

Four Weddings and a Funeral or Two: Ceremonials of Celebration in the Early Modern Era

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2019 Winter Term (Jan 17, 24, 31, Feb 7, 14, 21) at 9:30-10:45a, Commons MPR, VU

COURSE OUTLINE

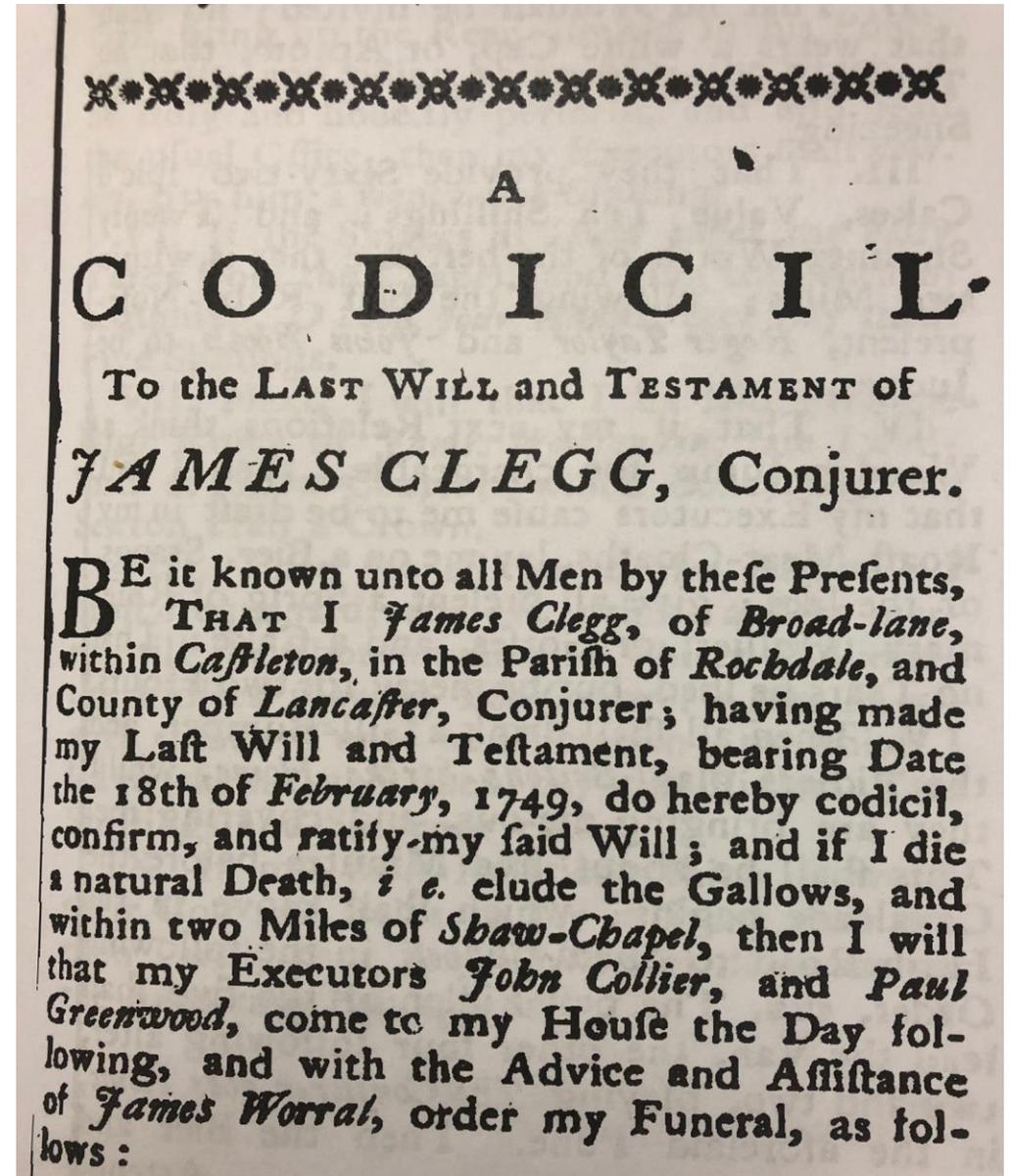
CLASS #	Methodology	Period	Exempla
1	Iconographical, cultural	Medieval	Paintings and illuminations, mystical marriage, Fauvel and the charivari
2	Iconographical, liturgical, poetic	Later Medieval	Requiems, office of the dead, déplorations
3	Reconstructing “stages”; documentary and musical evidence	14 th -15 th century	Dedication motets
4	Gifts, parties, and cultural meaning	16 th c	Catherine of Aragon et al., peasant weddings
5	Festival books and ceremonial posturing	Late 16 th c	Lasso, Troiano, and the Bavarian nuptials of 1568
6	Narratives, advertisements, regional folk tradition	18th c	Bidden weddings, public wills

Today is summative...

