

Poverty

- About half the population we would call the “working poor”
- The average wage for a factory worker or clerk in 1910 was 22 cents per hour, or about \$400 per year
- The new middle-class was doing much better – a dentist, accountant or professional engineer could earn anywhere from \$2,000 to \$5,000 per year
- A piano player working at a “moving picture” theatre could earn about \$800 a year – a 36-hour week at \$15 a week
- there was plenty of work before recorded music
- A successful ragtime composer could do very well – it is thought Scott Joplin made \$10,000 in royalties from his million seller, *Maple Leaf Rag*
- Sheet music was a big seller, and it was affordable – in 1900 you had the twenty-five cent song sheet and by 1910, Woolworth department stores were selling sheet music for 5 or 10 cents a copy (compared to a loaf of bread for 7 cents or a dozen eggs for 35 cents)



Harry J. Lincoln (1878-1937)

- ❖ born in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, son of a coal miner
- ❖ moved to nearby Williamsport in 1900 as a music teacher, choirmaster and organist
- ❖ self-published his first compositions and pursued a career as a music publisher and printer
- ❖ *Halley's Comet* 1910. We saw it in 1986. Next is 2062
- ❖ Also wrote *Poverty Rag* (1908)

