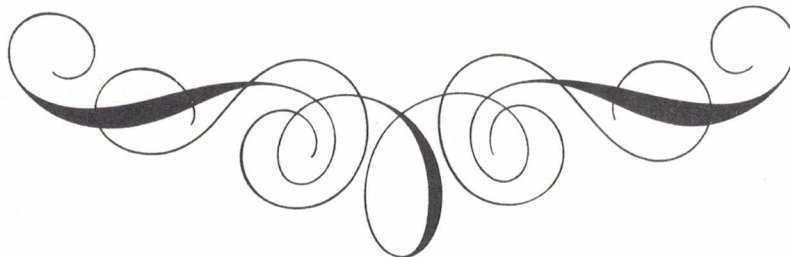
Mary Isdale MacNab, born in Glasgow, Scotland, came to Vancouver, B.C. Canada in 1907 with her family. She began teaching Highland dancing in 1910 and was still actively teaching within two months of her death in November, 1966. She trained hundreds of dancers during her career, among them many, many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



## THE HUNTLY REEL

(Collected from John Gordon of Truro, N. S., Canada. This dance was a favorite in Aberdeenshire during the 17th century, and was later revived in Canada.)

MUSIC: Strathspey — Dorroter Bridge  
 Reel — Merrily Danc'd the Quaker's Wife

FORMATION: Country dance formation of four couples in line. The dance is preferably done by eight men; if four ladies do the dance with four men, they may use the steps described in (parentheses) below.

### STRATHSPEY

#### Bars

- 1-8 Reels of four at the sides, using the highland strathspey travelling step. The reel may be in 8 bars, or in 6 bars followed by: face partners across the dance, assemble, R foot in front, leap, assemble, L foot in front. (Ladies — the country dance strathspey travelling step.)
- 9-16 All set to partners, using the first highland fling step: round-the-leg or shedding. (Ladies — highland schottische)
- 17-24 First and second couples, and third and fourth couples, dance right hands across and left hands back, completing the figure with couples 1 and 3 facing down the set, and couples 2 and 4 facing up. (See Fig. 1.) Men stand side by side with backs of near hands touching. (If ladies dance, take promenade position. Note that No. 1 and No. 3 ladies will be at the left of their partners.)
- 25-32 Double (i.e., in couples) reel of four (see Fig. 1), completing the figure in original places.
- 33-40 All set to partners, using the second highland fling step: first back-stepping, or any other highland fling step. (Ladies — highland schottische)
- 41-42 All *stamp* on R foot, and with running steps 2-3-4-5-6-7-8, pass partners by R shoulders, and turn by the right into the opposite line of the dance, and slightly to the right of partners' places. (See Fig. 2)
- 43-44 All dance Glasgow Highlanders step, starting with R foot only; this puts all dancers into partners' places. (See Fig. 2)
- 45-46 All *stamp* on L foot, and with running steps 2-3-4-5-6-7-8, pass partners by L shoulders, and turn by the left into own line of the dance, and slightly to the left of own places. (See Fig. 2)

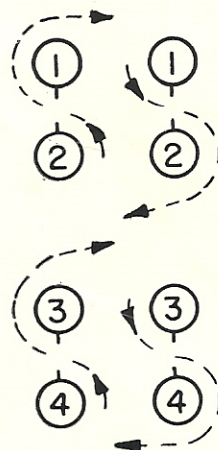


Fig. 1

47-48

All dance Glasgow Highlanders step, starting with L foot only; this returns all dancers to their original places. (See Fig. 2)

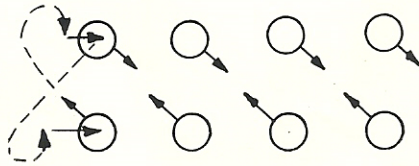


Fig. 2

49-56

All set to partners, using the sixth highland fling step: cross-over, often called the Huntly step. (Ladies — highland schottische)

REEL

1-8

Reels of four at the sides of the dance, using the highland travelling step. (Ladies — the skip change of step)

9-12

All set to partners with pas de basque and balance to R and L.

13-16

Eight high cutting. (Ladies — repeat pas de basque and balance)

17-20

All turn partners by the right, using the kilt grip as in Reel of Tulloch, making one full turn to the opposite sides of the dance. On the last 2 counts, face partners and two high cutting — spring L, R working; spring R, L working. (Ladies — assemble, L foot in front, then assemble, R foot in front.)

21-24

All turn partners by the left, back to original places. On the last 2 counts, face partners and assemble, R foot in front, leap, assemble, L foot in front. (Ladies — assemble R, assemble L.)