The Williamsport Police Officers 1866-2005

WILLIAMSPORT BUREAU OF POLICE
Williamsport, Pennsylvania
1866-2002

Researched and Compiled by
Capt. James G. Carn (Ret.)
2002 Edition

Police Officers A


Alexander, Steven L., appointed January 2, 1923, as a "tryout." World War I veteran. Turned in his equipment January 30, 1923, as he was not accepted as a member of the force.


Alford, Elijah D., appointed July 18, 1881. Listed in city controller's report for the year ending December 31, 1881, as an officer on the force. Resigned in the summer of 1881. He was killed February 10, 1882, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, near Huntingdon, in a freight wreck, while serving as a brakeman. He was a widower and left two orphan children.


Angle, Elmer F., DOB 11/21/1844, mentioned in newspaper article as an officer on the force as early as March 4, 1869; reappointed by Police Board, January 25, 1870; reappointed 4/01/70 under new city charter. Resigned January 13, 1871. Civil War veteran of Co A, 99th Regiment PA Volunteer Infantry. Died October 20, 1883, at age 38.


Police Officers B


*Bailey, Lt. David S. Jr., DOB 01/05/1958, sworn in November 24, 1981. K-9 handler (1986-present) of, first, police dog named Mondo, second police dog named Andy; present police dog named Bauser. Promoted to Corporal effective 5/31/93; promoted to Sergeant 1/06/98; promoted to Lieutenant 3/17/00. First member of the police department to serve on the police pension board with voting rights. Current FOP President. Badge #38; Cpl. #4; Sgt #2; Lieutenant # 2.

Bair, Frank A. Sr., DOB 4/02/1873, appointed October 4, 1897; reappointed 4/10/99, 4/08/02, 4/03/05, 4/09/08, 12/04/11. Elected by City Commission April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914. Dropped from the force January 3, 1916, when new administration sworn in. Became a Pennsylvania Railroad policeman. Died July 22, 1919, at age 46. Badge #2, 1897 era; badge #7, 1901 era; badge #5, 1902 era.

Bankart, William H., DOB 7/7/1842, listed in 1867 city directory as being on the police force. Name listed as "Bankerd" in city directory, but as "Bankart" in obituary. 1870 census states he was born in October 1840, but death records state year of birth was 1842. Died January 5, 1901.


Bathurst, Chief Charles W., DOB 12/22/1868, sworn in as Chief April 6, 1908. On June 1, 1911, he accepted the rank of Captain with the Williamsport and Susquehanna Railway Division. In October, 1911, he succeeded George W. Vernes to the Inspectorship of the Northern Central Railway. Bathurst continued to hold the title of Chief of police until December 4, 1911, but was not on the city payroll. Captain in Spanish-American War who was a Quarter Master in 5th Regiment, PA Volunteer Infantry. Died February 6, 1925.

Beach, Harry C., DOB 9/26/1895, appointed July 15, 1921. Mostly walked the Newberry beat.
Died September 4, 1942. His widow received the first city police widow's pension; $50 per month.

Beck, Sgt. Hobart C., DOB 03/27/1885, motorcycle officer, first appointed January 6, 1916. Resigned April 2, 1925, after Shamokin bootlegger Charles B. McClain accused him and Det. Joseph Cochran of taking money and liquor from him. Reappointed June 19, 1926. Promoted to Acting Sergeant February 16, 1937; to Sergeant January 1, 1942. Last day worked was 2/21/50; retired March 27, 1950. Served 33 years; the last 24 were continuous. Perfect attendance last four years of service. Died January 17, 1953.


Belle, Samuel E., DOB 8/17/1933, appointed December 1, 1955. Beginning May 7, 1956, he was on a leave of absence for two years, after being drafted by the Army, until his military obligation was complete. Returned to the force May 16, 1958. Resigned September 7, 1963, to become a Williamsport Senior High School history teacher. Badge #4. (Black Officer).


Bermingham, Lt. James S., an Irish immigrant, mentioned as an officer on the force as early as 6/27/1868. Reappointed by Police Board, January 25, 1870; reappointed 4/01/70 and May 22, 1872. Listed in 1870-71 and 1871-72 city directories on force. Terminated by Mayor Seth W. Starkeweather on June 27, 1872, for joining a labor union. Became a strike leader during the "Sawdust War" of July 22, 1872, and was arrested and jailed for inciting a riot, etc. Living in Wyandotte, Kansas as of September, 1881. (Name also appears as "Birmingham," but more frequently as "Bermingham"). Appears to be the first to hold the rank of Lieutenant.

Berrigan, Thomas, DOB 1817 or 1818, Irish immigrant, obituary states he served under Mayor Logan's Administration, which was 1868. The 1870 census lists him as a policeman that year. Died about March 1, 1872, buried March 3.

Berry, Lee, DOB 1/04/1848, appointed April 12, 1880; reappointed 4/10/82; 4/07/84. Resigned prior to 2/08/86 and reappointed 8/02/86. Resigned again last week of December 1887 to become a coal and iron policeman in LeHigh County. Civil War veteran of 93rd Regiment, PA Volunteers having enlisted in 1864 at age 16. Appointed Chief of Police of Renovo Pa., in September 1890, after murder of Chief Philip Paul. Died March 29, 1896, after serving 5 1/2 years as Chief, at age 48.

Berry, William A., appointed December 4, 1911, and sworn in December 5, 1911. Was noted for arresting John Erble in 1912, the slayer of Grace Stidfole. Resigned within past year ending May 1, 1914, to become Chief of Police of Reno, Pa. Became a trackwalker for the Pennsylvania Railroad and was run down and killed by a train near Nippono Park shortly after midnight January 25, 1918. His body was found some distance from the legs, buried in the snow. Badge #14.


Bird, William J., appointed February 9, 1886. Appears to have served until July 8, 1886 when new force confirmed. Believed to be the William J. Bird who died September 2, 1925, who was born 12/10/1859.


Black, Howard H., appointed July 1, 1925; resigned August 31, 1931. "The Siren," a city police newspaper, of April 9, 1941, states that Black retired on a disability and was placed on a pension. Died July 10, 1961.


Bordinger, Henry A. Sr., DOB 9/17/1852, appointed April 7, 1884. Listed in City Controller's April 7, 1886, annual report as receiving $480.00 police pay for year ending 1885. Reappointed on 8/01/87. Name also appears as "Badinger," and "Bardinger." Dismissed week of December 9, 1889, for drunkenness. Father of city fireman John A. Bordinger who died in the line of duty June 13, 1937, after falling through a skylight days before. Died November 3, 1928.


Bower, Lt. John H., DOB 12/31/30, appointed May 4, 1963. Promoted to Detective first class, 11/17/71; reverted back to patrolman, 3/31/74; to Agent, 11/11/74, to Lieutenant, 3/24/75, and
back to Agent 2/17/76 due to arbitrator’s ruling to reinstate Officer Charles Croft to Lieutenant. Arson Investigator. United States Army veteran. Retired May 5, 1984. Badge #40; Agt. #5, first time; Agt. #1, second time.


Brooks, Lee R., appointed January 3, 1916. Resigned prior to July, 1920, and was reappointed December 12, 1921. Resigned again, December 18, 1922. Appeared in court 3/3/23 on charges of disorderly conduct, intoxication, resisting an officer (Logan, whose wrist was broken trying to restrain Brooks and a companion) and using vile language; fined $100. Reinstated, May 10, 1924. He was struck by a hit and run driver, Edgar F. Douty, while directing traffic for the Mardi Gras Parade at West Third Street and Government Place on the night of 9/10/27. He suffered two fractured vertebrae and a dislocated right rib. Was arrested by Officer Harman on the night of Saturday, November 10, 1928, for drunkenness at West Third and West Streets while he, Brooks, was off duty due to illness. Brooks pleaded guilty before Alderman Daniel Keeler on 11/15/28 and resigned from the department the same day at Chief Russie's request. Listed in the 1929 and 1930 city directories as still being on the force, but he was not. World War I veteran.

Brosius, David H., appointed a patrolman April 1, 1907, to fill the vacancy caused by the murder of Officer Maloney. Last listed in April 1, 1908, Police Chief's annual report. Appears to have served until April 9, 1908, when new administration was sworn in. Died August 29, 1934, at age 59.


Bubb, Sgt. George, DOB 11/24/1831, appointed 5/22/1872 and reappointed 5/20/73. Resigned just prior to 5/02/74. Reappointed on the following dates: 6/1/76; 4/12/80; 4/10/82; 4/07/84; renominated 7/08/86, and sworn in 7/26/86. Appears to have served until April 2, 1888, when new force sworn in. Civil War veteran who served as 2nd Lt. in Co. A, 177th Reg. PVI, and as 2nd Lt. in Co. A, 194th Reg. PVI. Became the city's first Day Sergeant in 1880. Obituary states he served 20 years on police force. Died June 15, 1906.

Bunce, Glenn R., DOB 05/12/1954, sworn in February 19, 1979. Transferred to Detective Division to serve as Juvenile Officer 10/06/87. Transferred to Patrol Division 1/06/97. Served as Camp
Cadet Board Representative. Named 1988 "Police Officer of the Year" by the City of Williamsport. Named 1989 "Police Officer of the Year" by the Williamsport Exchange Club and named 1994 "Pennsylvania Juvenile Officer of the Year" by the Pennsylvania Juvenile Officers Association. Former Montgomery Borough police officer. United States Army veteran. Died of cerebral complications November 15, 1997. Had a police funeral and was buried in his uniform. His badge was retired by councilmanic resolution 11/25/97. Died at the age of 43 and wore Badge #43.

Burkhart, George W., DOB 10/??/1862, appointed April 6, 1908, and sworn in April 9, 1908. Last listed in 1909 city directory as being on the force. Moved to Philadelphia and died there June 17, 1933.

Butler, __________, mentioned in May 21, 1874, Williamsport Sun article as being an officer on the force. Only his last name listed in roster of new police appointees published in The Sun in May 1874. No Butler listed in any city directories as being on the force, nor can any other reference of him be found.

Police Officers C

Calvert, Capt. Eugene V., DOB 2/14/1883, appointed July 1, 1907. Spanish-American War veteran and former member of original Pennsylvania State Police force when it formed in 1905. Reappointed April 9, 1908; reappointed as Night Captain December 4, 1911, when Mayor Stabler took office. Resigned as Night Captain effective 5/12/13 and reverted back to patrolman. Elected by City Commission April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914. Reappointed 1/03/16. Resigned September 15, 1916. Received Badge #4, February 9, 1916, based on length of continuous service. Died October 5, 1964.


Carn, Capt. James G., DOB 12/07/1947, appointed June 20, 1973 and sworn in July 2, 1973. Promoted to Sergeant 7/02/84; promoted to Captain of Police 1/01/91. Captain's position eliminated effective 1201 hours, 1/07/92, demoted to Sergeant effective same time, then promoted to Lieutenant, effective 1545 hours, same day also. First, and only, member of the police department to hold three titles in one day's time. Transferred to administrative position effective 1/02/96 and named second in command; named Support Services Supervisor effective 9/29/96; promoted to Captain 1/09/97. First member to file suit against the city when bypassed for appointment to the force; court order 5/01/73 directed his name be submitted to City Council. Holds the longest record--24 1/2 consecutive years--without having ever taken a sick day. Badge #34; Sergeant #3; Captain #2; Lieutenant #2; Captain #1. Elected District Justice 11/04/97. Retired January 5, 1998.


Clay, Charles H. Jr., DOB 7/21/1910, appointed February 23, 1937. Had a white-colored, curly-

Clay, Charles H. Sr., appointed March 17, 1916. Had a full-blooded Belgian police dog named "Beppo," which was donated to the department December 21, 1924, by R. E. Pollitt. Clay contacted a cold while on-duty in November 1932, which was followed by other complications and resulted in his death on March 11, 1933. Father of Officer Charles H. Clay Jr. (Black Officer).


Cochran, Roundsman Thomas, DOB 7/??/1860, appointed December 1, 1899. Reappointed 4/08/02, 4/03/05, 4/06/08. Appointed Roundsman February 1, 1906, (other accounts state January 30, 1906), to fill the vacancy caused by Jasper H. Fincher's appointment to Captain. Title changed from "Roundsman" to "Street Sergeant" by city ordinance 3/17/09. Resigned between 1/19/10 and 2/20/10. Last listed in April 1, 1910, Police Chief's annual report as having made arrests in 1909, but is not listed on the roster of members for year beginning April 1, 1910. Died October 10, 1934, at age 74.

Coder, Chief Samuel B., DOB 11/27/1821, elected borough constable in 1850. Was also elected first policeman by Williamsport Borough Council, 1850. Appointed June 4, 1866, as one of three to serve as the first police officers, under Chief Alexander M. McFadden, after Williamsport's incorporation as a city. Appointed Chief, 9/02/67, and served as Chief until 5/27/68, at which time he reverted back to an officer. Again named Chief on 7/14/68, and 4/01/70. Reappointed as Chief under new city charter, 3/31/70, and held that position until resigning 5/14/74. Reappointed as Night Captain 4/12/80; 4/10/82; 4/07/84; appointed Chief again on 4/16/85, and confirmed 5/04/85, and served as Chief until 7/08/86, at which time he became a police officer once again. Reappointed 4/02/88 and was serving as Captain by 10/06/88. Served three non-consecutive terms as Chief. Retired April 8, 1890 when Mayor Frederick Keller sworn in to a second term. Died February 11, 1905, at age 83. His obituary stated that he was shot twice in the line of duty: once while arresting a doctor and once during the "Sawdust War." Newspaper accounts of the "Sawdust War" do not confirm this. The account of his death also states that he had one of his ears cut off while arresting a circus gang on July 4, 1867. The ear was sewn back on. He was the great-grandfather of Mayor John R. Coder.

Coleman, Peter, DOB 3/24/1849, appointed April 8, 1878. Listed in 1879-80 city directory as on the force. Appears to have served until April 13, 1880, when new force sworn in. Father of Det. Peter C. Coleman. Died January 10, 1929.

Coleman, Det. Peter C., DOB 4/15/1882, appointed after 4/01/13 and reelected by City Commission April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914. Reappointed 1/03/16. Was designated to act as City Detective, but was not promoted to that position until the week of November 12, 1917. Requested to resign by incoming Mayor Hugh Gilmore on December 31, 1923. Resigned on January 7, 1924. Died March 28, 1962.


Connor, Timothy, DOB ?/?/1841, (tombstone inscribed 1841 as year born, city death records states 1843) appointed October 4, 1886; reappointed 4/02/88. Served until April 8, 1890, when
new force sworn in. He was born in Bantry, Ireland. Died May 24, 1902.

Conover, Chief Addison V.D. (Con) appointed Chief May 27, 1868. Resigned July 14, 1868. Not previously a member of the force. Died at Pueblo, Colorado, September 21, 1880.


