

First: It is not claimed by Mr. Hays that he wrote the melody to "Dixie," but the words only.

Second: We learn that in 1857 or 1858 Mr. Hays, at the request of Mr. Faulds, wrote the words to "Dixie."

Third: We learn that a publisher of music, one Mr. Faulds, of Louisville, Ky., testifies in behalf of Mr. Hays as the originator of "Dixie."

What is the conclusion regarding the origin of "Dixie," then? According to Dan Emmett's own words and admission, and the evidence of Mr. Faulds and Professor Firth, Mr. Hays is the originator of the theme "Dixie," while it is not known who composed the music.

Will S. Hays originated the words to "Dixie."

Now, as to Mr. Emmett's sincerity we make no comment. We will say this, however, that more than one person has lived who has fondly thought he was the originator of certain things, when in after years he found out that another had the priority over him. About nine years ago this scribe wrote what he thought was new music to "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," but about four years afterwards he found that what he supposed originated with him was the music to "Silver Threads Among the Gold." Though I could never remember having heard "Silver Threads Among the Gold," still I am sure that I had. It was evidently thus with Mr. Emmett on that rainy day in New York, Sunday, September 18th, 1859, when he thought he was giving to the world a new melody. In his travels through the South he heard the tune "Dixie." No doubt, he did write words similar to those written by Will S. Hays; but, granting that much, we still have the undisputed fact that Will Hays has one year priority to

Mr. Emmett, hence the praise, honor and glory of originating "Dixie" belongs to Will S. Hays.

It is like Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci. Columbus discovered America, but Amerigo got the honor. So, too, Hays originated "Dixie," though Emmett got the honor.

FOUNDED 1872

OLDEST MUSIC HOUSE IN THE CITY

E. WITZMANN & CO.
(INCORPORATED)

Pianos, Organs and Music

Nos. 99-103 N. Second St. MEMPHIS, TENN.

I am writing down the Dixie song that is in the little booklet and the original Dixie song you said was printed in the N.O. Democrat. Please look them over and correct mistakes, if any; am not sure that I have the poem correct as I could'nt make out some words in your handwriting. And I want to be absolutely sure I'm right in every detail. I'm asking for information, as I must have the facts right in my head. *says*

You will note that the Dixie song quoted from little booklet is different from Dixie song you copied from N.O. Democrat. Are both songs Col. Hays? And please explain the difference in the two poems. Are they different versions by Hays and give date of each. Give date N.O. Democrat published poem you copied in your handwriting. *he* You say Faulds, the publisher, got out edition of 50,000 copies of Hays Dixie song- which poem do you mean that Faulds published (50,000 copies) the poem in little booklet or the five verses you wrote out for me, from N.O. Democrat? I must get this straight in my own mind. You see I don't know a thing about it. And you'll have to write plainly word for word.

Dixie song from little booklet:

We gwan down to de land ob cotton,
Cinnamon seed an' sandy bottom-
Away, away, we gwan down to Dixie.
We gwan to take our guns along,
~~We gwan to take our guns along,~~
We gwan to fight an' sing dis song-
Away, away, we gwan down to Dixie.

2nd version of Hays
Dixie song written at outbreak
of Civil War, 1861
for Buckner Guards

*copyrighted 1861 laws enforced.
Other version written
before the war of '61*

Chorus:

We gwan down to Dixie, away, away!
We gwan down to Dixie's land,
To stay down South in Dixie-
Away, away, away down South in Dixie;
Away, away, away down South in Dixie

Original Dixie song as published in New Orleans DEMOCRAT
Give date if possible song appeared in N.O. Democrat-----
And this song is Col. Hays also?-----
Faulds says in booklet he published 50,000 copies of Hays
Dixie song!- does he mean the song published in N.O. Democrat
or the song in little booklet (quoted above)?
Also this statement occurs in booklet: "I had sold 30,000
copies of my (Dixie) song before the war"-- is this Col. Hays'
statement or Fauld's and which song is meant- the Dixie song
quoted above from booklet or the song printed in N.O. Democrat?

Original Dixie song by Will S. Hays, published in N.O. Democrat
date ----- copied from Mrs. Will S. Hays Scrap Book:
Away down South in the land ob cotton,
Cinnamon seed and sandy bottom.

(1) ~~In Dixie's land I'll take my stand~~
Away, away, away down South in Dixie!
In Dixie's land I'll take my stand
I'll lib and die in Dixie's land!
Away, away, away down South in Dixie!

What version is this?

~~and is there no change~~

*make corrections - if any and return
these two sheets to me, please.*

2

Ole Missus marry Will de weaber
 William was a gay deceiber
 2) Away,away,away down South in Dixie!
 But when he put his arm around her-
 He smiled as fierce as a forty pounder-
 Away,away,away down South in Dixie!

Chorus: In Dixie's land I'll take my stand,
 I'll lib and die in Dixie's land!
 Away,away,away down South in Dixie's land
 Away,away,away down South in Dixie!

