

# ROOTS OF THE BORDER MORRIS

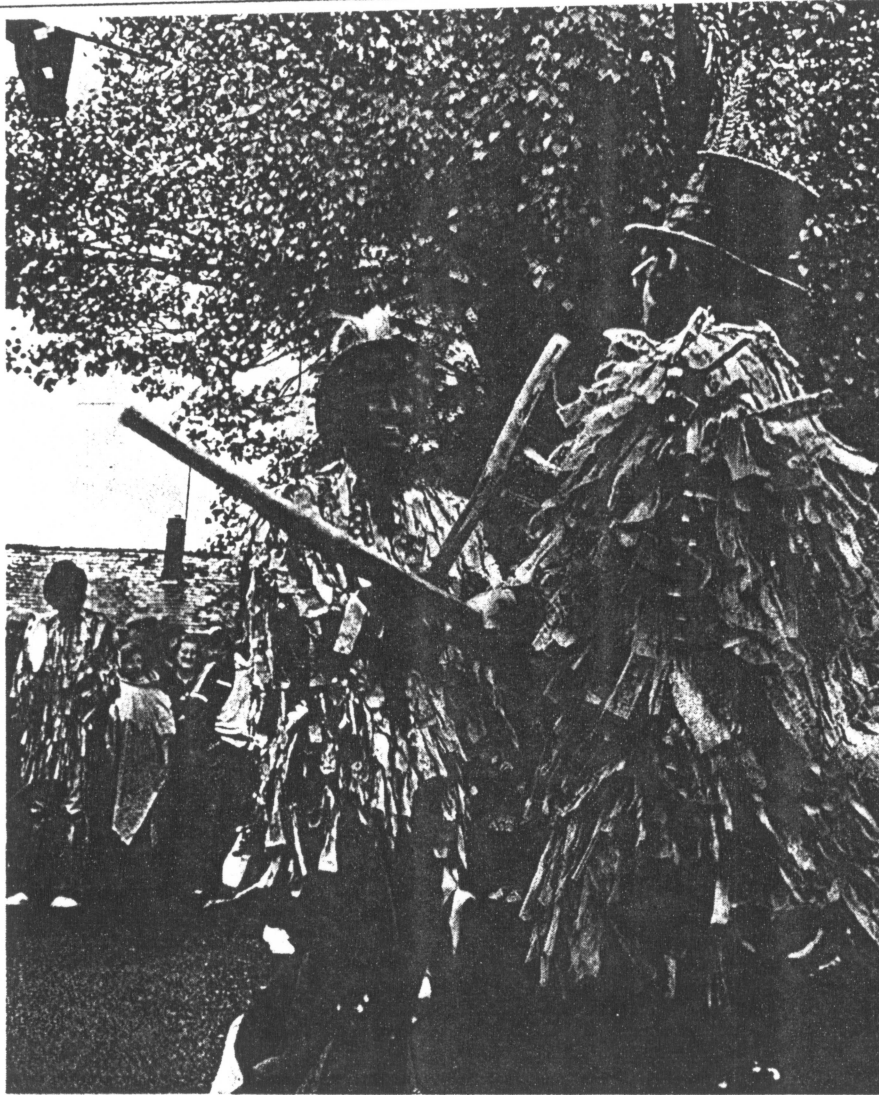
by

Roy Dommett

ROOTS OF BORDER MORRIS CONFERENCE

29th February

Historical



Morris men in action during the Aston-on-Clun Arbor Day festivities in Shropshire, 1980.

