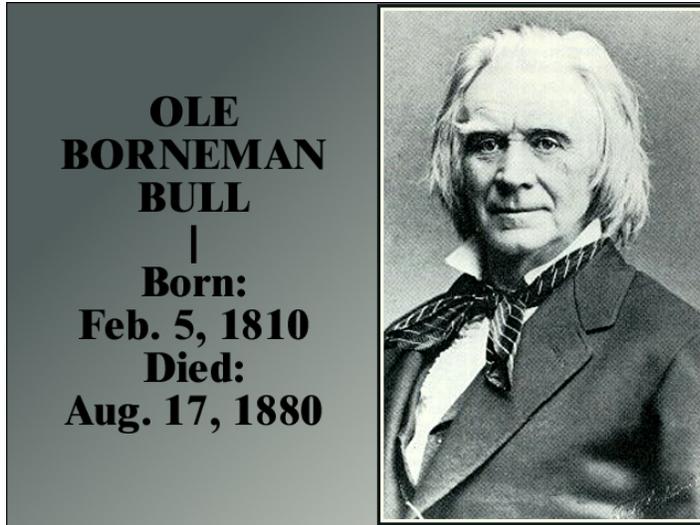


Copyright Holiness Data Ministry -- All Rights Are Reserved For This Digital Publication, And Duplication Of This DVD By Any Means Is Forbidden. Also, Copies Of Individual Files Must Be Made In Accordance With The Restrictions Of The B4UCopy.txt File On This Disc.

**WHO WAS OLE BULL?**  
Compiled By Duane V. Maxey



\* \* \* \* \*

Digital Edition 01/02/08  
By Holiness Data Ministry

\* \* \* \* \*

## CONTENTS

### Introduction

- 01 -- About Ole Bull From The Wikipedia Online Encyclopedia
- 02 -- About Ole Bull From The Violin Man Site
- 03 -- About Ole Bull's Final Years And Death From Another Site
- 04 -- Ole Bull Mentioned In "Heart Melodies"
- 05 -- Ole Bull Mentioned In "Consolation"
- 06 -- Ole Bull Mentioned In "The World's Greatest Need"
- 07 -- Ole Bull Mentioned In "General Booth"
- 08 -- Ole Bull Mentioned In "Articles By William Moses Tidwell"
- 09 -- Ole Bull Mentioned In "Culpepper Sermons"
- 10 -- Ole Bull Mentioned In "The Personal Touch"

## Conclusion

\* \* \* \* \*

## INTRODUCTION

Do you know who Ole Bull was?

Repeatedly, down across the years, I have come across the name of "Ole Bull" as I have digitized books for the HDM Library. I knew nothing about him, but I let that pass without endeavoring to discover who he was -- until today. While working on my current book project, "The Personal Touch," by J. Wilbur Chapman I came upon another mention of Ole Bull. Twenty-two times he had previously been mentioned in HDM published books. Now here he was mentioned again. That was it! I said to myself, "I am going to find out who "Ole Bull" was! -- and I did.

There were different and opposing opinions of Ole Bull. While thousands of people admired his music, not all did. Accordingly, most references to him in the HDM Library are positive, but one of them isn't.

Below, I have presented information about, and references to, Ole Bull -- most of them positive, but two of them negative. Regardless of your personal assessment of the man after reading the material, I think you will find that he was, at least, an interesting person. One last thing before proceeding to that data: Until today, in my mind I had always pronounced his first name as if it was the corrupted spelling of the word "Old" -- standing for "Old Bull". After learning his nationality, I think it most likely that "Ole" was pronounced "Oh-lee". He was a Norwegian.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 01 -- ABOUT OLE BULL FROM THE WIKIPEDIA ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA

[This information about Ole Bull is quite positive.]

"Ole Borneman Bull -- February 5, 1810 – August 17, 1880 -- was a Norwegian violinist, often called Norway's first international star. A testament to his fame was his funeral procession, perhaps the most spectacular in Norway's history. The ship transporting his body was guided by 15 steamers and hundreds of smaller vessels (some claim as many as a thousand).

"Bull was born in Bergen. His father wished him to be a minister, but he preferred a musical life. When four or five years old, he could play all the songs he heard his mother sing on the violin, and when nine, he played first violin in the Bergen Theatre orchestra, and was soloist with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra.

