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In the July issue of the West Virginia Historical Society *Quarterly*, we featured an article by Merle T. Cole on the role of the West Virginia State Police in enforcing martial law in Mingo County during the early 1920s. In this photo essay, Mr. Cole provides some seldom seen images of that turbulent period. Mr. Cole is a 1969 graduate of Marshall University and is employed as a research personnel specialist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service and is the acknowledged expert on the history of the West Virginia State Police. He has kindly provided pictures of the State Police for the following pictorial essay. The first two pictures are provided courtesy of the West Virginia Department of Archives and History. The next eleven are from the Eastern Regional Coal Archives, Craft Memorial Library, Bluefield WV: Accession 81-1, Randel Bond, Records and Photographs of the Pocahontas Operator's Association, 1880-1950. The

final picture is from the archives of the West Virginia State Police.

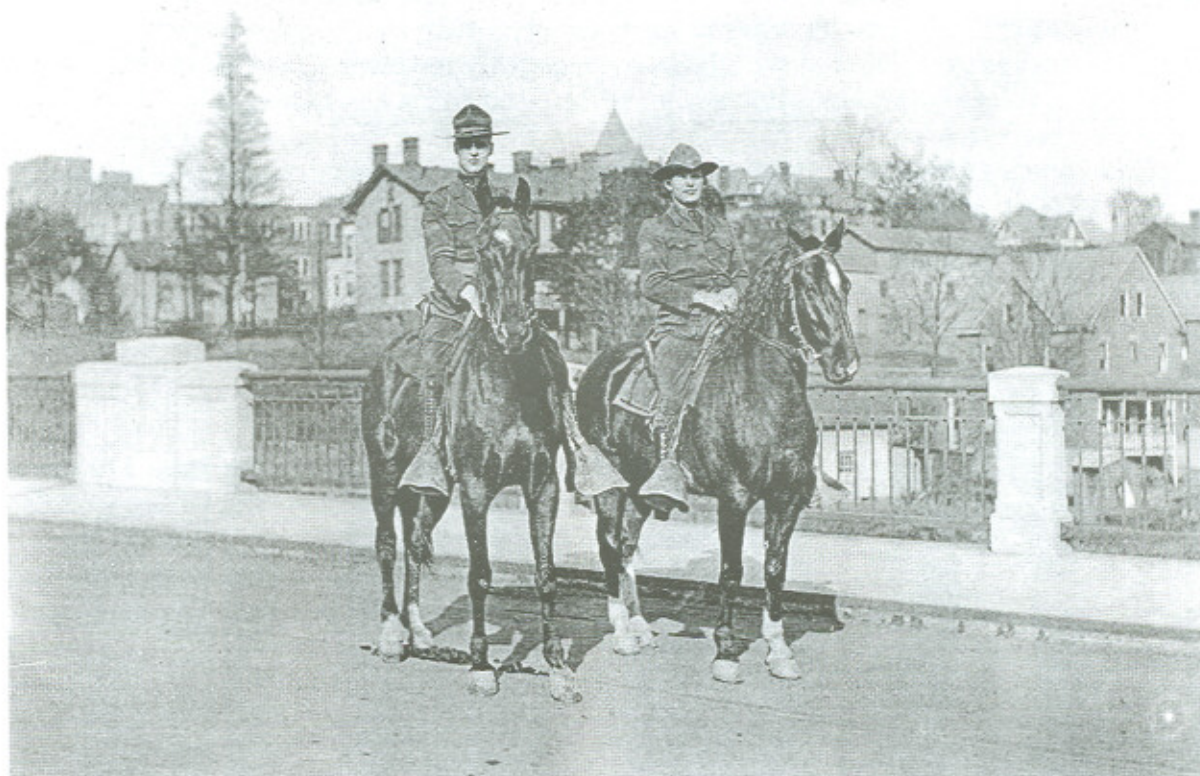


Colonel Jackson Arnold,  
Superintendent, West Virginia State  
Police, 1919-1924. Picture Courtesy of  
West Virginia State Archives.

**Captain James R. Brockus, commanding officer, Company B. WVSP. Brockus was still with the WVSP in 1935, when, aged 60, he commanded a recruit training company at Camp Conley near Point Pleasant. C. C. Stewart, "A Boy's Dream, : *Goldenseal 25* (Spring 1999): 39-40.**



Horses provided most State Police mobility in Mingo County. Shown here are Private John D. Squireson on "Nip" (left) and Corporal Charles Calhoun on "Tuck."





