

The Battle Hymn of the Republic

Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910) wrote this hymn during the Civil War. While visiting an army camp near Washington, D. C., she heard the soldiers singing “John Brown’s Body,” a 19th-century camp-meeting song with a strong marching beat. Howe describes the creation of the hymn:

“I awoke in the grey of the morning, and as I lay waiting for dawn, the long lines of the desired poem began to entwine themselves in my mind, and I said to myself, ‘I must get up and write these verses, lest I fall asleep and forget them!’ So I sprang out of bed and in the dimness found an old stump of a pen, which I remembered using the day before. I scrawled the verses almost without looking at the paper.”

Of the original six verses, we will sing three:

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
His truth is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps
They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
His day is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His day is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
He is sifting out the hearts of men before His judgment seat;
Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer Him! be jubilant, my feet;
Our God is marching on.

Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Our God is marching on.



Center Park – 100 Years Sunday, May 15, 2005



1:00 p.m.

Walking Tour

From 20 Hartford Road to Center Park



2:00 p.m.

Centennial Celebration of Center Park

Near the Civil War monument

Intersection of Main and Center Streets

Rain location: Salvation Army, 661 Main Street

Sponsored by the Manchester Historical Society



Center Park’s Dancing Bear Fountain contemporary photo by John Spaulding



Program

1. Prelude, *Land of Freedom*, by Stephen Bulla, presented by The Salvation Army, Manchester Citadel Band, Michael Orfitelli, Bandmaster.
2. Welcome, by Susan Barlow, Manchester Historical Society.
3. Song, *Tenting Tonight*, by Walter Kittredge, presented by The Universal Voices, Robert Richardson, Director.
4. "History of Center Park," by Susan Barlow.
5. Song, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, by Julia Ward Howe, audience and choir, led by Robert Richardson, accompanied by The Manchester Citadel Band.
6. "Preserving the Park," by Dr. Frederick Spaulding, Friends of Center Park.
7. "What Is The Permanent Memorial Day Committee?" by Kipp Miller, Committee Chair.
8. Songs: *Just Before the Battle, Mother*, by George F. Root, and *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*, by Patrick Sarsfield Gilmore, presented by The Universal Voices.
9. Poem, *Oh, May I Join The Choir Invisible*, by George Eliot (1819-1880), presented by Susan Barlow.
10. Closing words
11. Postlude, *Departure*, by Felix Mendelson, arranged by Eric Ball, presented by The Manchester Citadel Band.



Directly after today's program, join the Historical Society's informal tour, visiting the Park's monuments and notable trees.

Please join in celebrating the recent refurbishing of our Civil War statue on **Saturday, June 4**, here in the park. For details, and for listings of other Manchester *Pride and Heritage* events:

<http://www.townofmanchester.org/prideandheritage/>

Printed by the Town of Manchester – Text and graphics by Susan Barlow
Photo-board displays by John Spaulding, Manchester Historical Society

A Brief History of Center Park

The northeast corner of today's park was set aside as a town green even before Manchester incorporated as a town in 1823. In 1876, this land, known as Monument Park, was chosen for the site of a Civil War monument. The statue of a young soldier was dedicated in 1877.

In 1896, Frank Cheney (1817-1904), one of the Cheney Brothers who founded the silk mill dynasty, donated land on Center Street to enlarge the park and provide a place for the Hall of Records, today's Probate Court. The Spanish-American war monument is nearby.

Susan Cheney (1827-1914), Frank's widow, offered to lay out a park, and the town voted on **May 15, 1905**, to accept her offer, authorizing her to "make such changes in grade or otherwise ... including laying walks, placing or removing trees, shrubbery or constructing other improvements thereon, as she may think best: always provided that she...shall hold the town harmless from all loss, cost, expense and damage..." (Minutes of a Special Town Meeting). During this period, the curving walks and sturdy walls were designed.

In 1909, the Cheney family donated the "Dancing Bear" fountain in Frank Cheney's memory. The bronze statue itself was sculpted by Albert Humphreys; the fountain's stone base was designed by Charles Adams Platt, grandson of George Wells Cheney.

In 1912, Chestnut Street, which formerly cut right through the park, was closed off at Linden Street. Susan then deeded to the Town the three acres of land that complete the seven-acre park we know today. Mrs. Cheney also gave \$15,000 for park maintenance.

In 1921, the Daughters of the American Revolution donated a fountain to memorialize those who fought in the Revolutionary War. This fountain, which Charles Adams Platt also designed, had many locations before coming to a spot near Linden and Center Streets.

In 1937, the town library opened. It was named in honor of philanthropist Mary Cheney, daughter of Frank and Susan. The library was expanded in the 1960s, with two wings added.

Renovations of the Park's landscaping, pavilion, and monuments have occurred over the years. Manchester's Park and Recreation department maintains the Park.

– Historical notes prepared in April 2005, by Susan Barlow