



Dancing at an Assembly in Ireland, from “The Retrospections of Dorothea Herbert (1799)”

Submitted by Ken McFarland

Here is an account of a Dance Assembly in Ireland, dating from the time when country dancing at an Assembly was *the* meeting place of high society. This account reveals a livelier setting than other contemporary reports. Later in the chapter she tells how a bench full of giggling ladies collapsed, creating much havoc in the room.

“We were to drink Tea at Mrs. Hares, where we met the Roes before us, waiting to escort us to the Assembly. They immediately engaged Fanny and I for the first Sets (of dances), and we all proceeded together to the Assembly Room. We found a brilliant Assemblage before us, amongst whom were the Jephsons in High beauty, who instantly came up to us. My old foe Fanny Jephson seeing John Roe at my elbow acting as my Cecisbeo, mischievously brush’d up to us, and play’d off all her Airs and Graces with many hints that she wanted a partner. He smiled, but did not take her at her word, and after some smart bruqueries between them he gaily led me off to the dance—Fanny Jephson threw a wicked look at me and went off another way to seek out a Partner.

Had I been less interested I should have found the dance pleasanter but I felt too much emotion to dance or chat with ease, however we bustled through an amazingly crowded Set with much cheerfulness and not a little fun, as my partner was very sly, though to me he behaved with all possible Attention and Gallantry.

The next Set we changed partners: John Roe asked Fanny and I danced with Andrew Roe, according to our previous arrangement made at the Hares. After much jostling for places, Andrew with great fuss placed me and himself as third couple and then went off for some lemonade, charging me to keep my place. But alas! I found this an arduous task and soon got into a high altercation with Miss Dogherty who very

rudely pushed me down, seeing me without a Champion. Andrew Roe at length returning with the lemonade had some very high words with her partner, but the gentlemen near us interfered and adjudged the place to be ours, so Miss Dogherty went off in High Dudgeon...”



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Scottish Dancing at the Oakland Museum

by Lori Farrell

The New World Scottish Dancers of Lafayette will perform as part of a special Mother’s Day celebration at the Oakland Museum on May 13, 2001. The hour-long program, which begins at 2:00 p.m., will showcase the group’s emphasis on Scottish dance in California. The set will begin with a scene out of the California Gold Rush, as miners, exuberant from a successful season of panning for gold, meet at a saloon-turned-theater to enjoy dances performed by a pretty opera dancer from Edinburgh. Reminiscing about the old country and anxious to impress their friends and the dancer, the miners try their hands (and feet) at a traditional reel.

The program continues with a look at the family living forty years later in the Edwardian period. The family has amassed a fortune from the Gold Rush era, and can now enjoy the finer things in life, including stylish fashions and a governess from Scotland for their youngest daughter. The family gathers with friends for a *ceilidh* party featuring music, traditional Scottish Country Dancing, and step dancing.

Finally, Scottish dancing moves into the 21st century, with the dancers performing traditional and modern dances to the energetic music of such modern bands and musicians as The Wicked Tinkers, Brother, Phil Cunningham, Bill Whelan, Alasdair Fraser, and many more.

While you are at the museum, be sure to visit the many other exhibits on display. Through May 13, the Natural Science Gallery will host the California Species Biological Art and Illustration display. Also in Natural Science is the Rustler Ranch Mastodon Project, which shows the progress in the unearthing of a fossilized Mastodon skeleton. There is also an exhibit entitled After the Storm – Bob Walker and the Art of Environmental Photography. The Art Gallery features the exhibit Capturing Light: Masterpieces of California Photography 1850–2000. For those who enjoy the beauty of the outdoor world and gardens, visit the Annual California Wildflower Show. In between the dance performance and visiting all these exhibits, have a relaxing lunch at the museum restaurant.

With so much to offer, the Oakland Museum is a great place to spend Mother’s Day afternoon! General admission for Mother’s Day, and for the second Sunday of every month, is free.

The Oakland Museum is located at 1000 Oak Street, Oakland, one block from the Lake Merritt BART station. For directions, admission fees for other days, and information regarding exhibits, contact the museum at (510) 238-2200 or visit their website at <http://www.museumca.org> . For information regarding the New World Scottish Dancers of Lafayette, contact Claudette Sigg at (510) 526-8192.

