

'Dixie', the 'Marseillaise of South' Owes Origin Solely to the North

Original Manuscript Exhibited to Mark Anniversaries of Song's New York Debut and Death of Its Author, Daniel D. Emmett, of Ohio

Hundreds of New Yorkers last week view the original manuscript of "Dixie," the "Marseillaise of the South," composed and first sung in this city by an Ohioan of Irish descent, says an article in the New York Herald-Tribune. The script was a feature of an exhibition of relics of the Civil War—mostly literary. The occasion for showing it was two anniversaries—the first public singing of the ballad on the "Deep South" June 21, 1861, and the death, June 28, 1904, of the author, Daniel Decatur Emmett.

"Dixie" may well be called "the Paean of Paradox." Like many other war songs such as "Tipperary," it was never intended as a military air, although its creator had been a soldier and came of a family of soldiers.

There is no suggestion of the beakers of the warm South in Mount Vernon, Ohio, where Emmett was born. His ancestors had come from Ireland to settle in Virginia. His grandfather served in the ranks in the War of the Revolution. His father, who was in the War of 1812, emigrated to Ohio. The boy who was ushered into this world in 1815 had his middle name from Commodore Decatur, of the American Navy, of which the father was an admirer. The elder Emmett worked a small farm and was also a village blacksmith.

Young Daniel attended the local schools in a desultory fashion. His real education was obtained in country newspaper offices as a "devil." He learned to set type, wrote a little local news; became a sign letterer and did some proofreading. All this training can be seen in the manuscript of "Dixie" engrossed by him and punctuated with great care.

His mother was a good musician and knew harmony and thoroughness. She taught her son the technique of musical composition. His first original song, still sung, was "Old Dan Tucker," composed when he was about fifteen years old. The youth learned to play on the violin and several other instruments—the piano, trumpet, flute and fife. It was as a fifer that he joined the regular United States Army. For a few months he was stationed at Newport, Ky., and later at Jefferson barracks, St. Louis. He was discharged from the army because of "minority," as seems to have imagined himself to have been older than he really was in order to enlist.

He learned more about music in the military posts. After leaving the army, he joined a circus as a member of the band. He traveled with four or five small circuses in the "forties" and was for several years with the show of Dan Rice, a noted clown.

Negro Minstrelsy Pioneer

From the "Big Top" he was graduated into vaudeville, or "variety" as it was then called, and drifted to New York City. It is said that Emmett was the originator of Negro minstrelsy, a type of entertainment given entirely by white performers in burnt cork make-up in its early stages. This statement has been disputed, but an authority on the subject, Charles B. Galbreath, an antiquarian of note, who made wide researches, declares it to be true.

Dan Bryant, owner of the minstrel show in which Emmett was appearing in the spring of 1859, asked Emmett to produce a new song and chorus for what was known as a "walk around." A "walk around" was a parade of the company about the stage, strutting and posing cake-walk fashion while playing instruments and singing.

which to complete his task and he which hto complete his task and he found it hard to get down to it. His wife told him that he would be able to compose if he were not disturbed, so she obligingly went shopping and left him in full possession of their one room in the boarding house all day. The house is said to have been the same one in Catherine Street which the Bryants had lived in for years off and on while in New York.

New York "Dixie" Mentioned

The day was cold and murky. The legend is that Emmett, looking out of the window, sighed and exclaimed, "I wish I were in Dixie." Where the name Dixie came from always has been in doubt. The generally accepted origin is that it was derived from that of one of the English surveyors who ran the famous Mason & Dixon's Line.

Another version of the origin of the term locates "Dixie" in New York City. This was given some fifty years ago by a writer in "The Charleston (S. C.) Courier." He stated that in upper Manhattan there was a farmer or planter named Dixie or Dixey, who had colored slaves. Just

before slavery was abolished by the Empire State in 1822, Dixie, seeing the trend of the times, sold his human chattels to Southern plantation owners. He had treated them well and it is said they regarded his farm as an earthly paradise. The erudite work written by an English author, Brewer's "Phrase and Bable," sets forth that this etymology is the more likely. "For Negroes would scarcely have sung such a song," it says, "if they were already in Dixie." However, the Negroes of the South did sing it, anyway, at least for many years. It seems more like a song expressing the yearning of some one far from the cotton fields, as the refrain "Way Down South in Dixie" indicates.

