

Drafting Music



The Civil War began on a volunteer basis, but both North and South soon initiated drafts—the South's first in 1862 and the North's in 1863. Contemporary song lyrics commented on the situation, both satirically and seriously. Are the following lyrics from Northern or Southern songs?

1. *How are you, Exempt? / Tell us what the doctor said, did he say non compos mentis, which means weakness of the head. / Or did he say your back and legs were shaped so crookedly / That you'd never do to take your gun and go along with me?*

North

South

2. *My true love is a soldier / In the army now today, / It was the cruel war that made him Have to go away; / The "draft" it was that took him, / And it was a "heavy blow," / It took him for a Conscript, / But he didn't want to go.*

North

South

3. *Oh shame upon the coward band, / Who in the conflict dire, / Went not to battle for their cause, / 'Mid the ranks of steel and fire, / Yet now since all the fighting's done / Are hourly heard to cry, / Down with the traitors, hang them all! / Each rebel dog shall die.*

North

South

4. *Wanted a Substitute! / Three hundred I'll pay! / If you know of one that wants it, / Just send him 'long this way! / What glory he'll inherit / When Rebellion is put down, / No greater mark of merit / Could any mortal crown!*

North

South

Sources:

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<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/ncdhtml/hasmhome.html> (last accessed October 5, 2010).



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Winner, Septimus. "He's Gone to the Arms of Abraham; Comic War Ballad." Pennsylvania: 1863.

<http://teachinghistory.org/history-content/quiz>