

# CDS Boston News



April 1989



## Revel In Country Dancing

Attention teachers, activity directors, ritual team leaders, and all other dancers with the desire to introduce the joys of country dance to a wider audience. The Country Dance and Song Society has joined with Revels, Inc., the producers of annual Christmas performances of traditional music and dance in Boston and across the country, to present a new session this year at Pine-woods Camp in Plymouth.

From June 26 to 29 the new Revels Session will focus on the theatrical presentation of traditional material, including mummers plays, country and ritual dance, carols, and processions. Under the direction of John Langstaff, founder and artistic director of Revels, Inc., the session will also cover the administrative and technical work needed to sustain a seasonal celebration. The session is also geared to morris and sword teams who want to hone their public presentation skills.

With the 75th anniversary of CDS, Boston Centre, coming up next season, we'd like to encourage dancers to look for ways to spread the word about dancing. And the Revels Session, with its focus on public performance, looks to us like a perfect way to reach new people. This session would also give strong direction to teachers hoping to encourage traditional music and dance in their classrooms.

The fee is \$175, which includes room, board, and tuition for the two-day, three-evening intensive program. Make application by May 1 to

**The Country Dance and Song Society  
17 New South Street  
Northampton, MA 01060**

Applicants needing financial assistance should write to

**Endowment Committee,  
Country Dance Society, Boston Centre  
c/o Gordon Talley, Chair  
25 Magazine Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139**

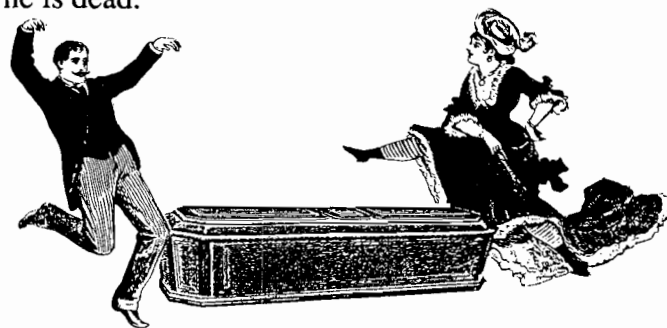
Requests for grants must include a statement of your objectives in attending the session and the benefits you would expect to bring back to your community, as well as a statement of the amount of support you would require to attend.

--Gordon Talley

## Something Borrowed

From Jane Grey Swissholm, in her paper, the "St. Cloud (Minnesota) Visitor," February 9, 1860.

"**DANCING:** We regret to learn that some of our religious friends are having serious trouble on this question. It is painful to differ with good, earnest people; and did we regard this matter as unimportant or look upon dancing as many do, viz, a less evil than something it displaces, we should condemn it at once. But the amusements of a people are just as important as their religion. All animated beings require amusement, relaxation and will have it. It is a necessary of life as much as bread and water...Dancing is one of the most universal of all the heaven-appointed means of happiness. All nature dances, the waves in the sunlight, the leaves on the trees...The goats dance upon the mountains, the lambs upon the hillsides...There is no good reason why any man should be buried until after he is dead."





## Don't Watch This Space

Because that would only cause eye strain. But **do** watch for fliers at your favorite local dance about this year's **SUMMERDANCE** series.

Summerdance is where the action is if you have the ill fortune to work for a Type-A personality in a red necktie who doesn't close the office down for the summer so everybody can go to Pinewoods and bill it to the company as any reasonable human would.

Well, we can dream, can't we? In the meanwhile, save your Wednesday and Thursday nights this summer for a terrific series of no-necktie, eclectic English country, and American contra dancing.

The Wednesday night series will feature English country dance, Cajun, Swing, and Turning Dances, all at the Masonic Hall in Porter Square. Thursday nights will be devoted to New England Contras at The First Congregational Church at the corner of Garden and Mason Streets in Harvard Square.

