

Bands and Music of The Civil

War



Presented by.

The Pickaway Brass¹

The
Pickaway Brass



PERCUSSION:
David Dillbeck



TUBA:
Eric Dieterich



FRENCH HORN:
Becky Ohlinger



TRUMPET:
Laura Bethel



TROMBONE:
Jarrad Mathew



TRUMPET:₂
Jeff Mathew

Featuring: Mrs. Ohlinger



French Horn Section Leader

Guest Vocalist:

Dr. Fred Brown



**Mr. Kerns,
Original Member and First Director of
The Pickaway Brass,
was a military musician during World War II**



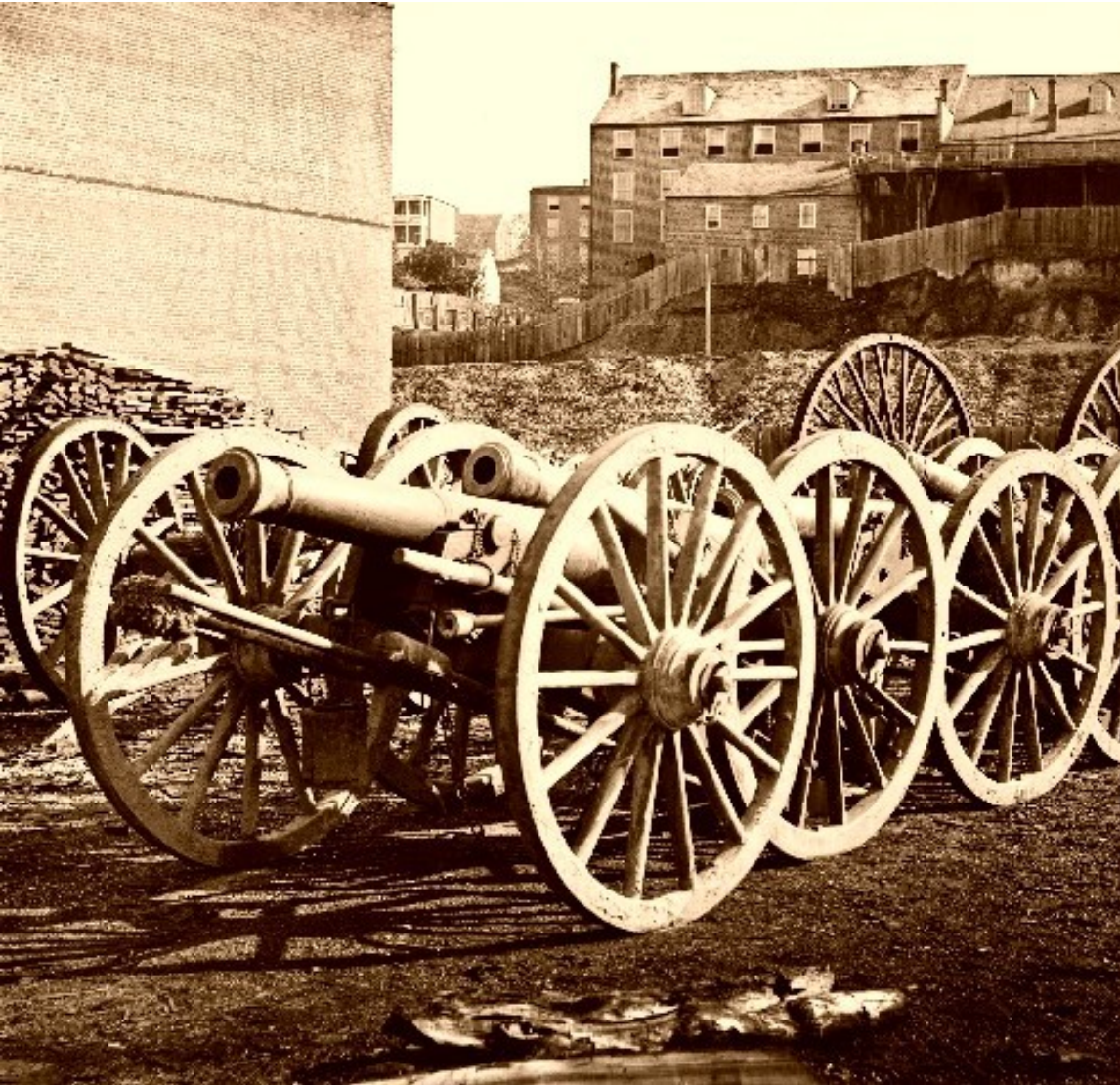


Jarrad (trombone) in Marine Uniform, with euphonium

First Marine Division
Camp Pendleton,



When Was the Civil War?

