



Westerville
Public Library

Prohibition Posters Digitization Project

Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board Historical Records Grant – Interim Report

By: Jackie Barton, Museum Manager

August 18, 2026

The Westerville History Museum at the Westerville Public Library has digitized and made publicly available in our collections catalog one hundred thirteen national and international temperance posters within our care. A portion of these posters were printed in Westerville, Ohio, or Boston, Massachusetts, by the Scientific Temperance Federation, an organization related to the Anti-Saloon League. This national temperance group successfully lobbied for Prohibition. Other items were printed by various international temperance organizations to dissuade people from drinking alcohol.

Digitization and cataloging work was accomplished by two paid interns over Summer 2026. Emily Vonneman and Izzy Bettinger. The generosity of this OHRAB grant funded Emily Vonneman's position at 60 hours; the digitization camera, stands, and lights; and a portion of the archival storage supplies for posters.

- 95% of the project is completed. Remaining tasks include:
 - Final purchase of encapsulation materials
 - Encapsulation of last batch of collections
- 113 posters, broadsides, and fliers have been scanned and catalogued. This includes 42 items in the Why America Went Dry Collection and 71 items in the International Collection.
- \$3,620.22 of the \$3,783 grant has been spent to date.
 - \$311.95 in grant funds have been expended on supplies, which have arrived and been utilized. These are archival supplies for collections storage (encapsulation materials, etc.)
 - \$1,889.96 in grant funds have been expended on equipment, namely a camera, lights, and stand for digitization.
 - \$1,517.51 in matching funds have been expended on supplies, which have arrived and been utilized: archival supplies for digitization and collections storage (encapsulation materials, etc.).

- \$1,418.31 in grant funds were expended through July 31, 2026 for an intern position. Six remaining hours are encumbered and will be paid at \$157.54 in August's paycheck, completing our grant-funded intern time. Emily Vonneman has completed her 60 total hours.
- Westerville Public Library (matching) funds allotted to a second intern position were expended at \$1,742.52 by July 31, 2026. Izzy Bettinger has completed her 100 hours and receive a final paycheck in August as well.
- Staff time thus far totals 201 hours:
 - Intern Izzy Bettinger: 100 hours for training, digitization, cataloguing, encapsulation, labeling, and public programming. supervision, intern meetings, encapsulation, grant reporting
 - Intern Emily Vonneman: 60 hours for training, digitization, cataloguing, encapsulation, labeling, and public programming.
 - Museum Manager Jackie Barton: 28 hours for onboarding, training, supervision, intern meetings, public program support, encapsulation, grant reporting
 - Museum Associate Jim Seitz: 9.5 hours for training, intern guidance, public program support
 - Museum Specialist Katy Kaslow: 4 hours for training materials preparation, intern guidance
- We will complete the project before December 31st. We anticipate completion and final supplies expenditure in September or early October due to board meeting timing. It ran very well and without delays or concerns.
- Attached are our press release for this project, screen shots of social media posts, and an article from the Delaware Gazette regarding the public program in which the interns presented their work and research completed on the collection.
- Also attached is an interim budget report for the project.
- Photographs are included on the next page.

