

Betty Fair aka Bury Fair

Formation: Longways – Triple Minor.

Source: Keller, V. W., Kate & George A. Fogg. *Country Dances from Colonial New York, James Alexander's Notebook, 1730.*

Music: Barnes, Peter. *English Country Dance Tunes. (Play "Bury Fair".)*
Keller, V. W., Kate & George A. Fogg. *Country Dances from Colonial New York, James Alexander's Notebook, 1730*

CD: Bare Necessities: *Favorites of the Boston Centre, Volume 1.*

The Dance: AA BB CC DD

A1 1-4 1st Man Cast Off & fall between the 3rd couple – faces up while 1st Woman Cast Off & ends between 2nd couple – faces down.

A2 1-4 Join hands in line Forward & Back a Double.

B1 1-4 Circle three hands Left at top & bottom once round.

B2 1-4 Circle Back Right.

**C1&2 1-8 1st Man Hey with 3s passing 3rd Woman Right shoulder
AS 1st Woman Hey with 2s passing 2nd Man Right shoulder.**

D1 1-4 1st Couple meet in the middle Lead Down through 3s & Cast Up one place.

D2 1-4 1st Couple Lead Up through 2s & Cast off one place.

Original Text from James Alexander's Notebook:

Betty Fair

Cast off, fall in 2d Couple, Ly in 1st

[lead] up, hands, O, back [rest of text is lost]

Note from *Country Dances from Colonial New York, James Alexander's Notebook, 1730.*

With directions to the active man, this fragment is the opening of "Bury Fair." Alexander's title, "Betty Fair," is quite clear. He may have misread a handwritten title or perhaps deliberately renamed the dance for a local individual, possibly for his four-year-old daughter, Elizabeth. The dance first appears in *The Dancing Master* (1698).

Notes from Marjorie Fennessy's letter dated 18 April 1993: . . . *Playford Part II 1696 (supplement to the 9th edition) . . . in the note book it says that the 1st couple cast off in (in bar 1) and ye man fall back between ye 3rd co. ye woman between ye 2d. co., Then takes hands fall back meet up again, etc.*

Presented by George A. Fogg at the Laguna Folkdancers Festival 2007