Crissman, Herbert D., DOB 8/03/1926, appointed April 1, 1950. Took a leave of absence last week of September, 1950, when called up for active Army duty due to Korean War. Resigned February 9, 1952. Died in Richmond, Va., December 10, 1970. Badge #17.

Croft, Lt. Charles W., DOB 3/12/1927, appointed June 1, 1961. Promoted to Detective, 4/25/64; named Acting Unit Supervisor of newly-created Vice/Narcotics Unit 2/21/72; promoted to Sergeant and made Unit Supervisor of Vice & Narcotics Unit effective 7/1/72; to Lieutenant and Unit Supervisor of the Investigation Division, 11/18/73; to special assignment with the “SCAT” team 2/18/74; to Acting Captain, 3/4/74; to Lieutenant 9/5/74; demoted to patrolman, 3/21/75, and promoted back to Lieutenant 2/17/76, when ordered reinstated by arbitrator. Request granted 4/09/73 to transfer as head of Vice and Narcotics Unit to the Uniform Division. Arrested Capt. Walter J. Smed for altering his, Croft's, time slip above Croft's signature. The charges were dismissed. Named Williamsport Exchange Club “Police Officer of the Year” in 1972 for setting up the Vice and Narcotics Unit in the police department. United States Navy veteran. Retired March 1, 1978. Died March 9, 1980. Badge #40.


Cummings, James H., appointed April 8, 1890. Still on the force for the year ending March 31, 1893. Was not reappointed when new administration reorganized the force April 3, 1893. Accidentally shot himself in the stomach on August 21, 1894, near Blackwell, Pa., where he was employed, and died August 22, 1894. Brother of Frank P. Cummings. Esq., who was later city solicitor. Badge #4.

Curry, Robert H., nominated and elected by Council June 21, 1928. He was a fingerprint expert and established fingerprinting procedures in the police department. Resigned April 19, 1933. Died January 31, 1945, at age 38.

**Police Officers D**

Dagan, William, listed in “News of Years Ago” April 3, 1916, Gazette and Bulletin column as being on the force April 3, 1876. Not listed in any city directories as being on the force. This appears to be a typographical error as there was a William Dugan appointed who was listed in the April 3, 1886’, Gazette & Bulletin. There is also a William Dugan listed in the city directory that year. However, it appears he was never sworn in as he was not approved by Councils with
the other members nominated.

Dahn, August J., appointed week of December 17, 1911. Elected by City Commission April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914. Dropped from the force January 3, 1916, when new administration sworn in.

Dalton, Inspector William M., DOB 11/14/1946, sworn in March 18, 1969. Named Criminal Agent in Uniform Division effective 7/1/72; promoted to Agent 8/31/81; to Sergeant 1/07/91; to Inspector 1/06/92; and reverted back to Sergeant effective 1/02/96 when Inspector's position eliminated. Worked primarily on bad and forged check cases in Detective Division. Named "Police Officer of the Year" 1988 by Williamsport Exchange Club for his work in white-collar crime investigations. Prosecuted the largest white-collar crime case in Lycoming County history in 1990; involved theft of $364,000 by an employee of Bro-Dart Company. Was prosecuting Officer in homicide investigation involving Jerard Bradley who was convicted of first degree murder for the death of Angela Bridges on 8/30/89. He was sentenced to the death penalty by a jury from Allentown. First capital murder case conviction in Lycoming County in recent years. Verdict was overturned by Supreme Court due to ineffective counsel several years later. The 3rd degree murder charge was upheld, however. Served as President of FOP Lodge 29. Former Jersey Shore Borough Police Officer. Badge #4, then Badge #29; Agent #6; Sergeant #3; then Sergeant #5 second time.

Daneker, Miss Cora R., DOB 10/22/1911, appointed second policewoman, February 2, 1952, at a starting salary of $2,794. Served as a police clerk prior to her appointment since 8/06/1934. Died June 30, 1962.

DeFrancesco, Anthony, DOB 5/11/1939, appointed January 18, 1962. He reported at 5:00 a.m., on the morning of March 25, 1971, while off-duty, that he had been shot at his home, 1721 Memorial Avenue, by three or four "punks," the assailant being a long-haired young man with a beard and moustach. He had been shot in the abdomen and left thigh. An investigation revealed that he had fabricated the story and the wounds were self-inflicted. He resigned July 30, 1971. Badge #15. Died in New Jersey May 22, 1983.


DeSanto, Sgt. Richard J. (Pat), DOB 3/17/1931, appointed October 20, 1962. Promoted to Corporal 4/25/64; demoted to Patrolman 10/29/65 because he was a police officer less than two years when promoted and police officials decided his supervisory abilities did not apply to police work; named court liaison officer 1/28/72; promoted to Sergeant in Staff Services Division 7/01/72. Served as a Firing Range Officer 1972 era. City Hall wiretap figure who aided in telephone interceptions, but was granted immunity to testify against others involved in the 1973 case. United States Air Force veteran. Resigned October 4, 1973. Appointed a Lycoming County detective in 1980s.


*Dincher, Agt. Leonard A., DOB 03/31/1959, sworn in July 26, 1982. United States Army
Reservist. Assigned to work in the Drug Task Force Unit 1989, again effective last week of February 1992 through May 1992, reverted back to Patrol Division, and assigned a third time to Drug Task Force Unit effective 1/02/96 to present. Member Special Response Team since 1998. Promoted to Agent 9/10/01. Badge #25; Agt. 3.


*Dockey, Kim W., DOB 02/14/1954, sworn in March 17, 1980. K-9 handler, police dogs named Wanton and Lido. K-9 Wanton was never put into service as he was not compatible. Abandoned Vehicle Officer, 1990s era. Named Property and Evidence Officer 9/09/97 and served in that position until 1/07/02. Badge #3.


*Duck, Lt. Arnold D., Jr., DOB 12/15/1960, sworn in February 7, 1983. Promoted to Corporal effective 1/4/93; promoted to Sergeant 6/22/96; promoted to Lieutenant 3/17/00. United States Air Force veteran. Badge #35; Corporal #2; Sergeant #6; Lieutenant #3.

Dugan, William, listed in Gazette and Bulletin column as being appointed to the force April 3, 1886. Not listed in any city directories as being on the force, but such a name is listed in the directory. However, it appears he was never sworn in as he was not approved by the Councils with the other members nominated. Appears to be the same person as William Dagan above; Dagan being misspelled in the newspaper. May be William Dugan 1830-1903.

Dunn, Patrick, an Irish immigrant, who came to America at the age of two, appointed April 7, 1884. Appears to have served until April 2, 1886, when new force was appointed. Listed in City Controller's annual report as receiving $480 for year ending 1885. Died August 22, 1898, age 48.

**Police Officers E**


Ebert, Robert K., DOB ?/?/1854, appointed January 2, 1888; reappointed 4/02/88. Dismissed in April 1889 when new administration sworn in. Died March 30, 1921.

Eck, Capt. William A., DOB 1/21/1934, appointed September 1, 1960. Promoted to Corporal December 23, 1967, named Administrative Aide to the Office of the Director of Public Safety effective 1/24/72; reassigned from Office of Director of Public Safety to Uniform Division 4/07/72; assigned to newly-created Staff Services Division 5/15/72 and promoted to Captain of Staff Services Division effective 5/31/72; to Investigations Commander 6/25/73. Transferred from Investigation Division Commander to Uniform and Investigative Division Commander 2/18/74. Resigned September 12, 1974. Served as a Firing Range Officer. Living In Casa Grande, Arizona where he is a member of the Pinal County Sheriff’s Office. Brother of Officer Joseph E. Eck. United States Marine Corps veteran.

Eigenbrodt, Conrad W., nominated July 8, 1886, and sworn in July 26, 1886. Bitten on the hand by a disorderly man at a picnic at Union Park, outside the city, on the 4th of July 1887 while acting as a deputy sheriff. Last worked July 7, 1887, when the pain and swelling from the bite caused him to take time off. Did not return to duty and was dismissed July 15, 1887, for past drunkenness and failure to arrest a disorderly man. Died January 5, 1929, at age 84.


Eisner, Willard L., DOB 7/28/1946, appointed first, August 11, 1970. Resigned April 15, 1973. Appointed second time, September 16, 1974. Terminated January 11, 1979, for pulling his duty weapon on individuals in a lounge, who were harassing him, while he was off-duty. Arrested for two counts each of Terroristic Threats, Recklessly Endangering Another Person. Terroristic Threats counts were dismissed. Convicted on Recklessly Endangering charges. Fined $100, plus $93 costs and received 2 years probation. United States Navy veteran. Badge #34 first time appointed, then badge #40.

Eiswert, Lewis C., listed in Gazette and Bulletin as being appointed April 8, 1878. Appears to be a typographical error as no such listing is in the city directory, however there is a "Lewis E. Eiswert" listed in the 1883-84 directory whose name appears as "Lewis E. Eiswerth," same address and occupation, in the directories from 1885 until his death in 1930.

Eiswerth, Lewis E., DOB 11/08/1839, appointed April 8, 1878, listed in only 1879-80 city directory as on the force. Died September 29, 1930, at age 90.

Eiswerth, Levi E., appointed April 8, 1878. Listed in the Gazette & Bulletin as a new police appointee. Obviously a typographical error as Lewis E. Eiswerth, above, was the officer appointed on that date. The name "Levi C. Eiswerth" does not appear in any city directories.

Engleman, William H., appointed by council in mistake of applicant George Engleman on January 13, 1916. Both declined the position; neither ever served as a member of the police force.

Espenshade, Joseph T., DOB 3/25/1838, appointed October 7, 1867. Served a very short length of time. One of the area's best known and most humorous Civil War veterans. He was one of the first to enlist and go to the front with the Woodward Guards when the war broke out. Left the city with the Williamsport Rifles on April 23, 1861 in answer to Lincoln's first call for troops. Died December 27, 1911.

Served as Traffic Agent, 1975 era. Promoted to Sergeant April, 4, 1984; to Chief January 6, 1992; reverted back to Sergeant effective 1/02/96 when not retained as Chief by incoming Mayor Steven W. Cappelli. Badge #12; Sgt. #1; Chief #1; then Sgt. #4 second time; then Sgt. 1. Retired January 14, 2001.

Evans, Chief Charles F., DOB 4/05/1859, appointed Chief April 7, 1902. Served as Chief until April 6, 1908, at which time he was not retained by incoming Mayor Charles D. Wolfe. Not previously on the police force. Was Chief when Officer Maloney was murdered. No relation to Chief Anthony Evans. Died August 12, 1927.

**Police Officers F**

Faber, William T., DOB 1/15/1853, appointed April 2, 1888. Listed only in the 1888 city directory as being on the police force. Died May 22, 1905.

Fairfax, Agt. E. (Emerson) Raimund, DOB 10/12/42, sworn in June 9, 1969. Promoted to Sergeant 3/20/90; to Agent 1/14/91. Retired April 24, 1992. United States Air Force veteran. Badge #5, then Badge #31, then badge #40; Sgt. #3; Agt. #3. (Black Officer).


Faust, Edward E., DOB July 29, 1862 in Wittenburg, Germany, appointed December 4, 1911, and sworn in December 5, 1911. Listed only in 1911 city directory as being on the force. Died January 9, 1936, Buried in Williamsport Cemetery (aka Washington Blvd. Cemetery).

Fedder, Capt. Raymond E. (Lefty), DOB 6/05/1896, appointed November 19, 1923. Was a professional baseball player having pitched for the American Chair Co., at York; for Reading in the International League and for Hanover in the Blue Ridge League. Promoted to Acting Sergeant 1/01/37; to Sergeant 1/15/37. Had title of Traffic Sergeant 1941 era. Promoted to Captain 12/01/41, to fill vacancy created by the death of Capt. Harvey H. Zuber. Died October 5, 1948, at age 52, after suffering a heart attack earlier in the year. Badge #2.

Felix, Clyde N., DOB 8/21/1912, appointed October 8, 1944. Member of the Williamsport Auxiliary Police during World War II. Caught a severe cold while riding a police motorcycle escorting Capt. Raymond E. Fedder's funeral procession during inclement weather and subsequently died of pneumonia, October 18, 1948, at age 36. Badge #22.


Ferber, Henry V., DOB 8/21/1859, appointed April 10, 1899. Removed January 16, 1900, for allegedly sleeping on duty at Frank Fulmer's Coal office between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m., on the morning of December 31, 1900. In February 1901, Ferber brought charges against Chief Stryker, Capt. Paris and Officer Bornman accusing them of carousing in barrooms after midnight, being drunk while patrolling streets, carrying intoxicants into City Hall and partaking of them on duty. Mayor Williams held a hearing and dismissed the charges. Died March 2, 1916.

Fincher, Capt. Jasper H., DOB 1/22/1867, sworn in April 8, 1902. Appointed Roundsman January 1, 1905 (one account says November 1905). Known as "Cap" or "Jack." Drove race horses prior to joining the department. Appointed Captain January 30, 1906, from rank of Roundsman to fill vacancy caused by Henry E. Keller's resignation. Served as Acting Chief a brief time in 1911 and was dismissed from the force 12/04/11 when new administration took office. Reappointed to the force May 21, 1913, as Night Captain upon the resignation of Capt. Eugene V. Calvert from that position. Elected by City Commission, April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914, as Night Captain. Renamed Night Captain again on January 3, 1916. Served as the first president of the Williamsport Police Pension Fund Association for 12 years. Was bitten on the hand at City Hall on January 19, 1930, by an intoxicated man that he took license cards from, and died February 15, 1930, of Septicaemia, an infection caused by the bite. Served as Captain longer than anyone ever holding that position, nearly 25 years total. Badge #14, 1902 era.

Fisher, City Detective Adam Q., DOB 7/19/1882, confirmed for City Detective, May 25, 1925 and appointed June 1, 1925. Unsuccessful Democratic candidate for county sheriff in 1923. Removed as City Detective and made Sergeant January 16, 1928, effective January 17, 1928. Assigned as Day Patrol Driver effective March 1, 1928. Served as President of FOP Lodge 29. Arrested and suspended on April 25, 1933, for allegedly taking petty cash from the Bura C. Keefer Manufacturing Company, Walnut and Rural Avenue, while on duty. Resigned November 29, 1933 and the case was not pressed the same day. United States Navy veteran. Died May 9, 1949.

Fisher, Capt. Clay A., DOB 1/06/1841, appointed prior to 1870. Reappointed by Police Board, January 25, 1870, as Night Captain. Listed in 1869-70 city directory as on the force. Civil War veteran of Co F, 3rd Regiment, West Virginia Volunteers. Died August 7, 1902, just hours after his invalid son, Danton, died. He was preparing to go to the cemetery to make arrangements for his son's burial. Name appears in newspapers as "H. Clay" and Clay H." circa 1870.


