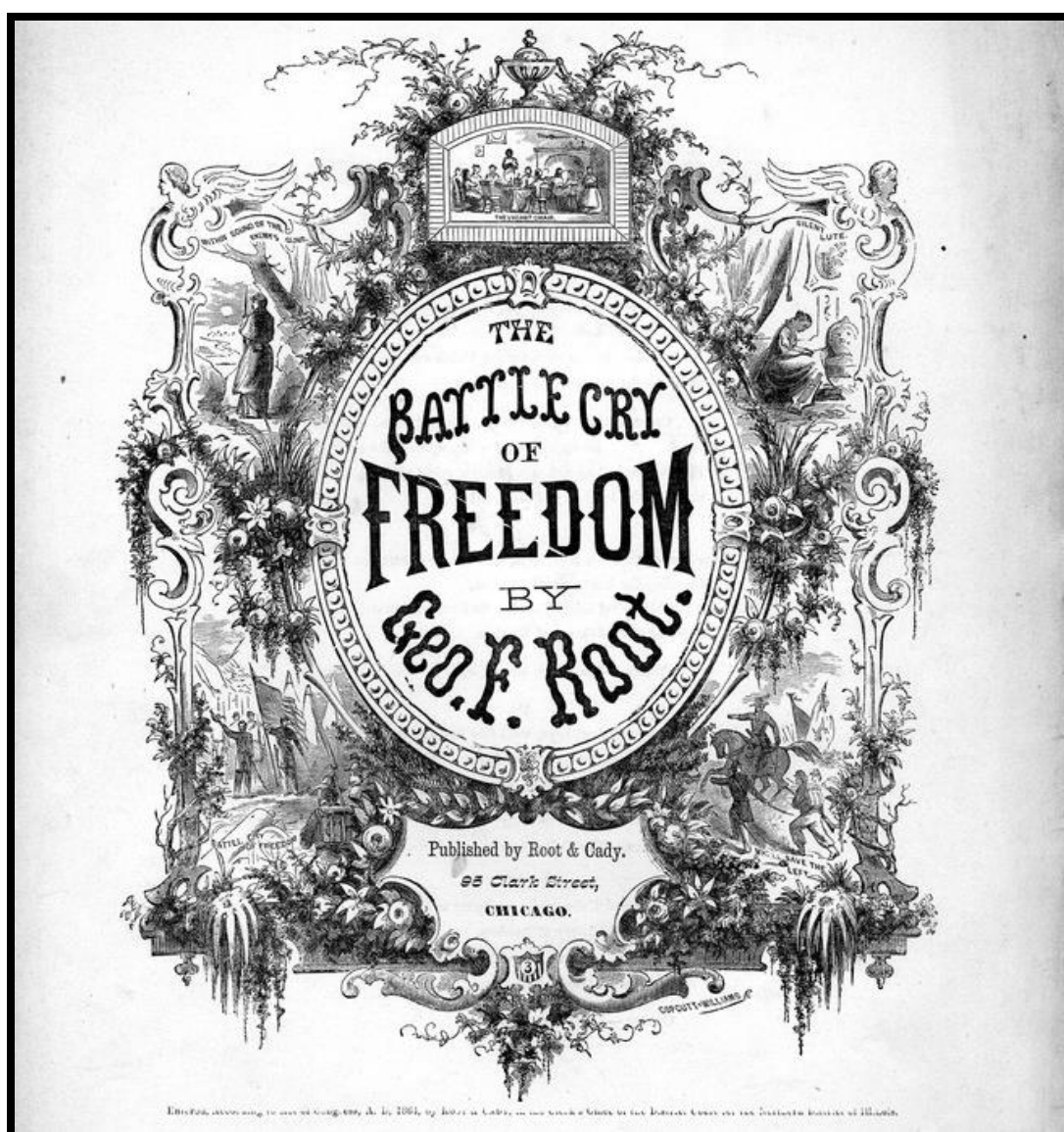


The Bugle



Quarterly Journal of the
Camp Curtin Historical Society
and Civil War Round Table, Inc.