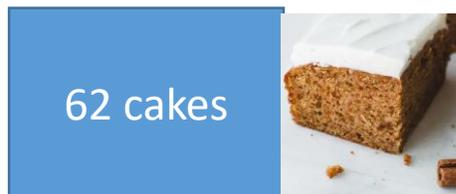
- Start with a funeral, or at least something in that genre
 - Never trust what you read in the press!
 - James Clegg, Conjuror
- Move to weddings, the kind that invited satire
 - Those country folks, oh, those silly country folk
 - We'll have weddings and beddings
 - And it all ends with dancing, late into the night

A Codicil to the Last Will and Testament of James Clegg, Conjuror

- Ah, happy satire
- Authored by Tim Bobbin, aka John Collier
 - weaver turned schoolmaster
 - “writing of humorous rhymes”
- Cleggs abound in the neighborhood;
- “John Collier” is cited as a co-executor



- I will that they invite to my funeral sixty of my friends, or best acquaintance, and also **five fiddlers**, to be there exactly at two o'clock.
- That no women be invited, no man that wears a white cap or apron; that **no tobacco or snuff be there, to prevent any sneezing**.
- That they provide sixty-two spiced cakes, value two shillings, and twenty shillings' worth of the best ale that is within two miles, allowing the best ruby-noses present, Roger Taylor and John Booth, to be judges.



...and 10x that amount in beer



- ...that my executors cause me to be dressed in my roast-meat clothes, lay me on a bier, stangs, or the like; give all present a sprig of rosemary, hollies, or gorses, and a cake.

- That all shall drink a gill bumper, and the fiddlers play *Britons strike Home*, whilst they are bringing me out and covering me.



Britons Strike Home (Purcell) – with score (from Bonduca), performed by Taverner Choir/Academy of Ancient Music, Hogwood

PRELUDE (INSTRUMENTAL ONLY)	SOLO, Chief Druid: (A A B B)	CHORUS (A A B B)
	<p>.55 Britons, strike home! Revenge, revenge your Country's wrong.</p> <p>1.07 Fight! Fight and record. Fight! Fight and record yourselves in Druid's Song. Fight! Fight and record. Fight! Fight and record yourselves in Druid's Song.</p>	<p>1.49 Britons, strike home! Revenge, revenge your Country's wrong.</p> <p>2.00 Fight! Fight and record. Fight! Fight and record yourselves in Druid's Song. Fight! Fight and record. Fight! Fight and record yourselves in Druid's Song.</p>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CwSBEWY1sEs>

Cavalcade

- The best Fiddler of the five shall lead the Van, the other four following after, two and two, playing *The Conjuror goes Home*, in the aforesaid Tune. (= verse 4 of 5)
- Then the Bier and Attendants, none riding on Horseback but... Face to Tail; except Mr. George Stansfield of Sowerby (which Privilege I allow him for Reasons best known to myself.)
- Then the C---- [curate] of S— C—I shall bring up the rear, dressed in his pontificalibus, and riding on an ass; the which If he duly and honestly perform, and also read the usual office, then my executors shall *nem. con.* pay him twenty-one shillings.
>> not a fan of the clergy

At Chapel....

- VI. If the singers at Shaw meet me Fifty yards from the chapel, and sing the anthem *O clap your Hands*, pay them five shillings.

O clap your Hands, &c: Orlando Gibbons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pV9vKNVwsvk>

Anthem from Psalm 46/47:

O clap your hands together, all ye people:
O sing unto God with the voice of melody.
For the Lord is high, and to be feared:
he is the great King upon all the earth....

Burial and afterwards....

