

Going Down to Cairo

Type: A typical American play-party, as danced during the last century in many mid-western and southern mountain communities. The play-parties included steps which were also found in square dancing, and were often performed to the accompaniment of singing, since musical instruments (in many of these communities) were viewed as sinful.

Part One “Going down to Cairo...”

All couples join hands and circle L with light walking steps.

Part Two “Black them boots...”

Partners face each other. Do a “grand-right and left” giving R hands to each other, passing by R shoulders, giving L hands to next person, passing by L shoulders, etc., for duration of verse. During this time, all M move CCW, W move CW

Part Three “Oh, how I love her...”

Each M meets a new partner and swings her with an American square-dance swing (buzz step)

Part Four “The old cow died...”

M place new partners on R side and promenade CCW around circle for duration of verse