Winter 2019
Volume 29, Number 4



Union Civil War Songs

"The field upon which we now stand will be known as classic ground, for here has been the great central point of the organization of our military forces. When my administration of public affairs will have been forgotten and the good and evil will be only known to the investigation of the antiquarian, Camp Curtin, with its memories and associations, will be immortal."

- Governor Andrew Curtin, 1865

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National Civil War Museum Lecture Series

The 2020 Lessons in History program is free to the public. Regular museum admission applies for entrance to the museum galleries. For more information www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org.

Saturday, January 25, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

New Acquisitions and Seldom Seen Treasures of the Museum

by Brett E. Kelley, NCWM Curator

Saturday, February 22, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

From Gettysburg To Madison County, Kentucky and Back To Gettysburg: A Local Boy Comes To His Own Hometown To Fight in the Civil War's Greatest Battle

by Wayne E. Motts, NCWM Chief Executive Officer

Saturday, March 14, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Civil War Myths and Mistakes

by Garry Adelman, American Battlefield Trust Director of Education

Dues Reminder

In November we mailed out 2020 dues notices. If you have not already "reenlisted" we hope you will. You can find the enlistment form on our website at <https://www.campcurtin.org/enlistment-form>.

COVER – Our lead article in this issue looks at the Union Civil War Songs. *The Battle Cry of Freedom* sheet music was very popular and sold approximately 700,000 copies during the Civil War. In the future we will have an article that examines Confederate songs.

The Camp Curtin Historical Society and Civil War Round Table, Inc., is a non-profit corporation chartered by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Contributions are tax deductible under IRC Section 501(c)(3). The Society is properly registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State as a charitable organization. A copy of the registration and financial information may be obtained by telephoning toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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Union Civil War Songs

The Civil War inspired Northern amateurs and professionals to write songs expressing various feelings about the conflict. Rallying songs urged soldiers and citizens to support the cause of the Union; other songs reminded soldiers of their life in the field, and others mourned the loss of the dead. Sometimes the lyrics were added to popular tunes of earlier times rather than composing new music. Music and singing were common diversions in military camps. The music was played by regimental bands, fife and drum corps, or individual musicians with a banjo or fiddle. Here are the lyrics of a few popular Union songs.

The Battle Hymn of the Republic is probably the song most associated with the Union war effort. It was written by abolitionist Julia Ward Howe. She wrote it at the Willard Hotel in Washington, D.C., after visiting a Union encampment in November 1861. Howe used the music from the song *John Brown's Body*. It was first published in *The Atlantic Monthly* in February 1862. The lyrics declare the Civil War to be a religious crusade supported by God to end slavery.

Mine eyes have seen the glory
of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage
where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning
of His terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.

[Chorus]

Glory, Glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch-fires
of a hundred circling camps,
They have builded Him an altar
in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence
by the dim and flaring lamps:
His day is marching on.
[Chorus Repeats]

I have read a fiery gospel
writ in burnished rows of steel:
"As ye deal with my contemners,
so with you my grace shall deal";

Let the Hero, born of woman,
crush the serpent with his heel,
Since God is marching on.
[Chorus Repeats]

In the beauty of the lilies
Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom
that transfigures you and me.
As He died to make men holy,
let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on.
[Chorus Repeats]



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Battle Cry of Freedom, also known as *Rally 'Round the Flag*, was written by George Frederick Root in 1862. It urged men to answer Lincoln's call for volunteers to put down the rebellion and preserve the Union. It was a very popular song, and it is estimated that 700,000 copies of the sheet music were printed.

Oh we'll rally round the flag, boys,
we'll rally once again,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom,
And we'll rally from the hillside,
we'll gather from the plain,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.

[Chorus]

The Union forever, hurrah! boys, hurrah!
Down with the traitor, up with the star
While we rally round the flag, boys,
rally once again,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom!

