Issued by

PAUL POWELL
Secretary of State

SEAL OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

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OFFICIAL STATE SONG

THE LEGACY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS

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Words by C. H. Chamberlin

Air "Baby Mine"

1. By thy rivers gently flowing, Illinois,
2. From a wilderness of prairies, Illinois,
3. When you heard your country calling, Illinois,
4. Not without thy wondrous story, Illinois,

nois, Illinois. O'er thy prairies verdant growing, Illinois,
nois, Illinois, Straight thy way and never varies, Illinois,
nois, Illinois, Where the shot and shell were falling, Illinois,
nois, Illinois, Can be writ the nation's glory Illinois,

nois, Illinois. Comes an echo on the breeze, Rustling
nois, Illinois, Till upon the inland sea, Stands thy
nois, Illinois, When the Southern host withdrew Pitting
nois, Illinois, On the record of thy years, Abraham
tho, the leafy trees, and its mellow tones are these, Illinois.
great commercial tree, turning all the world to thee, Illinois.
Gray against the Blue, There were none more brave than you, Illinois.
Lincoln’s name appears, Grant, and Logan, and our tears, Illinois.

nois, Illinois, And its mellow tones are these, Illinois!
nois, Illinois, Turning all the world to thee, Illinois!
nois, Illinois, There were none more brave than you, Illinois!
nois, Illinois. Grant, and Logan, and our tears, Illinois!

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 Filer Bohrer, daughter of the late Governor Joseph W. Filer 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 1860 and 1884, 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.