Captain Brockus' horse became a "sideshow" all by himself to Williamson residents. Brockus had the horse in the regular army before he retired, and they are the best of chums. The officer has taught the horse to do many tricks, among which are, cake-walking, Virginia reel, and all other kinds of dancing, with the exception of the 'shimmie.' Captain Brockus explains that the 'shimmie' is entirely too modern for 'us old folks.' One of the stunts the horse will do is to rear up on his hind legs while the captain is in the saddle. There are times, when the horse is in the mood, that the pose will be kept for between 10 and 15 seconds. The horse has a slight strain of vanity, however, and always performs better when before an audience."



"All days aren't dark days to the State Troopers in Mingo. Here is a picture to prove it." Shown are Company B. First Sergeant David Peterson (left) and "the late priv. Charles M. Kackley (right), who met his death in a clash with union miners near Nolan" on 25 May 1921. The woman is not identified.



On the evening of 13 June 1921, a coal mine superintendent was shot at as he motored past the Lick Creek tent colony of striking miners. Major Davis, Captain Brockus and Sheriff A. C. Pinson led a small party of state troopers to the camp the next morning to arrest the sniper. As they were alighting from their automobile, they too were fired on. David ordered Sergeant Sam Taylor (shown here) to sprinkle the mountainside with submachine gun fire; this stopped the sniping. Taylor has the distinction of being the first man to enlist in the WVSP (24 July 1919) and retired from the force on disability in 1927 following a motorcycle accident.

Some 45 strikers were arrested at the Lick Creek colony and marched down the railroad tracks to Williamson jail for questioning. The line of prisoners is shown here "turning into the city jail where the men were lodged." Guarding them (with slung rifle) is Corporal Walter W. Creasy. A number of affidavits were filed as a result of the raid, most alleging wanton destruction of property, theft, threats of rape and arson, and indiscriminate firing by police. Charges of brutality were levied against Brockus himself. As noted by John M. Barb in his WVU master's thesis, "Strikes in the Southern West Virginia Coal Fields, 1919-1922" (1949):90, "it is difficult to determine with precision exactly what took place. But it is clear that the raid left the miners with an indelible impression of arbitrarily inflicted brutality and that it was of major importance to the subsequent evolution of the strike." See also "Action at Lick Creek," *Williamson Daily News*, 14 July 1921: 1, in WVSP Archives, and U. S. Cong, Sen. 67<sup>th</sup> Cong., 1<sup>st</sup> Session, Comm. on Education and Labor, *West Virginia Coal Fields: Hearings. . . to Investigate the Recent Acts of Violence in the Coal Fields of West Virginia and Adjacent Territory*, 2 Vols. (Washington, DC, 1921-1922): 1:332 ff.



