

Origin of Our Old Patriotic Songs

"Star Spangled Banner" once an old English club song, according to research of Music Division chief in Library of Congress--The "New Federal Song" and the "President's March"--The tune of "America" is Germanic



At no time so much as upon Independence day are the patriotic songs of this country sung, and upon the coming Fourth of July, which finds the United States at war, the words and the tunes of the national songs will mean more to every American than ever before.

Realizing that as time goes on, history, which may be probed for truth now, in another generation would be too far removed from the links of living memory to certify accuracy, many men are giving time and effort to extracting the real historic facts from the maze of fiction surrounding the origin of many of this country's national songs, which have become an important part of her integral life.

No man has given more time and more effort, nor sifted facts more thoroughly to get at the true history of our national songs, than has Mr. O. G. T. Sonneck, chief of the division of music of the library of congress, and he has embodied these facts in reports published by the government in book form, which save them for all time.

Unless he has traced a matter to the bedrock of certainty, a report with Mr. Sonneck is never complete, and a call at his office in the music division of the library found him with his latest published reports on the national songs on the bookcase at his side, and all heavily interleafed with penna and penciled annotations which bring evidence down to the very minute. Mr.

other cities, until it had become a popular patriotic song throughout the country.

In its original printed form it bore the title, "Defense of Fort McHenry," with the following introductory remarks, written by Judge Nicholson:

The annexed song was composed under the following circumstances: A gentleman had left Baltimore in a flag of truce for the purpose of getting released from the British fleet at his who had been captured at Marlborough. He went as far as the mouth of the Patapsco and was not permitted to return lest the intended attack on Baltimore should be disclosed. He was therefore brought up the bay to the mouth of the Patapsco, where the flag vessel was kept under the guns of a frigate, and he was compelled to witness the bombardment of Fort McHenry, which the admiral had boasted that he could carry in a few hours and that the city must fall. He watched the flag of the fort through the whole day with an anxiety that can better be felt than described, until the night he watched the bomb shells and at early dawn his eye was again greeted by the proudly waving flag of his country.

The tune is that of "Anacrusis of Heaven," originally an English club song, popular among the younger set of Baltimore at the time Key wrote the stanzas.

"Hail Columbia" is a pure product of American soil in regard to both words and music, and was written in 1798 by Joseph Hopkins, a prominent jurist, who lived from 1770 to 1842. The poet himself explains the circumstances which led to the writing of the words as follows:

"Hail Columbia" was written in the summer of 1798, when war with France was thought to be inevitable. Congress was then in session in Philadelphia, debating upon that important subject, and the acts of hostility had actually taken place. The contest between England and France was raging, and the people of the United States were divided into parties for one side or the other, some thinking that policy and duty required us to espouse the cause of republican France, as she was called, while others were for connecting themselves with England. . . . The theater was then open in our city. A young man belonging to it, whose talent was high as a singer, was about to take a benefit. I had known him when he was at school. On this acquaintance he called on me one Saturday afternoon, his benefit being announced for the following Monday. His prospects were very disheartening, but he

written by Rev. Samuel F. Smith, who lived until 1895, and has himself written luminously upon the subject. From Boston he wrote to Admiral Preble September 12, 1872:

The origin of my hymn, "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," is briefly told. In the year 1831 Mr. William C. Woodbridge returned from Europe, bringing a quantity of German music books, which he passed over to Lowell Mason. Mr. Mason, with whom I was on terms of friendship, one day turned them over to me, knowing that I was in the habit of reading German works, saying, "Here, I can't read these, but they contain good music, which I should be glad to use. Turn over the leaves and if you find anything particularly good, give me a translation or imitation of it, or write a wholly original song--anything, so I can use it."

Accordingly, one leisure afternoon, I was looking over the books and fell in with the tune of "God Save the King," and at once took up my pen and wrote the piece in question. It was struck out at a sitting without the slightest idea that it would ever attain the popularity it has since enjoyed. The first time it was publicly sung was at a children's celebration of American Independence at the Park Street church, Boston, I think, July 4, 1832. If I had anticipated the future of it, doubtless I would have taken more pains with it. Such as it is, I am glad to have contributed this mite to the cause of American freedom.

