

8-30-2017

A Lesson on Hatred from the Annals of Logan County History

Aaron Barlow

CUNY New York City College of Technology

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

Follow this and additional works at: https://academicworks.cuny.edu/ny_pubs

 Part of the [American Popular Culture Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Barlow, Aaron, "A Lesson on Hatred from the Annals of Logan County History" (2017). *CUNY Academic Works*.
https://academicworks.cuny.edu/ny_pubs/194

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the New York City College of Technology at CUNY Academic Works. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publications and Research by an authorized administrator of CUNY Academic Works. For more information, please contact AcademicWorks@cuny.edu.

eMail: news@examiner.org

www.examiner.org

Opinion & Editorial

GUEST COLUMN

A lesson on hatred from the annals of Logan County history

Logan County Sheriff John Carmen Sullivan was a popular figure in the county during the 1890s. His Stetson hat (covering a bald head) was widely recognizable and his sense of humor was appreciated even by his political enemies.

He was my great-grandfather and clippings about him from Bellefontaine newspapers have come down to me. They include stories of the death of his mother-in-law, burned when her clothes caught fire in the kitchen and of my grandmother's skip-rope playmate, who fell through the rotting wood over a well before my grandmother's eyes. They include tales of Sheriff Sullivan's practical jokes.

And they include descriptions of the lynching he could not stop.

On April 15, 1894, Seymour Newlin, was lynched in Rushsylvania. Newlin, an African-American, was accused of raping an elderly white woman: the local papers left little doubt — in their reporters' minds, at least — of his guilt. An angry crowd had gathered, larger than the entire population of the village, by the time Sheriff Sullivan arrived on the scene. He quickly sent for back-up, about a dozen young men from the local National Guard unit. Even with them, however, he was in a ticklish situation. His men, though armed, likely had friends and relatives among the mob. They certainly would not have willingly fired at them.

Sheriff Sullivan negotiated with the crowd. They would disperse if he and his men returned to Bellefontaine, with a group of locals deputized to guard the building where Newlin was held. Violence, at least

for the moment, was averted.

During the evening, however, a vocal group, whose description is a lot like that of the Ku Klux Klan, rallied the still-angry people, leading them back to the "calaboose" where Newlin was held. Unwilling to face the mob, the guards retreated, at least one by force. Newlin was taken out and summarily hanged.

My great-grandfather failed in his duty that night, as later newspaper stories pointed out. Some of them also argued — and I agree — that he never could have succeeded. Newlin was going to be killed no matter what the sheriff or anyone else could have tried to do to stop it. Anger had replaced the rule of law.

Logan County, of course, was not the only site on a lynching in Ohio — and there were many, many more in other states, particularly across the south. But it is this one that I have a connection to. I think of Newlin frequently, as I know my grandmother did, though the lynching took place a few years before she was born. My great-grandfather, I suspect, reflected often on his own role in Newlin's death. It had to have generated a certain amount of guilt, and it surely changed the way he viewed his Logan County fellows, though he never let that show.

Stories of lynchings, events of the American past, remain alive in all of us whose ancestors were involved, be it as victims, perpetrators, or even law officers who, for one reason or another, stood aside. We can't push aside or ignore that history any more than we can bury the other terrible legacies of slavery.

My grandfather, Sheriff Sullivan's son-in-law, a

disabled vet from World War I, gave a speech at an American Legion convention in Toledo in the mid-1920s, a speech against acceptance of the Klan into the Legion, something being pushed for at that time. His specific argument against the Klan was based on the character of the Jewish soldiers he had served with overseas — for the Klan was then (and is now) as anti-Semitic as racist.

I wonder if he thought, as he stood for his beliefs, of what had happened in Rushsylvania a generation earlier — certainly, he knew the story.

Certainly, he knew that our country can only move forward if we stand against hatred and for the rule of law. While we may never be the ones who can individually stop the movements of anger, we only encourage it when we stand by. This is the dilemma that Sheriff Sullivan faced and his response was surely one he spent the rest of his life regretting. It served, though, as an example for the next generation and the next. My grandfather was determined not to repeat that sort of failure, even on a much smaller scale. Neither was my father, who became, in a small way, a civil-rights activist a generation later.

Neither am I, in our own time of renewed hatred and a revitalized Klan.

Standing together against hatred, we can all defeat it.

Aaron Barlow is a great-grandson of the late Logan County Sheriff John Carmen Sullivan, a professor of English at the New York City College of Technology and faculty editor of *Academe*. He is author of the books *The Depression Era: A Historical Exploration of Literature and Doughboys on the Western Front: Memories of American Soldiers in the Great War*. He can be reached at ajbarlow@gmail.com.



