

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



There is no time so much as upon Independence day, when the patriotic songs of this country sing, and upon the coming Fourth of July, which finds the United States at war, the words and the tunes of "America" will mean more to every American than ever before.

Realizing that as time goes on, history, which may be probed for truth now, is 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 the 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 interlined with panned and pencilled annotations which bring evidence down to the very minute. Mr.

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"The 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, and he who had been captured at Marlborough. He went as far as the mouth of the Patuxent river, where he 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 Patuxent, where the flag vessel was kept under the guns of a frigate, and he was compelled to witness the bombardment of Fort Mifflin, 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 prevented him from seeing it. In the night, he watched the bomb shells and at early dawn his eye was again gratified by the proudly waving flag of his country."

The time is that of "Anacrusis of Heaven," originally and was composed by a young man, the youngest son of Baltimore at the time he wrote the stanza.

"Hail Columbia" is a pure product of American soil in regard to both words and music, and was written in 1788 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 1788, when war with France was thought to be inevitable. Congress was then in session in Philadelphia, debating upon that important subject, and 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 on one side or the other, some thinking that policy and duty required us to support the cause of republican France, and others that we should remain neutral. The latter was then open in our city. A young man belonging to it, whose name was as a singer, was a friend of mine. I had known him when he was at school. On one of the evenings he called on me one afternoon, and he said he had written a prospectus for the following Monday. His prospects were very disagreeable, but he 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 he 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 apocryphal 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 Philip, 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 written by Rev. Samuel F. Smith, who lived until 1835, 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 a happy tale. 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 books. '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 little to the cause of American freedom."

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

"The main objection raised against 'America' has been the union of the words with that foreign air of common political 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 colony just as much as it did to the British at home."

"Tankee Doodle" is sometimes called a national song, but it is, in fact, a song with a practically now obsolete text, or text, 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., &c.,
The lasses they eat every day,
And struck a crooked stabbing iron
Upon the little end on't.
Yankee doodle, &c., &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., &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., &c.,
And there was Captain Washington,

Sonneck permitted a recent caller to give 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 of Francis Scott Key in the early morning of September 14, 1814, when the English were bombarding Fort Mifflin. 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 Patuxent on one of the enemy's vessels that early morning, when he saw "through the dawn's early light" that the 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 these jottings and this first fair copy of the words is still in existence and may yet be seen at the W. L. H. gallery in Baltimore.

On the morning after his arrival in Baltimore Key took his poem to his friend and relative, Judge Joseph Hopson 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

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

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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 ballet opera, "The Disappointment," Philadelphia, 1787. It was played in America as early as 1788, and in the Journal of Transactions in Boston, September 26, 1788, we read: "The feet was brought to anchor near Castle William; that evening there was shooting of skyrockets, 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 'Tankee Doodle' in Europe has been traced to James Hall's 'A Selection of English, Irish and Foreign Songs,' published in Glasgow about 1780. Mr. Sonneck asserts that 'Tankee Doodle' did not appear in print in America until Benjamin Carter's 'Fiddler's Repertory,' a melody of patriotic songs, including 'Tankee Doodle,' and composed in 1794, was published. 'Adapted for the pianoforte,' by B. Carter, New York, in 1794. Since then some interesting and now rare renderings of the piece have been issued."

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DAIRY FACTS

KEEP MILK COOL AND CLEAN

Warm Weather is Trying on Dairymen, But More Especially on Women—Keep Vessels Clean.

The season is rapidly approaching when greater care must be taken of milk. Warm weather is trying on the dairymen, but more especially on the farmer's wife, who must care for the milk from a few cows. Precautions should therefore be made to keep the milk cool and clean.

The facilities for keeping milk on the average farm are very inadequate. Not enough cool space is available for the average farm woman, hence she has difficulties in saving the milk and ripening the cream evenly.

In the first place, the milk vessels are important. They should be of the right kind, with no seams in the pans, pails, etc., to harbor germs. There should be plenty of vessels and they should be kept scrupulously clean, aired, steamed and sunned occasionally.

A refrigerator is almost a necessity on the farm these days. There are many perishable foods as well as milk to be kept. The cost of a refrigerator is not great when the utility and economy of keeping foods are considered.

DAIRY COWS RELISH SILAGE

Result Given of an Experiment Conducted by Pennsylvania Station—Decrease in Yield.

In an experiment conducted by the Pennsylvania station, according to a report received by the department of agriculture, two lots of five cows each were fed for three periods of four weeks. Lot 1 received silage alone for roughage during period 1 and 3 and mixed hay and silage during period 2, and lot 2 received hay and silage during periods 1 and 3 and silage during period 2.

The milk yield decreased with both systems of roughage, but the decrease was less with silage and hay. When silage and hay for roughage followed silage alone there was a slight increase in milk yield over the initial production. Except in one instance there was a decrease each period. When



High Producing Type.

the cows received hay they consumed practically the same amount of silage as when hay was included in the ration. Both lots consumed an excess of protein and net energy above that necessary for maintenance and milk production when based on both standards. There were no apparent undesirable physical effects from the feeding of silage alone for roughage with the grains used. The loss of the two rations in the feed cost of milk and milk fat. No perceptible difference was observed in the health of the two lots.

MILK FEVER IS BOTHERSOME

Danger Among Cows Appears Great—Best is Late Summer—Keep Animal in Barn and Feed Hay.

Milk fever is a rather serious trouble with good cows, as it is said that none but well-bred, heavy-producing cows have it. It seems to be more prevalent among grass-fed cows. The danger of milk fever among cows seems to be greatest in late summer or early fall, notably June, July, August and September. The recommendation is to put the cow in the barn and feed dry hay about a week before she comes fresh. Three or four days before the cow is given a dose of salts with a little ginger. Another dose is also given five or six hours after the calf is born. A bucket of warm water should be given the cow two or three times a day. She should not be allowed to have cold water for some time.

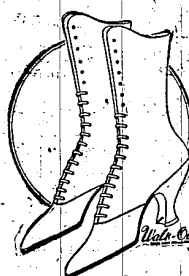
FEED ROUGHAGE TO DRY COWS

Profitable, However, to Feed Sufficient Grain to Have Them in Good Physical Condition.

Dry cows can be maintained on hay and silage or roots. It is a sufficient power to feed cows a moderate amount of grain during the dry period to have them in good physical condition at calving time.

Cows should be dry for six to eight weeks prior to calving. It does not pay to have them dry for a longer period.

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SOME POSTSCRIPTS

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

A Minneapolis inventor's adjustable rubber 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 a new plastic-covered frame to hold open automobiles to catch hail, vells, or other objects that otherwise might be blown away.

Youth

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