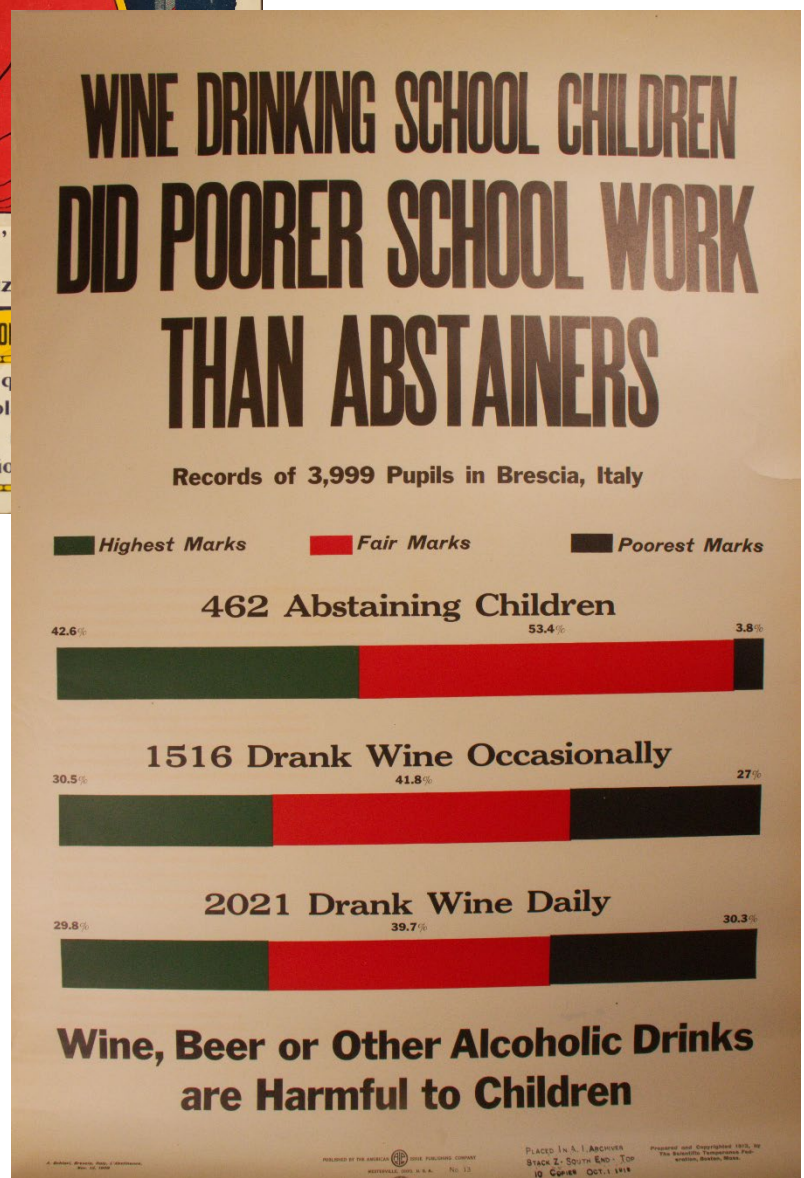


Museum Interns Emily Vonneman and Izzy Bettinger position a camera and lights to photograph the Why America Went Dry poster series for cataloguing.





The posters addressed with this project included international posters held by the Anti-Saloon League and posters printed in Westerville at the American Issue Publishing Company to promote adherence to the prohibition amendment.





Westerville Public Library

126 S. State St.
Westerville, OH 43081
614-882-7277
westervillelibrary.org

Tamara Murray
Marketing Manager
614-259-5030
tmurray@westervillelibrary.org

PRESS RELEASE: August 10, 2026

Anti-alcohol posters of historic value now available for public viewing thanks to \$3,783 grant

Westerville, Ohio – International and national posters from the early 1900s - used to discourage people from drinking alcohol prior to and following the U.S. adoption of Prohibition – have been made available to view digitally and in person for the first time thanks to a \$3,783 grant awarded from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board.

Located inside the Westerville Public Library, the Westerville History Museum houses one of the largest collections of anti-alcohol literature in the world. These striking and artistic posters promoting anti-alcohol messaging are the only known versions still in existence. Due to their age and condition, they have been inaccessible to prevent damage risk until now.

Two summer interns - Emily Vonneman and Izzy Bettinger – assessed, catalogued, digitized, encapsulated, and properly housed the posters to make them available for researchers and online. In return, the interns gained valuable archival and museum experience.

This project continues an effort to bring Anti-Saloon League materials back to the museum after 50 years. (The materials had previously been held at the Ohio History Connection through a partnership agreement.) Oversized photographs, posters, books, and other printed materials resided at the Ohio History Connection and are returning to the museum due to increased staff and a previous generous grant given by The Columbus Foundation for collections furnishings.

Two sets of posters are now available for research and learning. The first set includes 42 posters developed and printed at the American Issue Publishing Company in Westerville, Ohio under the banner of the Scientific Temperance Federation—the eventual educational arm of the Anti-Saloon League originally headquartered in Boston.