Ole Missus acted the foolish part
 Wid de man lub for de man wat broke her heart
 Away,away,away down South in Dixie!
 Will run away- she took a decline
 Her face was de color ob -----?
 Away,away,away down South in Dixie!

Chorus--

Now here's a health to de next ole Missus
 An' all de gals dat want to kiss ~~her~~ us
 Away,away,away down South in Dixie!
 If you want to drive away your sorrow
 Come and see dis nig tomorrow-
 Away,away,away down South in Dixie!

Chorus: --

De buckwheat cake an' corn-meal batter
 Makes you fat and a little fatter-
 Away,away,away down South in Dixie!
 Den hoe it down an' scratch your grabble
 To Dixie's land I'm bound to trabble-
 Away,away,away down South in Dixie!

Chorus:--

Another verse about vinegar shoes and paper stockings--in the
 swamps the cinnamon seed fell in the sandy soil; the darkies
 put wet brown paper inside their shoes to keep the seed from
 hurting their feet. But my scrap book is so old and worn that
 the print is dim and am unable to make out ~~the other~~ this and
 other verses.

adapted

Now read Emmet's Dixie song and you will see the difference
 and also the close similarity of Hay's and Emmet's Dixie,
 showing that Emmet Took Hay's original Dixie song and changed
 the song to suit his purposes- towit to get lively spirited
 song, suitable for a march and for circulation in the North.
 We'll say he got it all right! But he stole his song from
 Col. Hays and claimed he done it all by himself!

long before the war
 The music was written by neither Emmet or Hays, (altho Emmet
 claims music as his own) the music of Dixie noone knows who the
 author is; the darkies unloaded their cargoes by it at the steamboat
 landings ~~before the war~~; and was first issued as a march by a New Orleans
 music house before the war, without words or name of author on the sheet.
 (Fauld's got the sheet music and Hays wrote words for the music before
 the war-; later Hays wrote different versions of his song, changing
 the words later to the version printed by N.O. Democrat)

*the music publisher of
 Louisville Ky*

Communicated

Being present at the March meeting of the Filson Club Monday evening ~~at~~ when the subject of Authenticity of ~~Dixie~~ not Composition of Dixie was the order of the evening. I was somewhat surprised to read in this morning's C.J. the head line - "Still in doubt ~~etc.~~" as facts stated at the opening of ^{the} meeting - giving Mr D. P. Faulds as authority ^{was} to effect, that the melody was from an old English ditty - which began:

If I was a Soldier wouldn't I go, etc -
 From this ditty brought to this country - ^{when} or
 by whom cannot be said - It is supposedly in same
 manner many of the ancient folk songs recently
 discovered in Mountains of Ky. Tenn. & the Carolinas
 revealing the fact that they are undoubtedly a
 survival of the early English - a parody was
 afterward written for children - & extensively
 sung on plantations in the South - running thus

If I had a donkey that wouldn't go

Do you think I'd whip him - O' dear no, etc.
 Thus the slaves picked up the air - but how it
 came to be called "Dixie" is a mystery.

In the Sunday edition of Courier Journal May 29
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 by Mr G. E. Johnson - showing ^{called forth by immense popularity} ~~that~~ ^{20. as coming national air of N. & S.} that Col. Wm. S. Hay.

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as described from the English melody.
 These words of Col. Hays were written in 1857 while
 Charles L. Ward played the air. Both young men
 being in employ of Mr. Faulds' ~~Musical~~ ~~Musical~~
~~Store~~. Ward began his clerkship with Mr. Faulds at
 the age of 15 in 1854, having a sleeping room
 in the music store - Hays, being also a clerk.
 A single sheet of music - a kind of a dance - was
 received from a New Orleans house by Mr. F.
 and having the ready genius at hand, he at
 once suggested - "that might make a good song"
 saying to Hays - "Will Lewis is a new tune ^{and} ~~that~~
 I want you to write me some ^{Southern} ~~igger~~ words
 for it. As Hays always rattled off his songs at
 one stretch - Standing at the back of the square
 piano which he used as a desk, he wrote
 his words - Ward arranging words to music as
 Hays sang them - and in less than 2 hours
 the arrangement was sent up stairs to the
 engravers - Called "Way down South in Dixie".
 5000 copies being printed & sent thro' South -
 the words copyrighted by Faulds, but the
 music being common property. There is
 much more of interest could be given in connection
 with this melody as Hays had spent several winters
 on Louisiana plantations and actually sung in
 the "quartets" of the negroes during their Saturday
 evening frolics - that will appear in detail in his