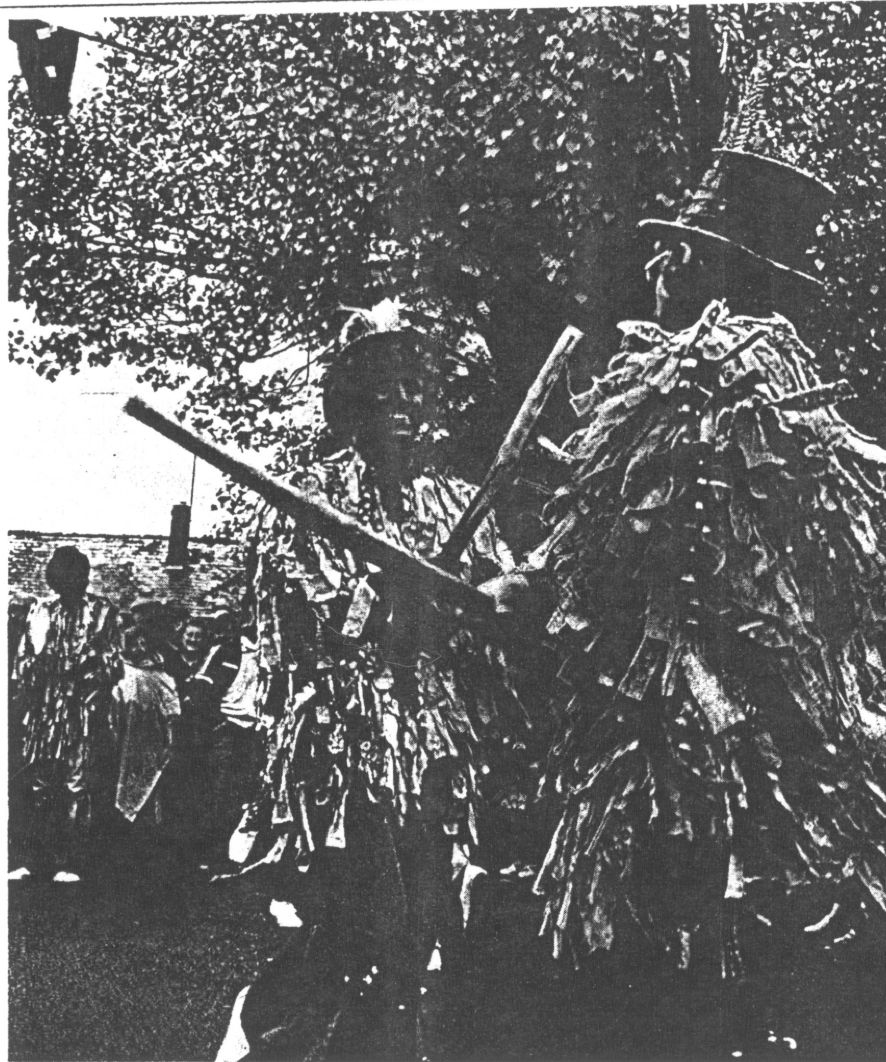
SHROPSHIRE PEOLANS  
MODERN IMAGE OF  
BORDER MORRIS

b7

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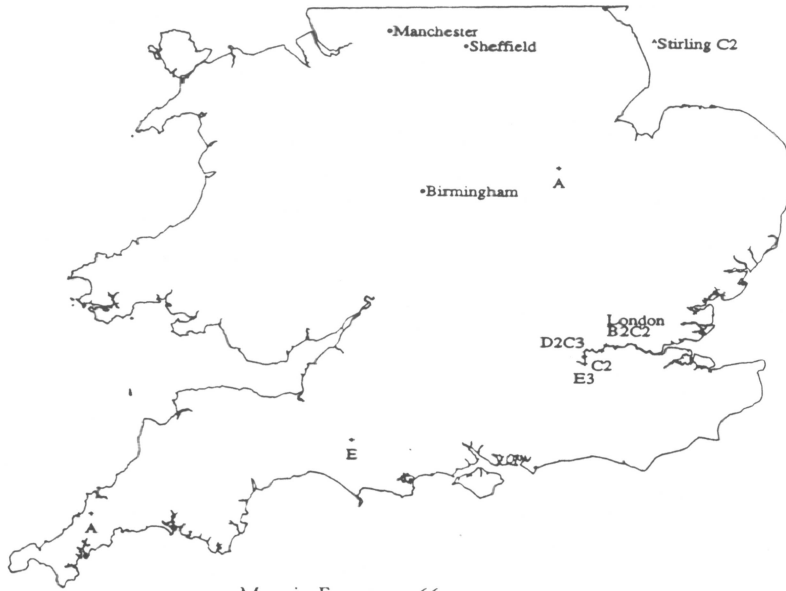


Morris men in action during the Aston-on-Clun Arbor Day festivities in Shropshire, 1980.

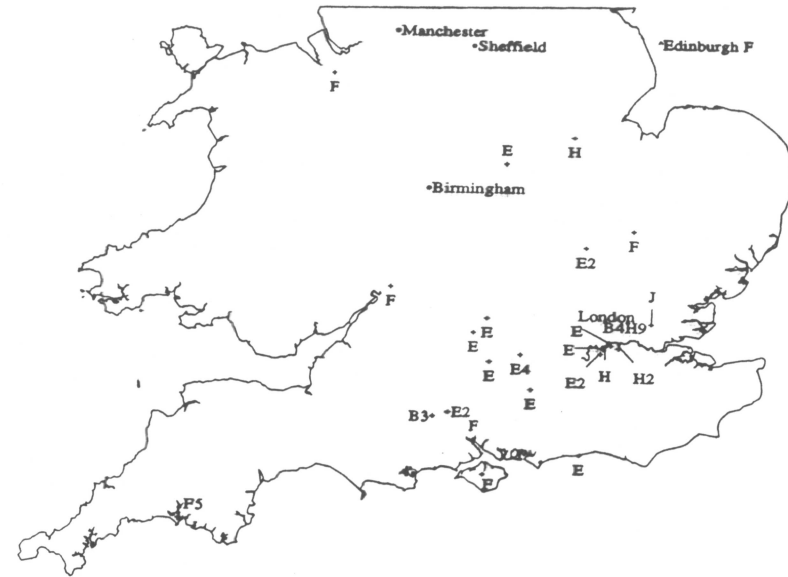
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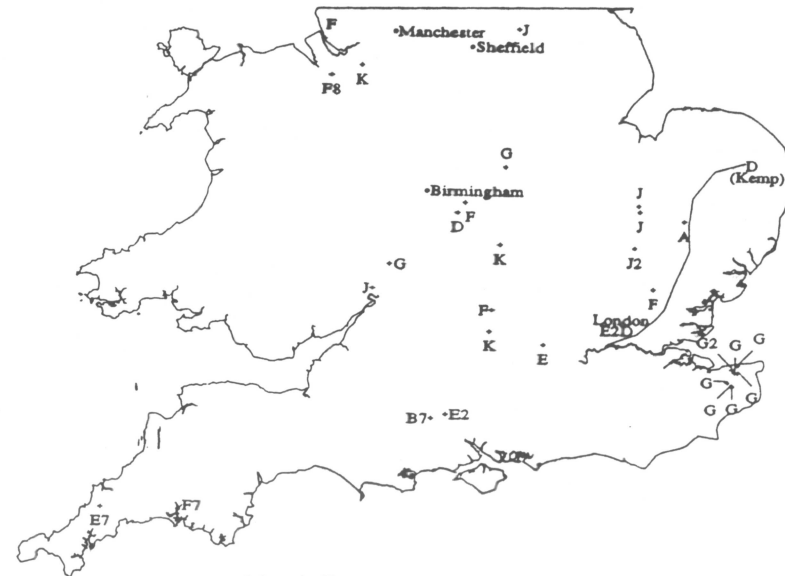
Morris Events 1466-1510



