

Robert Tunaley, the Dancemaster, died 11<sup>th</sup> August, 1820. His son, Thomas Snape Tunaley, took over his father's position, the business evidently also under the control of his widowed mother, Constantia Tunaley.

(By Phil Tunaley)

(Items below taken from newspaper cuttings courtesy of Dr. Jane Holmes of Auckland)

Announcement of Thomas.Snape Tunaley taking over from the late Robert Tunaley

Taken from Derby Mercury, August 1820

*"Dancing*

*CONSTANTIA TUNALEY, (widow of the late Robert Tunaley,) returns her most grateful acknowledgements to the friends of her late Husband for the many favors conferred upon him, and respectfully informs them that her son THOMAS TUNALEY, who has been under the tuition of the first masters in London, will, jointly with her late husband's partner MR. KEYS, continue the business as usual, in whose behalf she solicits a continuance of their kind patronage.*

*Derby, Full Street, August 15, 1820"*

Announcement of partnership of Thomas.Snape Tunaley with a Mr McKenzie

Taken from Derby Mercury, Wednesday 18 July 1821

*"Dancing*

*Mr. THOMAS TUNALEY has much pleasure in announcing to his Patrons that he has made arrangements for a Partnership with MR. McKENZIE, of London, which he flatters himself will obtain their entire approbation, as, by the assistance of so experienced and well educated a Master, he hopes not only to be enabled to offer additional advantages to his Pupils, but to discharge his increasing Engagements with greater satisfaction. In introducing Mr. McKenzie for the first time to the public of this County, Mr. Tunaley is desirous to mention that he was originally a Pupil of the late SIR GEORGE NOVERE, the accomplished Ballet Master of the Opera House, Hay Market, London, under whose instruction he practised five years, and that his subsequent qualifications as a Teacher, besides having secured him the illustrious patronage of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, have been approved by several of the Nobility of this and the neighbouring Counties, whose Families, with many others of the first distinction, he has had the honor of attending in Town.*

*Messrs Tunaley and McKenzie desire to assure the Public that by their constant intercourse with London and Paris, they shall have it in their power to introduce all the fashionable novelties of the day as soon as they appear, and as their System of Tuition will be conducted agreeably to the principles of the new Parisian System, they feel strong in their appeal for a liberal share of public patronage and favor.*

*The next Quarter will commence at Belper on Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> instant; at Derby on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup>; at Bakewell on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup>; at Burton-upon-Trent on Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup>; at Chesterfield on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup>; and at Mansfield on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of August next.*

*Full Street, Derby July 16<sup>th</sup> 1821. "*

Notes:

1. "Sir George Noverre" was in fact the celebrated Frenchman Jean Georges Noverre the father of modern ballet, known in England as "Sir George."

[http://www.norwichhistoricaldance.org.uk/history/noverres\\_norwich/francis\\_noverre\\_norwich.htm](http://www.norwichhistoricaldance.org.uk/history/noverres_norwich/francis_noverre_norwich.htm) : "Jean-Georges' English alias seems to have been generated by his family, not his theatre managers. His niece, Louisa, used it when annotating a letter from her uncle congratulating her on her marriage. The use of the anglicised version in 1793 is understandable, the sansculottes have taken to regicide and are to be loathed, but emigrés and distinguished aliens currently received sympathy in England. And England is where 'Sir George' has been since December 1792. In the current state of hostilities he is interned as an enemy alien, and he lives with his nephew Charles in Great Marlborough Street."

2. The Opera House referred to was Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket as it is named today, then referred to as The King's Theatre, sometimes known informally as The Haymarket Opera House and used substantially for opera in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

From [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Her\\_Majesty%27s\\_Theatre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Her_Majesty%27s_Theatre) : "In 1818–20, the British premières of Gioachino Rossini's operas *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, *Elisabetta, regina d'Inghilterra*, *L'italiana in Algeri*, *La Cenerentola* and *Tancredi* took place at the King's Theatre and this became informally known as the Italian Opera House, Haymarket by the 1820s."

3. Jean-George's brother Augustin Noverre <http://www.twickenham-museum.org.uk/detail.asp?ContentID=387> settled in Norwich where he'd been welcomed by the French Huguenots who'd migrated there, their technical skills employed in particular as silk workers and to help drain the fens (40,000 acres said to be reclaimed). See also:

[http://www.norwich-churches.org/monuments/Noverre\\_family/Noverre\\_family.shtm](http://www.norwich-churches.org/monuments/Noverre_family/Noverre_family.shtm)

Two years later there follows an announcement of a potentially new partnership pushing aside Mr. MacKenzie.

