## Balance and Sing store update ~ summer 2013

New River Train: Singing Squares from the Collection of Keith Blackmon

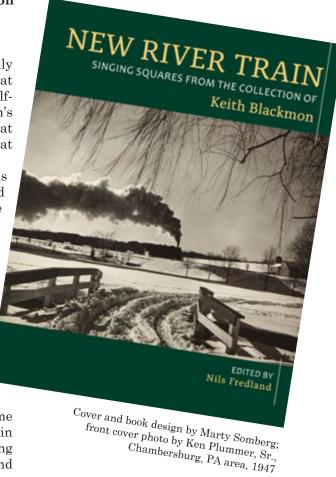
edited by Nils Fredland

The 40 dances in *New River Train* were carefully selected from a collection of over 300 square dance figures that New York State caller Keith Blackmon assembled and self-published in 2008. The dances were taken from a list of Keith's favorites, with the aim to create a resource that succeeds at historical preservation as well as providing a fresh look at traditional repertoire.

The dances, with music, and many tips and variations provided by editor Nils Fredland, are divided into easy and intermediate levels. The easy dances have very accessible figures and lend themselves to an intergenerational crowd. Both easy and intermediate dances are interesting for contra dancers, and perfect for traditional square dance evenings provided your musicians are able to back up singing squares (if not, you can separate the figure from the song and call the dance in patter style with any tune). The timing of the choreography is flexible enough to ensure success for slower moving dancers, as well as offering space to add swings and extra flourishes for those who are interested in a more energetic experience. Above all, the songs in this collection are irresistibly fun to sing!

The book includes a fascinating essay by Jim Kimball, ethnomusicologist at SUNY Geneseo, titled "Old-Time Dancing in Western New York: Keith Blackmon's Collection in Context," a glossary of terms, and basic information for making singing squares part of your calling repertoire. Go forth and call singing squares—it's fun!

BOOK, \$25.00



Thank you to Keith Blackmon for entrusting his book to us; and very special thanks to Shirley Blackmon for welcoming us into her home after Keith's passing. Many thanks to Howard Blumenthal, The Great Valley Fire Department, Dean and Becky Yarnes, and Scott Case, for their hospitality and organizational efforts; and Betty Hackett, Marny Ferguson, Barb Zamberlan, Linda Troutman, and Clyde Nenno, and the other dancers and musicians of the Twin Tiers Region of New York State, for sharing their memories with us, during the Keith Blackmon Memorial Weekend, March 2012, and afterwards. Many thanks to Nick Cuccia and Vicki Armstrong for

careful reading and thoughtful feedback. Thank you to Peter Siegel for help editing the chords. Thanks to Doug Plummer for finding his father's photograph for our cover. Thanks to Peter Irvine, of Northampton, MA for once again guiding us through the interesting world of permissions.

Pat MacPherson, Director, Education Department at CDSS

413 · 203 · 5467 x 3

store@cdss.org

www.cdss.org/store