News Flash: Bay Area TAC AGM & Summer School 2001 Cancelled!

Because of unforeseen difficulties with the facilities, the Teachers’ Association of Canada AGM and Summer School will **not** be taking place this year in the Bay Area. We are sorry if this news upsets any arrangements you have made, and we hope to be able to host these events in a future year.

For further information, please contact the organizing committee: Kathleen McAdam, Armin Busse, Pat O’Brien, Alan Twigg, Ron Wallace.

Monthly Party Admission:	
New Dancers, with coupon from teacher.....	\$2.00
Members.....	\$6.00
Non-members.....	\$8.00
Non-members, please join the Branch! You can join now, as an affiliate member (January to May), for \$9.00. You receive the <i>ReS</i> , lower Party fees, help the Branch meet insurance requirements, and support the organization. Membership forms are available from your class manager, or at Monthly Parties.	



MONTHLY PARTIES

MAY MONTHLY PARTY

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2001
 Temple Methodist Church
 1111 Junipero Serra, San Francisco
 Hosts: San Francisco Class

	Dance	Level	Type	Source
Flights of Fancy +	B/I	8x32 J3	Boston	50th
Cape Town Wedding	I	8x32 S3	39/4	
Rob Roy	A	4x32 R4	Foss – Waverley	Fugues
Adieu Mon Ami	I	8x32 S3	24/11	
British Grenadiers	B	8x32 R3	MMM I	
Fife Hunt +	B	8x32 R3	MMM I	
Bob Campbell +	I	8x32 S3	Drewry – Canadian	Bk
The Maid of the Mill	A	8x40 J3	21/11	
Invercauld's Reel	B	8x32 S3	11/10	
Broadford Bay +	I	8x32 R3	RSCDS Leaflet	32
The Frisky +	B/I	8x32 J3	26/10	
Miss Florence Adams	A	8x32 S3	38/7	
Spiffin	I	5x32 J5	Quarrie, et al.	leaflet
New Park +	I	8x32 S3	19/11	
Black Leather Jig	I	8x32 R3	Delaware Valley	Silver

+ New this month

JUNE MONTHLY PARTY

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2001
 Soquel Grange Hall
 2800 Porter Street, Soquel
 Hosts: Monterey, Santa Cruz and Soquel Classes

	Dance	Level	Type	Source
Milltimber Jig +	I	8x32 J2	41/7	
Adieu Mon Ami	I	8x32 S3	24/11	
Fife Hunt	B	8x32 R3	MMM I	
From Scotia's Shores+	A	8x32 S3	RSCDS Leaflet	
Broadford Bay	I	8x32 R3	RSCDS Leaflet	32
The Frisky	B/I	8x32 J3	26/10	
New Park	I	8x32 S3	19/11	
Rob Roy	A	4x32 R4	Foss – Waverley	Fugues
Invercauld's Reel	B	8x32 S3	11/10	
Black Leather Jig	I	8x32 R3	Delaware Valley	Silver
Flights of Fancy	B/I	8x32 J3	Boston	50th
Stirling Lad +	I	4x40 S4	Kelly	leaflet
The Maid of the Mill	A	8x40 J3	21/11	
Bob Campbell	I	8x32 S3	Drewry – Canadian	Bk
Tomalena +	B	5x32 R5	SF Collection	II

+ New this month

DIRECTIONS TO TEMPLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 1111 JUNIPERO SERRO, SAN FRANCISCO:

FROM THE EAST: take 280 South, exit at Sagamore/Mission exit. At light go right on Sagamore, then bear right onto Brotherhood Way. Exit onto 19th Ave. (Rte. 1) North and stay in the rightmost lane. At gas station (first light) bear sharp diagonal right onto 19th Ave. Then immediately turn left onto Beverly. Park in the lot or on the street. Enter church hall from Beverly.

FROM THE SOUTH: take 280 North, Exit onto 19th Ave. (Rte. 1) North and stay in the rightmost lane. At gas station (first light) bear sharp diagonal right onto 19th Ave. Then immediately turn left onto Beverly. Park in the lot or on the street. Enter church hall from Beverly.