- Next I will that I be laid near the huge ruins of James Wolfenden, late landlord of *Shaw Chapel*, which done, pay the sexton half-a-crown.
- Then let all go to the alehouse I most frequented, and eat, drink, and be merry, till the shot amount to thirty shillings; the fiddlers playing the *Conjuror's gone Home*, with other tunes at discretion, to which I leave them; and then pay the fiddlers two shillings and sixpence each.

Epitaph

Here Conjuror CLEGG beneath this Stone,
By his best Friends was laid;
Weep, O ye Fidlers, now he's gone,
Who lov'd the Tweedling-Trade!
Mourn all ye Brewers of Good Ale,
Sellers of Books and News,
But smile ye jolly Priests, he's pale,
Who grudg'd your Pow'r, and Dues.

Bequests, sample 1

Item, I give my forty-five minute sand-glass (on which is painted old Time sleeping) unto that clergyman living within three miles of my house who is most noted for preaching long-winded, tautologizing sermons, provided he never turn it twice at one heat.

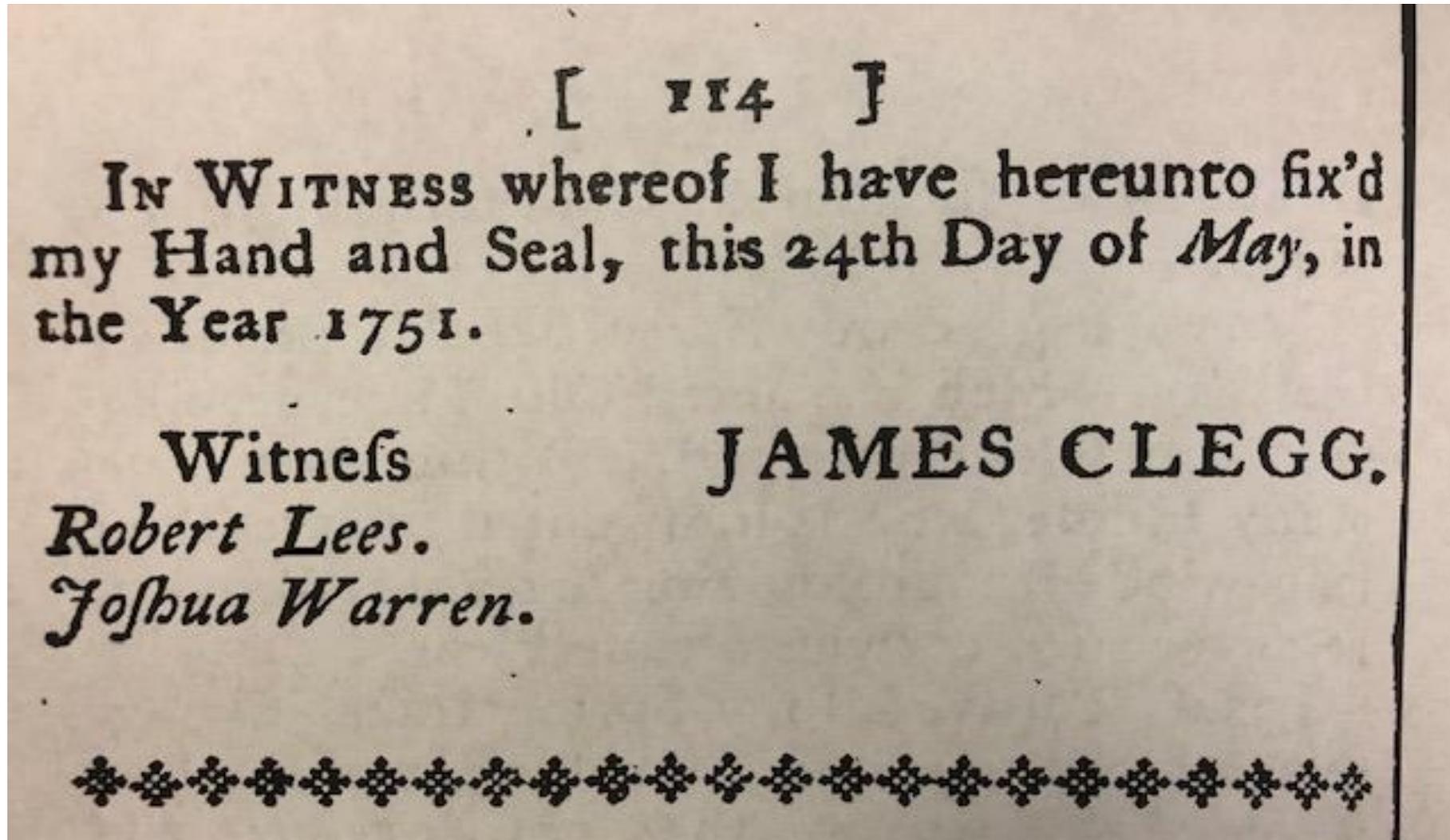


Bequests, sample 2

Item, I give all my Humility, Good-nature, Benevolence, and Hospitality, with all my other good Qualities whatsoever, not before dispos'd of, unto that Person in the Parish of Rochdale who can eat the most *Raw Onions* without crying.

..... As if it were real.....

(Satire and the semblance of truth)



Bidden Weddings
aka Bridewain
aka Penny Weddings
aka Bidding Weddings

or, “those rural folks sure are strange”

John Stagg, *Miscellaneous Poems*

(Carlisle, 1804; 2nd ed. Workington, 1805)

A' you 'at smudge at merry teales,
Or at devarshon sheyle,
Or goff and gurn at tuolliments,
Now lend your lugs a wheyle;
For sec an Infair I've been at,
As hes but seldom been,
Whar was sec wallop'in' an' wark,
As varra few hev seen
By neight or day.

Bit furst I'll tell ye how an' why
This parlish bout begun,
An' when an' whar, an' whea they war,
'At meade a' this feyne fun;
Furst, you mun ken, a youthfu' pair,
By frugal thrift exceyted,
Wad hev a breydewain, an' of course
The country roun' inveyted
Agean that day.

OED

