

# Billy Bryan in Illinoy

Written by 'Unknown,' circa 1896

Old Illinois is quaking with the wildest exultation  
From Foxville to Iuka and to Salem on the west.  
For Cousin Billy Bryan has achieved the nomination—  
Wherefore his kinsfolk come their lung capacities to test.

By Zadock Casey Jennings are they led in noisy whooping.  
And Mrs. Dr. Davenport lends luster to the thing.  
While sisters, uncles, cousins, aunts and brothers come a-trooping  
From Crooked Creek to Skillet Fork his praises loud to sing.

His cousin, Mrs. Beard, has raised a flag above her dwelling.  
And Charley Edgar Jennings has invested in a gong.  
Which he employs in battering a second to his yelling.  
And so gives testimony that his lungs are huge and strong.

And Mayor Heissler's making quarter-hourly silver speeches—  
In honor of the cousin of his wife he loud orates.  
And, if I'm not mistaken, his articulation reaches  
Beyond the bounds about us and into the neighbor states.

Sweet Mrs. B. F. Marshall, like a pullet on a griddle,  
Goes waltzing all around the town in most excited wise.  
And balances at corners and chasseres down the middle  
With action that would fill you with the most intense surprise.

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While relatives from Vernon and relations from Patoka  
Exuberantly jollify in Billy Bryan's name,  
And jog and prance and promenade and alama and polka  
Till arms and legs and lungs and throat and larynxes are lame.

Oh, it's a great occasion for the people of Centralia.  
And it's a great occasion for the folk of Walnut Hill—  
They rise to laud their kinsman, and they're ready to regale you  
With detailed information of their families and Bill.

And here I utter warning that is true as truth from Zion:  
If Mr. Hanna wishes to be sure of Illinois,  
He'll have to claim McKinley is a twin of Mr. Bryan,  
And that the kids were mixed up when he was a little boy.

**Note:** This poem was originally published in the July 17, 1896 edition of the *Duluth News-Tribune*, attributed to *Chicago Record*. Author is unknown.