

# The Centennial of a Famous Song

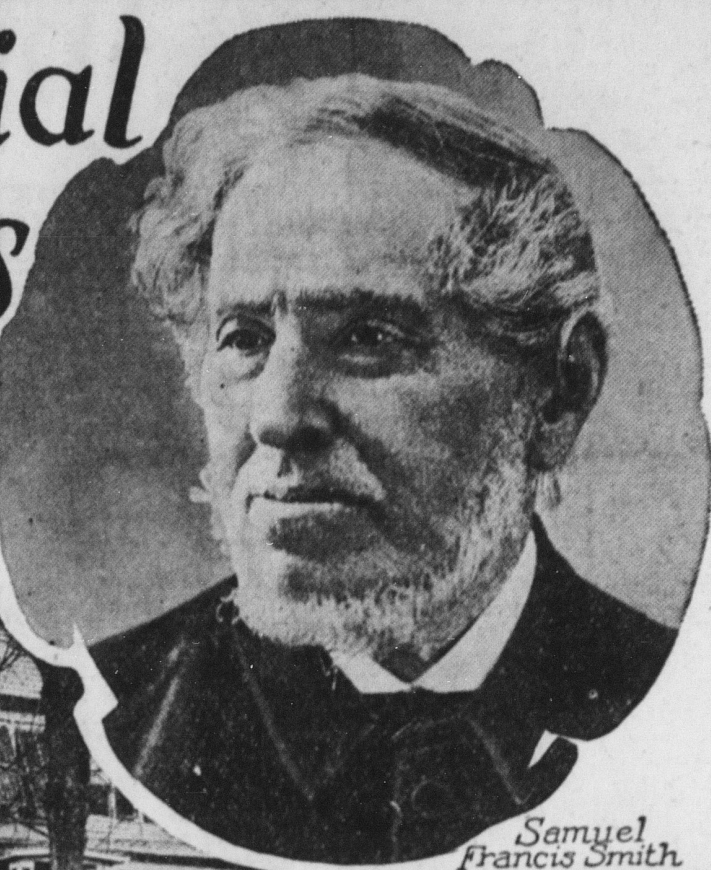
*American*

My country 'tis of thee  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing;  
Lend thy strength to my right arm;  
Lend us thy mighty power;  
From every mountain side  
Let freedom ring.

My native country, this  
Land of the noble free,  
This land I love;  
How rocky and rugged  
thy woods and temporal hills,  
thy heart with justice thrills,  
Like that above.



Smith's Home in Newton Centre, Mass.



Samuel Francis Smith



Grave of Smith in Newton Centre, Mass.

*When in 1832*

Let man's dwell the house  
And ring from all the tongue  
Let man's dwell the house  
And ring from all the tongue  
Let man's dwell the house  
And ring from all the tongue

*Confession, Sed. & then  
Liberation  
in 1832*

Long may our land be bright  
With freedom's holy light  
Protect us by thy might  
Sweet this our King.  
L. S. Smith

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON



THIS year marks the centennial of one of our most famous patriotic songs and since it was first sung in public on July 4, 1832, special attention was paid during our Fourth of July celebrations this year to honoring Rev. Samuel Francis Smith, the man who wrote "America." Although Francis Scott Key's "The Star Spangled Banner" has been officially adopted as the national anthem, "America" is the unofficial national anthem in that it is more often sung by more Americans because it is easier for untrained voices to sing than is the wide-ranging melody of "The Star Spangled Banner." Written originally for children's choirs, it was easy for the singing of "America" to become a traditional observance in our public schools and that is one reason why this unofficial national anthem is more often heard throughout the land than the official one.

In fact, it was the desire for a patriotic song which could be used in the schools which brought "America" into existence. In 1831 William C. Woodbridge, a noted educator of New York, visited Germany's public schools, particularly for the purpose of bringing back any idea which might be adapted for use in the schools of the United States. He learned what every good German knows, that music had an important place in the life of the people and in school life, as well. Consequently some of the school music books brought back by Mr. Woodbridge were passed along to Lowell Mason, a talented musician and pioneer in the introduction of music in the Boston public schools.

