REUBEN GROVE'S BALLAD

War of 1812

Submitted by John G. Peck, Jr.

The manuscript of the following ballad was found among the papers of Reuben Grove, a Tennessee soldier of the War of 1812. Verses of this same song were also found among the papers of Capt. Jacob Hartsell of Washington County, Tennessee. [See ETHS PUBLICATIONS No. 11 (1939) 93-115]. Reuben Grove is further identified in the Grove Family Record and Grove Family Bible articles also published in this issue.

1) Our Countrys invaded O hear the alarm
   Turn out sons of Tennessee and gird on your arms
   We are sons of Columbia and strangers to fear
   Sure heaven will smile on the Brave Volunteer

2) Our campaign will prosper, our trust is in God
   For what calls for vengeance like Innocent blood
   Our nations in danger, the enemy is near
   Then don't be afraid to turn out, volunteer

3) The arms now suspended will soon strike the blow
   And the blood thirsty murdering savages lay low
   Let savages tremble and great Briton fear
   When they hear of the March of the Brave Volunteer

4) Let everyman to his post quickly fly
   And before he'll surrender determined to die
   And teach Briton's army by this time next year
   The force wealth and power of the Brave Volunteer

5) The blood of our Fathers has bought liberty
   And raised up a nation proud hearted and free
   Their sons will maintain it their freedom so dear
   And to meet their Invaders, turn out volunteer

6) We'll kill all the torys if any we find
   We'll march and we'll leave all the Cowards behind
   We'll leave them at home their Coward coats to wear
   Whilst we go campaigning, the Brave Volunteer

7) The rich and the pore, the grate and the small
   Transported to see us defending them all
   And oft they will think and for us shed a tear
   And say their success to the Brave Volunteer

8) We'll glory in fighting in liberty's cause
   Our fame through the world shall be sung withal
   Whilst others oppressed with tyranny sever
   We will stand recorded the Brave Volunteer.
9) Then will be enroled the records of fame
   Our Dead will inspire sweet Liberty's flame
   Our tombs will be honoured with tears, and with (?)
   And Hosanah be sung o'er the Brave Volunteers

10) We'll leave our dear wives and our sweethearts behind
   And they'll wait with patience for our return
   To Deserters and Cowards our sweethearts will declare
   They'll smile upon none but the Brave Volunteer

11) When wars and it thunders shall cease for to roar
   Then we will return and Enjoy our store
   Our wives and our sweethearts will meet us with cheer
   And fly to the armes of the Brave Volunteer

12) With joy we'll embrace our friends all again
   With our wives and our children at home we'll remain
   We'll train up our Children their rights to revere
   And when they're invaded turn out Volunteer

Reuben Grove His Song Ballad
Reuben wrote the 15 of January 1814