



American Morris Newsletter



*A publication
devoted solely to
English Morris and Sword Dancing.*

*Editor: Fred Breunig
RFD #1, Box 9A
Putney, VT 05346*

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TEAM NEWS

A feature of the American Morris Newsletter dependent on your letters, postcards, and telephone calls. Names of correspondents appear at the end of each club's news. A list of known clubs and groups dancing morris or sword in North America is on page 6.

Ann Arbor Morris and Sword: "At last Ann Arbor Morris and Sword actually has a sword dance as part of its show! This winter six of us worked up the Ampleforth sword dance under the guidance of John Cavanaugh. We had our first performance on February 17 and hope to have more. Our fall and winter was spent learning Border and Lancashire Morris. We performed examples of these along with our mummings play for our second annual Christmas tour and a February tour.

"We are now back practicing Cotswold morris concentrating on Bucknell, Bampton, and Adderbury. Our new people are learning Headington to keep our first tradition healthy. Our size has remained stable (about 25, fewer men than women); we have some recently recruited International folk dancers to replace some old dancers who have left. New officers are Greg Ross, squire; Peggy Gerber, bag; Carol Mohr and John Cavanaugh, foremen. If anyone out there comes to Michigan, give us a call."

Peggy Gerber, 2219 Page Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

Berkeley Morris: "Our Berkeley team has begun regular practice after a long vacation through the fall. We have a lot of new dancers (for the first time in our three years there are more new dancers than old)! The growth is encouraging and it's satisfying to know that the team will go on even as older dancers move on."

Rita Hurault, 1270 4th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122.

Bouwerie Boys: "This past fall, four Binghamton men moved to New York and it seemed natural to continue dancing together. So Jim Stevenson joined us, four green recruits came along and we call ourselves the Bouwerie Boys (having gained some sense of reason and abandoned the Rigor Morris ... a fine opportunity slips by!). We are dancing Sherborne and some nice things are beginning to happen. We meet on Mondays at 7 p.m. at McSorleys."

John Dexter, 250 Elizabeth Street, New York, New York 10012.

Fiddler's Reach Morris "and friends participated in three performances of a Christmas Revels program in Brunswick, sharing the bill with an early music consort and a young people's acting group. Our contributions included some Border morris, the Haxby sword dance, and a recently discovered mummings play from the village of Topsham-on-Androscoggin. The reception we received was gratifying. Building on this, we went out on our own and held our first Fiddler's Reach Twelfth Night Celebration in Portland. In addition to the above, we included Molly dancing, a bean king and queen, carols, and English country dancing. Everything went very smoothly except for the problem of an uninvited fiery dragon which kept trying to get in on the act.

"After a short rest, we began again on Cotswold morris. We have a solid core of experienced dancers plus many enthusiastic newcomers. Our touring schedule will begin with our traditional tour of the Bath-Brunswick area on May 3. Our primary tradition remains Bledington, followed by Headington, with some Adderbury and Bampton as well. Officers for the year will be Robb Spivey, squire and Lisa Sheiman holding the bag. Paul Krakauske continues to do a fine job teaching. We hope to hear from any morris dancers passing through the area."

Robb Spivey, 9 Wilson Street, Topsham, Maine

Forest City Morris "has recently passed another milestone: after lengthy and intense discussion, we decided we would begin to dance in the main with separate men's and women's sides. Views were freely shared and we finally concluded that a move such as this would allow us to progress more rapidly and to begin to cover new ground. Coupled with this decision, we agreed to restrict our repertoire somewhat. The men will dance Bledington and Fieldtown while the women will concentrate on Brackley and Headington. Together we will dance Bampton, the tradition with which we all began. We feel this represents an exciting combination and we look forward to the coming months with fresh enthusiasm and excitement."

Tom Seiss, c/o Cuckoo's Nest Newsletter, 372 Cedar Ave., London, Ontario N6G 1E7.

Greenwich Morris Men "are alive and well. We danced some morris and the Abbots Bromley Horn dance in the New York Christmas Revels as well as an abbreviated Ampleforth sword dance that really seemed to be the dramatic high point of the show. It was most thrilling and very satisfying to dance. We are practicing on Mondays at 8 p.m. on the 7th floor at 736 Broadway in preparation for spring tours if any travelling morris dancers are in town and wish to stop in."