AARON BARLOW

ARTISTS VIEWS THE BEST AND THE WITTIEST



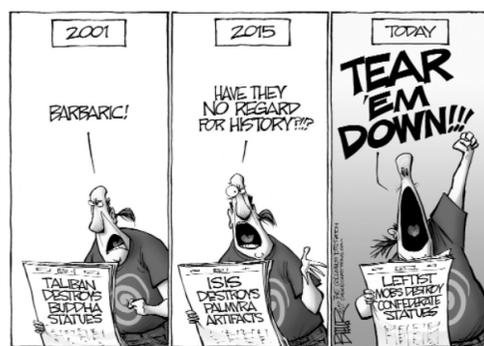
FLOODWATERS



CRISIS MANAGEMENT



ecobt



TEAR EM DOWN!!!



DON'T EXPECT ONE FROM ME...

FROM THE SENATE FLOOR

A comprehensive view of the heroin and prescription drug epidemic

Heroin and prescription drugs have ravaged our communities. Overdose deaths have become so prevalent that coroners' offices across the state are literally running out of space. This is a national epidemic, and, sadly, Ohio is at the center of it. The number one cause of crime in Ohio is opioid addiction and related offenses committed to pay for drugs. An estimated 200,000 Ohioans are suffering from addiction, and at nearly double the national average, Ohio has one of the highest rates of overdose deaths in the country.

I recently visited two Ohio medical centers where addiction is treated and the pathway to recovery begins. I also visited the Customs and Border Protection port of entry at the Greater Cincinnati airport where officers are trying to stop these drugs from ever entering our country.

At the medical centers, I was able to see new approaches that treat the root of addiction rather than just preventing loss of life and sending people home — only to revert back to drug use shortly thereafter. There is no question that Narcan, used to revive those having an overdose, saves lives — but it is treatment centers that provide a second chance to live addiction free.

Getting those in need into treatment and long-term recovery programs is what will help turn the tide of addiction.



ROB PORTMAN

The Maryhaven Addiction Stabilization Center in Columbus is a great example of this. They are building a new countywide treatment center that will provide both immediate support for overdose victims as well as treatment to overcome addiction. This comprehensive approach is key to battling the root of addiction rather than just treating the immediate symptoms. As a part of the

21st Century Cures legislation, I fought for an additional \$1 billion in new funding for states to combat the opioid epidemic. It is this funding that helped provide the means necessary to build this new treatment center.

I also visited the Ohio Health Grant Medical Center in Columbus where they treat babies who are born dependent on opioids. This is a tragic and all too common occurrence in Ohio — expectant mothers battling addiction give birth to children who are dependent on these drugs before taking their first breath. My legislation passed last year, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, provides help to pregnant and postpartum women as well as vulnerable babies affected by this disease.

In addition to treating those in need, we need to keep these deadly drugs off the streets. At a Customs and Border Protection port of entry at the Greater Cincinnati airport, I saw their screening process to stop synthetic heroin, including fentanyl and carfentanil, from reaching Ohio communities. Labs, mostly in China, ship synthetic drugs into Ohio directly through the mail. Fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin, and it is increasingly taking Ohioans' lives.

In February, I introduced the bipartisan STOP Act to address this problem. It requires the U.S. Postal Service to get electronics customs data for packages entering the country — the same way private carriers like UPS and FedEx already do — to give law enforcement the tools to identify, and target, the suppliers of these deadly poisons.

The opioid epidemic in Ohio is a complex problem that requires a comprehensive solution. My visits highlighted some successes, as well as some needed reforms to combat the heroin and prescription drug epidemic flooding our local communities. Everyone has a role, and I will continue to do what I can to assist Ohio communities in this important fight.

Rob Portman is a Republican U.S. Senator from Cincinnati. He can be reached at www.portman.senate.gov; 312 Walnut St., Suite 3075, Cincinnati, OH 45202; or telephone, (513) 684-3265.

FROM THE STATE SENATE

In Northwest Ohio, wind is our shale

On my desk in the Ohio Statehouse, a single picture of my four beautiful granddaughters is a daily reminder of what we are trying to accomplish here in the General Assembly. As tough as it is at times, the only thing that pulls me away from spending time with those smiling faces is the understanding that the decisions I make here are right for my constituents in Northwest Ohio, and that we are creating a climate for economic development, are moving our state forward, and ensuring our children and grandchildren have boundless opportunity and a bright future ahead of them.

It saddens me that at this very moment, overreaching wind turbine setback laws are preventing just that. They have halted a tremendous economic development effort that is estimated to bring jobs and a \$4.2 billion wind industry to an area that has not been able to reap the benefits of Ohio's shale boom. Many parts of the state have neither the interest nor ability to generate

significant amounts of energy using wind. That is fine — and they are pursuing economic development by other means. However, in my district, wind is our shale.



