

The life and times of Sam Effrig

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Effrig's plight. The sheriff (a Republican, of course) sold off everything he had. Fortunately, one of his sons who was not involved in the slaughter house operation had enough money on hand to buy back his dad's house. The sheriff also put him in charge of the business until a suitable buyer could be found.

To Sam's credit, he eventually made good on most of his debts and finally got his head above water, but his life was forever changed by the experience.

IN HIS PRIME Sam was also known around town for many reasons – not the least of which was his hair trigger temper which he displayed on many occasions. But it was generally known that his bark was considerably worse than his bite and it was not unusual for him to offer a favor to someone he had just verbally dressed down.

Speaking of “dressed”, there's an old tale about how local boys would trespass to take a swim in the pond on Effrig's property. Despite his best efforts to keep them out – they continued to sneak in to skinny-dip in the questionably-clean water.

The story goes that Sam managed to sneak up on one of them and unleashed the full brunt of his bluster on

the unsuspecting youngster. So terrified was the boy that he ran home naked through the streets of downtown Lansdale.

EFFRIG ALSO FIGURED in one of the legendary stories about life in old-time Lansdale.

At one time Sam was treasurer of the Lansdale Building and Loan Association and for some unknown reason he refused to accept a dues check from Dr. John Jacobs, the “Daddy” of Lansdale and a community leader who was capable of matching Effrig's tirades salvo for salvo.

Since Sam wouldn't accept the check, Jacobs decided to pay in pennies. He made Effrig stand by while he counted them out one by one. For once, both held their tempers, but payback time would surely come.

Effrig waited until those shares in the trust company matured. When they did he chose to pay Doc back in silver dollars – 4,000 of them – requiring Jacobs to get a wheel barrow to haul his loot to the bank.

Sam Effrig moved from Lansdale to Philadelphia and died in 1938. He is buried in the Lansdale Cemetery.