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Timothy Sylvester Hogan, The Solid Man

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*At every party and every raffle
I always go, an invited guest;
As conspicuous as General Grant, me boys,
I wear a rosebud upon my breast.
I'm called upon to address the meeting
Without regard to clique or clan,
I quote the constitution with elocution,
And along the street, all the friends I meet, say,
"There goes Muldoon, he's a solid man."*

Edward Hart (1845-1911)

The words to this old Irish-American song describe Muldoon, a fictional Irish politician who comes from modest beginnings and through hard work gains political office. He then becomes well known among his many friends as a "solid man." This description mirrors the political and personal life of former Ohio Attorney General Timothy Sylvester Hogan. This article will look at Hogan's life and his political career up to the U.S. Senate campaign of 1914. Part II will focus on his unsuccessful 1914 campaign for the U.S. Senate against challenger Warren Gamaliel Harding.

Throughout his career Timothy Hogan not only fought for and against the many and complex political issues of his day, but as an Irish-Catholic, he also had to fight against outrageous anti-Catholicism. That anti-Catholicism would deny



Hogan political office. Win or lose, Hogan always managed to rise above his political enemies by utilizing his personal qualities of honesty, wit, courtesy and hard work.

Timothy Sylvester Hogan was born on a farm in Washington Township, Jackson County, Ohio on June 11, 1864. His parents, Patrick Hogan and Margaret Courtney Hogan, were natives of County Kerry, Ireland. Patrick Hogan immigrated to the U.S. in 1852. He worked as a fisherman on Lake Erie and then as a laborer in Vinton County, Ohio, before settling in Jackson County. In 1854 Margaret Courtney arrived in Chillicothe, Ohio from Quebec, Canada where her family had first immigrated. She met and married Patrick Hogan that same year. Timothy Hogan was one of their eight children.

Timothy Hogan was educated in the public schools of Jackson County. He reportedly received private

instructions from Rev. John Kyran Larkin, who was a graduate of Maynooth College in Ireland and formerly head of the Columbus Catholic College. Father Larkin was stationed at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in nearby Wellston, Ohio. It was said of Father Larkin that, "he built his temples to the Lord not in brick or marble, but in the hearts of the children of the church." Surely, it was Father Larkin's instruction, plus reinforcement at home, that instilled in Timothy Hogan his strong Catholic faith.

Hogan worked on the family farm and in his free time dug and hauled iron ore for the blast furnaces in Wellston. The Catholic Columbian reported that Hogan stated in a speech at Chillicothe that he had once been a member of St. Mary's Parish in Chillicothe "when he was a foundry boy at the old Welch foundry."

At the young age of 17 he began teaching in the Jackson County public schools where he taught for four years. He then moved to the nearby city of Wellston where he taught in that city's grade and high schools. In 1887, at the age of 23, he was elected Superintendent of Schools in Wellston, a position he held for eight years. For a Catholic to be the superintendent of a public school system in a predominantly Protestant community is in itself a testament to the abilities and personality of the young Timothy Hogan.

During the summer months, Hogan pursued higher education by attending Ohio Normal School in Ada, Ohio (now known as Ohio Northern University), Ohio State University and Ohio University at Athens. Records at Ohio Northern University show that T. S. Hogan graduated there in 1888 and he is also listed as a graduate there in 1889. Hogan received the degree of A.B. from the Ohio Normal School and a Master of Arts degree from Ohio University in 1891. Hogan also received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from Ohio State University and the University of Dayton.

On June 9, 1891 Timothy Hogan married Mary Collins, a local school principal. Together they

had four children (Nellie, Edward, John and Charlotte).

Anti-Catholicism in Wellston

In 1895 anti-Catholic bigotry raises its head in Superintendent Hogan's political life. There were many false and outrageous rumors about Catholics being circulated at the time and Jackson County was not immune to these lies. Soon after the election of two anti-Catholic school board members, rumors were circulated in the community that Superintendent Hogan had ordered pupils to buy Catholic Catechisms. A school parent, Mrs. Albert Schafer, was contacted and stated under oath that the story was untrue. The alleged "catechism" was a copy of Longfellow's Church Scenes in England ordered by a teacher, Mrs. Spencer, "an orthodox Presbyterian." The book had a green cover which seems to have been the thing that precipitated this bogus controversy. On April 6, 1895 the Wellston Sentinel concluded, "Every honest person, no difference how he votes should condemn persons who have no more principle about them than to circulate lies for political effect."