David Arnold, Quarters 206D, Governors Island, New York 10004.

Ha'Penny Morris "began the spring season dancing at a St. Patrick's Day hootenanny in a Baptist Church! When the winterless winter climbs up a few more degrees, we will tour Cambridge and Boston and possibly Concord, where two of our members live. Plans are also brewing for special dancing at the wedding of a Ha'Penny dancer and a Black Joker!"

Jackie Chew, 19 Central Road #1, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143.

Kingsessing Morris Men "have been incorporating new members into the ranks and are expecting to have a busy spring."

Don Potter, 112 Clearview Drive, Downingtown, Pennsylvania 19335.

Lexington Morris Men: "had their first practice on January 12 and showed great promise for a wonderful touring season this spring. A full complement of members showed up including two musicians, eleven dancers, and two brothers aged 10 and 12. All enjoyed working hard on Longborough. For any morris men who are passing through, please call on us!"

Don Campbell, 332 Duke Road #2, Lexington, Kentucky 40502.

Marlboro Morris and Sword: "Touring in Spring 1980 will bear close resemblance to previous year's schedules as we work to have the morris become an expected part of Windham County's spring. Our fifth Morris Ale will bring several newcomers to Marlboro as well as some 'old-timers': Albemarle, Binghamton, Court Square, Greenwich, Ha'Penny, Kingsessing, Lord Hill, Minnesota, Muddy River, NewTowne, Pinewoods, Ring o' Bells, Spruce Hill, and Westerly."

Fred Breunig, R.D. #1 Box 9A, Putney, Vermont 05346.

Minnesota Traditional Morris: "January saw the addition of two new apprentices to MTM. This will keep us in a steady state since two of our present members will be fading into the world of distant and steady work in April and May. Our current work involves the addition of several Headington and Adderbury dances to our standard repertoire. We are especially interested in a number of Adderbury dances, some with song throughout, which are rarely performed 'Americaside.' Among them are the Happy Man, the Postman's Knock, Sweet Jenny Jones, and the Princess Royal. We have also taken Trunkles and Laudnum Bunches out of the mothballs. We look forward to a fine year of touring folk and Renaissance festivals as well as in our local communities (see tour schedule on page 7). Great gallies to all!"

Stephen Parker, 434 N.E. 4th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413.

Muddy River Morris: "Last fall we chose new officers (many of them since we like to spread the work around): Squire Barbara Morrison, Foreman Robin Rogers-Browne, Music Foreman Cathy Mason, Bagman Kathi Tighe, Scribe Susie Stix, Practice Runner Ginny Briggs. We also welcomed a new junior member, Lillian Kruskal, with whom we are all delighted." (See tour schedule for dates of spring tours).

Barbara Morrison, 11 Gates Street, Worcester, Massachusetts 01610.

New Haven Morris and Sword: "No one was more surprised than the team itself when our first show (at Northwestern Connecticut Community College) was a big success. Last fall, after losing three of six backbone dancers, prospects for holding the line were dim. We set up a class for 24 beginners in the fall which gave various members of the team a chance to dance twice a week and teach. The rapper team fell together in the nick of time. We invite other teams to join us for touring (see schedule for dates)."

David Lindsay, 95 Mansfield Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511.

Pokingbrook Morris "started its fall practice in Chatham, but after a few months moved to Albany where we have been going strong. This season we have been working hard on Bledington and enjoying the feel of dances coming alive with the promise of spring. We have set ourselves a busy touring schedule (see page 7) with the greatest amount of touring this team has ever attempted. This is the result of the strong support we have found from the challenges of this season's practices. Be well assured that 'the morris lives in Albany.' We are happy to announce two team weddings: Mishka Luft and Bob Weissburg and Mark and Ann VanWormer; also Bill and Marie Newman's beautiful girl named Elisa."

Larry Syzdek, 114 Winthrop Avenue, Albany, New York 12203.

