

## Midwest

- “Classic ragtime” originated in the Midwest
- Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Iowa, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Indiana and Minnesota
- In the 20 years before the First World War, it became popular across the U.S. and Canada – it was the “pop” music of the time
- It was instrumental music played on the piano from sheet music in homes, or front parlors, across America – a time when people made their own music
- Here some other features of ragtime:
  - there were hundreds of composers and thousands of tunes (3,000 over 20 years);
  - a best seller in sheet music world would top a million copies sold;
  - women composed a lot of the tunes;
  - and almost all of the composers were young – most in their late teens or twenties
- This tune is by Charlotte Blake



### Charlotte Blake (1885-1979)

- ❖ born in Ohio, grew up in Detroit
- ❖ hired by a local music publisher as a clerk but became an arranger and music demonstrator, or “song plugger”
- ❖ In 1903, at 18, published first ragtime composition “King Cupid”
- ❖ 1916, at 31, retired from composing, having published some 35 rags, marches and waltzes
- ❖ most famous rags: *Gravel Rag* and *That Poker Rag*
- ❖ 1909, at 24, *The Wishbone*, “a ragtime two step”