## Pinewoods Camp--Summer Jobs, 1989

Come spend a summer working, dancing, and swimming at Pinewoods Camp. For those of you new to Pinewoods, it is a traditional dance and music camp near Plymouth, Mass. for adults and families. The camp is on a beautiful forested site between two freshwater ponds. The camp season includes four sessions sponsored by the Boston Centre.

Crew members live at camp and work from early June through Labor Day. They have some opportunities to participate in the programs.

Positions available: cooks, cook assistants, kitchen clean-up crew, and grounds crew. Applicants to volunteer are also welcome.

For details, write to

**Susannah Diamondstone, Manager**  
**Pinewoods Camp, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 1379**  
**East Arlington, MA 02174**

## Letter to the Editor

For about seventy years our Boston Centre has held a Christmas Party, which is the most natural thing to do as our background is still English dancing and our purpose is the same. There is no reason for changing that tradition.

All over England, New England, and America there is a Christmas season, we are overwhelmed with ads in the newspapers and radio for appropriate Christmas gifts. During December there are many Christmas programs on radio and television with special music, plays; some serious some humorous. We hear about Rudolph, Scrooge, and Snoopy. We see Christmas trees in stores, banks, and on town commons. The United States postage had a stamp this year with the word Christmas on it. There is a wealth of music composed for the season--oratorios, carols, and also many catchy simple tunes. The San Francisco Symphony orchestra plays for a community sing of an oratorio with several soloists and 3000 voices in the chorus.

Irving Berlin wrote a song "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" which as a single record has sold more copies than any other.

Some of the Holidays that we observe are not happy ones but Christmas is not just a day it is a season of good will. Can anyone object to that? There is something very wrong that CDS may not use that word for its December Party.

In his radio address on December 24 President Reagan said that Christmas is the most joyous holiday of the year.

We hear the expressions "Merrie Olde England" or the "Dancing English." Let us continue our tradition of seventy years and be Merrie New Englanders dancing at our Christmas Party. Attendance at all parties and classes is optional and open to all people who enjoy English and American dancing.

--Evelyn Lamond

## Silence is Golden

But it doesn't make very interesting reading, so please send your news and articles for the next issue of the CDS Newsletter by **July 22, 1989** to

Alex Humez  
151 Elm Street  
Somerville, MA 02144



or else.



- A3 (2) Couples 2&3 (middle couples) balance back and forward, while 1&4 (end couples) fall back a Double.  
 (2) Couples 1&2 slip and change. Couples 3&4 likewise at the same time.  
 (4) All set and turn single.[3]
- A4 (8) New middle couples and end couples do as in A3.

PART 2

- A5 (8) Sides all.[4] Set and turn single.  
 A6 (8) That again.  
 A7 (4) Couples 1&2 half-poussette, couples 3&4 likewise at the same time. Upper man in each pair pushes to start.  
 (4) All set and turn single.  
 A8 (4) Same pairs of couples half-poussette to place.  
 (4) Set and turn single.

PART 3

- A9 (8) Arm right. Set and turn single.  
 A10 (8) Arm left. Set and turn single.  
 A11 (4) Acting as a duple minor set, first corners (M1, W2) forward a Double and back.  
 (4) First corners turn 1-1/2, changing places.  
 A12 (8) Second corners (W1, M2) the same.  
 A13 (8) First corners the same, to place.  
 A14 (8) Second corners the same, to place.[5]

Footnotes

[1] "To the right hand" means to the right of the dancers as they happen to be facing at the time. It does not mean to a specific wall of the room (e.g., "the right wall").

[2] Customarily, the set is done facing one's partner. That is, one is setting *to* one's partner. However, some dancers who have tried it find that it makes a more pleasurable figure to set while still facing up, holding hands. There's magic in doing such figures in concert with others, as in the set in **Jack's Health** or the slip in **Round-O**. In this case, the following turn single is done so as to end facing down (1/2 turn) in A1, and facing your partner (3/4 turn) in A2.