Rock Creek Morris: Readers of the last issue of the Newsletter heard of the creation of the Foggy Bottom Morris Men. "The former Foggy Bottom women announce the formation of the Rock Creek Morris team, Washington's first official, **independent women's morris club**. In addition to former Foggy Bottom dancers, Rock Creek **includes many** new faces to the D.C. morris scene, bringing our total membership to 16 (as of January). Plans for the coming season include our debut tour in honor of the Vernal Equinox, an early April tour to assure the timely blooming of the cherry blossoms, an Easter parade with St. Mark's Church, and a tentative May festival to which we hope to invite other Mid-Atlantic morris clubs."

Mary Chor, 3217 McKinley Street, Washington, D.C. 20008.

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The editor wishes to thank publicly the Smith family of Putney, Vermont for its invaluable assistance in getting the Newsletter in the mails each quarter. John, Maggie, Karin, Monica, Russell, Sam, and Ben all contribute to the effort by collating, folding, stapling, licking, stamping, etc. What a great crew!

4

ALL FOR THE MORRIS

As morris parodies of established tunes seem to be gaining in popularity, the Minnesota Traditional Morris submits its entry to the Newsletter. It was cooked up at the Marlboro Morris Ale last May 1979 by our fellows and former squire John Cavanaugh, now of the Ann Arbor Morris and Sword team.

"All for the Morris"

(to the tune of "All for me Grog")

(Chorus) It's all for the Morris, the noggin', noggin' Morris,
All for me gallies and me capers,
Oh, the boys they look so swell in their handkerchiefs and bells,
And it's off to Poncho's Wreck (or insert your favorite pub) that we
must wander

Where are me bells, me noggin', noggin' bells,
All gone for beer and tobacco,
Well, the ribbons they are worn and the bells they are half gone,
And me bells are lookin' out for better weather.

Chorus

Where are me sticks, me noggin', noggin' sticks,
All gone for beer and tobacco,
Well, I broke them all in two a-dancing Constant Billy with you,
And me sticks are lookin' out for better weather.

Chorus

Where are me hankies, me noggin', noggin' hankies,
All gone for beer and tobacco,
Well, I lost them in a hey in the 29th of May,
And me hankies are lookin' out for better weather.

Chorus

Where are me knuckles, me noggin', noggin' knuckles,
All gone for beer and tobacco,
Well, a-sticking I did try 'til the Squire called "bats high,"
And now I'd rather dance the Weeping Willow.

Chorus

Where are me whites, me noggin', noggin' whites,
All gone for beer and tobacco,
Well the shirt is stained with beer and the pants have lost their rear,
And me arse is lookin' out for better weather.

Chorus

Where are me shoes, me noggin', noggin' shoes,
All gone for beer and tobacco,
Well, the soles they got all stony while I was dancing Swaggering Boney,
Now me soles are lookin' out for better leather. (1)

Chorus

(to be sung by the Bagman)
Where is the bag, the noggin', noggin' bag,
All gone ... (he looks about anxiously)
Well, I thought I had it here when I went to get the beer,
Now the bag is lookin' out for better tether. (2)

Chorus

1. This verse was contributed by John Roberts on a tour of Madison and Minneapolis last fall.
2. This verse came from friends among the morris dancers in Madison, Wisconsin. It was received just after one episode in the long saga of our bumbling bagman (Stephen Parker) who thought he had forgotten the swords for our first sword dance performance when in fact they were in the trunk of his car. As the lads improvised a handkerchief dance, the fool rushed about in the bagman's auto, singlehandedly put out a fire, ran over a dog, and was nearly destroyed by a freight train before discovering the swords in the trunk. Madison, of course, knew nothing of this; so we felt obliged by auspicious coincidence to keep it with the song.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Toronto Morris Ale: Green Fiddle Morris will be holding its Third Toronto Morris Ale in August 1980. At this time we cannot announce a definite date, but it will be held either August 8 - 11 OR August 1 - 4. Again accommodation and all meals will be included in the weekend fee. Because of our position in the "far north," we know it may be difficult for many teams to travel up here. Individuals who can make it on their own are most welcome. Teams or individuals who are interested in attending should contact (by the end of May) the Green Fiddle bag: Eileen Markwick, 834 Mt. Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ontario M4P 2L3. Telephone: 416-488-8129.

