

**Goathland, North Yorkshire, sword dance photograph collection, ca.  
1912-1950**

**AFC 1983/007**

**Guides to the Collections in the Archive of Folk Culture**



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**American Folklife Center, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
September 1994**

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/folklife.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadafc.af015001>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lccn.loc.gov/2004695195>

Prepared by Michelle Forner

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Goathland, North Yorkshire, sword dance photograph collection,

**Inclusive Dates:** ca. 1912-1950

**Call No.:** AFC 1983/007

**Creator:** Goathland Plough Stots

**Extent (Graphic materials):** 7 photographic prints : black and white; 6 1/2 x 4 1/2 in.

**Language:** Collection materials in English.

**Location:** Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/folklife.home>

**Summary:** A collection of black-and-white photographic prints, circa 1912 to 1950 of the Plough Stots Long Sword team from Goathland, North Yorkshire, England, in candid shots, formal poses, and in dance performance. Includes images of long swords, costumes, musical instruments, and the characters of Bessy (or Betty), Poss (Toss Pot) and Old Man. The identity of the photographer is unknown.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### Organization

Goathland Plough Stots.

### Subjects

Costume--England--Goathland--Photographs.

Dance costume--England--Goathland--Photographs.

Folk dancing, English--England--Goathland--Photographs.

Folk dancing--England--Goathland.

Morris dance--England--North Yorkshire--Photographs.

Mumming--England--North Yorkshire--Photographs.

Musical instruments--England--Photographs.

Plough Monday--England--Goathland.

Rapper (Dance)--Photographs.

Sword-dance--England--Goathland--Photographs.

### Places

Goathland (England)--Social life and customs.

### Titles

*Former title: Morris dance photograph collection*

### Form/Genre

Photographic prints.

## Administrative Information

### Arrangement

Organized by format into the following series: Series 1: Photographs.

### Acquisition

Donated by Wendy Grossman; 1983.

**Custodial History**

The photographs were given to Wendy Grossman by Gordon Norman of Beverley, England.

**Processing History**

Collection processed by Michelle Forner.

**Copyright Status**

Duplication of the photographs may be governed by copyright and other restrictions.

**Access and Restrictions**

Collection is open for research. To request materials, please contact the Folklife Reading Room at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/folklife.contact>

**Preferred Citation**

Goathland, North Yorkshire, Sword Dance Photograph Collection (AFC 1983/007) Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Biographical Note**

In 1922, the Goathland Plough Stots were revived from local memory by Frank W. Dowson, who is identified in notes (as "Dawson") on the reverse of some of these photographs. The Goathland Plough Stots is one of Yorkshire's traditional long sword dance teams of 6 to 8 dancers, who perform a dance that ends with swords in the formation of a "lock", which in this case resembles a Star of David. The teams traditionally dance in January on Plough Monday, the Monday following the feast of Epiphany, and at other times during the year.

**Scope and Content**

A collection of photographs of the Plough Stots Long Sword team from Goathland, North Yorkshire, England in candid shots, formal poses, and in dance performance. Includes images of long swords, costume, and musical instruments.

## Description of Series

### *Container*

### *Series*

#### Series I: Photographs, 1912-1950

Includes seven 6 1/2" x 4 1/2" black and white photographs of the Plough Stots Long Sword team from Goathland, North Yorkshire, England. Descriptive notes were transcribed from the reverse of the photographs.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
	<p><b>Series I: Photographs, 1912-1950</b></p> <p>Includes seven 6 1/2" x 4 1/2" black and white photographs of the Plough Stots Long Sword team from Goathland, North Yorkshire, England. Descriptive notes were transcribed from the reverse of the photographs.</p>
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/1</b>	<p>Sword dance performance</p> <p><b>ID:</b> AFC 1983/007:P1</p> <p>Sword dance performance. "The side in the 30s or 40s. More poss. after Second World War. Goatland [sic] (Plough Stots). Note Dawson far left."</p>
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/1</b>	<p>"Bessie" and "Old Man" posing next to crowd</p> <p><b>ID:</b> AFC 1983/007:P2</p> <p>"Bessie" and "Old Man" posing next to crowd. "About 1930. Goatland (Plough Stots) Long Sword (North Yorks.). Bessy (Betty) and Old Man. Poss (Toss Pot)."</p>
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/1</b>	<p>Posed shot of group (approximately 20 people)</p> <p><b>ID:</b> AFC 1983/007:P4</p> <p>Posed shot of group (approximately 20 people). "Frank Dawson who collected and reformed the side after the First World War. First on left. Goatland (Plough Stots). Long Sword North Yorks. At a time when the play was done. Play lost in a fire."</p>
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/1</b>	<p>Group walking up a path towards camera (approximately 16 people)</p> <p><b>ID:</b> AFC 1983/007:P5</p> <p>Group walking up a path towards camera (approximately 16 people). "Goatland (Plough Stots) North Yorkshire. About 1950 going into Brekmole [or Brekhole]. Walking tour."</p>
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/1</b>	<p>Posed shot of group in front of building (approximately 9 people)</p> <p><b>ID:</b> AFC 1983/007:P6</p> <p>Posed shot of group in front of building (approximately 9 people). "About 1945-6. North Yorks. Goatland (Plough Stots)."</p>
<b>BOX-FOLDER 1/1</b>	<p>Posed shot of group in front of building (approximately 16 people)</p> <p><b>ID:</b> AFC 1983/007:P7</p> <p>Posed shot of group in front of building (approximately 16 people). "Goatland Long Sword (Plough Stots). Pre First World War. Approx. 1912."</p>