Flynn, Patrick T., appointed to the force by October 1871. Resigned week of March 17, 1872. Reappointed before July 1, 1874. Served through 1875 and probably until 6/01/76, when new force sworn in. The November 2, 1876, Gazette & Bulletin refers to him as "Pat Flynn, late of the police force." Last name also appears as "Flinn." Appears to be Patrick T. Flynn who served in Company D, 11th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War. Appears to have died between 1883-86 outside Lycoming County.


Foresman, Robert S., DOB 12/05/1835, appointed May 22, 1872; reappointed 5/20/73 and 6/01/76. Dropped from the force April 8, 1878, when new administration sworn in. Moved out west and engaged in lumbering. Died at Nelson, Nebraska, December 12, 1920.


Francis E. Kovaleski. Involved in a non-fatal shooting by police: see "Shootings and Stabbings section. Promoted to Corporal 6/10/91. Voluntarily resigned as Corporal effective midnight 1/03/93, in order to make more money working overtime as an officer. Named a Community Policing Officer in March 1993 and began duties as such on 5/10/93. Promoted to Corporal a second time effective 8/01/94 and was named as the supervising officer of the community policing program on the same date; promoted to Agent 1/05/98 (one day); promoted to Captain 1/06/98; promoted to Ass't Chief 3/17/00; and to Chief 1/04/02. Member of the first Special Response team (SRT), established 1991. Badge #11; Cpl. #2; reverted back to badge #11 effective 1/4/93; then Cpl. #3; Capt. #2; Ass't Chief #2.

Frank, Gottfried, listed in the newspaper as a new appointee in April 1893. However, it appears he never was sworn in. Last name also spelled "Franck."


Fulmer, Frank, DOB 7/11/1838, appointed April 8, 1878. Listed in the 1879-80 city directory as on the force. Served two years on the force. Served in Company F, Fifth Regiment Pennsylvania Reserves in the Civil War. He was disabled by wounds in the fight of Charles City Cross Roads and was discharged for disability after a service of 22 months. He re-enlisted in Company E, Third United States Veteran Volunteers, Hancock Corps. Was with the Army of the Potomac and participated in the battles of Mechanicsville, Gaines Mills, White Oak Swamp and others. Was elected Lycoming County commissioner, 1884-1887, elected sheriff of Lycoming County, 1892-95. Died January 6, 1912, at age 73.

Police Officers G


Garman, Lt. Harry D., DOB 5/20/1911, appointed June 1, 1945. Served as a motorcycle officer. Promoted to Sergeant 2/04/50, in charge of motorized equipment; to Lieutenant, 4/1/54; demoted to Sergeant 10/04/57. Served a few weeks in the U.S. Navy in 1945 and was given a medical discharge. Resigned May 24, 1958. Known for his flamboyant appearance while directing downtown traffic while dressed in long black coat with a white silk scarf about his neck during cold weather. Served as Chief of Police of Enola, PA. Died November 27, 1986.

Garverich, Daniel, appointed April 19, 1880; reappointed April 10, 1882. Name also spelled "Garverick" in city directories. Listed in 1881 through 1884 city directories as on the force. Served as Acting Night Captain week of January 22, 1884, in place of ailing Night Captain John Stryker. Served until April 7, 1884, when new force sworn in. Also, served on the force in place of Patrolman William H. Johnson, who was away at Mt. Gretna, serving as a Sgt. Major in the military, week of July 25, 1885. Garverick was a Civil War veteran having suffered a gunshot wound to the right forearm in battle. Died April 14, 1888, at hospital for the insane at Danville.

Garvey, William A. Sr., DOB 7/7/1861, appointed April 10, 1899. Failed to be reappointed 4/08/02. Reappointed 10/09/07, to fill vacancy caused by the resignation of Warden L. Tilberg. Reappointed 12/04/11, and sworn in 12/05/11. Resigned on or before 1/03/12 and was reappointed 6/19/12. Dropped from the force April 2, 1914, when new force confirmed by Council.
Badges #5; badge #8, 1901 era. Died July 10, 1931.

Gates, William J., appointed July 15, 1923. Dismissed from the force May 17, 1928, by City Council after Chief Husted filed a complaint against him charging him with being intoxicated on duty on April 25, 30, and May 1. Council found him guilty of the April 30 allegation only. Died April 17, 1932, at age 53.


Gaul, Charles, listed in 1881-83 and 1883-84 city directories as on the force under city government listing, but is listed as a laborer in the alphabetical listings. He is not listed in newspaper articles among those reappointed 4/10/82 or 4/02/84. Appears to be a typographical error in that Roundsman Asikiah K. Gaul is the only Gaul listed in newspapers as having been appointed to the force. Charles Gaul appears to be a son of Asikiah Gaul.

Gibson, Chief James D. (Duke), DOB 8/01/1836, appointed April 12, 1880, and resigned by the year's end. Appointed Chief April 2, 1888, and served in that capacity until April 8, 1890. Died February 13, 1908.

Giglio, Capt. Oreste, DOB 1/02/1879, Finger Print Expert, mentioned in Chief's Annual Report January 4, 1918 as being on the force, but newspaper accounts give appointment date as February 1, 1918. First Italian-American appointed to the force. Prior to joining the force he organized the local Sons of Italy. Promoted to Lieutenant July 12, 1923. Performed City Detective duties beginning April 9, 1925, when Det. Joseph Cochran resigned. On March 1, 1928 he was placed in charge of traffic. He was in charge of Identification Bureau at one point. Promoted to Captain February 21, 1930. Became seriously ill and took his own life with his service revolver on October 10, 1935.


Good, Chief John G., DOB 3/18/02, appointed 11/30/32, to attend police school; sworn in as Chief 12/15/32. Not previously a member of the force. Served over 31 continuous years as Chief; the longest record in department history. Forced to retire April 25, 1964. Elected to city council following retirement. Died March 3, 1977.


Gordon, David, recruited from Philadelphia Police Department by Mayor Herdic and appointed June 20, 1870. Called back to Philadelphia as a witness and resigned July 30, 1870.

Grafius, Appollos W., DOB 3/05/1836, appointed June 4, 1866. One of city's first three policemen. Grandson of Judge Appollos Woodward. Served on the force until at least April 11, 1868, when mention is made in newspaper as receiving police pay. Died December 27, 1915.

Grief, L. H., appointed to the force by the Police Board, November 27, 1868. May have been Lewis F. Greif who is only person listed with a similar name in 1869-70 city directory.

Guise, Solomon, appears to have been appointed on or about May 9, 1868, as first mention of
him is in June 1 and June 4, 1868, newspapers as receiving police pay of $44 for twenty-two nights’ work. Reappointed 4/01/70. Listed in 1870-71 and 1871-72 city directories as on the force. Name also appears as “Geise.” Dismissed from the force by Mayor Perkins week of August 28, 1871.

Guy, Thomas, DOB 7/17/1891, appointed April 24, 1917. Drafted by the military to serve during World War I in Battery A, 321st Field Artillery, 82nd Division. Served with the state constabulary then was reappointed to the city force February 1, 1920. Resigned June 30, 1921. Was electrocuted on November 19, 1924, at the age of 33 while working for the Phoenix Utility Company constructing a PP&L plant in Hughesville. Brother-in-law of Chief Fred W. Tepel.

**Police Officers H**


Haak, James D., DOB 1839 or 1840, appointed week of October 14, 1872. Dropped from the department May 20, 1873, when new force appointed. Newspaper spelled name “Hauk.”


Hall, Roland H. (Rolley) Sr., DOB 8/31/1894, appointed January 1, 1924. Granted a two month leave of absence, with pay, March 19, 1925, due to tuberculosis. The city paid him until May 1, 1925. He was never discharged or suspended and filed suit in August claiming the city owed him $3118.50 with interest. Settled out of court with $800 being paid to him the week of 10/24/27, and he resigned. World War I Army veteran. Died in Wilkes-Barre Veterans Administration Hospital on June 22, 1961.

Hamlin, Thomas W., appointed April 8, 1878. Served until April 12, 1880. Appointed to the fire department as a driver. Moved to Altoona July 1, 1880, where he became a Pennsylvania Railroad policeman and later a depot policeman. Died in Altoona, June 16, 1897.

Hand, Lt. Harold C., DOB 4/20/1909, appointed August 1, 1942. Former state highway patrolman and member of State College Police Department. Promoted to Sergeant 10/14/46; named Traffic Investigation Officer 1/16/51; promoted to Detective, 3/31/53; reappointed Detective Sergeant 10/20/53; promoted to Detective Lieutenant 5/24/56; demoted to patrolman April 25, 1964. Brother of Montgomery, Pa., Chief of Police Henry S. Hand, who was slain in the line of duty on December 13, 1938. Retired January 1, 1970. Became despondent and took his own life November 1, 1998 at age 89.

Harder, Chief George W., DOB 4/12/1852, appointed December 4, 1911, and sworn in as Chief on December 5, 1911. Elected to continue serving as chief by City Commission on April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914. Served as Chief until January 3, 1916, when he was not retained by incoming Mayor Jonas Fisher. Was elected Lycoming County Register and Recorder in 1903. Founder of present day Harder Sporting Goods. Not previously a member of the police force. Died December 14, 1928.
Harman, Clifford L., DOB 9/21/1902, appointed August 2, 1928. First Williamsport police officer to be elected mayor after winning both Republican and Democratic nominations in July 24, 1951, primary election. Did not resign from the police department before or after being sworn in as mayor. Served as mayor one term, 1952-56; defeated in the May 17, 1955 primary for reelection. Died in Avon Park, Florida, Correctional Institution on April 10, 1967, where he had been incarcerated since January 1966 after being sentenced for embezzlement of Florida state sales tax funds. Not related to Officer Dennis Harman. Badge #2.


Harner, Det. Lt. F. (Franklin) LaRue, DOB 5/14/1908, ninth ward constable, appointed May 16, 1939. Named Acting Detective 1/14/52; promoted to Detective, 2/14/52; to Detective Sergeant, 7/2/52; to Detective Lieutenant, 10/20/53. Died July 1, 1958.


Hartman, Augustus (Gust) W., appointed April 7, 1884. Remained on force until approximately July 26, 1886, when Thomas M. Smith took his place. Reappointed 10/04/86 and confirmed for reappointment 4/15/89. Served until 4/08/90 when new force sworn in. Also, served as city street commissioner. Died April 10, 1895.


Harvey, J. Earl, appointed on or about July 13, 1923 and resigned August 9, 1923.


Heisley, Chief Michael, appointed Chief May 23, 1867. Resignation received and accepted by Council on August 26, 1867 and again September 2, 1867. Not previously on force. (See "Shootings & Stabbings" section). Died at Cascade August 14, 1869.


Hennigan, John H., appointed April 10, 1882. Served a very short time as he was not reappointed with new force on 4/02/84. May have been John W. Henegan who was born in Ireland in 1829 and who served in Battery B, 8th PA Light Infantry in the Civil War, and who died November 29, 1904.


Hill, Matthias M., appointed April 6, 1896, confirmed 4/20/96. Appointed as Sergeant-at-Arms for Select Council in June 1896. Last mentioned in April 1, 1899. Police Chief's annual report. Appears to have served until April 10, 1899, when new police force was sworn in. Died November 4, 1948, at age 89. Badge #5.

Hilsher, Joseph, DOB 3/19/1843, appointed May 28, 1868, and mentioned as an officer in June 1, 1868, June 16, 1868, and July 1, 1868, newspaper accounts. Name also appears as "Heishler," "Hilcher" and "Hishler." Joseph Hilcher, 33, is listed in the city 1870 federal census. Appears to be Joseph Hilsher, Civil War veteran who served as a Private in Co B, 76th Regiment PA Volunteer Infantry and who died June 30, 1931.


Hoffer, Joseph, appointed May 22, 1872. No further mention of him can be found.

Holland, William T., listed in "News of Years Ago" April 3, 1916, Gazette and Bulletin column as being on the force April 3, 1876. Not listed in any city directories as being on the force. Appears to be a typographical error as Holland was nominated April 3, 1886, but was not sworn in at a later date with the new force. Listed in newspaper as being appointed, but he was never confirmed by Councils. Appears to have never served.

Holmes, Chief John G., DOB 1/1/1848, born in Ireland, appointed before August 3, 1876. Dropped from the force 4/08/78. Reappointed to the force as Chief, April 12, 1880; renominated April 10, 1882, and sworn in April 11, 1882. Served until April 8, 1884, when new Chief appointed by incoming administration. Died August 11, 1896, at St. Albans, W. VA.


Hoover, John K., sworn in April 8, 1902; did not make application to reapply when new force

Hoover, Michael D., DOB 09/12/1966, sworn in August 12, 1988. Brother of Pennsylvania State Police Trooper Todd K. Hoover. Son of retired Lewisburg Borough Police Officer Lee D. Hoover. Not related to Officer John K. Hoover. Involved in a police shooting June 18, 1993; (see "Shootings and Stabbings" section). Suspended for the shooting August 19 pending closed city council hearing held November 15. On December 7, 1993, city council ordered a 30-day suspension and reinstatement upon successful completion of psychological evaluation and certain police-related courses. Officer Hoover was placed on light duty working in Central Records in a non-uniformed and non-weapon carrying capacity in the interim. He was reinstated effective 3/30/94. Suspended June 15, 1998 for allegedly having committed four acts of misconduct. One was for reportedly allowing a waitress to drive a police cruiser around a restaurant parking lot and three involved his interaction with other officers conducting a speed trap on another date. Terminated by City Council vote of 5-0 July 9, 1998; on appeal was denied reinstatement by Judge William S. Keiser 3/06/99 and in January 2000 the state Superior Court affirmed the local court’s decision upholding the firing. United States Army veteran. Badge #32.


Hughes, Charles E., DOB ?/?/?1859 or 1860, appointed April 8, 1890. Served until April 3, 1893, when new administration reorganized the force. Not related to Officer Thomas H. Hughes. Badge #13.

Hughes, Thomas H., DOB 5/09/1851, appointed July 23, 1885; reappointed 4/2/88, 4/09/90, 4/3/93, 4/06/96 (confirmed 4/20/96; 4/10/99, 4/08/02, and 4/03/05. On the night of September 15, 1906, Officer Hughes arrested a young man at the Arlington Dancing Academy for being drunk and disorderly. While escorting the youth to City Hall, Hughes was attacked by a mob near the court house and was severely beaten. He managed to hang on to the person under arrest until other officers came to his aid. The crowd numbered about 300. Hughes died nine days later, September 24, 1906. The coroner’s jury ruled that he died as a result of an already weakened condition and not as a result of the beating. Badge #8, 1896 era; badge #1, 1901 era. (Black Officer).

Hunsinger, David W., DOB ?/?/1861, confirmed February 21, 1910; reappointed December 4, 1911, and sworn in December 5, 1911. He is in a 1908 police force photo, but there is no mention that he was sworn in with the new force that year, nor is he listed in city directories as being on the force that year or the following year. Elected by City Commission April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914. Reappointed 1/03/16. Listed in the city directories 1910 through 1918 as being on the force. Resigned August 8, 1918. Died November 20, 1922.