But Mr. Mason was not a student of German. So he sent the books to Samuel Francis Smith, a twenty-four-year-old theological student at Andover, a young man who had an extraordinary facility in languages. He was asked to make translations from the German, or to write new verses which could be set to the German music. "On a dismal day in February, 1832, looking over one of these books, my attention was drawn to a tune which attracted me by its simple and natural movement and its fitness for children's choirs," wrote Doctor Smith many years later.

"Glancing at the German words at the foot of the page, I saw that they were patriotic, and I was instantly inspired to write a patriotic hymn of my own.

"Seizing a scrap of waste paper, I began to write, and in half an hour, I think, the words stood upon it substantially as they are sung today. I did not share the regret of those who deem it an evil that the national tune of Britain and America is the same. On the contrary, I deem it a new and beautiful tie of union between the mother and the daughter, one furnishing the music (if indeed it is really English) and the other the words.

"I did not propose to write a national hymn. I did not think that I had done so. I laid the song aside, and nearly forgot that I had made it. Some weeks later I sent it to Mr. Mason, and on the following Fourth of July, much to my surprise, he brought it out at a children's celebration, where it was first sung in public.

"When it was composed, I was profoundly impressed with the necessary relation between love of God and love of country; and I rejoice if the expression of my own sentiments and convictions still finds an answering chord in the hearts of my countrymen."

The Fourth of July celebration to which he refers was held in Park Street church in Boston on July 4, 1832, where "America" was first sung in public by a children's choir under the direction of Lowell Mason. History says that Edward Everett Hale was one of the children in that young choir; and a Smith family legend has it that one of the passersby who heard with profound admiration the song pouring out of the Park Street church was the girl who afterward became Mrs. Samuel Francis Smith. She was Miss Mary White of Haverhill, Mass., a schoolmate of Whittier, whom Smith married on September 16, 1834.

"America" was first published in the Juvenile Lyre, a children's song book, which later, and in the face of much opposition to the introduction of music into the schools, was adopted by them.

The original manuscript is now treasured by the Harvard university library, to which it was bequeathed by Doctor Smith's son, Dr. D. A. W. Smith, on November 14, 1914. In accepting the gift W. C. Lane, the Harvard librarian, wrote, "This is one of the most precious bits of original manuscript which any American library could desire to own."

The whole life of the author of "America" centered around Boston. He was born on Sheafe street in the north end of that city on October 21, 1808. As a boy he attended successively a "dame school," the forerunner of the modern kindergarten; the Eliot school and the Boston Latin school, in all of which he showed unusual

talent and won many medals for scholarship. At the age of seventeen years he entered Harvard college, with Oliver Wendell Holmes, James Freeman Clarke and Samuel May among his classmates. O. W. Holmes wrote poems for their class reunions. In one of them, entitled "The Boys," was a quatrain about Doctor Smith:

"And there's a nice youngster of excellent pit; Fate tried to conceal him by naming him Smith; But he shouted a song for the brave and the free—

Just read on his medal, 'My country, of thee.'"  
While in college young Smith added to his income by tutoring, reporting and translating, the last eventually bringing him the chance to see those German songs. After he was graduated from Harvard in 1829, he spent some time as a reporter.

But the call to the ministry proved stronger than the call of journalism, and he pursued his studies in the seminary of Andover. There he wrote other hymns, religious in character. The best known of these is "The Morning Light Is Breaking," and "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds." In his lifetime he wrote a total of 150 hymns.

Smith was graduated from the seminary in 1832 and a short time later became pastor of the Baptist church in Waterville, Maine. He was also professor of modern languages in Waterville, later Colby college. Ten years later he was called to the church at Newton Centre, Mass., where he was pastor for 12 years. He was for six years editor of the Christian Review, Boston; and for 16 years edited the Missionary Magazine, also preparing other literature for missionary distribution. This involved translating languages, of which he could read 12 or 13 easily. At the age of eighty-five years he visited a daughter, bringing along a Russian grammar and a Russian Bible, delighted because he had begun to master a new tongue.

Doctor Smith and his wife traveled extensively, later writing books on missions and one or two biographies. His son, D. A. W. Smith, became president of a seminary in Rangoon, Burma.

