

SNOWBALL REEL

Although all of the moves were known at the time of the Civil War, there is no documentation that it was danced at that time (unless it was made up by a dance master). It did become popular after the war, especially with the Sons of Union Veterans. It is useful in the classroom as a teaching dance since it gives a good opportunity to practice chaining down a line. Plus, it is great fun!

Formation: Line of Ladies facing line of Gentlemen, Dance Master at the head of the line

	L	L	L	L	L	L	L		Any number of dancers can join in this dance, limited only by the size of the room and the stamina of the musicians.
D	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓		
M	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑		
	G	G	G	G	G	G	G		

All ladies join hands and all gentlemen join hands.

All forward (4) and back (4).

All forward (4) and back (4), release hands.

All right hand around with partner (8).

All left hand around with partner (8).

All two hand around with partner (8).

All dos-a-dos with partner (8).

Top couple chain down the line.

Right hand to partner 1½ around, left to next person on the line of the opposite sex, right hand to partner, left hand to line, repeat until you reach the end of the line.

Everyone on the line should move up one position after turning the chaining couple.

As the top couple reaches the fourth couple, the dance master starts the next top couple.

Each couple will become the new top couple as they move toward the dance master.

Several couples will be chaining down the line at the same time.

Once the first top couple returns to their starting position, the dance master lets those couples chaining down the line complete their turns and then has the lines do two more forward and back to complete the dance.

NOTE: If the dance floor is crowded and it appears that it would be difficult for everyone to move at the same time during the first five moves, have the men count off by two's (1-2-1-2-1-2 . . .). After the "All forward and back," the dance master should then call "Ones, right hand around," then "Twos, right hand around," then "Ones, left hand around," etc. After "Twos, dos-a-dos," the chain down the line can begin.