

THE STOUGHTON SONGSTER



Compiled and Edited
By Roger L. Hall

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MUSIC IN STOUGHTON

Compiled by Roger L. Hall, Musicologist

All the items listed below are available at the Stoughton Public Library:

- 1980 1. Audiotape: "E.A. Jones: His Life and Music"
Interviews with Anne (Capen) Peterson and Viola (Pearl Holmes)
Wigmore on October 20, 1980.
2. Tunebook: The Stoughton Musical Society's Centennial Collection
of Sacred Music. Boston, Ditson & Company, 1878. Reprint:
NY, DaCapo Press, 1980. New introduction and index by
Roger L. Hall.
- 1981 3. Folder: "A Few Notes on...The Old Stoughton Musical Society."
(Highlights from 1762 to 1982).
- 1984 4. Pamphlet: E.A. Jones: His Life and Music - With a catalogue
of his complete musical works. [OSMUS Pamphlet No. 1],
Old Stoughton Musical Musical Society, 1984. 16 pages.
- 1985 5. Pamphlet: Singing Stoughton - Selected Highlights from
America's Oldest Choral Society. OSMUS Pamphlet No. 2,
Old Stoughton Musical Society, 1985. 20 pages.
6. *Folder: "200 Years of Music in Stoughton." (Phase I).
(Key events from 1762 to 1985 - November, 1985).
- 1986 7. Program: "Old Stoughton Musical Society - 200th Anniversary
Concert - Friday, November 7, 1986." 20 pages.
- 1987 8. *Folder: "200 Years of Music in Stoughton." (Phase II).
(Local composers and musicians - April, 1987).
9. Program: "Old Stoughton and The Grand Constitution - A Celebration
in Words and Music." Stoughton Public Library, October 8, 1987.
(30 minute program on videotape under the title: 200 Years of
Music in Stoughton).
- 1988 10. *Folder: "200 Years of Music in Stoughton." (Phase III).
(Bicentennial of U.S. and Stoughton Musical Society
Constitutions, 1787-1987 - April, 1988).
- 1989 11. *Pamphlet: Music in Stoughton - A Brief Survey.
(25 most significant events between 1762 and 1987). 16 pages.
- 1990 12. *Program: "A Stoughton Musicfest - A Celebration of Local Composers
and Musicians." Stoughton Public Library, May 10, 1990.
(60 minute program on audiotape and videotape under the
same title).

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Introduction

The common thread of the twelve songs in this booklet is that all have some connection to Stoughton, Massachusetts, and have been performed in the decade between 1980 and 1990.

Some of the lyrics will be familiar as popular patriotic songs, such as "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Others have traditional tunes but less familiar texts, such as "Yankee Song" and "Ode to Washington." And still others were written by Stoughton poets or composers, such as "Old Stoughton" and "Peace."

All of the songs have been performed in concerts or music programs listed here in chronological sequence:

- "Musick in Old Boston" - Celebrating the 350th Anniversary of City of Boston - November 23, 1980. (Songs No. 1, 7, 8, 9).
- "A Dedication Concert" - Celebrating the Centennial of Stoughton Town Hall - November 22, 1981. (Songs No. 6).
- "Musick of George Washington's Time" - Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Birth of George Washington - November 21, 1982. (Nos. 3 and 5).
- "Spring Concert of the Old Stoughton Musical Society" - Celebrating the 200th Anniversary Season - April 20, 1986. (Song No. 2).
- "Old Stoughton and The Grand Constitution" - Celebrating the Bicentennial of the United States and Stoughton Musical Society Constitutions, both written in 1787 - October 8, 1987. (Song No. 4).
- "A Stoughton Musicfest" - Celebrating the Bicentennial of the First Singing Contest in America between the Dorchester and Stoughton Choruses - May 10, 1990. (Songs No. 10, 11 and 12).

A listening tape has been prepared to accompany this songster. Nine of the songs on Side A of the tape feature the Old Stoughton Musical Society Chorus. The remaining songs are performed by local musicians.

I thank all musicians who participated in these concerts. I also thank those who have provided me with assistance, including Anne Petterson, Director of the Stoughton Public Library; Marion Wroble of WBET Radio; The Board of Directors of The Old Stoughton Musical Society; the Stoughton Arts Council, and the Stoughton Historical Society.

Over ten years ago, I began my research into the history of music in Stoughton. I have discovered that from a study of music we can also learn about our heritage. As one of the patriotic lyrics in this songster proclaims so poetically: "Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees, Sweet freedom's song...."