In April, 1895, Doctor Smith was honored with a children's service one afternoon and an evening meeting at which the governor of the commonwealth presided. Seven months later, on the train en route to preach at a little town in Massachusetts, Doctor Smith died peacefully while sitting beside a friend.

Although some Americans object to "America" because it has the same tune as the English national anthem "God Save the King," the fact is that the air is not the air of England's national anthem alone. For Germany, Switzerland and Denmark sing the familiar strains, as well as we who sing "America." The first line of those German words at which Smith glanced after he had been attracted by the "simple and natural movement" of the music are "Heil dir im Siegeskranz." Switzerland's national anthem begins, "Rufst du, mein Vaterland," while the Danes sing, "Heil dir, dem Liebenden."

There has been considerable dispute as to the origin of the air and concerning this one authority, the Encyclopaedia Britannica, says: "The most celebrated of all national anthems is the English 'God, Save the King,' which is said to have been first sung as his own composition by Henry Carey in 1740; and a version was assigned by W. Chappell (Popular Music) to the Harmonia Anglicana of 1742 or 1743, but no copy exists and this is now doubted.

"Words and music were printed in the Gentleman's Magazine for October, 1745. There has been much controversy as to the authorship,

which is complicated by the fact that earlier forms of the air and the words are recorded. Such are an 'Ayre' of 1619, attributed to John Bull, who has long been credited with the origin of the anthem; the Scottish carol, 'Remember, O Thou Man,' in Ravenscroft's Melismata, 1611; the ballad 'Franklin Is Fled Away' (printed 1699); and a piece in Purcell's Choice Collection for the Harpsichord (1696). The words or part of them are also found in various forms from the sixteenth century.

The question was discussed in Richard Clarke's Account of the National Anthem (1882), and has been reinvestigated by Dr. W. H. Cummings in his 'God, Save the King' (1902).

"Carey and Bull, in the general opinion of musical historians, divide the credit; but in his 'Minstrelsy of England' (1901), Frank Kidson introduced a new claimant, James Oswald, a Scotsman who settled in London in 1742, and worked for John Simpson, the publisher of the early copies of 'God, Save the King,' and who became chamber composer to George III. What appears to be certain is that 1745 is the earliest date assignable to the substantial national anthem as we know it, and that both words and music had been evolved out of earlier forms. Bull's is the earliest form of the air; Carey's claim to the remodeling of the anthem rests on an unauthoritative tradition; and, on general probabilities, Oswald is a strong candidate.

As early as 1779 the tune of "God Save the King" was adapted to the spirit of the times in America by the Patriots during their struggle with the mother country. A "Dutch Song" of 10 verses written, as the records have it, by "a lady of The Hague," was published in the Pennsylvania Packet at Philadelphia that year, as a tribute to sailors of American ships moored at Amsterdam. It began:

God save the Thirteen States,  
Long live the Thirteen States,  
God save our States!  
Make us victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
No tyrants over us,  
God save our States!

The original "America," as written by Samuel Smith, contained eight verses, but these four are rarely sung:

Our glorious Land today,  
'Neath Education's sway,  
Soars upward still,  
Its halls of learning fair,  
Whose bounties all may share,  
Behold them everywhere  
On vale and hill.

Thy safeguard, Liberty,  
The school shall ever be;  
Our nation's pride!  
No tyrant hand shall smite,  
While with encircling might  
All here are taught the Right  
With Truth allied.

Beneath Heaven's gracious will  
The stars of progress still  
Our course do sway;  
In unity sublime  
To broader heights we climb,  
Triumphant over Time  
God speeds our way.

Grand birthright of our sires,  
Our altars and our fires  
Keep we still pure!  
Our starry flag unfurled,  
The hope of all the world,  
In Peace and Light impierced,  
God hold secure!

