

PROHIBITION AND ITS “IRKSOME RED TAPE”

Congress outlined federal enforcement of Prohibition in The National Prohibition Act - known as the Volstead Act. Pharmacies like this one were now the only places for average citizens to legally purchase alcohol with doctor's prescription or federal permit.

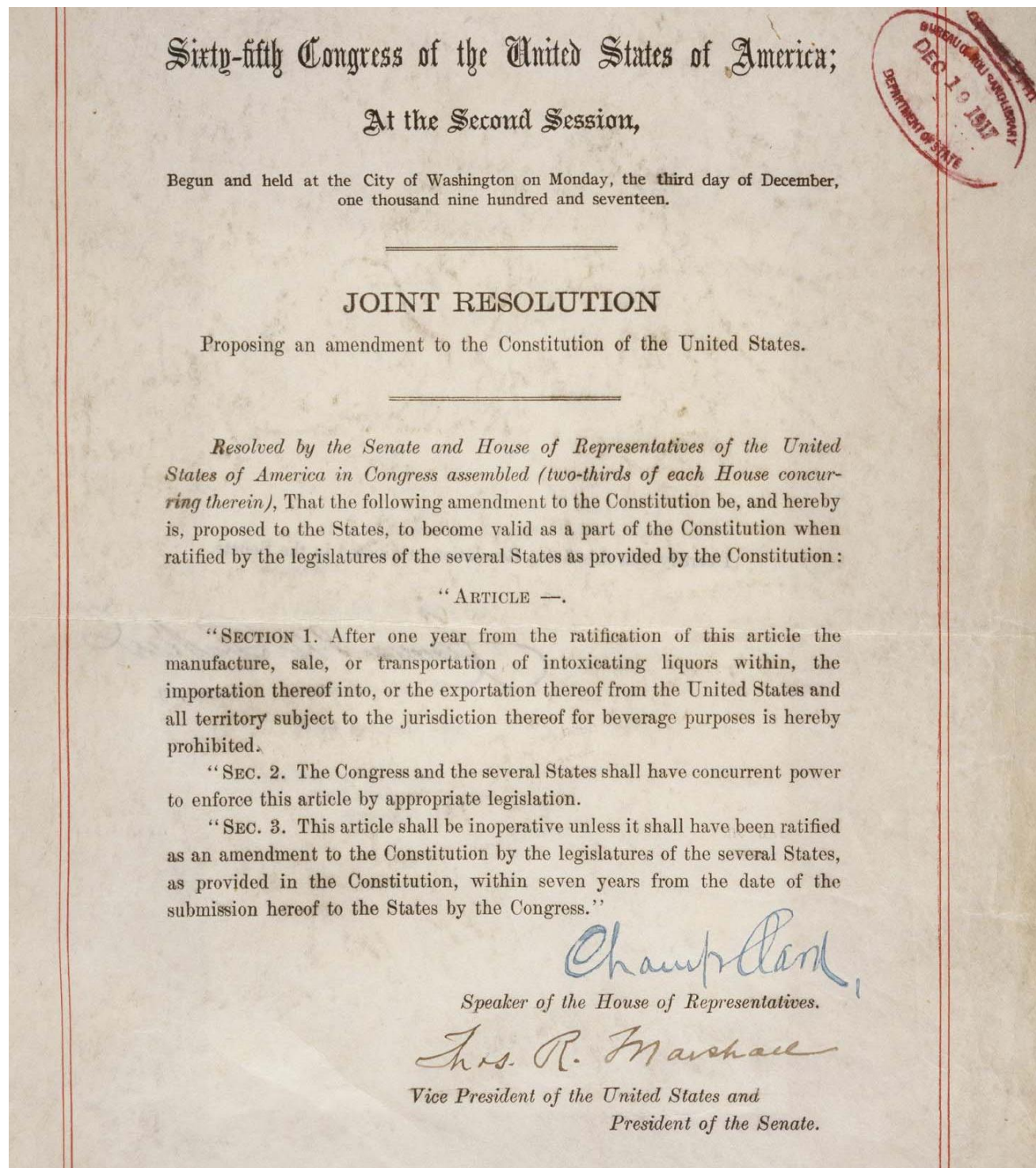
In order to continue selling alcohol, pharmacies were required to:

- Apply for a permit to sell products that included alcohol, to be renewed annually
- Provide a security bond
- Keep a log-book of all prescriptions filled for medicinal alcohol
- Keep a monthly record of the volume of all products bought or sold that included alcohol

All letters and forms are copied from the archival collection of the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum. The two amendments are courtesy of the Library of Congress.

