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MILITARY SONGS

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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-When Johnny Comes Marching Home

Patrick S. Gilmore, a famous 1860s bandleader whose pseudonym was Louis Lambert, composed the cheerful, popular lyrics in 1863 or 1864. At that time he served as bandmaster within Gen Nathaniel Banks' command in New Orleans. Music authorities agree the tune was adapted from an old Irish air titled "Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ye" and "Johnny, Fill up the Bowl." However, Gilmore himself claimed that he jotted down the tune when he heard it sung by a Negro. See:

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