

MacLEOD OF LEWIS

A TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH DANCE
FOR THREE COUPLES

Collected by
MARY ISDALE MACNAB
of
VANCOUVER, CANADA



MARY ISDALE MACNAB

SCOTLAND
1889

CANADA
1966

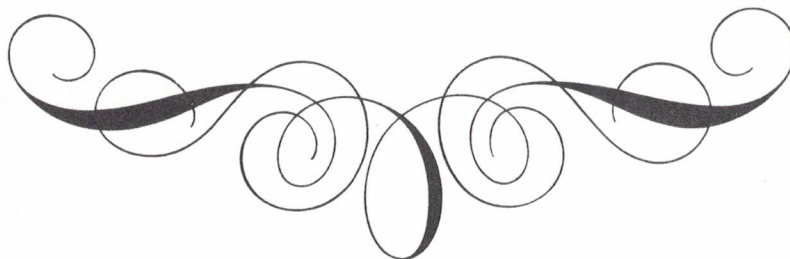
Mary Isdale MacNab, born in Glasgow, Scotland, came to Vancouver, B.C. Canada in 1907 with her family. She began teaching Highland dancing in 1910 and was still actively teaching within two months of her death in November, 1966. She trained hundreds of dancers during her career, among them many, many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



If The Ghillie Fits...



Dances selected by

Ann Skipper and Neil Stewart McLeod

With Musical Arrangements by

Barbara McOwen

MacLEOD OF LEWIS

Torquil's descendants

The second chief of Lewis, Torquil (Leod's Second son), married Dorothea, daughter of William, Earl of Ross.⁵⁴ Theirs was a controversial family, with growing power in the Isles. Sadly they seem ill fated. They favored the old order and, supporting the Lord of the Isles, ran afoul of King James IV, who attacked Lewis and captured the Castle at Stornoway in 1506. The forfeited lands were returned in 1511, not to Torquil's eldest son John, but to his brother Malcolm.⁵⁵ Here lay one source of bitter fratricide, resulting in the destruction of the family, and permitting opportunity to favor their foes. Old Ruari, the last of the chiefs of Lewis, was even imprisoned in Stornoway, in his own castle, by one of his sons. He died about 1595 and the lands were finally forfeited in 1610.

One of last members of the family of Lewis died "verie Christianly"⁵⁶ in 1613 on a scaffold in Edinburgh following his conviction for fire raising, theft, piracy and murder. By an unfortunate series of events the holdings of the House of Lewis were to be lost, firstly to the MacKenzies and finally, after generations of discontent, to the people of the Lewis. Now, at the end of the twentieth century, the title of Chief of the MacLeods of the Lewes has been conferred upon Torquil Roderick MacLeod from Tasmania, a descendant of Malcolm Garbh, the second son of Malcolm the tenth chief of Lewis. However, the lands will never be returned to the Chief. The Maritime Offices of Stornoway stand on the site of the old Castle.

The MacKenzies seized Lewis in 1623, and the old MacLeod of Lewis motto, "Luceo non uro", became incorporated into the arms of the MacKenzies of Seaforth. In matriculating Torquil Roderick of Raasay's petition for the barony of the Lewes, Lord Lyon reverted to an older source, a sixteenth century manuscript, where the motto was given as "I birn q Ise".⁵⁷ Written in full this is "I birn quil I se", meaning "I burn while I see".⁵⁸ MacLeods from Lewis, Raasay, Gairloch, Coigeach or Assynt, may wear the crest badge correctly.

This dance was collected from J. McAskell of Stornoway by Mary Isdale MacNab. Its start is unusual on three sides of a square.⁵⁹ The dance dates back to 1649, and was very popular in that period.

⁵⁴ *History Of The MacLeods*, A. MacKenzie, 1889, p.287.

⁵⁵ *History of The Outer Hebrides*, W.C. MacKenzie, Alex. Gardner 1903, p.121-126

⁵⁶ *Highland Papers*, Vol. III, 128.

⁵⁷ *The Clan MacLeod Newsletter (U.S.A.)*, Ruairidh H. MacLeod, Spring 1991, p.3+4.

⁵⁸ *The Clan MacLeod Newsletter (U.S.A.)*, Col. W.A. MacLeod, Fall 1991 p.11

⁵⁹ *TACTALK* - Reprint from "The Thistle", October 1967

MacLEOD OF LEWIS

* Strathspey and Reel, 96 bars

Collected by M. I. MacNab

* Level 4

* Tune - Medley, "The Gareloch", "O'er Bogie"

STRATHSPEY - Three couples in a semi-circle

Bars

1-12 **Pass and turn chain to places, i.e.,**

1-2 Pass partner giving right hand

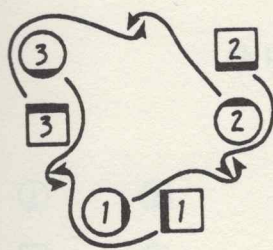
3-4 Turn the next dancer one and a half times by the left

5-12 Pass next dancer by the right and so on until all are back in original places.

