

The Armstrong Malison

A Call of Cthulhu® Investigation

by

Tony Hickie © 2005

A Note to Keepers

The Armstrong Malison is a complete adventure for Call of Cthulhu® investigators.

Throughout the investigation, certain game functions calling for the investigators to test their skills will be described with plus (+), minus (-) or fractional (x) signed values attached to them. These values indicate the relative ease or difficulty of carrying out the described activity: a plus value adds to an investigator's ability with the skill; a minus value subtracts from his ability; a fractional value reduces the investigator's skill to the indicated fraction of its actual value (round remainders up). You should note that no subtractions will take an investigator's skill to below 1%, nor will additions add to a skill which he does not already know to at least 1%.

Throughout the text of the adventure there are sections of boxed information labelled AP (for Armstrong Papers). For the most part these are player aids of one sort or another, although a few may be for your reference only. Some maps and all player aids are reproduced separately at the end of the investigation so that, as the investigators uncover an item of information, you can give them the relevant map or player aid.

The Armstrong Malison

A Call of Cthulhu® Investigation by
Tony Hickie © 2005

It is dark, the moon a silver sickle blade briefly seen through slowly drifting clouds high in the night sky. Somewhere an owl screeches; there is the squeal of a small life extinguished in the talons of a feathered hunter. The mine is silent, the guard dozing a hundred yards away in his hut by the gate. The shaft is redolent of nightmare horrors, a black pit leading down, down - down to nameless furies, to spectres.

The intruder pauses and listens. At the edge of awareness, the very limits of hearing, a faint thrumming seems to rise from the depths below. There is chanting - or is there? Is it human or . . . something else? He shivers involuntarily and turns, as if to leave. But then he hesitates. He is afraid, afraid of what lies beneath the surface of this threatening landscape, but there is an evil abroad that must be faced and defeated. Someone must take that first step. He turns back to the shaft and enters the cage. On a creaking cable he begins to descend . . .

Keeper's Introduction

The Armstrong Malison takes the investigators to Armstrong, a small mining town in West Virginia. There they will become involved in an attempt to free an old acquaintance from an asylum for the insane to which he has been falsely committed because of discoveries he has made concerning a coven of cultists dedicated to the worship of the Mythos. The investigators will also have the opportunity to try to destroy the evil which the coven represents.

The investigators will require both caution and courage to succeed. Much of the time they will have to be circumspect in their enquiries, but the time will come when action will be required. Investigators with a broad range of skills will be at their best. The Armstrong Malison is best suited to a balanced 'mix' of investigators whose various skills will complement each other.

The Armstrong Coven

For almost a century the town of Armstrong has been the home of a coven of witches. The founders of the Armstrong Coven in the 1820s were Gladys and Martha Armstrong, the daughters of James and Harriet Armstrong. At first interested solely in the occult, as their involvement deepened and their knowledge flourished they willingly became ensnared in the evil

web of the Mythos.

Through their endeavours the influence of the Mythos prospered in Armstrong, permeating their families - the leading families of Armstrong - down to the current generation.

In 1850 Gladys died and Martha took over from her sister as leader of the Coven. Since then the leadership of the Coven has descended from Martha, she being succeeded by first her daughter Edith, then her granddaughter Martha, and now her great granddaughter Eleanor.

In 1917 the Coven achieved a great success when it summoned a manifestation of Nyogtha into the Edith Shaft of North Ridge Mine, where now it dwells. This meant normal mining operations could no longer take place in the shaft and the Coven deliberately sabotaged it to force a halt to mining operations there. The success was tinged with tragedy for the Coven, however, as the summoning cost the life of its then leader, Martha Griffith. She was succeeded by her niece Eleanor.

All was well until Professor Nathan Farley, an avid historian of witchcraft in North America, learnt of the existence of the 19th Century Armstrong Coven and came to the town to pursue his investigations. Unfortunately for Farley, he soon began to understand the reality of the situation in Armstrong and the Coven

decided that it was time to deal with him.

Professor Nathan A. Farley

Nathan Farley is a professor of history at a university of your choice. He has a particular interest in the occult. He is a bachelor in his late 50s. He has no living relatives. Physically he is short, plump and clean-shaven with short-sighted watery blue eyes peering inquisitively out from behind a pair of Ben Franklin spectacles. His mane of bushy white hair is usually overdue for a visit to the barber's.

Two months ago Farley came to Armstrong to pursue his interest in the history of the occult in North America. In the only surviving copy of a mid-19th Century text (*God's Lost Children* by the Reverend Whitfield Scoggins) held in the restricted section of Miskatonic University Library (Farley is one of the few individuals that Dr Henry Armitage will allow to have access to this part of the library) he had found a reference to the Armstrong Coven which led him to believe it to be one of the most important examples of witchcraft in the United States. Unable to discover any further information of significance in the university library and the libraries of his home city, Farley decided to spend at least part of his sabbatical year in research in and around Armstrong itself.

