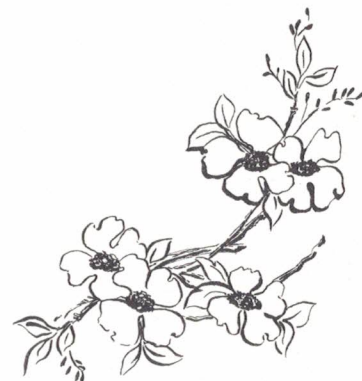


The Missing MacNaberries

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

*T12 The Sailors' Knot
For Three Couples*

32+48+2x40b Hornpipe



MARY ISDALE MACNAB

SCOTLAND
1889

CANADA
1966

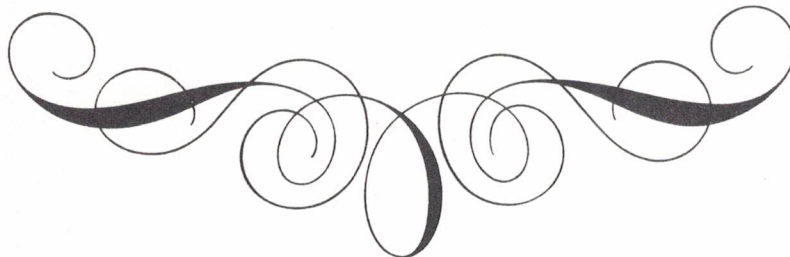
Mary Isdale MacNab, born in Glasgow, Scotland, came to Vancouver, B.C. Canada in 1907 with her family. She began teaching Highland dancing in 1910 and was still actively teaching within two months of her death in November, 1966. She trained hundreds of dancers during her career, among them many, many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

A sailors' dance from the South Island

This dance was apparently presented to collector and choreographer the late Mrs Mary Isdale MacNab in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. It was given to her by a Scottish engineer on a boat from Dunedin in New Zealand, which came into the harbour of Vancouver in about the 1950's.

He reportedly told the story that the River Clutha, the longest river in New Zealand, rises in Lake Wanaka right in the middle of the South Island and flows out east into the Pacific Ocean near Kaitangata, just about half way between Dunedin and the southern tip of the Island. Indeed, the river flows through Clutha County past the townships of Cromwell, Clyde, Alexandra and Balclutha, all of which have an old Scottish heritage.

His boat, apparently manned by a crew mainly from Glasgow - hence the possible connection with the Clutha - plied up and down that great river. He stated that this dance was performed by the male sailors on board. However, the dance can be done by 6 men, or 3 men and 3 women.

Note that with all due respect to Mrs MacNab she was reportedly not the most accurate of notators of dances when collecting from those she met. And she was also an accomplished choreographer. Therefore, the notation offered below, as transcribed and interpreted from her original notes, is not necessarily the exact version as danced as by the Scottish crew.

Chris Brady, London 2014

The Sailors' Knot

Note: The handwriting below is likely to be Mrs MacNab's original notes

The typed transcript with bar counts is likely to be from Professor Tom Flett

Dance: A dance for three couples. Should all be men, but can be danced by mixed couples as described below.

Music: The hornpipe from Ruddigore or Jessie's Hornpipe, etc.

Formation: Three 'couple' set - that is three men on one side and three 'women' on the other side facing them.

Order of couples is: 1 - 2 - 3

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL chrisbrady.itgo.com/dance/nzdance/sailorsknot/sailorsknot.htm. The page title is "The Sailors' Knot". The content includes:

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Order of couples is: 1 - 2 - 3

The diagram shows a formation with three rows of dancers. The top row is labeled "women" and the bottom row is labeled "men". The middle row is labeled "Top". Arrows indicate the direction of movement: down arrows from the women to the top row, and up arrows from the men to the top row. The text "arrows show direction faced" is next to the arrows.

The Sailor's Knot.
A dance for three couples. Should be all men, but can be danced by mixed couples. This description is for mixed couples.

Bars **Figure 1**
1 - 8 No.1 lady casts off, turning outward behind No.2 lady while No.1 man

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the time 14:49 on 14/11/2018 and a timer showing 00:36.

The Sailor's Knot.

A dance for three couples. Should be all men, but can be danced by mixed couples. This description is for mixed couples.