Mr. Sonneck had this to say regarding the use of an English tune to the words of "America":

"The main objection raised against 'America' has been the union of the words with that foreign air of cosmopolitan usage, 'God Save the King.' Yet there is this difference, which should never be overlooked: If the Danes or the Prussians use 'God Save the King' they have deliberately borrowed it from the British. Not so with us. 'God Save the King' was, before 1776, as much our national anthem as that of the motherland. Being a British air, it belonged to the British colonists just as much as it did to the Britons at home.

"Yankee Doodle" is sometimes called a national song--incorrectly so, because, with a practically now obsolete text, or texts, it is hardly ever sung, but merely played as an instrumental

THE YANKEES

RETURN FROM CAMP.

FATHER and I went down to camp,
Along with captain Gouding,
There we see the men and boys,
As thick as hasty pudding.
Yankee doodle, keep it up,
Yankee doodle, dandy;
CHORUS Mind the music and the step,
And with the girls be handy.
And there we see a thousand men,
As rich as Squire David;
And what they wasted every day,
I wish it could be saved.
Yankee doodle, &c.
The lasses they eat every day,
And struck a crooked stabbing iron
Upon the little end o' it.
Yankee doodle, &c.
And there I see a pumpkin shell
As big as mother's bason,
And every time they touch'd it off,
They scamper'd like the nation.
Yankee doodle, &c.
I see a little barrel too,
The heads were made of leather,
They knock'd upon't with little clubs,
And call'd the folks together.
Yankee doodle, &c.
And there was Captain Washington,

Sonneck permitted a recent caller to glean from these documentary data regarding this country's national songs and supplemented them with some additional verbal information.

Almost everyone knows how the stirring words rushed from the heart and hand of Francis Scott Key on the early morning of September 14, 1814, when the English were bombarding Fort McHenry. Fewer, perhaps, know that he jotted down the first rough draft of the song on the back of a letter as he sailed up the Patapsco on one of the enemy's vessels that early morning, when he saw "through the dawn's early light that our flag was still there." He completed this draft upon the American boat which brought him to Baltimore that evening, and later that night, in his hotel in Baltimore, he made a clean copy of those jottings, and this first fair copy of the words is still in existence and may yet be seen at the Walters gallery in Baltimore.

On the morning after his arrival in Baltimore Key took his poem to his friend and relative, Judge Joseph Hopper Nicholson, for his critical opinion upon it. This was evidently favorable, for it was immediately printed and its first appearance in public was in the form of a sheet, or broadside, which was distributed through the streets on the day after it was written. Its first dated appearance was in the Baltimore Patriot of September 20, 1814. Next day it appeared in exactly the same form in the Baltimore American, and then, in single sheets and in newspapers, it spread from Baltimore to

said that if he could get a patriotic song adapted to "The President's March" he did not doubt of a full house; that the poets of the theatrical corps had been trying to accomplish it, but had not succeeded. I told him that I would try what I could do for him. He came the next afternoon, and the song, such as it was, was ready for him. Such is the history of the song, which has endured infinitely beyond the expectation of the author.

The song met with immediate success and was repeated again and again, being named "New Federal Song," and no entertainment of the day was considered complete without it.

To run down the history of the music of "Hail Columbia," written originally as the "President's March," Mr. Sonneck found a much more difficult task than giving the plain narrative of the applied words. Wading through an immense amount of historical data and some controversy upon the subject, he has brought out facts which he would only put forth after the most careful process of sifting and deduction.

"Until recently," he said, "the musical origin of 'Hail Columbia' was as obscure as its literary history was clear." But, weighing all the evidence in the case, he carefully sets down the fact that the "President's March," which supplied the music for "Hail Columbia," was composed by Philip Phile, a resident of Philadelphia, of perhaps German or Swiss origin, and musician and instructor of note. (His name is usually spelled incorrectly; the above is the correct spelling.)

"America," the national hymn, contains no mysterious history. It was

piece. Though no longer a national song, it is still a national air and second only to "Dixie" in patriotic popularity. For 150 years "Yankee Doodle" has appealed to our people, and the tune shows no sign of passing into oblivion.

Many words have been spent in discussing the origin of the title of this song, and at least sixteen separate and distinct derivations of the words have been seriously set before the public. The earliest dated reference to the tune appears in the first American ballad opera, "The Disappointment," Philadelphia, 1767. It was played in America as early as 1768, for in the Journal of Transactions in Boston, September 28, 1768, we read: "The fleet was brought to anchor near Castle William; that evening there was throwing of skyrocket, and those passing in boats observed great rejoicing and that the Yankee Doodle song was the capital piece in the band of music."

