

Primary Source: The Old North State ^[1]

William Joseph Gaston, a judge and politician from New Bern, wrote "The Old North State" in the 1830s to oppose the notion that North Carolina was "backwards," which was represented in the state's nickname at the time -- the "Rip Van Winkle State." "The Old North State" was written in 1835 by William Gaston and put to music by R. Culver in 1844. The song popular for nearly a century before it was deemed the official state song in 1927.

The lyrics to the state song are below.

The Old North State

Carolina! Carolina! Heaven's blessings attend her!
While we live we will cherish, protect and defend her;
Tho' the scorner may sneer at and witlings defame her,
Still our hearts swell with gladness whenever we name her.

Hurrah! Hurrah! The Old North State forever!
Hurrah! Hurrah! The good Old North State!

Tho' she envies not others, their merited glory,
Say whose name stands the foremost, in Liberty's story,
Tho' too true to herself e'er to crouch to oppression,
Who can yield to just rule a more loyal submission?

Hurrah! Hurrah! The Old North State forever!
Hurrah! Hurrah! The good Old North State!

Plain and artless her sons, but whose doors open faster
At the knock of a stranger, or the tale of disaster.
How like the rudeness of the dear native mountains,
With rich ore in their bosoms and life in their fountains.

Hurrah! Hurrah! The Old North State forever!
Hurrah! Hurrah! The good Old North State!

And her daughters, the Queen or the forest resembling
So graceful, so constant, yet the gentlest breath trembling.
And true lightwood at heart, let the match be applied them,
How they kindle and flame! Oh! none know but who've tried them.

Hurrah! Hurrah! The Old North State forever!
Hurrah! Hurrah! The good Old North State!

Then let all those who love us, love the land that we live in,
As happy a region as on this side of heaven,
Where plenty and peace, love and joy smile before us,
Raise aloud, raise together the heart thrilling chorus.
Hurrah! Hurrah! The Old North State forever!
Hurrah! Hurrah! The good Old North State!

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This 1869 advertisement used the refrain of "The Old North State" to advertise lead paint long before it was the official state song, demonstrating how popular the song was in its early days. A sidenote: We now know that lead-based paint is dangerous, but that discovery was not made until 1904, and legislation was not passed regarding the manufacture and use of lead paint until the 1970s.

N^o 185
Deposited June 4. 1844
By Geo. Willig
as before **5.**

THE OLD NORTH STATE
A Patriotic Song
WRITTEN BY THE LATE
Wm. Gaston
OF NORTH CAROLINA
And by him adapted to a German Melody
AND ARRANGED FOR THE
PIANO FORTE
by
R. Culver.
Philadelphia George Willig & Chesnut St.

Original Key A major.

Piano.

Caro - li na! Caro - li na! Heav'n's blessings attend her, While we live we will cherish protect and de -

fend her; Tho' the scorner may sneer at, and witting de - fame her, Yet our hearts swell with

Entered according to Act of Congress by G. Willig in the Year 1844 at the Clerk's Office in and for the Eastern District of Penn^a.

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The Old North State Sheet Music

3 January 2018

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