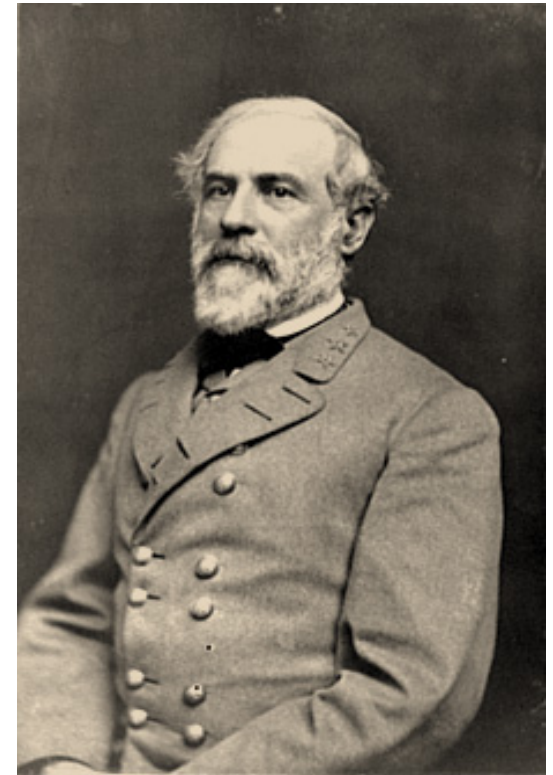




Civil War:

Start: April 12, 1861
With the Confederate Attack
on
Fort Sumter
Charleston, South Carolina

End: April 9, 1865
With General Lee
Surrendering to General
Grant
Appomattox Court House,
Virginia



When Was President Lincoln Assassinated?



