

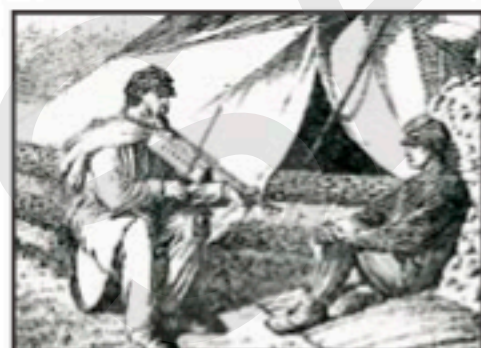


Garry Owen

Traditional
Arr. by Tom Morley

Lively ♩ = 85

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Learn more about Civil War Fiddlers

The Civil War was a terrible chapter in American history, with tens of thousands of soldiers, Federal and Confederate, wounded or killed on battlefields; but the war provided fiddler players with a unique opportunity. Prior to the war, many people never traveled out of their home county, and the only tunes a fiddler would know were those he heard in his hometown. As regiments formed in each state, soldiers who played fiddle got the opportunity to learn and trade tunes with others from across the state or from much farther away.

Millions of Irish immigrated to America during the Great Famine in Ireland (1845-1852), and as Irish fiddle players became soldiers and shared tunes with other fiddlers, their music spread across America. Many of the traditional Irish tunes they played became favorites, sometimes adopted by regiments as official marching tunes.

Fiddlers provided much needed and appreciated entertainment to the troops. There was usually one or more in every regiment, and whenever there was a break in the fighting, they pulled out their instruments, often made out of whatever materials were available. This famous illustration shows two Civil War soldiers at a campsite, one playing a fiddle made from a cigar box. The etching was created by illustrator Edwin Forbes who worked for the Union Army, under the auspices of Frank Leslie's *Illustrated Newspaper*.