Morris Events 1541-1570



Morris Events 1511-1540



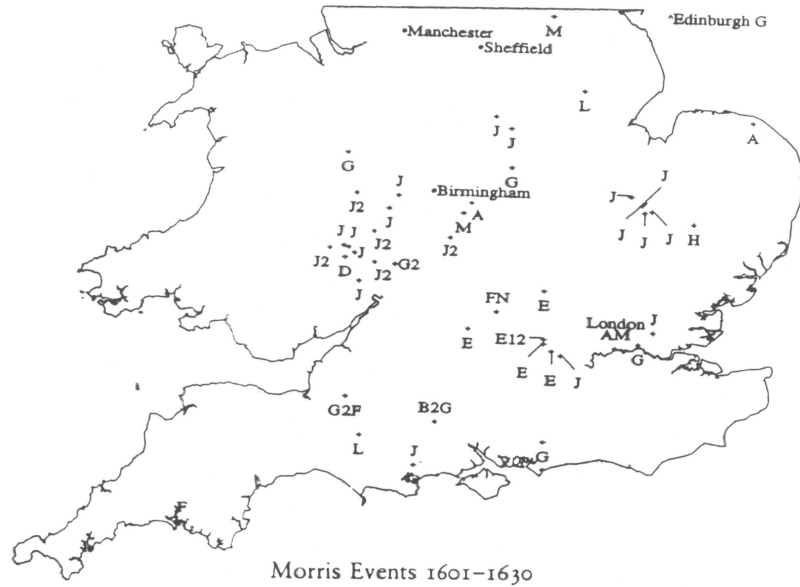
Morris Events 1571-1600



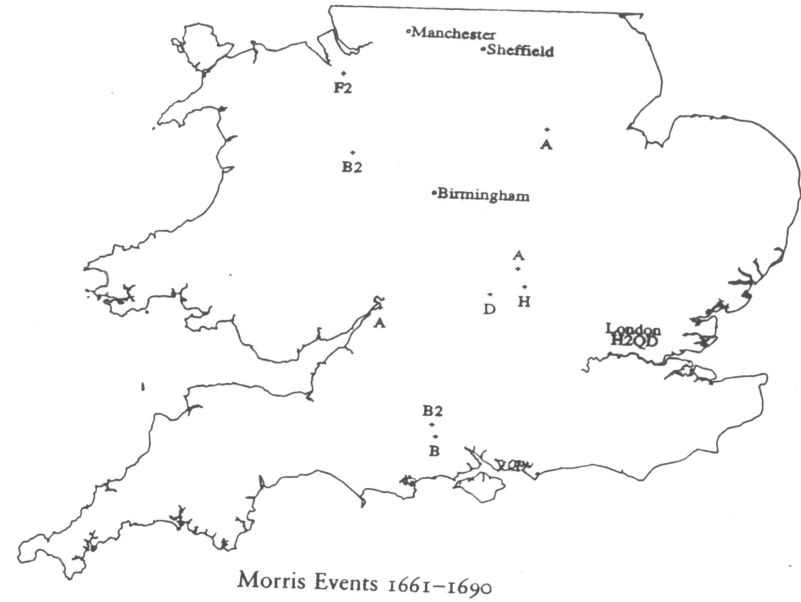
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Morris Events 1601-1630



