

Lady Walpole's Reel

The musical score for "Lady Walpole's Reel" is presented in four staves. The first staff begins with a boxed 'A' and contains the first measure of the A section, with a B \flat chord symbol above it. The second staff contains the second measure of the A section and the first measure of the B section, which is marked with a boxed 'B'. The B section includes first and second endings. The third and fourth staves continue the B section with first and second endings. Chord symbols (B \flat , F7, E \flat) are placed above the notes. The key signature has two flats (B \flat major) and the time signature is 2/4.

"Lady Walpole's Reel", also known as "Boston Fancy", "Ladies' Walpole Reel" or "Massai's Favorite" is a Scottish and American reel in B Flat Major (Howe, Phillips) or G Major (Sweet). The parts are played AABB.

"Lady Walpole's Reel" is the name of a tune and a country dance, known also as "Boston Fancy". The melody was apparently once quite popular and appears in White's Unique Collection (1896) included in a page of reels labelled "Six Favorite Reels" in the company of such still-familiar tunes as "Miss McLeod's Reel", "Arkansas Traveller", "Devil's Dream", "Old Zip Coon" ("Arkansas Traveller") and "Ned Kendall's Favorite".

Boston publisher Elias Howe printed the dance in 1862 in his **American Dancing Master and Ball-Room Prompter: Containing about Five Hundred Dances; Including all the Latest and Most Fashionable**, a volume in which he was "assisted by several eminent professors of dancing". The title possibly refers to Dorothy Walpole (1686-1726), the sister of Robert Walpole who became Prime Minister of England in 1722. Dorothy fell in love with a man named Charles Townsend, Second Viscount Townsend, whom she longed to marry. Unfortunately her father forbade the union, and eventually Townsend married another, sending Dorothy into a depression and an affair with a broke and profligate Lord Wharton.

Presently, in 1711, Townsend's first wife died (of unknown causes) and he and Dorothy resumed their relationship, marrying two years later. All seemed to be well until Townsend discovered that Dorothy had not severed her relationship with Wharton after the wedding but had continued her affair. Furious, he locked her in her apartments in Raynham Hall, isolated from her family, her children and the outside world.

In the 19th century Raynham Hall was still in Townsend hands when apparitions began to appear to a number of distinguished visitors, among them King George IV, who reported having seen a ghostly apparition in a brown satin dress, who stared down at him while he was in bed. The Brown Lady of Raynham, as the ghost came to be called, was still occasionally seen by visitors well into the 20th century.