May we continue to share our heritage through "sweet freedom's song!"

-Roger Hall
August, 1991

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I. Pilgrim Poet:

1. "O Boston" (Tune: OLD HUNDRED). This poem was written by William Bradford, who was elected second governor of the Plymouth Colony in 1621 and was the most prolific of the Pilgrim poets. His poem "Of Boston in New England," has been edited and abridged down from its 48 lines to 20 lines. The poem has been set to the best known psalm tune sung by the Pilgrims, known as OLD HUNDRED. This new song was first performed in 1980 at Old West Church for JUBILEE 350 - celebrating the 350th Anniversary of the City of Boston.

(Unedited first stanza) -

O Boston, though thou now art grown
To be a great and wealthy town,
Yet I have seen thee a void place
Shrubs and bushes covering thy face.

(Edited stanzas) -

- (1) O Boston, though you now are grown
To be a great and wealthy town,
Yet some have seen you a void place,
Shrubs and bushes cov'ring your face.
- (2) Some you have had whom we did know,
That spent themselves to make you grow,
And your foundations they did lay
Which do remain until this day.
- (3) When you were weak they did you nurse,
Or else with you it had been worse;
They left you not, but did defend
And assist you until their end.
- (4) You now have grown in wealth and store,
Do not forget that you were poor,
And lift not up in haughty pride,
Let truth and justice be your guide.
- (5) Live you in peace, we could say more,
Do not oppress the weak and poor,
The trade is all in your own hand,
Take heed you do not wrong the land.

-Text by William Bradford, 1590-1657
Edited by Roger Hall

Text Source: *Seventeenth-Century American Poetry*. Edited by Harrison T. Meserole.
New York: Anchor Books, 1968.

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II. Songs of George Washington's Time:

2. "Stoughton" - The tune was composed by William Billings, 1746-1800. It was printed in his tunebook, *The New-England Psalm-Singer*, published in Boston in 1770. This tunebook is the first collection of music by one composer in New England. It is possible that this tune was sung in the singing school taught by Billings in Stoughton in 1774. The text chosen by the editor of this songster is by Dr. Isaac Watts, the English hymn writer, whose texts were often used in early New England choral music. The text and tune were first performed in the Spring Concert of The Old Stoughton Musical Society on April 20, 1986.

- (1) Lo, what a glorious sight appears
 To our believing eyes!
 The earth and seas are pass'd away
 And the old rolling skies.
- (2) From the third heaven, where God resides,
 That holy, happy place,
 The New Jerusalem comes down,
 Adorn'd with shining grace.
- (3) Attending angels shout for joy,
 And the bright armies sing,
 "Mortals, behold the sacred seat
 Of your descending King!"
- (4) "The God of glory down to men
 Removes his bless'd abode;
 Men, the dear objects of his grace,
 And he the loving God."
- (5) "His own soft hand shall wipe the tears
 From every weeping eye;
 And pains, and groans, and griefs, and fears,
 And death itself shall die."
- (6) How long, dear Saviour, O how long
 Shall this bright hour delay?
 Fly swifter round, ye wheels of time,
 And bring the welcome day.

Text Source: Isaac Watts, *Hymns and Spiritual Songs in Three Books*.
Boston: Lincoln and Edmands, 1816. Book I, Hymn 21.

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3. "Father and I Went Down to Camp" (Tune: YANKEE DOODLE). This well known song has a text attributed to Edward Bangs, who wrote it about 1775, while attending Harvard College. The tune was known in America before the 1770's, but no composer has yet been identified for it. The most familiar text beginning - "Yankee Doodle went to town a-riding on a pony" - was not printed until much later in the 1800's.

- (1) Father and I went down to camp,
Along with Captain Gooding,
And there we saw the men and boys,
As thick as hasty pudding.
Chorus: Yankee Doodle, keep it up,
Yankee Doodle dandy,
Mind the music and the step,
And with the girls be handy.

- (2) And there was Captain Washington,
Upon a slapping stallion,
A-giving orders to his men,
I guess there was a million. Chorus.
(remaining 9 stanzas omitted)

Text Source: *The Music That Washington Knew*. Edited by William Arms Fisher. Boston: Oliver Ditson Company, 1931.