Because of this incident and others like it, Hogan felt that it was best for the school system and the children that he resign his position. On April 25, 1895 high school commencement exercises were held at the Wellston Opera House. Following the distribution of diplomas Hogan addressed the crowd and congratulated the graduates on their academic achievements. He reviewed the accomplishments of his eight years as superintendent. Hogan addressed the battle that had been waged against him because of his religion. He told the crowd that he had never been guilty of introducing any sectarianism into the public schools (the Wellston Sentinel added, "which everyone believes truthfully"). Hogan stated that he would allow everyone to choose his or her own belief as he had chosen his. Hogan told the crowd, "I was born a Catholic, I have been raised a Catholic and by the grace of God I expect to die in that faith. No paltry position, involving a few hundred dollars in salary will change my conviction." Hogan then announced

his resignation as superintendent. The newspaper reported that the speech "was applauded by a large part of the audience, while others in the audience sat silent." The newspaper referred to the speech as, "... an excellent oratorical effort."

Hogan, the Attorney

Sometime during Hogan's teaching career, one of his fellow schoolteachers gave him a copy of Blackstone's, Commentaries on the Laws of England. As a result, Hogan became fascinated with the study of law. He often said that his law education was gained by studying at home "under the apple tree." Hogan was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of Ohio in 1894. His lack of formal legal training did not seem to be a hindrance to Hogan's pursuit of a legal career. One local attorney, after losing to Hogan in court, stated that he would like to stand in the shadow of the apple tree under which Hogan learned his law. Of his work as a lawyer, Hogan said, "I learned the principles of justice and fairness that helped me most in law by teaching a school of boys and girls in the primary grades."

On July 1, 1895, only three months after resigning his position as Superintendent of Schools, Hogan went into private law practice in Wellston with the firm of McCormick and Hogan. The town of Wellston was growing rapidly and the young attorney found legal work plentiful. In only two years he had gained a statewide reputation as a competent lawyer, representing both large businesses and individuals. Hogan's practice soon extended to southern Indiana and western Pennsylvania. One source claims that by 1911 Hogan "had tired cases in more counties in the state than any lawyer of his age."

In private practice Hogan developed several precepts on being an attorney: "There would be more honest lawyers if more lawyers knew how much it pays to be honest; any lawyer can win any case he ought to win, if he puts his mind to it; there is just as much chance to be a good lawyer before a justice of the peace as before the supreme court; an ordinary lawyer who works hard will

win more cases than a brilliant lawyer who takes things easy; and there never will be too many good lawyers."

With Hogan's public success came personal tragedy. Hogan's daughter Nellie died at the age of ten in a scarlet fever epidemic. Hogan's wife Mary also died quite unexpectedly in 1905 from complications resulting from a spider bite.

State President, Ancient Order of Hibernians

Timothy Hogan was an active member in the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish-Catholic fraternal organization. Hogan was a member of the local Wellston division. At the 1900 state convention in Toledo, Hogan was elected State President of the Hibernians, presiding over 78 divisions in 36 counties in Ohio. He was reelected to a second two-year term at the 1902 state convention in Springfield. In his report as outgoing President to the 1904 state convention held in Youngstown, Hogan reported the following words of advice to the membership:

"All Catholic societies should act as a unit in the protection of the interests of our people. In unity there is strength; unity commands respect. The unity of the Catholic Church has been one of the great elements of its strength and endurance. We have suffered in the past because the position of our people has not been understood and many people who would be otherwise well meaning have been prejudiced against the Catholics in this country because they were misled as to our purpose. The object of all Catholic organizations should be to encourage greater fidelity to the church, love of country, a strict observance of the good old rule to do unto others as we would that they should do unto us."