Morris Events 1661-1690



Morris Events 1631-1660

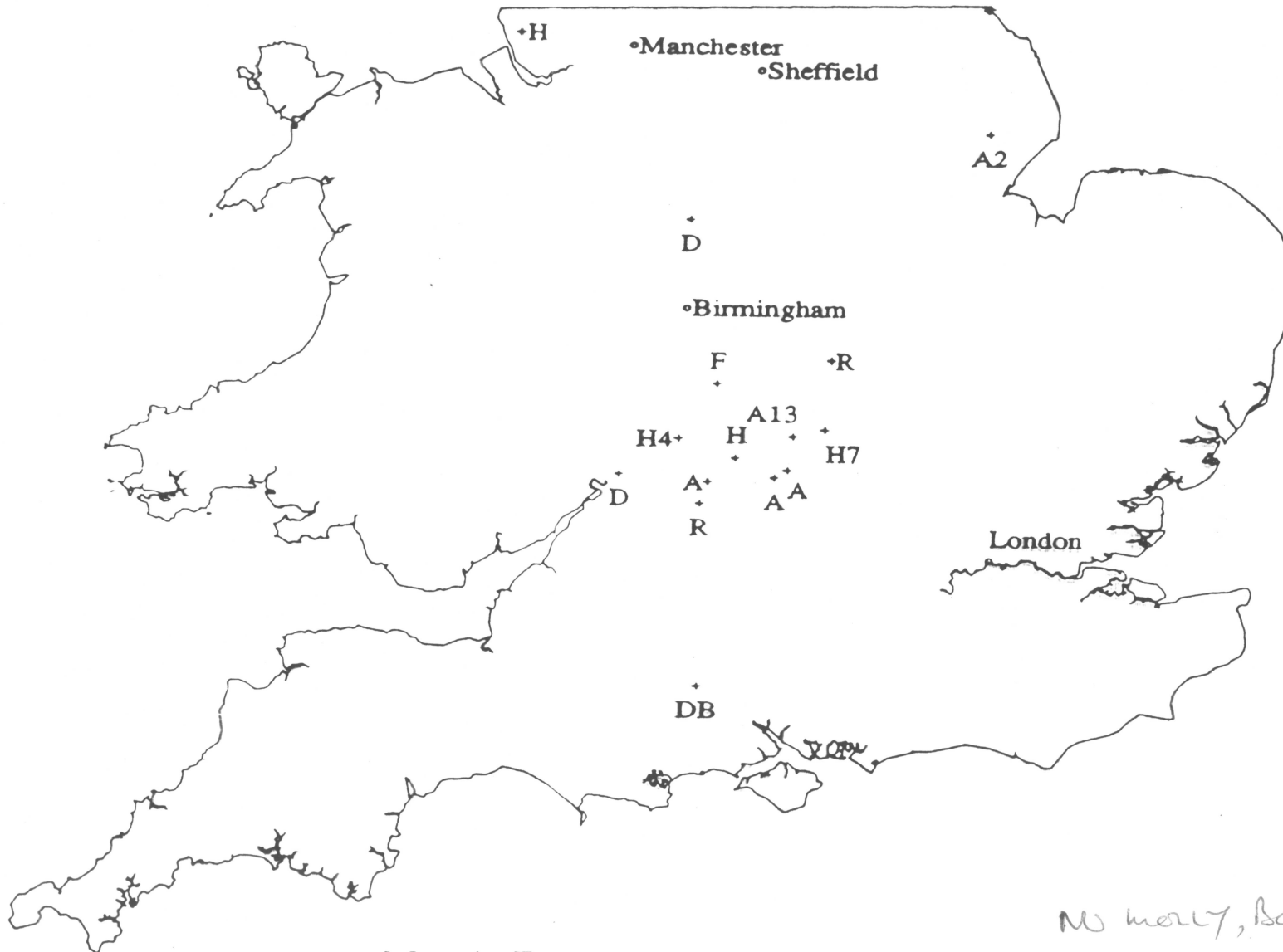


Morris Events 1691-1720

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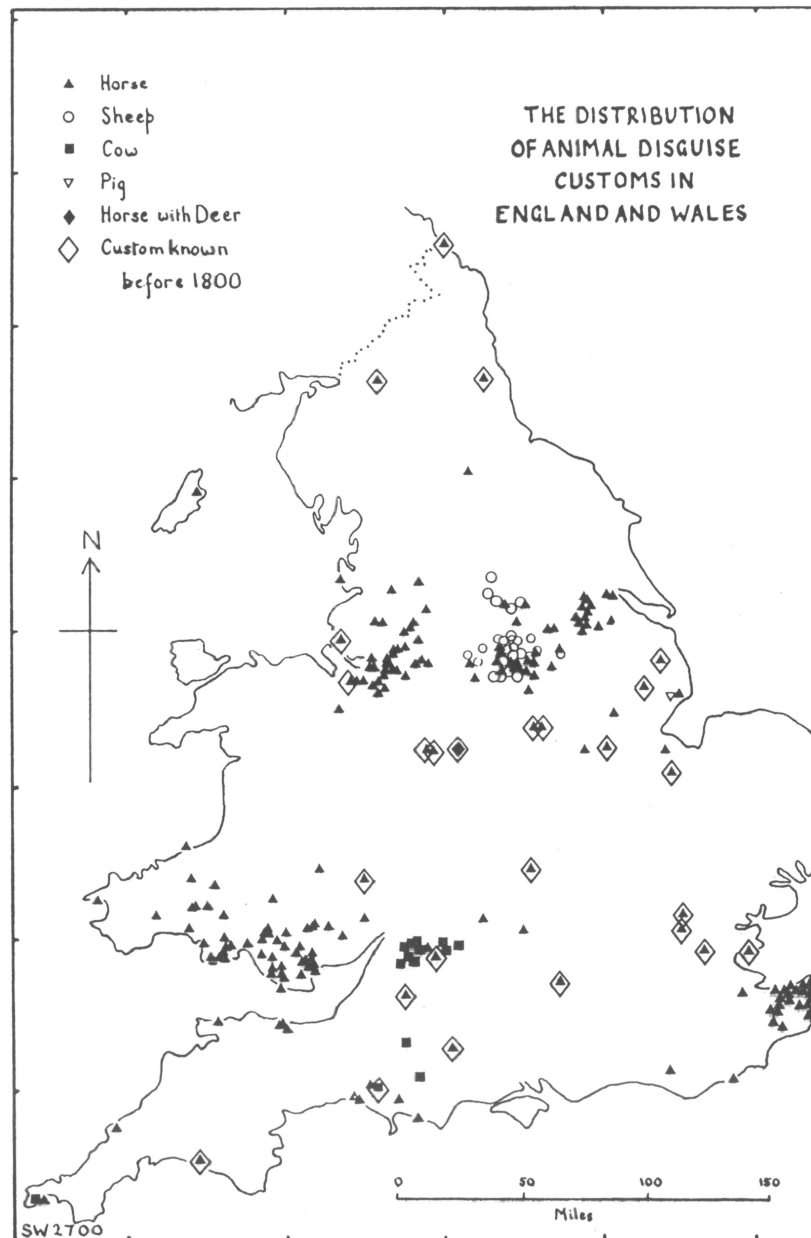
Morris Events 1721-1750

*no more, border or else*

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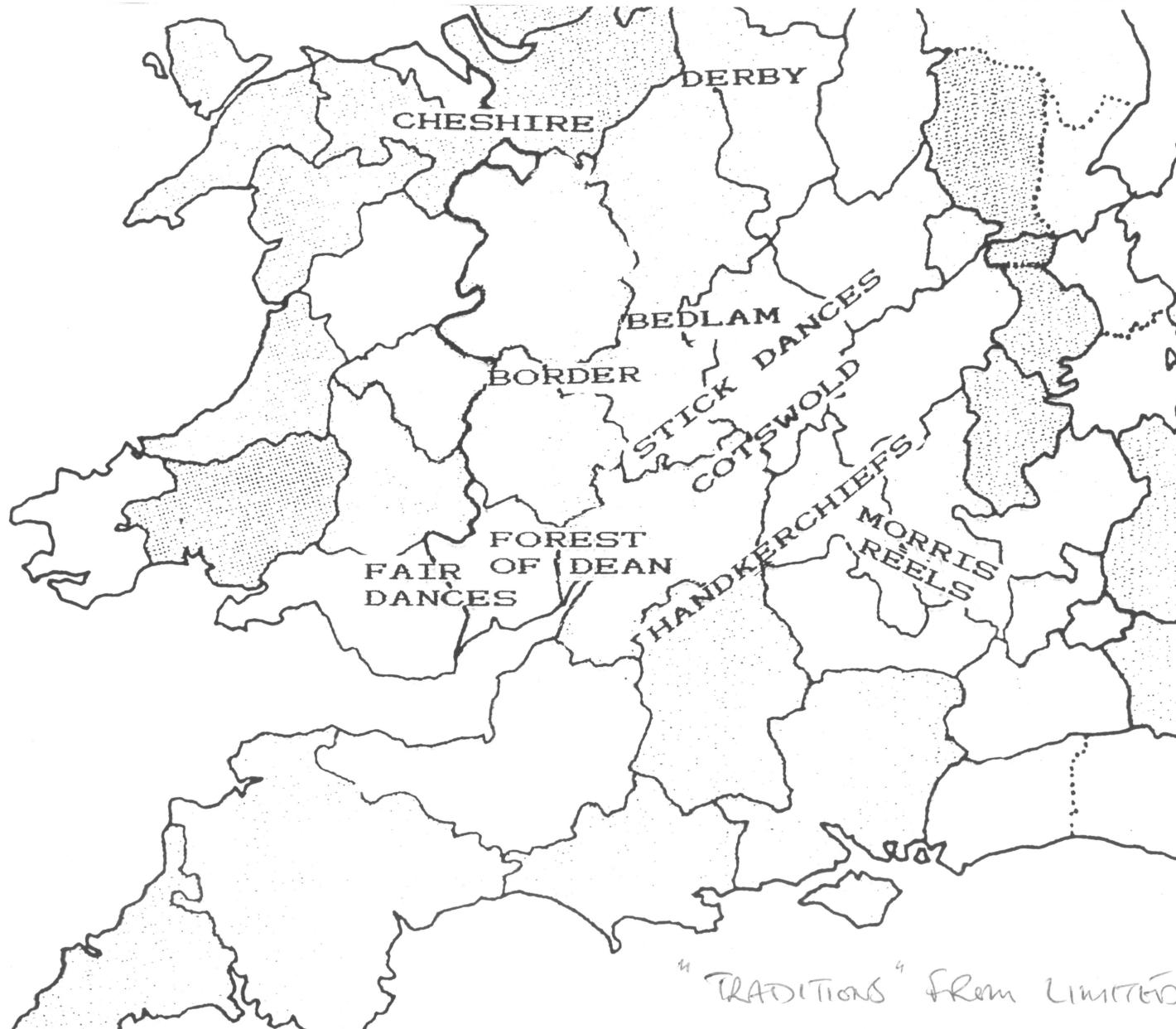
REPORTED SIGHTINGS OF MORRIS SIDES  
 BETWEEN 1800 AND 1940