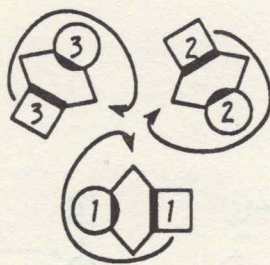
13-16 Turn partners to finish men facing in and ladies back to back in the center facing out.

17-24 Set with Highland Schottische setting and turn with both hands, finishing ladies back to back, hands joined, men in front, facing out.

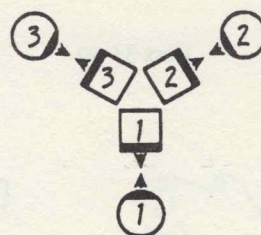
25-32 Ladies dance round clockwise and back again, while the men, facing out, set and turn into face partner on bar 32.



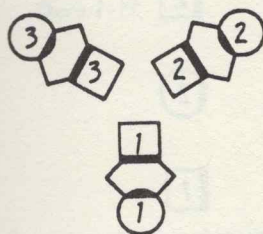
Bars 1-12



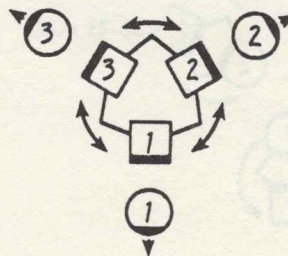
Bars 13-16



End of Bar 16
Bars 17-20



Bars 21-24



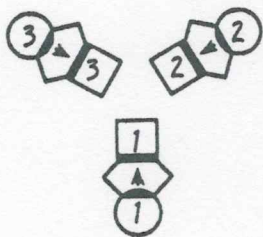
End of Bar 24, and Bars 25-32

Bars

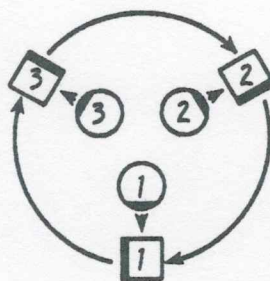
33-40 Set Highland Schottische and turn partner, finish with men back to back in center, ladies facing them on the outside.

41-44 The men set, while the ladies dance clockwise round the outside.

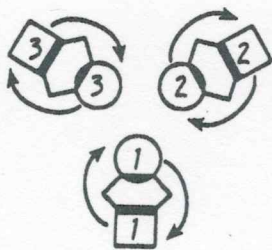
45-48 Turn partner, two hands, to finish in two lines of three, the first couple dividing. See diagram.



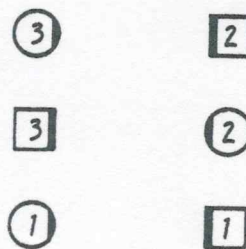
Bars 33-40



Bars 41-44



Bars 45-48



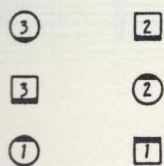
End of Bar 48



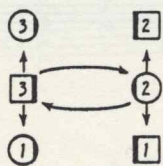
Bars

REEL

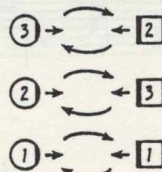
- 1-8 The middle dancer, 3rd lady and 2nd man, set to and turns the dancer on his or her right, and then the one on the left.
- 9-16 The middle dancers, dance a reel of three on the side, 2nd man and 3rd lady, change places on bars 15 and 16.
- 17-24 Three men on one side, ladies on the other with hands joined, set to each other.
- 25-32 The two lines advance towards each other with four pas de basque, and turn the opposite person, 2nd man and 3rd lady turn one and a half times as the others turn twice, finishing in original positions.
- 33-48 Pass and turn chain to places. Finish by turning partner till the end of the music.



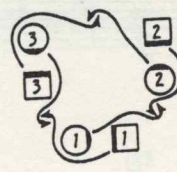
Bars 1-14



Bars 15-16



Bars 25-32



Bars 33-44

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THE GARELOCH

(Strathspey)

for MacLeod of Lewis 1x48S

arr. by B. McOwen

Piano

G G⁷ C D⁷ G D Em⁷ Am⁷ G/D D⁷ G

G G/B C D⁷ G D Em⁷ Am G/D D⁷ G

G Am G⁷ C D⁷ Em D G C G/D D⁷ G



O'ER BOGIE

(Reel)

Play twice
for MacLeod of Lewis 1x48R

arr. by B. McOwen

Piano

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