A noted sceptic as far as the substance of witchcraft is concerned, Farley did nothing to hide his purpose in visiting Armstrong from its citizens. Naturally the Coven became alarmed at the threat to their position likely to arise from Farley's studies and, when they feared that he had stumbled across their secret, they moved against him.

Recognizing Farley's extensive knowledge of the occult and the potential value of this knowledge to them, rather than simply arranging for his 'accidental' death as earlier they had arranged for the death of the young mining engineer David McLean, they chose to arrest Farley on trumped-up charges and, through their control of the legal system of Armstrong, have him committed to the county insane asylum. Here, under the care and control of important Coven members, Farley can be deliberately driven insane and turned into

a disciple of the Mythos, placing his knowledge (and his influence) at the Coven's command.

For two weeks now Farley has been a prisoner of the Coven . . .

Involving the Investigators

It is Friday, July 13th, 1923. If it is at all possible it would help the introduction of this investigation if at least one of your players' investigators had a prior acquaintance with Professor Farley. If you cannot arrange this through an earlier investigation, the Armstrong Papers (AP #1) provide you with a means of introducing Nathan Farley to the investigators.

AP #1: Nathan A. Farley

During your time at _____ University, Nathan Farley was probably your closest friend amongst the teaching staff. A professor of history, he was renowned throughout the university as an erudite scholar with a captivating teaching style and a seemingly unlimited supply of apposite and amusing anecdotes, and he enlivened many a dinner-party with his humorous tales. Never at a loss for a word for anyone, Farley was an eager and confident conversationalist, almost compulsive, and he would talk cheerfully with anyone about anything.

Farley now teaches at _____ University in _____, but in the intervening years since last you worked with him you have continued to keep in touch, exchanging letters and Christmas cards and visiting one another occasionally.

Although his academic specialty is the political history of Colonial and Revolutionary America, he has an almost fanatical interest in occult practices in North America and he has written a number of books on witchcraft in New England. He is a bachelor in his late 50s, has no living relatives and his work dominates his life.

Not all of Armstrong's citizens are dedicated cultists sworn to the service of the Mythos. Amongst these is Mildred

Baxter, the landlady at the rooming house where Farley found lodgings when he went to Armstrong. Mrs Baxter knows that Farley has been sent to the county asylum and she knows enough of Farley to be sure that he is innocent of the accusations of violent insanity brought against him. She cannot understand why she was not called to give evidence at Farley's trial, having been interviewed about the professor by the Armstrong Marshal. She is ignorant of the reality of the Coven's activities, but fully aware that some important people in the town must have wanted Farley put away for some reason or other. She believes that these people are evil and that they have a malign influence in Armstrong. She does not know that this evil involves ritualistic magic. She is not a particularly brave woman and has neither the power,

influence nor resources to do anything herself about her ex-lodger's situation. Still, she wants to do something. In the sitting-room her guests' use she finds the beginnings of a letter together with an addressed envelope the professor had started writing to the investigator. The contents of the letter are of no importance. As no one seems to have turned up to see about Farley's fate Mrs Baxter thinks she ought to do the one thing she can that might be likely to stir things up. She writes an anonymous letter to the investigator, enclosing a cutting from the local newspaper.

Give the investigators APs #1, #2 and #3. There is no date on the newspaper cutting and there is no information of any use on its reverse. The letter is postmarked three days before receipt.

AP #2: The Anonymous Letter

It isn't right what they've done to Professor Farley locking him up in that place for crazy people saying he was violent and dangerous. He was always very kind and polite to me and if he's crazy then so am I. He wrote an envelope for a letter to you just before he was arrested by Marshal Wiggins but didn't finish it which is where I got your address from. I've sent you a cutting from the local paper too. Someone ought to do something about it. I can't because I'm weak and afraid but perhaps you can if you care anything at all for your friend. But be cautious and careful. It'd be best for you if you didn't tell everyone your business. This can be a dark and nasty town for anyone who upsets the people in charge and lots of things aren't talked about or understood by us ordinary folk.

A friend of Professor Farley

PS Here is Armstrong, W.Va.

AP #3: The Newspaper Cutting

'PROFESSOR' COMMITTED TO ASYLUM

Yesterday County Court Judge Lloyd C. Dollard ordered Nathan A. Farley committed to the County Sanatorium for treatment for a dangerous mental disturbance. Farley, a recent visitor to Armstrong, was arrested by Marshal Wiggins following reports of a violent incident at the home of a prominent resident. This was the latest of several similar incidents involving Farley since he came to our town.

Giving evidence after interviewing Farley, Dr Packer of the County Sanatorium told the Court that Farley is suffering from a mental illness which has led to his violent behavior. Following Dr Packer's expert testimony, Judge Dollard agreed that a jail sentence would be inappropriate for dealing with Farley, who is reputedly a professor of history. He ordered Farley confined for treatment by Dr Packer, the cost to be met from County funds. Farley's committal would be reviewed in three months' time when Dr Packer would make a medical report to the Court. The Marshal's Office was charged with tracing Farley's relatives and notifying them of his committal.