Derby Mercury Wednesday 23 July 1823

"Dancing

*MR. THOMAS TUNALEY has the honor to acquaint his Patrons and the Public generally, that he has succeeded in forming an engagement with M. Louis Vedy, from the Italian Opera House, London, formerly a pupil of M. Coulon of the Royal Academy in Paris, and their Lessons for the ensuing Quarter will commence as follows : at Ashby-de-le-Zouch on Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup>; at Burton-upon-Trent on Wednesday the 30<sup>th</sup> instant ; at Repton on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> ; at Chesterfield on Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> ; at Mansfield on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> ; and at Derby on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of August ; and with Families and Private Schools in the respective neighbourhoods of those places, at the same times.*

*Full Street, Derby, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1823".*

Notes:

1. From [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Fran%C3%A7ois\\_Coulon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Fran%C3%A7ois_Coulon)

Jean-François Coulon (1764, Paris - 1836) was a French ballet dancer and teacher. After a career at the [Opéra de Paris](#), he founded his school at the start of the 19th century and became one of the most renowned ballet teachers in Europe.

2. Unsurprisingly in view of what followed, there is no indication that Thomas Tunaley did form a partnership with M. Vedy although a notice 21 years later (see below) shows they remained friends and associates.

The next notice concerns Thomas Snape and Constantia refusing to sign Articles of Partnership with Mr McKenzie

Derby Mercury Wednesday 30 July 1823

"Dancing

*MR.MACKENZIE respectfully Informs the Nobility, Gentry, and the Public in general, that Mr.THOMAS TUNALEY has refused to sign the Articles of Co-partnership that he and his Mother entered into two years ago; in consequence of which Mr.MACKENZIE begs to solicit the protection of the Public at large, as he continues the business on his own account, and he flatters himself that the many years of experience he has had in London, will enable him to give general satisfaction; as a proof of the partnership that has been entered into between Mr. Tunaley and himself, he begs to insert the Advertisement they put in the public papers on his arrival from London....."*

A copy of the notice given in the Derby Mercury, Wednesday 18 July 1821 (see above) follows Mackenzie's initial statement.

Just over 12 months later, a notice appears in the Derby Mercury regarding the subsequent hearing in the dispute between Thomas Snape Tunaley and former partner Mr Mackenzie. It shows the arbitrator to have found in Mackenzie's favor.

Derby Mercury Wednesday 9 September 1824

"Dancing and Music

*MR.MACKENZIE, under the patronage of the Right Honorable the EARL TALBOT, to whose family he has had the honor to give instructions in Dancing both in London and in the Country, and to whom, with very many others of the Nobility, Gentry and Public in general, that he continues his Tuition in the united accomplishments of Dancing and Music, and earnestly appeals to them for favor and support.*

*The result of the recent investigation of the matters in difference between himself and his late partner, Mr. THOMAS TUNALEY, entitles him to make this appeal with the greater confidence; and it is a source of proud satisfaction to him that he is enabled to prove to those friends who have interested themselves so warmly on his behalf, by an award of damages in his favor, that in considering him as an injured individual, they had formed only the same conclusion to which the arbitrator arrived after a patient and attentive hearing of all the facts and circumstances of the case....."*

The notice is a long one but from the remainder of the notice it not only appears that Thomas and his mother Constantia would have to pay a substantial amount in damages, but also that MacKenzie retained much of the existing business, all at the Tunaleys' expense:

*".....He begs to add that he will commence teaching for the Michaelmas Quarter at Mrs. SWIFT'S at REPTON on the 27<sup>th</sup> September instant; at Miss FORD's at TUTBURY of the 29<sup>th</sup>; at DERBY on the 30<sup>th</sup>; at Miss BROWN'S and the Rev. Mr. HOWARD'S at NOTTINGHAM, on the 1<sup>ST</sup> of October next; at Miss PASHLEY'S, HOLMSFIELD, on the 4<sup>th</sup>; at Miss REEVE'S and Mr. BUTTERMAN'S, DRONFIELD on the 5<sup>th</sup>; at SHEFFIELD on the 6<sup>th</sup>; at MANSFIELD on the 8<sup>th</sup>; and at Miss HUMPSTON'S at DUFFIELD ON THE 9<sup>TH</sup> October next. Mr. MACKENZIE takes this opportunity of returning his grateful acknowledgements to the Magistrates of Nottingham by whom he has been favored with the use of the Exchange Room for his public instructions....."*

This notice would have caused maximum damage with Constantia, the mother, then living at Duffield and Thomas's brother, Robert James Tunaley, having formerly been a pupil at Repton School, Duffield and Repton being locations of some of Thomas's clientele.

