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**CIVIL WAR MUSIC Nov 2009**

We often associate bugle calls and drum rolls with military life; particularly during the Civil War period. But, music played an important role in the lives of civilians who stayed at home as well as the soldiers and sailors who went off to meet the enemy.

General Robert E. Lee in 1864 declared "I don't believe we can have an army without music". The music of the Civil War was one of its richest legacies. More songs from this period have become standards that we still enjoy than from any other war.

A New York *Herald* 1862 editorial stated, "Music is as indispensable to warfare as money. Money is the sinew of war -- music is its soul'.

The song that more or less became the Rebel anthem -Dixie was written by a northern minstrel singer - Daniel Decatur Emmett. He was the son of an ardent abolitionist and organizer of the Underground Railroad. He was born in Mount Vernon, Ohio, but wrote the song which was originally titled, *I Wish I was in Dixie's Land*, in 1859 while living in New York. He wrote it as the "walk around" (usually the finale) to a minstrel show. It became a hit in both the north and south before the war. It was said to have been one of Lincoln's favorite songs.

Emmett was bitterly attacked during the war for writing the song. He tried to explain that the southerners appropriated it without his permission and eventually said, "If I had known to what use they were going to put my song, I would be damned if I'd written it!"

The New York *Daily Tribune* first published poet Julia Ward Howe's words to the Battle Hymn of the Republic on January 14, 1862. Immediately the new song was being sung across the North, both at patriotic rallies and by Union troops.

The song, When Johnny Comes Marching Home, was first published in 1863 by Patrick Gilmore he published it under the pseudonym "Louis Lambert". It remains along with the Battle Hymn of the Republic the best known of the Union war songs. Gilmore served during the Civil War as a bandmaster attached to General Butler's command in New Orleans.

Starting in 1863 Union recruiters were allowed to sing up boys as young as 12 if they had "a natural talent for music" and could "be instructed on the fife, bugle, and drum, and other military instruments." They were sent to the army's School of Practice at Governor's Island in New York for training. They learned from *The Drummers and Fifers Guide* by George B. Bruce. They learned to perform many of the 148 pieces of music in the book from memory.

Each military call had a special function. The soldier's day started around 5:45 a.m. with "drummer's call". A second call alerted the troops to fall out and form up. Reveille came after roll call and announcements. It started the typical duty day. At 6:15 came "fatigue call" which assembled work parties and alerted camp followers to leave. At 6:30 the musicians played "Assembly" and a few minutes later "surgeon's call" so the sick and lame could march to the hospital. Around 7:00 a.m. "Breakfast Call" was sounded sometimes to a tune called *Peas on a Trencher*. All day long "calls" were heard by the soldiers to give notice of various activities taking place. The role music played in the Civil War can never be underestimated.

Holidays and other special days [http://suvcw.org/ftp/PI\\_handbook.pdf](http://suvcw.org/ftp/PI_handbook.pdf)

## **National, Federal and Special holidays – Days the Flag should be Flown**

### **Veteran's Day – November 11 First observed November 11, 1919**

November 11, is the anniversary of the Armistice which was signed in the Forest of Compiegne by the Allies and the Germans in 1918, ending World War I, after four years of conflict. At 5 A.M. on Monday, November 11, 1918 the Germans signed the Armistice, an order was issued for all firing to cease; so the hostilities of the First World War ended. This day began with the laying down of arms, blowing of whistles, impromptu parades, closing of places of business. All over the globe there were many demonstrations; no doubt the world has never before witnessed such rejoicing.

In November of 1919, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Armistice Day proclamation. The last paragraph set the tone for future observances:

“To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation.

In 1927 Congress issued a resolution requesting President Calvin Coolidge to issue a proclamation calling upon officials to display the Flag of the United States on all government buildings on November 11, and inviting the people to observe the day in schools and churches... But it was not until 1938 that Congress passed a bill that each November 11 "shall be dedicated to the cause of world peace and ...hereafter celebrated and known as Armistice Day."

That same year President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a bill making the day a legal holiday in the District of Columbia. For sixteen years the United States formally observed Armistice Day, with impressive ceremonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where the Chief Executive or his representative placed a wreath. In many other communities, the American Legion was in charge of the observance, which included parades and religious services. At 11 A.M. all traffic stopped, in tribute to the dead, then volleys were fired and taps sounded.