Deciding to Act

The investigators only option for doing anything about Farley's predicament is to visit Armstrong. Complaints to the West Virginia authorities will only result in the investigators being told that Farley's trial and committal were properly carried out by the local court. Such complaints will also alert the Coven that someone is concerned about Farley and cause them to be on the lookout for and ready to deal with trouble-making strangers in town.

A visit to Professor Farley's home and university may not be practicable, but if it is undertaken the investigators will be unable to learn anything of interest from either the university or at Farley's lodgings. The history faculty and the professor's housekeeper (Mrs Brewer) are happy to tell any inquirers that Farley is on sabbatical, researching in Armstrong, West Virginia. Neither the faculty nor Mrs Brewer has had any news of Farley since before his arrest and committal, but this has not been so long as to cause them any

concern. Neither has been contacted by the Armstrong Marshal's Office. Everyone will be shocked and disbelieving of the report concerning Professor Farley's violent and unstable behaviour. Mrs Brewer and the faculty will confirm that Farley has no known relatives.

Upset though they are, neither Mrs Brewer nor the university authorities will be able to offer the investigators any financial help with whatever action they undertake to look into Farley's incarceration. The university is likely to make inquiries through official channels about Professor Farley's fate, but will almost certainly accept the 'proper' findings and actions of the Court in Armstrong. Once Farley has been driven insane and welcomed into the clutches of the Coven, he will be able to reassure the university himself.

Both Mrs Brewer and the University have a note of Farley's address in Armstrong. Mrs Brewer will give this information with Fast Talk +35%; the University requires a successful Credit Rating or Persuade (+30% for an academic).

AP #4: The Mining Towns of West Virginia by Howard Potter, Pillar Publishers Inc., Charleston, W.Va., 1912

1. Founded in 1805 and named after James Armstrong (1762-1812), who first settled there and was the community's first mayor.
2. The town is the county seat of Armstrong County. Its population in 1910 was 1,953.
3. The Dollard Mining Company was then the principal employer in Armstrong. It owned three coal mines - the North Ridge Mine in Armstrong and the Big Rock and Eagle Creek Mines near Lewisburg.

Searching Farley's lodgings and/or study will be unproductive and may lead to arrests if done illicitly; the book in which Farley came across the reference to the Armstrong Coven he took with him to Armstrong, as he did all of his notes referring to his studies of the subject. However, Luck will enable the

investigators to find a copy of a letter to Dr Henry Armitage agreeing to return *God's Lost Children* to Miskatonic University Library by 31st August 1923.

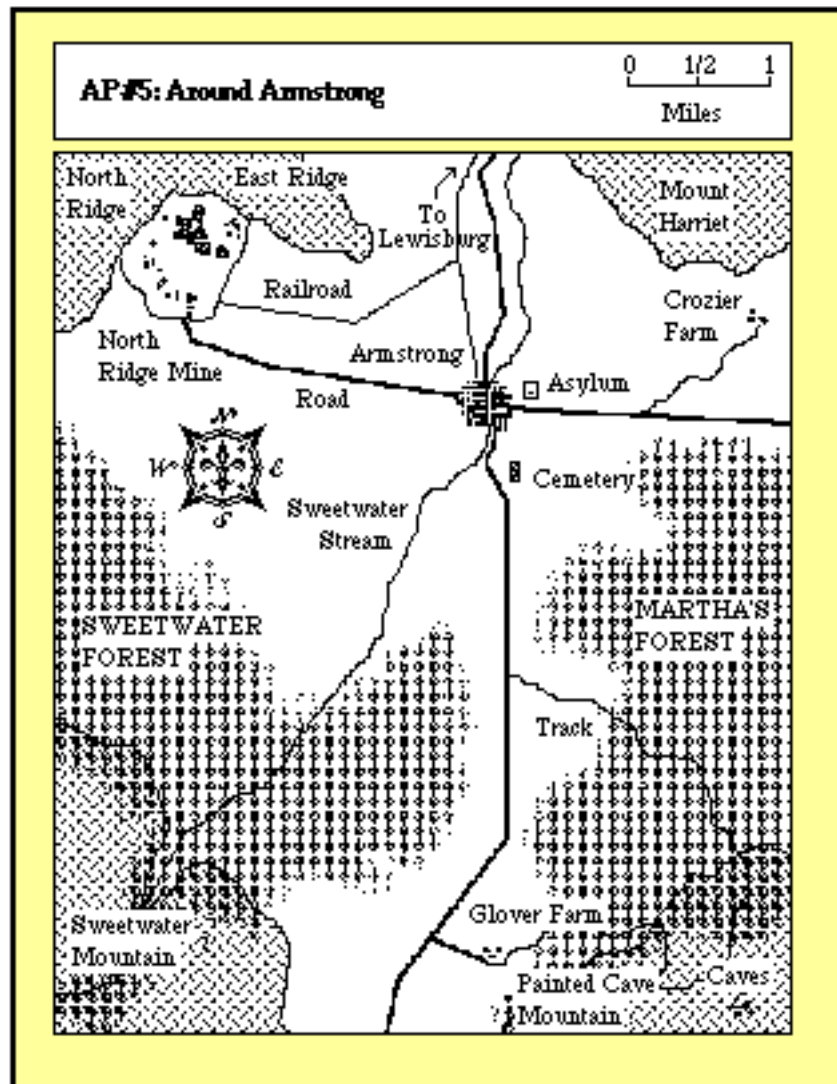
With a successful Library Use in their local city library the investigators can glean a few facts about Armstrong (see AP #4).

