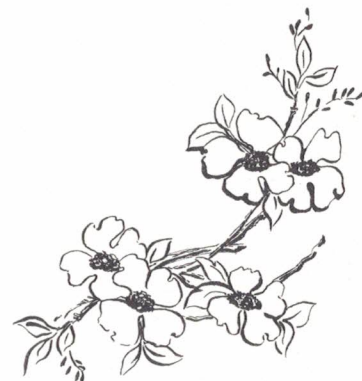


## **The Missing MacNaberries**

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

*T02 Bronach  
For Three Women*

*48b Waltz*



**MARY ISDALE MACNAB**

SCOTLAND  
1889

CANADA  
1966

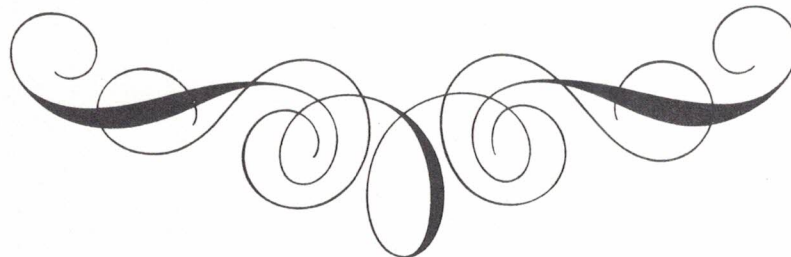
Mary Isdale MacNab, born in Glasgow, Scotland, came to Vancouver, B.C. Canada in 1907 with her family. She began teaching Highland dancing in 1910 and was still actively teaching within two months of her death in November, 1966. She trained hundreds of dancers during her career, among them many, many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



80

BRONACH

Music

Slow 3/4.

Formation

Three girls stand side-by-side facing the audience.

Step 1

Bars 1-2      Dance an old-time pas-de-basque. (Beat 1: step on the right foot in second position with a circling movement. Beat 2: step on the left foot in fourth position. Beat 3: close the right foot in third rear position. Bar 2: bar 1 contra.) Start with the hands about three inches apart about a foot in front of the left hip and swing them to the right and back.

3-4      As 1-2, but holding the arms centrally.

5-8      As 1-4.

Step 2

Bar 1      Beat 1: lift the right foot through third aerial position and step on it in fourth rear position. Beat 2: close the left foot to third position. Beat 3: step on the right foot in fourth rear position. Meanwhile swing the right arm in a vertical circle from front to rear.

2      1 contra.

3-4      As 1-2.

5      Brush outward with the right foot from third aerial position low to fourth aerial position, three times.

6      5 contra.

7      Walk forward three steps (starting with the right foot).

8      Beat 1: close the left foot to first position.

Step 3

- Bar 1            Beat 1: step on the right foot, raising the left to fourth aerial position. Beat 2: tap the left foot against the right leg twice in fourth aerial position. Beat 3: raise the left foot to fourth aerial position. The arms are held out to the sides, the right hand about head-level, the left about waist-level.
- 2                1 contra.
- 3-4             With six rocks, turn once clockwise, hands held palm-down with fingers interlocked and arms straight.
- 5-8             1-4 contra.

Step 4

- Bars 1-2        Pas-de-basque as in step 1.
- 3                Beat 1: point the left toe in third position. Beat 2: shake the left foot in fourth intermediate aerial position.
- 4                3 contra.
- 5-6             As 1-2.
- 7-8             Walk backward four steps (timed as in step 2).

Step 5

- Bars 1-8        With walking steps the centre dancer goes forward and round in a clockwise circle. Meanwhile the other two cross into each other's places (passing right-shoulder) and back.



Step 6

- Bars 1-2      The centre and right-hand dancers turn  
                 with right hands.
- 3-4            1-2 contra.
- 5-6            As 1-2.
- 7-8            Walk forward as in step 2.

(Dance collected in North Carolina by Mrs. Allan McNab -(Miss  
Mary Isdale)- of Vancouver, B.C.)