The notices don't provide Thomas and Constantia's side of the story, but on the face of it, Mackenzie had been acting as partner to Thomas for two years, whether or not an Article of Partnership had been signed. Questions also arise as to what extent Constantia played a part in this (was she concerned she might lose control of the business?) and did the outcome cause any lasting ill will between Thomas and his mother?

It appears Thomas subsequently changed strategy as regards tuition. This may have been due to the previous bad publicity and its effect on the dancing business. There is also a change in the nature of clientele.

A notice in the Derby Mercury, Wednesday 6 August 1828 shows that Thomas is now teaching fencing and callisthenics as well as dancing in the overall tuition.

This notice taken from the Derby Mercury Wednesday 6 August 1828

*“MR. TUNALEY, in announcing the commencement of his third Quarter, has the honor to inform his Patrons and Friends, that he proposes, in his future Lessons on Dancing, to introduce so much of the exercises, which have been called Calisthenic for Ladies, and of the Art of Fencing, for Gentlemen, as will conduce to the desired result of improving the form and general movement of the body.*

*Full Street, Derby, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1828”*

Subsequent engagements demonstrate the change in strategy paid off for Thomas.

Thomas Snape Tunaley teaching Dance at Spondon

Stamford Mercury Friday 20 May 1836

“A Card

*SPONDON ESTABLISHMENT for the Education of Young Ladies, near Derby (so long conducted by Miss Edwards) is now directed by Misses BLACKITH, who are enabled, by engagements with superior masters, in addition to their personal exertions, to offer the same advantages afforded by their predecessor. A French Lady resident in the house. Music, including the piano-forte, harp, and guitar, taught by Mr. and Mrs. Woolley, of Nottingham; Dancing, Mr. Tunaley; Drawing, Mr. Smith; and Italian, Signor Maniouj; all of Derby.....”*

Sheffield Independent, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April 1838

“Dancing

*MR. TUNALEY, in announcing the commencement of his Second Quarter, at the MUSIC HALL, Sheffield, on Wednesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> instant, at Eleven o’ Clock in the Forenoon, is anxious to mention to those who are not acquainted with his Style of Teaching, nor with its beneficial effects on the Department of his Pupils, that the Course of Instruction he pursues is grounded on the new Parisian System and embraces every Exercise calculated to improve the Form and general Movement of the Body as well as to correct and prevent its Defects.....*

*.....Terms One Guinea per Quarter – Attendance one Day a Week*

*Old Assembly Rooms, Derby, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1838”*

Derby Mercury Wednesday 27 March 1844

“DANCING AND CALISTHENICS

*MR. TUNALEY has the pleasure to announce that he devotes the former part of his Lesson entirely to Calisthenic Exercises- including the Indian Sceptre Practices, &c, &c.: everything in fact calculated to insure a graceful carriage and deportment, and to give health, tone and strength to the body.....*

*..... the Second Quarter commences at the Old Assembly Rooms, on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> instant.*

*Derby, March 26<sup>th</sup> 1844"*

It seems Sheffield had become a popular venue:

Sheffield Independent 29 June 1844

(Thomas Snape Tunaley shown to be still associated with Louis Vedy)

"Dancing

### THE POLKA AND VALSE A DEUX TEMPS

*MR. TUNALEY will be happy, on his return from the Continent, to give instructions to parties desirous of learning the Polka in the style in which it is danced in Berlin and Paris. M. Vedy who is just returned from London will, during the present vacation, give courses of SIX LESSONS in the above and other Fashionable Dances, to Classes of not less than six.*

*Early applications are requested at Mr. DAWSON'S Music Depository, or at the Old Assembly Rooms, Derby".*

Sheffield Independent Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 1844

"The POLKA, VALSE a Deux Temps, Mazurka, &c.

*MR. TUNALEY, having spent the Summer Holidays in acquiring, in the higher Schools of Paris, the Continental Style of Dancing the above modern Dances, will be happy to give Lessons to Families and Parties, in the Town and Neighbourhood of Sheffield, during the ensuing Vacation.*

*Immediate applications are requested, that Mr. TUNALEY may be enabled to make his arrangements before Christmas.*

*Music Hall, Sheffield and Old Assembly Rooms, Derby."*

Etymology:

Re: honor and honour, favor and favour from: <http://www.etymonline.com/index.php?term=honor>

honor c.1200, "glory, renown, fame earned," from Anglo-French honour, Old French honor (Modern French honneur), from Latin honorem (nominative honos, later honor) "honor, dignity, office, reputation," of unknown origin. Till 17 c. honour and honor were equally frequent; the former now preferred in England, the latter in U.S. by influence of Noah Webster's spelling reforms. Similar etymology for favor, favour.

Phil Tunaley