[3] The couples now in the middle positions should move forward as they set, so as to be in the line ready for the next figure.

[4] If you wish to side as it really was done in those times, in A5 the side should be by the right shoulder, and in A6 by the left shoulder. See the discussion of this in my article, "Playford Revisited: The Puzzle of Nonesuch" in the 1988 number of *Country Dance and Song*.

[5] These are Playford's instructions. You will note that this requires more music in the third part than in the first and second, making the dance unsymmetrical. If this is displeasing, you can make the dance symmetrical by having the corners turn only one turn, instead of 1-1/2 in A11 and A12, which will eliminate the need for A13 and A14.

A note about the music: As written, the tune appears to be in the Mixolydian mode, characterized by the seventh note being a full tone below the tonic instead of a half tone, as in the familiar major scale. Some musicians find this displeasing and say that there should be another sharp in the key signature to "make it right." Since a number of demonstrable errors have been found in both music and text in Playford's manuals, it is easy to conclude that this is just another one of those errors. I do not agree. I suggest trying the tune as it is.



COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY, BOSTON CENTRE, INC.  
EVENTS OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERSHIP

BOSTON CENTRE PROGRAMS:

TUESDAY NEW ENGLAND SQUARE AND CONTRA DANCE SERIES, St. John's Methodist Church, 80 Mount Auburn St, Watertown. Callers: 1st Tuesdays - Tony Saletan, 2nd Tuesdays - Ted Sannella, 3rd Tuesdays - Tony Parkes, 4th & 5th special programs and guests: 4/25 - Charlie Fenton, 5/23 - Dan Pearl. 8:00-11:00. Contacts Arthur Anger (H)899-8702, (W)253-7044 and Betsy Opitz (H)899-8702. thru June 13.

WEDNESDAY ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE SERIES, YWCA, Dance Program 8:00-11:00, attention to basics 8:00-9:00. Music by 'Bare Necessities'. Contact Jenny Mosely, 646-9202. thru June 14.

WEDNESDAY RITUAL CLASS, YWCA, LOWER GYM. March 15 - April 19, MASSED MORRIS DANCES, leader Jan Elliott, Musician Kari Smith. May 3 - June 7, RAPPER, leader Rhett Krause, Musicians Steve Anderson and Dave Langford. Contact Deb Small eves 628-0071.

"FIRST" FRIDAY ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCING, note dates, 4/7, 6/9 Dances will be taught with the expectation that the dancers have a thorough familiarity of basic English Country Dance figures. Church of Our Saviour, Monmouth St, Brookline. 8:00 - 11:00, Contact Jenny Mosely.

ENGLISH SCOTTISH DANCE PARTY - Sat., September 30, Masonic Hall, Porter Square, Cambridge. [Mark your calendar NOW.]

PINEWOODS CAMP, Plymouth MA - 1989 BOSTON CENTRE EVENTS, The announcements have been mailed to CDS members.

- \*First Weekend - Fri Eve 6/16 to Sun Eve 6/18 info Allan Wechsler 646-9202
- \*July "4th" - Thur Eve 6/29 to Mon AM 7/3 info Susan Agard 648-3468
- \*Joint E/S - Mon PM 7/3 to Fri AM 7/7 info Judy Erickson 508-425-9026
- \*Labor Day - Sat AM 9/3 to Tue AM 9/5 info Doug/Ruth Reiner 641-3631

Boston Centre - Committee meetings, all are welcome (confirm meeting date by calling ahead)

- \*Board of Directors, 3rd Wed, 6:00, office 1950 Mass Ave. (354-1340)
- \*American Dance Committee, 2nd Tues, 6:00, Cafe Rose, Watertown (899-8702)
- \*English Dance Comm. 2nd Wed, 6:30, BYO, @Alex Humez, 151 Elm St, 625-3069
- \*Building Committee, 1st Tuesdays, 7:30, office 1950 Mass Ave 508-877-9065