After World War II, there were many new veterans who had little or no association with World War I. The word, "armistice," means simply a truce; therefore as years passed, the significance of the name of this holiday changed. Leaders of Veterans' groups decided to try to correct this and make November 11 the time to honor all who had fought in various American wars, not just in World War I.

In Emporia, Kansas, on November 11, 1953, instead of an Armistice Day program, there was a Veterans' Day observance. Ed Rees, of Emporia, was so impressed that he introduced a bill into the House to change the name to Veterans' Day. After this passed, Mr. Rees wrote to all state governors and asked for their approval and cooperation in observing the changed holiday. The name was changed to Veterans' Day by 28 Act of Congress on May 24, 1954. In October of that year, President Eisenhower called on all citizens to observe the day by remembering the sacrifices of all those who fought so gallantly, and through rededication to the task of promoting an enduring peace. The President referred to the change of name to Veterans' Day in honor of the servicemen of all America's wars.

### **Veteran's Night/Remembrance Day – Saturday closest to November 19th**

Originally, the *"Ritual and Ceremonials"* defined *"Veteran's Night"* as a ceremonial occasion to be observed by a Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. "VETERAN'S NIGHT -

Commemorating the anniversary of the delivery of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, November 19 (1863), to be observed in memory of Lincoln and the Soldiers, Sailors and Marines of 1861 -'65."

*Ritual and Ceremonials, Official: 1920- '25- '26*

With the passing of Comrade Albert Woolson in 1956, the Grand Army of the Republic ceased to exist. A monument was dedicated by the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic to the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic near the copse of trees on the Gettysburg Battlefield and a parade and ceremony, now known as "Remembrance Day", has continued to be observed in Gettysburg on the Saturday closest to November 19th ever since.

Note: I encourage you to attend this event at least once in your lifetime.

### **Thanksgiving Day – Fourth Thursday in November      First observed in 1621**

The Pilgrims set apart a day for thanksgiving at Plymouth immediately after their first harvest, in 1621; the Massachusetts Bay Colony for the first time in 1630, and frequently thereafter until about 1680, when it became an annual festival in that colony; and Connecticut as early as 1639 and annually after 1647, except in 1675. The Dutch in New Netherland appointed a day for giving thanks in 1644 and occasionally thereafter. During the American Revolutionary War the Continental Congress appointed one or more thanksgiving days each year, except in 1777, each time recommending to the executives of the various states the observance of these days in their states.

George Washington, leader of the revolutionary forces in the American Revolutionary War, proclaimed a Thanksgiving in December 1777 as a victory celebration honoring the defeat of the British at Saratoga. The Continental Congress proclaimed annual December Thanksgivings from 1777 to 1783, except in 1782.

George Washington again proclaimed Thanksgivings, now as President, in 1789 and 1795. President John Adams declared Thanksgivings in 1798 and 1799. President Madison, in response to resolutions of Congress, set apart a day for thanksgiving at the close of the War of 1812. Madison declared the holiday twice in 1815; however, none of these were celebrated in autumn.

One was annually appointed by the governor of New York from 1817. In some of the Southern States there was opposition to the observance of such a day on the ground that it was a relic of Puritanic bigotry, but by 1858 proclamations appointing a day of thanksgiving were issued by the governors of 25 states and two Territories.

In the middle of the Civil War, prompted by a series of editorials written by Sarah Josepha Hale, the last of which appeared in the September 1863 issue of Godey's Lady's Book, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day, to be celebrated on the final Thursday in November 1863.

Since 1863, Thanksgiving has been observed annually in the United States. In 1939, President Roosevelt declared that Thanksgiving would be the next to last Thursday of November rather than the last. With the country still in the midst of The Great Depression, Roosevelt thought this would give merchants a longer period to sell goods before Christmas. Increasing profits and spending during this period, Roosevelt hoped, would aid bringing the country out of the Depression. At the time, it was considered inappropriate to advertise goods for Christmas until after Thanksgiving. However, Roosevelt's declaration was not mandatory; twenty-three states went along with this recommendation, and 22 did not. Other states, like Texas, could not decide and took both weeks as government holidays. Roosevelt persisted in 1940 to celebrate his "Franksiving," as it was termed. The U.S. Congress in 1941 split the difference and established that the Thanksgiving would occur annually on the fourth Thursday of November, President Roosevelt signed this bill into US law.