**"At 18, he was sent to the University of Christiania, but he failed his examinations! After living for a while in Germany where he pretended to study law, he went to Paris and fared badly for a year or two. He was eventually successful in giving concerts, became famous, and made a fortune.**

**"He was caught up in the rising tide of romantic nationalism in Norway, and acclaimed the idea of Norway as a sovereign state, separate from its union with Sweden, an idea which later became a reality in 1905. This was one of the reasons for including variations on folk tunes in his concerts...**

**"He visited the United States several times and played with great success. In 1853, he obtained a large tract of land in Pennsylvania and founded a colony, which was called New Norway. On May 24, 1853, he formally purchased 11,144 acres for \$10,388. The land consisted of four communities: New Bergen (now known as Carter Camp), Oleana (named for himself and his mother) six miles south of New Bergen, New Norway one mile south of New Bergen, and close by, Valhalla. The high point of Valhalla, Bull called Nordjenskald, which became the location of his unfinished castle. This venture was soon given up, as there was scarcely any land to till, and Bull went back to giving concerts.**

**"Robert Schumann once wrote that Bull was among "the greatest of all," and that he was on a level with Niccolò Paganini for the speed and clarity of his playing. Bull was also a friend of Franz Liszt and played with him on several occasions.**

**"The village of Oleona, in Potter County, Pennsylvania, flourishes nestled in the mountains of northern Pennsylvania at the intersection of Pennsylvania routes 44 and 144 (Ole Bull Road). Although officially known as Oleona today, many maps of the area, and even the official roadside village boundary signs refer to it as Oleana. Ole Bull State Park in the Susquehannock State Forest is the original site chosen for Bull's colony. What is left of the unfinished Ole Bull Castle is frequently visited by hikers along a trail, on the side of a mountain with a beautiful view, and is maintained by the park.**

**"In Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, there is a room called Ole Bull's Concert Hall, because he actually gave performances there. In Loring Park in Minneapolis, Minnesota, there is a huge bronze statute memorializing Bull. It is also worth mentioning that he actually had a castle built in Norway, more exactly on the island called Lysøen, located in Lysefjorden."**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**02 -- ABOUT OLE BULL FROM THE VIOLIN MAN SITE**

**[This sketch of Ole Bull is tends to be more negative.]**

**"Bull, Ole (Bornemann), eccentric Norwegian violinist; b. Bergen, Feb. 5,1810; d. Lyso, near Bergen, Aug. 17, 1880. He was extremely precocious, and played the violin experimentally even before acquiring the rudiments of music. At the age of 9 he played solos with the Bergen Harmonic Soc. His teachers were then Niels Eriksen and J. H. Poulsen; later he had regular instruction with M. Ludholm. Ignoring academic rules, he whittled the bridge almost to the level of the finger-board, so as to be able to play full chords on all 4 strings. He was sent by his father to Christiania to study theology, but failed the entrance examinations; instead, he organized a theater orchestra, which he led with his violin.**

**"In 1829 he played in Copenhagen and Kassel. In 1831 he went to Paris, where he heard Paganini and became obsessed with the idea of imitating his mannerisms and equaling his success, a fantasy devoid of all imagined reality because of Bull's amateurish technique. However, he developed a personal type of playing that pleased the public, particularly in localities rarely visited by real artists. During the season 1836-37 he played 274 concerts in England and Ireland; in 1839 he visited the great German violinist and composer Spohr in Kassel, in the hope of receiving useful advice from him. In 1840 he played Beethoven's Krentzer Sonata in London, with Liszt at the piano.**

**"On July 23, 1849, he announced the formation of a Norwegian Theater in Bergen, which was opened on Jan. 2,1850. While he failed to impress serious musicians and critics in Europe, he achieved his dream of artistic success in America; he made 5 concert tours across the U.S., playing popular selections and his own compositions on American themes with such fetching titles as Niagara, Solitude of the Prairies, and To the Memory of Washington, interspersing them with his arrangements of Norwegian folk songs. He entertained a strong conviction that Norway should generate its own national art, but the practical applications of his musical patriotism were failures because of his lack of formal study and a concentration on tawdry effects; still, it may be argued that he at least prepared the ground for the emergence of true Norwegian music; indeed, it is on his recommendation that Grieg was sent to study at the Leipzig Conservatory.**

**Characteristically, Ole Bull became attracted by the then-current ideas of communal socialism. In 1852 he purchased 11,144 acres in Pennsylvania for a Norwegian settlement, but his lack of business sense led his undertaking to disaster. The settlement, planned on strict socialist lines, was given the name Oleana, thus establishing a personal connection with the name of its unlucky founder. Oleana soon collapsed, but Ole Bull earned admiration in Norway as a great national figure. Many of his violin pieces, mostly sentimental or strident in nature, with such titles as La preghiera d'una madre, Variazioni di bravura, Polacca guerriera, etc., were published, but they sank into predictable desuetude.**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**"By 1857 Bull had returned to Norway, disillusioned by the failure of his colony. The next ten years of his life he would spend close to his home in Bergen. In 1836 he had married a Frenchwoman, Félicie Villeminot, who bore him five children and who died in 1862. During a trip to America in 1869, he met Sara Thorp, of Madison, Wisconsin, who became his second wife and the mother of a daughter. In 1872, Bull returned to Norway to his final home on the Island of Lysöen, or island of light, a 650-acre island on the North Sea, from which Sara and he made periodic visits to the United States. Along the path to the castle site in Ole Bull State Park is Lyso Spring, a beautiful spring which is now covered.**