FROM THE NORTH: Take 19th Ave. (Rte. 1) South to intersection with

Junipero Serra after the slight curve to the east. Stay to the middle or left. At the light go straight onto 19th Ave. Then immediately turn left onto Beverly. Park in the lot or on the street. Enter church hall from Beverly.

DIRECTIONS TO SOQUEL GRANGE HALL, 2800 PORTER STREET, SOQUEL:

From Highway 1 (Cabrillo Highway), south of Santa Cruz, take the Porter Street exit. At the stop sign, turn North onto Porter. Hall is two blocks.

Branch Scholarships

Scholarships are available for all kinds of dance/music workshops and events. Contact Paula Jacobson at (408) 688-8295 for more information.

The San Francisco Branch Audio History Project

by Ken McFarland

The San Francisco Branch inherited one of the best collections of recorded Scottish Country Dance music in the dance world. How did this come about? The Branch was created in 1965 by the merger of the Reel and Strathspey Club and the Scottish Country Dance Society (SCDS). Both of these clubs had extensive collections of 78-rpm records dating from the 1930s, '40s, and early '50s. We also inherited a collection of 45-rpm records, which has already been recorded onto cassette tapes, but that is not the collection to which I refer here.

Our collection of historical 78-rpm Scottish dance records is one of the most complete anywhere. Even the Society doesn't have a collection of these, as many Branches and Affiliated Groups tossed their 78s when long play (LP) records became readily available in the 1960s.

Our collection consists mostly of recordings by the two major Scottish dance bands of the times: The Tim Wright Band, and The Scottish Country Dance Players. Both of these ensembles have distinctive "big dance band" sounds that reflect the musical influences of the time. The records are filled with rich arrangements of multiple fiddles, with excellent solo voices added by cello, viola, and piano. The large band was also necessary because recording technology had not been well developed, so the sheer volume of several fiddles made up for a lack of amplification.

This same record collection played an important role in starting live music for local Scottish Country Dancing in the early '70s, and shaped our musical tradition as a Branch. How? Barbara (Bouwisma) McOwen began the first regular live music for dancing in Berkeley in 1973, basing her arrangements in very large part on these records. Lynda Long and I were teaching the Berkeley class, and we actually used these records in class. Barbara was so impressed with these recordings that she began imitating the style of playing, thus forming the basis for the Berkeley Scottish Players. (Notice the similarity of this name to The Scottish Country Dance Players.) It was not unusual for Barbara to run up to us after we finished dancing to one of the especially good recordings and say, "Wow! That was great!" And shortly thereafter she would invariably have a similar musical arrangement for the Friday night band, "The Cabbage Band."

Later bands, including the San Francisco Scottish Players (again, a name similar to the original Scottish Country Dance Players) which was run by Margo Leslie-Post and Kim McGarrity, and then Fiddlesticks and Ivory, were also strongly influenced by the style of sound on these recordings. In fact, Kim once took a road trip across America and took only cassette recordings of these records to listen to!

Other teachers had made good use of this collection: John and Jennifer Kelly used some of these records in their first San Jose class (October 1969), a class with which I danced. Many years later Jennifer told me that she enjoyed some of them very much.

The Branch recording collection had been a big help to the Kellys in getting their class started because they didn't have many LPs of their own. Thus, these recordings figure in our own local dance and music history, and in our development as a Branch.

Since 1972, Mark Post and I have been the Branch-appointed custodians of the 78-rpm record collection. Mark gave up that role some years ago, and I have continued on. I have also purchased, on my own, a substantial number of 78s over the years, with an eye towards finding items that the Branch collection did not include. I have made some real finds, including records purchased in 1975 that were still in their original wrappers and had never been played. I've picked up unusual items from early SCDS days in the '20s, and even a recording of Scott Skinner playing his own tunes on his own fiddle!

I would like to see the best records from both collections re-recorded using modern CD recording techniques so that more people can enjoy using them when recorded music is needed, and to preserve this aspect of our local history. Perhaps hearing some of them will inspire future SCD musicians. Therefore, I have approached the Board about this project (they were very excited at the idea), and have offered the use of my own personal records on the recording, and my assistance in getting the project organized and moving along.

