



# Anti-Saloon League of America

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

## Introduction

The Anti-Saloon League of America has its roots in the Ohio Anti-Saloon League, which was founded in 1893 in Oberlin, Ohio, by temperance advocates seeking to limit and even ban alcohol consumption in the United States. In 1895, it merged with a similar organization in Washington, D.C., to form the National Anti-Saloon League. The League backed political candidates who supported anti-alcohol measures, regardless of their party affiliations, gaining support in all positions of government. Starting in 1909, it published over forty tons of printed materials each month, further increasing their movement's influence. After a 1913 parade, the League's superintendent presented an amendment to the U.S. Congress. This would become the basis of the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment which prohibited the production, transport and sale of alcohol and was ratified in 1919. During the Great Depression, support for Prohibition waned, and it was repealed in 1934 with the 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment. Since then, the Anti-Saloon League has shrunk in size but still operates under a new name.

## Important Dates

- May 24, 1893: Ohio Anti-Saloon League is founded in Oberlin, Ohio.
- December 18, 1895: Ohio Anti-Saloon League merges with Washington, D.C.'s Anti-Saloon League to form the National Anti-Saloon League, eventually known as the Anti-Saloon League of America.
- 1909: The Anti-Saloon League of America moves its national headquarters from Washington, D.C., to Westerville, Ohio.
- December 10, 1913: Anti-Saloon League parade is held in Washington, D.C. After the parade, League superintendent Purley Baker presents an amendment to Congress that will be the basis for Prohibition.
- 1919: The 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment (Prohibition) is ratified, and the League fades in importance.
- 1934: The 21<sup>st</sup> Amendment is ratified, repealing the 18th. Many League subsidiaries collapse.
- 1948-1964: The Anti-Saloon League goes through multiple name changes. It has been known the American Council on Alcohol Problems since 1964 and continues its original goals.

## Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: Anti-Saloon League of America, National Anti-Saloon League, Ohio Anti-Saloon League, Prohibition, temperance, anti-alcohol, American Issue Publishing Company.
- Limit your search by date to find information about specific issues the League was involved in.
- Search newspapers in all states, not just Ohio. This was a national movement.

## Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- ["Anti-Saloon" Enterprise](#) (Wellington, OH), December 20, 1893, Image 4, col. 2.
- ["Anti-Saloon" Hocking Sentinel](#) (Logan, OH), February 15, 1894, Image 2, col. 4.
- ["Anti-Saloon" Stark County Democrat](#) (Canton, OH), November 12, 1908, Image 6, col. 4-5.
- ["Anti-Saloon League Seeks Only to Stir Up Prejudice Against Saloon" Stark County Democrat](#) (Canton, OH), June 3, 1909, Image 2.
- ["Prospect of Wet and Dry Fight" Labor Advocate](#) (Cincinnati, OH), January 27, 1917, Image 6, col. 3-4.