An examination of the library's maps and a second successful Library Use will

find the map of Armstrong and its surrounds given in AP #5.

A third successful Library Use finds the details of the Indian paintings of Painted Cave Mountain described in AP #6.

A successful combined Library/Luck roll x1/2 will allow the investigators to find a reference to the book in which Professor Farley first found a reference to the existence of the 19th century coven (AP#7).



AP #6: North American Indian Art by Lewis Mason, Mauna Publishers Inc, New York 1914

The cave paintings found near Armstrong, West Virginia, in 1821 have been a source of some dispute amongst scholars of Indian art. Distinct from any other Indian art forms yet discovered, the primitive sketches of monstrous shapes and forms unlike those of any other aboriginal paintings found in North America have led some authorities to doubt their authenticity. Professor Oliver Collier of Miskatonic University is amongst the most sceptical of these authorities, attributing the paintings to an early nineteenth century practical joker. The only alternative is to accept their pre-Columbian origin and a style of art radically different from any other found in North America. The weight of current archaeological and anthropological opinion agrees with Professor Collier's conclusions and the authenticity of the paintings is largely discredited. They remain, however, of some interest to the rare visitor to this part of West Virginia.

AP #7: Cabals, Covens and Cults: Witchcraft and Magic in the Appalachians by Martha Clifford Wells, Goodrich, Brown & Wilson, Baltimore, 1913

Isolated communities have long been associated with primitive beliefs and practices. The high mountains of North America's east coast have been no exception to this rule . . .

Long lost to posterity in the flames of the Civil War, the Reverend Whitfield Scoggin's privately published memoir on manifestations of occultism and black magic in the interior of Virginia, *God's Lost Children*, is reported to have included explicit eye-witness descriptions of devil-worship, necromancy and thaumaturgy in Armstrong County in what is now West Virginia . . .

Getting to Armstrong

The investigators may journey to West Virginia by either rail or road, but whether by train or automobile they will have to start the last leg of their journey from Lewisburg in Greenbrier County. Armstrong is a dead-end as far as metaled highways and the railroad are concerned, although a poorly maintained track does lead south through the mountains, eventually joining the road to Salem, Virginia.

Consulting railway timetables (no Library Use required) will show that there

is a regular passenger train service to Armstrong, Mondays to Saturdays inclusive, connecting with main-line trains at Lewisburg, West Virginia. Relevant extracts from the timetable are given as AP #8.

In Armstrong

Arriving in Town

You should refer to the map of Armstrong provided as AP #9. This can be given to the investigators when they have been in town

long enough in the keeper's opinion to gain some familiarity with the layout of the community.

Accommodation can be found in either the Armstrong Hotel (this is the only hotel in town) or at one of the two rooming houses nearby the station.

AP #8: Lewisburg-Armstrong Railroad Timetable

Train Times - Monday-Saturday

| Dep Lewisburg | Arr Armstrong |
|---------------|---------------|
| 0630 | 0830 |
| 0930 | 1130 |
| 1500 | 1700 |
| 1900 | 2100 |

| Dep Armstrong | Arr Lewisburg |
|---------------|---------------|
| 0700 | 0900 |
| 1200 | 1400 |
| 1430 | 1630 |
| 1830 | 2030 |

Adult single fare is \$2.00, adult return fare \$3.75. There are no trains on Sundays.

Staying in Armstrong

Armstrong is a small place and doesn't have a great many out-of-town visitors. The Armstrong Hotel caters mostly for visiting farmers and salesmen, while the two rooming houses offer accommodation to those looking for more modestly priced lodgings.

The Armstrong Hotel

The Armstrong Hotel is owned and run by Marika and Robert Dawson.

Of most interest here to investigators is the fact that David McLean, the murdered geologist, stayed here during his time in Armstrong. Stored in the basement is a cardboard box that contains several things from David McLean's room that were never disposed of (they were supposed to be collected by the Marshal's Office, but never were). These include:

- His typewriter.
- A carbon copy of his original report on the disaster at Edith Shaft.

Of future importance to the

investigators, Bureau of Investigation Agent Raymond Greeves is currently staying at the hotel, under the assumed name of Alfred Paterson and in the guise of a bible salesman (this gives him freedom to travel round and about and to call on virtually anyone).

