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In the old days, it was often said that the Morriss brought great
 good luck and prosperity to the communities in which it was
 danced. We hope that we have brought this to your community.

We dance the Morriss because we enjoy it, and we find that people
 enjoy watching it. The Morriss shares strongly in the world of the
 village green, the marketplace and the pub: it is a welcome return
 to a forthright time of simplicity and sanity. We like to think that
 the dance echoes the turning of the seasons; that it celebrates
 the bitersweet cycle of life and love.

The American Travelling Morrice was originally composed of
 dancers and musicians from Binghamton, NY and Boston, but over
 the years has grown to include performers from across the nation
 as well as one or two "odds and sods" from England. While many
 of these folks perform regularly with teams in their hometowns,
 they come together for one week each year to form the
 American Travelling Morrice. Since 1976, the group has toured
 throughout New England, New York, Maryland, Pennsylvania
 and California, with appearances at such settings as The Baseball
 Hall of Fame, Newport Folk Festival, Old Montreal, and the White
 House. In 2006 and 2013, the Tour returned to its English roots,
 performing in the Cotswolds and Yorkshire, UK.

SUNDAY

- 10:30 Gloucester: Hammond Castle
- 12:00 Manchester-by-the-Sea: Town Hall Common
- 2:30 Salem: Salem Common
- 4:30 Salem: Derby Square

MONDAY

- 2:30 Gloucester: Fisherman's Memorial
- 4:30 Magnolia: Magnolia Farmers Market
- 5:45 Magnolia: Magnolia Farmers Market

TUESDAY

- 1:30 Wenham: Wenham Museum
- 4:00 Essex: Essex Shipbuilding Museum
- 5:30 Ipswich: Ipswich Riverwalk
- 7:30 Ipswich: Ipswich Ale Brewer's Table

THURSDAY

- 11:45 Amesbury: Millyard - Al Capp Amphitheater
- 2:00 Amesbury: Market Square
- 3:30 Amesbury: Lowell's Boat Shop and Museum,
 on the riverfront lawn
- 5:00 Haverhill: Washington Square, Merrimack St. at Essex St.
- 7:15 Haverhill: Movies By The River, Haverhill Bank
 on Merrimack St.

FRIDAY

- 10:30 South Hamilton: Green Meadows Farm
- 11:45 Ipswich: Russell Orchards
- 3:15 Ipswich: Crane Beach, Crane Beach Store
- 6:00 Essex: Woodman's of Essex Restaurant

SATURDAY

- 10:00 Rockport: Rockport Farmers Market
- 2:30 Gloucester: Saint Peter's Square

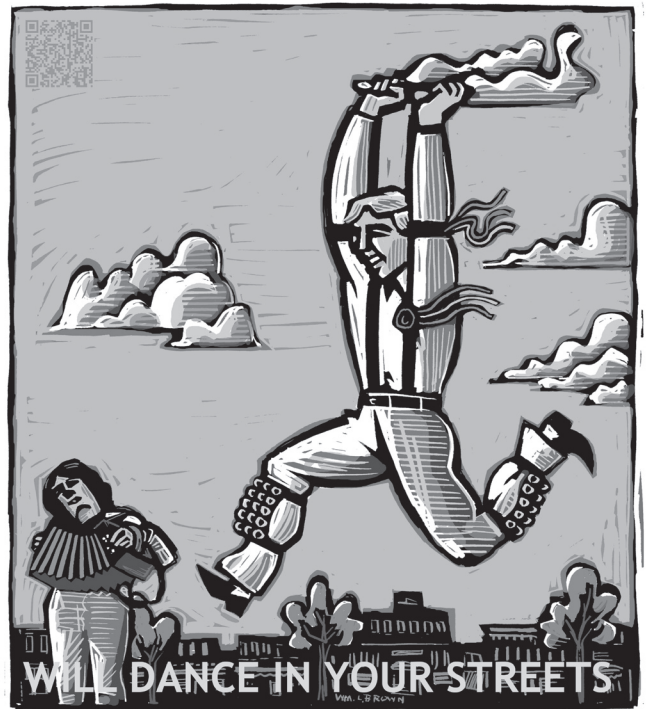
Happily, in 1899, a chance meeting between a musicologist and
 a Morriss dancer resulted in a rebirth of interest in the dance. On
 Boxing Day (December 26), of that year, the Headington Quarry
 Morriss dancers, accompanied by the concertina-player, William
 Kimber, performed at a cottage near the city of Oxford. Cecil Sharp,
 a classical musician and composer, was present and he was so taken
 with the music and dance that he invited Kimber back the next
 day to notate the tunes. This began a collaboration that resulted
 in a tremendous rebirth of interest in the Morriss. Sharp and others
 traveled throughout England to collect the old music and dances
 from talented men like Kimber. They published the notations and
 promulgated teaching the dances in schools. Today there is once
 again a proliferation of sides dancing in England and over 200 in
 the United States that have sprung up in the last 25 years.

The Industrial Revolution, however, brought social changes that
 eroded the basis of much of village folk life - young people left the
 farm towns to work in urban factories; railroads brought "progress"
 to the villages - and the "old-fashioned" Morriss became irrelevant
 and unpopular.

Morriss Dancing is an old English country tradition. Its origins
 are lost in the mists of forgotten time, but pictorial and
 written references date back to the 15th Century. In his day,
 Shakespeare cherished the Morriss as an ancient custom and he
 made allusions to it in many of his plays. Indeed, one of his star
 actors, Will Kemp, was a noted "Morrice Dancer."

The Morriss flourished in the 17th and 18th Centuries, surviving
 flood, famine, war, plague and Oliver Cromwell. Hundreds of
 villages throughout England supported Morriss teams or "sides,"
 and the dancers often competed for prizes at country fairs.

THE 41ST ANNUAL TOUR OF THE American Travelling Morrice



AUGUST 7-13, 2016