

Scotch Reel steps

from *Sketches Relative to the... Practice of Dancing* by
Francis Peacock, 1805 Reconstructed by Richard Powers

1 KEMSHOOLE (*Traveling Step*)

- ♦ Step R forward to 4th position. ♦ Close L up to R to 3rd position. ♦ Step R forward again. ♦ Hop on R. Repeat forward on the opposite feet. This is done rapidly, high on the balls of the feet, shading the body very slightly to the sides on each step. Peacock didn't say what to do with the free foot during the hop, but late 19th century sources suggest swinging the free foot forward into the air, toe pointed down.

2 LEMATRAST (*Cross Springs*)

- ♦ Cross R tightly over the L to 5th position, possibly with weight, possibly with just a light tap.
- ♦ Uncross R, keeping it in the air. ♦ Step R straight backwards. ♦ Hop on R. Repeat opposite.

3 KEMKOSSY (*Setting Step, or "Threes"*)

- ♦ Cross R behind L to 5th position. ♦ "Bound" to the left with the L to 2nd position.
- ♦ Cross R behind L again. ♦ Hop on R, extending the L foot to the left side to 2nd position air. Repeat opposite, crossing L behind R.

4 DOUBLE KEMKOSSY (*Sideways Traveling Step, or "Sevens"*)

- ♦ Cross R behind L to 5th position. ♦ "Bound" to the left with the L. ♦ Repeat. ♦ Repeat again.
- ♦ Cross R behind L again. ♦ Hop on R, extending the free L foot to the left side, 2nd position air. Repeat all seven counts to the right side, crossing L behind R.

5 MINOR KEMKOSSY (*Footing Step*)

- ♦ Place the R tightly behind the L into 5th position and sink onto it. ♦ Hop R in place, extending L to the left side, 2nd position air. ♦ Repeat opposite, crossing L tightly behind the R.

6 FOSGLADH (*Open Step*)

- ♦ Slip the feet apart to 2nd position. ♦ Spring straight up into 5th position upon the toes.
- ♦ Drop back into 2nd position. ♦ Spring up into reverse 5th position. The foot which was behind last time is now in front. ♦ Repeat the first two steps. ♦ On count 7, do a quick half-turn, unwinding from the 5th position to face the opposite direction, dropping into 2nd position.

Reel of Six

from *The Complete System of English Country Dancing*
by Thomas Wilson, 1820 Reconstructed by Richard Powers

FIGURE I

A line of two gents and a lady, lady in the middle, face a line of two ladies and a gent, gent in the middle, as shown.

- ◆ Join hands and advance with steps 1 1
Set in place with steps 2 2 3 3
Retire to places with 5 5 5 5
- ◆ Lady B and gent E travel forward to the left, along the path shown above, to strike a Hey for Three at the sides. i.e. E passes right shoulders with A to strike a Hey with A and D. Use traveling steps 1.
- A note on Heys: When crossing through the center of the figure-8, always head out of the set. When you reach the end of the line, always turn in toward the center. Travel for eight bars of music. Lady B and gent E will end their Hey in the center of the set, back-to-back; the other four are in place, facing in.
- ◆ Take hands-3 in a two separate circles and all circle left with "Sevens" 4 (*R foot crosses behind*). Set with "Threes" 3 3. Repeat back to places, beginning with the opposite feet (*L foot crosses behind*).
- ◆ The outside two dancers raise the hand they are holding with each other to form an arch (A arches with C) then the center dancer B dives through and turns right, essentially passing R shoulders with C. Then the arching two pass left shoulders to strike a Hey for Three at the ends. Travel with step 1 for a total of eight bars and end at home, facing as you began the figure.

FIGURE II

- ◆ Join hands and advance with steps 1 1. Drop hands and set to the one you meet with 2 2. Give both hands to this person and quickly circle to the left with 1 1 all the way around to your place. Join hands in one large circle as you retire with 5 5.
- ◆ All circle left with Sevens 4 (*R foot crosses behind*) and Threes 3 3. Circle right with the same. At the end, gents turn to their right and ladies turn left to face your First Corner.
- ◆ Set to First Corners with 1 1. Then continue with Fosgladh 6 turning halfway to face your Second Corner. Repeat the setting and Fosgladh, turning at the end to face your First Corner.
- ◆ Give right hands and Grand Chain with right and left hands around the set, using traveling step 1. Take your time: you only pass six hands in eight bars of music, not one hand per bar.

Alternate Figure I with Figure II until the music ends.