FRIENDS OF CDS BOSTON CENTRE, EVENTS:

ARLINGTON CTR, MA - ROARING JELLY, 3rd Fridays, May & June, 8:00, Susan Elberger caller, Doug Reiner, music director St John's Episcopal Church, 74 Pleasant St, 776-1007 or 894-4464

BROOKLINE, MA - ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE PARTY, Robin Rogers-Browne and Brad Sayler, Music by Karen Axelrod, Pat MacPherson and friends. 3rd Fri thru June (except April). Church of Our Saviour, Monmouth and Carlton St. 8:00-11:00, 897-8629, 475-0791

BRUNSWICK, ME, - English Country Cance, Merrymeeting Musical Menagerie, 4th Sundays, 7:00 - 10:00, 55-Plus Center, Maine & Noble Sts, (207) 666-3090

CHAPPAQUA, NY, English/American series, 4th Sat thru June, 8:00, Friends Meeting House, Dick, (914) 962-5653

CAMBRIDGE, MA - RSCDS, Boston Branch, Scottish Country Dance, Mondays, YWCA, warm-up 8:15, beginner and experienced classes 8:30-9:45, social dancing for all 10:00-11:00.

CHURCH POINT, DIGBY CO, NOVA SCOTIA, 34th Family Dance Camp, Aug 12-21, Contact Gordon Arthur (902)857-3752, Black Point PO, Halifax County, NS BOJ 1B0



HARTFORD - Hartford Ball, Dancing master Mr. George Fogg of Boston, Sat May 13, info Marc (203) 286-9191, Val (203) 523-9374.

LANSDOWNE, PA, Twentieth Century Club, 84 S. Lansdowne Ave., Lansdowne, PA. Vintage dance class series and tea dance, leaders Bob Morris and Kathy Terzi, music Rag'n'Tangle Band. Contact (215) 259-1642.

- Experienced dancers' class in Ragtime Era dance. Mondays, 7:30-8:30, Apr 10-May 8.
- Open class in Ragtime Era dance. Mondays, 8:30-10:00, Apr 10-May 8.
- Tea Dance, Sunday, April 30, 3:00-6:00.

MILFORD, NH - Int't Folk Dancing, Unitarian Universalist Church, 17 Elm St., 2nd & 4th Sat, 7:30-9:30, (603)673-2196

NEW YORK - COUNTRY DANCE, NEW YORK CD\*NY, Metropolitan Duane Church, 201 W

13th st at Seventh ave (212) 459-4080

- Sat thru 6/3, 8:00 - 10:45, American Contrs & Squares
  - Tues thru 5/30, English Country, 7:45 - style, 8:30 - 10:00 dance
  - Experienced Fridays 8:00 - 10:45
- ENGLISH 4/7, 5/12; AMERICAN 4/14, 5/19

PLYMOUTH, PINWOODS - Country Dance and Song Society, (CDSS), 17 New South St, Nothampton, MA 01060: (413) 584-9913

\*New Session, June Short Session, REVELS, Mon 6/26 - Thurs 6/29, focus on theatrical presentation of traditional material, including mummings plays, country and ritual dance, carols and processions. Program geared to organizers, teachers, and those who do street performances. Chair Jack Langstaff.

\*Early Music Week - July 15-22: Chair, Grace Feldman

\*Folk Music Week - July 22-29: Chair, Lorraine Lee

\*American Dance Week - July 29 - Aug 5: Chair, Laurie Andres

\*Family Week - Aug 5 - 12: Chairs, Peter & Mary ALice Amidon

\*English & American Dance Week - Aug 12 - 19: Chair, Brad Foster

\*English Dance Week - Aug 19 -26: Chair, Alistair Brown

\*Campers' Week - Aug Aug 26 - Sep 2, Chair, Robin Rogers-Browne

PROVIDENCE, RI - Contra and Squares, Sat. 4/15, 5/20, & 6/17. St Martin's Church, 50 Orchard Ave. 8:00 - 11:00; Dale (508)636-8168, Bob Jr. (401)245-2963.

