

Virginia Reel (simple)

Ages 7 to adult

Music

Vol. 1: Track 17 with calls, track 18 without calls. Tune: "Campbells Are Coming."

Formation

Longways: Seven couples. This version has been adapted to fit 64 beats of music for one time through the figure.

Calls	Music	Directions
All forward and back	A	Everyone forward 4 steps and back 4 steps. (8 beats)
Everyone do-si-do		All move toward partner, go around in back of partner passing right shoulders, and walk backward into place. (8)
Swing by the right halfway		All swing by the right arm hook, going halfway around. (8)
Swing by the left to place		All swing by the left arm hook back to place. (8)
First couple sashay down and back	B	Couple at top of set takes both hands and skips or slides sideways (sashays) down the middle 4 steps and back 4. (8)
Walk the highway, first couple make a bridge at the bottom		All face up the set to cast off: the lines split (right one going right, left one going left). Everyone else follows the top person in their line down the outside of set to bottom, where first couple meets to make a bridge. Everyone else keeps going down the outside beyond the bridge, meets partner, and comes up under the bridge all the way to place. (24)

About the Dance

Since this version omits the reel itself, it is easier to do; in contrast, the next dance in this chapter includes the reel figure strip the willow. Another version of this dance, Sir Roger de Coverly, also included in this chapter, was one of George Washington's favorites. In Quebec, yet another version of the dance is called Brandy Sherbrooke.

About the Tune

"Campbells Are Coming" is a Scottish pipe tune and may in fact be a 6/8 rendition of "McLeod's Reel," another Scottish tune, which is used for the dance Sir Roger de Coverly in this collection. The Virginia Reel (simple) can be done to any jig or reel; we happen to like "Campbells Are Coming" because it is "salty" (referring to the "fabric" or feeling of the tune), which seems to fit the dance.

Campbells Are Coming

Part A

Part B