

# Three Union Civil War songs by H. Webster Canterbury printed broadside

Three Union Civil War songs by H. Webster Canterbury printed broadside  
circa 1861-1865



## Title Statement

Three Union Civil War songs by H. Webster Canterbury printed broadside  
Guide to Three Union Civil War songs by H. Webster Canterbury printed broadside C0548

**Subtitle:** Three Union Civil War songs by H. Webster Canterbury printed broadside

**Author:** Meghan Glasbrenner

## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Fenwick Library, MS2FL  
4400 University Dr.  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
Business Number: 703-993-2220  
Fax Number: 703-993-8911  
speccoll@gmu.edu  
URL: <https://scrc.gmu.edu>



April 6, 2026

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-04-07 07:01:26 -0400.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

C0548

**Unit ID**

/repositories/2/resources/773

**Unit Date**

circa 1861-1865

**box**

1 (folder)

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

Single-sided printed broadside featuring lyrics for three Union Civil War songs by H. Webster Canterbury.

**Creator**

Canterbury, H. Webster

**Extent**

.01 Linear Feet 1 folder

**Physical Location**

R 73, C 2, S 4

**Repository**

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

There are no access restrictions.

**Use Restrictions**

Public Domain. There are no known restrictions.

**Acquisition Information**

Purchased from Caroliniana Rare Books by Lynn Eaton in 2022.

**Processing Information**

Processing completed by Meghan Glasbrenner in March 2026. Finding aid completed by Meghan Glasbrenner in April 2026.

**Preferred Citation**

Three Union Civil War songs by H. Webster Canterbury printed broadside, C0548, Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries

## Historical Information

Broadsides (also known as "broadside ballads") were an inexpensive format of mass publication consisting of a single printed sheet, usually single-sided, containing song lyrics that were often topical in nature and meant to document or comment on current events. As such, broadsides were particularly popular in the United States during the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War, many containing lyrics that documented events with humor, often satirically.

Throughout the Civil War these newly written songs served many functions for both the Union and Confederate armies, including entertaining soldiers and communicating orders on the battlefield, and the style and tone of these songs changed as the war itself evolved, with the beginning years seeing an emphasis on patriotic songs and the later years transitioning to an emphasis on homesickness and lamentations on the long duration of the conflict. Broadside ballads contained no musical notation and were intended to be sung to existing melodies, such as the "The Star-Spangled Banner." H. Webster Canterbury appears to have written a number of these patriotic songs for the Union army, but his role in the war itself and personal history beyond these songs is unclear.

## Scope and Content

Single-sided printed broadside featuring lyrics for three Union Civil War songs by H. Webster Canterbury including "The American Nation," "Jedidiah's Trip to Washington," and "Our Yankee Boys Are Marching On." The song lyrics are divided into three columns and the broadside appears to have been previously folded into a trifold pamphlet. "The American Nation" includes a sub-heading before the beginning of the lyrics reading "Air - Star Spangled Banner," indicating that the lyrics were to be sung to this existing melody.

## Related Materials

The Special Collections Research Center holds other Civil War collections, including "Bull Run. Tune - 'Wait for the Wagon'" Confederate broadside.

The Library of Congress' digital collections include a similar item, as well as a large collection of American Song Sheets.

The New York State Library holds the Broadside Ballads Collection and The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts holds the American broadsides collection.

## Keywords

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Songs and music

Broadsides -- 1850-1870

## Bibliography

Gettysburg National Military Park (U.S. National Park Service). 2025. "Traveling Trunk Additional Activities: Civil War Music." September 23. <https://www.nps.gov/gett/learn/education/a-nation-at-war-traveling-trunk-additional-activities-civil-war-music.htm>.

Manuscripts and Special Collections: NYS Library. n.d. "Broadside Ballads Catalog." Accessed July 5, 2024. <https://www.nysl.nysed.gov/msscfa/broadsides.htm#nysl>.

The New York Public Library: Archives & Manuscripts. n.d. "American Broadsides Collection." Accessed July 5, 2024. <https://archives.nypl.org/mus/20429#overview>.

## Arrangement

This is a single item collection.