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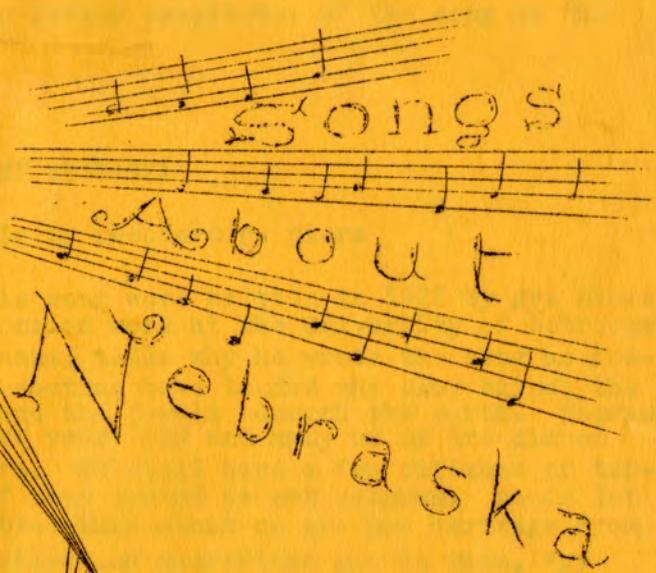
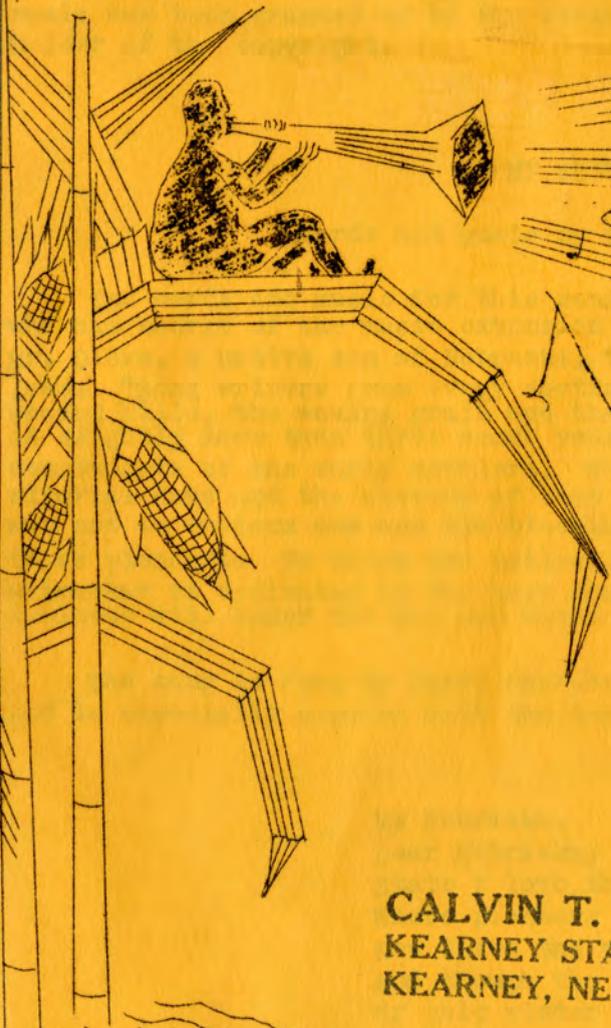
NEBRASKA FOLKLORE

# NEBRASKA

# FOLKLORE

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PAMPHLET FIFTEEN



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FEDERAL WRITERS PROJECT

NEBRASKA SEPTEMBER 1938

NEBRASKA FOLKLORE PAMPHLETS  
Reproduced from Material Gathered for a Book on the Folklore of the State  
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FEDERAL WRITERS' PROJECT IN NEBRASKA  
Prepared in Cooperation With the State Superintendent of Public  
Instruction

Number Fifteen  
SONGS ABOUT NEBRASKA  
September, 1938

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The songs collected in this pamphlet are those that are sung the most or are best known by the people of the state. For each song we include a brief history and we have included the melody for those not sung to familiar airs. In each case permission to use the words and music has been granted us by the proper proprietor of the song or the holder of the copyright.