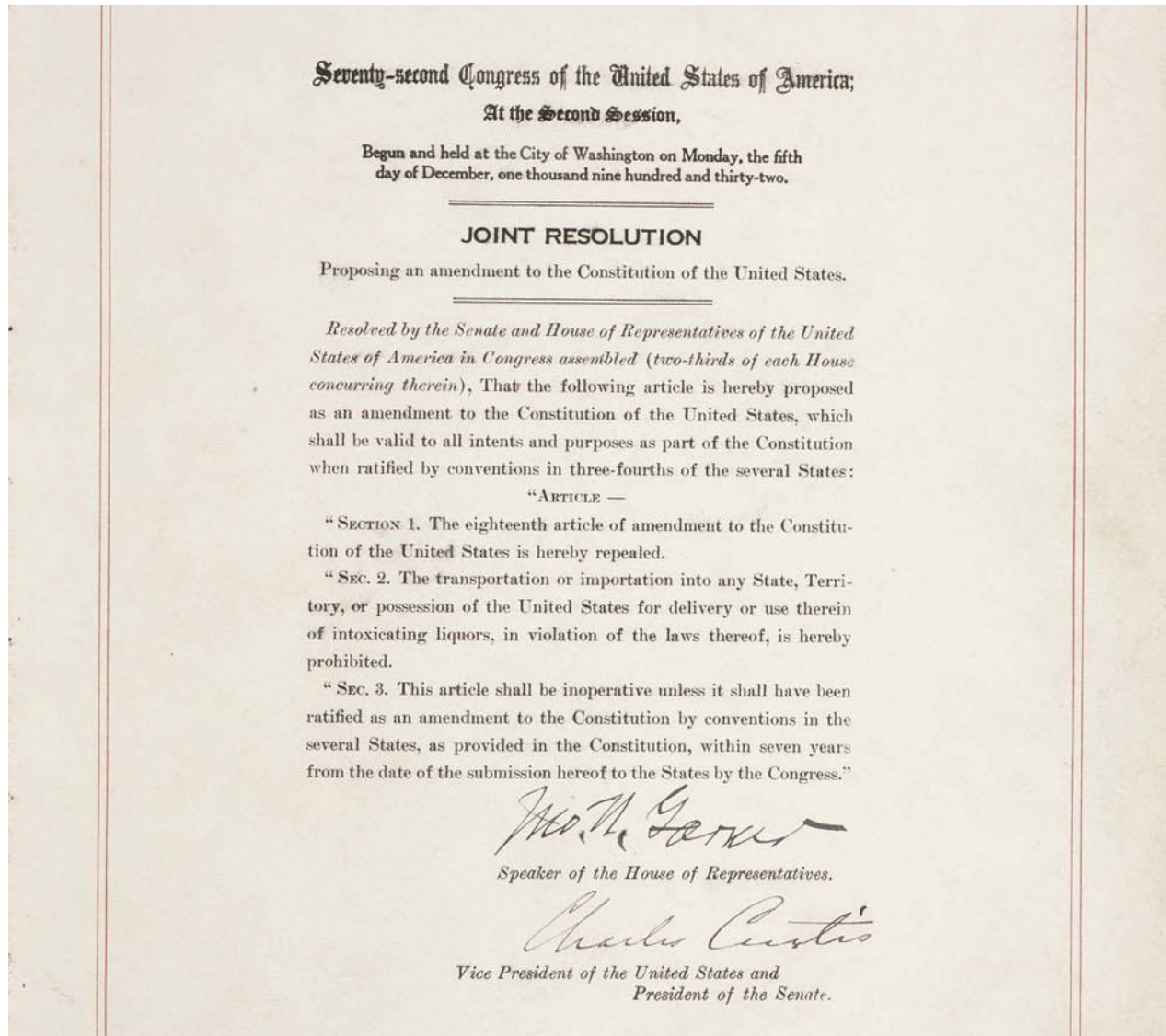
18th Amendment

On January 17, 1920 the 18th Amendment to the Constitution went into effect. Popularly known as "prohibition," it barred the "manufacture, sale, or transportation of intoxicating liquors." Alcohol could only be purchased for medicinal, scientific, or sacramental purposes.



