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Suggested Citation:

“Civil War Song of Linsay Hasten Fields.” *Tennessee Ancestors* 4, no. 3 (December 1988): 230.

CIVIL WAR SONG OF LINSAY HASTEN FIELDS

Submitted by Jack R. Freels

"The lyrics of this untitled song were written in 1865 by my great-great-grandfather, Linsay Hasten Fields. Written on the day he was being mustered out of the Union Army, his words tell his whole story. It has been passed down from generation to generation in my family." Jack R. Freels, 113 Richards Drive., Oliver Springs, TN.

EDITOR'S NOTE: LINDSEY H. FIELDS is listed in Tennesseans in the Civil War as a private in Co. B of the First Volunteer Infantry of the Union Army. His military service record on microfilm (395-119) indicates that he was aged 20 when he was furloughed September 24, 1864 to return to his home in Morgan County. Fields enlisted for a three year term in Huntsville, TN on August 14, 1862. The sentiments he expresses are very much like those of Thomas Bible of Co I of the First Tennessee Infantry.

Come all ye gay young soldiers
And listen unto me;
I'm nothing but an exile
From East Tennessee;
I'll tell you how I come here,
And how I come to roam,
"Twas because I loved my country,
And was driven from my home.

I crossed those high-topped mountains
To join the Union band;
To help fight the rebels
And drive them from our land;
They cursed our wives and mothers
And told them we were gone,
Across the mountains to Kentucky
And never should return.

They stole our mules and horses
And rode them by our door;
They stole our corn and bacon
When we could get no more;
But now the war is ended
And we are coming in;
You ask us for protection
And to forgive your sins.

You say you'll be submissive,
The truth to us you'll tell;
Although you once opposed us
And wished we were in hell;
But I never can forgive you
For holding men as slaves;
I'll have a hatred for you
Whilst I am from the grave.