Husted, Chief Lyman S., appointed Chief January 17, 1924, at age 65. Not previously on the force. Demoted to Sergeant effective midnight January 16, 1928. Refused to recognize council’s appointment of a new Chief and refused to turn over the keys to the office and desk and pertinent papers or to give up his badge. Resigned from the force January 26 after being suspended 10 days for not showing up for duty as a Sergeant. Died at Cammal, Pa., October 25, 1929, where he is buried.

Husted, Stephen C., served as a special motorcycle officer at the end of 1925 in place of officers off injured and sick. Not a regular, full-fledged member of the department. Newspaper referred to him as the first college-educated policeman, being a graduate of Lafayette University, however Chief Evan Russell appears to hold the distinction of being the first college graduate. Service ceased on December 19, 1925. Son of Chief Lyman S. Husted.
Police Officers I

Irwin, William, appointed June 11, 1870, as Detective Policeman. Appears to be the city's first detective. Dismissed by Mayor Herdic on July 15, 1870, for neglect of duty and improper conduct.

Police Officers J


Jeselnik, Sgt. Roger M., DOB 12/31/43, sworn in April 25, 1968. Promoted to Corporal 6/17/81; Corporal's position eliminated 4/23/85 at which time he reverted back to patrolman. Reinstated as Corporal when position reestablished 5/05/89. Promoted to Sergeant 1/07/92. Son of Sgt. Henry F. Jeselnik. November 14, 1993, was his last day worked; retired January 2, 1994. United States Army veteran. Badge #12; then badge #25; then badge #12; Corporal #3; Sergeant #3.

Jett, Chief Curley J., DOB 09/29/1944, sworn in April 23, 1973. Promoted to Agent 3/27/78; to Sergeant 2/12/80. Demoted to patrolman 5/04/82, for playing scrabble on duty at the county communications center on 2/22/82; reinstated as a Sergeant 9/3/82 by arbitration decision; promoted to Captain 1/09/97 in charge of Community Policing; promoted to Asst Chief 1/06/98; promoted to Chief 3/17/00. First Black Chief in the history of the department. Retired December 31, 2001. Badge #1; Sergeant #2; Captain #2; Ass't Chief #2. (Black Officer).

Jobson, Samuel, DOB 2/01/1846, appointed May 18, 1893. Last mentioned in March 31, 1896, Chief of Police's annual report as being on the force. Appears to have served until April 6, 1896, when new police force was sworn in. Served a a Private in 17th PA Cavalry in the Civil War. Became first truant officer for Williamsport School Board. Died December 16, 1915, at age 69. Badge #4.


Johnson, William H., appointed April 7, 1884; reappointed 8/02/86. Dismissed just prior to June 6, 1887. Served as a Sgt. Major in 12th Regiment and later in Company A, Engineer Battalion of Scranton. Died in Scranton on April 26, 1917, at age 64.

Police Officers K

Kane, Francis (Frank) X., DOB ?/?/1847, appointed April 3, 1893. Listed in city directories 1893 through 1896 as being on the force, but not mentioned in the Police Chief's annual reports. Appears to have served only one year or less, if he served at all. Died August 5, 1922.

Kantner, A., served a very short time and resigned on or before November 1, 1873. Appears to be Alfred L. Kantner, nephew of Mayor Samuel M. Crans, DOB 2/02/1842, Civil War veteran who served in Co G, Hundred and Thirty-First Regiment, Pa Volunteers under Capt. Charles B. Davis. Reenlisted in Co C, Thirty-Seventh Pa State Troops. Served in the fire department as an Engineer in Companies 1, 2 & 3. Died March 7, 1923.

Kastner, Allen, relieved from further service on the force by the Police Board, November 27, 1868.

Kaufman, Sgt. John C., DOB 9/26/1871, appointed January 3, 1916, promoted to Sergeant January 5, 1924. Collapsed and died of a cerebral hemorrhage at East Fourth and Academy Streets March 9, 1932, a sub-zero winter morning, while walking to work at City Hall. His body
was found by residents at 5:15 a.m., fifteen minutes after he was scheduled to be on duty.

Keaner, Charles C., DOB 4/28/1861, appointed April 10, 1899. Removed June 30, 1900, for complaining to Pennsylvania Railroad superintendent that his men were not paying sufficient attention to bums riding the trains and for going to a silk mill and announcing that the police chief wanted him to be there when, in fact, he didn't. The family name was McKean, but was changed to Keaner. Became South Williamsport Police Chief May 13, 1917. Elected constable the day he died, September 18, 1923. Great grandfather of Officer Dennis G. Harman.


Keiter, Osbert A., DOB 2/16/1882, appointed December 30, 1924. Resigned April 9, 1925, when circumstances developed convincing the mayor that he should not remain on the force. Served as Chief of Police of Montgomery, Pa. Died July 4, 1961.

Keller, Capt. Henry E., appointed March 3, 1901 and confirmed March 4, 1901. Appointed Night Captain, 4/04/05, from rank of Roundsman to fill position held by Capt. Robert Seitzer, who resigned January 1, 1905. Resigned February 1, 1906. Became Captain of Police of the Sunbury Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad and was widely known as one of the most successful police executives in the state and was instrumental in solving many important cases. Died January 8, 1937, at Geisinger Hospital, Danville. Badge #9.

Kempf, Joseph, DOB 2/02/1838, appointed April 1, 1874; reappointed on the following dates: 6/01/76; 4/12/80; 4/10/82; 4/07/84; 6/06/87; 4/02/88; 4/08/90; 4/03/93. Dismissed 4/08/78, when new force organized, but reappointed 4/12/80. Not reappointed 7/08/86, when new force organized, but reappointed 6/06/87 and served continuously until 4/02/96, when new mayor discharged over half the force on 4/03/96. Served in Civil War as a Private in Co. C, 149th Regiment PA Infantry. Died October 24, 1904. Badge #9.


Kerr, Mame, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, appointed January 28, 1925, as city's first policewoman, but she declined the position after being elected by Council on February 3, 1925. Never served on the police force.


Kiess, Clarence W., DOB 7/??/1889, appointed April 3, 1919. Became one of two mounted policemen, along with Adam Kinley, on June 21, 1919; the first and only mounted officers in the history of the department. The horses they rode, “Dan” and “Denver,” were given to the police department when the fire department's chemical apparatus was motorized. Served as Captain in Company I, 12th Infantry, NGP, when Co I and Co B merged in 1914 into Battery D, First Pennsylvania Field Artillery. He became the first Captain of the battery. Served as a Lieutenant in World War I. Resigned by January 1, 1921. Died January 14, 1930, at Stroudsburg, Pa.


Kinley, Sgt. Adam, DOB 3/03/1863, appointed July 1, 1907; reappointed February 18, 1910
(confirmed 2/21/10), and reappointed 12/04/11. Elected by City Commission April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914. Reappointed 1/02/16. Became one of two mounted policemen, along with Clarence W. Kiess, on June 21, 1919; the first mounted officers in the history of the department. The horses they rode, "Dan" and "Denver" were given to the police department when the fire department's chemical apparatus was motorized. Promoted to Sergeant March 19, 1924. He rode a bicycle and when automobiles became part of the department's equipment he was the first Officer to drive one as a patrol car. Never missed a day due to illness until 2/17/25—over 17 1/2 years perfect attendance. He had a tradition of meeting Frank W. Ernest, Sr., a dispatcher for the Williamsport Passenger Railway, in Market Square each New Year's Eve to shake hands and wish each other a "Happy New Year." They did this from 1907 until 1933. Ernest died April 16, 1933. Listed as Captain in 1931 city directory—a typographical error. Grandfather of Capt. William C. Kinley. Retired December 19, 1935. Died December 30, 1948. Badge #7.


Klett, Sgt. __________, mentioned as a member of the night police in November 22, 1875, Gazette & Bulletin. His name appeared in quotation marks as "Sgt. Klett," possibly indicating a ceremonial title and not actually being an officer. No other mention of such an officer can be located. May be George Klett who served as a special officer in 1911-12 era.

Knight, Chief William C., DOB 7/21/1925, appointed April 1, 1950. Named assistant in traffic investigation unit effective 10/27/52; promoted to Sergeant 3/20/58; to Lieutenant, 9/21/61; named Administrative Aide to the Director of Public Safety effective 1/24/72; reassigned from Office of Director of Public Safety to Uniform Division 4/14/72; to newly-created third Captain's position, 6/15/72, and assumed head of both Uniform and Criminal Divisions effective 7/9/72, until another Captain named; to Chief 2/21/73. Retired April 12, 1974. Entered the ministry after leaving the force and served as deacon in charge of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 1982-94. Father of former South Williamsport Borough Police Officer Michael Knight, who joined the Pennsylvania State Police in 1992. United States Marine Corps veteran. Died October 30, 1998. Badge #33.

Knittel, George W. Sr., DOB 10/30/1849, sworn in April 8, 1902. Reappointed 4/03/05, 4/09/08, 12/04/11. Elected by City Commission April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914. Badge #3. Reappointed 1/02/16. Received Badge #1, February 9, 1916, based on continuous length of service. Name appears as "Knittle" in annual police rosters, but as "Knittel" on his tombstone and those of his family members. Retired June, 1921. Died February 11, 1932. Badge #15, 1902 era.

Konkle, Charles H., appointed to the force from the fire department, where he served as a fireman with companies No. 1 and No. 2, before April 20, 1885, the day he was nominated. Confirmed about May 4, 1885. Listed in City Controller's annual report as receiving $338.67 police pay for year ending 1885. Dismissed just prior to February 8, 1886. Served as Captain of Police with Pennsylvania Railroad, 1911 era. Appointed to Ridgeway, Pa., police department in January 1913.

Konkle, Tallman, DOB 7/27/1844, appointed February 8, 1886; reappointed April 2, 1888. Civil War veteran of Company A, 5th PA Cavalry. Left the force in 1888 or 1889. Died October 28, 1899.


Kovaleski, Capt. Francis E. (Frank), DOB 2/29/1923, appointed December 16, 1953. Promoted to Corporal, 10/29/65; to Sergeant 12/23/67; to Lieutenant, 11/18/73; to Captain 11/10/75. Served as President of FOP Lodge 29. Retired October 3, 1986, having served nearly 33 years of continuous service; one of the longest records. Capt. #1.


Kremer, Johnathan L., appointed November 11, 1873 to replace A. Kantner. Served a very short time.

Kuhns, Lawrence R., DOB 9/18/1941, sworn in November 28, 1975. One of two officers to be the first ever laid-off, effective 1/01/76, by the city because of budgetary constraints. Was given a job as foreman of the city highway department in the interim; nine months. K-9 handler; police dog named Kayser, then dog named Zanto. Former Old Lycoming Twp., police officer. Badge #17 until laid-off, then #19, then #44. Retired March 31, 1996.


**Police Officers L**


Lehman, Roundsman Jacob F., DOB 2/15/1869, German immigrant, confirmed July 16 and
sworn in July 17, 1900, to take the place of Charles C. Keaner, who was removed. Reappointed 4/08/02. Listed as a Roundsman in April 1, 1903, annual report of the Chief of Police. Resigned in 1903 or 1904, and became a railroad policeman for 34 years. Died January 30, 1955. Badge #14.

Leo, Frank A., DOB 8/05/1926, appointed January 16, 1952. Retired March 16, 1981. Frequently walked the downtown beat. Badge #16, then badge #3, then badge #1 during final years.

Lewis, Theodore E. (Shorty), DOB 7/1/1878, appointed April 1, 1880; reappointed 4/10/82; 4/07/84; renominated 7/08/86 and sworn in 7/06/86 and 4/02/88. Served as Acting Captain when Capt. Meddaugh resigned in January 1889. Dismissed 4/08/90; reappointed 9/02/92. Served in the Civil War in the 1st New York Mounted Rifles as a 2nd Lieutenant, then as a 1st Lieutenant. Nicknamed "Shorty" because he was so tall--6'2." Became ill on Thanksgiving Day at Mayor Elliot's dinner for city appointees and died December 13, 1895. Badge #7.


Lomison, Sgt. John M., DOB 3/21/1893, appointed June 1, 1925. Army veteran of World War I and also served with the 12th U.S. Cavalry and took part in expeditions into the Navaho Indian Reservation and New Mexico. Was in the Mexican Border War in 1918. Promoted to Sergeant 3/30/53. Retired March 21, 1958. Fire Department dog "Bummer" used to follow him from Fire Headquarters on West Street to No. 3 Engine House on Campbell Street when Lomison walked the beat. Son-in-law of Officer William A. Staib. Lived longer than any other member. Died May 11, 1992, at age 99. Had a police funeral. Badge #1 in final years.

Longan, John O., appointed June 1, 1876. Civil War veteran who served in Co. I, 207th PA Volunteers. Name appears as "Logan" in newspaper accounts of his appointment, but appears as "Longan" in city directories. Not listed as being on the force in any city directories, but is listed as a laborer. Died December 1, 1898.


Longsdorf, Frederick J., appointed August 1, 1924. Suspected for 10 days in December 1924, which was "the conclusion of the incident where the owner or manager of a cafeteria complained that the officer had behaved himself unseemly, and used violent and improper language, in his place of business." Resigned December 29, 1924.

Lord, Augustus, DOB 4/21/1836, a Civil War veteran who served in the 1st Maine Cavalry, appointed Chief of Police by Mayor James Mansel, April 6, 1896. However, Lord's name was submitted to Councils three times and he failed to be confirmed. W. Ellis Wise was chosen for Chief. If Lord served it was only as an Acting Chief until the selection of Wise was confirmed on June 1, 1896. Died February 18, 1928, at age 92.

Lowe, Joseph E., DOB 7/2/1844 or 1845, mentioned in January 15, 1877, Gazette & Bulletin as having "had recovered judgment against the city for services as a policeman under the Mayor
Powell administration." Not mentioned in any city directories as being on the force. Died September 3, 1922.

“Lucas, Edward S., DOB 8/06/66, appointed 12/21/00 and sworn in 1/08/01. Former Reading, PA, police officer. United States Navy veteran. Called to active military duty following terrorist attack on America on 9/11/01. Badge #19.

Lupole, W. (William) Thomas, appointed April 2, 1923. Retired September 12, 1943, at age 72. Appears to have been the oldest male member to serve; Annabelle Smead was the overall oldest member to serve until the age of 73. Died October 17, 1952, at age 81.

Luse, Boyd C., DOB ?/?/1879, confirmed January 16, 1911 and appointed August 1, 1911; reappointed 10/21/12. Elected by City Commission April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914. Drove the patrol and ambulance wagon during his early career. Named Night Motorcycle Traffic Officer 1/03/16. He was the department mechanic and serviced all city vehicles. One of the most beloved officers ever to serve. Took a leave of absence in September 1927 due to illness. Collapsed and died in City Hall basement at 10:45 a.m., October 12, 1927, of a heart attack when he stopped to visit and to pick up an item from his workshop. Chief Rusie, Capt. Fincher, Capt. Smith, Sgts. Kaufmann, Kinley and Zuber served as pallbearers. He was a brother of city fireman Clyde H. Luse, who died of a heart attack in the line of duty while fighting a fire at 7 Charlotte Street on November 19, 1953.