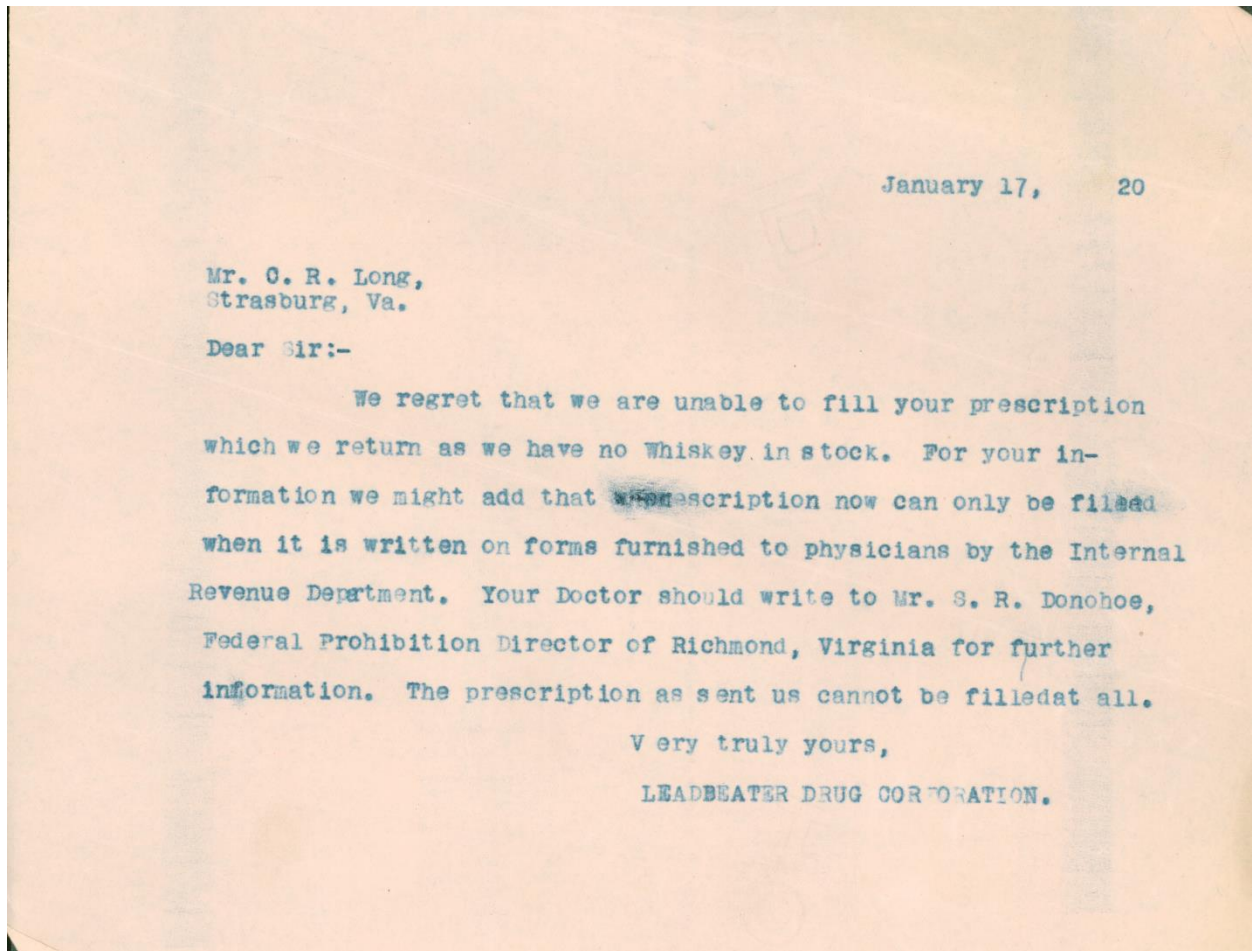
21st Amendment

While lobbying groups like the Anti-Saloon League hoped the 18th Amendment would eliminate excesses of the drinking culture in the United States, others questioned its effectiveness and enforcement. Ultimately the 21st Amendment brought an end to Prohibition.



January 17, 1920 - Letter to Mr. C. R. Long

Written the day Prohibition went into effect, this letter refers to Federal Form 1403, known as a Prescription Blank. Physicians needed to complete this form when they prescribed medicinal alcohol to their patients. The Leadbeaters were required to keep a copy of this form and as well as include these prescriptions in their monthly reports to the Federal Prohibition Department.



July 26, 1920 - Letter from the Office of the Federal Prohibition Director

The additional regulation of alcohol created layers of paperwork and reporting requirements that pharmacists struggled to keep up with. The 1923 American Journal of Pharmacy reflected the field's feelings, describing these new rules as "irksome red tape."

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF FEDERAL PROHIBITION DIRECTOR
RICHMOND, VA.

July 26, 1920

TO THOSE REQUIRED TO FILE
FORM 1421: -

This office is experiencing considerable difficulty in having the Monthly Report, Form 1421, returned within the specified time limit. The law requires this report to be filed on or before the 5th of each month, and NOT the 6th, 10th or 20th, as a great many now are doing. Failure to comply with the law will mean revocation of your permit to use alcoholic spirits.

It is also requested that you fill in on the report your correct permit number. If you are unable to remember your permit number it can be secured from the upper right hand corner of Form 1410, Permit to Purchase, which you use in procuring alcoholic spirits.

PLEASE SEE THAT THE AMOUNT OF ALCOHOLIC SPIRITS USED DURING THE MONTH IS STATED IN GALLONS AND OUNCES, - and not in hundredths of a gallon. SEE THAT THE ENTRY IS MADE IN THE CORRECT COLUMN AND DO NOT SHOW THE TOTAL USED IN THE COLUMN "Tax Paid Alcohol Consumed in Laboratory." This column is reserved for those actually using alcohol in their laboratory for scientific purposes or for manufacturing glue, etc.