The earliest appearance in print of "Yankee Doodle" in Europe has been traced to James Aird's "A Selection of Scotch, English, Irish and Foreign Airs," published in Glasgow about 1780. Mr. Sonneck asserts that "Yankee Doodle" did not appear in print in America until Benjamin Carr's "Federal Overture," a medley of patriotic songs, including "Yankee Doodle," and composed in 1794, was published. "Adapted for the pianoforte," by B. Carr, New York, in January, 1795. Since then some interesting and now rare renderings of the piece have been issued.

Youth.

There is God's gift of youth, inexpressible, beautiful, glorious, divine. It is for youth that the rest of us live; it is on their motions that we hang; it is for them that we labor, suffer, and endure; it is for them that we flout the ills of life; it is for them that we are blind to death. Youth--wonderful youth--so great a gift to possess, so infinitely greater a gift to perceive in boys and girls about you! --H. D. Sedgwick, in the Atlantic Magazine.

SOME POSTSCRIPTS

By means of a secret process a French scientist converts flowers, fruit and even animal tissues into metal.

A Minneapolis inventor's adjustable road scraper has been designed to serve equally well as a snow plow.

An entire notebook or a single sheet of paper is held equally well in a new copyholder for typewriters in which the copy is advanced as desired by pressing a lever.

One end of a tool invented by a Frenchman for smoothing rough edges of collars and cuffs serves as a button-hole opener.

An English inventor's safety suit for aviators is covered with parachute-like pockets and the entire garment can be inflated to help break the force of a wearer's fall.

An inventor in Nebraska has patented wire netting covered frames to cover open automobiles to catch hats, veils, or other articles that otherwise might be blown away.

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THE MARKETS

New York--Wheat--Spot nominal.
Corn--Spot weak; No. 2 yellow, \$1.82 1/2, c i f New York.
Oats--Spot easy; standard, 73 1/4 @ 74c.
Butter--Creamery, higher than extra, 37 1/2 @ 38 1/2; creamery extras, (92 score), 37 @ 37 1/2; firsts, 36 1/2 @ 36 3/4; seconds, 35 @ 36.
Eggs--Fresh gathered extras, 31 1/2 @ 32c; fresh gathered storage-packed firsts, 31 @ 32; fresh gathered firsts, 30 @ 30 1/2; state, Pennsylvania and nearby Western henry white, fine to fancy, 34 @ 35; state, Pennsylvania and nearby henry browns, 33 @ 34.
Cheese--State fresh specials, 23 @ 24 1/2; do, average run, 22 1/2 @ 23.
Live poultry, chickens, 33 @ 35c; fowls, 25; turkeys, 18 @ 20.
Dressed poultry, chickens, 23 @ 29c; fowls, 19 1/2 @ 25; turkeys, 18 @ 32.

BALTIMORE. -- Wheat--Contract opened dull; spot No. 2 red, \$2.76 nominal; No. 2 red Western, \$2.81 nominal.
Corn--Spot mixed and June corn, \$1.80.
Oats--Standard white, 71 @ 71 1/2c; No. 3 white, 70 1/2 @ 71.
Rye--No. 2 rye, Western, \$2.40; bag lots, as to quality and condition, \$1.80 @ 2.
Hay--No. 1 timothy, \$20 @ 21; No. 2 do, \$18.50 @ 19; No. 3 do, \$15 @ 17.50; light clover mixed, \$18 @ 18.50; No. 1 clover mixed, \$17.50 @ 18; No. 2 do, \$13 @ 16; No. 1 clover, \$16.50 @ 17.50; No. 2 do, \$13 @ 15; No. 3 do, \$8 @ 10.
Straw--No. 1 straight rye, \$15.50 @ 16; No. 2 do, \$14.50 @ 15; No. 1 tangled rye, \$12 @ 13; No. 2 do, \$10.50 @ 11.50; No. 1 wheat, \$9 @ 9.50; No. 2 do, \$8 @ 8.50; No. 1 oat, \$10 @ 11; No. 2 do, \$9 @ 9.50.
Eggs--Firsts, per dozen; Maryland and nearby, 32c; Western, 32; West Virginia, 32; Southern, 31.
Live Poultry--Old hens firmer and the moderate offerings of choice, fat stock and prompt buyers. While receipts of spring chickens are fair. Chickens--Old hens, 4 lbs and over, 24 @ 25c; do, do, small to medium, 24 @ 25c; do, do, white leghorns, 22; old roosters, 12 @ 13; spring chickens, according to kind, 30 @ 38; do, young, large and staggy, 21 @ 22. Ducks--Old Pekings, 18c; do puddle, 17; do muscovy, 17; do smaller, 16; do, spring, 3 lbs and over, 24 @ 25.

