



## BEGINNINGS OF THE COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

### ENGLAND -

"It happened that in 1899 Cecil Sharp was staying for Christmas at Headington in Oxfordshire, when suddenly he heard a fine swinging tune which got louder and louder, and presently six strapping countrymen, gaily bedecked with fluttering ribbons and jingling bells, came dancing through the snow. The tune was stirring, the dance exciting; six men footing it as one, eager and vigorous, but restrained and dignified, their movements demanding the utmost agility and control, yet danced with that absolute ease which is the hallmark of a perfect technique; and he suddenly realized that here, hidden in the obscurity of a little English village, was a great art; its existence unsuspected by the majority, and its importance unrealized by the few who knew of it.

To a man who loved English traditions as loyally as Cecil Sharp this seemed deplorable, and he determined that his fellow-countrymen should at any rate be given the opportunity to share in his "find."

Starting on his quest, he went from village to village gleaning folk-songs and dances, and learning from the Morrismen how to execute the various steps and arm-movements according to exact tradition.

In 1911 he founded the English Folk Dance Society to spread the knowledge of our songs and dances, to stimulate our pride in them, and restore them to general use. The Society, with its Branches throughout the country (and two in America) numbers over 6,000 members; but there are more than 35,000,000 people in England to whom these traditions belong, and his work should be the possession of every one of them."

taken from a brochure to raise money for Cecil Sharp House of London in his memory. Probably in 1924 or 1925

### UNITED STATES -

from Louise Chapin's notes -  
"1913-1914 Through the interest and financial help of Mrs. James J. Storrow and Professor Baker of Harvard University, Claude Wright came to the U.S.A. from England in the summers of 1913 and 1914 and taught English Country, Morris and Sword dancing at Mrs. Storrow's red barn in Lincoln, Massachusetts, at Chocorua in New Hampshire, and the MacDowell Colony at Peterborough, New Hampshire. This aroused interest and enthusiasm for our Cecil Sharp representation for English Dancing."

from Report of the Boston Centre  
Feb. 1917 -

"Much of the enthusiasm which has made the Centre a possibility may be traced back to the energy of George P. Baker, Professor of Dramatic Literature in Harvard University, who, in 1913, following a visit to Stratford, invited A. Claud Wright, a member of the Stratford Staff, to come to America in the summer of that year and organize classes. This was done at Chocorua, New Hampshire; Lincoln, Massachusetts, and elsewhere. He laid the foundation for the later constructive work of Cecil Sharp."

from Article in Girl Scout Magazine  
by Mrs. Storrow -

During World War I --"it so happened that Mr. Sharp came to this country, primarily to direct the dancing in Granville Barker's production of "Mid-summer Night's Dream," but also with the hope of interesting Americans to form a branch of the Society.

Prof. George Baker of Harvard had become interested, having seen the dancing in England, and I had already joined the Society --the first American member. So we met Mr. Sharp in New York and formed the American Branch of the E.F.D.S. with Mr. Baker as president, and me as vice-president."

(I think she had misremembered and was really elected as Secretary.) At the Summer School at Amherst in 1916 she was elected President and served until her death.

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# Boston Center Newsletter

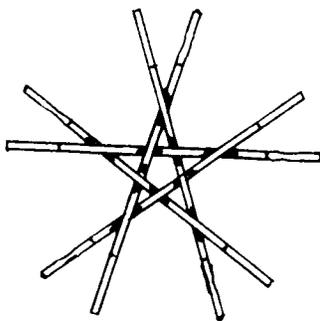
April 1982

C.D.S. HISTORY NOTES CONT.

from the New York Times -  
"The society had its official beginnings in this country at a meeting in the Colony Club on March 23, 1915, when the United States Branch of the English Folk Dance Society was organized. That same Spring branches were formed in Boston, Chicago, Pittsburgh and New York. The New York branch had its start at a country dance ball at Teachers College, Columbia, on April 20.

1914-1915 Lily Roberts of the Stratford Staff/ (Mrs. Richard K. Conant) was helping Cecil Sharp with the dances for the Midsummer Night's Dream and then toured the United States with him as he lectured and formed other English Dance groups.

Lily Roberts stayed in America as the first English teacher here and directed the Boston Centre.



## NOTICE!!

The following people have been nominated for CDS Office and Board positions:

Deanna Marvin	President
Brad Sayler	President Elect
Sandra Borden	Secretary
Arthur Ferguson	Vice President
Ingrid Christiansen	Board Member
Eleanor Calvin	Board Member
Betty Hoskins	Board Member
Cal Howard	Board Member
Mary Stafford	Board Member
Michael Paine	Nominating Comm.

Bouquets to all our C.D.S. Volunteers

BOUQUETS TO ALL OUR C.D.S. VOLUNTEERS

As the year come to a close, we would like to thank the many people who help make C.D.S. and the Boston area dances successful. Thank you to all the people who have contributed their time to organize the dances, sit on the door, work on bulk mailing, work in the office, design flyers, and to do the many chores necessary for a Society like ours. C.D.S needs and appreciates the time you have given.



-Ed.

FROM PINWOODS CAMP, INC.

In the past, we have kept the increase in fees down to the bare minimum. This year we have found it necessary to start to catch up in some areas of the budget. Therefore, the increase in this year's fees reflects not only the effects of inflation, but also an effort on our part to increase the wages we pay to the Pinwoods crew. We feel that it is important to continue to attract crew members who care about the camp, and we want to do this without lessening the services in other areas. Therefore, we have had to raise the fees for weekends and other programs.

- Robin Rogers-Browne