

Well Hall (England)

Well Hall is a set dance first published in Playford's The Dancing Master, Volume 1, editions 6-18, in the late 1600's and early 1700's. It was interpreted for modern dancers by Frank C. Van Cleef and published in his book Twenty Four Country Dances from the Playford Editions in 1982. The dance was presented by Marianne Taylor at the 1984 University of the Pacific Folk Dance Camp.

- RECORD: Varrick VR013 Side 1. Band 4. 3/4 meter
The 3/4 meter is unaccented, not a waltz.
- MUSIC: Van Cleef, Frank C. Twenty Four Country Dances from the Playford Editions, Country Dance in Connecticut, Inc., West Hartford, Conn., 1982. Available from Country Dance and Song Society of America, New York.
- FORMATION: Cpls Longways*, duple minor (groups of two cpls numbered cpl 1 (twds top of set) and cpl 2). M have L shldr twd head of hall.
- STEPS: Cast Down: Turning up twd the top of the set, dance away from ptr and down the outside of the set.
Lead Up: Meet ptr and move twd top of set. Ptrs may join inside hands.
Cloverleaf Turn Single: Performed by two cpls. Ptrs meet and mirror turn away from each other and circle to place; top cpl turns up and bottom cpl turns down.
- STYLING: Flowing motion is achieved by leading with the body rather than with the feet. Arms hang relaxed, moving easily with the motion of the dance. On turns and circling, arms are extended firmly at shldr level. Eye contact is maintained during turning and crossing.

*Described in Steps and Styling, published by the Folk Dance Federation of California, Inc., 1275 "A" Street, Room 111, Hayward, California 94541.

MUSIC 3/4

PATTERN

Measures

Note INTRODUCTION No action.

I. TURN AND CAST

- A1 1-4 Cpl 1 turn with the R hand once and a half.
5-8 Cpl 1 Cast Down into cpl 2 place and cross to own side of the set passing R shldrs. Cpl 2 Lead Up into cpl 1 place (meas 5-6).
A2 1-8 Repeat A1 meas 1-8 with cpl 2 turning and casting and cpl 1 moving up.

II. CROSS AND CLOVERLEAF

- B1 1-2 First corners (M1, W2) cross (change places passing R shldrs-3 steps to meet; 3 to back into new place.
3-4 Second corners (W1, M2) cross.
5-6 All four join hands at shldr level and circle L half way (CW).
7-8 All Cloverleaf Turn Single (six steps).
B2 1-2 Second corners cross.
3-4 First corners cross.
5-6 All four join hands at shldr level and circle L half way.
7-8 Cpl 1 Cast Down into second place as cpl 2 Lead Up into first place (progression).

Dance repeats from the beginning with cpl 1 dancing with the new cpl 2 below them. When a cpl reaches the top or the bottom of the set, they wait out one repeat; cpl 1 becomes cpl 2 and cpl 2 becomes cpl 1.

Description written November 1984.