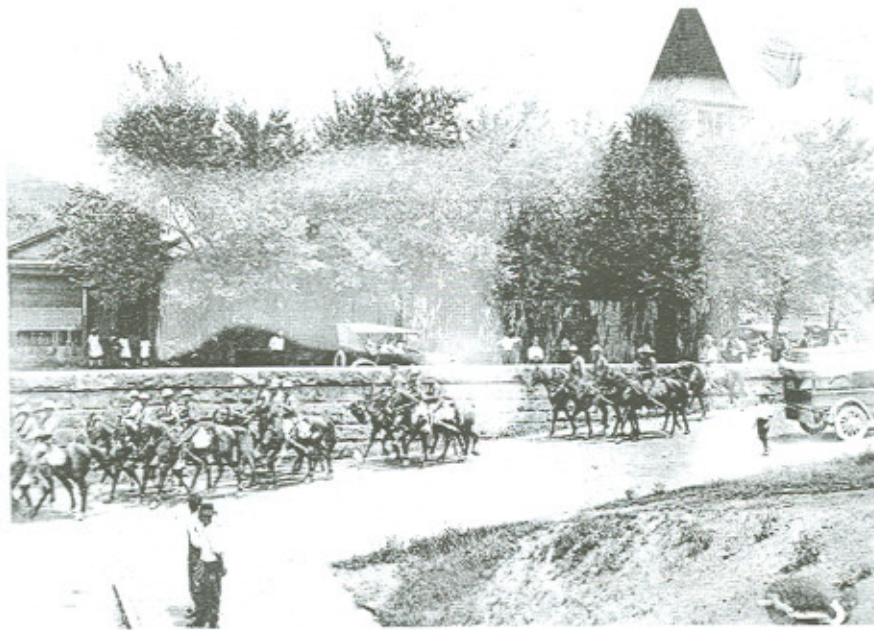


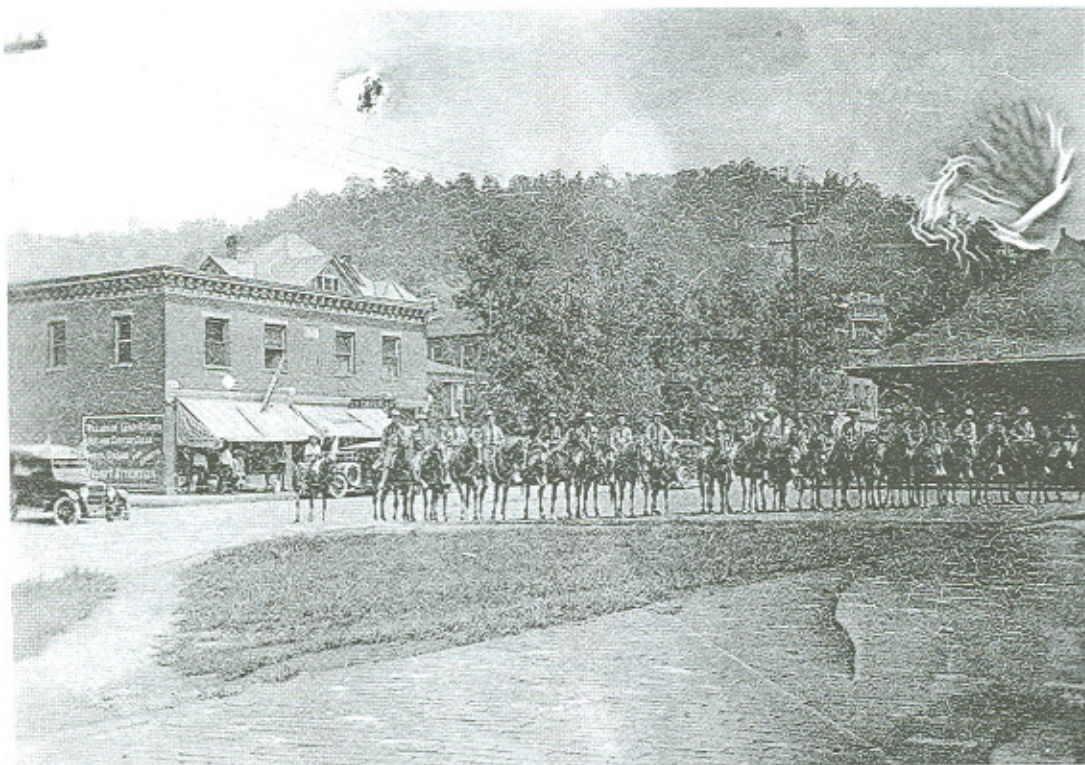
**Corporal Squire Morgantown  
with prisoners.**

**Below: 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities beneath a banner on Logan Street in front of Court House.**



The two following pictures show West Virginia State Policemen on parade in the 1921 Fourth of July parade in Williamson.





**Mounted troopers assemble at the N&W Railway Station in Williamson on July 4, 1921.**

**Below: WVSP pouring out moonshine whiskey in public square on July 4, 1921.**







Company B assembled on the Mingo County court house steps, 1921 (courtesy West Virginia State Police). Included are several personnel mentioned previously. In the first row, Sergeant Taylor (second from left); executive officer Lt. Silas P. Jennings, (fourth from left) Captain Brockus (fifth from left), and Corporal Creasy, (second from right in the first row).

Another notable not previously mentioned is Private Sylvester H. Pettery, standing second from the end on the right wing wall. Pettery was dismissed from the WVSP for

marrying Sid Hatfield's widow, Jessie. She had been married to Cable C. Testerman, town mayor at the time of the infamous "Matewan Massacre" (19 May 1920). There were widespread rumors of an affair between Jessie and town marshal Sid Hatfield and that Hatfield took advantage of the gun battle to murder Testerman. On June 1, 1920, Huntington police found Sid and Jessie in bed in a city hotel, arrested them for "improper relations," and hauled them before a judge. They explained they "planned to get married" and the judge agreed to drop the charges if they married immediately, which they did. Jessie was with Sid on the McDowell County court house steps on August 1, 1920 when Baldwin-Felts Detective agents killed him and friend Ed Chambers. See Ken Sullivan (ed.), *The Goldenseal Book of the West Virginia Mine Wars* (Charleston: Pictorial Histories Pub. Co., 1991): 54-55, and John A. Velke III, *Baldwin-Felts Detectives, Inc.* (Richmond, Va: N.: 1997): 187, 190, 196. Photos of Jessie appear on pages 47 and 55 of Sullivan's book, which quotes Baldwin-Felts' reports of her as a "lewd woman from a very young age." Lon K. Savage, *Thunder in the Mountains: The West Virginia Mine War, 1920-21* (Pittsburgh: U. Pittsburgh Press, 1990) (pbk.): 167, 182, states: "Jessie Hatfield... married a state policeman and moved to Huntington. She later divorced her third husband and married a fourth. She lived with her son in the last months of her life and died in 1976 at age 82." Based on information provided by her son, Jack Testerman of Naugatuck, WV.