President Lincoln,
born February 12, 1809,

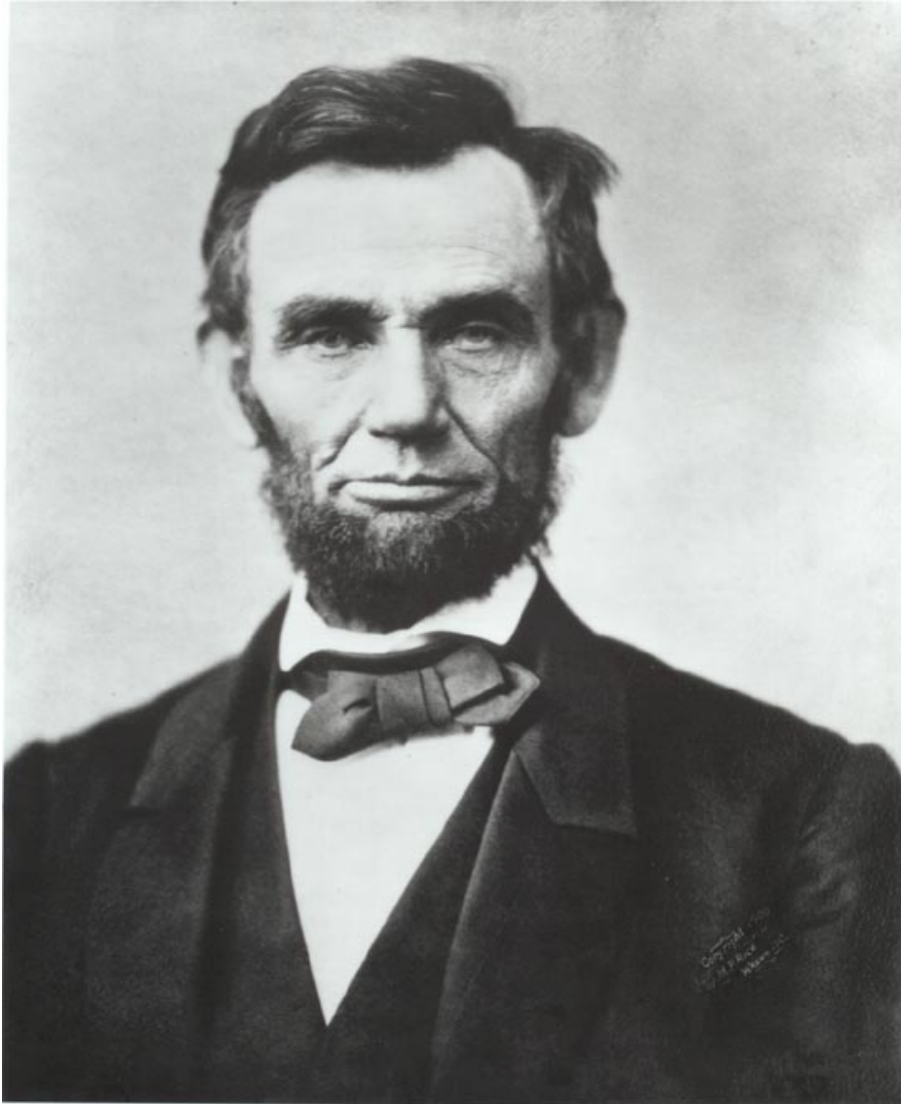
was shot on

April 14, 1865,

**just 5 days after the
surrender of General Lee.**

**He passed away the next
morning, April 15, 1865.**

**President Lincoln's life has
been very well researched.**

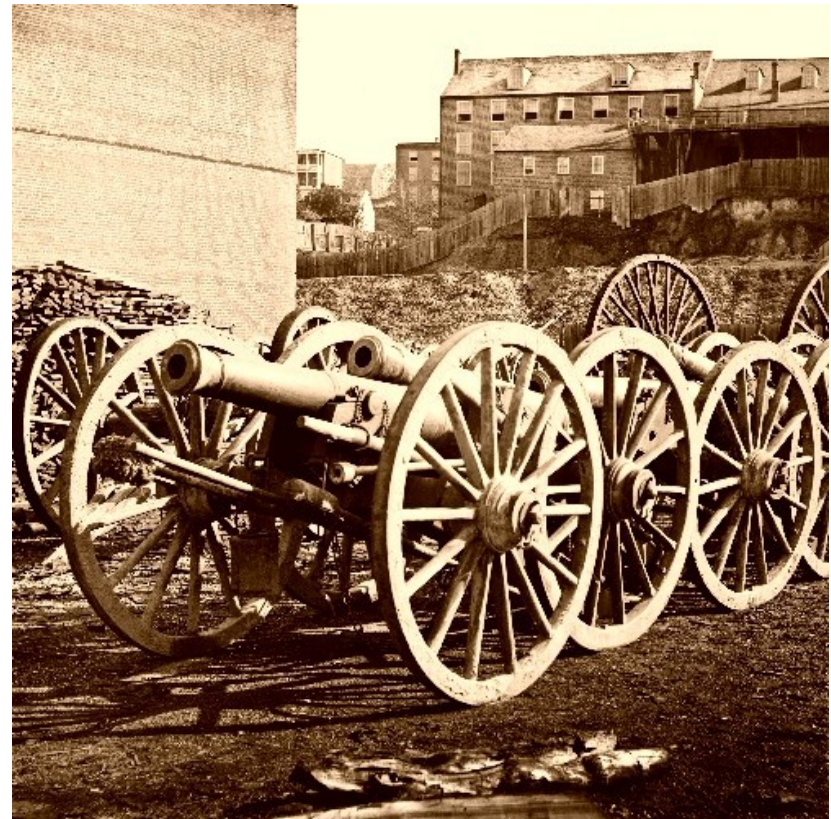


**One of his
favorite
songs was:
*“Dixie”***



On day that
General Lee
surrendered to
General Grant,
President Lincoln
had ***“Dixie”*** played
for the crowds
gathered at the
White House!

“Dixie” is considered to have been written by Dan Emmett of Mount Vernon, Ohio while he was living in New York



You will find it listed with several different names, to include:

- ***“Dixie’s Land”***
- ***“The Dixie Polka”***
- ***“Dixie War Song”***
- ***“Dixie Grand Reel”***
- ***“Dixon’s Line”***
- ***“Way Down in Dixie”***

All of these versions of “Dixie” were written by different people, yet they all have the same melody.

“DIXIE'S LAND”

Written by Charles Grobe

(feel free to sing along!)

LYRICS to “Dixie's Land”
(Verse 1)

**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,
Early in one frosty mornin’,**

**Look away! Look Away!
Look Away, Dixie land.**

DIXIE (continued)

(CHORUS)

**Oh, 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!**

How Did Musicians Get Involved in the Civil War?





**Prior to, and during, the Civil War,
musical training for full-time
military band musicians was held
at the
*“School of Practice for USA Field
Musicians”*
at Governor’s Island in New York**

**The North did not institute
a draft until
March 1863**

**The South passed its first
draft law in
April 1862**

In the initial months of the war, patriotism was high on both the North and South



**Initially,
musicians enlisted.
Sometimes an
entire band
would enlist!**



“Hoist Up the Flag!”