Through the Hibernians, Hogan met John Deasy, who was president of one of the Cincinnati Hibernian divisions. Deasy introduced Hogan to his daughter Mary L. Deasy. A romance developed and Timothy Hogan and Mary Deasy were married on June 20, 1908. Together they would have four children.

The Call of Politics

Timothy Hogan was not able to stay away from the political arena for very long. Like a large number of his fellow Irish-Americans, Hogan was a member of the Democratic Party. He worked his way up through the city, district and state Democratic organizations as a delegate. In 1896 Hogan ran for the U.S. House of Representatives, losing to Republican Lucien B. Fenton by 24,809 votes to 18,029.

In 1908 the Democrats nominated Hogan for the position of Ohio Attorney General. He lost a close race to Republican Ulysses B. Denman by 551,084 votes to 521,839. It should be noted that Hogan's Catholic faith did not seem to be a central issue in either of these two campaigns.

Timothy Hogan came back in 1910 to run again for the position of Ohio Attorney General, running against incumbent Republican Ulysses B. Denman. This time Hogan was the winner. He defeated Denman by the narrow margin of 418,768 votes to 410,806. As a result, Timothy Sylvester Hogan of Wellston became Ohio's 25th Attorney General.

Ohio Attorney General

After winning the election Hogan packed up his family and moved to Columbus, Ohio. Hogan began immediately to cause waves in the political and legal community. He became known as an "early bird" arriving at his office at the State House every day at 7:30 A.M. He reorganized the Attorney General's office, establishing full time hours for the staff for the first time in its history. He hired a staff of competent attorneys and began establishing his office. Capital City politicians, government workers and newspaper reporters soon found that Hogan would be a very unique Attorney General.

One of Hogan's first duties upon taking office was to render an opinion concerning the validity of the current legislative session. Hogan affirmed that the session was indeed valid. The Ohio Supreme Court later upheld this opinion. Ohio's

government was growing and the Attorney General's office was called upon to render all sorts of opinions regarding Ohio's existing and proposed laws. To make matters worse, a Constitutional Convention was called in 1912 requiring Hogan's office to rule on many and sundry proposed amendments to the Ohio Constitution. The Attorney General's office was busier than it had ever been before in history, and Hogan was ready to meet the challenge.

Corruption Fighter and Friend of Labor

A large part of Ohio politics at this time was a combination of political bossism, graft and corruption. Political bosses who collected graft and dispensed political favors ran many of the major cities in Ohio. In the Ohio General Assembly, legislators of both political parties routinely sponsored "milking bills" designed solely to "milk" lobbyists of bribe money. Bribery and theft in office existed everywhere. Corruption was something that Hogan could not tolerate. Working closely with incumbent Democratic reform Governor Judson Harmon, Hogan quickly set the tone of the Attorney General's office by going after corruption at all levels without regard for political affiliation.

Hogan was instrumental in the many prosecutions of Cincinnati Republican boss George B. Cox. While Hogan and Hamilton County Prosecutor Henry Hunt did not succeed in the efforts to incarcerate George B. Cox, the various prosecutions stirred up enough negative public opinion that within ten years the prosecutions had permanently damaged the graft empire established by Cox and his cronies. Hogan's initial involvement in the ultimate fall of George B. Cox is often unrecognized.

Much more successful were Hogan's actions against legislative fraud and corruption. Legislators of both political parties were involved in bribery and extortion regarding the use of "milker bills." Hogan, working with Republican Franklin County Prosecutor Edward C. Turner, obtained indictments against Democratic Representative

George Nye of Pike County, Republican Senator LaForrest Andrews of Lawrence County, Democratic Senator Isaac Huffman of Butler County, and Democratic Senator George Cetone of Montgomery County. Hogan used recorded evidence obtained by agents of the Burns Detective Agency. Senator Nye turned state's evidence, escaping a prison term, but the rest were convicted and served terms in the Ohio Penitentiary. These cases also established landmark law regarding the acceptability of recorded evidence.

