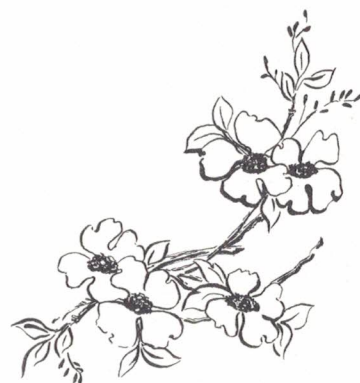


# THE JACOBITE SWORD DANCE

A TRADITIONAL SCOTTISH DANCE  
FOR TWO MEN

Collected by  
MARY ISDALE MACNAB  
of  
VANCOUVER, CANADA





**MARY ISDALE MACNAB**

SCOTLAND  
1889

CANADA  
1966

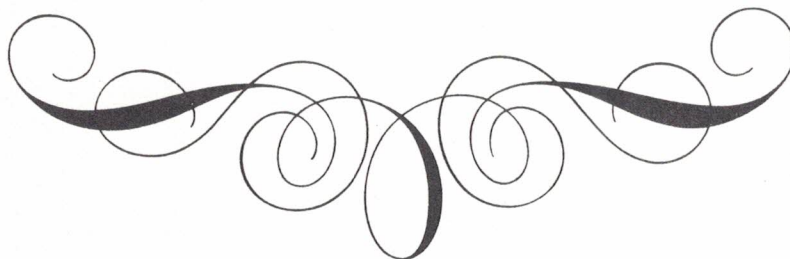
Mary Isdale MacNab, born in Glasgow, Scotland, came to Vancouver, B.C. Canada in 1907 with her family. She began teaching Highland dancing in 1910 and was still actively teaching within two months of her death in November, 1966. She trained hundreds of dancers during her career, among them many, many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



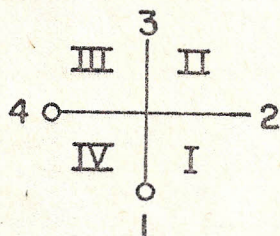


## THE JACOBITE SWORD DANCE

(Brought from France to Scotland in the 17th century. Collected in Ontario, Canada, in 1917.)

MUSIC: March — Johnnie Cope  
*Strathspey* — Wha Wad'na Fecht for Charlie  
 Reel — O'er the Water to Charlie

FORMATION: Two men, dancing to crossed swords; No. 1 man at 1, No. 2 man at 3.



MARCH: Entrance. The two men lay down swords, then take positions 1 and 3, facing swords. The whole entrance should be done with military precision.

### STRATHSPEY:

#### Step 1

##### Bars

- 1-4 Introduction: both men stand at attention; facing each other across swords, hands on hips.
- 5-6 Both men pas de basque to R and L, and with one highland travelling step proceed to next sword point to R, turning clockwise the while, to face out (i.e., No. 1 man finishes with his back to the swords at 2nd point, No. 2 man at 4th point).
- 7-8 Both men pas de basque L, R, and with one highland travelling step dance to next sword point, turning counter-clockwise the while, to face in (No. 1 man at 3, No. 2 man at 1).
- 9-12 Repeat above sequence to original places.
- 13-16 Pas de basque R, L, R, L and complete the step with 8 high cutting, arms raised in "antlers."

#### Step 2

##### Bars

- 1 Both men dancing in and across the swords and with hands on hips, pas de basque R and L (i.e., for No. 1 man, in I, then IV). Then, both men continue as follows (directions are for No. 1 man):
- 2 With arms raised in antlers, spring into I on R, point L in II in fourth-opposite-fifth position (open pas de basque); spring into IV on L, point R in III.
- 3 Repeat bar 2.
- 4 Dance four spring points across R hand sword (R in I, L in II; L in II, R in I; R in II, L in I; L in I, R in II) turning clockwise the while and end facing inward at point 2. Hands on hips during spring points.
- 5-16 Repeat at each sword point, completing the step at original places.

#### Step 3 — Solos

##### Bars

- 1-2 First man pas de basque to R in I, then to L in IV, then, jumping diagonally across the swords, to R in II, then to L in III, turning clockwise, while jumping into III, to face II. Hands on hips.



- 3 With arms raised in antlers, pas de basque on R in IV, pointing L in I (open pas de basque); then jumping diagonally across the swords and turning clockwise the while, pas de basque on L in II, point R in I.
- 4 With arms still raised, dance spring points across R hand sword (4) (R in III, L in IV; L in IV, R in III; R in IV, L in III; L in III, R in IV), completing the step facing inward at point 4.
- 5-16 First man repeats the above step around sword points 3, 2, 1 to original place.  
(No. 2 man, starting on the first bar of the solo, with arms raised in antlers, dances 4 brush steps with the R foot, as in Seann Triubhas, dancing clockwise around the swords, to point 1; and dances 4 spring points, L, R, L, R, in place, still facing in the direction of his travel — that is, with R shoulder toward the center of the swords. Then he dances 4 more brush steps back to point 3, faces in, and dances 4 spring points L, R, L, R, in place. (4 bars for all this.) He then stands at attention for 8 bars, and during the last 4 bars of the solo steps danced by No. 1 man, repeats his own dancing around the swords back to place.)
- 17-32 No. 2 man dances the solo steps as in Bars 1-16 above.  
(Meanwhile, No. 1 man, with arms raised in antlers, dances 4 brush steps with the R foot to point 4; dances 4 spring points L, R, L, R; dances 4 more brush steps to point 3; faces in and dances 4 spring points L, R, L, R in place. He stands at attention for 8 bars; and on the last four bars of No. 2 man's solo, repeats back to place, dancing clockwise around the swords.)

REEL:

*Step 4*

Bars

- 1-4 Both men pas de basque R, L, R, L turning from side to side at about a 45° angle, arms at sides.
- 5-8 With 4 pas de basque, turning clockwise, dance to next sword point to R (i.e., No. 1 man to point 2, No. 3 man to point 4).
- 9-32 Repeat Bars 1-8 back to original places.
- 33-36 Both men pas de basque to R, L, R, L (with no turning).
- 37-40 Finish with six high cutting, arms raised; assemble with L foot in front, leap, assemble with R foot in front, hands on hips.

MARCH: Exit: bow, pick up swords, leave by any suitable formation.