- BRIDEWAIN: The wain or wagon on which a bride's 'providing' (surmounted by the spinning-wheel adorned with blue ribbons) used to be sent to her new home; also, a carved chest in which the providing was put, when of smaller compass; the contribution made to this by friends and neighbours, the wedding presents; **the occasion on which these are given, a bidding wedding.**

...Stagg...

**Neist day a dizzen lish young lads,
Wi' naigs weel graith'd an' hearty,
Wi' whup an' spur, thro' stenk an' stoore,
Set off, a jolly party;
Frae town to town leyke weyld they flew,
Or house, whare'er they spy'd yen,
An' ivry lad or lass they met
I'th house or out, to th' breydewain,
They bade that day.**

Thro' oth' Holme parish furst they ruode,
Frae th' Auld Kiln to Kurkbreyde,
To Aikton, Bowness, Banton, Bruff,
An' roun' oth' country seyde;
An' mony a harlin reace they hed,
Owr pasture, hill, an' deale,
An' monnie a cowp an' kaik they gat,
An' monnie a tift o' yell,
Ith' rwoad that day.

**An' some ruode east, an' some ruode west,
An' some ruode fast an' far,
An' some gat sae mislear'd wi' drink,
They ruode the de'il kens whar.**
Now th' auld guid fwokes that staid at heame,
As thropweyfe they war thrang,
An' meat an' drink, an' ither things,
Reight moider'd war amang,
Thro' a' that day.

Now a' their bidden owr an' duone,
Reight tir'd they heamward speed,
But some at th' Abbey, owr a quart,
Theirsells to slocken 'greed;
Then great Job Bruff gat on a thruff,
A a' rais'd a fearfu' rout,
'At some day suon at S—b—n—s,
They'd hev a parlish bout
O'th' bredyewain day.

Cumberland Pacquet, 30 Sept 1783
Newcastle Chronicle, 11 Oct 1783

Come haste to the wedding ye friends, and ye neighbours,
The lovers their bliss can no longer delay;
Forget all your sorrows, your cares, and your labours,
And let every heart beat with pleasure that day.
Come, come at my bidding,
To this happy wedding,
And revel in raptures that never can cloy.
Fly, see rural felicity,
Who all the sweets of the wedding enjoy.

What was promised (by Henry Mawson and Elizabeth Rooke of Calderbridge)

- Nuptials “in due form, according to the usual rites and ceremonies”
- Good entertainment is provided
- Epithalamium
- Other ornamental parts
- Requests “the attendance of his friends, and of all who may think proper to honour him with their company”

- Note: the Newcastle version, published 11 Oct, was AFTER the event of October 3rd.