We need the following information:

- Someone to give us legal advice on Copyright law and procedures, preferably free of charge, or at a rate that a non-profit group could afford.
- General advice and feedback regarding re-recordings from older formats. Does anyone

have specific experience or equipment in using formats such as DAT recorders and transferring on to CDs?

- Does anyone have specific knowledge about recording techniques that can remove sounds such as pops and hisses in recordings? Do you have any personal contacts for sound engineers who could help?

- Since the Board approved this, Paula Jacobson has volunteered to store the records and to help in other ways, and Jo and Bruce Hamilton have offered assistance, too. But we're still looking for resources for all aspects of the project.

- If you can help with any aspect of the above, please let me know by phone at (800) 822-3435 (days only) or by email to: farlands@ptialaska.net.

- I hope that I can report back to you in a later issue of the *R&S* that the San Francisco Branch is again leading the way in the Scottish dance world.

The RSCDS-SF Branch Annual POTLUCK SUPPER

Call to confirm!

5:30 PM Saturday, May 5, 2001

**Temple United Methodist Church,
Junipero Serra Blvd. at 19th
Ave., San Francisco
before the Monthly Party & AGM**

**Bring your favorite main dish,
casserole, salad, or side dish to
share.**

**Desserts will be served
after the party by the hosting
classes.**

Valentine's Ball Committee—Please Join!

by Cecilia Stolzer Grote

The minutes of the Branch Committee meeting appearing in the January/February *R&S* erroneously stated that the Valentine's Ball Committee is looking for a new co-chair for 2002, as the current one will not be volunteering. Actually, I will chair the Valentine's Ball myself next year, as Cindy Sobrero has served on the committee for four years, with this as her last year. Another member, Diane Turechek, has also served for four years, and is moving out of the area. We are looking, therefore, for at least two new members to join the committee for the 2002 Ball. We ask for a minimum three-year commitment for new committee members. Anyone interested in volunteering may contact me by phone or email; I'm in the Branch directory. Thank you.

**For information call:
George Gates 925-709-1046
or Susie Langdon Kass
415-333-9372**

Asilomar 2001

by Marianna Harvey

It's time to think about the Branch Weekend! Once again it will be held at Asilomar, over the weekend of October 26-28. Your Committee is already hard at work recruiting a world class teaching staff and wonderful musicians for your dancing pleasure.

For those dancers who may not know about the site of San Francisco Branch Weekend, Asilomar is situated on the ocean in the community of Pacific Grove, CA. The grounds are pine-studded and the buildings, designed by Julia Morgan, are nestled amongst the dunes, blending into the beautiful coastal setting.

World-renowned Scottish Country Dance teachers, first class musicians, and dancers from all over the world combine to make for three magical days. All assemble on Friday afternoon and dance the night away. Saturday, classes at every level are offered, including elective choices and reviews of the Ball dances. The Kim McGarrity Memorial Ball, held in historic Merrill Hall, is the crowning glory of the Weekend. After the Ball, dancers wind down at the after-party, where musicians have been known to play into the wee hours. Sunday morning brings a chance to dance with all the wonderful people with whom you have shared the Weekend.

Avril Quarrie has arranged for a stunning lineup of teachers: Johan McLean (Glasgow), Pat Coyle (Canada), Terry Harvey (Philadelphia), Andrew Smith (Atlanta), Fred DeMarse (Torrance), and our own Ellen Aaron. David Strong will coordinate the class musicians, and Paula Jacobson is working on bringing Elke Baker and friends to play for us on Friday night.

Applications will be available at SF Branch classes and at the Web site (www.rscds-sf.org) after April 1; they will also be mailed to past participants. Applications must be postmarked by April 20 and include your non-refundable \$40 deposit. Remember that the weekend was over-subscribed last year and some people could not attend. Get your application in early!

Non-dancing partners are encouraged to come and enjoy the beautiful area, at a discounted rate. Branch members are reminded of the Scholarships offered by both the Branch and individual classes. Work Exchange opportunities are also a possibility in the event of financial hardship.