CLIFF HITE

And every day that goes by with this arbitrary setbacks rule in place is another missed opportunity to get this industry back on track for Northwest Ohio.

Wind energy development can have a rippling economic effect, too. Corporate purchasers such as Amazon, manufacturers like Timken, and state and local government treasuries all stand to benefit from these wind projects, incentivizing more and more business investment in our area. Northwest Ohio is an ideal region for this viable and renewable energy source. The current setback laws are bad for business, the environment, and our families.

My goal when I joined the legislature was to leave Ohio a better place than when I started. I strongly believe the development of these wind farms will benefit our state for generations to come. New projects are eagerly

waiting for us to fix this problem we created in Ohio law. I sincerely hope as a legislature we are prepared to do so.

Senator Hite represents the 1st Ohio Senate District, which encompasses all or parts of Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Logan, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, and Williams counties. Learn more at www.OhioSenate.gov/Hite.

PRAYER FOR TODAY

Oh Lord and Master of my life, take away from me the spirit of laziness, cowardliness, lust for power, and malicious and idle speech. But rather give me, throughout the day to come, an ample spirit of vitality and force in your service, to the benefit of your glory and the good of my fellow man. Let me act in humility, patience, and decency at all times, seeing my own error and overlooking the faults of others; and let me always know the presence of your Holy Spirit, to remind me of what I have asked, in the name of my savior Jesus Christ.

DAILYPRAYER.US



BELLEFONTAINE EXAMINER

HUBBARD PUBLISHING CO.
PO Box 40 • Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311
An independent daily newspaper
Founded in 1891
by E.O. & H.K. Hubbard
Issued daily except Sunday at
127 E. Chillicothe Ave.

Member of the:
Ohio Newspaper Association and
the Inland Daily Press Association •
The Associated Press •
Ohio League of Home Dailies

PUBLISHER: JON HUBBARD
GENERAL MANAGER: T.J. HUBBARD
EDITOR: MIRIAM BAIER
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: BOB CHAPMAN
CIRCULATION MANAGER: JILL THOMAS

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Delivered by carrier, per week\$2.40
By motor route, per week.....\$2.40
Price of single copy.....50c
By mail R.F.D. in Logan and adjoining
Counties, per year postpaid.....\$125.40
By mail outside of Logan and
surrounding counties.....\$147.40

ONLINE Edition

Five weeks\$9.50
Thirteen weeks.....\$24.70
Twenty six weeks\$49.40
Fifty two weeks(-1 year).....\$98.80
Larger periods by mail slightly more than proportionate
cost of yearly rate. Mail subscriptions will not be accept-
ed from territories served by an Examiner newspaper
courier or motor routes.

All subscriptions for papers delivered by
carrier are payable in advance at the
Examiner office. No paper sent by mail
unless paid for in advance, a postal
regulation. Subscriptions are non-
refundable. Online subscriptions must be
paid in advance.

HOW TO REACH US

GENERAL: 592-3060
CIRCULATION/SUBSCRIPTIONS: Option 4
CLASSIFIEDS: Option 5
AFTERHOURS: (937) 407-0205

NEWSROOM Option 1
Miriam Baier-Editor.....1124
Joel Mast.....1119
Mandy Loehr.....1116
Reuben Mees.....1136
SPORTS Option 2
Matt Hammond-Sports Editor.....1122
Aaron LaBatt.....1115
ADVERTISING Option 3
Bob Chapman-Ad. Director.....2125
Jim Strzalka.....1126



www.examiner.org
webmaster@examiner.org

E-MAIL
news@examiner.org
sports@examiner.org
ads@examiner.org
classifieds@examiner.org
subscriptions@examiner.org

Second Class Postage Paid At
Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311
Publication Number
049000

"Nothing is stronger than public
opinion; given the facts,
nothing is wiser."



FORUM GUIDELINES

Letters of less than 500 words
will be given preference. Writers
should limit their letters to one per
month. For verification purposes, all
letters must include the writer's
address and telephone number. The
writer's name and city will be printed
with each letter. No anonymous let-
ters will be printed. Letters of thanks
will not be printed in the Forum, nor
will disputes between customers and
businesses.

The Examiner reserves the right to
edit letters for length and clarity. Forum
letters and guest editorials are the op-
inions of the writers and do not neces-
sarily reflect the opinions of the Examiner.
E-mail letters may be sent to:

news@examiner.org
Letters can also be sent by fax to
592-4463, or by mail to:

The Forum
Bellefontaine Examiner
P.O. Box 40
Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311

ABE MARTIN



"A diplomat is a feller that
lets you do all the talkin'
while he gits what he wants."

Written prior, 1931, by Kin Hubbard, a
world-famous newspaper humorist and
father of late T.E. Hubbard, former
Examiner owner/publisher