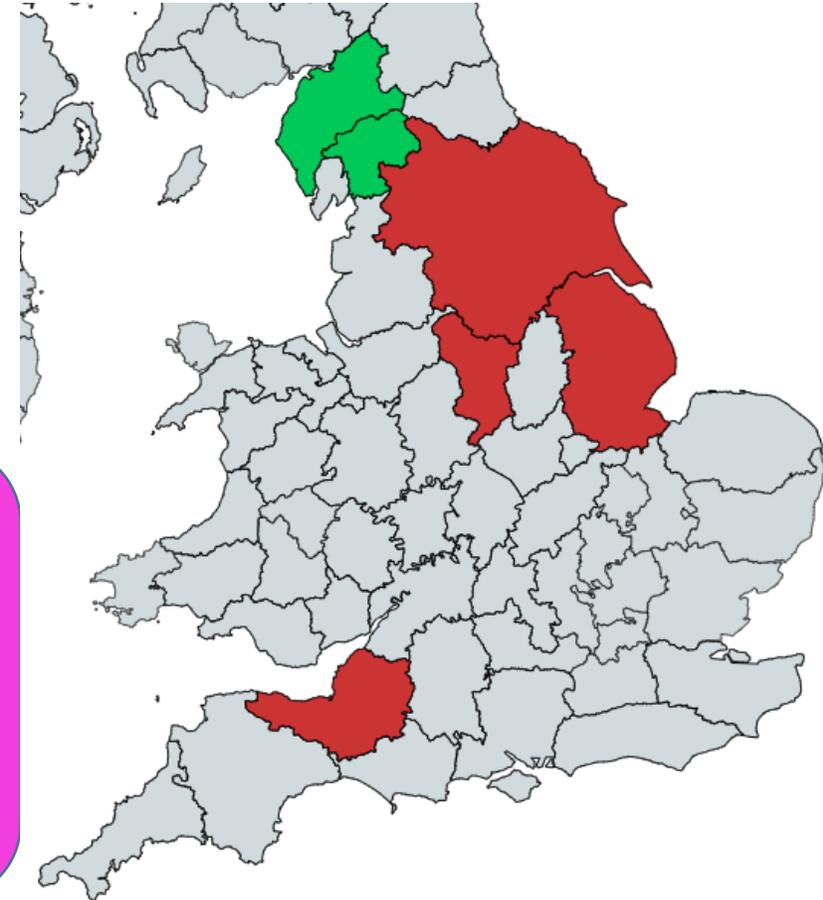
Cumberland Pacquet, 7 June 1785 (James Hodgson and Mary Southward, of Ennerdale Bridge)

- Same frame: nuptials “in due Form, according to the usual Rite, and Ceremonies”
- Would have paid his respects personally .. Time being short...
- He desires their attendance
- “where he will be happy to meet, not only with his own Relations and Friends, but also those of his Bride.”

 “There will be **a variety of Sports**, to tedious to mention”

Derby Mercury / Bath Chronicle/ Stamford Mercury / Leeds Intelligencer:
Quote it to mock it... June 1786

- “actions of the Great world and the little”
- “rustic innocence” ... “Whitehaven”
- “advertising their Friends of the blissful Day”
- “Variety of rural Entertainments...”



“Such Sports there will be has have seldom been seen,
Such as Wrestling, and Fencing, and Dancing between,
And Races for Prizes, for Frolic and Fun,
By Horses, by Asses and Dogs, will be run...”

The practice of “*bidden to weddings*”

Stamford Mercury 23 June 1786

- Practiced amongst the lower classes of the peasantry in this kingdom
- Presents were made to the poor couple
- Enabled them to live comfortably the remainder of their lives
- Matrimony was encouraged
- Social intercourse promoted
- Nerves were strengthened and body invigorated by the athletic exercises used on these occasions
- Productive of good order, by removing the temptations to habits of profligacy and impiety

1847, Carmarthen (AQI Gilles, For Better, For Worse, 155)

CARMARTHEN, MAY 5TH, 1847.