**Police Officers M**

Mahaffey, Chief Charles V. Jr., DOB 5/25/1925, appointed March 9, 1952. Promoted to Sergeant 4/25/64; to Lieutenant, 5/9/68; to rank of Captain and Commander of the Uniform Division, 11/18/73; transferred to Captain of Staff Services Division effective 2/18/74; and promoted to Chief November 10, 1975. Retired January 5, 1980, after not being retained as Chief by incoming Mayor Stephen J. Lucasi. Grandson of Police Officer John R. Mahaffey. Badge #17. Died December 27, 1996.


Maloney, John P., DOB 9/24/1873 (His tombstone and death certificate give year of birth as 1874; however, Annunciation Church records give his year of birth as 1873 and the records, in Latin, are in chronological order). Appointed April 6, 1902; reappointed 4/03/05. Shot to death in the line of duty in the Newberry section of town on the night of March 13, 1907, by a wanted burglar and former convict. George B. Nelson, 21, who was with Thomas B. Reed, also a burglar and former convict. Nelson was just released from the Eastern State Penitentiary three days before the shooting. (See "Shootings and Stabbings" section). Youngest documented Officer to die while employed by the City. Killed on March 13th and wore Badge #13.


Marchese, Capt. Robert E., DOB 05/21/1938, appointed April 25, 1968. He was a United States Navy veteran. Involved in a non-fatal shooting by police: see "Shootings and Stabbings" section. Named Traffic Agent 7/1/72. Promoted to Corporal February 18, 1980. Corporal's positions abolished April 28, 1985. Served as administrative assistant to Chief William F. Miller from January 1988 until he was promoted to Captain of Police January 1, 1990. Died off-duty September 29, 1990, of a heart attack. Police funeral held and he was buried in his Captain's uniform. Badge #20, then Badge #26, then Badge #34 after Corporal's position eliminated, then Badge #13; Corporal #2; Capt #2.

Marion, Andrew, DOB 7/8/1854, appointed April 12, 1880. Listed in city controller's report for year ending December 31, 1881, as an officer on the force. Also listed in 1881-83 city directory as being on the force. Resigned prior to April 11, 1881. Died July 19, 1923.

Marley, Capt. John, Irish immigrant, first appointed 1865 as a borough officer; reappointed by Police Board, January 25, 1870. Reappointed 4/01/70, 5/22/72, 5/20/73, 6/01/76 and 4/08/78. In 1872 he arrested Nelson E. Wade, who murdered the McBrides in Linden. When he was reappointed on 5/20/1873 he held the rank of Captain. Listed as a Captain in Condensed History of Williamsport', 1873. Served in Co. D, 11th Regiment PA Volunteers in the Civil War. Dropped from the force 4/02/80 when new force sworn in. Reappointed 10/04/86 and appears to have served until 4/02/88 when new force sworn in. Died April 10, 1918. His obituary states that he served 28 consecutive years.

Martin, Det. Sgt. George W., appointed about November 19, 1904. Promoted to Detective Sergeant July 1, 1907. Listed in April 1, 1909, Police Chief's annual report as a patrolman. Last listed in April 1, 1911, Police Chief's Annual Report as being on the force as a patrolman. Badge #8, 1905 era; badge #15. Died December 9, 1944.

Martin, Olephant, DOB 10/20/1837, appointed June 30, 1872. Appears to be a brother of Chief L. Homer Martin. Resigned week of October 14, 1872, and died November 5, 1872, at age 35.

Martin, Thomas B., DOB 1833 or 1834, appointed April 1, 1870. Listed in the 1871-72 city directory as being on the force.

Mauk, Lt. Lynn G. Sr., DOB 07/04/1928, appointed October 25, 1956. He was named for Col. Lynn G. Adams of the Pennsylvania State Police. Mauk was a United States Army veteran of the Korean War. Promoted to Detective 10/16/58; to Detective Lieutenant, 4/25/64. Transferred from Criminal Unit to platoon commander effective July 1, 1972. Suffered a partially-paralyzing stroke and had to retire from the force on March 20, 1978. His father was Cpl. Harry G. Mauk, a member of the Pennsylvania State Constabulary from 1906-1912 who served in Greensburg. Cpl. Mauk resigned and was commissioned Captain with the Jones & Laughlin Steel Plant and headed plant security. Harry G. Mauk's brother was State Police Lt. Col. Jacob C. Mauk. Took his own life December 28, 1978.


McAllister, John W., appointed April 11, 1881, to fill vacancy created by Officer Andrew Marion's resignation. Not listed in city controller's annual report as having received any police pay. If he served at all, it was only for a short time.

McCaffrey, Patrick B., DOB 5/02/1832, listed in 1889 city directory as on the force. His obituary also states he served on the police force. An Irish immigrant who came to the United States at age 25. Died January 9, 1910, at age 78.


McCoy, Samuel, appointed May 5, 1913, but declined. Never served as a member of the police force.


McEwen, Carl J., DOB 8/18/1906, appointed February 1, 1930. Son-in-law of Officer Walter H.
McWilliams. Gave a .32 caliber U.S. Revolver to Howard Hutton, 27, who murdered a Yellow Taxicab driver, William L. Garrison, 22, with the weapon near Warrensville on July 3, 1932. Resigned July 13, 1932. Arrested 8/05/32 for "Unlawfully lending, giving and delivering a firearm to another." Plead guilty 10/04/32 and received a $50 fine and 1 year and 3 months in county prison. Garrison, the murder victim, was the uncle of Inspector William M. Dalton who was not yet born at the time. World War II Army veteran. Died August 10, 1982.

McFadden, Chief Alexander M., appointed June 4, 1866, as the first Chief of Police after Williamsport incorporated as a city. Confirmed by Councils July 2, 1866 after being elected over Michael Heisley 13-10. Served less than one year, until May 23, 1867. Died April 7, 1885, age 58.


McGonnell, Edward, DOB 3/26/1845, appointed April 12, 1880. Listed in 1881-83 city directory as on the force. Appears to have served until April 10, 1881, when new force was sworn in. Died June 15, 1906.

McGonnell, Thomas, DOB 2/20/1857, listed in the city controller's report for the years ending December 31, 1881, 1883 and 1884, as a patrolman on the force. Not reappointed 4/10/82 when new force approved by council. Also, he filled in for his brother, Officer Edward McGonnell, as a policeman for a period of about one week while he was away to a temperance meeting in Boston in August 1881. Died April 20, 1934 in Easton, Pa.

McKean, Chief Samuel, DOB 4/16/1827, son of "Honest General Sam McKean," who was Secretary of the Commonwealth under Governor George Wolfe. Chief McKean studied law and was admitted to the Bradford County bar. Appointed Chief June 1, 1876; reappointed April 5, 1878. Served second non-continuous term as Chief being appointed April 8, 1884. Resigned April 16, 1885, during scandal over sloppy bookkeeping and missing fine monies. Died November 6, 1890, at Granville, Bradford Co., Pa.

*McKenna, Chief John S., DOB 11/10/1966, appointed February 4, 1993, and sworn in February 15, 1993. United States Marine Corps veteran. Served in Lycoming County Drug Task Force Unit 9/95-present; served in WBP Vice and Narcotics Unit 1/97 to 6/99; Member Special Response Team 1998. Promoted to Corporal 6/28/99; promoted to Captain 3/17/00. Promoted to the 34th Chief of Police to replace Chief Foust on 2004 Badge #42; Cpl. #2; Captain #2. Chief #1

McWilliams, Walter H., DOB 4/25/1883, appointed April 1, 1928. Worked primarily the Market Square beat and directed traffic from the pagoda that was located in the center of the square. Retired April 23, 1948. Died December 13, 1970. Badge #2.

Meddaugh, Capt. Frederick W., appointed as a new member of the force April 2, 1888, as Night Captain. Resigned effective January 13, 1889. Listed only in 1888 city directory as being "Captain of Police." Died January 6, 1920.

Mellix, Joseph, appointed April 10, 1882. Not listed in any city directories as being on the force. Listed in city controller's annual report for years ending December 31, 1883 and 1884, as a patrolman on the force with last name spelled "Mellix" in the '83 report and "Mellex" in the '84 report. Name also appeared as "Joseph W. Mellix" and "Joseph W. Mellics" in newspaper and Joseph "Mellick's" in city death records. Appears to be Joseph P. Mellix, a black Civil War veteran who served in Co H, 11th U S C H A and who died January 7, 1905. (Appears to be a Black Officer).


Middaugh, F. William, appointed April 2, 1888. Not listed in any city directories as being on the force. The Gazette & Bulletin spelled the name "Middaugh," but appears it should have been "Meddaugh" above.

Miller, Earl L., appointed June 28, 1923. Resigned May 6, 1924, to become Chief of Police in Lewisburg.


Miller, Roland C., DOB 2/26/1948, appointed May 12, 1975. One of two officers to be the first ever laid-off, effective 1/01/76, by the city because of budgetary constraints. Was given a job as a city bus driver in the interim; nine months. Resigned July 31, 1981. Not related to any other Miller that served on the force. Badge #11.


Miller, Chief William F. Sr., DOB 06/19/1944, sworn in January 22, 1969. Promoted to Detective 11/15/76; promoted to Lieutenant 3/27/78. Named Williamsport Exchange Club "Police Officer of the Year" in 1983, for being instrumental in making 52 burglary-related arrests that involved over 100 break-ins, and $1,000,000 in stolen goods of which $60,000 was recovered. Promoted to Chief 1/04/88. Reverted back to rank of Lieutenant 1/06/92, after not being retained as Chief by
Mayor Preziosi. Appointed Chief 1/02/96, for second non-continuous term; only Chief in the 20th century to serve a non-continuous term. Due to health reasons, Miller was asked to step down as Chief and reverted back to rank of Lieutenant effective 1/06/98. Served seven terms as President of FOP Lodge 29. United States Army veteran of the Vietnam era, but did not serve in Vietnam. Father of Officer Timothy S. Miller. Badge #33 then Badge #27; Lieutenant #5 before serving as Chief, then Lieutenant #3; then Chief again, then Lieutenant #1. Died August 14, 1999. Had a police funeral and was buried in his uniform.

Mills, Agt. Thomas G., DOB 7/30/1942, appointed April 30, 1966. Former Renovo, Pa., police officer. Promoted to Criminal Agent in Uniform Division effective July 1, 1972; served in Vice-Narcotics Unit until disbanded 9/01/73 and reassigned to Investigative Division; transferred to Uniform Division effective 9/05/74. Resigned November 8, 1974, to go with State Bureau of Narcotics. Badge #11


Montgomery, Sgt. Ernest E., DOB 8/27/29, appointed December 1, 1955. Promoted to Corporal, 11/25/67; to Sergeant, 3/27/78. At 0420 hours on the morning of October 4, 1980, Sgt. Montgomery drove upon the scene of an armed robbery in progress at the Zippy Market, 2300 West Fourth Street. Montgomery encountered two individuals with bandannas covering their faces holding up the store clerk with a shotgun. Montgomery radioed for help and took up a position outside the store. The two robbers came out of the store a short time later without bandannas on and without the shotgun. One of the robbers ran around the building and the other, Robert Johnson, 22, was apprehended. Johnson was sentenced to 1 1/2 to 5 years in state prison. The other robber's identity was never learned as Johnson claimed he had just met him and didn't know who he was. United States Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War. Retired July 1, 1984. Badge #27; Sgt. #3.


*Moore, Kristopher K., DOB 7/04/72, appointed 12/21/00 and sworn in 1/08/01. Former Fayetteville, NC, police officer. United States Army veteran. Badge #28.

Morris, _________, mentioned as an officer in July 11 & 14, 1868, newspaper accounts. No further reference to him can be located. Name also appears as "Morris."

Mosteller, John, appointed November 12, 1888; confirmed November 19, 1888. Swiss immigrant who was recruited to work the ore mines in Canada and came to the United States at age 21. Served until April 4, 1889 when new administration sworn in. Died April 17, 1931, at age 81.

Mundy, H. F., listed in city controller's report for year ending December 31, 1881, as an officer on the force. Also listed in 1882-83 city directory as being on the force. First name probably "Herman."


Musheno, Ass't Chief Paul E., DOB 04/03/1944, sworn in January 7, 1967. Named to newly-created Vice/Narcotics Unit 2/21/72; promoted to Corporal 3/27/78, but resigned the position 2/18/80 and reverted back to patrolman. First known member to voluntarily give up his rank. Alternated with Officer Thomas Mnick as downtown daylight beat Officer late 1980s until promotion to Sergeant. Promoted to Sergeant 1/02/94; named Patrol Division Supervisor effective 9/29/96; promoted to Ass't 1/09/97; voluntarily reverted back to Sergeant 5/23/97. Served as President of FOP Lodge 29, 1992-1994. United States Army veteran. Badge #22; Sergeant #3; Chief #2. Retired July 1, 1997.


Myers, Sgt. William J., DOB 2/4/1922, sworn February 17, 1951. Promoted to Sergeant 12/30/54. Transferred from Accident Investigation to Ass't Platoon Commander Relief Sergeant in the Uniform Division effective 7/1/72. Served as President of FOP Lodge 29. Retired July 31, 1972. He was an Army veteran of World War II who served at the Battle of the Bulge. Died February 21, 1994, in Geisinger Medical Center, Danville, Pa.

Police Officers N

Nelson, Arnold A., appointed sometime after he passed the civil service test on March 10, 1923. He charged Vice Mayor Harry L. Cohick with violating traffic rules and charged Councilman Francis M. Gallagher with using obscene language. Refused to drop the charges and was dismissed from the force July 21, 1923, by Chief Tepel who claimed Nelson was never certified by the civil service board to city council. An alderman canceled the charges against Cohick and Gallagher.


Nichols, Jared P., appointed by Police Board, January 25, 1870. Appears to have served until 3/31/70, when new city charter went into effect and new force named. Died at age 78, March 2, 1915, at New Haven, Conn.

Nitsche, S. Scott, DOB 10/10/1859, appointed about April 1, 1908. Became the first driver of the first horse-drawn patrol and ambulance wagon that went into service 11/10/08. Last listed in April 1, 1911, Police Chief's annual report as being on the force. Served until December 4, 1911, when new force sworn in. Became a member of the Williamsport Fire Department. Died April 25, 1920.

Police Officers O

O’Brien, Patrick J., DOB 10/05/1845, appointed April 8, 1890; reappointed 4/3/93, not reappointed 4/08/96; reappointed early 1900 and on the following dates: 11/01/99; 4/08/02, 4/03/05, 4/06/08, and 12/04/11. Did not continually serve. Granted leave of absence 7/01/12 and died November 6, 1912, after resigning from the force three weeks previous. Badge #14 in 1890s, then badge #13, badge #12, 1901 era; then badge #6.


