

HILLS OF HABERSHAM

AMERICA

Music: "Love's Dream After the Ball" Title: From "Song of the Chattahoochee" by Sidney Lanier.

Type: Contra dance in 3/4 time

Formation: Dancers stand in 2 parallel lines, facing, and about 5 or 6 feet apart. At least 6 (preferably 8 or 9) couples. All men stand in line to the caller's R as he looks down from the head of the hall. Men facing partners in opposite line. Beginning at the head of the line, number off and all odd couples (1, 3, 5, etc.) change places (men on L, women on R of caller). These are the #1 couples, or active couples or leaders. Everyone is in motion throughout the dance. The inactive couples (2, 4, 6, etc.) when not in motion otherwise balance to the R and the L in time to the music (step R and touch L foot to R; step L and touch R foot to L). Couples must keep moving up toward the head of the hall to take the places of the active couples who are moving gradually down the hall. This is mainly accomplished while the active couples go down the outside of the lines, cut in, and come back up the inside of the line (measures 18-22). Action for couples when they reach the end of the line is described at the end of these notes.

Four measures of introduction. Honour your partners.

Measures

1-4

FIG 1

PASS THROUGH, BALANCE

All, beginning on R foot, and stepping on ball of foot to each count (3 steps per measure), pass through opposite line in 6 steps, partners passing R shoulders and remain facing outward, hands joined shoulder high in the line. NOTE: On measures 3 and 4 all step SDWD on R and touch L foot to R instep (1 measure); then repeat to the L, touching w/R

5-8

TURN; BALANCE

Releasing hands, each person turns 1/2 R face (CW) in place in 6 little steps to face the opposite line and all join hands within the line. REPEAT the balance as in measure 3 and 4

9-16

REPEAT the action of measures 1-8, back to home position^o

17-24

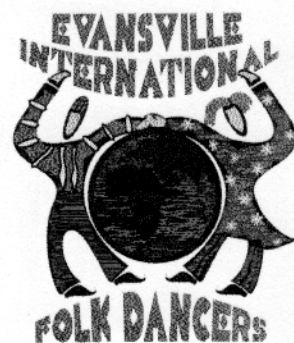
FIG. 2

ACTIVES DOWN THE OUTSIDE; UP INSIDE; BALANCE IN LINES OF FOUR

Beginning R foot, actives first face up, then turn outward to face down the outside of their line, all in 3 steps (1 measure). Go down the outside in 6 steps (2 measures), passing the two persons below you in line, the cut through the line in 2 steps (1 measure) to the center to meet partner and face up the line, joining inside hands shoulder-high. W is now on M's L. In 6 steps, 2 measures actives go up center to stand between inactive couple that was between them, all joining hands shoulder-high in line-of-four and all facing up.

(While actives are going down outside and up inside the others are balancing SDWD, alternately to R and L. They are also working up toward the head one place by taking a little longer balance step in that direction.)

Continued...



...HILLS OF HABERSHAM CONT.

In line-of-four, all balance R (step SDWD and touch L foot to R foot). Balance L (two measures)

NOTE ABOUT THE BALANCES: The instructions are written by the Collettes as Step/touch – touch the L foot with the toe against the instep of the R foot. But the inclination is so strong to make this a step-swing, that most people dance it that way. Make the swing gentle.

25-32

ACTIVES WHEEL; ALL BALANCE; ACTIVES CAST OFF; ALL BALANCE!

Actives keeping hands joined, but releasing hands of inactive people on the outside of the line, wheel once full around CW in 6 steps (2 measures). M stepping behind in place, W FWD, and end back in line-of-four again with M stepping behind in place, W FWD, and end back in line-of-four again w/all hands joined and facing up the set. Balance in the line-of-four as in measures 23, 24. Actives release partner's hands (W's R and M's L) but keep holding hands of inactive persons; they cast off around the inactive persons in 6 steps (2 measures). This is also a wheel 3/4 around, the inactive person backing up and the active person moving FWD until all are in lines again, with the actives one place farther down the line. Partners still facing. Hands are quickly joined again, shoulder-high and all balance R and L. (2 measures).

We are now ready to repeat the dance, beginning with FIG. 1, but a new couple #2 has worked up to the head of the line and has no one above with whom to dance. This makes them "neutral". They must wait out the action of FIG. 2 balancing in place. But just after measures 25-26 (actives wheel in the middle) the prompter will instruct them to cross over (change places), which put them in the proper position to be active the next time through the dance. They remain balancing in place until FIG 1 begins again. They are now the new #1 couple on FIG. 2, they will dance down the line.

When an active couple reaches the foot of the line (the lower end), they also become temporarily neutral, because there is no couple below them with whom to dance. They dance completely through FIG. 1, but balance in line in FIG. 2, until the actives are wheeling in the middle (measures 25-26) when they also cross over and change places. They have now become inactive, and will balance in place while the actives are going down the line and back up, until they have worked up to the head again.

This dance may be continued as long as you like, preferably until all couples have been active. The music purposely ends with a coda, so you can put in a couple of balances while the intro is played again, and then go on with the dance as you like.