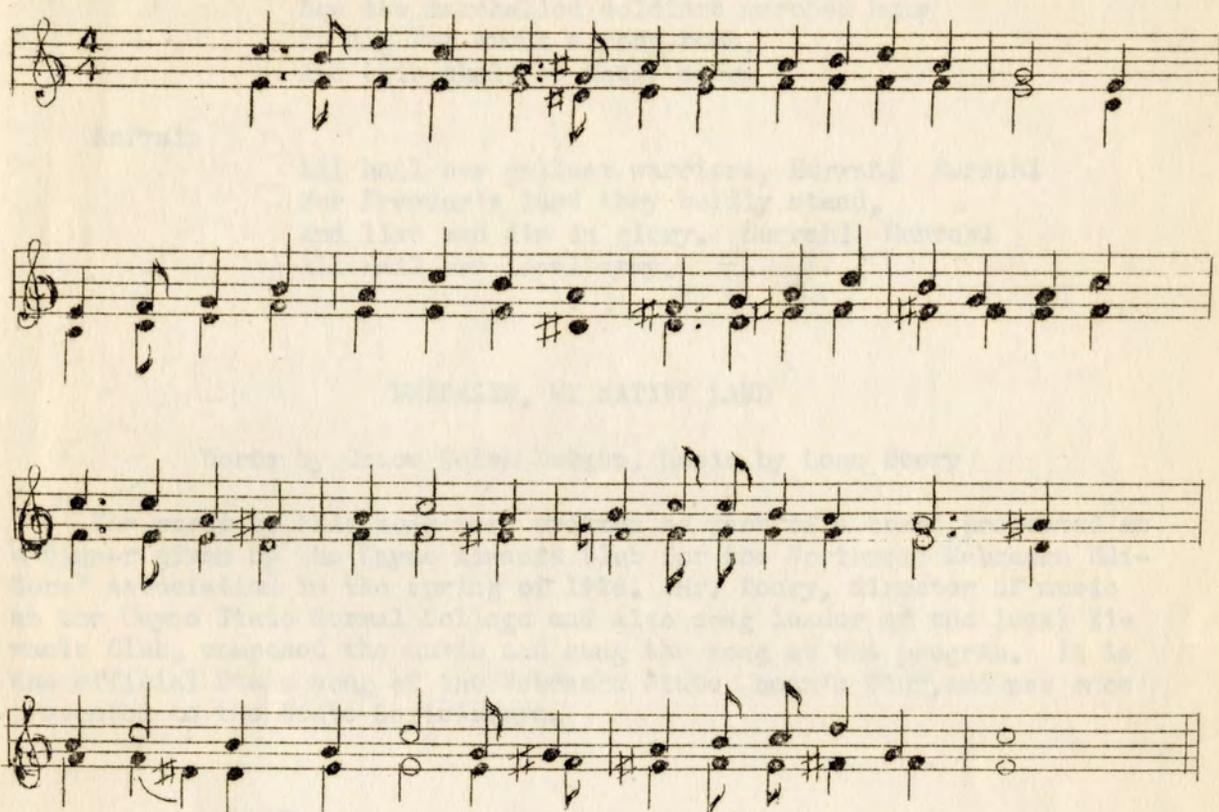
MY NEBRASKA

Words and Music by Theodore C. Diers

The words and music for this song were written in 1922 by Mr. Diers, who has charge of the music extension work at the University of Nebraska. Mr. Diers, a native son of Nebraska, tells why he wrote the song as follows: "Song writers from every section have lauded the blue skies, the wooded hills, the waving grain and the jewels beneath the earth. Nebraska is slightly more than three score years old and many of us are direct descendents of the early settlers. We still have a few citizens of territorial days and the history of that period is not unknown. Their lot was not an envious one and the blessings about us are our heritage from those pioneers. To those who toiled and sacrificed not in vain, 'My Nebraska' is dedicated in the hope that all the popularity it merits or achieves will honor the men and women who came before us."

The song is sung by rural choruses at the State Fair each year and is especially popular with the 4-H Club girls and boys.