Kindly endeavor to comply with the above requests, in order that the reports coming in to this office may be uniform.

Very truly yours,

S. R. DONOHUE,
Federal Prohibition Director.

SRD:M

September 2, 1920 - 1421 Form

Form 1421 required pharmacies to report their use of alcohol and other liquor used in manufacturing and compounding on a monthly basis. The Leadbeaters' usage for August 1920 included the sale of port wine by prescription and the manufacture of flavoring extracts.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE Form 1421		Serial Number of Permit <i>Va. 1-77</i> (To be filled in by party making this report.)		
REPORT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER LIQUOR USED IN MANUFACTURING AND COMPOUNDING BY HOLDERS OF PERMIT ON FORM 1405, UNDER THE NATIONAL PROHIBITION ACT, OR ON FORM 737.				
Sept. 2, 1920				
To FEDERAL PROHIBITION DIRECTOR at <u>Richmond, Va.</u>				
I certify that I am the lawful holder of permit No. <u>Va. 1-77</u> , and that during the month of <u>AUGUST</u> , 1920, I used the following quantities of alcohol and other liquor in the manufacturing and compounding of the articles enumerated below, in accordance with the terms of my permit and the National Prohibition Act as well as the Regulations prescribed under that Act:				
ARTICLES IN THE MANUFACTURE OR COMPOUNDING OF WHICH ALCOHOL OR OTHER LIQUOR IS USED.	QUANTITY OF ALCOHOL USED.		LIQUOR OTHER THAN ALCOHOL.	
	WINE GALLONS.	PROOF GALLONS.	KIND.	QUANTITY IN WINE GALLONS.
Alcoholic medicinal preparations unfit for beverage use.	<i>4 galls</i> <i>11 oz</i>		<i>Port Wine</i> <i>on prescription</i>	<i>32 oz</i>
Alcoholic medicinal preparations fit for beverage use.				
Antiseptic solutions, toilet preparations, and perfumes, unfit for beverage use.	<i>2 galls</i> <i>196 oz</i>			
Flavoring extracts and sirups unfit for beverage use.	<i>23 galls</i> <i>112 oz</i>			
Culinary uses in hotels, bakeries, etc.				
Tax-paid alcohol consumed in laboratory, manufactur- ing, and technical use.				
LEADBEATER DRUG CORPORATION (Signed) <i>Leadbeater Pres</i> <i>300 King St</i> (Street and number.) (City or town, and State.)				
SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM.				

October 27, 1920 - Application to Procure Wine for Sacramental Purposes and Like Religious Rites

Exceptions to Prohibition included the use of sacramental wine in religious ceremonies. Christ Church and the Virginia Theological Seminary were two of the local church organizations that purchased sacramental port wine from the Leadbeaters. Note the use of the port wine for "private celebrations with the invalid and sick as needed."

**APPLICATION TO PROCURE WINE FOR SACRAMENTAL PURPOSES
AND LIKE RELIGIOUS RITES**

Filed OCT 27 1920

LEADBEATER DRUG CORPORATION
Leadbeater Bros
ALEXANDRIA, VA

Quantity of wine procured since January 1, 1920	<i>about</i> <u>3</u> gallons.
Quantity applied for herein	<u>2</u> "
TOTAL	<u>5</u> "
Quantity on hand date of application	<i>None</i>

Oct. 19th, 1920

I, J. M. Morton, Rector
(Name in full.) (Official designation.)
of Christ Church, located at Cor. Columbus & Cameron
(Name of church or congregation.) (Street address.)
Alexandria, VA, hereby makes application to procure
(City.) (State.)
from The Leadbeater Drug Corp, Cor. King & Fairfax St
(Name of dealer.) (Street address.)
Alexandria, VA, to be delivered to the above address Two
(City.) (State.)
gallons of Port wine for sacramental purposes or like religious rites, to be
(Kind.)
used solely as follows: in Christ Church as above & in private celebrations with the invalid & sick as needed

The quantity above specified is necessary to supply legitimate needs for the purposes stated until March 1st, 1921.

J. M. Morton Director of
(Signature of applicant.) ALEXANDRIA, VA

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 1920

APPROVED: _____

Charles E. Burden
(Signature of director, or, where the church or congregation has a hierarchical form of organization, signature of head of ecclesiastical jurisdiction or official designated by him.)

Approved OCT 20 1920
Sh. Donohue

2-9502

October 2, 1920 - Form Request

The demand for sacramental wine was apparently greater than the number of forms provided to the Leadbeaters, prompting them to request more forms from the National Prohibition Director.

