Midnight Fire Alarm

by: Harry J. Lincoln
arr. by: E.T. Paull

Original Copyright: 1900
By: E.T. Paull

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North Royalton, Ohio
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Lincoln, Harry J.

**DOB:** 1878 (Shamokin, Pennsylvania)
**DOD:** April 9, 1937 (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

In all of band music history, there is no more confusing situation than that surrounding the life and works of the American composer, Harry J. Lincoln, and the relationships he had with other musicians from the Williamsport, Pennsylvania, area: Charles C. Sweeley and the Vandersloots. Many composers have used pseudonyms, but the pseudonyms were usually fictitious.

Lincoln published music under his own name, as well as such pseudonyms as Abe Losch. He also used the real names of several members of the Vandersloot family on music he composed. Not all of the compositions for which he used pseudonyms were published for band. The confusion is compounded because he also sold some of his original compositions to others who put their own names on the printed music.

Harry J. Lincoln was born in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, in 1878. In addition to being a composer and arranger, he was organist and choirmaster of the First Church of Christ and pianist and manager of the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra. His early works were published by Vandersloot, a company which was owned and operated by Frederick William Vandersloot. Lincoln formed his own publishing company, the Harry J. Lincoln Music Company, ca. 1900. He sold the catalog ca. 1903 but reinstated the company ca. 1918. In 1917, he purchased another company, the United States Music Company (of Williamsport), and moved it to Philadelphia. He also acquired the Vandersloot Music Publishing Company in 1929 and moved it to Philadelphia, retaining the same company name. He died in Philadelphia on April 9, 1937.

Lincoln composed most of his band music under his own name. Judging by the titles, he could have been a fire buff, because he used titles such as False Alarm, Fire Worshiper, Blaze of Honor, Midnight Fire Alarm, and Still Alarm.

Several sources state incorrectly that Charles C. Sweeley was a pseudonym of Harry J. Lincoln. Sweeley was a real person to whom Lincoln apparently sold one or more pieces of music so that Sweeley could affix his name as composer. (This is in contrast to the situation where Henry Fillmore made use of the name Will Huff, not realizing there really was a composer by that name. Fillmore never sold any music to Huff.).

Paull, Edward Thomas

**DOB:** February 16, 1858 (Gerardstown, Virginia)
**DOD:** November 26, 1924 (Brooklyn, New York)

Edward Thomas Paull was born on February 16, 1858, in Gerardstown,

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Berkley County, Virginia (now part of West Virginia). Many of his works are descriptive, as witnessed by such titles as Charge of the Light Brigade, Ben Hur Chariot Race, and The Burning of Rome. The piano editions of his music have some of the most dramatic and colorful covers to be found on any published music. Paull had his own publishing business in New York City and was secretary of the Publisher's Association for a number of years. His firm published the works of over 70 composers and arrangers.

One of the most famous of all descriptive marches was The Midnight Fire Alarm. Early band editions of this march, published by Paull in 1900, show Paull as the composer. On a later edition, however, Harry J. Lincoln's name was added as the composer, and Paull was listed as arranger. The original copyright entry card for this march records that it was registered on April 5, 1900, by the E.T. Paull Music Company of New York City, with Harry J. Lincoln as composer and Paull as arranger. Thus this march was erroneously issued with Paull listed as the composer in the original edition.

Midnight Fire Alarm (descriptive march galop) was published in1900 by the E.T. Paull Music Company (New York City, NY). One of the most celebrated descriptive marches ever written is the Midnight Fire Alarm. Early band editions of this march, published by E.T. Paull in 1900, do not show the actual composer; only that E.T. Paull was the arranger. On a later edition, Lincoln's name was added as composer with Paull noted as the arranger. However, the original copyright entry card for this march states that it was registered on April 5, 1900, by the E.T. Paull Music Company of New York City, with Lincoln as composer and Paull the arranger.

Program note researched by Marcus L. Neiman
Medina, Ohio

Additional information on either the composer or composition would be welcomed. Please send information to
marcusneiman@zoominternet.net

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2 Ibid.
Midnight Fire Arlam.

Oboe.

Tempo di Gallop. Descriptive March Gallop.

E. T. PAULL.

Trio.

Coda. ff

Published by E.T.Paull Music Co. 44 W. 28th St. N. Y.
Midnight Fire Alarm
Descriptive March Galop

E♭ Clarinet
Tempo di Galop

Coda

Transposition prepared by: Dan Steadman

Published by E. T. Paull Music Co. 44 W. 20th ST. NY
Solo Bb Clarinet.  
Midnight Fire Arlam.  
Tempo di Galop.  
Descriptive March Galop.  
E. T. PAULL.

Published by E.T. Paul Music Co. 44 W. 23rd St., N.Y.
Midnight Fire Arlam.
Descriptive March Galop.

Bassoon.

Tempo di Galop.

E. T. PAULL.

Trio.

Coda.

Published by E. T. Paull Music Co., 44 W. 29th St., N.Y.
Solo B♭ Cornet  
Tempo di Galop.  

Midnight Fire Alarm  
Descriptive March Galop.  

H. J. LINCOLN  
Arr. by E. T. PAULL.

E.T.P.B. 84-5  Copyright 1900 by E. T. Paul Music Co., New York  
Printed in U.S.A.
2nd & 3rd Bb Cornets.
Midnight Fire Arlam.
Descriptive March Galop.

E.T. PAULL.

Tempo di Galop.

Trio.

Coda.

Published by E.T. Paull Music Co., 14 W. 39th St., N.Y.
1st & 2nd Eb Altos.
Midnight Fire Arlam.
Descriptive March Galop.

Tempo di Galop.

Trio.

Coda.

Published by E.T. Paull, New York, N.Y.
Midnight Fire Alarm
Descriptive March Gallop

Tempo di Galop

Trio

Coda

D.C. al Coda

Published by E. T. Paull Music Co. 44 W. 20th ST. NY

Transposition prepared by Dan Stradman
Midnight Fire Alarm
Descriptive March Gallop

3rd & 4th F Horn

Tempo di Galop

H. J. Lincoln
Arr. by E. T. Paull

Midnight Fire Alarm

Coda

Transposition prepared by Dan Steadman

Published by E. T. Paull Music Co. 44 W. 20th ST. NY
1st & 2nd Tenors.

Midnight Fire Arlam.

Tempo di Galop.  
Descriptive March Galop.  
E. T. PAULL.

Trio

Coda.

Published by E. T. Paul Music Co. 44 W. 29th St., N. Y.
1st & 2nd Trombones.

Midnight Fire A glam.
Descriptive March Galop.

E. T. PAU LL.

Trio.

Coda.

Published by E. T. Paul Music Co. W. 29th St. N. Y.
Midnight Fire Arlam.

3rd Trombone or B♭ Bass. Descriptive March Galop.

Tempo di Galop.

Trio marcato.

Coda.

E. T. PAULL.
Midnight Fire Arlam.
Descriptive March Galop.

Baritone.

Tempo di Galop.

Trio.

Coda.

Published by E.T. Paull Music Co. 44 W. 29th St. N.Y.
Midnight Fire Arlam.
Descriptive March Galop.

E. T. PAULL.
Drums etc.

Midnight Fire Arlam.
Descriptive March Galop.

E.T. PAULL.

Tempo di Galop.

Fire Bells.

Trio.

Fire Bells.

Coda.

Imitation of engine working
Blow off steam a whistle.