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MORRIS REELS

BY DEFINITION HALF MOVEMENTS ARE REELS/HEYS

MORRIS DANCERS AT RICHMOND - PAINTING

THOMAS HARDY - EFDS LETTER - THE OLD REELS

STEEPLE CLAYDON (BUCKS) - C# - 6 HANDED IN LINE

HEADINGTON MORRIS REELS - KIMBER - 3 TO 6 MEN

ILMINGTON BUFFOON - C# IN SET, SCHOFIELD IN LINE

BROMSBERROW HEATH - WORTLEY - 6 MEN IN LINE

KEYNSHAM XMAS DANCE - MUMMERS - 4 IN LINE

UPTON SNODSBURY - KARPELES - 3 IN LINE

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### GENERALITIES

CONTENT : LITTLE IN COMMON BETWEEN DANCES

COSTUME : VARIETY - BETWEEN & WITHIN TEAMS

IMPLEMENTS : STICKS OF VARIOUS LENGTHS OR TOOLS

MUSIC : STRONG PERCUSSION EVEN AT COST OF DANCE

PRACTICE : NIGHT BEFORE TO EXTENDED PERIOD

TOURS : ODD NIGHT TO LONG DISTANCES

(NOT NEC. REGULARLY - FOLK EXAGGERATION)

COLLECTING MONEY : ON THE FLY - SELDOM BOXES

PUBLIC ATTITUDES : ENJOYED AT WORKING LEVEL

OFFICIAL ATTITUDES : UNKNOWN

SURVIVALS : DAUGHTER SIDES & ENDING WITH KIDS

(COMPARE "JOHNNY JACKS" AT SALISBURY)