My Nebraska,  
Dear Nebraska,  
State I love the best,  
Where pioneers first led the way,  
Now lives the people blessed.  
And though the sun shines hot in summer  
Or cold winter winds may blow,  
It's always fair weather,  
In Nebraska,  
Where real folks grow.



My Nebraska,  
 Fair Nebraska,  
 Praise I sing of thes.  
 No spot in all the whole wide world  
 Is half so dear to me.  
 From dewy dawn to flaming sunset,  
 In twilight and long night through,  
 We'll all pull together;  
 Oh Nebraska,  
 We're proud of you.

#### NEBRASKA'S BATTLE SONG

Written by Ira Kellogg

This song, which first appeared in the "Souvenir Song Book from Manila," was written by Ira Kellogg of the First Nebraska Regiment, who was apparently the poet laureat of his company. It is sung to the tune of "Dixie."

Oh, the plainsmen's sons to the war have gone,  
 They'll put their belts and blouses on,  
 And they'll not retreat till the cause is won,  
 But fight and die for glory.

And the birds shall sing in the time to come  
 How the marshalled soldiers marched home  
 To dig for wrong a gory tomb,  
 And this shall be their story

Refrain

All hail our gallant warriors, Hurrah! Hurrah!  
 For freedom's land they boldly stand,  
 And live and die in glory. Hurrah! Hurrah!  
 All hail our loyal army.

NEBRASKA, MY NATIVE LAND

Words by Grace Welsh Lutgen, Music by Leon Beery

The words to this song were written as part of a toast presented at a dinner given by the Wayne Kiwanis Club for the Northwest Nebraska Editors' Association in the spring of 1924. Mr. Beery, director of music at the Wayne State Normal College and also song leader of the local Kiwanis Club, composed the music and sang the song at the program. It is the official State song of the Nebraska State Woman's Club, and was once presented to the State Legislature.

The image displays four staves of musical notation for the song "NEBRASKA, MY NATIVE LAND". Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes various note values such as quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and slurs. The first staff contains the first line of music, the second staff the second line, the third staff the third line, and the fourth staff the fourth line. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for a school or community song.

Chorus:

4

The image shows a musical score for the chorus of the song 'O Nebraska'. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'Chorus:' and has a '4' in the top right corner. The music is written in a single melodic line on a five-line staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 2/4. The melody is simple and folk-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes, and some rests. There are several phrases connected by slurs. A purple stamp is visible in the center of the page, partially overlapping the music.

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You may sing of your oceans and lakosidos,  
Of your mountains so lofty and grand,  
Of the prairies I'll sing and my praises shall ring,  
For Nobraska, my native land.

Chorus:

Out here where the sun shines so brightly  
It turns all nature to gold;  
Here the yellow corn grows  
And the golden grain blows,  
While pastures hold wealth untold,  
The birds fill the air with their gladness,  
There's beauty on every hand,  
Where the red sumac glows and the goldenrod grows  
Nobraska, my native land.

You may boast of your historic places  
 Tell the tales of your primitive band,  
 Not the past but today, be the game work or play  
 In Nebraska, my native land.

### THE KINKAIDER'S SONG

Word by Edwin Ford Piper

This song is included in Mr. Piper's collection of pioneer songs at the State University of Iowa. It is sung to the tune of "Maryland, My Maryland," which melody is based upon the German song "Tannenbaum," which is possibly derived from an old Italian melody "Vittoria."

The song honors Moses P. Kinkaid, Congressman from the Sixth District, 1903-19, who introduced the bill for 640-acre homesteads, and was hailed as a benefactor of the sandhill region. The song is included in Sandburg's "Songbag," and in a syllabus compiled by Miss Louise Pound. The song was frequently sung by homesteaders in the Nebraska sandhill region at old settlers picnics, reunions, or political gatherings. The phrase "out of sight" was a slang term used in the late 1880's to indicate excellence or quality.

You ask what place I like the best,  
 The sandhills, O; the old sandhills;  
 The place Kinkaiders make their home  
 And prairie chickens freely roam.

Chorus (for first and second verses):  
 In all Nebraska's wide domain  
 'Tis the place we long to see again;  
 The sandhills are the very best,  
 She is queen of all the rest.

