

Arkansas Black History Online

Marching song of the First Arkansas (Colored) Regiment.

From: Scott, John A., editor. *Living Documents in American History: From Earliest Colonial Times to the Civil War*. New York: Washington Square Press, 1963, pp. 583-584.

Marching Song of the First Arkansas (Colored) Regiment

tune: *John Brown's Body*

Oh, we're the bully soldiers of the "First of Arkansas,"
We are fighting for the Union, we are fighting for the law,
We can hit a Rebel further than a white man ever saw,
As we go marching on.

Glory, glory hallelujah,
Glory, glory hallelujah,
Glory, glory hallelujah,
As we go marching on.

See, there above the center, where the flag is waving bright,
We are going out of slavery; we're bound for freedom's light;
We mean to show Jeff Davis how the Africans can fight,
As we go marching on!
Glory, glory hallelujah, etc.

We have done with hoeing cotton, we have done with hoeing corn,
We are colored Yankee soldiers, now, as sure as you are born;
When the masters hear us yelling, they'll think it's Gabriel's horn,
As we go marching on.
Glory, glory hallelujah, etc.

They will have to pay us wages, the wages of their sin,
They will have to bow their foreheads to their colored kith and kin,
They will have to give us house-room, or the roof shall tumble in!
As we go marching on.
Glory, glory hallelujah, etc.

They said, "Now colored brethren, you shall be forever free,
From the first of January, Eighteen hundred sixty-three."
We heard it in the river going rushing to the sea,
As it went sounding on.

Glory, glory hallelujah, etc.

Father Abraham has spoken and the message has been sent,
The prison doors he opened, and out the prisoners went,
To join the sable army of the "African descent,"
As we go marching on.

Glory, glory hallelujah, etc.

Then fall in, colored brethren, you'd better do it soon,
Don't you hear the drum a-beating the Yankee Doodle tune?
We are with you now this morning, we'll be far away at noon,
As we go marching on.

Glory, glory hallelujah, etc.