REVIVAL : NOT VILLAGE BUT WELCOMED

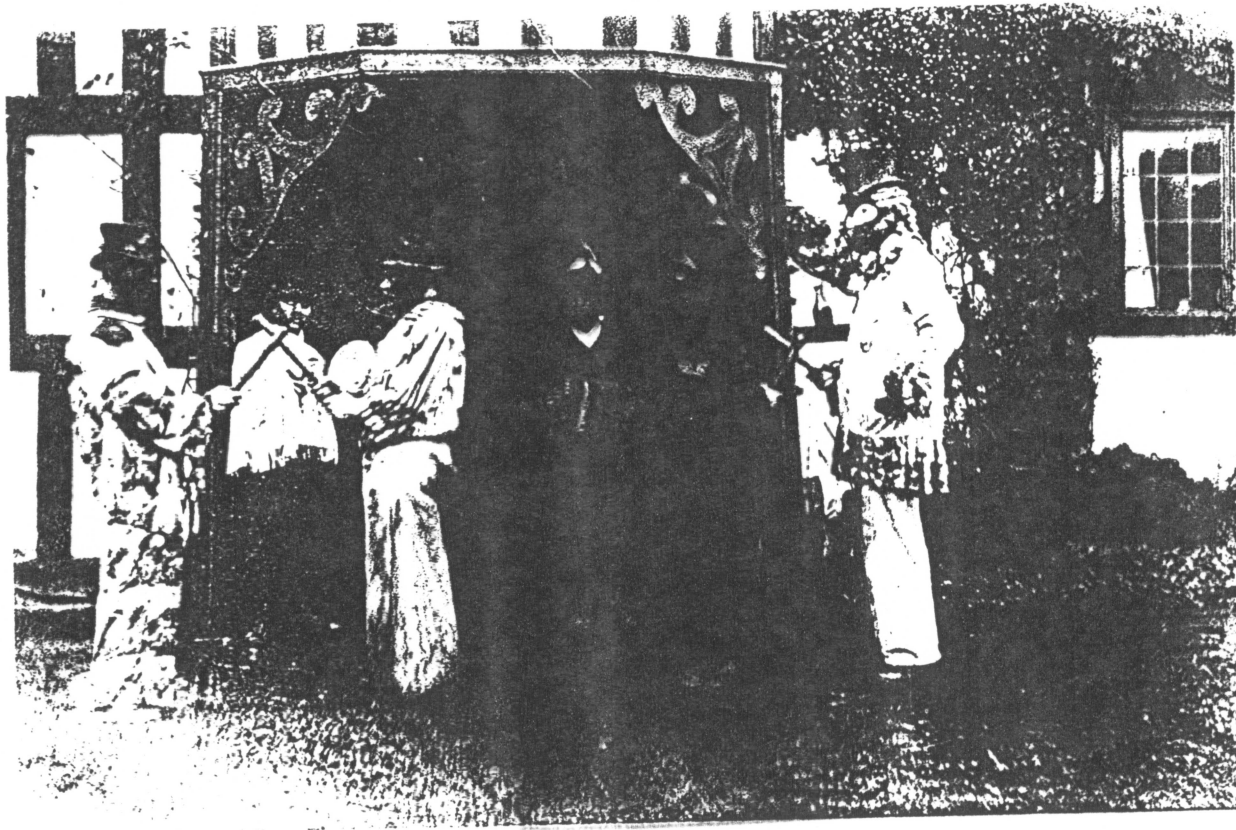
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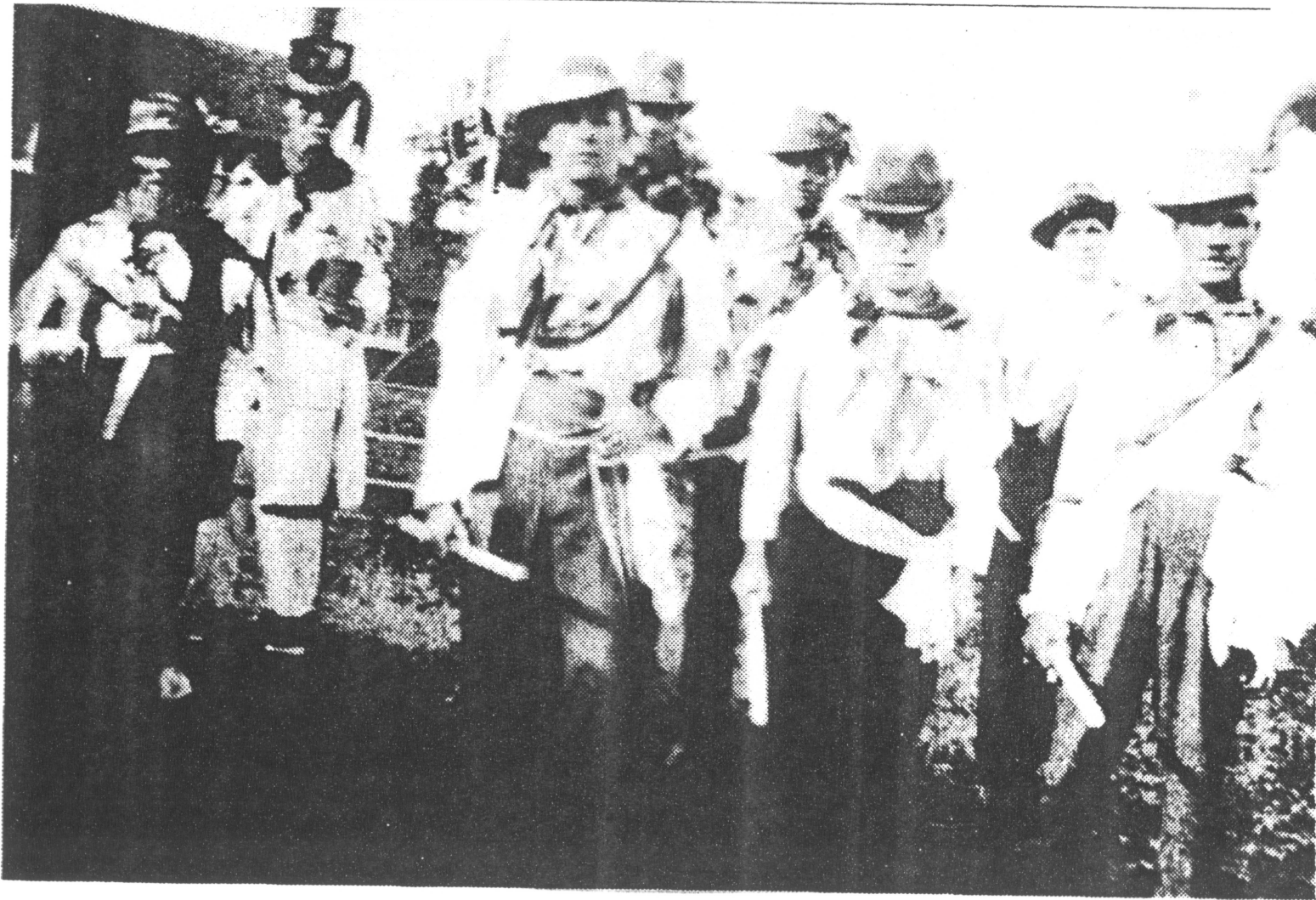
BRIMFIELD 1908



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*Upton Morrismen in the mid twenties.*

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UPTON ON SEVERN

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*Perth Morris costume*

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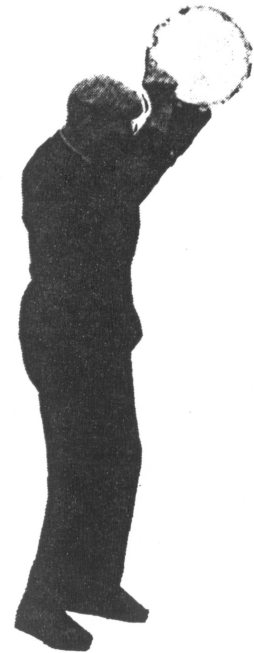
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CRADLEY MORRIS DANCE



The Much Wenlock costume as worn by Cyril Moseley.

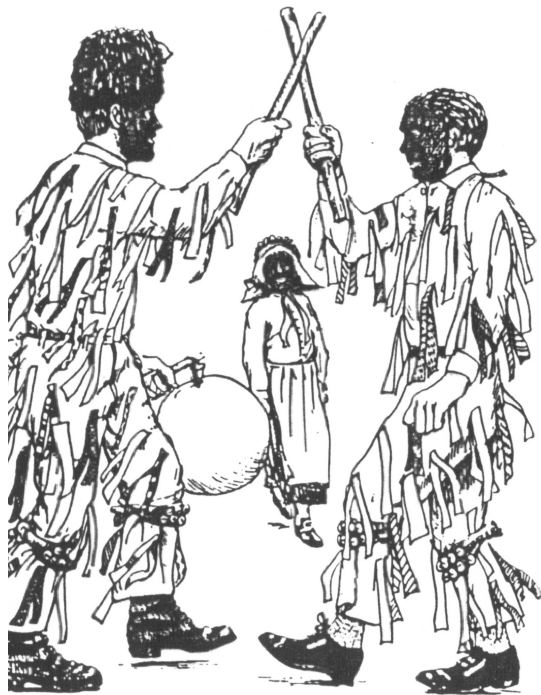


Cyril Moseley, a "Molly Dancer" from Much Wenlock.