The corn we raise is our delight,  
 The melons, too, are out of sight.  
 Potatoes grown are extra fine  
 And can't be beat in any clime.

The peaceful cows in pastures dream,  
 And furnish us with golden cream;  
 So I shall keep my Kinkaid home  
 And never far away shall roam.

Chorus (third verse):  
 Then let us all with hearts sincere  
 Thank him for what has brought us here,  
 And for the homestead law he made,  
 This noble Moses P. Kinkaid.

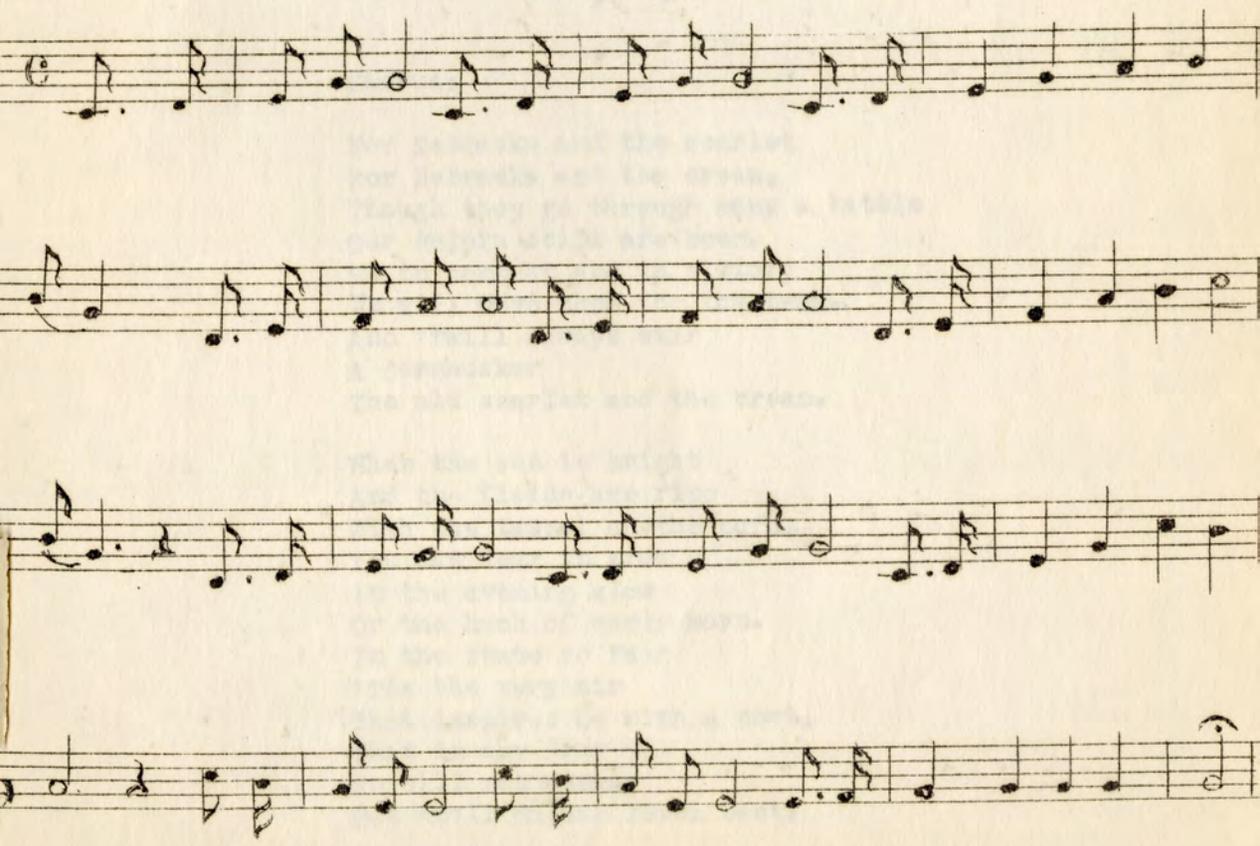
THE CORNHUSKER

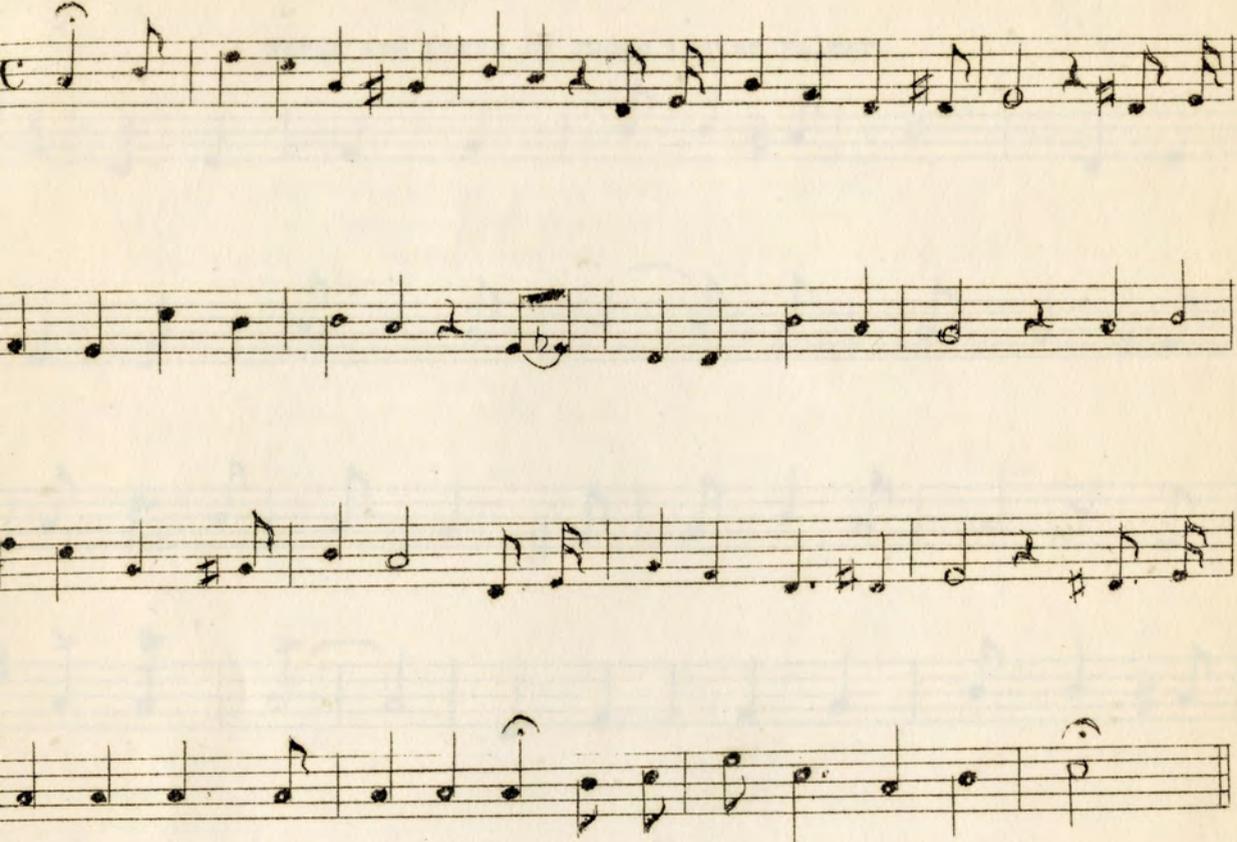
Official Field Song of the University of Nebraska

By Robert W. Stevens

This veteran university song was written in 1912 and has become traditional. It was long the custom, at the conclusion of every football game, for the students to seal a victory or defeat alike with the singing of "The Cornhusker." It is the custom to stand with head bared during the singing of this song.

Come a running boys,  
Don't you hear that noise  
Like the thunder in the sky?  
How it rolls along  
In a good old song  
For the sons of Ne-bras-ki:  
Now it's coming near  
With a rising cheer  
That will sweep all foes away,  
So with all our vim  
We are bound to win  
And we're going to win today.





## Chorus:

For Nebraska and the scarlet  
For Nebraska and the cream,  
Though they go through many a battle  
Our colors still are seen.  
So in contest and in victory  
We will wave them for the team.  
And 'twill always stir  
A Cornhusker  
The old scarlet and the cream.