4. "Yankee Song" (Tune: YANKEE DOODLE). This text was written in 1788 for the Massachusetts ratification of the U.S. Constitution. It was printed in the *Massachusetts Centinel* newspaper on March 5, 1788. The song was first performed in "Old Stoughton and The Grand Constitution" on October 8, 1987. There are thirteen stanzas altogether, but only five of them are given here:

- (1) The 'vention* did in Boston meet, [*= convention]
But State-House could not hold 'em,
So then they went to Fed'ral street,
And there the truth was told 'em - Chorus: Yankee Doodle (etc)
- (2) They ev'ry morning went to prayer,
And then began disputing,
'Till opposition silenc'd were,
By arguments refuting. Chorus.
- (3) Then 'squire Hancock** like a man, [**=John Hancock, Esquire]
Who dearly loves his nation,
By a council'atory plan
Prevented much vexation. Chorus.
- (4) Oh then a whopping feast began,
And all hands went to eating;
They drank their toasts - shook hands and sung,
Huzza! for 'vention meeting. Chorus.
- (5) Then from this sample let 'em cease,
Inflammatory writing,
For FREEDOM, HAPPINESS, and PEACE,
Is better far than fighting. Chorus.

Text Source: *Music for Patriots, Politicians and Presidents*. By Vera Brodsky Lawrence. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1975.

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5. "Ode to Washington" (Tune: GOD SAVE THE KING). The text for this song was compiled from two different sources, dated 1788 and 1789. The tune is of English origin, first published about 1744.

- (1) Hail! Godlike Washington!
Fair Freedom's chosen son,
Born to command:
While this great globe shall roll,
Thy deeds from pole to pole,
Shall shake Columbia's soul
With virtuous praise.
- (2) Hail thou auspicious day!
Far let America
Thy praise resound:
Joy to our native land!
Let ev'ry heart expand,
For WASHINGTON'S at hand,
With Glory crown'd!
- (3) Far be the din of Arms,
Henceforth the Olive's charms
Shall War preclude;
These shores a HEAD shall own,
Unsully'd by a throne,
Our much lov'd WASHINGTON,
The Great, the Good!

III. Songs of Abraham Lincoln's Time:

6. "My Country 'Tis of Thee" (Tune: GOD SAVE THE KING). The words for this well known patriotic song are by Samuel Francis Smith, 1808-1895, and were first performed at Park Street Church in Boston on July 4, 1831.

- (1) My country! 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty -
Of thee I sing:
Land, where my fathers died;
Land of the pilgrim's pride;
From every mountain side,
Let freedom ring.
- (2) My native country! thee-
Land of the noble free-
Thy name I love:
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills,
Like that above.
- (3) Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees,
Sweet freedom's song:
Let mortal tongues awake,
Let all that breathe partake,
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

(last stanza omitted)

Text Source for Nos. 5 and 6: *Music for Patriots, Politicians and Presidents* .

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7. "John Brown" (Tune: GLORY, HALLELUJAH). This famous song was not written for the John Brown of Harpers Ferry, but instead written about Sergeant John Brown at Fort Warren in Boston. The broadside was copyrighted July 16, 1861, with words and music credited to C.S. Hall of Charlestown, Massachusetts.

- (1) John Brown's body lies a-mould'ring in the grave,
John Brown's body lies a-mould'ring in the grave,
John Brown's body lies a-mould'ring in the grave,
His soul is marching on!

Chorus: Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His soul is marching on.

- (2) He's gone to be a soldier in the army of the Lord!
He's gone to be a soldier in the army of the Lord!
He's gone to be a soldier in the army of the Lord!
His soul is marching on!

Chorus: Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! (etc.)

(3 additional stanzas omitted)

8. "Battle Hymn of the Republic" (Tune: GLORY, HALLELUJAH). The words for this version of the song were written by Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910, on November 19, 1861. The poem was first printed with the music on April 9, 1862, "adapted to the favorite Melody of Glory Hallelujah." This famous chorus to the song is believed to be derived from a Methodist hymn of 1858 which begins: "Say, brothers, will you meet us?"

- (1) Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord,
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored,
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword:
His truth is marching on.

Chorus: Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

- (2) I have seen Him in the watch-fires of a hundred circling camps,
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps:
His day is marching on.

Chorus: Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
His day is marching on.

(3 additional stanzas omitted)

Text Source: *Father Kemp's Old Folks Concert Tunes*. Compiled by Robert Kemp. 2nd edition, Boston, 1874. Additional information from *The Book of World-Famous Music* by James J. Fuld. 3rd ed., NY: Dover Publications, 1985.