“Hoist Up the Flag!”-Verse:

**Away down in Dixie,
the war first begun**

**Way down at Fort Sumpter,
with Major Anderson**

**He stood by the flag
with a heart brave and true**

**And fought like a man for the RED,
WHITE, and BLUE**

“Hoist Up the Flag!” - Chorus:

**HOIST UP THE FLAG,
Long may it wave.**

**Over the Union,
Our honor to save**

**Up with the flag,
And long may it wave**

**Over the Union,
The home of the brave!**

At the start of the Civil War there were few full-time military bands.

There were bands associated with the local military (militia) groups.

The local military bands:

- **Very highly valued by the local militias**
 - **Participated in musters, ceremonies and parades**
 - **Useful in recruiting soldiers**
- **Would even wear the uniforms of the local militia.**

As state and local military groups were activated into service, they naturally brought along their bands.

**The result would be unique
in that the
military unit,
as well as the
band musicians,
might all be
neighbors
from the
same town!**

This led to:

- **The formation of hundreds of bands**
- **The enlistment of thousands of musicians**

Recruiting was so successful that, by the end of 1861, the Union Army had 618 bands and more than 28,000 musicians

By the end of 1861, the Federal Government realized that it didn't want to pay for all these bands.

The War Department spent \$4,000,000.00 on bands and with the 618 bands in service, at one point there was a ratio of one musician to every 41 soldiers.

Congress concluded bands were too expensive and “could be disposed without injury to the service”.

This changed:

- # of bands to 60 from 618
- # of musicians to 2,500 from 28,000



But there were ways around this.....



“American Medley”

- ★ **When Johnny Comes Marching Home**
- ★ **Battle Cry of Freedom**
- ★ **Yankee Doodle**



“When Johnny Comes Marching Home”

**When Johnny comes marching home
again,
Hurrah! Hurrah!**

**We'll give him a hearty welcome then,
Hurrah! Hurrah!**

**The men will cheer and the boys will
shout,
The ladies they will all turn out,**

**And we'll all feel gay
When Johnny Comes Marching Home!**

“When Johnny Comes Marching Home” (continued)

**The old church bell will peel with joy,
Hurrah! Hurrah!**

**To welcome home our darling boy,
Hurrah! Hurrah!**

**The village lads and lassies say,
With roses they will strew the way**

**And we'll all feel gay
When Johnny Comes Marching Home!**

“Battle Cry of Freedom”

**Yes, we'll rally round the flag, boys
Rally once again.**

Shouting the Battle Cry of Freedom!

**We will rally from the hills,
We'll rally from the plains.**

Shouting the Battle Cry of Freedom!

“Battle Cry of Freedom” (continued)

**The Union forever,
Hurrah boys, Hurrah!**

**Down with the traitors,
Up with the star.**

**While we rally round the flag, boys
Rally once again.**

Shouting the Battle Cry of Freedom!

“Battle Cry of Freedom” (continued)

**We are springing to the call
For three hundred thousand more,**

Shouting the Battle Cry of Freedom!

**And we'll fill the vacant ranks
Of our brothers gone before,**

Shouting the Battle Cry of Freedom!

“Battle Cry of Freedom” (continued)

**The Union forever,
Hurrah boys, Hurrah!**

**Down with the traitors,
Up with the star.**

**While we rally round the flag, boys
Rally once again.**

Shouting the Battle Cry of Freedom!

“Yankee Doodle”

**Father and I went down to camp,
Along with Captain Gooding,**

**And there we saw the men and boys,
As thick as hasty pudding!**

**Yankee Doodle, keep it up.
Yankee Doodle Dandy**

**Mind the music and the step
With the girls be handy**

“Yankee Doodle” (continued)

**Yankee Doodle, keep it up.
Yankee Doodle Dandy**

**Mind the music and the step,
With the girls be handy**

There is much more to the story of Civil War bands and musicians....



**There were not as many
bands in the South as in the
North.**

**Plus, the South had a difficult
time finding quality
instruments as band
instruments were generally
manufactured in the North.**

In fact, the demand for instruments was so great at the start of the war, many had to be imported from Europe.



**The Confederate Bands
often used music
borrowed from Northern
song books and used
captured instruments
from the North in place of
the inferior Confederate-
made instruments**

Although Congress did not say that bands had to include only specific instruments, most bands used all brass.

Brass instruments (trumpets, tubas) are sturdier than woodwinds (clarinets, flutes)

Generally, only the largest bands used woodwinds in addition to brass instruments.



**What type of music did
Civil War bands play?**

QUICKSTEP:

a march, used to help keep the troops moving.

There was a large need for Quicksteps, so almost any type of song or melody was made into a Quickstep.

Quicksteps were written so quickly in order to keep up with demand, that they often weren't even given names..... just numbers in a Band Book.