Oh we're springing to the call
for three hundred thousand more
Shouting the battle cry of freedom!
And we'll fill the vacant ranks
with a million freemen more,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.
[Chorus Repeats]

We will welcome to our numbers
the loyal, true and brave,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom!
And although he may be poor,
he shall never be a slave,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom!
[Chorus Repeats]

So we're springing to the call
from the East and from the West,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom;
And we'll hurl the rebel crew
from the land we love the best,
Shouting the battle cry of freedom.
[Chorus Repeats]

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

We Are Coming, Father Abraham was initially written as a poem by James Gibbons in 1862 and later set to music. Coming out after the failed Peninsula Campaign, like *Battle Cry of Freedom*, it also urged men to enlist and come help restore the Union. It was also the beginning of what would become a tradition of portraying Lincoln as a father figure.

We are coming, Father Abraham,
Three hundred thousand more,
From Mississippi's winding stream
And from New England's shore
We leave our ploughs and workshops,
Our wives and children dear,
With hearts too full for utterance,
With but a silent tear.
We dare not look behind us
But steadfastly before—
We are coming, Father Abraham,
Three hundred thousand more!



[Chorus]

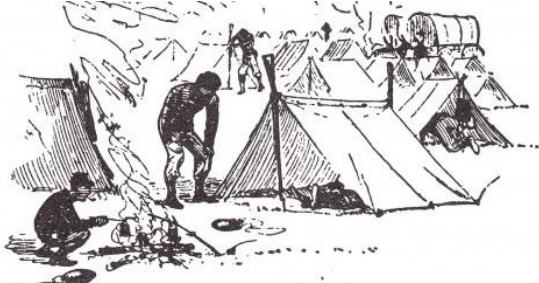
We are coming, we are coming,
Our Union to restore;
We are coming, Father Abraham,
Three hundred thousand more.
We are coming, Father Abraham,
Three hundred thousand more.

If you look across the hilltops
That now meet the northern sky,
Long, moving lines of rising dust
Your vision may descry,
And now the wind, an instant
Tears the cloudy veil aside,
And floats aloft our spangled flag
In glory and in pride;
And bayonets in the sunlight gleam,
And bands brave music pour—
We are coming, Father Abraham,
Three hundred thousand more!
[Chorus Repeats]

If you look all up our valleys,
Where the growing harvests shine,
You may see our sturdy farmer boys
Fast forming into line;
And children from their mothers' knees
Are pulling at the weeds,
And learning how to reap and sow,
Against their country's needs;
And a farewell group stands weeping
At every cottage door—
We are coming, Father Abraham,
Three hundred thousand more!
[Chorus Repeats]

You have called us, and we're coming,
By Richmond's bloody tide,
To lay us down for freedom's sake,
Our brothers' bones beside;
Or from foul treason's savage grasp
To wrench the murderous blade,
And in the face of foreign foes,
Its fragments to parade.
Six hundred thousand loyal men
And true have gone before—
We are coming, Father Abraham,
Three hundred thousand more!
[Chorus Repeats]

Tenting on the Old Camp Ground was written in 1863 by Walter Kittredge. The lyrics are rather melancholy, hoping for the seemingly endless war to cease and lamenting the dead



We're tenting tonight on the old camp ground,
Give us a song to cheer
Our weary hearts, a song of home
And friends we love so dear.

[Chorus]

Many are the hearts that are weary tonight,
Wishing for the war to cease;
Many are the hearts looking for the right
To see the dawn of peace.
Tenting tonight, tenting tonight,
Tenting on the old camp ground.