**"Bull died of cancer in 1880, and was buried with great ceremony in his hometown, Bergen. His colony was long past, the lumber industry was on the verge of a boom, and soon all that would remain or remind one of Ole Bull's shattered dream, New Norway, would be the few colonists who had chosen to stay, the colony's cemetery, and Ole Bull State Park (established in 1920), which contains the site of the 'castle' and 117 acres that are a haven for the outdoorsman and the lover of nature."**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**04 -- OLE BULL MENTIONED IN "HEART MELODIES" -- By My Father, Irl V. Maxey, hdm2504**

**[This reference to Ole Bull is very positive.]**

**That great inventor, Erickson, who invented the Monitor that did such deadly work upon the Merrimac during the Civil War, was born and raised in the same country in Europe that Ole Bull, the great violinist was born. They grew up together as boys. The one chose the mechanical world for his life's work; the other chose the musical world. Both came to America and became famous in his respective line. Once when Ole Bull was going to put on a great musical program, he invited his boyhood friend, Erickson, to come to his program. "No," he said, "I can not accept the invitation. I am too busy with my inventions and my factory. I have no time for your music."**

**Again, after months, he was invited to a program, but he made the same reply, only he insisted that he must not be bothered by his friend's invitations. At a later time he was invited again and refused. But his friend said, "I will bring my instrument to your factory and play for you."**

**To this he replied, "If you bring that violin down to my factory and attempt to play and to disturb me and my men, I will smash your instrument in pieces."**

Ole, however, went down undaunted. He held his instrument in his arms as he was met by his friend, Erickson. With a smile Erickson greeted him, saying, "Let me show you my factory and some of the inventions we are manufacturing."

Gladly he accepted and was shown all over the factory. As they neared the door to leave, being in a conspicuous place before many men, Ole stopped a minute and said, "Friend Erickson, let me show you my instrument. These are the keys. When we play we put our fingers on the strings just like this." Holding his bow in his right hand, he said, "That is a bow. When we play, we draw the bow across the strings like this." He began to play softly and more sweetly; then louder with greater emphasis. At once Erickson was attracted. Ole seeing this immediately began to play one of his great selections. The workmen stopped their machines, dropped their tools, and Erickson was held spell-bound. Ole attempted to quit, but Erickson protested.

"Go on," he said. "That is what I have needed. I have missed this music in my life."

On and on played the great musician. This carried Erickson out of his factory across the rolling Atlantic, up the hills beside the place of his boyhood life. He saw the cattle grazing, heard the birds singing, and the waterfall near the old place. He was a boy again. The cares of life of many years slipped away. Again Ole attempted to stop, but Erickson said, "Play on." He had forgotten the factory; forgotten his men; forgotten his cares.

This shows the power of music in men's lives; so the music of our daily lives attracts people from the siren songs of worldliness and holds them spell-bound under the power of Christ who lives within us. Do you not want the great Player to play? Will you refuse Him the right?

[Different versions of this same story are found in: "A Day In The Lord's Court" by James Blaine Chapman, (hdm2582) -- "Present Day Parables" by John Wilbur Chapman, (hdm0072) -- and "Bible Morning Glories" by Abbie C. Morrow Brown.

\* \* \* \* \*

05 -- OLE BULL MENTIONED IN "CONSOLATION" -- By Mrs. Charles E. Cowman, hdm0193

[Here is another very positive reference to Ole Bull.]

What is the most inspiring music you ever heard? An old man wrote me a letter a few days ago; he told me of being in Boston in 1869 for the great Peace Jubilee, sung in praise of the ending of the Civil War. There was a chorus of 10,000 voices, and an orchestra of 1,000 pieces; two hundred anvils had been placed on

the platform for use in the "Anvil Chorus." There were huge bells; and outside, in the park, was artillery to be fired by electricity, in harmony with the chorus.

At the head of the two hundred violins stood the world's greatest violinist, Ole Bull, who had them so trained that their bows worked as in the hand of one man. Parepa Rosa was the soloist, of whose singing that day Dr. Talmage said, "It will never be equalled again on earth." When in the "Star-Spangled Banner" she sang the high "C," with the fortetfortissimo accompaniment of the full chorus and orchestra, the bells and cannon, it was so loud and clear that it seemed to bury the accompaniment. Nothing like it was ever heard before, and never will be again. The letter closed, "I am an old man now, but am looking forward to the music of Heaven, where there will be music infinitely superior to the marvelous chorus I listened to that day.

