



The Federation

Folk Dancer

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Meet your Honey...Swing her once around...Promenade her all around.

AMERICA DANCES TOO

Like other countries, we also have our characteristic dances. America has passed the stage where our dances were copies of European dances. Now, in the twentieth century the Fox Trot, a purely American ballroom dance, is danced in every part of the world. A new dance, the so-called "Jitterbug", has been born and may be called a thoroughly American dance. But amongst grown-up children like ourselves, folks who like folk dancing, there are the popular old-time sets known to everyone in America, in fact, in every part of America, as "Squares".

The term "Square" itself strictly speaking applies to a quadrille, any dance in the form of a hollow square with one or two couples on each side. And the term "Longways" dances strictly applies to contra dances, or dances in two lines like Money Musk or the Virginia Reel. But the word "Squares" is used in a general sense by everyone and includes all American figure dances—Squares, Longways, and Rounds—most of which are called.

Some of the figures of "Squares" have been borrowed from English country dances, though some claim, and with apparent good reason, a number of the figures to be of French origin. The general figures of "Squares" are used in every part of the country. The calls, tempo, and execution differ somewhat, expressing the characteristics of the region.

"Squares," once almost exclusively used in rural sections, has now 'gone to town'. There has never been such widespread use of it by either rural or urban groups. And "Squares" represents the spirit of the country better than any other dance. It has become the common denominator of many groups which carry on distinct dances of other lands here in America. "Squares" is a type of dancing which is our own that people of all nationalities are now adopting.



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