When the sun is bright  
And the fields are ripe  
With the tassel on the corn,  
You can hear it grow  
In the evening glow  
Or the hush of early morn.  
In the state so fair  
'Tis the very air  
That inspires us with a zest,  
That in any fray  
We will not dismay  
But we'll do our level best.

## AK-SAR-BEN

Words and Music by Judge Lester Palmer

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Ak-Sar-Ben'. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is written in a simple, march-like style with various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, along with rests and slurs. The music concludes with a double bar line and a final chord.

Ak-Sar-ben the best in the land  
 Loyal men united we stand.  
 We'll all work together  
 To make our State better;  
 All hail to Ak-Sar-Ben.  
 Boost Nebraska best State of all,  
 Knights you have answered the call;  
 March on happy throng,  
 Boost our State along;  
 All hail to Ak-Sar-Ben.

## NATION'S WHITE SPOT

Words by Judge Lester Palmer

Use Ak-Sar-Ben tune.

Nation's White Spot, best in the land,  
 Cornhuskers united we stand;  
 We all work together—  
 Our taxes are lower;  
 All hail to Nebraska, rah, rah, rah!  
 Nation's White Spot, all farms aglow,  
 State where we pay as we go,  
 Sales tax we have none—  
 Good times here have come;  
 All hail to Nebraska.

## DEAR OLD NEBRASKA U

Words and Music by Harry Pecha

This song was composed in 1923 for male quartet use. It has become one of the most popular of the University songs, and is sung at gatherings of Nebraskans, both in and out of the State, on shipboard, and in many foreign countries.

The musical score is written on four staves. The first staff begins with a 3/4 time signature. The music is a male quartet setting, featuring a melody line and three accompaniment parts. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The piece concludes with a final cadence on the fourth staff.



There is no place like Nebraska,  
 Dear old Nebraska U;  
 Where the girls are the fairest,  
 The boys are the squarest,  
 Of any old school that I knew.  
 There is no place like Nebraska,  
 Where they're all true blue;  
 We'll all stick together,  
 In all kinds of weather,  
 For dear old Nebraska U.

#### NEBRASKA, FAIR STATE OF THE WEST

By Mrs. C.E. Sikes

The writer, inspired by the Iowa "Tall Corn" song, thought Nebraskans could have one suggestive of their State, and wrote this song. The song is probably sung for the first time by Spanish War veterans in 1928. It is sung to the tune "Hot Time." X

When you see Nebraska corn and wheat,  
 Sugar, butter, cattle, hogs and sheep,  
 Then you'll know the world may come and eat,  
 Nebraska, the gateway of the west, Nebraska.

In September at our great State Fair,  
 You will see these products gathered there,  
 Then you'll hear the people all declare,  
 Nebraska, Fair State of the West.

## BLUE JAY MARCH

Words and Music by Judge Lester Palmer  
and Eddie Perrigo

A Creighton University song.

The musical score consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The music is written in a simple, march-like style with various note values, rests, and dynamic markings such as accents (>) and slurs. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some longer note values and rests. The score concludes with a final double bar line and a fermata over the last note.