\* \* \*

06 -- OLE BULL MENTIONED IN "THE WORLD'S GREATEST NEED" -- By Paul W. Finch, hdm0597

[Another positive reference to Ole Bull]

Yes, character is property. A well-poised and graceful character, such desirable property, "overcoming evil with good" in the everyday deeds of life. Indeed, that is sweet music when nature hangs her wind harps in the trees for autumn breezes to play upon. That must have been sweet music when Jenny Lind charmed the world with her voice, and when Ole Bull rosined the bow and touched the strings of his violin.

\* \* \* \* \*

07 -- OLE BULL MENTIONED IN "GENERAL BOOTH" -- By George Scott Railton, hdm0952

It has been my privilege to hear such preachers as Beecher, Matthew Simpson, and Philip Brooks, and such orators as Wendell Phillips and Gough; but the General is the greatest master of assemblies I ever met. He played on those vast audiences of judges, lawyers, ministers, business and working men as Ole Bull played on the violin. They laughed, they wept, they hung their heads with conviction, their bosoms heaved with emotions; they were convinced, convicted, and a multitude were converted; I think at one time there could not have been less than 3,000 eyes brimming with tears He uncovered sin and made it appear as it is, utterly without excuse, and utterly loathsome; and then he revealed the love and sympathy and helpfulness of Christ, till many could not resist, but had to yield.

\* \* \* \* \*

**08 -- OLE BULL MENTIONED IN "ARTICLES BY WILLIAM MOSES TIDWELL" --  
Compiled by Duane V. Maxey, hdm1808**

Ole Bull was making his way through a great forest when he came upon a hut in which lived a hermit. The hermit had left the city, because of disappointment, and had dwelt in his solitary home for years, his only companion being his violin. After supper the hermit took down his violin and played the simple pieces he had learned. When he had finished the master musician asked him if he thought he could play. The hermit replied. "I hardly think so, but you might try." The great violinist took the instrument and drew the bow across the strings and the hut was instantly filled with harmony. He played "Home Sweet Home" and various other beautiful pieces, until the old hermit wept like a child. Our lives have been blighted by sin, but Jesus is the great soul restorer. May we give ourselves unreservedly and eternally into His hands. If we will He will cleanse and fashion us according to His own design, and finally receive us to Himself in the glory world where the music of heaven can be played upon our souls and we will be "in tune with the Infinite" for ever.

\* \* \* \* \*

**09 -- OLE BULL MENTIONED IN "CULPEPPER SERMONS" -- By John B. Culpepper,  
and O. B. Culpepper, hdm2318**

[This excerpt involving Ole Bull sees him as an evil, not a good, influence.]

From my window in John McDonnell's home, I look out upon the Ohio river, and upon the very spot, where a number of years ago, two large, triple-decked, double-cabin boats collided. There was a dance on, the celebrated "Ole Bull" was aboard and at his best. It was the 8th of January, very cold, and at night. When the crash came, "Ole Bull" was ready to exchange his violin for a life preserver; the dancers, drinkers and cussers were now ready to pray or be prayed for; the two hundred or more who were burned or drowned, stood ready to give themselves to a better service, but God had called time on them and they had to go. They cried, but their cries came too late; the sorrow stricken people of Warsaw gathered on the bank and looked on, powerless to help, while amid a medley of prayers, wails, oaths, splashing waters, crashing ice, colliding life-boats, flowing oil which set the waters afire, they realized that they had pushed the battle of fun and foolishness a little too far on God. They had to go. So will you.

\* \* \* \* \*

**10 -- OLE BULL MENTIONED IN "THE PERSONAL TOUCH" -- By John Wilbur  
Chapman, hdm3330**

[This is the reference to Ole Bull that I discovered today, and it is a positive one.]

**"Ole Bull once played his violin in the presence of a company of University students. He charmed them, they knew at once that they were in the presence of a master. When he was finished playing, one who was present said to him, "What is the secret of your power, have you a special bow, or is it in the instrument you use?" Ole Bull responded, "I think it is in neither, but it has always seemed to me that I had power in playing because I waited to play until I had an inspiration, when my soul was overflowing with music and I could not stay the torrent that was back of me; it is then that I take my violin and the music flows forth."**

**\* \* \* \* \***

## **CONCLUSION**

**Ole Bull was obviously a man whose playing of the violin moved the hearts of many people around the world. Perhaps the truth about the man lies somewhere between the two extremes: viz., he was neither as bad as some took him to be, nor as good as millions imagined him to be. Before today, I had no idea who he was, and still, with as little information as I now have about him, I shall not try to make a final assessment of his character. And, I shall leave it up to the readers of this file to decide for themselves about him. Whatever the case, he was an interesting person on the stage of life.**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**THE END**