We've been tenting tonight
on the old camp ground,
Thinking of days gone by,
Of the loved ones at home
that gave us the hand,
And the tear that said, "Good-bye!"
[Chorus Repeats]

The lone wife kneels and prays with a sigh
That God his watch will keep
O'er the dear one away and the little dears nigh,
In the trundle bed fast asleep.
[Chorus Repeats]

We are tenting tonight on the old camp ground.
The fires are flickering low.
Still are the sleepers that lie around,
As the sentinels come and go.
[Chorus Repeats]

Alas for those comrades of days gone by
Whose forms are missed tonight.
Alas for the young and true who lie
Where the battle flag braved the fight.
[Chorus Repeats]

No more on march or field of strife
Shall they lie so tired and worn,
No rouse again to hope and life
When the sound of drums beat at morn.
[Chorus Repeats]

We are tired of war on the old camp ground,
Many are dead and gone,
Of the brave and true who've left their homes,
Others been wounded long.
[Chorus Repeats]

We've been fighting today
on the old camp ground,
Many are lying near;
Some are dead, and some are dying,
Many are in tears.

[Final Chorus]

Many are the hearts that are weary tonight,
Wishing for the war to cease;
Many are the hearts looking for the right,
To see the dawn of peace.
Dying tonight, dying tonight,
Dying on the old camp ground

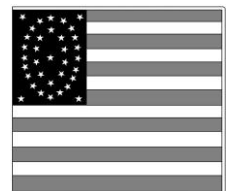


The Bonnie Flag With Stripes and Stars was written by Col. J. L. Geddes of the 8th Iowa Infantry in 1863 as a parody of one of the Confederate's favorite songs, *The Bonnie Blue Flag*. Like the Southern version, the tune was *The Irish Jaunting Car*.

We're fighting for our Union,
We're fighting for our trust,
We're fighting for that happy land
Where sleeps our father's dust.
It cannot be dissevered,
Though it cost us bloody wars,
We never can give up the land
Where floats the stripes and stars.

[Chorus]

Hurrah, Hurrah,
For equal rights hurrah,
Hurrah for the good old flag
That bears the stripes and stars.



We trusted you as brothers,
Until you drew the sword,
With impious hands at Sumter
You cut the silver cord.
So now you hear the bugles,
We come the sons of Mars,
To rally round the brave old flag
That bears the stripes and stars.
[Chorus Repeats]

We do not want your cotton,
We do not want your slaves,
But rather than divide the land,
We'll fill your Southern graves.
With Lincoln for our chieftain,
We wear our country's stars,
And rally round the brave old flag
That bears the stripes and stars.
[Chorus Repeats]

We deem our cause most holy,
We know we're in the right,
And twenty million freemen
Stand ready for the fight.
Our pride is fair Columbia,
No stain her beauty mars,
On her we'll raise the brave old flag
That bears the stripes and stars.
[Chorus Repeats]

And when this war is over,
We'll each resume our home,
And treat you still as brothers,
Where ever you may roam.
We'll pledge the hand of friendship,
And think no more of war,
But dwell in peace beneath the flag
That bears the stripes and stars.
[Chorus Repeats]

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Marching Through Georgia is a marching song written by Henry Clay Work to commemorate Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's "March to the Sea" from Atlanta to Savannah. It mentions bringing freedom to slaves, restoring the Union to Southerners who opposed secession, and the requisition (Confederates would say looting) of supplies from locals.

Bring the good old bugle, boys,
we'll sing another song
Sing it with a spirit
that will start the world along
Sing it as we used to sing it,
fifty thousand strong
While we were marching through Georgia.

[Chorus]
Hurrah! Hurrah! we bring the jubilee!
Hurrah! Hurrah! the flag that makes you free!
So we sang the chorus from Atlanta to the sea
While we were marching through Georgia.

How the darkeys shouted
when they heard the joyful sound
How the turkeys gobbled
which our commissary found
How the sweet potatoes
even started from the ground
While we were marching through Georgia.
[Chorus Repeats]

Yes and there were Union men
who wept with joyful tears,
When they saw the honored flag
they had not seen for years;
Hardly could they be restrained
from breaking forth in cheers,
While we were marching through Georgia.
[Chorus Repeats]



"Sherman's dashing Yankee boys
will never reach the coast!"
So the saucy rebels said
and 'twas a handsome boast
Had they not forgot, alas!
to reckon with the Host
While we were marching through Georgia.
[Chorus Repeats]