It is said that Smith wrote "America" in less than half an hour and Doctor Tillet, in commenting upon it in "The Methodist Hymnal, Annotated," says: "The author had not the remotest idea that the words he dashed off thus hurriedly would ever become a favorite with any lovers of music and song, much less become the national hymn of a great and growing nation. National hymns do not become such by virtue of their loftiness of poetic thought and expression, but because they have in them that indefinable, simple something that gets into the hearts of the people. Greater national songs than this have been written—hymns surpassing it in dignity and nobility of thought—but it is doubtful if we shall ever have in America a national hymn more popular with the people than this."

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## "Feed-Savers" Not of Actual Value

### Extravagant Claims Made by Sellers Seldom Justified.

By DR. H. H. MITCHELL, Chief in Animal Nutrition, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois—WNU Service.

Elaborate and mysterious commercial devices which are being sold to farmers for saving feed by pre-digesting or fermenting it are practically worthless.

If a farmer accepts the extravagant claims made for the pre-digestion or fermentation of feeds by these high-priced, secret-formula mixtures, he does so simply because it is easier to believe than to investigate, especially if it is a case of believing what he hopes may be true.

It is true that one-half or more of the total nutrients in good farm rations are wasted by the animal, either as indigestible material or as extra animal heat, but the devices which are being offered the farmer haven't yet solved the problem of reducing this wastage. Nutrition laboratories have tested many methods of preparing feeds. While improvements can be made in producing a more complete digestion, the extra labor and expense involved have in most cases more than offset the increased digestibility obtained.

Elaborate equipment is being sold for the pre-digestion of feed for horses and cattle. The use of this equipment is claimed to make enormous savings in feed bills. The feed is thoroughly soaked with water and mixed with a mysterious "converter," which in 24 hours or more will, it is claimed, render the feed much more digestible. Nor has the inefficient pig been overlooked by the manufacturers of these devices. A number of mixtures are on the market which, when mixed with ground rations or even oat hulls and water and allowed to steep for several hours, will, it is claimed, ferment the feed and make it much more digestible. In the former case the "converter" is said to contain enzymes which do the work, while in the latter case, the fermentation is brought about by yeasts.

Unfortunately, neither the "converters" nor the yeasts can attack the indigestible woody material which is the main cause of feed wastage. If these agents produce any considerable chemical change, it is simply a change in the starches and sugars of the feed, which the animal itself has no difficulty in digesting.

## Not Advisable to Plant Sudan Grass Too Early

Many inquiries with regard to the use of Sudan grass are received during the year, says a writer in the Rural New-Yorker. This is an annual grass of nutritious quality, making a large bulk of feed. One of the greatest mistakes northern farmers are likely to make is in planting it too early. Sudan grass is a near relative of the cultivated sorghums, and like them, does not germinate well in cold soil. Planted too early, the stand is likely to be thin and the early growth slow. Nothing is gained by seeding Sudan before the soil becomes thoroughly warm. In most of the northern states this is not until the middle of May or later. Sudan grass will not be ready to cut for hay or to be used as pasture any sooner if it is seeded in a cold soil than it will be if the seeding is delayed until the soil becomes warm or two or three weeks later. To delay seeding until two weeks after the beginning of corn planting is a safe precaution. The seed weighs about 40 pounds per bushel. Broadcast, 18 to 20 pounds per acre are needed. In drills, 6 pounds will be sufficient.

## Concrete Mulch

The federal Department of Agriculture has been conducting experiments with permanent mulches of concrete, iron, cinders, zinc, aluminum and other substances which cover the ground except spots where plants are to grow. In the tests beans, peas, strawberries and other small fruit grew as well as with ordinary cultivation. Soils so covered since 1928 have continued productive. It is said that permanent mulch conserves moisture, controls weeds and warms the soil early.

## Drags in Small Stacks

These are suggestions made by R. B. Pope, Monona county, Iowa, in Wallace's Farmer:

In order to speed up the hay-making and to save labor at such a busy time, we stack the hay in the field on a pole sled framework. By using buck rakes and a sweep stacker, it takes very little time to put the hay into a stack. Each sled will hold four or five tons. Then, in the winter, drag the small haystacks to the feed yard just as you pull a load on a wagon.