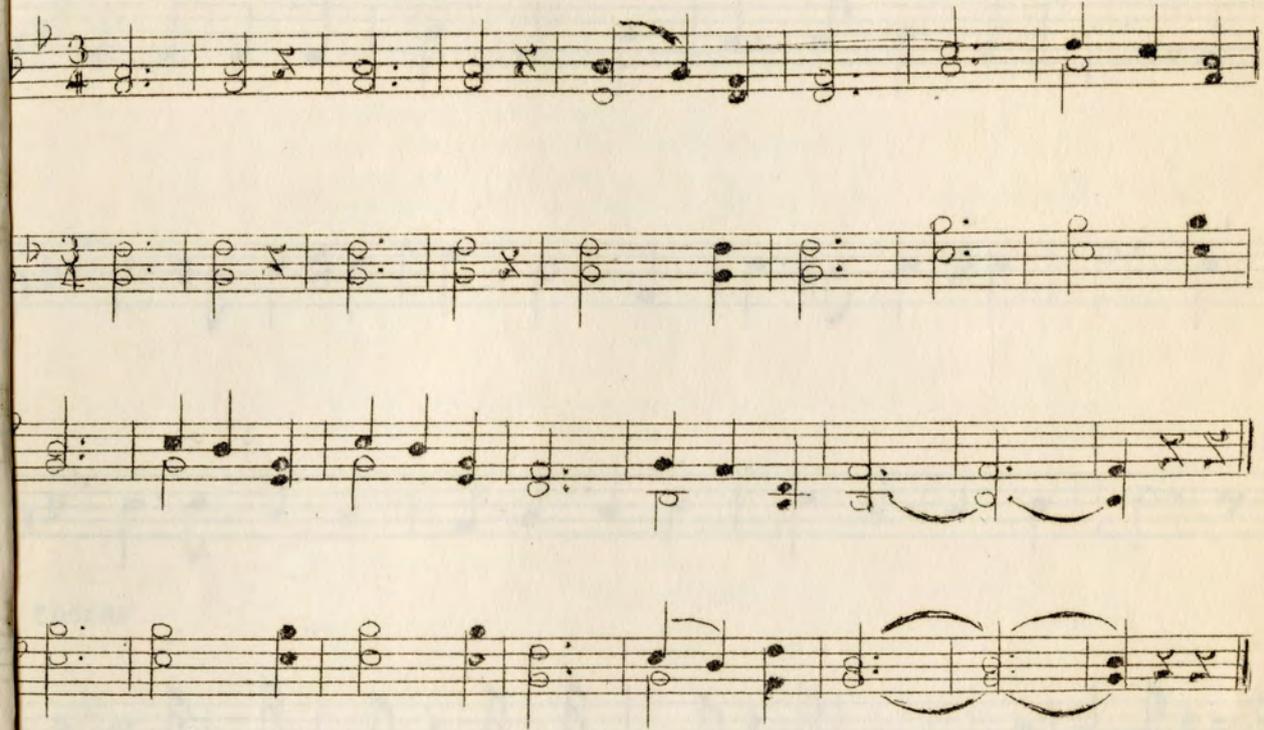
Blue Jays fight for dear old Creighton,  
Fight for the white and blue.  
Hail to our Alma Mater,  
Sing to her colors true—rah, rah, rah!

Hail to you sons of Hilltop,  
Vict'ry depends on you—rah, rah, rah!  
Blue Jays fight for dear old Creighton,  
Fight for the white and the blue.

## CHANT

(University of Nebraska)

The music for the chant was part of an Omaha Indian tune arranged by H.P. Eames for a pageant by H.B. Alexander in 1916. In 1918 Professor R.D. Scott, of the University of Nebraska, adapted words to this music.



U rah, N rah,

U - N - I,

U varsity, N varsity,

Ne - bras - ki,

Ne - bras - ki.

NEBRASKA

Words and Music by Bess Gearhart Morrison  
and Elizabeth H. Griffith

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The chorus of this song, written about 1925, received a prize from the Lincoln Woman's Club offered for a marching song to be used at the National Federation of Woman's Clubs at Atlantic City. The words for the verses were written later.



You may sing of wondrous cities,  
 Of mountains great and grand,  
 Of busy harbors teeming  
 With ships from ev'ry land;  
 We sing of far flung prairies,  
 Vast fields of golden grain,  
 We sing of homes and health and wealth,  
 And men of brawn and brain.

Chorus:

Nebraska, Nebraska,  
 We greet her with three cheers!  
 Nebraska, Nebraska,  
 The dream of the pioneers.  
 Nebraska, Nebraska,  
 The pride of all the West,  
 With cities fair and prairies rare,  
 We love Nebraska best.

We'll carry on the spirit  
 Of the hardy pioneers;  
 We're building for the future,  
 To bless the coming years.  
 Then, here's to our Nebraska,  
 Midway from sea to sea;  
 We sing of her for what she is,  
 And what she is to be.

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NEBRASKA FOLKLORE PAMPHLET Number 16 will be issued in October, and will  
 contain BALLADS.

