

This rifle was carried by in the Battle of Blair Mountain by Charles Dayton Hylton, Sr. who at that time was in coal company management in Logan County.

Mr. Hylton, a close friend of Logan County Sheriff Don Chafin, was in the force of deputies, volunteers and management personnel Chafin organized to oppose the Miners' March from Marmet in Kanawha County. Those in the March were on the way to Mingo County to help in efforts to unionize the coal fields. Many of the miners were WW1 veterans and were armed with shotguns, rifles and pistols.

This was a situation where unionization was taking place and literally a war developed between miners and management.

Mr. Hylton went to Blair Mountain by train, carry this Winchester Model rifle.

A veteran of the coal industry, according to family research, Charles Hylton was general supervisor of Grey Eagle mining Co. And had previously held jobs at Logan Mining Co., Hutchison Mining Co. And the West Virginia Coal and Coke Corp. He was well known as a 'coal operator' in West Virginia and was respected by his employees - very unusual for the time.

He was born in Floyd County VA and probably lived there until he moved to McDowell County WV to work in the coal mines. and to play on the Davy WV baseball team.

Charles Hylton spent most of his life in the West Virginia coal industry, working for a number of mining companies.

The family lived in and around Logan until WWII. In about 1942 when the country needed all the coal it could get, he was asked to go to Lonaconing MD where he managed a non-mechanized mine that used donkeys to pull the coal from the mine. About 1949, suffering from

health problems, including black lung, due to a lifetime in the mines, he left the industry and moved to Huntington WV, where he became VP of Ross Concrete and Gravel Co. He died 1/27/1955.

Mr. Hylton's son Charles D. Hylton, Jr. was a lifelong resident of Logan and served for a number of years as Managing Editor of the *Logan Banner*. His grandson, Charles D. (Tony) Hylton, III also was in the newspaper business serving as Editor-Publisher of the Hinton Daily News (now the Hinton News) from 1973 until 1978. Tony is also author of *Enough* and *And Raise Hell* novels about the clash between a small town newspaper publisher and a corrupt political machine in a fictional southern West Virginia county.

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