

THE HEADINGTON QUARRY MORRIS

Including RLD's copies of manuscript information from
Sharp, Manning, The Esperance Club, Carey, Herschell, Bacon,
Schofield, and the Oxford University Morris Men.

[RLD] MSS Material on the Quarry Morris

There are three sources - the Manning MSS, the Sharp MSS and the Carey MSS (Carey worked for Mary Neal)

"Saturday Night" or "Monday & Tuesday" - Manning MSS from Trafford c. 1895

"Monday & Tuesday & Wednesday alike,
Thursday & Friday & Saturday night,"

This was the competition dance performed at Kirtlington over 30 years ago by Headington Quarry & other morris sides with sticks & handkerchiefs

"Saturday Night" - 2nd time quicker - sticks & handkerchiefs

The tune collected by Carter is obviously a part of the usual "Saturday Night" tune.

"Fool's Song of the Headington Morris" - Manning MSS from Trafford

"Take an old woman & roast her,
And baste her well with cheese,
Take her out on a cold winter's night
I am sure the lady would freeze.
Take her out the next morning,
Put her in a bundle of straw,
Then set fire to the bottom,
I'm sure the old lady would thaw."

"Shepherd's Heel & Toe" - Carey MSS

9.10.10 - Trafford hummed tune of "Shepherd's Heel & Toe" - a jig.

Trafford's brother danced it - went down on one knee.

The jig would seem from the tune and the comment to be a version of the Sherborne Jig (Sharp Morris Book 4). It seems odd that the jig was not noted which suggests that it might have been rather simple. As a suggestion perhaps :- shake up twice to first part of tune. (sidesteps in repeats?) - 3 capers & kneel, rising on the 3 quavers, done 4 times to second part of tune, done twice as indicated.

"Bonny Green Garters" & "Leapfrog"

"Bonny Green Garters" - Trafford c. 1895 - Manning MSS

This was called the 'shake up' which was danced round & round to form a ring so that set could have room to dance other tunes. Although a short piece it was danced in something like 10 different positions.

"A diddle dis & what do'you call this

Why here comes Headington morris".

Cox (8.10.10) & Trafford (13.5.13) gave the to tune Carey. They differ a little in the 2nd part of the tune. This tune is a typical "Green Garters" cum "Hey Diddle Dis" tune - this is emphasised by the words given. Apparently a "morris on" of sorts. But[:]

letter from Kimber to Sharp - "I shall have some more tunes for you one of these days, but I must get them right before you have them namely, "Leapfrog," "Maid of the Hill," "Willow Tree," "Bob & Joan," "Broomstick" & a few more as soon as I can get them to have another touch at dancing." This was dated 28.1.08

At Easter 1900 Kimber gave Sharp the "Green Garters" tune as well as "Willow Tree" as promised. (The "Green Garters" tune is that used everywhere except at Bampton for the Bampton dance)

Sharp's MSS has -

"Kimber told me that Bonny Green Garters is a leapfrog dance.

Shake up first,
Begin with a ring,
Jump over leapfrog fashion in pairs vis.a.vis. (face to face) each does 2 leaps i.e. 4
to the pair (going round in a ring)

Sharp has the same thing in his Field note books

"Shake up first A1
begin with a ring A2
B2 Jump over leapfrog fashion in pairs vis a vis, each does 2 leaps i.e., 4
to the pair (going round in a circle)"

Trafford gave Carey the "Leapfrog" tune on 13.5.13 and said
Usual figures - leapfrog round in a ring.

Cox's "Bonny Green" is different from Kimber's as Casey has
"Green Garters" - danced when one went to a new place. First walk round & round waving
handkerchiefs. Then singing dance R L for 3 bars. Jump at end of first part of tune with
hands thrown up.

Kimber's words (Sharp MSS)

First for the stockings & then for the shoes
And then for the Bonny Green Garters
A pair for me & a pair for you
And a pair for they that comes 'arter

Trafford's words (Carey MSS)

First for your stockings & then for your shoes
And then for your bonny green garters.

There is obviously some confusion of dances & tunes - perhaps because the dances have movements of
going round in a circle. Two dances can be distinguished[:]

- i) Morris On - to the Cox/Trafford "Bonny Green" tune with either the "Hey Diddle Dis" or "Bonny
Green" words - the former are surely more appropriate. Dance thus:-
enter site - walk round & round dancing spot - end with 6 capers, step & a jump,
singing.

"Hey diddle dis & what d'you call this
Why here comes Headington morris."

- ii) Leapfrog - there are two tunes Kimber's & Trafford's. There could be two different dances
with a leapfrog movement but this seems unreasonable.
Interpret the dance thus :-

figures - Kimber said start with shake up (i.e. foot-up)

Trafford said usual figures.

distinctive movement - go round in a circle - (like Bledington dance)

If there are the usual figures then this implies that the distinctive movement occurs
more than once.

Only "Leapfrog" is mentioned so it must be assumed that this occurs everytime.

"Leapfrog fashion...vis a vis" presumably means that the man who bends down has his
head pointing towards the man who is going to jump over him so that if he were to
stand up they would be facing each other.

There are two possible interpretations of the order of jumping

- i. The most literal interpretation of Kimber's words is that the set divides into pairs (say 1 & 2, 4 & 6, 5 & 3) & on the third beat of each bar one of each leapfrogs. Thus
 bar 1 - 1 over 2, 4 over 6 & 5 over 3 at the same time.
 bar 2 - 2 over 1, 6 over 4 & 3 over 5 at the same time.
 bars 3 & 4 as 1 & 2 all this done round in a circle so that back in place at end. If this was fitted to Trafford's tune there would be two bars to spare which presumably could be used as the preparatory bars of "How Do You Do Sir?" It fits Kimber's "Bonny Green" tune well if the jump occurs on the first beat of every other bar then there are no bars left over. The jumps occur naturally on the dotted crotchets.
- ii. By analogy with the Bledington & Fieldtown dances it might be expected that the jumps occur one at a time. Thus to Trafford's tune - 1 over 2 with a step & a jump & immediately 2 over 1 ditto in bar 1. 4 & 6 ditto in bar 2, 5 & 3 ditto in bar 3. By now the set has gone half way round the circle. All this again in the remaining 3 bars back to place. This would not fit Kimber's tune without leaving 4 bars over as the second part of the tune will have to be played twice.

Perhaps the first way goes with one tune & the other with the second. I favour the latter with Trafford's tune as Kimber's tune is already widely used for the Bampton dance.

OTHER DANCES

"Queen's Delight" - Trafford - a cross corner dance - tune given was just a version of "How Do You Do Sir?"

"Brighton Camp" - Trafford gave Carey a standard "Girl I Left Behind Me" tune - said it was a handkerchief dance.