“Marching Through Georgia”



“Marching Through Georgia”:

(VERSE 1)

**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 need to sing it,
Fifty thousand strong.**

While we're MARCHING TO 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!**

“Marching Through Georgia” (continued)

(Verse 2)

**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!**

“Marching Through Georgia” (continued)

(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!**

Because the concept of brass bands was fairly new at the time of the Civil War, there were not a lot of original compositions for bands.

The music played generally came from classical music-operas and symphonies.

Or, they would just use “folk songs”!

Original compositions for band didn't become popular until till early in the 1900's.

Band arrangements were pretty basic, in that the melody would stay with the **Cornets/Trumpets.**

The other instruments were just used to fill in around the melody.



One critic at the time said:

“The percussion parts in these amateur band arrangements seem generally to have been written with the assumption that the drums were played by the feeblest musicians.”

“Listen to the Mockingbird”



Who Were Some of These Civil War Musicians?



Americus Band from Georgia

In 1861 outside of Americus, Georgia (south of Atlanta), local men were marching off to a war they all thought would be short

Marching with them was the year-old Americus Brass Band. The town musicians planned to return home after a few days

But the band became so excited by what seemed an “adventure” that they, too, joined the 4th Georgia Volunteers.

Brodhead Tin Band

In 1857, a group of citizens of Brodhead, Wisconsin, decided to form a brass band.

They initially called themselves the Brodhead Tin Band, because they only had instruments made of tin.

During May and June 1861, the members of the band enlisted in the Union Army.

In 1862, the government decided to reduce the number of bands and musicians and *the band members were discharged* in July.

In early 1864, the citizens of Brodhead and other nearby towns raised the funds to enable the band to enlist again.

This time, they bought top quality instruments and had proper uniforms made.

They also copied their music onto the leather-bound books, containing about sixty tunes, including dances, songs, hymns, and marches. These books have survived to today.

“Drummer Boy of Shiloh”



**Also called
“The Drummer Boy of
Chickamauga”**

**John Clem
(1851-1937)
from Newark, Ohio**

Drummer Boy of Shiloh

- **Johnny Clem from Newark, Ohio**
- **Cut classes to drill as a drummer with the local unit**
- **Tried to enlist, was turned down due to his age (not yet 10)**
- **Finally, a unit came through town, and he just tagged along**
- **They adopted him as a “mascot”, gave him a drum, and chipped in to pay him a salary. They also gave him a shortened rifle and small uniform**

After he was captured, the Confederates held him up as evidence that the North was so desperate that it would enlist children.



***“The
Drummer
Boy of
Shiloh”***

Were Women Allowed in Civil War Bands?



No!

**Well, at least, that's the
official answer...**

**Women were only supposed
to serve in non-combatant
roles, like providing medical
treatment.**

However.....

Women in the Civil War:

There are many stories of women concealing their identities and joining military bands.

Many were (supposedly) not discovered to be women for years.

(Don't ask me how!)



Who was the youngest soldier in the Civil War?

- **How old was he?**
- **Where was he from?**

The Youngest Soldier in the Civil War:

Avery Brown

1852-1904

From Delphos, Ohio
(by Lima, in NW Ohio)

4' 6" tall

**Would play his drum at
the recruitment station
as a morale booster⁷⁰**



AVERY BROWN.

"Drummer Boy of the Cumberland," The youngest enlisted Union
Soldier of the Rebellion. Born at Delphos, Allen County, Ohio, September 20th, 1852.
Mustered into the United States service at Camp Chase, Columbus, Ohio, August 30th,
1861, 1st Co. C., 3rd U. S. I., 1st Brigade, 2d Division, 10th Army Corps. Age at muster,
8 years, 11 months and 14 days. (Copyrighted, Aug. 10th, 1897.)

(Avery Brown-cont.)

Twice he accompanied the troops to Columbus, Ohio but was not permitted to enlist.

On the third time, his friend from the recruitment station withheld the troops from being processed unless Avery would be allowed to enlist.

Avery was allowed to enlist on August 18, 1861 at the age of:

8 years, 11 months, 13 days

He lied about his age and said that he was 12!

(Avery Brown-cont.)

Brown served on the front for 1-1/2 years, so inspiring the troops with his music played on a captured Confederate drum, that he was dubbed *"The Drummer Boy of the Cumberland"* .

In the course of the next 25 years, Avery Brown organized bands throughout Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, and became one of Indiana's best soloists on cornet

Bands BEFORE the Battle



“Ashokan Farewell”

**And a letter written by
Sullivan Ballou,
Major,
Second Rhode Island
Volunteers**

“Ashokan Farewell”

(Introduction)

**A week before the battle of
Bull Run,
Sullivan Ballou,
a Major in the
Second Rhode Island
Volunteers,
wrote home to his wife in
Smithfield.**

“Ashokan Farewell”

The rest of the story...