Still another explanation is that Dixie is from the French "dix," printed on ten-franc notes in New Orleans when the Louisiana territory was still held by France prior to its sale to this country by Napoleon I. Emmett had traveled in the South with circuses, however, and evidently had learned the name applied to that region. The original title of the song, in fact, was "Dixie's Land."

The song was an instantaneous "hit." The tune was catchy and was soon being whistled on the sidewalks of New York. It was published in 1860 by a well known music publishing house of this city, and later was pirated by Southern printers in a garbled form.

Appeared Later in South

As a ballad of the South it did not find favor until June, 1861. Fort Sumter had been fired upon in April and the South was seething. An entertainment was given in New Orleans for the purpose of stimulating Southern spirit and a committee sought a march song which would be appropriate.

It finally agreed upon "Dixie," which took the audience by storm. Why this Negro dialect composition of Northern origin should have had such acception is something which has never been analyzed. None was more surprised than Emmett himself when he realized that his song had become the battle hymn of the rebel states.

Upbraided as Disloyal

Emmett found himself in an anomalous position. His father was an ardent abolitionist and one of the organizers of the "underground railroad," a system whereby runaway slaves were aided to escape from the South into Ohio and other Northern states. Hundreds of persons wrote to "Dixie's" author, upbraiding him for disloyalty to the Union cause. He had a hard time making a living until long after the Civil War was over. In the 70's, however, he established a music hall in Chicago and accumulated some money. Eventually he went back to Mount Vernon, Ohio, and bought a small farm near his birthplace. There he raised vegetables and chickens, which he sold in the town.

Al G. Field, a minstrel manager, rediscovered Emmett in the '90's, after losing touch with him for many years. Field had been a protege of the veteran showman and was grateful to him. He induced him to go back to the stage as a member of his company and gave him a share of the receipts. In the South the aged songwriter, received ovations. Later the Actors' Fund of this city gave an allowance to Emmett which made him comfortable in his declining years. A tablet was placed on his home by his friends and a movement was started by the Daughters of the Confederacy to erect a monument over his Mount Vernon grave.

NEW PAY SCHEDULE FOR ROAD RELIEF WORKERS

New schedules of pay for workers on future highway contracts under the 1934-35 federal emergency relief program have been received by the State Highway and Public Works Commission. Common labor will receive 30 cents an hour, intermediate labor 40 cents and skilled labor 60 cents. The week will continue to consist of 30 hours. The new regulations will not make a great difference in wages paid under the former schedule, officials state.

WEST END WINS BALL GAME IN 10TH INNING

(Continued from page 1)

locals in hitting with three for four each. Dave Wilson and Tyson secured the same number to account for six of Vass' eight hits.

The fielding of Webster and some fancy pegging by Catcher Stewart featured the game from a fielding standpoint.

How Time Flies!



Two Scenes from Other Days in Southern Pines

The Week in Southern Pines

Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Shaw have gone to Asheville for a few weeks visit with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson Boyd and son Jackie left Wednesday morning for Hot Springs, Va., after spending some time at their home here.

Mr. and Mrs. Squires left last week to spend the remainder of the summer in northern New York state.

Mrs. Lawrence Grover and Miss Eleanor Grover and Maitland and Malcolm Grover returned to their home on Grover Road after an extended visit in the New England states.

Mrs. Clarence Peck and son David Peck have returned to their home in Binghamton, N. Y., after a week's visit with Mrs. Peck's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Abraham.

Miss Alice Hasty of Maxton was a week-end guest of Miss Helen Butler at her home, Valhalla.

Mr. and Mrs. George Moore and family returned Sunday from a vacation in western North Carolina.

J. D. Sitterson, Jr. has returned from Elon College where he attended the Young People's Conference.

Mrs. J. S. Milliken will entertain the Afternoon Club at her home on New Hampshire avenue today, Friday.

Mrs. James Sweet and family expect to leave Sunday for Carolina Beach where they will spend their vacation.

