

What About the Hymns



“*This is My Father’s World*” was Grandpa Dice’s favorite hymn. It was written by Presbyterian minister Maltbie Davenport Babcock and published posthumously in 1901. Reverend Babcock lived in Lockport, New York where he would take frequent walks along the *Niagara Escarpment* to enjoy the overlook’s panoramic view of upstate New Yorks scenery telling his wife Katherine, he was going out to see his Father’s world.

Babcock died at age 42 in 1901. Shortly after his death, his wife Katherine published a compilation of his writings entitled *Thoughts for Everyday Living* that contained the poem “*My Father’s World*”. The original poem contained sixteen stanzas of four lines each. The poem was set to music in 1915 by Franklin L. Sheppard, a close friend to the Babcock’s.

The tune’s name *TERRA BEATA* means “Blessed Earth” in Latin. Sheppard adapted the music from a traditional English melody that he learned from his mother as a child.

“Grandpa was the kind of man that no matter where or when you saw him, he was the same.

He was everything you would expect a grandpa to be. When I think of my Grandpa I think of patience. It didn’t matter if it was just one or two, or all the grandkids, I do not remember a time in my 34 years that Grandpa lost patience with any of us. At least he never let us see it. He was a special man that loved his family, and he had his own way of showing it.

All the memories I have of Grandpa are good and special to me. I could go on for hours sharing memories and stories.

Thankful for the fact he was saved, born again. He is home with his Lord and one day I will get to see him again.

-Andy Dice, grandson

REMEMBERING OUR GRANDPA DICE

“Grandpa Dice was Gold. He was every description of the perfect grandpa. When I was around grandpa, I always intrigued by what he was doing or thinking. He was charismatic but never over the top. When he walked in the room it seemed he instantly created a positive and uplifting environment without creating a scene. He was inspiring in so many ways. I used to watch him speak to crowds at church as if he was talking to each person individually. I would pay close attention whenever Grandpa was telling stories or preaching, he would reel me in. He was also very funny. He always had a joke or quirky story to tell. I loved to hear Grandpa play the guitar and sing with grandma, they looked so joyful singing together. I was inspired and determined to learn how to play the guitar and it’s something I love to do in my pastime. I always felt comforted around grandpa. Some of my fondest memories are of sitting on grandpas’ lap listing to him sing silly songs or change the words to songs to make me laugh. One of my favorite songs is called “I’m a mess, I guess”. Grandpa always seemed to truly want to spend time with us grandkids and show us intriguing things. Making you feel important was a gift grandpa had, and it’s something he never stopped doing. For Grandpas 90th birthday the Dice family put together a big party. It was a lot of fun and there was a lot going on. There was a moment when grandpa came over to just me and my son Vincent and visited with us. I was a little surprised by this due to all the other things going on. We had a great time talking about nonsense and laughing, my son loved interacting with him. I could see the same joy in my son’s face that I got from talking with him. The last time I saw grandpa he was sitting in his chair making my daughter Alice laugh and vrooming hot wheel cars with my son. I know he was not feeling well, but he gave us his time and love. He never stopped making his family feel important, loved, comforted, and supported. There is so much more I can say about grandpa and his testimony, but I’ll end with my everlasting gratitude for his unwavering Christian testimony. I know how blessed and lucky I am to have found salvation and stand on the shoulders of such an amazing man. Knowing Christ was his biggest priority in life and that priority has been passed down to his sons, his grandkids, and his great grandkids and is a priority I will continue to implement. He will always be with me and my family. He was the perfect grandpa.” -Michael Dice, grandson



IF GOD BE FOR US!

Psalm 33:8-22

"Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that built it." Ps. 127:1a

It was the summer of 1776. Delegates had come from 13 colonies to make a momentous decision. Conditions were troubled in the New World, and something had to be done. Apparently, however, there was no good choice. Faces were gloomy in the old Statehouse in Philadelphia, one suggestion after another was offered and discarded. Finally, in the midst of their dissension and debate as to whether a new nation should be created or not, they turned to Benjamin Franklin, the oldest and most renowned delegates, and requested his opinion. Franklin hesitated, then rose to his feet and delivered a brief message centered around Psalm 127 that became the spiritual foundation stone of America and resulted in the Declaration of Independence. Although few today have ever heard of these words, they were jewels of truth and wisdom. Said he, "I have lived a long time; and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His will, is it possible for an empire to rise without His notice? We have been assured in the sacred writing that except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it. I firmly believe this, and I also believe that without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel." He then suggested that they have a season of prayer. His advice was followed. Chaos soon resolved into unity and the United States of America was born July 4, 1776.

Our forefathers laid the foundation of this nation not only on Plymouth Rock, but also on the much surer rock of prayer and the Word of God! This is our heritage; but alas, in many ways we have drifted far from our spiritual moorings. America must acknowledge anew her dependence upon God if she wishes to continue to proclaim her independence from slavery! For *"where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty"* (II Cor. 3:17) ... (H.G.B.) -Our Daily Bread

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved and signed declaring the United States independence from Great Britain. We are thankful to God for our United States of America. We are also thankful to all those who have served or are currently serving our country to ensure our freedom.

"The second day of July 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

*-John Adams to his wife, Abigail.
 (He was off by 2 days in his prediction.)*



"O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain! America! America! God shed His grace on thee and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!"

Leonard Dice entered the U.S. Army in 1953 and took basic training with the 31st Infantry Division (Dixie Division). After basic training he was transported by troopship to Germany where he served with the 4th Infantry Division in the Intelligence and Reconnaissance (S-2) Section.