## Plant Disease-Free Potatoes

The value of any potato for seed purposes depends upon its freedom from diseases such as spindle-tuber, mosaic, etc. Ordinarily seed which is certified by any responsible agency has a very low disease content and because of this is of superior value for seed purposes. Experiments have indicated that where the disease factor can be eliminated, just as valuable seed can be produced under irrigation as under any other cultural conditions. —Nebraska Farmer.

## Let Work Horses Drink Their Fill

### Expert Advises Liberal Supply for Animals.

By E. T. ROBBINS, Live Stock Extension Specialist, College of Agriculture, University of Illinois—WNU Service.

Farmers can avoid heavy death loss in their horses by giving them plenty to drink while they are at work in the field, and by pasturing them at night.

This is the plan used by many men who farm extensively and successfully with horses, it is reported. Among these farmers are A. L. Robinson, Tazewell county; Col. George Seaman, Christian county; Henry Jurgens, Moultrie county; Fred Mudge, La Salle county, and Chris Gerber, Christian county.

Colonel Seaman, who has had long experience with thousands of army horses and mules in the Philippines, says that a hot horse can drink all the water it wants without injury if it starts right ahead with the work afterwards. His men took water to the fields last summer during the hottest weather and watered each horse once an hour from a bucket. None of his 56 work horses was hurt by the heat.

Chris Gerber explains the benefit of this practice by saying, "You cannot strew water out of a horse rapidly for half a day if you do not pour any into his 'radiator.' We all know that when a hot horse stops sweating, he is too hot and is likely to die."

## Early Cutting Adds to the Value of Timothy

Most of our timothy is cut for hay after the blossoms have fallen and the seed is beginning to ripen. At that stage, the hay contains a very low percentage of protein. When, however, it is cut in early bloom, it carries a much higher percentage of protein and begins to approach clover in that respect.

For three years, the Ohio station has fed timothy, cut at different stages of growth, to pregnant ewes during the winter season and through the lambing period. Each year, substantially the same results have been obtained. When timothy was cut for hay just as the heads emerge, it was found to be nearly equal in feeding value to second-cutting alfalfa. Of course, when it is cut that early, the yield is greatly reduced, hence this is scarcely practical. However, if it is cut reasonably early, the quality is much better and the yield reduced little. —Wallace's Farmer.

## War on Lice

Lice on live stock cause considerable annoyance and loss to farmers, and as the season advances the damage caused by these pests becomes more and more serious, unless steps are taken to control them. There are seven different kinds of lice which get their entire living from the blood and tissues of cattle, horses and hogs. All of these different lice are similar in construction and habits and they can readily be eradicated by effective control measures. A scientifically prepared animal spray is a valuable stock aid, killing lice quickly without harm to the skin. A thorough spraying of the animals and their surroundings every ten days soon destroys all lice. The sprayed stock should be kept in well-sheltered quarters until they are dry. —Indiana Farmer's Guide.

## Emergency Pastures

Dry weather for two years has killed many seedlings and made emergency pastures necessary in 1932. A mixture that has met with success in the corn belt is composed of 10 pounds of sweet clover and four pounds of timothy sown with three to and one-half bushels of early oats. On sour soils a mixture of five pounds red clover, three pounds of alfalfa and four pounds of timothy is a better one. The new seeding can be pastured lightly when the grain is seven or eight inches high. The seeding should have a chance to get a foothold and will make good feed throughout the season after the oats are gone. —Prairie Farmer.

## Agricultural Notes

Soybean oil meal produces firm pork, the same as tankage.

Expensive weed eradication programs will accomplish but little while farmers continue to use poor quality, ungraded seed.

Austrian field cross, one of Minnesota's dangerous new weed pests, resembles horse-radish. The roots are longer and more slender, the leaves smaller.

Tests at the Wisconsin experiment station indicate that when lambs are fed cracked barley and alfalfa hay, it is wise to chop the alfalfa and mix it with the barley.

Hand picking as many as possible of the asparagus beetles will pay in lessening the crop of eggs and larvae.

When hay containing less protein than alfalfa is fed, one should feed a protein concentrate with the corn or other grain.

Alfalfa can be successfully pastured without damaging the stand if good judgment is used. It should never be pastured when the land is so wet that the tramping of the animals will puddle the soil.