As we intend to enter the MATRIMONIAL STATE on TUESDAY, the 25th day of MAY inst., we are encouraged by our Friends to make a BIDDING on the occasion the same day, at the Young Woman's Father's House, called PENROSE COTTAGE; when and where the favour of your good and agreeable company is humbly solicited, and whatever donation you may be pleased to confer on us then will be thankfully received, warmly acknowledged, and cheerfully repaid whenever called for on a similar occasion,

By your most obedient servants,

PHILIP REYNOLDS LEWIS,

BUTCHER,
ELIZABETH DAVIES.

The Young Man's Father (David Lewis), his Brother and Sister-in-law (John and Anne Lewis), his Nephew (John Lewis), his Brothers (David and Thomas Lewis), and his Brother-in-law and Sister (John and Jane Evans), desire that all gifts of the above nature, due to them, be returned to the Young Man on the above day, and will be thankful for additional favours granted.

The Young Woman's Father and Mother (Thomas and Anne Davies), her Brothers (John, David, and Henry Davies), and her Brothers-in-law and Sisters (John and Mary Harries, and David and Anne James), desire that all gifts of the above nature, due to them, be returned to the Young Woman on the above day, and will be thankful for all favours conferred on her.

W. SPURRELL, PRINTER, CARMARTHEN.

Competitions and prizes: A sampling

- “Usual entertainments of dancing, racing”
- “Our singing, our wrestling, our dances, our races / Will amply repay you the loss of your time.”
- “A horse and a foot race, a bull-baiting , wrestling, &c. There was likewise a *bear gripping*, in which the manoeuvres of that comely animal were extremely well imitated. The whole concluded with dancing.”
- “Prizes will be a Saddle; Two Bridles; a Pair of Grand d’Amour Gloves’ a Belt (Cinture de Venus) possessing Qualities not to be described, and many other Articles, Sports, and Pastimes, too numerous to mention”

Cakes and ale...

- “BRIDEWAIN: a custom in Cumberland, where all the friends of a new married couple assemble together and are treated with cold pies and ale.” (Sorensen 202)
- “are treated with cold pies, frumenty, and ale”

...and dancing

Now th' weddiners are at th' far end,
An' a' thro' ither cruonin',
Wheyle th' fiddlers they're at wark i'th' leathe,
An' thrang they're fiddles tuneing;
Tom Trimmel, Tommy Baxter, Stagg,
Nay, hauf a scowre they've led in,
An' they're a' rozzlin' up their bows,
To streyke up Cuddy's Weddin',
Wi' glee this day.

Cuddy's Wedding: .38-1.13
Gordon Mooney, *O'er the Border - Music of the Scottish
Borders played on the Cauld Wind Pipes*
The Highway to Linton + Cuddy's Wedding + The Douglas
Tragedy + The Flower O' Yarrow

David Allan, The Penny Wedding, ca. 1795

<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/8324/penny-wedding>



David Allan, The Highland Wedding...



The Penny Wedding by Sir David Wilkie, 1818

<https://history.stackexchange.com/questions/33199/the-penny-wedding-what-are-the-items-in-the-bottom-right-corner-and-why-are-th>



The Penny Wedding, Alexander Carse (c.1770–1843)

<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/8637/penny-wedding>



Details of Carse, Penny Wedding



**The breyde now on a cobby stuol,
Sits down i'th' fauld a' whithrin',
With pewter dibler on her lap,
On which her towgher's gethrin';**
The fwoak leyke pez in a keale-pot,
Are yen thro' tother minglin',
**An' crowns an' hauf crowns thick as hail,
Are i' the dibler jinglin',**
Reeght fast that day.

Letters from a Gentleman in the North of Scotland, 1754

THE Bride must go about the Room, and kiss every Man in the Company, and in the End every Body puts Money into a Dish, according to their Inclination and Ability. By this Means, a Family in good Circumstances, and respected by those they invite, have procured for the new Couple wherewithal to begin the World pretty comfortably for People of their low Condition. But I should have

Offerings

OPTIONS:

- “the bride was seated in the market-place”
- “the bride and bridegroom are placed in two chairs, the former holding a pewter dish on her knee, half covered with a napkin. Into this dish every person present makes it a point to put something”
- “a plate or bowl is fixed in a convenient place, where each of the company contributes in proportion to his inclination and ability, and according to the degree of respect the parties are held in...”

THE TAKE ranged from a few guineas to a substantial sum -- 130€

And then what happened?

