

Wisconsin's war eagle.

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RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
TO THE
AMERICAN SOLDIERS

A. G. WEISSERT
MILWAUKEE, WIS.

WISCONSIN'S WAR EAGLE



Patriotic Song
and Chorus

WORDS & MUSIC
BY

⑤ **ALLIE M. BRADFORD.**

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* WISCONSIN'S WAR EAGLE. *

OLD ABE, the Eighth Wisconsin War Eagle, whose fame is a part of the nation's history, was captured in the forests of Wisconsin by Chief Sky, a Chippawa Indian, in 1861, and sold to Captain John E. Perkins of Company C, Eighth Wisconsin Regiment, which later, on account of the fame of this bird, was known as the Eagle Regiment.

Through a novel ceremony he was sworn into service and became a member of Company C, Eighth Wisconsin Volunteers, and went to the front October 12, 1861. The Madison State Journal of September 10, 1861, speaking of this eagle and regiment, as they passed through Madison, says: "Just as they entered camp, the eagle expanded his wings and seized the flag in his beak. The incident attracted much attention and if it had happened in other days, in a Roman Camp, would have been regarded by the Augurs as a singularly favorable omen."

As they passed through Chicago, the Chicago Tribune of October 13, said: "A noticeable feature among them was the Eau Clair Eagle Company, of first class stalwart fellows. The live eagle which they brought with them was an object of much curiosity. He is a majestic bird and well trained. No doubt, the Eau Claire Eagles and their pet bird will be heard of again." How true the prediction. With his regiment, Old Abe participated in twenty-five battles and many skirmishes. He appeared to enter into a battle with all the zeal of a true soldier. He would become wild with excitement as the destruction went on around him, apparently comprehending the situation to the fullest extent. Whenever the regiment, while under terrible fire, would be ordered to lie down, he would jump off his perch and lay as low to the ground as possible, remaining there, until the regiment was ordered to rise and advance, when he would fly to his perch again.

During one of the battles, the cord fastening him to his perch, was cut by a bullet and he circled away in the smoke, screaming with excitement. After viewing the fierce combat for a time from over head, he appeared to catch sight of his regiment through the dense smoke and came sweeping down to his perch again.

The Southerners were very anxious to capture him. One of their prominent generals was heard to say: "I would rather capture Old Abe than a whole brigade." He served the full term of three years and was mustered out with his Company, returning to Wisconsin September 22, 1864, where he was cared for at Madison by the state until he died in 1881. He may now be seen in the G. A. R. Department in the Capitol in Madison, an impressive, although silent reminder, of the Nation's great combat.

WISCONSIN'S WAR EAGLE.

Words and Music by ALLIE M. BRADFORD



1. As I list - ened to the ech - o, Roll - ing in from out the
2. Then this ech - o stirred with - in me, Mem - 'ries of the long a -
3. Oh! that proud and no - ble Ea - gle, Com - rade of the Boys in



past, Bring - ing strains of mar - tial mu - sic, Ev - er
go, And the spir - it of the six - ties, Stood be -
Blue, As they fought for this great Un - ion, Ev - er





in · my thoughts to last, Then I could but stop and
 fore me all a · glow; And a · gain I dreamed of
 to their flag were true; Sac · red bird from God's own



won · der, As I fanc · ied, that I heard That long,
 bat · tle, From my eyes their fell a tear, As
 for · est, To our Sol · dier Boys was given; May his



shrill and ling · 'ring ech · o, From "Old Abe," the "Liber · ty Bird."
 I re · called those he · roes, Ev · er to this coun · try dear.
 long, shrill ling · 'ring ech · o, Nev · er from our mem · 'ry riven.

Wisconsin's War Eagle.—3-2.

CHORUS.

"Old Abe," the Bird we love best, "Old Abe," the

pride of the West; To our glor - i - ous flag, It's

red, white and blue, And "Wis - con - sin's War Ea - gle" we'll ev - er be true.

