

A CIVIL WAR SONG

Salvaged from a paper drive, there came into the Indiana Historical Society Library recently an old sheet of notepaper, with an embossed patriotic emblem in the upper corner, ^{and} a band of red along the top edge and of blue along the righthand margin, on which ~~are~~ written the words of a song "By Eb (or E.C.?) Harbert, 1st Battalion, Pioneer Brigade, Army of the Cumberland," to be sung to the tune "Happy Land of Canaan." The author is surely Ebenezer Harbert, private in the 70th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers, who was mustered into service at Franklin, Indiana, August 8, 1862, and transferred to the Engineer Corps August 10, 1864. A sketch of Ebenezer Harbert in a history of Johnson county tells of his Civil War service, saying he was "detailed into the Pioneer Corps of the Army of the Cumberland, and states that he is a writer and "has contributed numerous poems to the Franklin Republican" and has "written many songs of merit."

The song tells of the successes of the northern army: *

Ye Union folks I pray
 Give ear to what I say
 I will tell you how we give the rebs a training.
 From Murfreesboro, Tennessee
 Gen. Bragg was forced to flee
 Double quick from the Happy Land of Canaan .

Chorus

Oh, oh, oh, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha
 The secesh tribe is a pining
 Oh never mind the weather
 For we whiped them at Stone River
 And drove them from the Happy Land of Canaan

When General Rosecrans
 On the rebels did advance
 They stood their ground awhile without complaining
 But after five days fight
 They skedaddled in the night
 In disorder from the Happy Land of Canaan

The Union troops fought well
At every shot a rebel fell
Their tory blood the sandy soil was staining
They charged with hideous yells
But our canister and shells
Sent them flying from the Happy Land of Canaan

The Texan Rangers made
A charge upon the Board of Trade
They thought to capture it by hard straining
But it's canister and shell
Made their drunken columns reel
As they retreated from the Happy Land of Canaan

The Pioneer Brigade
Close to the ground it laid
While the missiles from the rebels guns were raining
We wisely held our fire
Till the secesh came up nigher
Then we blowed them from the Happy Land of Canaan.

~~Chicago/Board/of/Trade/Battery.//This/was/evidently~~

- * in the campaign of Stone River, during the last days of December 1862. As a part of the Army of the Cumberland at this time there was created a Pioneer Brigade, formed by a detail of two men from each company of Infantry. It was commanded by Capt. St. Clair Morton, of the Engineer Department, U.S. Army, and to it was attached the Battery recruited by the Chicago Board of Trade.

By E. B. Harbert 1st
Battalion Pioneer Brigade
Army of the Cumberland
In the Happy Land of Canaan
Ye Union folks I pray
Give ear to what I say ^(training)
I will tell you how we give the rebels
From Murfreesboro Tennessee
Gen. Bragg was forced to flee
Double quick from the Happy Land of ^(Canaan)
Chorus

Oh, oh, oh, ha, ha, ha, ha
The secesh tribe is a pining
Oh never mind the weather
For we whipped them at Stone River
And drove them from the Happy Land of ^(Canaan)

When General Rosecrans
On the rebels did advance ^(complaining)
They stood their ground a while without
But after five days fight
They shuddered in the night
In disorder from the Happy Land of Canaan

The Union Troops fought well
At every shot a rebel fell
Their tory blood the sandy soil ^{staining} was
They charged with hideous yells
But our canister and shells
Sent them flying from the Happy ^{Canaan} Land of

The Texan Rangers made
A charge upon the Board of Trade
They thought to capture it by hard straining
But its canister and shell
Made their drunken columns reel
As they retreated from the Happy ^{Ed. Canaan} Land

The Pioneer Brigade
Close to the ground it laid
While the missiles from the rebels guns ^{were raining}
We wisely held our fire
Till the secesh come up nigher
Then we blew them from the
Happy Land of Canaan