Once again Asilomar has raised its prices and so it will be necessary to increase the cost to you. We will,

however, continue to strive for the lowest cost possible. The all-inclusive price—for meals, instruction, lodging, the Ball, fellowship and let's not forget, the beach—is still a bargain for lovers of the Dance.

Julee Montes has agreed to be our Registrar, aided and supported by Zaza, who has done so much over the past three years. A big thank you to the other members of the committee who have volunteered to stay on this year, and to Pat O'Brien, retiring Teacher Liaison, who will be assisting Avril in her new role.

We all look forward to "2001, a Dance Odyssey." Hope to see you there!

NEEDED! Nominees for the Branch Committee

The S.F. Branch is looking for volunteers to run for the Branch Committee (Board of Directors). The term of office is two years. Half the board is elected each year. This year we need at least four candidates to run. If you would consider running, or could suggest someone, please let any Branch Committee member know, or contact Susie Langdon Kass at 415-333-9372; susielk@itsa.ucsf.edu.

The deadline for the submission of biographical information is the end of March, so that ballots can be prepared. The election ballots will be counted at the Annual General Meeting, May 5, 2001.

New board members' first meeting is the June joint new/old committee meeting at which officers are elected for the year. The Branch Committee meets about eight times a year, usually 2-5 p.m. the afternoon before a monthly party, at someone's house. Send in your suggestions soon!

The Nominating Committee

Class Managers & Teachers:

Fall Beginner Class starting dates and changes for the R & S Class List, Yellow Brochure and Beginner Classes Flyer are due April 1. Please contact Susie at 415-333-9372, susielk@itsa.ucsf.edu. Thanks.

The 2001 Scottish-Victorian Workshop & Ball

by Kim Jorgensen

The eighth annual Scottish-Victorian Workshop and Ball will be held on May 19. We endeavor to recreate the intimate atmosphere of a private gathering of friends at a time when the Scottish Country Dances were still popular but when the latest introductions from the Continent—the waltz, polka, schottische, and mazurka—were taking hold of the younger generation. Victorian attire (greatly admired but not required) adds its own elegance to the evening, filling the room with bright colors and sweeping movement to the music of Andy Imbrie, and friends.

Workshop classes will begin 11:00 in the morning and will include a beginner's SCD class, a beginner's Victorian Dance class, and an intermediate/advanced SCD ball review. The beginner's SCD class introduces to those unfamiliar with SCD enough basics to get through and enjoy the three or four easy dances on the program. The beginner's Victorian class introduces the basics of the Victorian-era waltz, polka, and schottische. Even those who have a passing familiarity with these dances may enjoy learning some of the finer points of Victorian-era style. This class also includes the Congress of Vienna Waltz. The ball review includes the harder or less-often-performed dances on the program.

The evening begins with an elaborate Victorian-style grand march. The dances alternate between the Victorian dances and Scottish country dances from the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries. The evening will end with Auld Lang Syne and a simple but ample buffet.

We are planning to return to Plaza Hall in San Juan Bautista this year. However, ongoing renovations have yet to be scheduled, so we may hold the workshop and ball in Monterey. All ticket-holders will be notified immediately if there are any changes. Some dancers choose to come down the Friday before and stay through Sunday, making a weekend adventure of the trip. Attendance will be limited to sixty dancers, and, as the food must be ordered in advance, ticket requests must be received by Saturday, May 12. We hope you'll join us for this event.

For more information, contact Kim Jorgensen at (831) 663-3227 or kjorgens@monterey.k12.ca.us. For tickets, send the enclosed flyer or a list of attendees along with a self-addressed stamped envelope and a check for \$25 per person made out to RSCDS Monterey to Kim

Jorgensen, 9688 Pollock Lane, Salinas, CA 93907. At our website (<http://www.mbay.net/~growlf/vsball>) can get more information on teachers and dances, and you can download the registration form.

A review of the video: Performance Dancing with the Red Thistle Dancers

by Jimmie Lomath

One can only watch and marvel at the level of perfection evident in the collection of dances performed by the Red Thistle Dancers on this video, a project led by dance mistress Jennifer Kelly that was two years in the making.

In lighting, costume, and makeup, the blend of colors results in a very Scottish tapestry. The many simple figures of the dances, executed so well, combine to produce a beautiful harmony on stage, and none of it could have happened without the dedication and hard work of all involved. It was a thrill to see the love of the dance shine through.