Mildred Baxter's Rooming House

Mildred Baxter is a short, small-boned woman in her late 40s, her greying brown hair worn in a loose bun, her olive eyes cautious and wary. She welcomes new guests cordially, showing them the guests' sitting room (with radio, books and magazines), their rooms and the bathroom (baths once a week included in the price of the room, otherwise 50¢ each). She is quite chatty, but everything she talks about is inconsequential (the weather, the cost of everything, etc). Psychology shows she is afraid of something or someone. If asked directly about Professor Farley she will admit he stayed with her, but she will deny any knowledge of his activities in Armstrong beyond 'Oh, he was doing some professor-type research for a fancy book he was writing or something. Way above the likes of me.' She will say that she hardly spoke with him at all except for routine things such as when he would like breakfast, etc. Psychology shows she is lying, and the investigator who knows Farley will find Baxter's description of him at odds with their memories of the Professor.

If anything can be looked at with Mrs Baxter's handwriting on it, any investigator who has seen the anonymous letter telling of Professor Farley's incarceration will recognize the similarity.

Tasked with writing the letter, Mrs Baxter will deny all knowledge, dismissing as rubbish any suggestion that her handwriting and that in the letter are the same. Successful Psychology will not be needed to tell that she is nervous, but it will confirm that she is lying.

If confronted directly with her lies, to break down her resistance the investigators will need to use Persuade to convince her that she will be safe talking to them. If so convinced she will tell them everything she knows (see AP #10).

AP #10: Mildred Baxter's Statement

'Professor Farley was such a nice man. He was a pleasure to have stay with me. So polite and considerate, always please and thank you and never at a loss for something to talk about, not like some of the people I have staying here.

'He was really cheerful the first week or so he was here, but then he got quiet and sort of inside himself and I could tell that something was bothering him, though he was still as nice as pie to me.

'Then he was arrested! Well, when I think about that it just makes me mad. I mean, what a lot of stuff and nonsense about him being violent and crazy. I told the Marshal as much when he came to interview me, but they never let me have my say in court. I was kept away, just like everyone else. Something to do with cameras the Deputy said when I tried to get in, though I don't know what he meant.

'Professor Farley must have upset the people who run this town is all I can say, so they've locked him away where he can't trouble them any more. He probably found out about some shady deal or something that they were up to, I wouldn't be surprised.'

Despite her suspicions about the kangaroo court Farley was subjected to, Mildred Baxter has no idea what he might have done to upset 'the bigwigs.' She knows who the bigwigs are and she believes them to be corrupt and self-serving, even evil. She is certain that they would unhesitatingly use the law for their own ends. However, she has no idea what those ends might be. She senses the darkness that hangs over Armstrong, but cannot explain it.

Other Guests at Mildred Baxter's Rooming House

The other guests at the rooming house are:

- Etta Cain, Wobbly activist, girlfriend and contact for Mike Dunne. She is staying at the lodgings under the assumed name of Dorothy Kelly. She claims to be in Armstrong looking for work as a

secretary / typist or clerk, although she doesn't seem to be making much of an effort to find any. BI Agent Greeves has pencilled Kelly in as a possible alias for Etta Cain (see below: The Bureau of Investigation).

- Frank Ovens, an unmarried man who works at the North Ridge Mine.
- William Gerstel, also unmarried and a teacher of chemistry at Armstrong High.
- Fred Plumb, a travelling salesman in kitchen appliances. He always stays at Mildred Baxter's when his circuit brings him to Armstrong.

Both Ovens and Gerstel met Professor Farley while he was staying at the lodgings. They will pretty much confirm what Mildred says about him.

The Belle Vue Lodging House

The Belle Vue Lodging House is run by Henrietta Mosley. She has no useful information to pass on to the investigators. Staying in her rooms are:

- Music teacher Genevieve Long, a second person whom Greeves thinks may be Etta Cain in disguise.

Why am I in Armstrong?

In a community as small as Armstrong, strangers will be both obvious and a source of insatiable curiosity. Armstrong is not the sort of place that is popular with tourists and the investigators will need plausible reasons for visiting the town to avoid arousing suspicion; after their experiences with Nathan Farley, the Coven will take no chances with any more spies that hove into view.

Whenever an investigator meets a new character in or around Armstrong there is a chance that the investigator will be asked why they are in Armstrong. You can either do this on a whim, or, if you want a mechanic to reflect the chance of this happening, if the investigator fails an INT roll they will be asked the question. A successful Fast Talk or Persuade use coupled with a plausible reason will allow the investigator to pass muster. However, investigators should be consistent with their explanations: varying stories will be circulated around Armstrong quickly. Some credible reasons for visiting Armstrong are given below, but should not be considered exclusive; players who come up with

equally good reasons for their investigators should be given full credit for them in the form of skill-roll bonuses:

1. I am an anthropologist/archaeologist. I have come to study the Indian paintings of Painted Cave Mountain.

2. I am a doctor specializing in illnesses of the mind. I have come to study Dr Packer's methods of treatment. [Obviously this story only carries weight if the investigator is a doctor with the proper psychiatric qualifications and has established his bona fides with Dr Packer in advance.]

