

NARRATOR'S NOTES: William Jennings Bryan

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN was an American Lawyer and Political Leader born in the State of Illinois. The year was 1860. Though his true claim-to-fame came as an Orator widely known for a booming voice which launched him to the epitome of CHAUTAUQUA-speakers during the latter part of the 19th Century, he was thrice a candidate for U.S. President and served as Secretary of State for Woodrow Wilson from 1913 thru 1915. His "farewell address" to what was, by his own standards, a clean, productive and well-spent Life, was delivered a few days prior to his final-breath in 1925, at Dayton, Tennessee. The occasion was the so-called "Monkey Trial" when he mounted what was perhaps the most passionate and widely heard (via radio-broadcast) defense of Fundamental Christianity against the advancement of Modern Science.

Scene 1:

WILLIAM "Willy" J. BRYAN was actually born in the extreme southern portion of Illinois known as Little Egypt due to its geographical similarity to the Nile Delta. When he was six years of age, the family relocated to a large farm north of Salem.