Mariposa Folk Festival is not happening this year as it has been in previous years. Also the Toronto festival originally planned for the usual Mariposa weekend has been changed to late July.

New Haven Morris and Sword is planning a tour for April 19 to be followed by a workshop at 3 p.m. with the Coal County Cloggers of Pittsburg, Pa. There will be a potluck dinner and a "Come-all-ye" contra dance at Hendrie Hall for the benefit of Pinewoods Camp. The dance will include team demonstrations. If you are interested in having the Cloggers in your community, call Marlin Whitaker at 412-421-7586.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Speaking as a former New Zealand morris dancer, I know that the New Zealand morris teams would be interested in the American morris scene if you would like to contact them. We feel that certain references made about morris in New Zealand by Jim Haddon of Australia have been unfairly inaccurate (reference recent American Morris Newsletter).

Chris Brady, ex- City of Auckland Morris
Sussex, England

In the article "Women's Morris Goes to England" (Vol. III, no. 4), it says in the second paragraph, "... women's morris, which began six years ago ..."

I would like to point out that women's morris is considerably older. I danced in a women's morris team in London in Cecil Sharp House in the early 1950s. I was asked to take the place of a dancer who was unable to attend their demonstration and I had to borrow a uniform: pink pinafore dress and white blouse. After our display, many men voiced their surprise that women could, would, and were allowed to dance the morris. Times haven't changed very much!

Fried Herman
Larchmont, New York

MORRIS IN NORTH AMERICA

An annual feature of the American Morris Newsletter in which all known clubs and groups using morris and/or sword dancing are listed. If readers find omissions, please inform the editor. A list of corrections will appear in the July issue.

TEAMS or CLUBS (arranged alphabetically by State or Province)

