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**U.S. Adjutant General Records on Microfilm, 1877**

ACC 1981/08.0341



Special Collections Department  
James E. Morrow Library  
Marshall University  
Huntington, West Virginia  
2019

## U.S. Adjutant General Records on Microfilm

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### Summary:

Title: U.S. Adjutant General Records on Microfilm

Span Dates: 1877

Creator: U.S. Government

Repository: Marshall University Special Collections, Morrow Library (Huntington, WV)

Processed by: Elizabeth James, 2019

Accession Number: 1981/08.0341

Date Completed: October, 2019

Access to Collection: Open

Extent: 11 reels

Donor: Purchase

### Search Terms:

Military history

United States Government

United States Army

### Biographical Notes:

"The Panic of 1877, a national economic recession, had a disastrous effect on the earnings of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. In response, the railroad announced a ten percent pay cut for all employees. The pay cut exacerbated earlier wage cuts, and the railroad firemen's union called a strike which soon spread along the rails from Baltimore to Chicago.

The first violence occurred in West Virginia, when strikers in Martinsburg attempted to stop trains from running. Governor Mathews quickly mobilized the militia company in Martinsburg to control the strikers. The unit was commanded by Capt. Charles J. Faulkner Jr., and was made up largely of volunteers who were railroad workers themselves or related to railroad workers. Consequently, the militiamen were subjected to extreme pressure from relatives and fellow workers. The unit was assigned to guard a train that attempted to leave the railroad yard in Martinsburg. A striker fired upon the militiamen and was mortally wounded by return fire. The militia then withdrew and refused to take further action against the strikers.

Mathews sent another militia unit from Wheeling to the scene, and when the Wheeling unit also proved unable to handle the strikers he called upon President Rutherford B. Hayes for federal troops to preserve order. Mathews went to Martinsburg on July 18, and the federal troops arrived the next day. The federal troops were successful in ending the violence at Martinsburg, and the strike ended later in the summer of 1877. The strike showed that West Virginia authorities were ill-prepared to handle unrest among laboring groups and led to calls, mostly unheeded, for development of a professional national guard to control labor disturbances."

Bailey, Kenneth R. "Railroad Strike of 1877." e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia. 18 July 2019. Web. 08 October 2019.

**Scope and Content:**

This collection is composed of eleven reels of microfilm purchased from the National Archives catalogue of microfilmed government records. The reel title is as follows: "Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General Main Series, 1871-1880". The material on the reels was originally taken from the following government record group: Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group 94. The reels are reel numbers 347-357.

This collection consists of microfilm copies of papers, primarily letters and enclosures, reports, and other files, relating to the military operations of U.S. troops in connection with railroad labor disputes in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Illinois, Indiana, and other States, July -November 1877 ("Strike Papers").

All scope and content information was taken from the stub record on the National Archives microfilm catalog by searching for the M666 publication number here: <https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/start.swe?SWECmd=Start&SWEHo=eservices.archives.gov>

Additional information about the larger collection can be gained by using the guide to the "Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General Main Series, 1871-1880", located here: <https://www.fold3.com/pdf/M666.pdf>

**Processing Notes:**

This collection was already processed at the time the finding aid was created. No changes in folder content or name were made.

**Preferred Citation:**

U.S. Adjutant General Records on Microfilm, Accession No. 1981/08.0341, Special Collections Department, Marshall University, Huntington, WV.

**Access and Use:**

For more information or to use any collection, contact:  
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**Container**

**Contents**

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**Box 1**

Microfilm reels

Reels 347-357