

The “National Anthems” at Camp Parapet

During the War Between the States, neither the United States of America nor the Confederate States of America had an official national anthem. Our current national anthem, “The Star Spangled Banner”, did not become our country’s anthem until 1931.

When Louisiana seceded from the Union in January 1861, the citizens of Louisiana, with their strong French ancestry, hailed their new independent republic with the familiar patriotic melody, “La Marseillaise”. This march became the official anthem of France in 1879. It could be said that La Marseillaise was Louisiana’s original anthem.

LA MARSEILLAISE

Written by Claude Rouget de Lisle in 1792

Allons enfants de la Patrie,
Le jour de gloire est arrive !
Contre nous de la tyrannie,
L'etendard sanglant est leve ! (bis)
Entendez-vous dans les campagnes
Mugir ces ferores soldats ?
Ils viennent jusque dans nos bras
Egorger nos fils et nos compagnes !

(Refrain)

Aux armes, mes citoyens !
Formez vos bataillons !
Marchons ! marchons !
Qu'un sang impur
Abreuve nos sillons !

This is the English language translation:

Arise children of the fatherland, The day of glory has
arrived ! Against us tyranny's bloody standard is raised,
Listen to the sound in the fields, The howling of these
fearsome soldiers ? They are coming into our midst, To
cut the throats of your sons and consorts

*To arms citizens! Form your battalions ! March! March!
Let impure blood , Water our furrows!*

Originally composed for a minstrel show, the song "Dixie" was performed in New Orleans in 1860, where it became an audience favorite. On February 18, 1861, for the inauguration of Jefferson Davis as President of the Confederate States of America, "Dixie" was re arranged as a march military band struck up this tune and from that time on, "Dixie" became the unofficial anthem of the CSA. "Dixie" was the favorite song of President Abraham Lincoln, and when the Confederate army of General Robert E Lee surrendered on April 9, 1865, at the president's request, "Dixie" was performed at the White House.

DIXIE (DIXIE'S LAND)

Written by Daniel Decatur Emmett in 1859

Oh, I wish I was in the land of cotton,
Old times there are not forgotten.
Look away, look away, look away Dixie Land!
In Dixie Land, where I was born in,
Early on one frosty morning.
Look away, look away, look away Dixie Land!

I wish I was in Dixie, Hooray! Hooray!
In Dixie Land I'll take my stand,
To live and die in Dixie.
Away, away, away down south in Dixie!
Away, away, away down south in Dixie

Originally composed for the inauguration of President George Washington in 1789, "Hail Columbia" was the unofficial anthem of the United States for many years thereafter, including during the War Between the States. "Hail Columbia" is now the official anthem of the Vice President of the United States.

HAIL COLUMBIA

Written by Philip Phile and Joseph Hopkinson in 1789

Hail Columbia, happy land!
Hail, ye heroes, heav'n-born band,
Who fought and bled in freedom's cause,
Who fought and bled in freedom's cause,
And when the storm of war was gone
Enjoy'd the peace your valor won.
Let independence be our boast,
Ever mindful what it cost;
Ever grateful for the prize,
Let its altar reach the skies.

(Chorus)

Firm, united let us be,
Rallying round our liberty,
As a band of brothers joined,
Peace and safety we shall find.

Our present national anthem was penned in September 1814 by Francis Scott Key, who put into poetry and then song his retelling of the British bombardment of Fort McHenry in Baltimore harbor. Key was a close friend of fellow attorney Roger Taney, who married Key's sister Anne, and later became Chief Justice of the United States. During the War Between the States, Key's grandson, Francis Key Howard, was imprisoned in the very same Fort McHenry for expressing his pro-Confederate views.

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Written by Francis Scott Key in 1814

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation!
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."

And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!