The only known versions of these posters existed in the museum's collection as unencapsulated hard copies, making them publicly unavailable because of possible damage risk. By digitizing and properly housing the posters, museum staff have the opportunity to take the encapsulated posters out for public viewing and research requests.

The second set includes 71 posters distributed by a variety of international temperance organizations from many countries. Russia, England, Ireland, Uruguay, Croatia, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Canada, Sweden, Serbia, Switzerland, and even Japan are represented, for example. Cataloging efforts included translation of foreign languages.

For more information about this service, view the Anti-Saloon League posters in the museum's collections catalog [here](#).

Photos

- "P:\Marketing\Picture\2026\2026-07 - Grant - Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board (OHRAB) - Prohibition Posters.jpg"
- "P:\Marketing\Images\Website Images\OHRAB grant - Temperance Poster 2.jpg"
- "P:\Marketing\Images\Website Images\OHRAB grant - Temperance Poster 1.jpg"

This project was supported in part by an award from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration.

###



Westerville History Museum

7m · 🌐



Next Friday afternoon (August 7), join us to view a rare and fascinating collection of temperance posters and the stories that surround them. These posters were researched, cataloged, digitized, and organized this summer by museum interns Izzy Bettinger and Emily Voneman.

Supported in part by an award from the Ohio Historical Records Advisory Board, through funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration.

Event details: <https://westervillelibrary.bibliocommons.com/.../6a4d29ed...> See less



The Delaware Gazette

The Delaware Gazette

Westerville: City at a crossroads

GARY BUDZAK - August 14, 2026



Signs of their respective times: This poster was printed more than 100 years ago by the Anti-Saloon League next to what is now the Westerville Public Library at 126 S. State St.



WESTERVILLE — This city straddling two counties occasionally finds itself at a crossroads where the past, present and future intersect; and where competing visions continue to shape its course of action.

The Gazette attended a presentation at the Westerville Public Library on Aug. 7, where interns Izzy Bettinger and Emily Voneman displayed recently recovered posters from the Anti-Saloon League. Those who drive through the Uptown section today or attend the city's Fourth Friday events wouldn't know that Westerville was once "The Dry Capital of the World." However, in what is now the library's parking lot, the League once printed and distributed millions of posters and leaflets worldwide on the dangers of alcohol, culminating in Prohibition in the United States in 1919.

The library interns have painstakingly preserved and documented a time in history some would prefer to forget but nevertheless happened, and in their backyard, to boot. The League's Westerville headquarters is now a museum and part of the library (itself under renovation). Annexation to the north into Delaware County in 1995 effectively repealed the city's traditional self-imposed alcohol ban, and voter-approved options brought beer back to Uptown just over a decade later.

The architect of that annexation, former City Manager Dave Lindimore, died July 30 at the age of 80. Meanwhile, areas of the annexation (now known as Westar) continue to be commercially developed across from Polaris Parkway and Africa Road.

Cattycorner from the library is 64 E. Walnut St., a 30,300-square-foot office building that was about to be sold for \$2.5 million to be developed into apartments, hotel, parking garage and restaurant. (A newly renovated City Hall at 21 S. State St. now houses the operations of six departments and two officials' offices that were at 310 W. Main and Walnut streets.) However, residents along Walnut and throughout Westerville expressed their opposition to the project. In May, City Council initially tabled the ordinance to September in response to the outcry. Then on June 2, they voted unanimously to scrap the legislation.

Signs opposing the development still line several streets in the city. On Aug. 11, a hundred residents gathered in the Community Center to offer suggestions for the Walnut Street site, while questioning whether the city needed to sell the site.

The city is also seeking resident input on how to "Shape the future of South State Street" on its website through Aug. 31. The focus area is from Walnut Street to Sugar Grove Square. Below that area on South State, two area restaurants are currently undergoing upgrades — Arby's (680 S. State St.) was demolished and is being rebuilt for a November reopening, while Delaney's Diner (5916 Westerville Road) is expanding and expected to reopen Sept. 14.

Assistant Editor Gary Budzak covers the eastern half of Delaware County and surrounding areas. He can be reached via Webex at 1-740-363-1161 or on X @GaryBudzak.



GARY BUDZAK

No posts to display