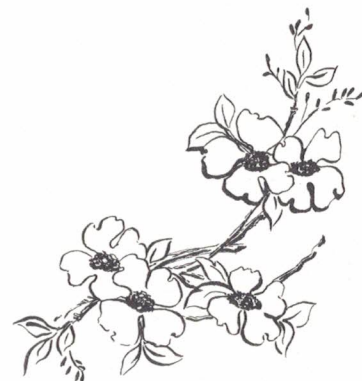


The Missing MacNaberries

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

***T08 Lewis Bridal Dance
For Four Couples***

136b Reel



MARY ISDALE MACNAB

SCOTLAND
1889

CANADA
1966

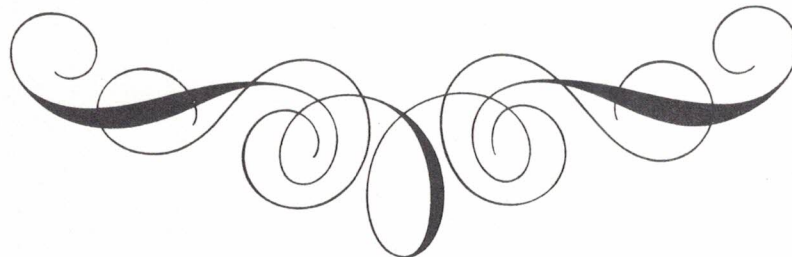
Mary Isdale MacNab, born in Glasgow, Scotland, came to Vancouver, B.C. Canada in 1907 with her family. She began teaching Highland dancing in 1910 and was still actively teaching within two months of her death in November, 1966. She trained hundreds of dancers during her career, among them many, many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



ES 1

THE LEWIS BRIDAL DANCE

Music: Reel tempo. ("Lewis Bridal Song" is suggested).

Formation: Four couples in a longways set.

- Bars 1- 4 All dance half a grand chain, without giving hands. To start, the second and third men pass each other, the women likewise, and the end dancers pass their partners.
- 5- 8 All set (to the dancer about to be passed). Recommended step: balance and pas-de-basque.
- 9-16 As 1-8. All finish facing partners.
- 17-18 The four men, with nearer hands joined, set; the women likewise.
- 19-20 Still setting, all advance,
- 21-24 and turn partner, with both hands, into a diagonal line; the first woman is in the first man's place and the second woman in her own place and the two men are back-to-back between them, each facing his own partner; the other couples likewise.
- 25-32 Each line dances a reel of four.
- 33-40 Everyone turns his partner with crossed hands into a square, the first couple ending at the top of the original set, the second on their left, the third on their right, and the fourth at the bottom.
- 41-44 The first and fourth women cross, passing by the right shoulder, and
- 45-48 the other two likewise.
- 49-52 Each woman dances in front of her present partner, behind the man on his left and clockwise round that man, and

The Lewis Bridal Dance

-2-

- 53-56 turns that man with right hands, ending beside him in the square.
- 57-80 Dance the movements of bars 49-56 three more times.
- 81-84 Each woman spins clockwise, using the pas-de-basque, into the centre of the set, finishing facing her partner.
- 85-88 The women join hands to form a ring with their backs to the centre, and dance round clockwise until each faces her original partner; and
- 89-92 she sets to him, and
- 93-96 turns him half-way round with both hands so as to change places with him.
- 97-100 Using the pas-de-basque each man moves to his right, until he is facing the next woman; and acknowledges her.
- 101-112 Bars 97-100 are repeated three times.
- 113-120 All turn partners, with crossed hands, into original places.
- 121-136 As bars 1-16.

(Dance collected by Mrs. Allan MacNab (Miss Mary Isdale) of Vancouver, B.C.).