**Major Sullivan Ballou
was killed
a week later
at the
first battle of Bull Run.**

During the initial days of the war, the duties of Union bands varied:

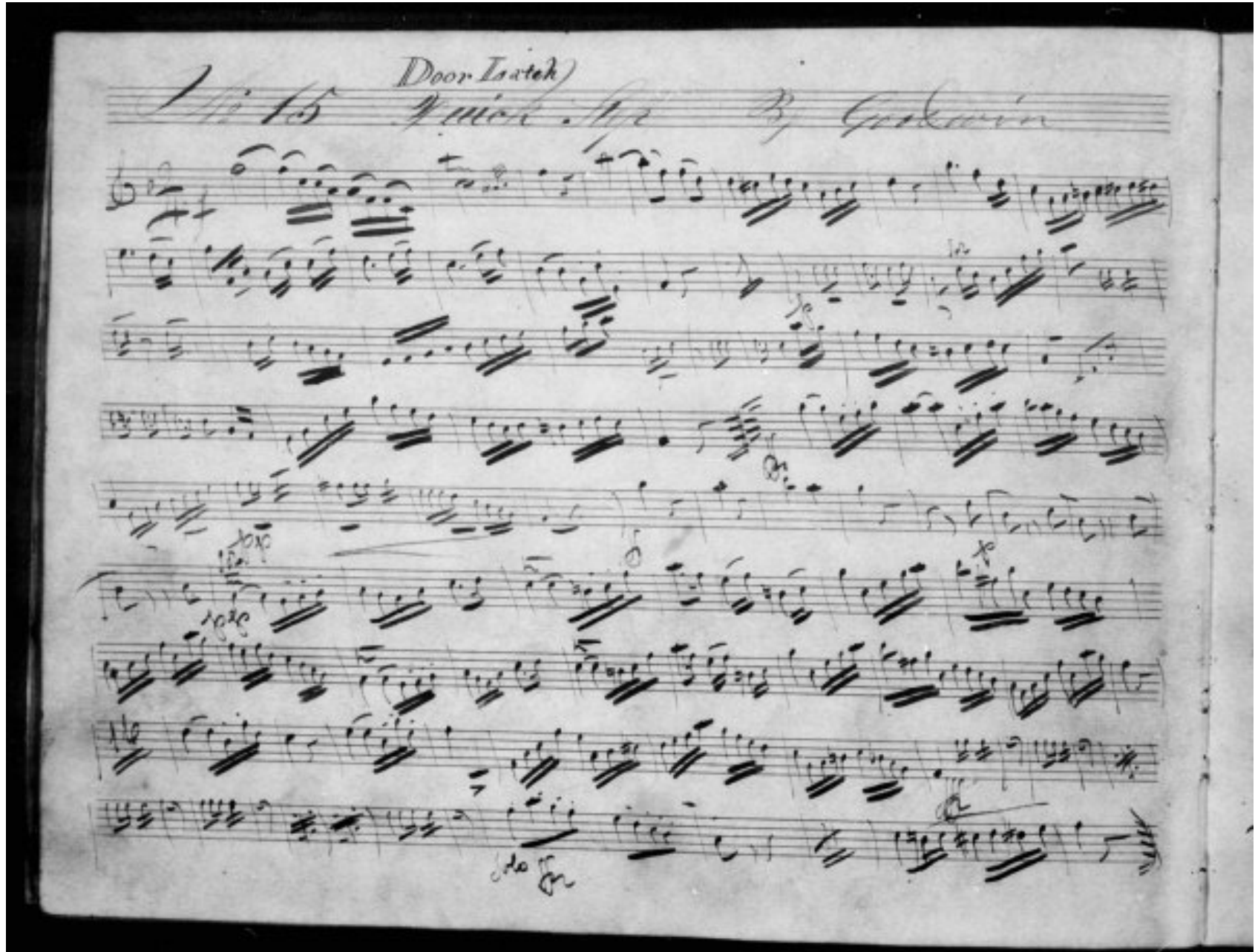
- **Performed concerts for the military as well as civilians**
 - **Parades**
 - **Military Reviews**
 - **Drummed soldiers out of the Army**
 - **Performed for funerals and executions**
 - **Stationed at military hospitals to lift the morale of soldiers being treated**
 - **Dress parades twice a day**

The various military units would use drums, or bugles, or both, to indicate specific events and to communicate commands to the soldiers.

Many of the soldiers took great pride in their own drummer, or bugler, (as with their bands) and would often learn to be able to distinguish their drummer or bugler from others.

