PAUL POWELL

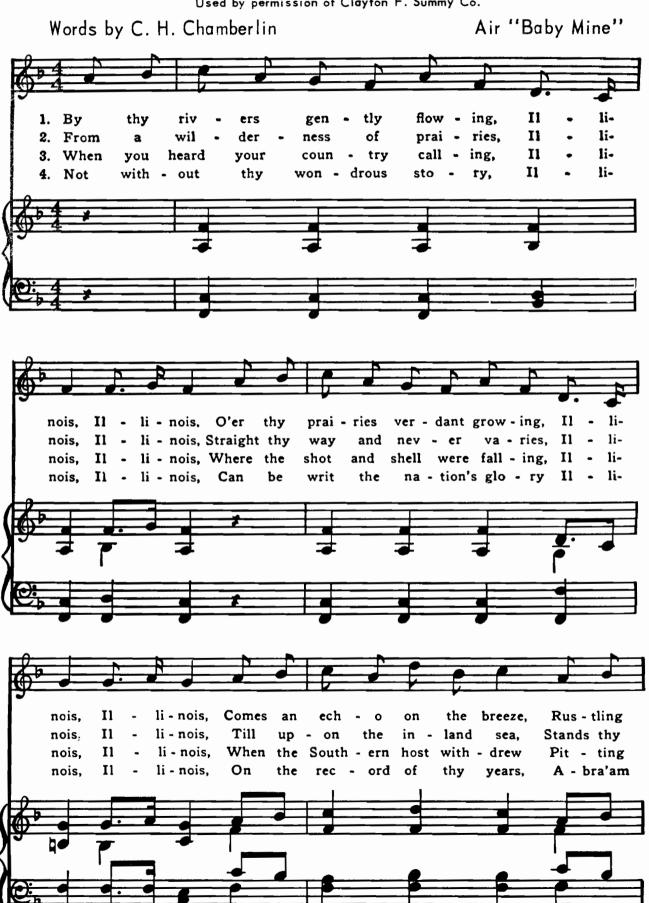
Secretary of State



OFFICIAL STATE SONG THE LECTLIFY OF THE

ILLINOIS

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THE STATE SONG

BY ACT of the Fifty—fourth General Assembly the song "Illinois" became the official State song. The bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator Florence Fifer Bohrer, daughter of the late Governor Joseph W. Fifer and the first woman to serve as member of the Illinois Senate. The bill passed both houses without opposition and became law by executive signature

"Illinois" had long been the State song, but it had been given no official recognition prior to the passage of the bill. The song was written by Charles H. Chamberlin some time between 1890 and 1894, in connection with plans for securing the World's Columbian Exposition for Chicago. Many states were attempting to secure the exposition, Illinois making strong efforts herself with the able assistance of U. S. Senator Shelby M. Cullom and U. S. Senator John M. Palmer. Col. O. B. Knight, a friend of Mr. Chamberlin, in the meantime, was singing throughout Illinois and in Washington, D. C. and so the song was written primarily for him to sing. The lyric was composed by Mr. Chamberlin, but the music had been written by Archibald Johnston in 1870 with another lyric by Charles Mackay. In its original form the name of the song was "Baby Mine," under which title it won great popularity in the '70s.