

THE FLAMBOROUGH SWORD DANCE  
(England)

Collected by Cecil Sharp -- 1910.

Flamborough is a small fishing village about two miles east of Flamborough Head in the North Riding of Yorkshire. The dance was performed annually a few days before or after Christmas by the fishermen.

The dancers, eight in number, wore dark blue jerseys, cloth caps of the same colour, white ducks, and black shoes. Each dancer carries a wooden sword 36" long.

THE MUSIC: When the dance was collected "Old Johnnie Walker" (Buffalo Girls) was the tune most frequently used. Other suitable tunes are Bobby Shaftoe and In and Out the Windows. Record: ED 102.

THE STEP: The single step hop (skipping) is executed vigorously throughout the dance, and continuously, the dancers marking time with the same step when in a stationary position.

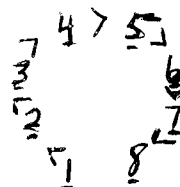
THE DANCE: All through the dance the dancers hold their swords in their L hands.

Figure 1 - Ring and Lock

The eight dancers form a ring facing CW in the following order:

Each M, holding the hilt of his own sword in his L hd, rests it upon his own L shoulder and grasps the tip of the sword belonging to the M in front of him with his R hd, all dance round (CW).

Lock -- the dancers lift their swords over their heads and turn inward, close in, and fasten the lock, each M drawing his hds apart passing his R wrist over his neighbour's L hd and his L wrist under his other neighbour's R hd.



Still moving CW, the Leader holds the Lock high above his head -- lowers it to the horizontal pos at hip level. Each M takes the hilt of his own sword in his L hd and draws it from the lock.

Figure 2 Clash - Hilt and Point Ring

At the beginning of the phrase all clash swords on the first and middle beats of each bar (16 clashes). Form a hilt and point ring, hds at hip level, arms extended.

THE FLAMBOROUGH SWORD DANCE (continued)Figure 3 Threedling (A)

No. 1 faces No. 8 and lowers the sword between them, No. 8 raises his R hd and jumps over followed by 7,6,5,4,3,2; No. 1 stands up turns L about, the ring is now moving in a CCW direction, swords on outside shoulders.

Threedling (B)

No. 2 raises his R hd, turns inward to face No. 1 making an arch. No. 1 turns R under the sword followed by 8,7,6,5,4 and 3. The ring is now moving in a CW direction, swords on outside shoulder.

Threedling (C)

No. 1 raises his R hd, turns inward to face No. 8 making an arch. No. 8 turns L under the sword followed by 7,6,5,4,3 and 2. The ring is now moving in a CCW direction, swords on outside shoulders.

Figure 4 - Files

		Right Wall				
Top	2	3	4	5		Bottom
	1	8	7	6		
		Left Wall				

No. 1 cast L and dances down the outside of 8,7 and 6 and up the middle to place, at the same time No. 2 dances down the middle of the set and up the outside of 5,4,3 to place. Nos. 1 and 2 link swords and spin twice down the middle and join on to the bottom of the set with swords again on their shoulders.

Each pair dance this in turn.

Figure 5 - Arches

Link swords in pairs and make arches, each pair in turn spin twice down the middle to the bottom of the set.

Figure 6 - Half Pousette

Lower the swords to hip level. No. 1 and No. 7 push and pull to change places with No. 8 and No. 6 who pull and push. This is a progressive movement -- when moving down the set the dancers pousette to the R wall, when moving up to the L wall. Each pair on reaching the top or bottom spin twice away from the set.

THE FLAMBOROUGH SWORD DANCE (continued)Figure 7 - Straight Hey

Straight Hey -- Shoulder swords and form a line. No. 1 facing down, other dancers facing up. The Progressive hey is started by No. 1 passing No. 2 by the R shoulder and the next by the L, and so on, until all dancers are in motion. On reaching the bottom of the line for the second time, No. 1 casts to the R followed by each dancer in turn.

Figure 8 - Ring and Lock

Link swords on L shoulder and dance round CW; Lock as in Figure 1. The Leader holds up the Lock.

To end the dance, the dancers either dance away or form a line with the Leader in the middle, three on one side and four on the other.

Presented by Nibs Matthews

NOTATION

<u>Measures</u>	<u>Pattern</u>	<u>Measures</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
1-16	Introductory music		<u>Files</u>
17-32	Dance On	1-16	Nos. 1 and 2 Cast
33-48	Ring	17-32	Nos. 8 and 3 Cast
49-64	Lock	33-48	Nos. 7 and 4 Cast
1-16	Lock Up	49-64	Nos. 6 and 5 Cast
17-32	Lock Down		<u>Arches</u>
33-48	Draw and Clash	1-8	Nos. 1 and 2 Spin
49-64	Open Ring	9-16	Nos. 8 and 3 Spin
1-16	Threedling (A)	17-24	Nos. 7 and 4 Spin
17-32	Ring	25-32	Nos. 6 and 5 Spin
33-48	Threedling (B)	1-64	Half Pousette
49-64	Ring	1-64	Straight Hey
1-16	Threedling (C)	1-16	Ring
17-32	Ring and Files	17-32	Lock
		33-48	Lock Up
		49-64	Dance Off or Form Line