SOUTH WEYMOUTH, MA - English Country Dance, George Fogg, live music, Mondays, except 1st Mondays, 8:00-10:00, Old South Congregational Church, 335-0818, 426-1048

SOUTHBORO, MA - Framingham Folk Dancers, International Folk Dancing, Fayville Village Hall, Central & Grove Sts. 8:00-10:30, 508-872-4110

WATERTOWN, MA - SPRING BALL - Comm Vintage Dancers, Sat April 29, Workshop 2-5, Ball 8-11, Phillips Congregational Church, 111 Mt Auburn St. Ken 491- 4858.

WORCESTER, MA - INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS, Thursday, 7:30 - 9:30, All Saints Episcopal, Irving St. at Pleasant, Betty Hoskins (508)791-7434

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All calendar submissions must be in writing and received by

**Harvey Cohen**  
**54 Elda Rd**  
**Framingham Ma 01701**

on or before July 22,1989. **NB:** The next edition of the Newsletter will be published in early September, so make sure that you send in all relevant information concerning September, October, and November events by the **July 22** deadline so they can be included.



## Before the Centre: An Earlier 75th Anniversary

Even the most casual reader of this newsletter will not have missed the fact that we will soon be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Boston and national branches of the Country Dance Society. It may, however, come as a surprise that the revival of English country, morris, and sword dancing was begun in the United States two years before the Boston Centre was founded. The story of how this happened and who was the driving force behind it is equally surprising.

The force behind bringing English country, morris, and sword dancing to Boston was George Pierce Baker, then a professor of Drama at Harvard University. Some 76 years ago, Professor Baker hit upon the idea of having the newly-discovered English dancing taught in America. Accordingly, he approached his English friend, Mr. Claud Wright, who was one of the six men on Cecil Sharp's original demonstration team. Mr. Wright thought that this was an exciting idea and agreed to come to Boston during the summer of 1913--interestingly, this arrangement was made without the involvement of the English Folk Dance Society.

In July of 1913, Mr. Wright sailed to America and taught dancing--probably at Mrs. Helen Storrow's house in Lexington, Massachusetts. Apparently, all concerned had a good time, since Mr. Wright was engaged by Mr. Baker to return in the summer of 1914. Indeed, in 1914 they planned a more ambitious program, having Mr. Wright teach for two weeks at Boulder Farm (Mr. Baker's farm in Chocorua, New Hampshire), four weeks in Peterboro and York, and two weeks at Mrs. Storrow's house.

Baker family recollections place the first dance of the summer of 1914 at their newly-made dance/drama clearing at Boulder Farm on July 28 of that year. The dancing was preceded by the performance of a play written for the occasion. Again this summer of dancing was successful, and plans were made for Mr. Wright to return the following year for an even more ambitious tour.

Unfortunately, World War I was to interfere with this strong beginning. Social pressures in England caused Claud Wright to enlist in the Royal Flying Corps and prevented him from

returning to America in 1915 as Cecil Sharp's "advance man." But when the USA Branch of the English Folk Dance Society was founded in March of 1915, Professor Baker was elected as its first President and Mrs. Storrow its first Secretary.

Much remains to be discovered about these early days--When and why did Professor Baker bow out of EFSD? Who were the people who attended dancing classes in those first years of 1913 and 1914?--but we do know enough to celebrate this beginning and those who were responsible for it. So, this summer there will be a celebration of those earliest days at Professor Baker's Boulder Farm in New Hampshire.

Finally, I include some excerpts from the letters of Claud Wright and the entire text of a note from Mrs. Storrow. All of the originals can be found at the Harvard University's Houghton Library.