3. I am a botanist/zoologist interested in the flora/fauna of this part of the Appalachians. I have come to do some fieldwork.

4. I am an historian. I am researching the coal-mining industry of West Virginia. I have come to Armstrong as a typical mining community.

5. I am a writer. I have come to Armstrong looking for the atmosphere I need to write my (next) novel.

6. I am a down-and-out. I've come to Armstrong because I've heard of The Refuge from fellow hoboes. [Of course, any investigator using this ploy runs the risk of being selected as the Coven's next ceremonial sacrifice.]

Further Inquiries

Just by being around town, keeping their ears open, observing store signs, reading the local paper, etc, any competent investigators will be able to uncover the background information provided in AP #11. Give the handout to the investigators after they have been in Armstrong for a day or feed them the information in dribbles at the occasion warrants.

The Armstrong Inquirer

Armstrong's daily paper, The Armstrong Inquirer, was founded in 1859 by Horace Griffith. Its proprietor and editor is J. Gillespie Griffith. The paper is published six days a week. Its only full-time reporter is Chester Glass, most of the other items of news being local interest stories submitted by the people involved in the events.

Griffith is typical of a small-town newspaper editor, but a successful use of

Psychology will determine that his underlying attitude is contemptuous; he would be glad to find a reasonable excuse for denying the investigators access to The Inquirer's facilities.

Glass is in his late 30s and has been the newspaper's reporter since before the Great War. He seems to be lacking totally in any ambition to advance in his profession; a Psychology roll will show that he is hiding something -not because he is afraid, but because he wants to.

Glass is not a member of the Coven, but he knows that many of the most important members of the Armstrong community are involved in a secret society. He suspects that the society had been involved in unlawful activities and, if he could be honest with himself (difficult, at the best of times), he knows that these probably involve murder. He is also aware that the charges against Nathan Farley are false. These are the secrets he is hiding, but he has no desire to upset the rulers of Armstrong by revealing his knowledge to anyone.

The Inquirer office keeps back copies of all issues and is an obvious place for investigators to begin finding out about Armstrong. Any investigator who has given no cause for suspicion about his motives will be allowed to study the newspaper files if he makes his Credit Rating; journalists may add +25% to their skill. If the investigator specifies that he is looking for the types of information described in APs #12 and #13, the keeper should give him one handout for each successful Library Use. If the investigator does not specify what he is looking for (he is searching haphazardly), to receive each handout he must make a Library Use roll for each individual item in each handout.

The Armstrong Foundation

The Armstrong Foundation is a charitable foundation, ostensibly providing financial support to a variety of institutions and individuals throughout Armstrong County. In practice most of its resources are directed towards institutions that serve the purposes of the Armstrong Coven and its members.

The Foundation is financed by a trust fund established by the will of Charles

Griffith in 1912. Its current Board of Trustees are Eleanor Griffith Bannerman (Chairman), Carl Cantwell (Secretary), Lloyd C. Dollard (Treasurer), Robert Dollard and Henry Griffith. The Foundation's accounts are managed by Louis Buss.

Principle beneficiaries of the Armstrong Foundation are the Armstrong Refuge, the County Sanatorium and Armstrong Hospital. Individual awards to a maximum of \$100 are made, but these are few and far between.

AP #11.1: Around Armstrong

The Bank: The President of the Armstrong City Bank (on Washington) is Hugo Buss. Hugo is the brother of accountant Louis Buss.

The Dollard Mining Company: The Dollard Mining Company (on South Armstrong) has extensive mining interests. It operates the North Ridge Mine in Armstrong and two other mines in nearby towns - the Big Rock Mine in South Ford and the Eagle Creek Mine in Leman. The company is controlled by the Dollard, Cantwell and Griffith families. Company President is Robert Dollard. The company provides work for a large proportion of the town's labour force. Robert is the brother of Judge Lloyd C. Dollard and Marshal Wiggins' wife Marian.

The Law: The Town Marshal is Mortimer Wiggins. There are four Deputy Marshals; these are Bert Anderson, Homer Bentley, Paul Hewitt and Howard Wiggins. Howard Wiggins is Mortimer Wiggins' nephew.

- Lloyd C. Dollard is the County Judge. His sister Marian is married to Mortimer Wiggins. His brother is Robert Dollard.

- Griffith, Cantwell & Lamont is the local law firm (on West Harriet). The current partners are Carl Cantwell, Francis Bannerman and Hubert Lamont. Carl Cantwell is also Mayor of Armstrong.

Medicine: Dr Warren Packer and his wife Dr Mary Bannerman run the Armstrong County Sanatorium for Illnesses of the Mind (out of town, along East Harriet). The Sanatorium acts as a centre for the treatment of psychological disorders from many towns in this part of West Virginia.