Harry Russell of Wagram was a visitor in Southern Pines over the week-end.

Mrs. Helen Comly of Philadelphia is the guest of her son at the Resthaven Apartments.

Mrs. W. E. Cox spent Friday in Raleigh.

Mrs. Irving Covert of Durham spent the week-end with her brother, the Rev. W. E. Cox.

Miss Marjorie Montgomery of Montgomery, W. Va., is visiting her cousin, Miss Anna Bushby for some time.

Miss Mary Alice Weatherly entertained at a dance at the New England House Wednesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Page entertained Mr. and Mrs. Charles Patch and Henry Silver at a farewell dinner Tuesday night.

Mrs. A. E. Tracey and Bob Abel left Sunday for Pennsylvania for a month's visit with friends.

Eli Williamson entertained last Friday at a swimming party at Watson's Lake, celebrating his twelfth birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Thrower are planning to leave Sunday for Myrtle Beach, where they have taken a cottage for a week.

Mrs. Eugene Woodward, Miss Mary Jane Woodward, Mrs. J. L. Currin of Henderson and Mrs. Clifton Currin and sons, of Raleigh, will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Thrower at the beach for a week.

Raeferd Terry left Monday for his home in Rockingham after visiting his daughter, Mrs. Tyler Overton.

Dr. and Mrs. George Proctor will leave Sunday to spend a few days at Myrtle Beach.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Hayes have taken a cottage at Myrtle Beach for a week and expect to leave this week end to spend their vacation. While

there they will have as their guests Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sadler and family. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hayes and family, Mrs. William Matchett and small son Billy, and Mrs. Ray Hayes and son.

Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Daniels and sons of Boynton, Va., are visiting Dr. and Mrs. L. M. Daniels.

Mr. and Mrs. William Leslie have returned from a vacation at Virginia Beach.

Miss Mary Hall is visiting her sister, Miss Geneva Hall in Salisbury. Miss Eleanor Adams of Greensboro spent the week-end with her family in Southern Pines.

Miss Sue Poe of Siler City is spending two weeks with Miss Pauline Poe.

Mrs. Merritt Sugg of Roaring Gap is visiting Mrs. M. N. Sugg.

Mrs. Ray Hayes of El Paso, Texas, arrived Tuesday night to visit Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Hayes.

Miss Janet Welch returned a few days ago from a house party at White Lake.

John Ellison of Greensboro was a Sunday visitor in Southern Pines.

Miss Georgia Shaw left Monday for Banner Elk for a visit of several days.

Mrs. F. E. Shaw is spending a week with Miss Mary Merrill at her home on Massachusetts avenue.

Mrs. W. P. Sweet has gone to Banner Elk to spend the remainder of the summer.

Alden Bowers left Monday for Washington, D. C., where he has a position.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Ruggles and children returned Sunday to their home in Raleigh after spending a week with Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Ruggles.

A. B. Yeomans left this week for a vacation in Banner Elk.

Mrs. Lee Clark and son arrived last week from Washington, D. C., to visit Mrs. Clark's parents for several days.

Mrs. W. E. Blue and Miss Leone Currie spent Tuesday in Chapel Hill.

Wade Stevick spent last Thursday in Durham visiting his son Charles Stevick, who is in summer school at Duke University.

R. W. Tate and Mrs. Walter Brown, Mrs. James Parker and Miss Lena Brown left Saturday morning by motor to spend a week in the mountains of North Carolina.

Robert Dorn left Monday for Chicago to attend the Century of Progress Fair.

Paul Blue, D. A. Blue, Jr., Bob Cameron and Edward Prizer left this week by motor for the World's Fair in Chicago.

Friends will be interested to know that Jim Silver is in Washington, D. C., working on his Ph. D. degree.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Coursey of Fayetteville spent the week-end in town. Miss Sarah Dorn of Saluda, S. C., is visiting her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Dorn.

Mrs. J. H. Tighman and son John Tighman returned recently from a visit of several weeks at Snow Hill, Maryland.

S. R. Chatterton, who has been preaching at the Church of Wide Fellowship for the past month, will leave Saturday for Winston Salem.

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