

The Fireman's Dance

Richard Powers

Here is the Fireman's Dance as described in *Squire's Practical Prompter Or Ball-Room Call Book*, A. Squire, publ, Cincinnati, 1887. This arrangement is a double contra dance, as in the Portland Fancy, except the description specifies that if there are two longways sets, they are arranged mirror-image, with the two inside couples "here" and the two outside couples "there."

FIREMAN'S DANCE.

Form two couples facing up and down the hall; have the right-hand couples *here* and the left-hand couples *there*; if dancing two sets, have the two inside couples *here* and the two outside couples *there*. The caller must always explain before commencing the dance which couple is *here* and which is *there*; then commence with the music.

Outside here and center there,	8 Bars.
Center here and outside there,	8 "
Ladies chain here and right and left there,	8 "
Right and left here, ladies chain there,	8 "
Forward all and pass through two lines,	8 "

Repeat as often as desired, then to seats.

Benjamin Lovett described the Fireman's Dance in *Good Morning; Old Fashioned Dancing Revived*, published by Mr. & Mrs. Henry Ford, Dearborn, 1926. The formation is now a Double Sicilian Circle, and the steps are specified as chassé in parts 1 and 2. The "here" couples are reversed, from the center couples in 1887 to the outside couples, and vice versa. Benjamin Lovett faithfully recreated most of his 19th century dances, so it's likely that the Double Sicilian Circle formation was done in the 19th century.

FIREMAN'S DANCE

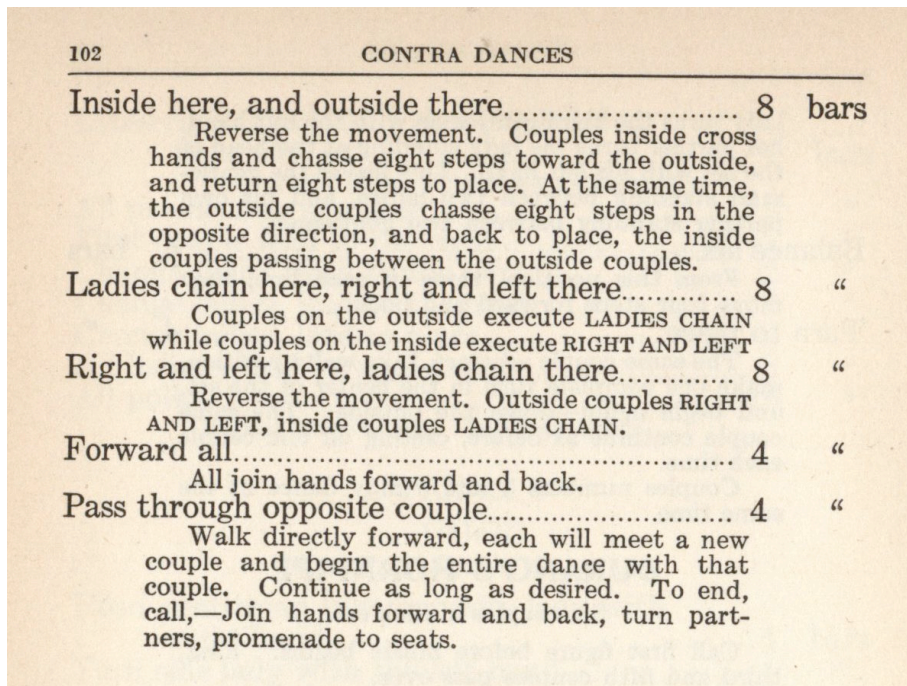
Form as for Sicilian Circle, two couples facing up, and two couples facing down the hall. Before starting the prompter should advise which side is HERE and THERE. Usually the couples on the outside are called HERE and the couples on the inside are called THERE. Give the first call before the music begins.

Outside here, and inside there..... 8 bars

Couples HERE (outside couples) cross hands, chasse eight steps toward the inside, and return eight steps to place.

At the same time, couples called THERE (inside couples) chasse eight steps in opposite direction and eight steps returning to place, separating each time to allow the other couple to pass between.

continued...



The description was revised in the 1941 edition, and again in 1943, now providing music, and adding the shouting of, "Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire!" during Forward all.

This ball card shows the Fireman's Dance being done at a ball in 1865, as the final dance.