Often, the soldiers would be able to tell what other military units were camped around them by listening to the style and skill of the drummer or bugler sounding off at the moment.

Bands DURING the Battle



First Band Casualties:

The first band to suffer casualties during the Civil War was the 6th Massachusetts Regiment Band.

And it wasn't even during a major battle!

First Band Casualties (continued)

On **April 19, 1861**, the band arrived by train in Baltimore, MD.

As the band left the station a mob attacked the band.

The band fled and abandoned their equipment, as local Union sympathizers took band members into their houses.

**The band suffered:
4 deaths and
30 injured personnel**

While the role of musicians may have first been as non-combatants, their duties soon changed.

When not playing, Musicians would also:

- **serve as stretcher bearers,**
- **assist surgeons in amputations and other operations,**
- **help bury the dead.**

**Civil War Band musicians
were not kept out of the
battle and did not only play
behind the troops.**

**In fact, often they were put_
in front of the battle
to inspire the troops
(supposedly)!**

During one battle, General Sherman massed all his musicians on the firing line, with the order to:

“Play the (brightest) tunes in the book. Play them loud and keep on playing them....and never mind if a bullet goes through a trombone, or even a trombonist, now and then.”

May 5th 1862 at Fair Oaks during the battle at Williamsburg, the Commander was trying to rally the troops.

He thought he would use music.

Finding several regimental bands standing by and disorganized, the Commander ordered them to play their instruments.

"Play! Play! It's all you're good for," he shouted.

"Play, (darn) it!

Play some marching tune!

Play 'Yankee Doodle,' or any doodle you can think of, only play something!"

Over the sound of the guns, the band played **“Yankee Doodle”** and **“Three Cheers for the Red, White, and Blue.”**

One of the men thought the music was worth a thousand men.

“It saved the battle.”

At Chancellorsville (May 1863), General Winfield Scott ordered all of the Union bands to play

"Rally Round The Flag Boys"

in order to help inspire the troops against a threatened attack by General Stonewall Jackson.

Despite the weapons fire from both sides, the bands stood in the center playing tunes such as the *"Yankee Doodle"*, and *"The Star Spangled Banner."*

At Antetem (September 1862) the Confederate band led the charge and many of the musicians were injured.



Survivors of General George Pickett's charge at the Battle of Gettysburg (July 3, 1863) remembered:

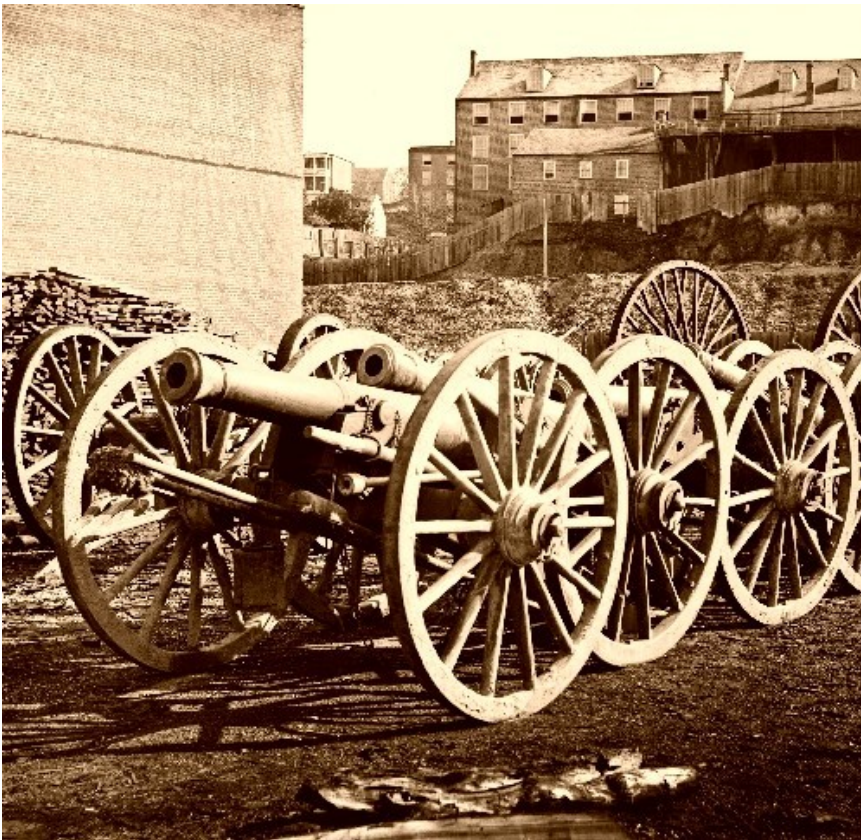
- Confederate bands were stationed in the trees playing music to inspire the troops as they started off across the battle field
 - The bands then played
 - "*Nearer, My God, To Thee*"
- as the troops came back to the safety of their own lines.

