

Long Meg and Her Daughters

A 32 bar reel for two couples. It is probably best done in a three couple longwise set.

Long Meg is a tall standing stone beside a stone circle (her daughters) a few miles northeast of Penrith. The "Black Petronella" figure comes from Lochiel's Farewell to Tony Szeto by Ruary Laidlaw and others. Its alignments can be taken to represent Long Meg with the Celtic Reel as the adjacent stone circle.

Bars Description

- 1-4 1st man crosses down between 2nd couple and casts up round 2nd woman to the centre line while 1st woman crosses over and casts off round 2nd man to end on the centre line.
- 5-8 1st couple, giving left hands, turn one and a quarter times to face each other in a line of four across between 2nd couple in 2nd place.
- 9-16 1st and 2nd couples dance 8 bars of "Black Petronella":
 1-4: 1st couple petronella to end far apart on the centre line, then set. Meanwhile 2nd couple set, then petronella to face each other on the centre line between 1st couple.
 5-8: 2nd couple petronella to end in 2nd place on opposite sides, then set. Meanwhile 1st couple set, then petronella to face each other in a line of four across between 2nd couple who face clockwise.
- 17-24 1st and 2nd couples dance half an inverse Celtic Reel (8 bars) offset by 2 bars from usual:
 - 1-2: 2nd couple dance round a quarter anticlockwise to the ends of the centre line while 1st couple dance three quarters round their partner by the right shoulder to face the same gender member of 2nd couple in a line of four up and down the set.
 - 3-4: 1st and 2nd couples pass left shoulder. 2nd couple face their partner, 1st couple face anticlockwise.
 - 5-8: Repeat bars 1-4 of this figure from new places, but on the last bar 1st couple pass both 2nd couple and each other left shoulder to end facing up, nearer hands joined, in the centre between 2nd couple who are back on their own sides in 2nd place.
- 25-26 1st couple dance up to face out in 1st place on opposite sides while 2nd couple set.
- 27-32 1st and 2nd couples dance three quarters of a double figure of eight. 1st couple start by casting off as 2nd couple cross up.

Music

- Suggested tune: Morpeth Rant (Traditional)
- Suitable recording: Morpeth Rant (Robert Whitehead & the Danelaw Band: Dancers Choice 2).

Diagrams (music at the bottom)





Long Meg (left) beside her daughters