Hogan successfully pursued civil suits against former Republican State Treasurer Isaac B. Cameron and former Republican Deputy State Treasurer Charles C. Green for theft of interest due the state on the deposit of public funds during their terms of office. Both men were sent to prison. All of these indictments were the first indictments of elected or appointed state officials in over fifty years. In addition, as a result of the Treasurer's Office prosecutions, indictments were brought against several banks and savings and loans for improper use of public funds. These resulted in stiff fines for the institutions.

Timothy Hogan was also known as a friend to labor. He would not enter any building financed by Andrew Carnegie, as he saw him as an exploiter of labor and an anti-Catholic. Hogan successfully argued in court in favor of the compulsory Workers Compensation Law (the Green Law). That battle saw him take on the full opposition force of the private insurance lobby and personal injury lawyers. He also argued in court in favor of a law setting working hours for women. Hogan also appointed Ohio's first African-American Assistant Attorney General, Leroy Godman.

As Hogan's biographer points out, the number of lawyers who appear before the U.S. Supreme Court is very small. The number of non-law-school-trained lawyers is even smaller. Timothy Hogan argued 12 cases before the US Supreme Court and obtained 11 favorable dispositions; 4 were in the field of labor legislation. Seven of the 12 cases were argued as Ohio Attorney General, representing the state of Ohio. Five were argued after he left the Attorney General's Office as a private practice attorney representing clients.

The Solid Man

Hogan became a popular figure in Columbus. Reporters sought him out, as he was always good for a story. Pictures of Hogan and his staff appeared in the local papers. One news story reported that on March 17, 1911 Hogan mysteriously disappeared from his office. Mrs. Hogan attempted to contact him and she became concerned that foul play might be involved in his disappearance. The office staff was dispatched to locate the missing Attorney General. His staff soon found him. It seems that on his way to the courthouse, Hogan had joined the local St. Patrick's Day parade at the invitation of his fellow Hibernians. There was Hogan, marching down the street, singing, leading a band of the Hibernian Rifles. Mrs. Hogan was relieved that her lost husband had been found.

It was also reported that whenever Hogan and his wife would enter the Neil House or Chittenden Hotel restaurants for dinner, the hotel bands would stop playing and strike up one of Hogan's favorite musical numbers. Clearly, Timothy Hogan had graduated from just another elected state official to "solid man."

Hogan was reelected to the office of Ohio Attorney General for a second term in 1912, defeating Republican Freeman T. Eagleson by 437,539 votes to 285,690 (Hogan actually received more votes for Attorney General than fellow Democrat Woodrow Wilson received for President in Ohio). The Progressive Party candidate, Robert R. Nevin received 201,025 votes in this election. Hogan's Catholic faith was not an election issue in 1912. It is also clear from the voting record that Hogan benefited from the split between the Republican and Progressive Parties. Nevertheless, it was an impressive numeric victory that recognized Hogan's many accomplishments as Attorney General. To party leaders, it also demonstrated his potential electability to future political office.

to be concluded...

**Calvary Cemetery,
West Jefferson, Madison County, Ohio**

(Southwest side)

Continued from Volume XXIX, No. 10

T1L14 (front)

+ John E. Chenos Oct. 22, 1890-Oct. 11, 1984

+ Henrietta M. Chenos July 12, 1896-Nov. 29,
1966

SSJ: 1966, Nov. 29, Henrietta Chenos, 70

+ Sylvia Rosemond Chenos Mar. 11, 1940-
Aug. 4, 1940

*SSJ: 1940, Aug. 4, Sylvia Rosemond Chenos,
age 6 months*

T1L14 (rear)

Row 2:

{STOKRP: Madaline S. May 27, 1920-Oct. 5,
1993

{ George Sept. 28, 1926- [blank]

T2L1

Catherine wife of Edward Doggett Died Mar.
__, 1904 Aged 76 Y.