**Lang sair they kevvel'd, danc'd, and sang,
An' parlish dusts they hed;**
Till it began to grow nar th' teyme
'At fwoak sud gang to bed;
The breydemaid a' wi' fuslin care,
The breyde hauf yieldin' doft,
**An' the blythe pair in a han' clap,
War guessend up i'th' loft,
Reeght snug that neeght.**

But the party continued over at Lucy's...

The couple now i'th' blankets stow'd,
A swort o'**th' revellan bruocies**
Unsatisfied, wi' a' consent,
Went lethran down to Lucy's:
Just leyke louse nowt, they bang'd up stairs,
Th' lang room it bum'd an' thunner'd,
An' some yen'd thought t've brought down't
house,
About them waddent skunner'd
Wi' noise that neeght.

Here th' better mak o' them that com,
Wi' country dances vapour'd;
But them that dought not try sec sprees,
Wi' jigs an' three reels capor'd;
Mull'd yell an' punch flew roun' leyke steyfe,
The fiddler's a' gat fuddled;

**An' monny a lad their sweethearts hed
I' nuiks an' corners huddled
Unseen that neeght.**

Playford, The English Dancing Master, 1651

The English Dancing Master :

O R,

Plaine and easie Rules for the Dancing of Country Dances, with the Tune to each Dance.



L O N D O N,

Printed by *Thomas Harper*, and are to be sold by *John Playford*, at his Shop in the Inner Temple neere the Church doore. 1651.

Dancing Master: Edward Midwinter and John Young (London: 1728)



Jane Austen

Lady Gresham's Ball - The Hole in the Wall (Hornpipe from Henry Purcell's 'Abdelazer')

From the film "Becoming Jane", an interpretation of The Hole in the Wall, first published in Playford's Dancing Master in 1698.

<http://contrafusion.co.uk/Videos.html#Newcastle>

Country dance....

- **“Highland Schottische”**
- Sergey & Maria dancing Highland Schottische (Moscow Scottish Dance School "Shady Glen")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QWZF1mGsfU>

- **“Mage on a Cree”**
- A dance from the 1665 edition of Playford's Dancing Master - performed with lots of energy and flair.
- Performed by Newcastle English Country Dancers

<http://contrafusion.co.uk/Videos.html#MageonaCree>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- John Stagg, <https://www.poetrynook.com/poem/bridewain>
- R.A. Houston, *Bride Ales and Penny Weddings: Recreations, Reciprocity, and Regions in Britain from the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Centuries* (Oxford Univ Press, 2014)
- Janet Sorenson, *Strange Vernaculars: How Eighteenth-Century Slang, Cant, Provincial Languages, and Nautical Jargon Became English* (Princeton Univ Press, 2017)
- John Gillis, *For Better, For Worse: British Marriages, 1600 to the Present* (Oxford Univ Press, 1985)

BACK OF DECK

WATTEAU, Jean-Antoine, The Country Dance

1706-10, Oil on canvas, 50 x 60 cm, Museum of Art, Indianapolis



BRUEGHEL, Pieter the Younger, The Wedding Dance in a Barn
c. 1616, Oil on oak panel, 74 x 106 cm, Private collection



TENIERS, David the Younger, Peasants Dancing outside an Inn
1645-50, Oil on canvas, 135,3 x 205,1 cm, Royal Collection, Windsor