*Excerpts from the letters  
of Mr. Claud Wright to  
Professor George P. Baker*



March 3, 1913 "...I should be so pleased if you could let me know within a little whether I am to come over in the summer..."

July 1, 1913 "I have arranged everything now, and can leave England any day after the 15th of this month, which means I shall just be able to receive final arrangements from you before embarking. The arrangements as we left them stood thus - that all expenses should be paid and that I should receive £50 clear above expenses as fee for teaching + demonstrating."

September 18, 1913 "...So far I have not heard anything of the magazine articles but in writing to Mrs. Storrow I mentioned that you made the initial move. I am afraid that the idea I was sent out by the Society has grown. I should be so happy if you could combat this as I prefer to be known as a free agent and your guest..."

(c/o Mrs. C.E. Clark, Lincoln, Mass.) "Tuesday morning...Isn't Mrs. Storrow's house just a wonder? I have (during the day) the whole 3rd story for my personal use..."

September 6, 1914 "...I enclose a list of the addresses I have and underlined those who asked for a centre."

*Card from Mrs. Helen Storrow to Professor  
George P. Baker*

## English and American Dance Performance Team

Anyone interested in participating in the formation of a team to perform English and American dance in a variety of public settings as a means of outreach to the community at large should contact **Sandy Borden** (878-4446) or **Nancy Hanssen** ([508] 875-0382).

### Morris Musicians Get Big Mac Attack

Fast food and fast stepping will joy arouse

If you, a musician, with Merrimac would  
carouse.

Concord, New Hampshire is really not far:

Just grab your instrument and rev up your car.

We treat our musicians with lust and affection;

Any instrument will do: no need to play with  
perfection.

We need you, slobbering tin whistler or melo-  
deon maven:

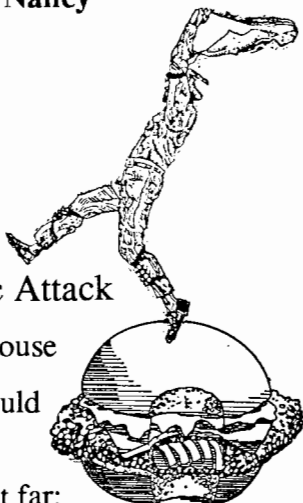
For your A's and B's our team is a-cravin'.

So, Morris musician, heed this refrain:

Haste to call our squire, Ms. Sarah Jane

(603) 225-9534

--Deirdre Rees



## Thanks for The Ninth Annual Boston Playford Ball

This year's Playford Ball was a thoroughly enjoyable event. Thanks, alphabetically, to the enthusiastic participation of Karen Axelrod, Peter Barnes, Sandy Borden, Harvey Cohen, Helene Cornelius, Arthur Ferguson, George Fogg, Earl Gaddis, Lisa Greenleaf, Nancy Hanssen, Jack Howe, Alex Humez, Rich Jackson, Mary Lea, Jenny Mosely, Adam Moskowitz, Dan Pearl, Brad Sayler, Jacqueline Schwab, Charity Stafford, Mary Stafford, Marty Stock, and everybody who offered hospitality, brought edibles and potables to share, helped with set-up and clean-up, and, of course, danced.

### Tickety Tickety Tickety...

The final **Tock!** of the clock by which the ever-popular English-Scottish Session reckons its deadline for applications at the special bargain price of \$5.00 off full tuition strikes on May 1, and we still have a few spaces left, though they are going fast, so you'd better hurry up and apply if you haven't already or you'll be sorry.

### Thanks

To Sandy Borden, Harvey Cohen, George Fogg, Arthur Ferguson, Irene Howard, Andrea Humez, Jean Humez, Herb Jacobs, James Polk, Evelyn Lamond, Deirdre Rees, Deb Small, Mary Stafford, Carole Talley, Gordon Talley, and Chris Walker for their several contributions to the care and feeding of this month's newsletter. And special thanks to Stephen Baird for providing us with much-needed envelopes.

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