O’Connell, Richard J. Jr., DOB 7/02/1881, sworn in April 9, 1908. Served at least two years. Last mentioned in the March 31, 1910, Police Chief’s annual report. Resigned from the police department and joined the fire department where he attained the rank of Captain. Great grandfather of South Williamsport Police Officer Terry O’Connell. Died August 26, 1955, in Rochester, NY.


O’Hearn, John T., DOB 5/??/1869, appointed April 10, 1899. Removed October 31, 1899.


Osmun, Robert B., DOB 11/04/1837, on the force by 1870; reappointed January 16, 1871. Removed from the force week of April 1, 1872. Died at Goldsboro, Pa., June 10, 1905.


Otto, Harry B., appointed to go on duty January 8, 1890. Not confirmed until February 3, 1890. Served until new force sworn in 4/08/90. Served on the force as a substitute for the week of September 17, 1892, to replace Patrolman John Spotts who went to Washington encampment.
Police Officers P

Page, George L., patrol driver, appointed May 17, 1909 and sworn in May 19, 1909. Reappointed December 4, 1911. Elected by City Commission April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914. Listed in Police Chief's annual report of April 1, 1914, as Day Patrol and Ambulance Driver; renamed same 1/03/16. Drove the team of horses that pulled the patrol wagon, which also served as an ambulance, 1909 era. Dog named Panhaus rode with officers driving the wagon. Panhaus' sister, Nellie, succeeded him in riding with the Officers after he no longer could; 1912 era. Resigned in 1918 due to poor health. Died September 30, 1926.


Paris, Capt. Vincent C., DOB 8/31/1861, appointed April 6, 1896, confirmed April 20, 1896 and sworn in April 21, 1896. Reappointed April 10, 1899 as Night Captain, and held that rank until April 8, 1902, when new administration sworn in and he was not retained on the force. Served as first ward constable before being appointed to the police force. Became a Pennsylvania Railroad policeman. Died April 13, 1915. Badge #11, 1896 era.

Patterson, Chief Maynard J., DOB 2/19/1925, sworn in March 9, 1952. Served as a motorcycle officer. Promoted to Sergeant 3/20/58; to Lieutenant 12/28/61, to Captain 7/2/72; to Uniform Commander (Captain) 6/25/73; to Commander Staff Services Division 11/18/73; transferred from Staff Services Division to special assignment 2/18/74; to Inspector, 3/04/74; to Acting Chief 4/15/74; and to Chief 5/28/74. Retired November 6, 1975, after being convicted on City Hall wiretapping-related charges. All charges overturned on appeal. Navy veteran of the Korean War. Died November 17, 1993.

Paulhamus, Ass't Chief Dennis L., DOB 12/10/1944, sworn in April 25, 1968. Served in Staff Services 1972-73; assigned to Arson Task Force effective 9/26/74; assumed the rank of Criminal Agent 11/11/74; promoted to Agent 1/13/75; to Lieutenant 8/09/83; to Ass't Chief 7/11/94; and reverted back to Lieutenant effective 1/02/96 when Ass't Chief's position eliminated. Firearms instructor; arson investigator. Former United States Marine Corps reservist. Retired May 31, 1996. Badge #31, then #39; Agent #1; Lieutenant #1; Chief #2, reverted back to Lieutenant #1.


Peters, John J. Sr., DOB 11/22/1875, appears to have been appointed in 1916. First mentioned in January 1, 1917, annual report of the Chief of Police. Granted six month leave of absence 9/16/18. Resigned April 1, 1923. Died January 1, 1946, at age 70.

Pfeiffer, Adam, DOB ??/??/1845, a German immigrant, appointed as a special officer on August 28, 1888, and confirmed as a regular member of the force October 1, 1888. The November 4, 1888, edition of GRIT states: "a recent acquisition to the force has already been removed by Mayor Foresman for frequently disobeying the rules regulatory to the police department by entering saloons and drinking while on duty. On Monday night (October 29) at the political demonstration in Newberry his ire became excited and he struck Albert Boob, who was one of a party who were in the officer's opinion, making too much racket and was not inclined to heed the policeman's injunction to move on." Died December 27, 1910.
Pfleegor, Lt. Clifford A., DOB 9/09/1895, appointed November 18, 1927. Served as Crime Prevention Officer, 1939-41 era. Promoted to Lieutenant in Detective Bureau, 7/22/42, the first member to hold that position. He was also the department's first Juvenile Officer. His son, Sgt. William Pfleegor, was killed in the Korean War, July 18, 1951. Retired September 1, 1955. Died November 16, 1955.

Platt, Night Captain Joseph G., DOB 10/13/1847, listed in 1873 through 1880 city directories as on the force. Reappointed 5/22/72, 5/20/73, 6/01/76 and 4/15/78. The 7/08/74, edition of The Sun mentions him as Night Captain. The position was abolished in June 1875, but he is mentioned as Captain again as early as August 24, 1875. Officer Platt shot an arsonist on the night of May 13, 1876 (see "Shootings and Stabbings" section). Platt served nine years, being removed April 12, 1880, but filled in for newly appointed Officer John Stryker who could not immediately report for duty due to family illness. Platt enlisted in the Civil War at 14 years of age in Co. I, One Hundred and Thirty First PA Vol. Inf. Enlisted in Fighting Eighth PA Cavalry in Co. G and fought at Antietam at age 15. Served as a constable and was appointed county detective in May 1893. Appointed to the Williamsport Fire Department on July 19, 1880, where he attained the rank of Captain, and served in that capacity up until the time of his death, December 19, 1913.

Pineau, Thomas L., appointed April 2, 1905. Served on the police force seven years. Helped capture Officer Maloney's murderer on March 14, 1907. Mostly worked the Third and Pine Street beat. Resigned after April 1, 1912. Died at age 68 in Albuquerque, NM, November 24, 1926, where he had moved after retiring. Badge #16, 1906 era; badge #15.


Powell, Joseph J., DOB 5/?/1852, appointed April 2, 1888. Resigned week of February 25, 1889. (Appears to be the Powell who was born and died these years). Died December 22, 1935.

Powers, Capt. William P., DOB 10/25/1859, appointed April 6, 1908, and sworn in as Detective Sergeant April 9, 1908. Promoted to "Captain of Detectives" by city ordinance of 3/17/09. First to hold title of "Captain of Detectives" which was changed from "Detective Sergeant" by the ordinance. Although he was Captain of Detectives, he had no detectives under him; he was the only one. Reappointed Captain of Detectives, 12/04/11. Elected by City Commission April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914, as "City Detective" when an ordinance abolished "Captain of Detective" title and changed it to "City Detective." Dropped from force January 3, 1916, when new administration sworn in. Died February 14, 1917.

Poyneer, Silas F., appointed March 21, 1918. Served as traffic officer and ambulance driver. Became ill on duty on November 14, 1928, and died November 22, 1928, due to heart ailment. He was 6’6” tall and wore size 14 shoes.

Preston, Frank, served for a two-week period beginning October 28, 1889, while Officer Hartman was away to New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington.

Second member of the police department to run for mayor and win; elected November 5, 1991, sworn in January 6, 1992. Served in the police department up until the time he was sworn in. Served one term as mayor, 1992-96. Badge #28; Lt. #3.

Pysher, Eugene J., DOB 8/17/1899, elected by City Council to serve on the police force, December 28, 1923, effective January 1, 1924. However, it appears he never accepted the position. The late former police Sergeant Theodore R. Walters was sworn in at that time and said no such person was ever on the force, during a 1990s interview. Died August 13, 1940.

**Police Officers R**

Rainey, John, appointed in 1870 or 1871 and resigned by March 1871. Reappointed week of April 15, 1889. Resigned week of September 2, 1889, to become a fireman on an engine at Beech Creek.

Rankin, Det. William H., appointed by Mayor Herdic August 5, 1870, without approval of Councils. Hired as a plainclothesman; did not wear a badge or uniform. Appears to have served until March, 1871, when his appointment and salary came under fire by Councils, who Councilman Henry White referred to as a "scoundrel, a low-lived dirty whelp," for spying on members of council and others.


Redmond, Patrick, appointed June 1, 1876; reappointed April 8, 1878. Was an Irish immigrant. Served until April 12, 1880. Made the last arrest, a drunken tramp, on the old police force before new mayor sworn in. Father of city fireman Thomas Redmond who founded the former Redmond Funeral Home in Williamsport. Died at Erie, Pa., February 24, 1913, at age 65.


Reibley, Michael J., appointed to the force April 5, 1896, by incoming Mayor Mansel. Councils failed to confirm Reibley on April 20, however, due to a great deal of opposition that developed against his appointment. He is referred to as a patrolman in the newspaper article concerning the Council meeting and his name appears as "Reidy." If he served it was only for a period of about two weeks. Not listed in any city directories as living in the city or being on the police force.

August 12, 1893, at age 39. Officers Russie, Kempf, Munson and Gaul served as pallbearers. Name spelled "Raibley" in city death records and in his obituary, but spelled "Reibley" in police chief’s annual reports and city directories. Badge #7.


*Rodgers, Jimmie W., DOB 1/31/72, appointed 12/21/00 and sworn in 1/08/01. Former Mansfield, PA, and Bloomsburg, PA, police officer. United States Marine Corps veteran. Badge #41.

Rook, Chief Matthew M., DOB 8/07/1937, first appointed January 18, 1962. Resigned July 4, 1963. Reappointed January 1, 1965. Promoted to Detective, 1/01/69; reassigned to newly-created Vice/Narcotics Unit 2/21/72; named Acting Assistant with the Special Investigation Division 2/18/74; to Acting Sergeant, 3/04/74; to Lieutenant, 9/20/74; to Captain of Detectives, 3/14/75; and to Chief, 1/07/80. Unsuccessful Republican candidate for Lycoming County sheriff in 1985. Retired from the force at 12:01 a.m., January 4, 1988, after not being retained as Chief by incoming Mayor Jessie L. Bloom. Not related to Officer Scott W. Rook.


Russie, Chief Louis R., DOB 4/15/1865--the day Lincoln died--sworn in April 4, 1889; confirmed by council 4/15/89. Continuously reappointed. Appointed Sergeant May 15, 1911, and reappointed as Sergeant 12/04/11. Served as Captain in charge of headquarters in 1912. Elected by City Commission April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914, as Day Sergeant. Again, named Day Sergeant January 3, 1916, and while holding that rank was made Acting Chief the same day, until Chief Fred W. Tepel was sworn in on January 16, 1916. Promoted to Captain July 18, 1924. Promoted from Captain to Chief January 17, 1928. Served continuously 43 years and 8 months on the police force; the longest record ever. Forced to retire at age 67, December 16, 1932. Died December 27, 1936. Badge #12, 1896 era; badge #2, 1901 era.
Russell, Chief Evan H., DOB 9/18/1840, appointed April 8, 1890, as Chief. Was a Civil War veteran who served in Co. G, 12 Reg., PA Volunteer Infantry as Captain. He participated in nearly every battle fought by the Army of the Potomac and had a horse shot under him at the battle of Antietam and another went down at the battle of Fredericksburg. Was a signal officer on a gunboat through the hull of which five solid shots were sent during an engagement on the Rappahannock. Not previously a member of the force. Served as Chief until April 21, 1896, when he resigned after not being retained by incoming Mayor James Mansel. Served in the Spanish-American War, at age 58, as a Captain in Co. M, 5th PA Volunteers and was discharged with the rank of Major. Co-founder in 1910 of Kenmar Land Company which developed 34 acres east of the city in Loyalsock Twp. Appears to be the first college educated member of the police force having graduated from Dickinson Seminary with degrees in civil engineering and mathematics. Died February 19, 1925.

**Police Officers S**

Saam, Robert W., DOB 7/08/1945, appointed July 7, 1970. K-9 handler; police dog named Eros, which died while in service; then police dog named Fero. Vietnam War veteran. Arrested 12/04/87, for criminal conspiracy, lotteries, and obstruction of administration of law in regard to gambling offenses. On March 24, 1988, he appeared before Senior Judge Charles F. Grevey and was placed on the Accelerated Rehabilitative Disposition program. He was given a one-year probationary term, ordered to pay $250 costs of supervision and to perform 64 hours community service. At the conclusion of probation the additional charges including bookmaking were officially dismissed. The district attorney stated that Saam likely would not have been charged if he were not a police officer. Did not return to duty. Retired July 1, 1988. Badge #23, then badge #32. (See "Shootings &"Stabbings" section).

Salamone, Peter A., appointed in September 1940, but declined the position. Never served on the police force.


Samony, Director of Public Safety John M., DOB 1/19/41, appointed January 17, 1972, as the city's first director of public safety under the strong mayor form of government. Previously served as Chief of Police of Jersey Shore, Pa., and served for four years on the Sierra Madre, California, Police Department. Was head of the police and fire departments. Was the sole head of the police department from February 11, 1972, when the Chief's position was eliminated, until February 21, 1973, when the Chief's position was reestablished. Relinquished operational control of the Bureau of Police effective 5/29/74. Resigned June 28, 1974, after being convicted on City Hall wiretapping related charges. Was fined $500 and placed on ARD program. Unit designation for the Director was "Safety 1."


Sautters, John, appointed between May 15-21, 1874, and appears to have served until June 1, 1876, when new force sworn in. Was an engineer in the city fire department at the time of his death on November 16, 1888, at age 52.

Schaeffer, Mattie, police matron, appointed about March 23, 1914. This is obviously a newspaper
error; no such person existed. Nancy Shaffer was the police matron, but various news accounts refer to her as "Mattie Schaeffer."


Schley, William H., DOB 05/09/1876, confirmed by Councils April 6, 1908, and sworn in April 13, 1908. Reconfirmed June 20, 1910. Had first police K-9 called "Paun Hause," or "Panhaus" 1908-10 era. Schley traded the dog for a ham, but the dog came back. Reappointed December 4, 1911; elected by City Commission April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914; reappointed 1/03/16. Dismissed by Chief Bathurst for appearing on duty drunk about 1918. Reappointed by 1919 and resigned December 10, 1921. He's listed as a special officer in 1922 police chief's annual report, which was not a regular member of the force. He was reappointed again ??/??/23 and resigned the same year. Panhaus died January 24, 1910. Schley died September 19, 1924. His obituary refers to him as still being on the force, but the police chief's annual report of 12/31/23, states he resigned in 1923; this may be an error or he may have been reappointed in 1924. Badge #10.

Schmucker, Det. Captain Joseph M., appointed December 4, 1931. Promoted to Captain of Detectives, December 15, 1932. Elected as a state trustee of the FOP in 1939 and reelected in 1940 and named chairman of the state board of trustees. Elected 42nd sheriff of Lycoming County 11/02/43. Resigned from the police department 12/26/43. First county sheriff to be reelected to a consecutive term, 11/04/47. His only son, Ensign Joseph J. Schmucker, was the first casualty from Lycoming County in the D-Day invasion at the Normandy beachhead; he was commander of LCT No. 593 which was sunk due to enemy action in the first invasion wave, June 6, 1944. Sheriff Schmucker died in office, June 19, 1950, which was the 6th anniversary of his son's memorial service.


