

WHITESMOKE SUN / COURIER

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Bonnie Blue Flag by Pvt. Mike Bazzo

Saturday afternoon at the Huntington Beach event, in a battle that was considerably shorter than the morning conflict, the men of the 8th literally stepped over fallen Yankees as our line pressed forward amid the roar of the canons and the dense smoke that blanketed the field. Though many of our comrades fell to the volume of blue belly musketry, the 8th fought valiantly and overcame the invading foe. As our column marched back to camp, a chorus of proud Southern voices was heard singing the words to one of the most familiar tunes of the war, familiar to most with the exception of this new private. Later, when walking to visit the Sutlers, a spectator came up to me and asked what was the song that our men were singing as they marched. She commented that it sounded moving to hear a long column of soldiers singing as they marched and suggested that more units do that. Well, the song was Bonnie Blue Flag and not knowing the words to it or the history behind it, I determined to learn both.

Back in 1810 the blue flag with the single star was hoisted by a group of West Floridian Dragoons when they captured the Fort of Baton Rouge. Three days later a Declaration of

Independence was signed and the flag became the symbol of the new republic. By the end of that year the flag was replaced by the United States flag when President Madison declared West Florida to be under the Louisiana Territory. The flag was also used by the Republic of Texas from 1836 to 1839. With secession, the flag was raised over the Mississippi capitol in 1861 and inspired Harry McCarthy to pen the patriotic words to the tune that was to be adopted in the hearts of thousands. In case you get a hankerin to sing next time we march, the words are provided for on page 9.

Bonnie Blue Flag

We are a band of brothers
And native to the soil
Fighting for our liberty
With treasure blood, and toil
And when our rights were
threatened,
The cry rose near and far
Hurrah for the Bonnie Blue Flag
That bears a single star!

Refrain:
Hurrah!
Hurrah!
For Southern rights, hurrah!
Hurrah for the Bonnie Blue Flag
That bears a single star.

As long as the Union Was faithful
to her trust
Like friends and brethren,
Kind were we, and just
But now, when Northern
treachery
Attempts our rights to mar
We hoist on high the Bonnie Blue
Flag
That bears a single star.

Chorus (Refrain)



First gallant South Carolina
Nobly made the stand
Then came Alabama
And took her by the hand
Next, quickly Mississippi,
Georgia, and Florida
All raised on high the Bonnie
Blue Flag
That bears a single star

Chorus (Refrain)

Ye men of valor gather
Round the banner of the right
Texas and fair Louisiana
Join us in the fight
Davis, our loved President,
And Stephens statesmen are
Now rally round the Bonnie Blue
Flag
That bears a single star.
Chorus (Refrain)

And here's to brave Virginia
The Old Dominion state
With the young Confederacy
At length has linked her fate
Impelled by her example
Now other states prepare
To hoist on high the Bonnie Blue
Flag
That bears the single star.

Chorus (Refrain)

Then here's to our Confederacy
Strong we are and brave
Like patriots of old we'll fight
Our heritage to save
And rather than submit to shame
To die we would prefer
So cheer for the Bonnie Blue Flag
That bears the single star.
Chorus (Refrain)

Then cheer boys cheer
Raise the joyous shout
For Arkansas and North Carolina
Now have both gone out
And let another rousing cheer
For Tennessee be given
The single star on the Bonnie Blue
Flag
Has grown to be eleven.

Chorus (Refrain)

And to Missouri we
Extend both heart and hand
And welcome her a sister
Of our Confederate band
Tho surrounded by oppression
No one dare deter
Her adding to our Bonnie Blue
Flag
Her bright and twelfth star!

Chorus (Refrain)