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king

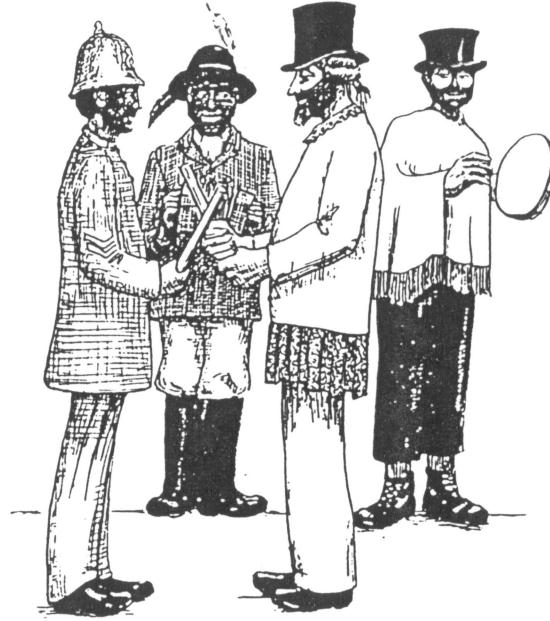
collector

Brimfield



two styles of dress worn before 1909

Brimfield



1909

Dilwyn



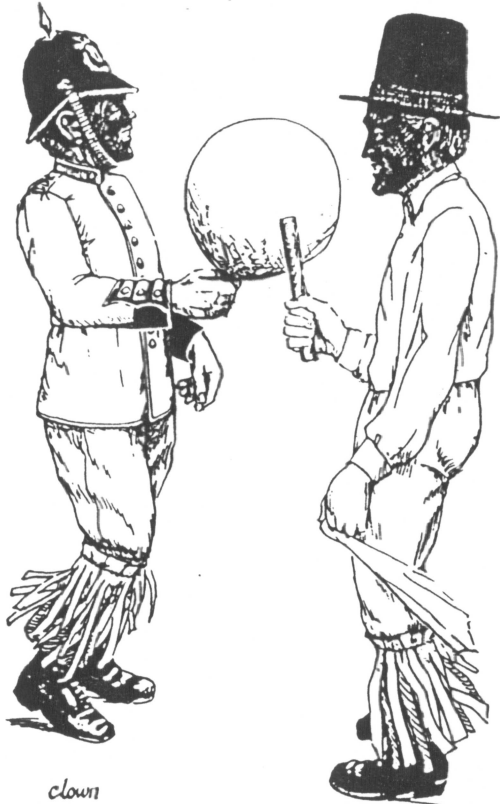
THE BROMSBERROW HEATH MORRIS DANCES.

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*Evesham*



THE UPTON ON SEVERN MORRIS DANCES.



*A Pershore Nut for Joer.*

*Elton*







DECORATION

'The Chimney-Sweeper,' from *Picturesque Representations of the Dress and Manners of the English*, Anon., 1814, Plate 21.

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FRENCH  
EQUINAULT  
c. 1750



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## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS MENTIONED

	F I D D L E	C O N C E R T I N A	M E L O D E O N	T I N W H I S T L E	T A M B O U R I N E	T R I A N G L E	B O N E S
ASTON ON CLUN				X	X		X
BRIMFIELD			X		X		
BROMSBERROW	X	X	X		X	X	X
DILWYN	X						
EVESHAM		X					
LEOMINSTER			X		X	X	
MUCH WENLOCK			X		X	X	X
ORLETON			X		X		X
PEOPLETON		X			X		
PERSHORE	X	X		X	X	X	X
UPTON ON SEVERN		X			X		X
WHITE LADIES ASTON		X	X		X	X	X

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BLACKING UP

DONE BY HENRY VIII

DEVILS OR SATANS ABROAD

POACHERS - WOOLMER BLACKS

NIGGER MINSTREL TROUPES

MID 1800'S TILL WORLD WAR II

FOLK PERFORMANCE SINCE TURN OF CENTURY

VERY COMMON IN 1920'S

SHOW HAS FORMAL STRUCTURE

LEADER, END MEN, SONG, DANCE, SKITS

BARLEY MORRIS EXPERIENCE

PROBLEM OF ALL OVER COLOUR - BE CLOWN LIKE

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CURRENT SOURCE MATERIAL

- . SHARP & KARPELES MICROFILMS IN VAUGHAN  
WILLIAMS LIBRARY, CECIL SHARP HOUSE
  - . MSS IN LIBRARY COLLECTION - DAWLEY, MALVERN
  - . HELM COLLECTION AT FOLK LORE SOCIETY LIBRARY
  - . INDEX OF DANCE BY HELM etc - IN JOURNAL EFDSS
  - . CAWTE ARTICLE IN JOURNAL EFDSS "BORDER MORRIS"
  - . "OTHER MORRIS" - DOMMETT PAPERS PUB CDS of A
  - . DAVID JONES COMPENDIUM FOR MORRIS RING
  - . DAVID JONES BOOKLET
-

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THE DANCE COLLECTORS

. CECIL SHARP

BRIMFIELD, WEOBLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE TRACES,  
STEEPLE CLAYDON, MORRIS REELS

. MAUD KARPELES

VISITS & LETTERS

MUCK WENLOCK, UPTON SNODSBURY, PERSHORE  
WHILE LADIES ASTON, PEOPLETON

. SCHOFIELD

UPTON ON SEVERN

. FRAGMENTS

CAWTE, DOMMETT, MENDHAM etc

. HARGREAVES - EVESHAM

. RUSSELL WORTLEY - BROMSBERROW HEATH

. DAVID JONES - REAL CONTACTS

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PROBLEMS OF SINGLE COLLECTING VISITS

CECIL SHARP

ABINGDON, BRACKLEY

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

ILMINGTON

JULIAN PILLING & OUMM

WINSTER STICK DANCE

DOMMETT

PERSHORE

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REVIVAL

. UPTON ON SEVERN STICK DANCE PUBLISHED

. HALSWAY MANOR WEEKENDS IN 1960's

    "OTHER MORRIS"

    "BLACK BOOK"

        (Not Evesham at Wortley request)

. WORKSHOP AT LEDBURY JANUARY 1972

. RAG JACKET SIDES

    FACE PAINT, NOISE, WILD

. A TREND TO THE RIDICULOUS

    INFLUENCE OF 7 CHAMPIONS MOLLY

    "STREET DANCES"

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## E V E S H A M

(Worcs.)