On another occasion, General Horace Porter turned the corner of the in a road and "encountered one of Sheridan's bands, under heavy fire, playing 'Nellie Bly' as cheerily as if it were furnishing music for a country picnic."

Bands AFTER the Battle



Yes, there were some terrible things that happened during the war, and during the battles,



but there is much more to the story about what happened afterwards.....

After the battle, often the two sides would be camped so close that when each band played, it could be easily heard by the soldiers on the other side.



Between battles, Union and Confederate troops showed little dislike toward one another.

Union soldiers often traded coffee for southern-grown tobacco. From a safe distance, the bands often played concerts, including the other side's favorite songs.

On occasion, Confederate and Union bands would join in concerts when camped close together.

**Often, they would get into a
“*Battle of the Bands*”**

**One band would play, and then
the band for the other side would
play, and they would continue to
take turns.**

**Sometimes, the second band
would join in on the same song
that the first band would be
playing.**

Because often the soldiers on one side could hear the band of the other side playing, they would create their own words to the music they heard.

That is why, as we have discussed, for many of the songs of that era the same music may have two or more different song names, and different lyrics for each version, like in the song *“Dixie”*

c. Civil War Band Instruments



At the time of the Civil War, there wasn't any national standard for tuning instruments.

Instruments were generally bought in sets, so that the cornets would be built and tuned relative to the alto horns, bass horns, etc., but they were not built to play any standard tuning note in order to be in tune with other instruments made by other companies at other times.



Even though you can adjust the tuning of instruments by **pulling and shortening tuning slides**, you may not be able to get the supposedly same instrument from different sets of instruments to play in tune with each other.

EXAMPLE:

One Bb Cornet may not be able to play in tune with another Bb Cornet if they were built at different times and came from different sets of instruments!

How did this sound with multiple Civil War bands trying to play together?



Here's what that could have sounded like on:

“Cheer, Boys, Cheer”



“Cheer, Boys Cheer”



Cheer, Boys Cheer
We'll march away to battle.

Cheer, Boys Cheer
For our sweethearts and our wives

Cheer, Boys Cheer
We'll nobly do our duty

And give to the Union
Our hearts, our arms, our lives

Cheer, Boys Cheer
We'll march away to battle.

Cheer, Boys Cheer
For our sweethearts and our wives

Cheer, Boys Cheer
We'll nobly do our duty

And give to the Union
Our hearts, our arms, our lives

**Bring forth the flag,
Our country's noble standard**

**Wave it on high,
till the wind shakes each fold out.**

**Proudly it floats,
Nobly waving in the vanguard**

Then **Cheer, Boys Cheer
With a lusty, long bold shout!**

Testimonials About the Bands and Music



**The Bands Were Generally Well
Thought of by the Soldiers.**

**A soldier of the Twenty-fourth
Massachusetts Regiment wrote in
1862,**

***"I don't know what we should have
done without our band. It is
acknowledged by everyone to be
the best in the division."***

**General Sheridan paid tribute to
Army bands when he remarked,**

***"Music has done its share, and
more than its share, in winning
this war."***



There Were Bands in the Confederate Army Also

General Robert E. Lee realized the importance of music to the morale and welfare of his men.

He stated,

*"I don't believe we can have an army
without music"*

Well, actually, not every soldier thought highly of the local bands, and certainly not all musicians were of the same skill level.

One confederate soldier wrote that his regiment band was, "*comparable to the braying of a pack of mules.*"

“OLD DOG TRAY”

Written by Stephen Foster in 1853



We need your help on this one!

Old Dog Tray

**The morn of life is past,
And evening comes at last,**

**It brings me a dream of a once
happy day.**

**Of merry forms I've seen
Upon the village green,**

Sporting with my Old Dog Tray.¹¹³

Old Dog Tray (continued):

Chorus:

**Old Dog Tray's ever faithful,
Grief cannot drive him away,**

**He's gentle, he is kind;
I'll never, never find**

**A better friend than old dog Tray.
*(Repeat Chorus)***

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DIRECTOR:
Cliff Kerns



TUBA:
Eric Dieterich



FRENCH HORN:
Becky Ohlinger



TRUMPET:
Laura Bethel



TROMBONE:
Jarrad Mathew



TRUMPET:_{1,5}
Jeff Mathew

And Featuring: Mrs. Ohlinger



French Horn Section Leader

Guest Vocalist:

Dr. Fred Brown



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