

The Killiecrankie Leap

A 32 bar reel for three couples in a longwise set.

During one of the Jacobite uprisings a single combatant from one group of soldiers who were overwhelmed by larger opposing forces managed to escape fatal pursuit with an astonishing 5 metre leap across a gorge above the river Garry at Killiecrankie (just north of Pitlochry). The pursuers turned away from making the same mad leap and failed to find a safer crossing either upstream or downstream.

The figures in the dance loosely try to represent aspects of this encounter with an initial chase, short engagement (teapots), running away (snake pass), various leaps with the opponents turning away (hello/goodbye figure), running up and down the banks of the river with the escapee safely on the other side (half reels) and finally getting home free to repeat the whole unpleasant adventure from 2nd place.

NB the four left footed leaps in 8 bars of hello/goodbye setting by the average dancer probably add up to less distance than that of the single leap of the escaping soldier!

- 1-4 1st couple cross giving right hands and cast one place.
- 5-8 1st couple turn giving left hands to end in the centre with 1st man facing up and 1st woman facing down while 2nd and 3rd couples chase clockwise half way round the set.
- 9-12 1st couple dance right hands across: 1st man with 3rd couple at the top and 1st woman with 2nd couple at the bottom.
- 13-16 1st couple, followed by 2nd or 3rd couples, dance the Snake Pass ending by passing by the left shoulder to face their 3rd corner positions (2x 1 3x).
- 17-20 1st couple dance 4 bars of hello and goodbye setting to end leaping back into the centre on bar 20 to face their 4th corner positions while their 3rd corners do not set back but, pulling right shoulder back, cast away and dance back clockwise around the outside of the set to the opposite corner on their own sides.
- 21-24 1st couple repeat bars 17-20 with their 4th corners to end facing their 1st corner positions (3 1x 2).
- 25-28 1st couple dance half reels of 3 on opposite sides giving right shoulder to their 1st corners to end facing each other in 2nd place on the centre line with 1st woman facing down and 1st man facing up (2 1x 3).
- 29-32 1st couple cross up and down giving left hands and dance half a figure of eight passing left shoulder around their 3rd corners to end in 2nd place on their own sides in the order 213.