

## America

(My Country, 'Tis of Thee)

America was written by Rev. Samuel F. Smith, a Baptist minister, who was born in Boston, October 21, 1808, and died November 16, 1895.

One of Dr. Smith's friends was Lowell Mason, the eminent musician. A friend had given Mr. Mason a lot of German music books. Being unable to read German the musician took the books to Dr. Smith and asked him to translate some of the songs for him.

Dr. Smith says: "Turning over the leaves of the book one gloomy day in February, 1832, I came across the air, "God save the King." I liked the music. I glanced at the German words at the foot of the page. Under the inspiration of the moment I went to work and in half an hour "America" was the result. It was written on a scrap of paper I picked up from the table and the hymn of today is substantially as it was written that day."

The hymn was first sung at a children's Fourth of July celebration in Park Street Church, Boston. It did not have great popularity until the Civil War. Since then it has become the best known and most frequently sung of any of our national songs. The origin of the music is uncertain. But one writer aptly says: "There certainly must be something more than ordinarily inspiring in an air which has struck the popular heart of two of the great nations of the earth."

SAMUEL FRANCIS SMITH

HENRY CAREY (?)

*With a moderately quick motion*

1. My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of lib-er-ty, Of thee we sing. Land where my  
 2. My na-tive coun-try, thee, Land of the no-ble free, Thy name I love. I love thy  
 3. Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees Sweet freedom's song. Let mortal  
 4. Our fathers! God, to Thee, Author of lib-er-ty, To Thee we sing. Long may our

*mf*

fa-thers died! Land of the Pil-grim's pride! From ev-ry mountain side, Let freedom ring!  
 rocks and rills, Thy woods and templed hills; My heart with rapture thrills Like that a-bove.  
 tongues awake; Let all that breathe partake; Let rocks their silence break, The sound prolong.  
 land be bright With freedom's ho-ly light; Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King!

*ff*

## God Bless Our Native Land

(Tune — America)

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| <p>1. God bless our native land,<br/>         Firm may she ever stand<br/>         Through storm and night!<br/>         When the wild tempests rave,<br/>         Ruler of wind and wave,<br/>         Do thou our country save,<br/>         By thy great might!</p> | <p>2. For her our prayers shall rise,<br/>         To God above the skies,<br/>         On him we wait;<br/>         Thou who art ever nigh,<br/>         Guarding with watchful eye,<br/>         To thee aloud we cry,<br/>         God save the state!</p> |
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CHARLES T. BROOKS AND JOHN S. DWIGHT

## The American's Creed

"I believe in the United States of America as a Government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of states; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

"I, therefore, believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its Flag, and to defend it against all enemies?" — William Tyler Page