Bars Figure 1

1 - 8 No.1 lady casts off, turning outward behind No.2 lady while No.1 man does ditto behind No.2 man (2 bars) Facing each other diagonally across the dance, the woman looking down, the man up, in the middle of the set, they set with 2 pas de basque steps (2 bars.) Passing each other by left shoulder, the woman dances behind the third man, passing his left shoulder who turns outward to face her. The man does the same with No.2 lady, passing her left shoulder and she turns outward to face him (2 bars). They set to each other with 2 pas de basque steps, 1st woman facing 3rd man, 1st man facing 2nd woman (2 bars) At the same time the other man and woman also set but do not change position.

9 - 16 Repeat around opposite corners, setting etc. Bars 17 - 24
and woman continue round the people to whom they were setting to face each other up and down the dance and without pausing, dance towards each other to meet in the centre between couples 2 who had moved up at the first cast off, and couple 3. 4 skip change of steps for this (4 bars) All three couples turn with two hands finishing with 6 hands across (4 bars)

25 - 32 All dance 6 hands round without reversing - this simulates coiling a rope round a bollard. The order is now 2, 1, 3. (Finish with stamps 1,2,3 as in sailors hornpipe with arms folded sailor fashion)

Tom Fleet

simulates sailors working on deck.

- Bars Figure 2. Pacing - takes 16 bars and ~~SIMULATES~~
- 1 - 16 Couples going up, begin with outside foot, couples going down with inside foot. Pattern finishes 3,2,1 (that is with 1st couple at bottom of set) Couple 2 dances down as couple 1 dances up, with pas de basque step using appropriate foot, 1 on the spot, both couples in line. Couple 2 continues dancing with couple 3, while couple 1 remains standing at the t. p. Couple 2 is now at the bottom in 8 bars. Couple 1 now begins dancing down with couple 3 dancing up. As couple 3 continues dancing to the top, couple 2 dances down to the middle and at the end of the 16th bar, the order is 3, 2, 1. All three couples turning to face up the dance.
- 17 - 24 Simulates sails blowing out in the wind.
Couple 1 dance up the dance in a figure 8 around the couples above them circling well out to simulate the sails.
- 25 - 32 Couple 2 repeat.
- 33 - 40 Couple 3 repeat. Be careful that each couple arrives on the spot on bar 7, stamping 123 on bar 8.
- 41 - 48 All set on the spot, turning on bar 2, 4, and 6, to look down the dance. All dance down to original place on bar 8.
- Figure 3 Grand Chain, still simulating the wind in the sails.
- 1 - 32 1st couple, wing with right hand, held well away from each other, for four bars, then continue round the circle in Grand Chain. They get back to place, turn to swing with the person in line immediately above them. Thus everybody is moving at the finish. (Four bars for each hand.) Turn to face down the dance at close.
- 33 - 40 With arms foled again, ladies chasse to right, men to left, across the dance - 2 bars. Set with R or L ft. one bar only and stamp 123 with other bar. Chasse back, set with pas de basque step and stamp 123, finish facing across the dance.

- Bars Figure 4
- 1 - 8 2nd couple dance. - 2nd woman dances across and round 1st man, passing R shoulder and round left shoulder, while 2nd man dances across and round 3rd lady, R shoulder, and round L. They then pass each other R shoulder, turn to face and set. (8 bars)
- 9 - 16 2nd woman now dances round 3rd man by L shoulder, passes and round to centre to pass her partner again R shoulder, while 2nd man dances round 1st lady by R and L shoulder, passes his partner R shoulder and they again set across the dance, finishing in place, facing up. *Down*
- 17 - 24 Picking up.
- 2nd woman ~~xxx~~ gives R hand to partner and leads round 1st woman who gives R hand to 2nd man. They dance round No.1 man who gives R hand to partner. All four lead round 3rd man who gives R hand to 1st man.
- All five lead round 3rd lady who gives R hand to partner. ^{25 - 32} / They form
- ~~xxxxx~~
25 - 32 a circle with R hands across. Dance half way round and back with L hands. This simulates the turning of the steering wheel.
- 33 - 40 Led by 1st lady, they join hands and exit in a string.

The end.

Presented to Mrs. Allan MacNab by a Scottish engineer on a boat from Dunedin, New Zealand, which came into the harbour of Vancouver, B.C. He told the story that the River Clutha, the largest river in N.Z. rising in Lake Wanaka right in the middle of the Southern Island, flows south east into the Pacific Ocean just about half way between Dunedin and the southern tip. His boat, manned by a Glasgow crew, hence the connection with the "Clutha" we think, plied up and down the great river, sailing south from Dunedin to its mouth. This dance was danced by the sailors on board. The pattern outlines many of their activities. The river flows through Clutha county by Cromwell, Clyde, Alexandra, and Balclutha, a very Scottish background - to reach the ocean near Kaitangata.