

THE WALLS OF LIMERICK (Ireland)

The Walls of Limerick is the simplest of all dances from the point of view of execution. At starting, the dancers line up in couples, lady on gentleman's right, each set of two couples facing each other. It is danced to reel-time, and consists of four movements, as follows.

1. Advance and Retire

This is an essential feature in the majority of "long dances." Gentleman takes partner's left hand in his right, both advance to meet the opposite couple {2 bars}, retire to place {2 bars}. Repeat the movement.

2. Half Right and Left

Ladies exchange places by side-stepping across to the left, passing each other face to face, and finishing with two short threes {4 bars}; gentlemen now exchange places, but side-step to the right {4 bars}.

3. Dance with Opposite.

Each gentleman and opposite lady take right hands, both sidestep to gentleman's left, finishing with two short threes {4 bars}; sidestep back, finishing with two short threes {4 bars}.

4. Dance Around.

Gentleman takes own partner's hands, both dance a complete circle around opposite couple {8 bars}, finishing up to face in the opposite direction.

Repeat the movements with the next couple and with each succeeding couple until the music ceases. In this manner each couple progresses on the completion of the set of movements with the result that the couples dancing opposite each other are constantly varying.

Presented by Kevin Hall
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Note:

The descriptions for the Irish dances are presented as they were submitted.