

# 19th Century Eightsome Reel

Reconstructed by Richard Powers

## FIGURE I

- ◆ Take hands-8 and slip to the left with a Double Kemkossy [4] Set in place with Kemkossies [3] [3]  
Repeat in opposite direction [4] [3] [3]
- ◆ Keeping hands with partners, ladies Right Hand Star, with gents keeping up on the outside, traveling forward with three Kemshooles [1] [1] [1]  
Ladies back out of the center, gents forward to the center with Minor Kemkossies [5]  
Gents star left, as above, then back out, to places, with [1] [1] [1] [5]
- ◆ Drop hands and set to partners with Lematrasts [2] [2] and Kemkossies [3] [3]  
Turn partner with the right hand, in place [1] [2] [1] [2]
- ◆ Grand Right and Left Chain around the circle with eight bars of [1]

## FIGURE II

- ◆ Head couples advance with [1] [1] Set to opposites with steps [2] [2] [3] [3]  
Head gents retire to places alone with [5] [5] while ladies turn each other by right hands with [1] [1]
- ◆ Outside six forward with [1] [1] while the center ladies set to each other with [2] [2]  
Outside six circle to the left and then right with [4] [4] while center ladies set with [3] [3] [5] [5]  
Outside six fall back to places with [5] [5] while center ladies turn each other by the left hands 3/4 around with [1] [1]
- ◆ Side couples make an arch with held hands and set in place with [2] [2] while solo ladies pass under the arches of their right-hand side couple, with [1] [1] After passing under the arch, solo ladies turn left and the two dancers forming the arch pass each other by the right shoulders, striking a 3-hand reel with [1] for the remaining six bars,
- ◆ Solo ladies cross over to the opposite side couples, who set in place again, then the solo ladies duck under the arches to reel again, with the same steps as above. Solo ladies depart from the reel in time to reach home.

A note on the Reel: When crossing through the center of the figure-8, always head out of the set.  
When you reach the end of the line, always turn in toward the center.

## FIGURE III (optional)

- ◆ All four gents advance to the center with steps 1 2 1 and a Pigeon Wing caper: Jump into the air then beat ankles against each other, with relaxed ankles, so that feet flap inward like wings.

Gents travel sideways to their right with a Double Kem Badenoch (grapevine) thusly: R to right side; cross L behind; R to right; cross L in front; R to right; cross L behind; leap in place exchanging the crossed feet. Gents then return to the left side with a Double Kem Badenoch.

- ◆ Gents advance to the opposite lady with steps 1 1 and set to her with 2 2. Turn opposites by the right hand one full turn with 1 1 then men retire, backing toward the center, with 5 5, turning halfway to their right on the third and fourth steps.
- ◆ Gents advance to partners, set and turn by the right hand as above. Gents retire a short distance with 5 5 without turning.
- ◆ Grand Reel, with two 4-hand reels intersecting in the center in the following manner: Pass right shoulders with partners; ladies grand chain L (like a left hand star); pass opposites by the right shoulder; gents grand chain L. Continue this pattern to places, using traveling step 1.

Repeat figures until the music ends.

## Scotch Reel steps

from *Sketches Relative to the... Practice of Dancing* by Francis Peacock, 1805

### 1 KEMSHOOLE (*Traveling Step*)

- ◆ Step R forward to 4th position. ◆ Close L up to R to 3rd position. ◆ Step R forward again. ◆ Hop on R. Repeat forward on the opposite feet. This is done rapidly, high on the balls of the feet, shading the body very slightly to the sides on each step. Peacock didn't say what to do with the free foot during the hop, but late 19th century sources suggest swinging the free foot forward into the air, toe pointed down.

### 2 LEMATRAST (*Cross Springs*)

- ◆ Cross R tightly over the L to 5th position, possibly with weight, possibly with just a light tap.
- ◆ Uncross R, keeping it in the air. ◆ Step R straight backwards. ◆ Hop on R. Repeat opposite.

3] KEMKOSSY (*Setting Step, or "Threes"*)

- ♦ Cross R behind L to 5th position. ♦ "Bound" to the left with the L to 2nd position.
  - ♦ Cross R behind L again. ♦ Hop on R, extending the L foot to the left side to 2nd position air.
- Repeat opposite, crossing L behind R.

4] DOUBLE KEMKOSSY (*Sideways Traveling Step, or "Sevens"*)

- ♦ Cross R behind L to 5th position. ♦ "Bound" to the left with the L. ♦ Repeat. ♦ Repeat again.
  - ♦ Cross R behind L again. ♦ Hop on R, extending the free L foot to the left side, 2nd position air.
- Repeat all seven counts to the right side, crossing L behind R.

5] MINOR KEMKOSSY (*Footing Step*)

- ♦ Place the R tightly behind the L into 5th position and sink onto it. ♦ Hop R in place, extending L to the left side, 2nd position air. ♦ Repeat opposite, crossing L tightly behind the R.

6] FOSGLADH (*Open Step*)

- ♦ Slip the feet apart to 2nd position. ♦ Spring straight up into 5th position upon the toes.
- ♦ Drop back into 2nd position. ♦ Spring up into reverse 5th position. The foot which was behind last time is now in front. ♦ Repeat the first two steps. ♦ On count 7, do a quick half-turn, unwinding from the 5th position to face the opposite direction, dropping into 2nd position.