HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE BAND.

The Marine Band has an odd history. It had a chance beginning nearly a century ago. Tradition has it that a Yankee ship captain kidnapped a band of strolling players near Naples and brought it to this country with threats and promises. If this story is to be believed, it is also true that a great many wealthy and prominent people of Italian origin now living in Washington, are descendants of these original members of what is now the Marine Band. But the records of the Marine Corps at Washington say that the band was brought to this country by Lieut. Archibald Henderson, of the Marine Corps. There were thirteen of the musicians, and promises of a vague nature were made to them when they were brought to America on a war vessel. These promises, it is said, they thought were not fulfilled, and they demanded to be returned to their own native land. The demand was denied, and they remained at the Marine barracks, classified in the service as "drummers and fife," and paid as enlisted men. They had no leader, and the position of "lieutenant" was filled by one or another of them indifferently. The first recognized leader was John L. Clibb, of the schoop Lexington. He served from August 14, 1815, for nine years, and was succeeded by Ensign Friquet. He served until 1818. Then came Francis Seheng, who served until 1816; then Joseph Cowell, until 1819; then Antonio Fons, until 1815; then Francis Seheng, until 1823; then Antonio Fons again, until 1824; then Francis Seheng, until 1824. It was during the second term of Scale as leader of the band, that the position he held was raised to the dignity of bandmaster, instead of fife major. The new title was created by the act of 1819, and by this act the musicians were regularly recognized as members of the Marine Corps and required to enlist. Up to that period the band had been merely an attachment to the corps, half recognized and half tolerated. By the new law the members of the band were made subject to retirement and pension. When the members of the band enlisted, there were thirty musicians. They were divided into four classes—first, second and third-class musicians and privates. Now there are forty-six. The first bandmaster after Scale was Henry Fries, who served two years; then came Louis Schneider, who served seven years; then...

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA,
who was leader from 1880 to 1892; then Prof. Panciulli, the present bandmaster. Sousa was the most famous of all the bandmasters; in fact, he brought the band to that state of perfection in playing which made it possible for him to organize his own band on the regulations of the Marine Band, and capture the country with it as he has done. And Sousa deserved the success which he has achieved. He was born to be a band-leader, and particularly to be the bandmaster of the Marine Band. His father was a member of the band from 1861 until 1870, and young John was born within sound of the Marine Barracks. He enlisted at the age of 16 years and six months, and served his apprenticeship in music until he was 31. Then he went into the world to seek his fortune as a musician. He was playing in a Philadelphia band when the position of bandmaster of the Marine Band became vacant. Sousa was known as a fine musician, and he was recommended strongly for the position when Schneider was discharged. The post was offered to him and he came from Philadelphia, enlisted and was made bandmaster. He was discharged July 20, 1892, at his own request, to accept a contract for the organization of Sousa's Band. Mr. Sousa's manager at first called it "Sousa's New Marine Band," but such a lively protest was made by the Government and the people of Washington, that the name was changed.

Piano, 50 Cents. Military Band, 50 Cents. First and Second Mandolin and Guitar, 50 Cents.

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HISTORY MARCH.

Arr. by H. E.

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