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IV. Stoughton Songs :

9. "Old Stoughton" - Words and Music by Edwin Arthur Jones, 1853-1911. This "tune in ye olden style" [based on the 18th century fusing tune] was written by Jones to celebrate the 124th anniversary of the Musical Society in Stoughton. This society - the second one in town - was not actually organized until 1802, but they claimed to have been in existence since 1762. No proof has yet been found of this claim. It was disbanded in 1982.

- (1) Now to the Lord a noble song.
Awake my soul, awake my tongue.
Hosanna to th'eternal name and all His boundless love proclaim.
Hosanna to th'eternal name and all His boundless love proclaim.
- (2) Recount His works in strains divine;
His wondrous works, how bright they shine.
Praise Him for all His mighty deeds, whose greatness all your
praise exceeds.
Praise Him for all His mighty deeds, whose greatness all your
praise exceeds.

Text Source: Published sheet music, White, Smith & Co., 1886.
Sheet music printed in *E.A. Jones: His Life and Music*.
By Roger L. Hall. Old Stoughton Musical Society, 1984.

10. "Lullaby"- Words and Music by Frank W. Reynolds, 1887-1975. In addition to being an organist and singer, Reynolds also composed a few songs in his youth. One of these songs was written in 1922, but never published. In his autobiography, *Through the Years to Seventy* (1957), he dismissed the song as "rather mushy stuff, made I suppose in an attempt to imitate popular songs of the day." It is indeed typical of popular songs of its era in the quaint sweetness of the words.

- (1) By-lo my baby, with the fading day,
Winning and rosy, peaceful and cozy
In mother's arms all nestled away.
Guest of the fairies, in Dreamland you will be,
Eyelids are falling, voices are calling,
Float on the breezes, o'er land and sea.
- (2) Rock, rock my darling, safe you are this night,
Safe in His keeping, while you are sleeping,
Stars in the heavens giving their light.
Moonbeams are dancing on the chamber floor,
Mother will be here, nothing to fear, dear,
Crib sails for Dreamland one by-lo more.

Text Source: Manuscript song by Frank W. Reynolds, 1922.

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11. "Barbara Allen" - Arranged by Frederic William Kempf, 1901-1950. Like E.A. Jones in the 19th century, Bill Kempf was a talented violinist and composer whose music was performed locally as well as in Boston. In 1942, he co-edited a collection of folk songs, *Songs of Freedom*, with Archibald T. Davison and Katherine K. Davis. In that same year, he made an arrangement of the well-known ballad, "Barbara Allen," for violin and piano. This arrangement has been adapted for soprano, flute and piano, and was first performed in "A Stoughton Musicfest" on May 10, 1990.

- (1) In Scarlet town, where I was born,
 There was a fair maid dwelling,
 Made every youth cry "Wellaway!"
 Her name was Barbara Allen.
- (2) All in the merry month of May,
 When green buds they are swelling,
 Young Jimmy Green on his death bed lay
 For love of Barbara Allen.

Text Source: *The Viking Book of Folk Ballads of the English-Speaking World*.
Edited by Albert B. Friedman. NY: The Viking Press, 1956.

12. "Peace" - Words by Esther Talbot, 1803-1892/Music by Roger Hall. The words of this song are from a poem written by Esther Talbot on April 4, 1814, as a reaction to the then ongoing War of 1812. The song was first performed in the 195th Annual Concert of the Old Stoughton Musical Society on November 22, 1981, in honor of the Centennial of Stoughton Town Hall. It was revised for SATB quartet, flute and piano and performed in "A Stoughton Musicfest" on May 10, 1990.

- (1) Come, gentle Peace, with smiling ray,
 Beam on our land a cloudless day;
 Beneath thy influence serene
 The olive wears immortal green.
- (2) Come, gentle Peace, resume thy reign,
 With all thy virtues in thy train;
 And then Columbia's soil shall grow
 As verdant Paradise below.

Come, gentle Peace.

Text Source: Manuscript poem by Esther Talbot, 1814.
Words and music (1981 version) printed in *Music in Stoughton*.
By Roger L. Hall. Stoughton, 1989.