So we made a thoroughfare
for freedom and her train,
Sixty miles in latitude,
three hundred to the main;
Treason fled before us,
for resistance was in vain
While we were marching through Georgia.
[Chorus Repeats]

GNMP Winter Lecture Series

The Gettysburg National Military Park Winter Lecture Series will be held at 1:30PM on weekends in the Museum and Visitor Center, 1195 Baltimore Street, Gettysburg, Pa., from January 11 through March 22, 2020. These programs are free and are about one hour long. Seating is first come, first seated. For more information, visit the Park website at www.nps.gov/gett/



Saturday, January 11

Freemasonry at Gettysburg: Fraternal Bonds Tested by Battle by Ranger Matt Atkinson

Sunday, January 12

Gettysburg – Recovery, Memorialization, Preservation, & Commercialization
by Ranger Bert Barnett

Saturday, January 18

Pray for Oblivion to His Memory: Frederick Douglass on the Legacy of Robert E. Lee
by Historian Codie Eash

Sunday, January 19

Gettysburg: The Living and the Dead
by Prof. Kent Gramm

Saturday, January 25

The Defenses of Washington during the Gettysburg Campaign by Ranger Steve Phan

Sunday, January 26

Neglected Heroes of Gettysburg: The Army Mule
by Historian John Heiser

Saturday, February 1

Tales from the Little Log House on the Emmitsburg Road by Artists Pat Bauer and Dave Geister

Sunday, February 2

The Second Middle Passage: An Examination of the Antebellum Interstate Slave Trade
by Ranger Angela Atkinson

Saturday, February 8

Is Gettysburg the High Water Mark?
by Ranger Troy Harman

Sunday, February 9

"With Eagles on their Buttons and Bullets in their Pockets:" South-Central Pennsylvanians in the 54th Massachusetts Infantry by Ranger John Hoptak

Saturday, February 15

"These Honored Dead:" World War II Burials in the Gettysburg National Cemetery
by Ranger Daniel Vermilya

Sunday, February 16

What you don't know can hurt you: The Information War and the Gettysburg Campaign
by Ranger John Nicholas

Saturday, February 22

If These Things Could Talk: Treasures from the Collection of Gettysburg National Military Park
by Ranger Tom Holbrook

Sunday, February 23

Memories of Battle – Union Veterans Remember Culp's Hill by Historian Christopher Gwinn

Saturday, February 29

Beyond Lincoln: How Veterans, Politicians, Poets and Filmmakers Address the Changing Meaning of the Civil War by Ranger Barbara Sanders

Sunday, March 1

The Messy Business of War: Civil War Runs Headlong into Politics as Politicians Fight for Power and Breed Jealousy, Self-Promotion and Self-Preservation Among Military Leaders
by Licensed Battlefield Guide Mary Turk Meena

Saturday, March 7

The Flying Dutchmen: The 11th Corps on July 1
by Ranger Zach Siggins

Sunday, March 8

Searching for the Exact Location of America's Soul: An Artist's Pursuit by Artist Wendy Allen

Saturday, March 14

Earl Van Dorn: The Life and Death of a Confederate Cavalier by Ranger Matt Atkinson

Sunday, March 15

Soldier in Training: James Longstreet and the Mexican War by Ranger Karlton Smith

Saturday, March 21

Scouting the Union Right: Lee and Culp's Hill, July 1-2 by Ranger Troy Harman

Sunday, March 22

Personal Turning Points: Jefferson Davis and George Thomas by Ranger Bert Barnett



Camp Curtin Historical Society

presents

Ralph Siegel

Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide

Co-Author of

Peach Orchard:

A Gettysburg Battlefield Guided Tour

speaking on

The Gettysburg Peach Orchard

2:00PM, Sunday, February 23rd

National Civil War Museum

1 Lincoln Circle, Reservoir Park, Harrisburg, Pa. 17103



This presentation is free. Bring a friend.

For information call 717-732-5115 or email genjenkins@aol.com