This video is intended to show how one can utilize SCD for performances at all levels, and both should provide encouragement and be a valuable tool to others in RSCDS family. As a judge, I would this project a 10—a well-deserved perfect mark. To me, the level of dancing on this video is what we all strive for and few attain.

This video is also a fitting tribute to Kim McGarrity, who dedicated so much time and work to the project, and I sincerely hope both the dancing and music communities alike will embrace it. I eagerly look forward to the next video. Thank you, Jennifer, Kim, and the Red Thistle Dancers for sharing your great talent.

The San Francisco Scottish Fiddlers,

under the magical direction of renowned fiddler Alasdair Fraser, form an exciting group of over 75 musicians. Your hands will clap and your feet will tap in this unforgettable evening of driving jigs, reels and strathspeys, haunting Gaelic airs, and outstanding performances by guest soloists.

Our three venues are:

Friday, May 4, 2001 (8:00 p.m.)
OHLONE COLLEGE, The Smith Center
43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont
Call 510-659-6031 for more information.

Saturday, May 5, 2001 (8:00 p.m.)
FINLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
2060 W. College Ave., Santa Rosa
Call (707) 542-3798 for more information.

Sunday, May 6, 2001 (3:00 p.m.)
PALACE OF FINE ARTS
3301 Lyon St., San Francisco
Call (415) 664-3957 or (510) 548-0802
for more information.

Ticket prices for all venues are \$18, \$15 for students/seniors.

Visit our website at
www.sfscottishfiddlers.org/concerts_2001.html.

CALENDAR ITEMS FOR R & S SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER ISSUE

DUE AUGUST 1

September 16: Teachers' Committee meeting

September 22: Alex Harvey's Birthday Party

September 30: *** ALL class and party LOCATIONS for calendar year 2001 due for insurance coverage purposes to Jim Pell, jimpell@sjm.infi.net. (see article)

October 7: Monthly Party.

October 14: Concert with Laura Risk and Athena Tergis, Celtic fiddlers, 8PM aboard the historic ship Eureka at Hyde Street Pier. Call 415-561-6662.

October 27, 28, 29: Weekend Workshop at Asilomar

November 4: November Monthly Party

December 2: December Monthly Party

December 21 (Thursday): SF Class Winter Solstice Party

Come to the Truckee Workshop

Save Saturday, June 23, 2001 for the revival of the Truckee workshop. Fred DeMarse will teach in the afternoon; there will be a potluck dinner and dance party in the evening. On Sunday we will hike (optional but recommended) to Loch Leven. We can provide limited hospitality in Truckee and Reno. Find the flyer in this issue of the *R&S* Questions? Contact Dave Wilson at (775) 825-6867, or by e-mail at allenortep@earthlink.net. Come see our mountains and dance without that excess of oxygen from which you suffer at sea level!

DIRECTORY CHANGES

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The Reel & Strathspeyer is a bi-monthly publication of the San Francisco Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, a nonprofit educational organization. Annual subscription is \$6.00, third class mail. Add \$3 for 1st class. For changes of address, please contact Gene Bissell, 101 Via Lucia, Alamo, CA 94507.

The editor reserves the right to alter or edit any material submitted for publication for reasons of taste, space, style or clarity. All materials for publication should be submitted on diskette in a word processing format, or sent by e-mail prior to the deadline (the 1st of even-numbered months). Exceptions will be made for last-minute notices, or on a space-available basis, when the editor is notified prior to the deadline.

Editors of other newsletters may use or adapt any materials in the Reel & Strathspeyer unless a specific copyright notice is included. Please credit author and original source.

Editor Victoria Williams
Design Mary Margaret Judd McMurtry
Production..... Mike Hird
Printing Apollo, A Printing Company
Distribution.....Robert Behling, Alan Kaplan,
Hildegard Klee, Taylor Mayes, John McComas, Shari Salis, Bob Sholtz,
Victoria Williams & Helen Wood

Next deadline: April 1, 2001

All articles submitted should be on diskette in a word processing format or sent by e-mail. Please send contributions to:

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