

0. POPULAR PROHIBITION-ERA SONGS - Story Preface

1. CHICKAGO

2. A DOMESTIC PROBLEM

3. POPULAR PROHIBITION-ERA SONGS

4. PROHIBITION BECOMES LAW

5. ORGANIZED CRIME BEGINS IN CHICAGO

6. CHICAGO'S EARLY CRIME BOSSES

7. GANGSTER ASSASSINS

8. MOONSHINE AND BOOTLEGGERS

9. AL CAPONE AND THE OUTFIT

10. A SMOKING GUN

11. CAPONE GOES DOWN

12. FRANK NITTI - THE ENFORCER

13. JOHN AND CONNOR ROONEY

14. PERDITION, MICHIGAN

15. WHAT ABOUT THOSE GUNS?



This image depicts the cover of a song, published in 1919, entitled “I Never Knew I Had a Wonderful Wife until the Town Went Dry.” Lyrics by Lew Brown; music by Al Von Tilzer. Online via the Library of Congress. Click on the image for a better view.

As the prohibition crusade gained momentum, popular songs expressed the plight of families devastated by alcohol abuse. The Library of Congress contains many examples. Here are a few highlights:

- "The Drunkard's Child"

*You ask me why so oft, father
The tear rolls down my cheek
And think it strange that I should own
A grief I dare not speak.*

*But oh my soul is very sad
My brain is almost wild
It breaks my heart to think that I
Am called a drunkard's child.*

- "The Lips that Touch Liquor Shall Never Touch Mine"

- "Take the Sparkling Wine Away"

- "A Parody on Uncle Sam's Farm"

*The drunkard is so foolish that he will money waste,
On liquor, when there's water more pleasant to the taste;
The water is much cheaper, and much more healthy too,
And never makes a man a fool - which liquors often do.*

*It never yet caused people to quarrel and to fight,
Or come home intoxicated at twelve o'clock at night.
Cold water never caused man in the gutter to be found,
And never, as I know of, to feel upward for the ground.*

- "Poor Drunkard's Child"

Some towns and states succumbed to the pressure, passing laws that abolished alcoholic beverages long before the 18th amendment required it. Popular songs, celebrating such victories, tried to convince men that living in a "dry" town did have some benefits. One notable example makes the point:

- "I Never Knew I Had a Wonderful Wife Until the Town Went Dry."

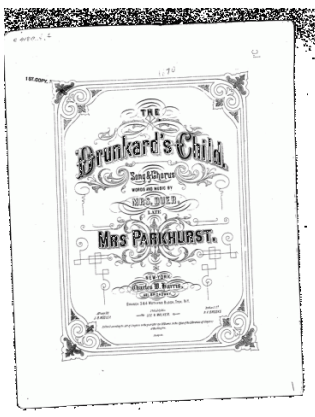
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/POPULAR-PROHIBITION-ERA-SONGS-Road-to-Perdition>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/POPULAR-PROHIBITION-ERA-SONGS-Road-to-Perdition>

Media Stream

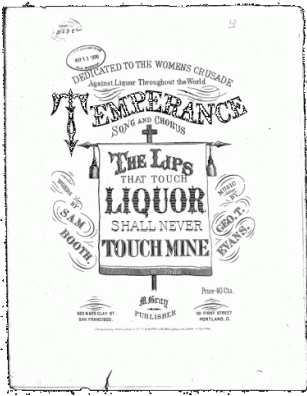


The Drunkard's Child - Song Sheet

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Drunkard-s-Child-Song-Sheet>



The Lips That Touch Liquor Shall Never Touch Mine

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Lips-That-Touch-Liquor-Shall-Never-Touch-Mine>



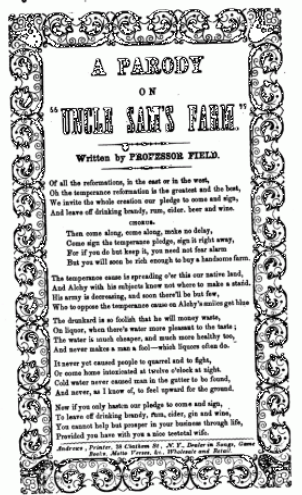
Take The Sparkling Wine Away - Temperance Song

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Take-The-Sparkling-Wine-Away-Temperance-Song>



Uncle Sam's Farm - Temperance Song

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Uncle-Sam-s-Farm-Temperance-Song>



Poor Drunkard's Child - Temperance Song Book

Image online, courtesy the U.S. Library of Congress.

PD

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Poor-Drunkard-s-Child-Temperance-Song-Book>



I Never Knew I Had A Wonderful Wife Until the Town Went Dry
"I Never Knew I Had A Wonderful Wife (Until The Town Went Dry)"

Music by Albert Von Tilzer

Words by Lew Brown

Published. 1919. by Broadway Music Corporation.

Library of Congress CALL/REPRODUCTION NUMBER - Music B-582

Image of song cover, on line through the Library of Congress and Duke University.
Public Domain

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/I-Never-Knew-I-Had-A-Wonderful-Wife-Until-the-Town-Went-Dry>



POPULAR PROHIBITION-ERA SONGS

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/POPULAR-PROHIBITION-ERA-SONGS>