Autobiography but this is sufficient to establish the authenticity of the ~~Author~~ ^{authorship} of the Song. Mr David P. Faulds was one of the leading Music Publishers of the Country. A charming ^{Irishman} of the old school. Chivalrous + polite. ^{Formerly prominent} ~~Later~~ ^{statement} when the Civil war began - members of a ^{local} ~~glue~~ club, asked Hays composed of prominent young men who were ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~derogation~~ ^{derogation} of young fellows of that time - ~~appealed~~ ^{appealed} enlisted in the Buckner Guards appealing to Hays for words suitable for the Campaign. It was then Hays wrote the lines which ~~made~~ ^{caused} him to spend a night in the Military prison at 5th & Green - being released thro Mr Faulds influence next day. What more substantial evidence is necessary than the undisputed veracity of such a gentleman as Mr Faulds. now deceased - and the word of our own townsman. As to the credit which has been given to Emmet since his death early in 1904. it has been said & known ~~also~~ he was an end man with the famous Bryant's Minstrels with a sweet singing voice. On Bryant's Minstrels who were traveling through the South in 1858 and 1859 ~~and many times~~ heard Faulds' ~~Irish~~ ^{Irish} Song "Way down South in Dixie" a truly and only a Southern song. Beginning the fall Campaign of Minstrelsy in 1859. ~~Bryant~~ ^{Emmet} ~~desiring a new "walk around" for the~~ ^{desiring a new "walk around" for the} coming season wrote his words on a cold rainy, dismal day Emmet ^{remembering the balm} ~~up to~~ ^{up to} his words "I wish I was in Dixie's land" with a longing

Touhine ~~show~~ circuit was a popular route with all show people. & those who were obliged to show in the North would say when the cold weather made them shiver - "I wish I was in Dixie's Land" Emmet being a northerner & familiar with this phrase from his colleagues in show business - also having heard ~~Hays~~ song frequently in the South - as the drimal rainy day - after ~~the~~ ^{the fall of} ~~the~~ ⁵⁹ in the north - early in Sept. it flashed upon him as a good first line for a walk around - and he wrote his words

"I wish I was in Dixie's Land

Away down south in Dixie" etc

So that when he sang but the

singing the song himself the first time - from the stage of Bryant's Minstrels in a N. York theater ~~on the~~ in Sept 1859 - two years after Hays original words had been first written for Mr Faulds & later adapted as war song.

So little was ever known of Emmet having written his words, that in 1894 when he was ~~over~~ ^{about} 79 yrs old - a minstrel manager - who thought the "Composer" of Dixie might be profitably utilized as a venerable figure head in a show - after ~~much~~ finally tracked him succeeding in tracing him to Mount Vernon his native ~~home~~ town - & where he had been living for ~~over~~ ^{about} 6 years in his little cottage on the outskirts of the place -

When the manager enquired for ^{"Dixie"} Emmet the ^{"Dixie"} Composer of Dixie - the reply he got from the townspeople was: Friend Jimb struck the wrong place - There is a Sam Emmett living here sure enough and he used to

be with some show: ³⁻ but he never composed "Dixie"
nor any thing else."

Miss Barber was selected as Chairman of Committee for
further investigation & establishing the fact of the Authorship
of words of Dixie ~~has~~ with S. Hays. as she had
given reports of ~~being present at~~ ^{Confederate reunions} ^{through South}
where Dixie was always played by the bands - ^{in many years}
and resolutions had been written Emmett, also
donation of money sent him. She feelingly
assumed of the Authorship ~~being being truly~~ ^{Confident}
all doubts concerning authorship were put aside in
favor of Col Hays suggested proper steps be taken
to give that fact to the public in General & proper Credit
and Acknowledgment of our own towns Man. & Kentuckian
And deemed the Filson Club of Ky the proper source for
such Authenticity. Emmett traveled through the South
in 1895 ~~with this ministerial transfer in the role of a~~
~~reverable figure head~~ when he received many orations
for which he was grateful but also amused as
~~the humble origin of his words~~ ^{and} One day,
while strolling about Richmond he paused
in front of Stonewall Jackson's monument &
the latter to read the inscription, raised his hat
to shield his eyes with it, from the sun. That
morning one of the newspapers came out with big
bold lines announcing that "Dan Emmett like
the true Southerner that he is - bows with
uncorrupted head before the monument of S. J. -
Emmett knew it was kindly meant but and
accepted but appreciated the humor of the situation."

Charlie Ward going South with - Buckner. the song was not only sung by his Quartette every where. but he frequently wrote a manuscript copy for other Generals to use with their troops - they being in mails or other communication with South by which they could secure editions of music otherwise.

~~for several years~~ ^{or more ago} Col. Hays while ~~writing~~ ^{working on} his autobiography some several or more years ago while ~~engaged~~ ^{engaged} on his autobiography. Col Hays conceived the idea that the ~~folksongs~~ "Dixie" and its many associations dating back to his visits on Southern Plantations would make an interesting book, and had indeed compiled some pages when he ~~suffered a stroke of illness~~ ^{ill health} caused him to leave the pages to be used in his autobiography - upon which he is still engaged.

We go down to the land of Cotton
Cinnamon seed and sandy bottoms
Away Away we go down to Dixie
In Dixie's land I'll take my stand
To live and die in Dixie's land
Away Away down South to Dixie

We go down to take our guns along
We go down to fight & sing this song.

May 29 - 1898

July 17 - 1904.