

SYSTEMS OF MUSICAL NOTATION (N)

1819: "There was another attempt in the [Connecticut River] Valley to remedy the want of adaptation [i.e., the appropriate pairing] of hymns and tunes. It is promulgated in a book of vest pocket size, entitled 'Music Adapted to Language.' This is a hymn and tune book in one, like Dr. [Samuel] Willard's. A 'new and simple notation' is introduced. The music, by a 'new and easy method of variation,' is made to conform to language. The author was William Bull [1762-1842] of Shelburne [MA]. Dr. Willard acknowledged some indebtedness to Mr. Bull. The two approached the same problem from different directions. One adapted hymns to the tunes, the other tunes to the hymns. In his new system of notation, Mr. Bull followed Andrew Law in discarding the staff, and the Rev. John Tufts, the first publisher of a tune book in New England, in using the initial let[t]ers of the [solmization] syllables in place of notes. He used the common notes, however, for purposes of illustration. The date of this book is 1819: and it is a unique addition to the collection of the Valley." [MA/Shelburne; Burnham 1901, p. 26]