Listening Tape (Side A):

1. "O Boston" (Tune: OLD HUNDRED)(Edited by Roger Hall) - 1980.
The Old Stoughton Musical Society Chorus, Richard Hill, organist,
Roger Hall, conductor. Old West Church, Boston, November 23, 1980.
2. "Stoughton (William Billings, 1746-1800/Edited by Roger Hall) - 1770.
The Old Stoughton Musical Society Chorus, Earl Eyrich, conductor.
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, North Easton, MA, April 20, 1986.
3. "Father and I Went Down to Camp" (Tune: YANKEEDOODLE) - ca. 1775.
The Old Stoughton Musical Society Chorus, David Hanson, organist,
Earl Eyrich, conductor. Trinity Episcopal Church, Canton, MA,
November 21, 1982.
4. "Yankee Song" (Tune: YANKEEDOODLE) - 1788.
Sally MacKerron and Elizabeth Trueblood, soloists,
Members of the O.S.M.S. Chorus, Richard Hill, pianist.
"Old Stoughton and The Grand Constitution - A Celebration in Words and
Music." Stoughton Public Library, Stoughton, MA, October 8, 1987.
5. "Ode to Washington" (Tune: GOD SAVE THE KING)(Edited by Roger Hall) - 1788-89.
The Old Stoughton Musical Society Chorus, November 21, 1982.
6. "My Country 'Tis of Thee" (Tune: GOD SAVE THE KING) - 1831.
The Old Stoughton Musical Society Chorus, Kenneth Yates, organist,
Roger Hall, conductor. First United Methodist Church, Stoughton,
November 22, 1981. ("A Dedication Concert").
7. "John Brown" (Tune: GLORY, HALLELUJAH)- 1861.
8. "Battle Hymn of the Republic" (Tune: GLORY, HALLELUJAH) - 1862.
The Old Stoughton Musical Society Chorus, Roger Hall, conductor.
Old West Church, Boston, November 23, 1980.
9. "Old Stoughton" (Edwin Arthur Jones, 1853-1911) - 1886.
The Old Stoughton Musical Society Chorus, Roger Hall, conductor.
November 23, 1980.
10. "Lullaby"(Frank W. Reynolds, 1887-1975) - 1922.
Sally MacKerron, soloist; Richard Hill, pianist.
11. "Barbara Allen"(Arranged by Frederic W. Kempf, 1901-1950) - 1942.
Elizabeth Trueblood, soloist; Donna Hieken, flute; Richard Hill,
pianist.
12. "Peace" (Poem by Esther Talbot, 1803-1892/Music by Roger Hall) - 1990.
Marion Wroble, narrator; solo quartet: Elizabeth Trueblood, Carol
Mezzanotte, Sally MacKerron, and Roger Hall; Donna Hieken, flute;
Richard Hill, pianist.
(Above 3 songs performed in "A Stoughton Musicfest - A Celebration
of Local Composers and Musicians," Stoughton Public Library,
May 10, 1990.

Listening Tape (Side B):

1. "Prelude and Fugue in G minor for organ" Op. 10 (E.A. Jones, 1878) - Richard Hill, organist, 194th Annual Concert of The Old Stoughton Musical Society. Old West Church, Boston, MA, November 23, 1980. ("Musick in Old Boston").
2. 200th Anniversary of The Old Stoughton Musical Society - MONITOR RADIO, Greg Palmer, reporter, November 8, 1986. Guests: Roger Hall, Paul Larivee, Marion Hollis.
3. "Prelude and Fugue in G minor" (String Quartet No. 2, Op. 22 - E.A. Jones, 1887) - (Prelude only) - The Cremona Quartet, Queensborough Community College, Bayside, NY, February 17, 1985.
4. "Peace" (A Patriotic Ode) - (Poem by Esther Talbot/Music by Roger Hall, 1981) - FIRST PERFORMANCE - Karen Pritchard, soloist, The Old Stoughton Musical Society Chorus, Roger Hall, conductor. First United Methodist Church, Stoughton, MA, November 22, 1981. ("A Dedication Concert - In Honor of the 100th Anniversary of Stoughton Town Hall").
5. "Dedication" (Fuging Tune) - (Words by William Billings/Music by Roger Hall, 1977/ revised 1986) - FIRST PERFORMANCE - The Old Stoughton Musical Society Chorus, Richard Hill, pianist, Earl Eyrich, conductor. Museum of Our National Heritage, Lexington, MA, November 23, 1986. ("Two Centuries of Choral Music in New England").
6. "A Little Theatre Music" - In Memory of Dorothy Woodward Music by Roger Hall, 1990. Donna Hieken, flute. Scene One: Peaceful Prelude. Scene Two: Wistful Waltz. Marion Wroble, narrator, Stoughton Public Library, May 10, 1990. ("A Stoughton Musicfest - A Celebration of Local Composers and Musicians").
7. "The Farewell Waltzes," Op. 8b - Music by E.A. Jones, 1874. David Hagan, pianist. Museum of Our National Heritage, Lexington, MA, October 19, 1986. ("Two Centuries of Music in New England").