- British Columbia: Victoria MM, David Winn, 2142 Pentland Rd., Victoria, B.C. V8S 2W4
 California: Berkeley Morris, Brad Foster, 18100 Monte Bello, Cupertino, CA 95014
 Sunset MM, Gene Murrow, 5919 Manton Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91364
 Connecticut: Mianus River Morris, Tony Poile, 26 Oscaleta Rd., Ridgefield, CT 06877
 New Haven Morris & Sword, David Lindsay, 95 Mansfield, New Haven 06511
 D.C.: Foggy Bottom MM, Greg Fabian, 6032 North 19th Road, Arlington, VA 22205
 Rock Creek Morris, Mary Chor, 3217 McKinley St., Washington, DC 20008
 Indiana: Bloomington Morris, Frank Hall, P.O. Box 9, Bloomington, IN 47401
 Kentucky: Berea MM, John Ramsay, CPO 287, Berea, KY 40404
 Lexington MM, Don Campbell, 332 Duke Road #2, Lexington, KY 40502
 Maine: Fiddler's Reach Morris, Robb Spivey, 9 Wilson St., Topsham, ME 04086
 Highland Mary, *address unavailable at press time.*
 Lord Hill MM, Greg Boardman, Fayette, ME
 Stillwater MM, Roger Cartwright, 42 Oak Street, Orono, ME 04473
 Manitoba: Village Green MM, John Trevenan, 392 Campbell St., Winnipeg, Man. R3N 1B7
 Massachusetts: Black Jokers, Howard Lasnik, 22 Swan Place, Arlington, MA 02174
 Ha'Penny Morris, Jackie Chew, 19 Central Rd. #1, Somerville, MA 02134
 Muddy River Morris, Barbara Morrison, 11 Gates St., Worcester 01610
 New Cambridge MM, Mark Wilke, 90 College Av., Somerville, MA 02144
 NewTowne MM, Peter Masters, 15 Sumner Ave., Medford, MA 02155
 Woods Hole MM, Bob Guillard, RFD 1 111 County Rd, Buzzards Bay 02532
 Michigan: Ann Arbor Morris, Peggy Gerber, 2219 Page St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104
 Minnesota: Belles of the North, Lauri Levin, 12816 Melody Ln., Minnetonka, MN 55343
 Minn. Traditional Morris, Stephen Parker, 434 N.E. 4th St., Minneapolis 55413
 New Hampshire: Moose Mountain Morris, Petey Becker, Box 384, Norwich, VT 05055
 New York: Bouwerie Boys, John Dexter, 250 Elizabeth St., New York, NY 10012
 Binghamton MM, Nathan Lord, 105 Chestnut St., Binghamton, NY 13905
 Greenwich MM, David Arnold, Quarters 206D, Governors Island, NY 10004
 Hearts of Oak, Dorothy Lawrence, 1281 Vestal Av., Binghamton, NY 13902
 Ring o' Bells, Dierdre Ann Bialo, 85-38 168 Pl., Jamaica, NY 11432
 Pokingbrook Morris, Larry Syzdek, 114 Winthrop Ave, Albany, NY 12203
 Ontario: Black Sheep Morris, Sarah Farquhar, 379 Woolwich St., Guelph, Ont. N1H 3W8
 Forest City Morris, Ron Duncan, 372 Cedar Ave., London, Ont. N6G 1E7
 Green Fiddle Morris, Doug Gies, Sq., 11 Nanton Av.#9, Toronto M4W 2Y8
 Eileen Markwick, Bg., 834 Mt.Pleasant, Toronto M4p 2L3
 Mississauga MM, Roger Hansell, 3307 Kings Masting Dr., Mississauga, Ont.
 Pennsylvania: Kingsessing MM, Tom Senior, 118 Montrose Ave., Rosemont, PA 19010
 Spruce Hill Morris, Lin Brodsky, 2012 Mt. Vernon, Philadelphia, PA 19130
 Three Rivers Morris, Nancy Prentice, 306 E. Leasure Av., New Castle 16101
 Rhode Island: Westerly MM, Peter Leibert, Rt.1 Box 191, Norwich, CT 06360
 Tennessee; Sourwood Morris, Meg MacLeod, 4404 MacLance, Knoxville, TN 37918
 Texas: Men of Houston, John Vivian, 3804 Villanova, W. Univ, Pl., Houston TX 77005
 Yellow Rose Morris, Dorcas Hand, 3258 West Main #1, Houston, TX 77098
 Vermont: Marlboro Morris & Sword, Tony Barrand, Box 51, Marlboro, VT 05344
 Virginia: Albemarle MM, Robert LaRue, 2221 Center Ave., Charlottesville, VA 22903
 Bluemont Morris, Howard Bass, Rt. 2 Box 294B, Berryville, VA 22611
 Court Square Dancing Society, Catherine Shreve, 1012 Blenheim, Ch'lott'ville22901
 Wisconsin: Folklore Village MM, Bob Werner, 3810 Barlow Road, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572
 Madison Morris, Louise Neu, 637 Pickford St., Madison, WI 53711
 Regional: Mountain Morris Men, Peter Rogers, 1538 Bluebird Ln., Lexington, KY 40503
 Pinewoods Morris Men, J.M. Graetz, 50 Moulton, Road, Arlington, MA 02174

SPRING CALENDAR

(This is not a complete listing of morris dancing in North America. It includes dates sent to the Newsletter in time for publication. Check with teams before travelling!)

