Buck Dancing

by Bruce E. Baker, 2006

See also: Clogging [2]; Step Dancing [3].

Buck dancing is a folk dance [4] that originated among African Americans [5] during the era of slavery. It was largely associated with the North Carolina Piedmont [6] and, later, with the blues [7]. The original buck dance, or "buck and wing," referred to a specific step performed by solo dancers, usually men; today the term encompasses a broad variety of improvisational dance steps.

In contemporary usage, "buck dancing" often refers to a variety of solo step dancing to fiddle-based music [8] done by dancers primarily in the Southern Appalachians. Among North Carolinians, buck dancing is differentiated from clogging [2] and flatfooting by the use of steps higher off the floor, a straight and relatively immobile torso, and emphasis on steps that put the dancer on his or her toes rather than heels.

Reference:


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