TENIERS, details



LOUTHERBOURG, Philip Jacques de, Shepherd and Shepherdess Dancing

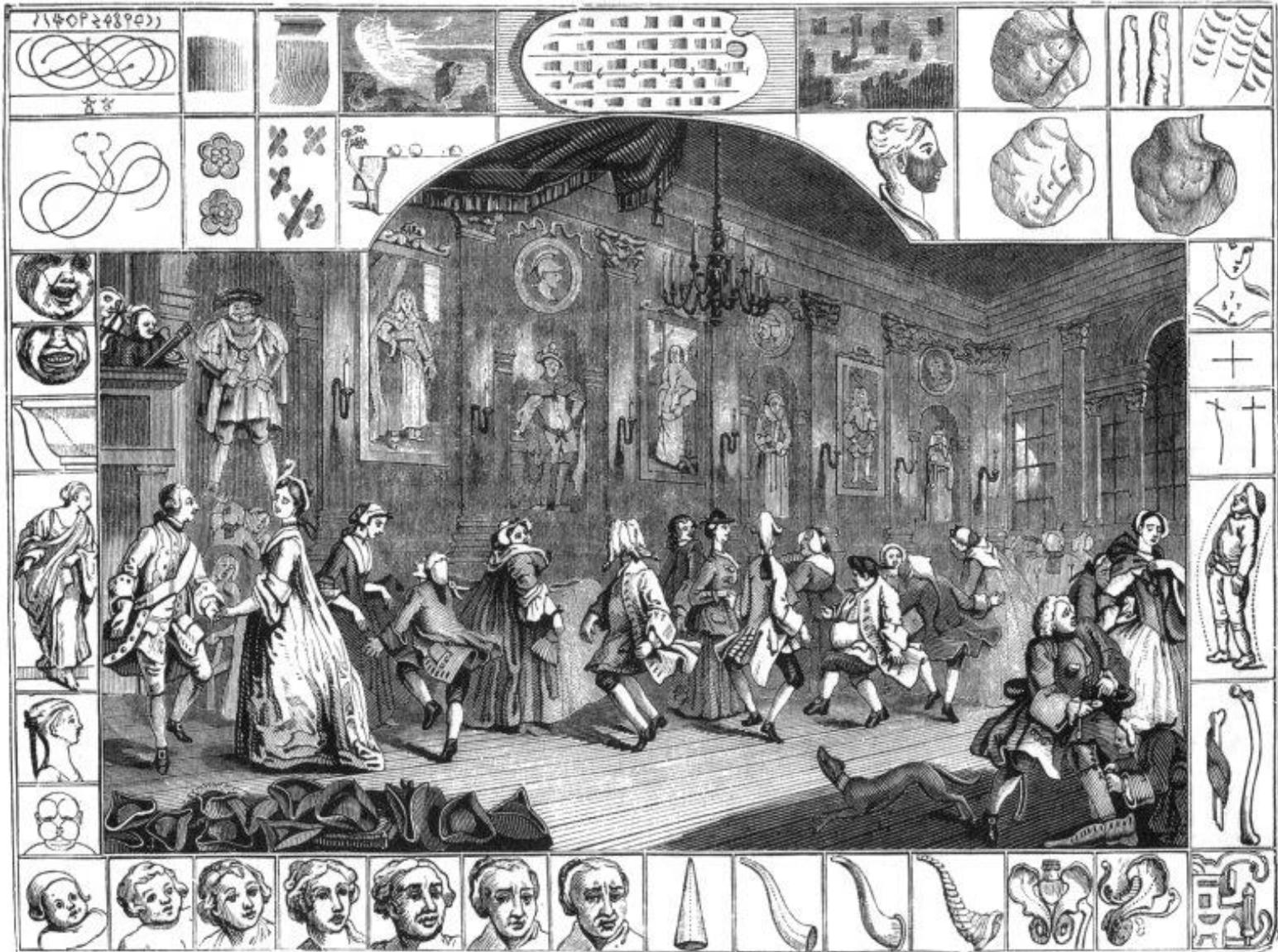
Oil on canvas, 37 x 45 cm, Private collection



Caricature: the dancing lesson #3



Hogarth: Country Dance in a Long Hall



Female Saylor – a country dance
discussed by Hogart in his aesthetic
treatise
<https://bibliolore.org/2012/10/29/hogarth-and-dance/>

Hogarth, The Happy Marriage ?VI: The Country Dance, c. 1745.



Children Dancing, by George Stubbs



Abraham
Brosse,
Country
Dance
performed
by
Villagers



Aut que je puis voir d'occupe mes loisirs,
Ce fustes et en toute agilité de nos jours,
Car y'donne plus d'effort, et plus de bien en eux,
Les a que mes jeunes ont y'donné la jeunesse.

Rejoicez vous, car ce des vus
Que ton, est dans mes yeux d'aimer,
Se voudrait commencer le d'été,
Pis au brode que fait plus de us.

Je vous fait, qu'en notre village,
Ce Monsieur en pris trop d'années,
Qui tout mes femmes par la main,
Ni la carrie a mes d'années.

Puis que pour d'oy fester d'occupe vous de fait,
Sont que ce bon d'années nous y'donné la jeunesse,
Nous voudrait d'été en d'été par le d'été,
Puis fester d'occupe d'années il en fait plus de fait.