Sources RD from MSS of J.Hargreaves; Jour EFDSS Dec.1963 (E.C.Caute).

### Characteristics of the tradition

Allied with Brimfield and Bromsberrow Heath, etc. (q.v.). 10 dancers, who were nummers also.

The Dances recorded are 2, one stick and one hkf.

The Figures. DP, CO and Rounds

The Steps. 4-step only

The Arm-movements. "Wave for 6 bars - once to each hopstep then 2 times down from the wrist, finishing up with 2 circular motions". (The Handkerchief Dance only)

### THE EVESHAM STICK DANCE (Hkf in lt hand, stick in rt)

Sequence - DF;DP;DF;CO;DF;Rounds;DF (Rep ad lib from DP onwards)

DP - (B music)

CO - (B music) Track as in Headington. 6 bars to cross and turn, 2 dancing facing

Rounds - (C music) Transfer stick to lt hand and hkf to rt, and face round to rt. Sticks held up in middle. Dance round in circle c.cl to places, waving hkfs from wrists, singing Fanny Frail. At end, change hands again

DF - Stick-tapping. (A music). Partners strike tips from rt to lt on first three beats of every bar, stepping throughout.

### THE EVESHAM HANDKERCHIEF DANCE

Sequence - DP;CO;WhR (Rep ad lib)

DP - (A music)

(Evesham)

CO - (B music) Cross, turn and face partner, men home again, passing rt shoulders each time (as in Headington), all in 8 bars

WhR - (C music) Clockwise

BALCON DRAFT NOT INCLUDED

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### BRIMFIELD

NAPPING      FIGURE EIGHT "ho!"      NAPPING      SET  
NAPPING      FIGURE EIGHT      NAPPING      ARMING  
NAPPING      FIGURE EIGHT      NAPPING      HANDS ACROSS  
NAPPING      FIGURE EIGHT      NAPPING      SWING  
more than 4 - longways set & leader calls  
modern variant - two lines crossed

### BROMSBERROW HEATH

and at Mitcheldean  
STICKS OR STEPPING  
WALK REEL OF 6 "off!", STICKS & CAPERS "set"  
AD LIB SPEEDING UP - "11" passings in 32 steps  
modern variant - form a circle - no end problem

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DILWYN

and at Leominster & Weobley

NAP CHASSEZ ACROSS & BACK

NAP HANDS ACROSS

in 1920's "in a circle they crossed over, bowed,  
circled & hit sticks"

EVESHAM

STICKS ON SPOT STICKS ½ CROSS OVER

STICKS CIRCLE ANTICLOCKWISE "Fanny Frail"

STICKS

modern variant - add inside casts & double  
cross over

HANDKERCHIEF

ON SPOT CROSS OVER AND BACK WHOLE ROUNDS

AS LIB

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MUCH WENLOCK

troupe	sticks	tambourines	triangle
8	4	2	
7	2	2	1
6	2	2	
5	2		1

SO

top	T	S	S	or	T	S	or	S	bottom
	T	S	S		T	S		S	

CROSS OVER & BACK LEFT SHOULDER STICKS

ad lib moving up street

10	4	2	1 + 2 bones
	M	S	M
	M	S	M

CROSS OVER ONE STAND & REST CIRCLE HEY FOR

CAST ZIG-ZAG PROCESSIONAL

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PEOPLETON

Letter from same source as White Ladies Aston

STICKS: HIT OPPOSITE, NEIGHBOUR, OPPOSITE & PASS

FIGURES: ON SPOT      B2B ACROSS      CIRCLE IN 4's

HANDS ACROSS      REEL OF 4      B2B ON SIDE

HANDKS: ON SPOT      4 CAPERS & HOPSTEP ACROSS

PERSHORE

EARLY VERSION

FIGURES : HALF STICKS & HALF MOVEMENT

TOP CUS HALF HANDS OR STICK & BOTTOM CU TO TOP

CHANGE SIDES      HALF HEY ON SIDES

"NOT FOR JOES"

CIRCLES      SET ROTATES      ROUND OPPOSITE 3X

LONGING SHANK      HANDS ROUND      CROSS DIAGONALS

CROSS OVER      BICYCLE CHAIN      DANCE ACROSS

ROUNDS      DIAGONALS CHANGE      BACK TO BACK

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### UPTON ON SEVERN

Closest to Cotswold & widely performed. Drift away from Karpeles description. Adding cross over and large loops, variety of stick tappings. Attempts to use range of hand movements and steps observed in what was a rough performance. Has been basis of whole traditions. Emily insisted that stick dance was for 8.

Problem with direction change halfway through handkerchief dance leads to many solutions.

### UPTON SNODSBURY

A three handed reel with heys and stick tapping. Did some kind of stepping throughout the dance. For the stick tapping the middle dancer tapped alternately with the dancers on either side of them. Dr Cawte found that the reel could be done as a "Sheepskin Hey" around three hats on the ground.

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WHITE LADIES ASTON : Jone's Suggestions

STAITE

STICK      STRAIGHT HEY      INSIDE CAST & TURN UNDER

LOWLE

STICKS      PROCESS DOWN      ½ ROUNDS

STICKS      PROCESS DOWN      ½ ROUNDS TO PLACE

RAWLINGS

STICKS & CHANGE SIDES      STICKS & CHANGE BACK

TOP TO BOTTOM & REST STICK      STICKS

CHANGE SIDES      STICKS      CHANGE BACK

TOP TO BOTTOM & REST STICK      etc

GLOVER      (16 bars each)

CHORUS : ½ HEY & STICKS REPEATED

FIGURES : LINKED HEY      PROCESS UP      ROUNDS &

STICK & BACK      PROCESS DOWN      CROSS OVER &

STICKS & CROSS BACK & STICKS

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UP

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POPULAR DANCES

COLLECTED

BRIMFIELD

WHITE LADIES ASTON

UPTON ON SEVERN STICK DANCE

RECENT

SHEEPSKIN HEY DANCES

VALIANT SOLDIER

MR DOLLY

SEVEN HAND REEL

MAIDENS PRAYER

MORNING STAR

WORKSHOP

TRIUMPH

RADDLED TUP

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E U S K  L H E R R I   
ROMANIAN