*SSJ: 1904, Mar. 15, Catherine Doggett, born
Ireland, age about 78*

T2 Lots 2 and 3

no stones

T2L4

(Mother) Katherine Grassle 1876-1967

SSJ: 1967, Mar. 13, Katherine Grassle, 90

(Father) Wm. I. Grassle 1875-1932

*SSJ: 1932, June 24, William Grassle, born W.
Jefferson, age 57, peritonitis*

WJV: 1932, June 24, William Grassle, age 57

T2L5 "H"

Francis Holland 1914+1921

*SSJ: 1921, June 13, Francis Holland, born
Lilly Chapel, age 6 years 11 mos., accident*

Jeremiah Holland 1865+1939

*SSJ: 1939, Jan. 1, Jeremiah Clement Holland,
born Madison Co., age 73, heart trouble;
wife Rose O'Brien*

Rose Ann Holland 1874+1964

T2L6

+ James O'Leary Died Sept. 16, 1888, Aged 17
Yrs. [new marker]

{O'LEARY: Mary A. died Jan. 12, 1939

{ Edward and Bridget her parents

{ Michael and Daniel her brothers

T2L7 "M.H."

{Jane Holland wife of Michael Holland died
Oct. 12, 1889 Aged 60Y.

{Michael Holland died Jan. 28, 1912, Aged 83
Y.

{James Holland born Feb. 20, 1869 died Feb.
20 1902, aged 33 Years

*SSJ: 1912, Feb. 11, Michael Holland, born
Ireland, age 79*

*SSJ: 1902, Feb. 20, James Holland, age 32,
operation*

T2L8 "PJF"

{FREY: Peter J. Frey 1844+1923

{ Annie his wife 1846+1909

{ Barbara their dau 1870+1920

*SSJ: 1923, Sept. 10, Peter Frey, born W.
Jefferson, age 79, heart trouble*

*WJV: 1923, Sept. 10, Peter J. Frey, age 79,
born in Ohio, father born in France*

*SSJ: 1909, Nov. 2, Mrs. Peter J. Frey, age 63,
heart trouble*

*SSJ: 1920, Jan. 3, Barbara Frey, born W.
Jefferson, age 49*

*WJV: 1920, Jan. 3, Barbrey Frey, age 49, born
in Ohio*

[FREY: Jane 1872-1944

[Ruth N. 1899-1985

*SSJ: 1944, Dec. 24, Jane Frey, age about 74,
heart attack, married*

{Anthony son of P.J. & A.B. Frey Died Nov. 4,
1884 Aged 1 YR 11 MO 10DS

{Henry son of P.J. & A.B. Frey Died Aug. 17,
1881 Aged 1 Y'R 6 D'S

{George son of P.J. & A.B. Frey Died Aug. 16,
1880 Aged 6 Mo.

T2L9 "B" 'BURNS'

Chas. Burns Co. E 3 Ohio Inf Sp Am War
SSJ: 1905, Apr. 15, Charles Burns, born W.

Jefferson, age 31, pneumonia

J. Frank Jones died 1929

Ellen died 1888

Isabel B. Jones died 1914

SSJ: 1914, Nov. 17, J. F. Jones, born W.

Jefferson, operation [cemetery not listed]

Mother died 1922

Father died 1919

SSJ: 1919, Apr. 11, William John Burns, born
Ireland, age 91

WJV: 1919, Apr. 12, William John Burns, age
90, born in Ireland

T2, L10 and 11

No stones

T2L12 (and rear of T1) 'ADELSBERGER'

Thomas Adelsberger 1870+1941

SSJ: 1941, Feb. 14, Thomas Adelsberger, age
70

Martha Adelsberger 1872+1911

SSJ: 1911, Sept. 31, [blank] Adelsperger,
Bright's disease

T2L13

No stones

T2L14

George Allen Chenos SSGT US AIR FORCE
WORLD WAR II KOREA JUL 21 1926 +
OCT 28 1986

T3L1

No stones

T3L2

{RYAN: Raymond B. Apr. 22, 1923-Sept. 10,
1992

{ Marie H. Feb. 8, 1896-July 20, 1964

{ Bernard M. July 28, 1892-Dec. 12, 1927

T3L3

{BARONDA: Mary Alice May 27, 1928-Jan.
29, 1972

{ Anthony M. Aug. 18, 1926-June 11, 1972

footstone: Anthony M. Baronda OHIO CPL

US ARMY KOREA [repeats dates as above]