- Drs Edward King and William van Dusen are the local MDs.
- Peter Fiedler is the local pharmacist.

The Museum and Library: Henry Griffith is the Curator of the Armstrong Museum (junction of Columbus/South Armstrong). The Museum has a great deal of material on the development of mining in Armstrong, as well as an extensive collection of locally found items of historical interest, including fossils discovered during mining operations and several Indian artifacts. It houses the Armstrong-Griffith Collection, a collection of paintings by minor European and American masters. There is a section devoted to the contribution of the Armstrong, Cantwell, Dollard and Griffith families to the development and prosperity of Armstrong. Henry's sister Eleanor was married to Leon Bannerman, brother to Mary Packer and Ida Bannerman.

- Ida Bannerman is Chief Librarian at the Armstrong Library (junction of Columbus/South Armstrong). The Library has many books dealing with local history, geography, geology and botany. There is a large collection of occult works also. Ida's sister Mary is married to Dr Warren Packer; her brother was married to Eleanor Griffith until his death in 1915.

The Museum and the Library are both funded by the Armstrong Foundation.

The Newspaper: The local newspaper is The Armstrong Inquirer (junction of West Harriet/South Armstrong). Its proprietor and editor is J. Gillespie Griffith. Chester Glass's by-line appears on many of the stories printed. Griffith is Eleanor Bannerman's cousin.

AP #11.2: Around Armstrong

The Refuge: The Refuge (north along Sherman) is a small charitable institution devoted to providing a temporary haven for down-and-outs seeking a bed and a meal. It welcomes the destitute from wherever they might come, so long as it has room for them. It also helps needy families in and around Armstrong with food. It has accommodation for about twenty-five individuals, although it can usually squeeze one or two more in if required. The Refuge is run by Meredith Taylor and funded by the Armstrong Foundation.

Speakeasies: There are two speakeasies in Armstrong, Casey's (west along West Harriet) catering for the lower end of the market and The Blue Sapphire (south along Washington) for the higher.

The Telephone Company: the exchange for the Armstrong Telephone Company can be found on the corner of Washington and Columbus. The 'phone company is owned by Eleanor Bannerman. The exchange is operated by Barbara Jessel.

The Post Office: the Post Office is on the corner of Washington and West Harriet. The post mistress is Mae Hodgins.

Eating Places: Food is served at The Chelsea Diner (Tom and Joyce Gaff), Lucy's Kitchen (Lucy Clark) and The Blue Sapphire speakeasy.

The Armstrong Library

Ida Bannerman is the Chief Librarian of Armstrong Library. She is outwardly helpful and friendly, a grey-haired, priggish spinster in her 50s. A successful use of Psychology will identify a sensual inner personality touched by instability.

As well as at The Inquirer's offices, back copies of the local newspaper are also held at the library and are available for inspection by anyone who wishes. These newspapers hold exactly the same information that may be discovered by examining them at the paper's offices.

Also available at the library are plans of the surface layout of all mines in the Armstrong area. However, these have not been updated since 1920. When appropriate, the keeper should give the investigators the map of North Ridge Mine, but this should not be until they decide to go there.

The library also has a copy of David McLean's report on Edith shaft. This is the falsified report, doctored by the Coven to 'prove' that it would be uneconomic and dangerous to re-open the shaft. It will be

very difficult to detect this doctoring, but any investigator making a special success at either Accounting or Geology may, at the keeper's discretion, realize that there are inconsistencies and minor inaccuracies in the report.

The library's private collection may be used by anyone who gains Ida Bannerman's permission. A successful Persuade roll will achieve this. The private collection contains numerous occult books, many of whose content can only be described as pornographic, but any investigator making an Occult roll will realize that the collection also contains many serious works. Studying one of these books intensively gains 1D4% for an investigator's Occult knowledge; an investigator may benefit from no more than 1D3 of these books and each will take at least one week's study to gain the increase. A successful Cthulhu Mythos roll will identify a slim volume as *The Book of the Dark*, a minor Mythos work which will take three days to read properly; it will add 2% to the reader's Cthulhu Mythos at a cost of 1D2 SAN. Luck may also find this book.

AP #12: Newspaper Reports Concerning the Dollard Mining Company

AP #12.1: The Armstrong Inquirer, Monday, February 18th, 1918

Yesterday afternoon there was an underground explosion in a gallery of Edith shaft of the North Ridge Mine. Eight miners were killed and three were badly injured. Following the earlier deaths of two miners in Edith shaft last month this incident represents the most serious and shocking tragedy Armstrong has suffered for many years.

AP #12.2: The Armstrong Inquirer, Tuesday, June 25th, 1918

The problems of Edith shaft continue to bedevil the North Ridge Mine. Extensive roof collapse has taken place in two of the main galleries and mining will be severely restricted until the galleries can be re-opened. This will take at least two months according to Mr Dollard.

