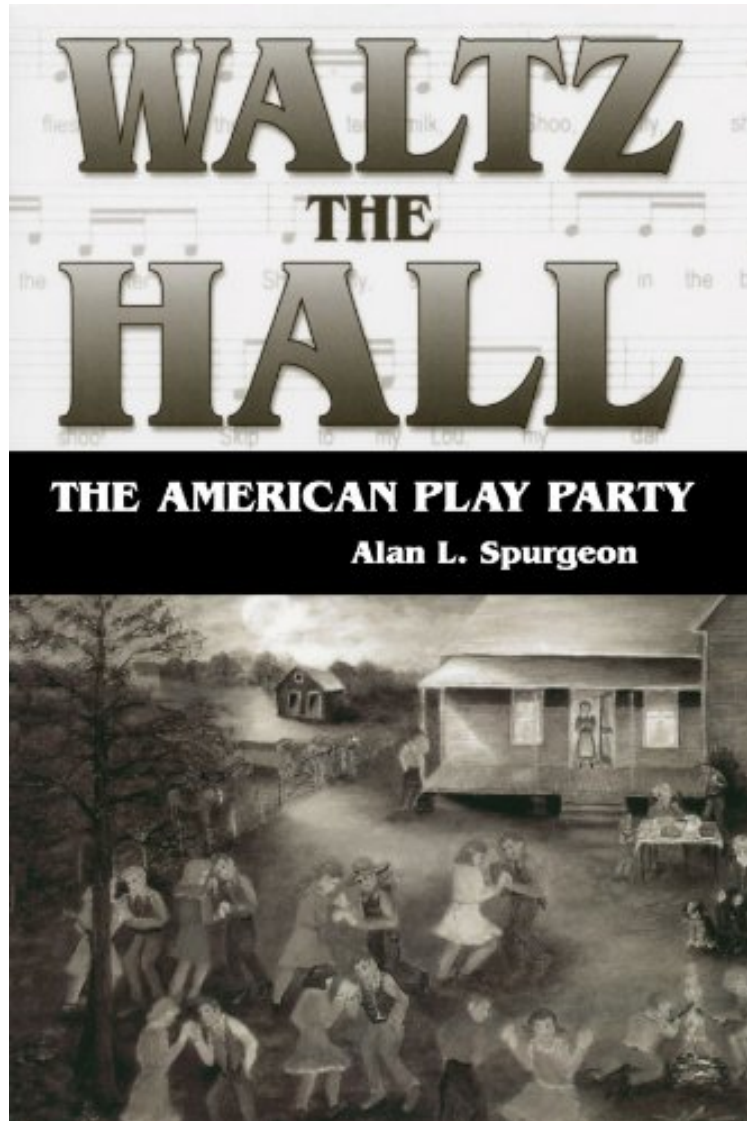


## Waltz the Hall

*Alan L. Spurgeon*

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**Alan L. Spurgeon : Waltz the Hall** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Waltz the Hall:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Spurgeon's Waltz the Hall By Cynthia Carrell Waltz the Hall is a great resource for play party games, otherwise known as folk songs with dances. I have used it to teach many times. It also contains historical information about the American "play party."

What did young people do for diversion and socialization in communities that banned most dancing and considered

the fiddle to be the devil's instrument? The American play party was the fundamentalists' answer. Here the singing was a cappella, the dancers followed proscribed steps, and arm and elbow swings would be the only touching. The play party was a popular form of American folk entertainment that included songs, dances, and sometimes games. Though based upon European and English antecedents, play parties were truly an American phenomenon, first mentioned in print in 1837. The last play parties were performed in the 1950s. Though documented in rural and frontier areas throughout the United States, they seem to have been most popular and lasted the longest in the rural South and Midwest. Skip to My Lou and Pig in a Parlor are still sung today but without the movements and games. This is the first book since the 1930s to study this important and little remembered phenomenon of American folk culture. The author interviewed a large number of older Americans, both black and white, who performed play parties as young adults. Many of our parents and grandparents experienced these events, which harken back to a time when people created their own forms of entertainment. Today play parties are an important source of song and movement material for elementary-school-age children. A songbook of ninety musical examples and lyrics completes the picture of this vanished tradition.

From the Publisher: A history and songbook of a once widespread but now nearly forgotten form of folk entertainment. Provides the first book since the 1930s to study this important and soon-to-be-forgotten phenomenon of American folk culture. Features 90 musical examples with lyrics of traditional play party songs. Appeals to scholars and students of American folklore and to music educators eager to have these traditional tunes available in a single source. From the Inside Flap: A history and songbook of a once widespread but now nearly forgotten folk entertainment. About the Author: Alan Spurgeon, Oxford, Mississippi, is Associate Professor of Music at the University of Mississippi. He is the author of "Pig in the Parlor and Twenty Other Authentic Play Parties", and his work has appeared in several music-related periodicals.