SSJ: 1972, Jan. 29, Mary Alice Baronda, 43

SSJ: 1972, June 11, Anthony Baronda, 45

(Son) Anthony Michael Maronda Aug. 15,
1949-June 3, 1972

SSJ: 1972, June 3, Michael Baronda, 22

{FLANAGAN: (Daughter) Mary L. 1901-
1972

{ (Father) Edward 1856-1951

SSJ: 1972, Aug. 22, Mary Flanagan, 71

SSJ: 1951, Nov. 23, Edward Flanagan, age 94,
from Cedarville parish

T3L4

No stones

T3 and 4, L5 and 6 'MURRAY'

James M. Murray 1934+1997

footstone: James Michael Murray CPL US
MARINE CORP JULY 25 1934 + DEC 31
1997

Faye Murray 1934+1989

Helen L. Murray 1891+1980

Ruth E. Murray 1893+1980

John Murray 1857+1955

SSJ: 1955, Apr. 3, John Murray, born W.

Jefferson, age 97; buried in St. Joseph

Cemetery, Columbus; reburied at Calvary
Cemetery Feb. 13, 1957

Mary Murray 1862+1915

WJV: 1915, Oct. 20, Mary Murray, age 53,
born in Ohio, parents born in Ireland

Mabel Murray 1890+1909

SSJ: 1909, Dec. 12 in New Mexico, Mabel

Murray, born Madison Co., age 20, tuberculosis

WJV: 1909, Dec. 12, Mary Murray, age 20

T3 and 4, L7 'GILLIVAN'

James Gillivan Jr. 1870-1906

James Gillivan 1835-1909

SSJ: 1909, Aug. 6, James Gillivan, born Ireland, kidney trouble
 WJV: 1909, June 9, James Gillivan, age 75, parents born in Ireland
 Mary E. Gillivan 1840-1912
 SSJ: 1912, Sept. 7, Mrs. Mary E. Gillivan, old age
 WJV: 1912, Sept. 7, Mary Ellen Gillivan, age 75, born in Ireland
 John M. Gillivan 1866-1931
 SSJ: 1931, Nov. 8, John Gillivan, born W. Jefferson, age 65, heart attack
 WJV: 1931, Nov. 9, John Gillivan, age 65, born in Maryland

T3 and 4, L8 'TWAY BIGGERT'
 Grace Biggert Tway 1889+1912
 SSJ: 1912, Nov. 27, Grace Biggert Tway, born W. Jefferson, tuberculosis
 Frank B. Biggert 1862+1942
 SSJ: 1942, Jan. 17, Frank Biggert, age 79; parents Samuel Biggert and Mary Roberts; wife Sarah Fitzgerald
 Ellen J. Biggert 1861+1919
 SSJ: 1919, Jan. 7, Ellen Josephine (Nash) Biggert, born Urbana, age 58, heart disease
 Norah I. Biggert 1872+1954
 SSJ: 1954, Jan. 21 at St. Anthony Hospital, Norah Biggert, born W. Jefferson, 1872, age 82; parents David and Johanna Fitzgerald

T3L9
 Patrick Doggett 1827-1906
 SSJ: 1907 [or 1906?], Sept. 10, Patrick Doggett, born Ireland, age 80, heart trouble
 Elizabeth Doggett 1836-1892

 T3L10 "S"
 {John Slaven died Jan. 16, 1861, Aged 47 Ys. (new stone)
 {Annie, dau. of J. & E. Slaven, born Dec. 5, 1856 died May 23, 1890

 T3, L11 and 12
 +McDONALD: Peter S.
 Winifred
 Father died 1892
 Mother died 1898
 Thomas died 1884
 James died 1920
 SSJ: 1920, Jan. 24, James McDonald, born W. Jefferson, age 59 years 10 months
 Winifred died 1920
 SSJ: 1920, Apr. 13, Winnifred McDonald, born W. Jefferson, age 63, heart trouble
 WJV: 1920, Apr. 13, Winfred McDonald, age 63, born Ohio, parents born in Ireland
 Peter died 1923
 SSJ: 1923, July 3, Peter McDonald, born W. Jefferson, age 62, heart trouble

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