

New Hampshire Supplement

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In order to keep you better informed of the happenings in the jurisdiction, I will dedicate a portion of this column to upcoming events. Below are our events for June and beyond:

- Tuesday(s) June, Grand York Rite bodies educational series, at 7:00pm online (details provided weekly)
- ~~Friday/Saturday 24-25 July, Annual Grand York Rite Banquet & Session in Concord CANCELLED~~

Onward Christian Soldier...

I was thinking of our Orders and the other work we do around them, when I remembered the hymn we often sing and wondered what the story was behind it. We so often learn these songs as children, but are never taught the story behind them. To satisfy my own curiosity, I figured I would share what I learned with you.

Its writer was the Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould, who captured the lyrics in 1865 in Yorkshire, England. What I found of interest was that he never intended for it to be published. Rev. Baring-Gould recounted his reasons for writing it and said, "*It was written in a very simple fashion ... Whitmonday is a great day for school festivals in Yorkshire, and one Whitmonday it was arranged that our school should join its forces with that of a neighboring village. I wanted the children to sing when marching from one village to the other, but couldn't think of anything quite suitable, so I sat up at night resolved to write something myself. "Onward, Christian Soldiers" was the result. It was written in great haste, and I am afraid some of the rhymes are faulty. Certainly, nothing has surprised me more than its great popularity.*" We know, however, that it did make its way into publication and was well received in the US, as the country was fresh from the civil war and the military

spirit still lingered on among many. It was not until 1871 that the actual tune we know to accompany the lyrics was drafted. Arthur Sullivan entitled the tune "St. Gertrude", it was well received and replaced the original tune that Rev. Baring-Gould had set it to (Haydn's Symphony in D, No.15). The lyrics, while military in nature, do not speak to physical conflict, but rather that spiritual battle that we all must contend with. Take a moment to reflect on them, especially the next time we sing them.

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
Forward into battle see His banners go!

*Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus going on before.*

At the sign of triumph Satan's host doth flee;
On then, Christian soldiers, on to victory!
Hell's foundations quiver at the shout of praise;
Brothers lift your voices, loud your anthems raise.

Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod.
We are not divided, all one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

What the saints established that I hold for true.
What the saints believed, that I believe too.
Long as earth endureth, men the faith will hold,
Kingdoms, nations, empires, in destruction rolled.

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
But the church of Jesus constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never gainst that church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.

Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,
Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.

Glory, laud and honor unto Christ the King,
This through countless ages men and angels sing.

York Rite Calendar -- <https://nhYorkrite.org/calendars/>

IHS,
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