Scott, Samuel M., Irish immigrant, appointed by Police Board, November 27, 1868 and reappointed by the Board 1/25/70, 6/13/70, 5/22/72 and 5/20/73. Dropped from the force June 1, 1876, when Mayor Starkweather was sworn in. Listed in 1870 census as "James Scott." Died February 9, 1885.


Segebrecth, Bernard W., DOB 7/01/1874, appointed July 16, 1907, as a patrolman to fill vacancy caused by the promotion of George Martin. Last mentioned in March 31, 1911 annual report of the Chief of Police as being on the force. Resigned on or about April 1, 1911. His brothers changed the family name to "Seybrecht." Died March 7, 1952 at Rochester, Pa.

Seitler, Inspector Fred J., DOB 5/09/1900, GRIT of 12/16/32 states he was appointed 12/15/32, personnel file states he was appointed February 16, 1932; GRIT account of 1952 states he was celebrating twenty years on the force, 12/16/32; GRIT account of 1957 gives date of hire as
12/15/32. Served as a special police officer prior to being appointed full-time. Promoted to newly-created post of Detective Sergeant, 1/11/44; to Detective Lieutenant, 1/13/48; and to newly-created post of Inspector, which was second in command, when Detective Lieutenant position abolished, 1/16/51. He was a state highway patrolman 1924-26, and served as Sergeant of Police with Lehigh Valley Railroad. Retired May 9, 1964. Died March 1, 1968.

Seitzer (Solley) Mrs. Alta Ling, 54, first policewoman, sworn in February 14, 1925. Remarried on August 29, 1928, and became "Mrs. Edward H. Seitzer." Served for a number of years as Mrs. Alta Ling Solley, listed below. Did not wear a uniform. Died August 2, 1934.


Shaffer, Nancy, appointed 2/24/14 as police matron. Reappointed 1/03/16. Was not an officer and had no arrest powers. Her duties were primarily to deal with women prisoners.


Sholder, Executive Officer Charles J., DOB 1/14/1922, appointed first, February 18, 1946. World War II United States Navy veteran. Resigned November 15, 1950. Appointed second, February 16, 1954. Promoted to Detective, 10/16/58; to Captain of Detectives, April 1964; to newly created post of Executive Officer, 4/25/64 at salary of $5,500; and to Detective Lieutenant, 2/20/68. Only member to ever hold the position of Executive Officer; post abolished by Mayor Richard J. Carey. Killed in off-duty vehicle accident, November 30, 1971. Badge #32 and #36.

Sholder, LaRue E., DOB 3/13/1925, appointed January 1, 1950. Served as a motorcycle officer, 1950s era. Officer Sholder was struck while riding a police motorcycle on 5/06/58, when a vehicle pulled from the curb at Hepburn and Graffi Streets. He suffered a skull fracture, a cerebral concussion and other injuries. He returned to sporadic duty 9/16/58 and to full time duty 12/02/58. Arrested, along with two other individuals, on 09/05/62, for taking $567 in silver dollars and
currency as well as $350 in merchandise, between August 20-26, from the company of Aderhold and Feiser where he was employed. Alderman Hugh MacArthur dismissed the charges on 9/13/62. Judge Charles S. Williams ordered Sholder rearrested and charges were filed before Justice of the Peace A. Edgar Eschenbach. Sholder was bound-over for court and was found guilty of Receiving Stolen Goods and Conspiracy on 12/01/63. He was sentenced to 6-25 months in the county prison by Judge Charles F. Greevy on April 5, 1963. Sholder appealed the sentence, and was released from prison, but the Superior Court of Pennsylvania affirmed the sentence April 11 and Sholder was recommitted. He then filed an appeal 9/12/63 from conviction and sentence, which was denied by the Superior Court, October Term 1963. Resigned April 5, 1963. Navy veteran of World War II. Brother of Executive Officer Charles J. Sholder. Died July 4, 1985. Badge #26.


Simmons, Alvah B., DOB 9/19/1864, appointed December 16, 1895; renominated 4/6/96 and sworn in 4/28/96; reappointed 4/10/99. Left the force 11/30/99; reappointed 4/15/1900; 4/08/02; and 4/03/05. On March 27, 1902, Simmons and Chief of Police Frank F. Stryker became involved in a fist fight at City Hall. Simmons had been accused of making matters public in connection with recent robberies and went to see Mayor Samuel N. Williams to complain about the chief's charges. Upon returning to the police department from the mayor's office, a fight ensued and Simmons was found lying unconscious in a pool of blood on the floor. He suffered a concussion of the brain, a cut on the back of his head and a few superficial bruises. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance. Days later, Simmons' wife had the Chief arrested for aggravated assault and battery and he posted $300 bail and waived the hearing. Stryker was found not guilty by a jury on June 4, 1902. Reappointed 4/04/05, but resigned on that date to devote his time to a restaurant he owned. Badge #7, 1896 era; badge #4, 1901 era. Died November 12, 1938.

Sloan, John, appears to have been appointed on or about February 1, 1868. He's mentioned March 2, 1868, April 11, 1868 & June 1, 1868, newspapers as receiving police pay. Not listed in any city directories as being on the force.


Smead, Capt. Walter J., DOB 9/01/1936, appointed July 24, 1958. Named Traffic Agent 7/1/72. Promoted to Corporal, 7/30/73; to Lieutenant, 6/10/74; to Acting Commander of the Patrol Division effective 12/05/74; to Captain of Police in charge of Patrol Division, 12/09/74, then to Captain of Staff Services Division, 12/14/74; and reverted back to Lieutenant, 1/01/77, when Captain's position eliminated. Named Community-Relations Officer 8/05/74. United States Navy veteran. Retired September 6, 1978. Badge #36, then badge #10.


Smith, Carl C., sworn in January 27, 1951, to begin February 1, 1951. Resigned July 15, 1951. According to a newspaper article he became a member of the Pittsburgh Police Department. However, Pittsburgh's personnel office has no record of his service.

Smith, Capt. Elmer (Bucky) W., DOB 3/01/1872, first appointed April 6, 1896, confirmed April 20, 1896 and sworn in 4/21/96; reappointed 4/10/99. Not retained when new administration sworn in on 4/07/02. Was promoted to bicycle patrolman for several years. He left the department to become Chief of Police of Wehrum, Pa., and held that position for two years after which he entered the service of the Pennsylvania Railroad as a member of the Civil Engineer Corps. He was reappointed to the Williamsport Police Department 4/08/08, and was later appointed as the first motorcycle patrolman. Appointed first Traffic Control Officer 3/03/13. Elected by City Commission April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914. Named Day Motorcycle and Traffic Officer, 1/03/16. Newspaper article, March 13, 1916, states he was then assisting with detective work. Promoted to Captain of the Traffic Squad 1/15/25, and served in that capacity until 1/16/28, when he was appointed Desk Captain. Demoted to patrolman 4/13/35 after being involved in a traffic accident and being accused of conduct unbecoming an officer. Appointed Acting Sergeant 2/26/37. He was Desk Officer his last 12 years on the force. His obituary states he served over 50 non-continuous years on the force, but it appears he actually served about 44-45 non-continuous years. He served the longest length of years, but not continuous. Retired July 1, 1942. Badge #4, 1896 era; badge #5, 1901 era; received Badge #2, February 9, 1916, based on continuous length of service. Died March 9, 1943.


Smith, Frank, appointed April 8, 1878. Resigned just prior to February 18, 1879.

Smith, Milton, appointed June 1, 1876, according to the newspaper. However, no listing of such a name in any city directories. Believed to be Thomas Milton Smith listed below.


Smith, Scott H., appointed May 21, 1925. Resigned June 20, 1927, after being suspended for intoxication week of May 30. Not related to Officers Elmer or Thomas Smith. Moved to Winfield, Pa. Died on or just before July 4, 1933, at Dansville, NY, while visiting friends.

Smith, Thomas M., DOB 9/24/1842, appears to have been appointed June 1, 1876, but the newspaper listed him as "Milton Smith." There is no city directory listing for Milton Smith, but Milton was Thomas Smith's middle name. Appears to be a typographical error. Reappointed 4/12/80; dismissed for not obeying the mayor's orders prior to July 1881; reappointed 4/10/82; reappointed 7/19/86 and sworn in 7/26/86. Served until April 8, 1890, when new force sworn in. Father of Capt. Elmer W. Smith. Served over 10 years on the force. Died January 7, 1905.


Solley (Seitzer) Mrs. Alta Ling, first policewoman, appointed February 14, 1925. Remarried on August 29, 1928, and became "Mrs. Edward H. Seitzer." Served for a number of years as Mrs. Alta L. Solley. Same person as Mrs. Alta M. Seitzer listed above. Did not wear a uniform. Died August 2, 1934.

*Sorage, Agt Stephen J., DOB 11/22/1957, sworn in March 30, 1981. Promoted to Corporal January 7, 1992 and to Lieutenant July 25, 1994. Member of the first Special Response Team (SRT), established 1991. Named as a Community Policing Officer and head of the program in March 1993; began duties as such 5/10/93 and served in that capacity until 7/31/94, when transferred to Uniform Division as Watch Commander. Named Lieutenant in charge of Community Policing effective 1/02/96 until January 1997, when he voluntarily gave up the rank of Lieutenant to become an Agent 1/06/97. Badge #39; Corporal #3; Lieutenant #3; Agent #4.

Spotts, Henry H., DOB 8/1840, appointed April 8, 1878. Listed in 1879-80 city directory as on the force. Also listed in "News of Years Ago" Gazette and Bulletin column of April 3, 1916, as being on the force April 3, 1876. Civil War veteran. Served as assistant street commissioner for 19 years. Died August 12, 1934, at age 93; 55 years after he served on the force. Badge #5.


Staje, Capt. John C., DOB 06/05/1950, sworn in March 1, 1973. Promoted to Agent, June 11, 1975, and served in that capacity until February 2, 1976, then reverted back to police officer; promoted to Corporal 10/09/89; to Sergeant 01/14/91; to Captain 1/06/98. Police photographer. Retired July 8, 2001. Badge #20; Corporal #2; Sergeant #2; Capt. #1.


Staver, Day Sgt. Cyrus F., DOB 7/16/1839, appointed April 6, 1896, confirmed April 20, 1896 and sworn in April 21, 1896. Last listed in April 1, 1899, Police Chief's annual report as being on the force. Appears to have served until April 10, 1899, when new administration sworn in. Died November 22, 1904. Badge #1.

Steiger, Roundsman Johnathan W., DOB 7/07/1858 or 1859, appointed April 6, 1896, confirmed April 20, 1896 and sworn in April 21, 1896. Listed as a Roundsman in Chief of Police's 1898 report. Served three years. Died in Cleveland, Ohio, April 7, 1919. Badge #6.

Stevenson, George W., DOB 7/07/1840, appointed July 7, 1879. Served until April 19, 1880. Reappointed at an unknown date and listed again in the city controller's report for year ending
December 31, 1881, as an officer on the force. Resigned in '82 or '83. Killed at the wire rope mill on Campbell Street in an industrial accident March 20, 1895, when beams collapsed that a truss was being placed on.


Stitzer, William H., DOB 9/??/1860, appointed April 6, 1896, confirmed April 20, 1896 and sworn in April 21, 1896. Last mentioned in April 1, 1898, annual report of the Chief of Police. Resigned or was dismissed before 4/01/1900. Reappointed 4/02/05. He was accused of failure to properly patrol his beat and in consequence he resigned December 12, 1906. Died June 2, 1939, at Duncannon, Pa. Badge #2.

Stokes, Thomas H., DOB 3/10/1844, listed in 1883-84 city directory as being on the force. Served all of Mayor Parson's term until April 8, 1884, when new force sworn in. Civil War veteran who served from 2/14/64 until 10/03/65 as a Sergeant in Co. F, 24th Regiment, Colored Troops. A power in local politics in 1880s and leader among black voters. First black to be elected a constable in city history. Died November 18, 1909, at age 65, in Dayton, Ohio, Soldier's Home. Buried in National Cemetery, Dayton, Ohio, with military honors. (Black Officer).


Stopper, Lt. Berthold J., DOB 9/23/1904, appointed January 17, 1929. Promoted to Sergeant, 12/15/32; to Lieutenant 12/01/41. Was a Pennsylvania State Highway Patrolman for three years before joining police department. Resigned September 15, 1946. Served 2 1/2 years as deputy sheriff and was twice the unsuccessful Democratic candidate for sheriff. Grandfather of Officer Leonard A. Dichner's wife, and 1st cousin, twice removed to Officer Joseph Stopper (Lt. Berthold Stopper's great-grandfather, Joseph, was Officer Joseph Stopper's father's, George's, brother). Died December 19, 1965.

Stopper, Joseph, DOB 2/10/1843, appointed week of September 4, 1871; reappointed 5/20/73. Resigned just prior to May 2, 1874. Died January 13, 1887, at age 43.

Stryker, Chief Frank F., DOB 12/25/1867, sworn in as Chief April 10, 1899. Served as Chief until April 7, 1902, when incoming Mayor John F. Laedlein did not retain him. Not previously a member of the force. Son of Night Captain Henry U. Stryker. Became Chief of the Williamsport Fire Department on April 6, 1908, and died in that capacity on January 31, 1914.

Stryker, Night Captain Henry U., DOB 3/04/1830, appears to have been appointed on or about March 13, 1868, as first mention of him as receiving police pay of $36 is in April 11, 1868, newspaper article; reappointed by Police Board, 1/25/1870; reappointed 4/01/70; appointed Night Captain 4/03/71; reappointed 5/22/72 and 5/20/73. Left the police force before July 1874 for a fireman's position in No. 4 engine house where he was made the first foreman the company ever had. He resigned from the fire department and was reappointed to the police force 6/01/76 as a patrolman and served until 5/13/80; reappointed again 4/10/82 and served until 4/07/84 when new force sworn in. He was then reappointed to the fire department on 4/12/86 as a driver for fire company No. 4. Father of Chief Frank F. Stryker and brother of Chief John E. Stryker. Died July 27, 1901.

Stryker, Chief John E., DOB 5/08/1828, appears to have been appointed in the summer of 1873; appointed Chief from the ranks, May 15, 1874, and served until approximately June 1, 1876, in that capacity. Listed Condensed History of Williamsport, 1873, as being on the force. Sworn in as a police officer, 6/01/76; reappointed 4/12/80; 4/10/82, and sworn in as Night Captain, 4/11/82. Not retained when new officers appointed 4/07/84. Reappointed and sworn in as Night Captain,
7/26/86; dismissed 4/02/88 when new administration sworn in; reappointed 4/08/90, and named Day Sergeant; reappointed 4/3/93. Off force '78, '79, '84, '85, '88, & '89. Listed in city directories 1877 through 1887 as on the force. Held rank of Sergeant in 1890s, with badge #1; listed in 1890-95 city directories as a police sergeant. Served until April 21, 1896, when new mayor replaced him. Badge #1 as Sergeant. He was a Civil War veteran having been a private in Company F, 65th regiment, 5th cavalry, U.S. Army. Died April 14, 1908.