Sheep--Prime wethers, \$10 @ 10.50; culls and common, \$5 @ 7; lambs, \$6 @ 12.50; veal calves, \$14.50 @ 15.
Hogs--Prime heavies, \$15.75 @ 15.80; mediums, \$15.65 @ 15.70; heavy Yorkers, \$15.50 @ 15.65; light Yorkers, \$14.50 @ 16.75; pigs, \$14 @ 14.25; roughs, \$14 @ 14.50.
BILLY SUNDAY GIVES \$116,000.

Divides New York Receipts Between Red Cross and Y. M. C. A.

New York--"Red Cross dividends" amounting to \$1,025,500 declared by four corporations brought the total contributions to the \$100,000,000 war fund up to \$12,033,913. Included in this amount is \$58,000 received from the Rev. William A. Sunday, who divided between the Red Cross and the Young Men's Christian Association the free-will offering of \$116,000 given to him Sunday at the close of an evangelistic campaign in this city.

U. S. TANKER SENT DOWN.

John D. Archbold, Bound Home From France, Sunk By Submarine.
New York--The big tank steamship John D. Archbold, of the Standard Oil Company, has been sunk by a submarine. The announcement was made at the offices of the company here. Four members of the tanker's crew were lost. The Archbold was sent to the bottom last Saturday in European waters.

FOR 3,567,200 PAIRS OF SOCKS.

Navy Department Awards Contracts To 18 Firms.
Washington. -- Contracts for 3,567,200 pairs of socks were awarded by the Navy Department to 18 firms in different parts of the country. The contracts were made in accordance with recommendations of the knit goods committee of the Council of National Defense. The average price paid was approximately 18 cents for cotton and 28 cents for woolen socks.

FRENCH AVIATORS ARRIVE.

Officers Experienced in War To Train Americans For Service.
New York--Twelve French aviators, all commissioned officers of the Flying Corps and the majority wearing one or more decorations for distinguished service, arrived here to serve as instructors in the American Flying Corps now training for duty in France.

Through activities of the Brooklyn City Mission Society, more than 300,000 persons not reached by Protestant churches of Brooklyn were drawn last year into relation with Christianity.

Live Stock

KANSAS CITY--Hogs--Bulk, \$15 @ 15.80; heavy, \$15.70 @ 15.80; packers and butchers', \$15.25 @ 15.75; light, \$14.75 @ 15.35; pigs, \$13.75 @ 14.50.
Cattle--Prime fed steers, \$12.50 @ 13.40; dressed beef steers, \$10 @ 12.25; Southern steers, \$7.25 @ 12.50; cows, \$6.50 @ 11; heifers, \$8.50 @ 13; stockers and feeders, \$7.25 @ 11; bulls, \$7 @ 9.50; calves, \$7 @ 12.25.
Sheep--Lambs, \$15.50 @ 17.25; yearlings, \$10 @ 12; wethers, \$9 @ 11; ewes, \$8.75 @ 10.50.
CHICAGO. -- Hogs--Bulk, \$15.10 @ 15.80; light, \$14.40 @ 15.65; mixed, \$14.90 @ 15.90; heavy, \$14.90 @ 15.90; rough, \$14.90 @ 15.10; pigs, \$10.25 @ 14.40.
Sheep--Wethers, \$8.75 @ 11.50; ewes, \$7.60 @ 10.25; lambs, \$10.25 @ 15.65; springs, \$13 @ 17.75.
Cattle--Native beef cattle, \$9.20 @ 12.70; stockers and feeders, \$7.40 @ 10.60; cows and heifers, \$6.25 @ 11.85; calves, \$10.50 @ 15.50.
PITTSBURGH. -- Cattle -- Choice, \$11.75 @ 12.50; prime, \$13 @ 13.25.