- APRIL 5 Berk: Mountainview, California
 6 RkCr: St. Mark's Church Parade, Washington, D.C.
 12 MdRv: Cambridge, Massachusetts
 19 NwHv: New Haven, Connecticut
 Pokg: Voorheesville, Guilderland, Altamont, New York
 19/20 Bing } Gilbertsville, New York and environs
 FogB }
 20 NwHv: New Haven, Connecticut
 24 Minn: College of St. Catherine, Minneapolis, Minnesota
 26 HaPn }
 MdRv } New England Folk Festival, Natick High School, Natick, Massachusetts
 NwHv }
 Marl: Stockbridge, Massachusetts and environs
 Minn: Minneapolis Folk Festival, Minnesota
 27 Pokg: Hyde Park, Vassar College, Bowdoin State Park , New York
- MAY 1 GrFd: High Park, Toronto, Ontario
 MdRv: Cambridge May Day Tour
 Minn: Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Pokg: Capitol Building, Albany, New York
 3 Berk: Berkeley, California
 Bing: Binghamton, New York
 Grch }
 MdRv } New York City
 Ro 'B }
 Marl: South Road, Marlboro, Vermont
 Minn: Powderhorn Park, Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Pokg: Ulster Community College Fair, New York
 4 Berk: Plowshares May Festival, California
 GrFd: High Park, Toronto, Ontario
 Marl: "Manor Houses," Marlboro, Vermont
 7 Pokg: Rockefeller Plaza, Albany, New York
 10 Berk: Peninsula area, California
 Marl: Brattleboro and Dummerston, Vermont
 MdRv: Cambridge, Massachusetts
 NwHv: New Haven, Connecticut
 Pokg: Hudson, New York and environs
 11 Berk: San Jose, California
 Marl: Putney, Vermont and Walpole, Alstead, New Hampshire
 Pokg: Washington Park, Albany, New York
 14 Pokg: SUNY at Albany, Albany New York
 17 NwHv: Hartford, Connecticut
 Pokg: Festival of Nations, Schenectedy, New York
 Marl: Amherst and Northampton, Massachusetts
 18 Berk: San Francisco, California
 NwHv: Hartford, Connecticut
 21 Pokg: Samaritan Hospital, Troy, New York
 25 NwHv: Yale Commencement, New Haven, Connecticut
 Pokg: Whitsun Tour, To Be Arranged
 24-26 Marl and others: Marlboro Morris Ale
 31 Pokg: Pittsfield, Williamstown, Mass. and Petersburg, New York
 Marl: Western Vermont (to be arranged)
- JUNE 1 Berk: Santa Cruz Mountains, California

- (JUNE) 1 ForC } London, Ontario
 GrFd }
 3 Bing: Binghamton, New York
 7 Pokg: Festival of Flowers, Sharon, Connecticut
 10 Bing: Binghamton, New York
 11 Pokg: Pub tour, Albany, New York
 14-15 Bing } New York City
 Bour }
 21-22 Minn: Summer Solstice Festival, Thunder Bay, Ontario
 28 Minn: Old St. Anthony Riverfront Festival, Minneapolis, Minnesota

ABBREVIATIONS: Berk: Berkeley Morris, Calif. Marl: Marlboro Morris & Sword, Vt.
 Bing: Binghamton Morris Men, N.Y. MdRv: Muddy River Morris, Mass.
 Bour: Bouwerie Boys, N.Y. Minn: Minnesota Trad. Morris, Minn.
 FogB: Foggy Bottom Morris Men, D.C. NwHv: New Haven Morris/Sword, Conn.
 ForC: Forest City Morris, Ont. Pokg: Pokingbrook Morris, N.Y.
 Grch: Greenwich Morris Men, N.Y. RkCr: Rock Creek Morris, D.C.
 GrFd: Green Fiddle Morris, Ont. Ro'B: Ring o'Bells, N.Y.
 HaPn: Ha'Penny Morris, Mass.

(see page 6 for complete listing of teams and contact addresses).

RW PASSES ON

The Newsletter was very much saddened to hear of the death of Russell Wortley, long-time morris man in England. Dr. Wortley had been active in the Morris Revival in England since the earliest days of the Cambridge Morris Men and the Travelling Morrice as a dancer, musician, scholar, and collector. Readers of this Newsletter have seen his articles several times over the last several years, his most recent being a letter to the editor in October. We will miss Russell greatly.

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NEWSLETTER SPECIFICS

The American Morris Newsletter is published four times per year (April, July, October, and January). Subscriptions are available to anyone at \$2.00 per year -- one of the last bargains of the Western world! Team subscriptions (six or more copies to one address) are \$1.50 per person per year. Overseas subscriptions please add \$2.00 for airmail delivery, 50¢ for surface mail. Please make all checks in U.S. funds payable to "American Morris Newsletter" and send to the address on page 1. Copy deadline for next issue (team news, letters, articles, songs, etc.) is FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1980. Please be prompt! Thank you for your support. --FMB