



*Daughters of the Future*

*Keepers of the Past*

## Music 2017-2018

### Music

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## Music Information

September – “OH, WILLIE, WE HAVE MISSED YOU” - Page 8

Many songs written by Stephen Foster mention the key person as being named Willie. Foster is best known for his Civil War songs, addressing both the war, the location of such, and the people involved, such as this one. Others, among many include “Camptown Races”, “Dixie” and “Swanee River”. He wrote four “Willie” songs, and might have chosen this name because it was his father's name.

October – “ROSY NELL” - Page 296

This song, by Waiter Smith, tells the story of young love shared at school and enjoyed by simple activities, such as fishing, swimming, but most of all enjoyed by swinging on the gate with Rosy Nell. The lament of the song is about a young man just wishing he could be back, - once again, swinging on the gate with Rosy Nell.

November – “THE VACANT CHAIR” - Page 38

This song was written as a poem during the Civil War, by H.S. Washburn (words) after the death of Lt. John William Grout of the 15th Massachusetts Infantry at the Battle of Ball's Bluff. Grout was 18 years old when he was killed and seemed to embody to Washburn the sacrifice made by so many young men during the Civil War. The poem became so popular that in 1861 George F. Root gave it a melody. It expresses the feelings of those left behind by those who have died or are still off fighting the war. Whether the chair is made vacant by death or absence over time, still its peculiar power is exercised. Its very emptiness has a voice and language. Its silence pleads to atone for the mistakes and failures of the past, while at the same time it recalls the kind and beautiful things which the absent occupant once performed.

December – “I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY” - LDS Hymn Book, Page 114.

On Christmas day, 1863, Longfellow, a 57 year- old widowed father of six children, the oldest of which had been nearly paralyzed as his country fought a war against itself, wrote a poem seeking to capture the dissonance in his own heart and the world he observed around him. He heard the Christmas bells that December day and the singing of “peace on earth”, but he observed the world in injustice and violence that seemed to mock the truthfulness of this optimistic outlook. This theme recurred throughout the poem, eventually leading to a peace of mind and confident hope even in the midst of bleak despair.

January – “OH, DEAR, WHAT CAN THE MATTER BE?” - Page 207

This song came to America from England and dates back to the 1770's. It made its way to America soon after the Revolutionary War and was popular in the late 1780' s as a lyrical and fun loving song and has been a popular song for children, even to this day. It was also used as a song during the suffergate time when women were trying to obtain the right to vote. It is a satirical way of them expressing how they are capable of obtaining and doing many things, but Johnny still doesn't think she has the right to vote.



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### February – “GRANDPAPA” - Contest Booklet

From Barbara McKeown: I can just picture my great grandmother, Nancy Garr Badger, singing this Bavarian waltz as she contemplates leaving her home on the trek westward. Her husband has gone ahead as a scout in the advance party, leaving her with a new baby daughter and the responsibility of helping her widowed father and his young family. Her heart is troubled, but as she sees a picture of her grandfather, Andrew Garr, she is inspired by his courage as he left his German home to come to America because of religious persecution.

### March – “THE WAY WE CROSSED THE PLAINS” - Page 299

In the early settlement of Utah men were called to take their ox teams and go to Omaha to bring back Saints who had immigrated from foreign lands. The trek was long and monotonous, so to pass the time away many of the drivers composed songs and in them told the story of their trip. This song was composed by John Murdock's company and set to the tune of one of their familiar hymns, "When Shall We Meet Again?" The immigrants caught their valiant spirit, sang the songs, and grew to love them. This song is still sung at celebrations and pioneer meetings by the descendants of the Murdock company.

### April- “ECHO CANYON” - Page 197

This is a railroad song of 1868. At a mass meeting of the people of Utah resolutions were passed to assist the Union Pacific Railroad through the Territory of Utah. Brigham Young was head of the construction. On June 8, 1868, contracts were let and the following day ground was broken near Devil's Gate in Echo Canyon. This song was composed and sung by members of the gang.

### May – “GRANDMOTHER'S OLD ARM CHAIR” - Page 292

After the singer's grandmother died, her will was found to grant large sums to several family members, but to the singer only granny's old arm chair. He is far from content, but takes the chair home and eventually discovers a fortune hidden inside. This discovery adds a very clever and fun ending to this song, which was composed by Eliza Cook (words) and Henry Russell (tune), 1880.