Stutzman, Warren, elected by City Council to serve on the police force, December 28, 1923, effective January 1, 1924. However, it appears he never accepted the position. Former police Sgt. Theodore R. Walters was sworn in at that time and said no such person was ever on the force.

Swan, Rufus C., mentioned as early as 07/29/1868, newspaper accounts as being on the force. Reappointed week of 4/03/71 to replace Officer James W. VanHorn who resigned. Listed in the 1871-72 city directory as on the force. Was a Williamsport Borough police officer before the city's incorporation.

Sweeny, Daniel C., DOB 11/17/1867, appointed a patrolman September 16, 1907, to fill vacancy caused by resignation of Edward H. McMunn. Was dismissed from the force October 14, 1907, for conduct unbecoming an officer (neglect of duty and being intoxicated). Became a bartender. KILLED in an automobile accident June 23, 1918.

Switzer, Elias H., DOB 12/13/1842, appointed July 18, 1881. Name listed as "E.H. Sweetzor" in city controller's report for the year ending December 31, 1881, as receiving $147.10 police pay in 1881. Civil War veteran who served in Company F, 125th Regiment, Pennsylvania Infantry. His city death record states he died due to "gunshot wound in war." Died January 11, 1908.

Switzer, Walter E., DOB ?/?/1884, appointed May 7, 1923. At 5:25 p.m., on the night of April 22, 1925, his police motorcycle and sidecar overturned in the driveway running through the Dickinson Seminary (now Lycoming College) grounds. He was riding through the grounds toward East Fourth Street in an endeavor to had off a fast and reckless driver traveling toward Basin Street. A wheel of the motorcycle struck a stone on the high-crowned road, rending the motorcycle uncontrollable and it crushed into a tree. The motorcycle overturned and a handle-bar pierced Switzer's body and his legs were deeply lacerated. The accident resulted in the loss of one of his legs. On March 1, 1928, he was named head of the Bureau of Identification. Due to his disability he resigned from the police department September 5, 1929, and became a fire department dispatcher on March 12, 1930, at No. 2 fire station. Newspapers frequently misspelled his name as "Switzer." Died October 6, 1935.


**Police Officers T**

Templeton, Alexander M., mentioned in newspapers as early as April 30, 1874, as being an officer on the force. Sworn in May 21, 1874, according the Williamsport Sun just days after Mayor Powell took office. Evidently served a very short term as he is not listed in any city directories as being on the force.

Tepel, Charles H., DOB 2/20/1841, a German immigrant, appointed January 8, 1905 and confirmed 1/23/05. Served only a very short time. Named Brandon Park Policeman 5/14/05, which was not a regular police department position. Unknown if related to Chief Fred W. Tepel. Died November 8, 1924. Badge #9.


Thompson, Captain B., DOB 7/7/1864, appointed April 3, 1893 and sworn in April 6, 1893. Reappointed 4/6/96, 4/10/99, 4/08/02, and 4/03/05. Resigned by (his own) request, July 20, 1905. Badge #14, 1896 era, badge #2, 1901 era. Captain was his given name, not his rank. He was a native of Virginia and may have moved back there. (Black Officer).

Tilberg, Warden L., appointed October 11, 1906, to fill the vacancy caused by William Beiter's resignation. Involved in a stabbing incident: see “Shootings and Stabbings” section. Tilberg resigned October 1, 1907.

Towner, Frank W., DOB 1/08/1843, appointed October 21, 1895. Listed in year ending March 31, 1896, Police Chief's report. Evidently served a short term as he is not listed in April 1, 1897, Police Chief's report or subsequent years. He was a Civil War veteran who served as a private in Company M, 15th Regiment, New York Engineers. Died at Ulster, Pa., December 26, 1922.

Trexler, Eben, the Gazette and Bulletin of 5/16/1911, states he was confirmed as an appointee to the police department 5/15/11. This is a newspaper error; Eben Flexer was the appointee. No such person ever served.

Trexler, Robert, GRIT of 5/21/1911, states he was confirmed as an appointee to the police department on 5/15/11. This is a newspaper error; Eben Flexer was the appointee. No such person ever served. Trout, Capt. George W., appointed May 27, 1868. Appointed Night Captain by the Police Board, November 27, 1868. Appears to be the first appointed as Captain of Police. Listed in 1869-70 city directory as on the force.


**Police Officers U**


Ungard, Sgt. Whitney R. (Jack), DOB 12/01/1898, appointed February 23, 1937. Worked primarily downtown traffic as a patrolman. Promoted to Sergeant 1/16/51. He was a relief Sergeant on all three shifts at the time of his death. World War II veteran. Great Uncle of Officer Thomas H. Ungard. Died on his 56th birthday, December 1, 1954, after a brief illness.


Police Officers V

VanBuskirk, William H., DOB 8/03/1854, appointed January 3, 1916. Last listed on the force for year ending 1919. Was killed by a car on the night of August 26, 1933, when he stepped off a trolley in Middletown, Pa., where he was a resident of the IOOF Home.

VanHorn, Capt. James W., mentioned in newspaper as an officer on the force as early as 10/31/1868. Reappointed by Police Board, January 25, 1870; reappointed 4/01/70. Mentioned in newspaper as Night Captain in August 9, 1870, obituary of his wife. Listed in 1869-70 and 1870-71 city directories as on force. Resigned April 3, 1871, and moved to New Florence, Pa., where he was appointed supervisor on the Pittsburgh & Connellsville Railroad.


Voyles, Philip V., DOB 5/12/1900, appointed June 17, 1937. He was a professional baseball player having played with the Boston Braves in the National League in 1929 as an outfielder. Suspended September 17, 1940, for conduct unbecoming an officer. The suspension was indefinitely extended and he resigned effective September 24, 1940. Died November 3, 1972, at Marlboro, Mass.

Police Officers W


Appointed Acting Sergeant February 26, 1937; served as Fingerprint Man, 1939 era, with title of Identification Sergeant; promoted to Sergeant 12/01/41. Was head of the fingerprint division and was the first officer to work in police photography. Retired September 1, 1944, effective September 24, 1944. Served as President of FOP Lodge 29 and other elected lodge offices. Was one of the prominent factors in the building up of the lodge. Not related to Officer Raymond C. Walters. Badge #33, then #22 for a long time, then #3. Died October 29, 1999, at age 98.

Warfield, Charles A., appointed June 1, 1876, but declined the position. Never served. Died February 11, 1901.

Washam, John J. (Shorty), DOB 5/12/1860, appointed April 6, 1890; reappointed 4/3/93; 4/06/96 (confirmed 4/20/96); appointed Acting Night Captain April 21, 1896, while Night Captain R.S. Worrall served as Acting Chief. Reverted back to patrolman June 3, 1896, when W. Ellis Wise sworn in as Chief. Suspended 9/6/1897 by the mayor "owing to conduct." Resigned between 9/21 and 10/4/97, and joined the Philadelphia Police Department as a member of the famous Reserves, the members of which were known for their gigantic stature. He was 6'5" tall. Badge #3.

*Wasilauski, Debra A., DOB 11/10/69, appointed February 5, 1998 and sworn in February 16, 1998. On 11/30/99 was assigned to ride on patrol with Officer Debra Bachman marking the first time two female Officers patrolled together. Graduate of Shippensburg University with Bach of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Field training officer of new Patrol Officers. Badge #4.

Watson, Ebenezer H., appointed April 2, 1880, but withdrew his name. Never served as a member of the police force.

Watson, George S., appointed October 3, 1906 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Thomas H. Hughes. Last mentioned in April 1, 1908 Police Chief’s report. Appears to have served until April 9, 1908, when new administration sworn in. Badge #8.


Weltermoth, John H., DOB 1/06/1859, listed in 1881-83 city directory as on the force. Appears to have served until April 10, 1882, when new force appointed. Died May 19, 1932, at age 73. His sister, Barbara E. Daly, died within two hours of his death on the same day.

Wetzel, Stuart W., appointed and resigned during year 1923.

White, J. (John) Clayton, appointed as a patrolman January 17, 1916, to act as City Detective; never was promoted to the position. Spent months on leave of absence when his military unit, Battery D, 107th Field Artillery, was called up for service in the Mexican War. Resigned March 19, 1917. Died October 5, 1953.

White, John H., DOB 8/31/1838, appointed May 21, 1874. Dropped from the force 6/01/76, when
new mayor, Starkweather, sworn in. Reappointed 4/15/78, but not retained 4/12/80 under new mayor. Appointed to the fire department just prior to 7/01/80 as driver of No. 2 fire company. Reappointed to the police department 4/07/84, and 4/02/88. He was a Civil War veteran who enlisted with the First Pennsylvania Volunteer Colored Infantry at Philadelphia. He rose to the rank of sergeant in the service. He won the title as captain of the Taylor Guards after the war and during service on the Williamsport Police Force, at a time when he was the first and only black man serving as a policeman in Pennsylvania. He is referred to as "Captain" in newspaper articles in conjunction with making arrests, but that was his Taylor Guard title and not his rank on the police force. Died February 3, 1917. (Black Officer).


Whitenight, Charles W., listed in 1926 city directory as being on the force. This is a typographical error. Retired Sgt. Theodore R. Walters stated Whitenight was a Reading Railroad policeman and was never on the city police force.

Wickes, Keith B. appointed June 27, 1927. Resigned October 25, 1927, after being charged by Andrew Mayer of assault and battery and threats to kill in regard to an incident at the CaSale Hotel on Friday night October 21, 1927. The charges were withdrawn by Mayer when Wickes resigned.

Wilkinson, George W., DOB 1843 or 1844, appointed June 4, 1866, as one of the first three policemen to serve upon the incorporation of the city. Served on force until at least the end of 1867. Appears to have resigned to become a railroad engineer in Utica, New York.


Womeldorf, Cpl. Robert P., DOB 08/14/1938, sworn in January 1, 1965. Promoted to Corporal 11/10/75. Corporal's position eliminated 4/28/85, at which time he reverted back to patrolman until Corporal's position reestablished 5/05/89. Served as Traffic Agent, Abandoned Vehicle Officer and Field Training Officer. Served as President of FOP Lodge 29. Badge #19, then Badge #35, Badge #1 after Corporal's position eliminated; Cpl. #1. Retired December 31, 1997.


Work, Robert, listed in 1887 city directory as a policeman. However, he is not listed in the roster of members of the police force in the front of the directory. No mention of his service can be found in any newspaper accounts.

Worrall, Capt. Richard S., DOB 1/02/1846, sworn in June 10, 1880. Served in Co D, 7th Pa Cavalry the Civil War. Dismissed 4/07/84 when new force sworn in; reappointed April 1885; 7/26/86; 4/2/88; 4/8/90; 4/3/93; 4/01/95; 4/01/96 (confirmed 4/20/96); 4/10/99; 4/08/02; 4/03/05; and 4/09/08. Promoted to Night Captain before 9/14/89 and reappointed as Night Captain April 8, 1890. Served as Acting Chief from April 21, 1896, until W. Ellis Wise sworn in as Chief on June 3, 1896. Reappointed on 4/10/99 with rank of Day Sergeant; sworn in as Sergeant 4/08/02; 4/03/05; and 4/09/08. Served over 30 years on the force, except for one six-month period of absence; the longest record of service at the time of his death. Was stricken while on duty at City Hall on February 28, 1911. Died May 5, 1911.

Worrall, Thomas A., listed in city controller's report for year ending December 31, 1881, as having been paid $74.67 police pay for year 1881. Brother of Capt. Richard S. Worrall.

Wright, Charles G. (George), DOB 10/15/1911, appointed January 16, 1945. Injured in a cruiser accident at 7:55 p.m., December 17, 1945, at Lycoming and Walnut Streets while responding to a fire at 756 W. 3rd St. Officer Corter was driving and attempted to pass a vehicle that suddenly turned left in front of him. The cruiser hit a utility pole and Wright, the passenger, was severely injured. Wright was off duty at least 14 consecutive months from 1949 into 1951 due to the injury he sustained. Resigned week of March 17, 1952. Granted disability pension in March 1953. Served as FOP lodge chaplain. Died May 26, 1978.


Wykoff, James W., DOB 8/01/1881, appointed about April 1, 1923; named "full-fledged" policeman week of 12/03/23, after completing probation. Served as traffic officer at W. Fourth and Hepburn Sts. Died February 20, 1925. Twenty seven officers in full uniform attended his funeral.
He had the first military funeral in full ritualistic form conducted by the local Veteran of Foreign Wars. His name appears in city directories as "J. Weldon Wyckoff," the famous local major league baseball player, which is an error.

Police Officers Y

Yanni, Capt. Jack R., DOB 2/12/1948, sworn in September 5, 1974. Promoted to Agent 10/10/83; promoted to Captain 11/03/86. Held rank of Captain until January 7, 1992, when the position was eliminated. Demoted to Agent that date. Specially assigned to the District Attorney's office as Williamsport Bureau of Police liaison officer 3/31/97 until the end of his career. Presently holds the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserves. Badge #5; Agent #1; Captain #1; then Agent #5. Retired 9/30/97.

Yerger, Simon, DOB 2/18/1836, a German immigrant born in Hainhausen, Germany, who came to the United States in 1854. Elected constable of city's east ward in 1865; then constable of second ward after city's incorporation. Appears to have been appointed May 1, 1868, as first mentioned of him is in June 4, 1868, Gazette & Bulletin as receiving police pay in the amount of $62.00 for 31 nights' work. Not listed in any city directories as being on the force, however he is listed as a constable. Was a U.S. Marshall and deputy sheriff. Died May 29, 1914.

Police Officers Z

Zaydell, Sgt. John J., DOB 5/30/1902, appointed November 21, 1927. Promoted to Sergeant effective July 1, 1942. Resigned November 25, 1944. Died April 4, 1960. His brother, Stanley, was a city fireman who died the same month, on April 30.

Zuber, Capt. Harvey H., DOB 6/26/1872, appointed to the force as Roundsman December 4, 1911. Reappointed as a Sergeant, March 14, 1914. Elected by City Commission April 2, 1914, and sworn in April 7, 1914. Took a 3-month leave of absence beginning on or about 1/05/1914 to serve as Acting Chief of Police in Renovo, Pa. Named Night Sergeant, January 3, 1916. Promoted to Captain February 21, 1930. Died of a heart attack at 3:30 a.m., October 18, 1941, while on the police desk. He was 69 years old.

* Asterik before name denotes present member of the force.