AP #12.3: The Armstrong Inquirer, Thursday, September 19th, 1918

Six men were killed while working in the collapsed galleries of disaster prone Edith shaft yesterday. Their deaths occurred as an underground explosion, probably caused by the build-up of methane gas, ripped through the workings.

Reports from the North Ridge Mine indicate that this latest tragedy probably seals the fate of Edith shaft. Tunnels have collapsed over a wide area and Mr Dollard told this newspaper that the costs and difficulties of repairing the damage may be too much for the Dollard Mining Company to bear. Mr Dollard said that the Company will be conducting a complete engineering and geological survey of Edith shaft before deciding on what course to follow, but that there is little hope of mining restarting in less than a year.

AP #12.4: The Armstrong Inquirer, Wednesday, September 24th, 1919

State police investigating a fatal accident on the Beckley-Charleston road last Friday night have identified the badly burned body of the driver as that of David McLean from Columbus, Ohio. Apparently Mr McLean's automobile left the road at a dangerous bend and plunged to the bottom of a steep ravine, where it burst into flames.

Many Armstrong residents will be saddened at this news, for they will remember Mr McLean as the cheerful and friendly geologist charged by the Geological Service with conducting a survey of the damaged Edith shaft at North Ridge Mine. Mr McLean's report was submitted to the Geological Service and to the Company on the morning of his tragic death and its findings will be reported next week.

AP #12.5: The Armstrong Inquirer, Tuesday, September 30th, 1919

As anticipated, the geological survey of the Edith shaft of North Ridge Mine, commissioned after the disasters of last year, blames natural causes for the deaths of several miners. It recommends that the shaft not be re-opened as the cost would be excessive and its safety cannot be guaranteed. This news will come as a blow to laid-off miners hoping to return to their jobs, but Mr Dollard told this newspaper that the Dollard Mining Company expects to be able to find work for most of them at the Company's other mines.

References to (although not copies of) the following Mythos books may be found in Occult tomes in the library (Library Use and Luck for each reference):

- *The Necronomicon* by Abd Al-Azrad.

- *Cthaat Aquadingen* by anon.
- *Cultes des Goules* by Francois Honore-Balfour, Comte d'Erlette.
- *Thaumaturgical Prodigies in the New England Canaan* by the Rev. Ward

Phillips.

Louis Buss

Louis Buss is the local accountant. An investigator will need a plausible reason and a Credit Rating success to get to see him. He is a thin, bespectacled, balding man with the mannerism of steepling his fingers together while speaking. He is very

secretive about his clients' affairs, pointedly stressing the confidentiality and trust necessary with his work. Successful Psychology shows that he is neurotic and, like J. Gillespie Griffith, anxious to find an excuse for barring the investigators from his office.

AP #13: Newspaper Reports Concerning Armstrong Notables

AP #13.1: The Armstrong Inquirer, Monday, April 22nd, 1912

All of Armstrong will be in mourning this week as news reaches our peaceful town that amongst those drowned in the tragic sinking of the liner Titanic last Monday was Mr Charles Griffith, a Director of the Dollard Mining Company and a much respected member of our community. Mr Griffith was returning from Europe where he had been discussing investment possibilities in their mining industry with the Austro-Hungarian Government.

AP #13.3: The Armstrong Inquirer, Monday, May 17th, 1915

All of Armstrong will be saddened at the news that Mr Robert Griffith, a Director of the Dollard Mining Company and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Armstrong Foundation, is amongst those missing following the torpedoing without warning of the liner Lusitania by a German submarine on May 7th. Mr Griffith was en route to England and Sweden where he was to discuss several business opportunities.

We all recall the tragic death of Mr Griffith's brother, Mr Charles Griffith, in similar circumstances in 1912 when the liner Titanic sank after striking an iceberg.

AP #13.2: The Armstrong Inquirer, Friday, April 11th, 1913

Today sees the official opening in Armstrong of the County Sanatorium for treating illnesses of the mind. The sanatorium will provide expert care from Dr Warren Packer and his wife, Dr Mary Bannerman, who is also a respected psychiatrist. The sanatorium will be staffed by fully trained nurses and Dr Packer gave assurances that no one need fear the patients who will come for treatment. "We have come a long way from the times when we thought all mental illnesses indicated a dangerous and violent insanity," he told this newspaper. "We cure people now rather than locking them up to hide our own fears."

The sanatorium has been largely funded by generous grants from the Armstrong Foundation and the Foundation will also provide financial assistance for its operation.

AP #13.4: The Armstrong Inquirer, Wednesday, April 17th, 1918

Yesterday saw the opening of the Armstrong Refuge, a charitable institution funded entirely by the generosity of the Armstrong Foundation. The Refuge will provide the homeless who come to its doors with a bed and nourishing food for as long as they want to stay.

Mr Meredith Taylor, Administrator of The Refuge, told this reporter, "This is a welcome day for the needy people who pass through our town. At last they will have somewhere to turn to, somewhere that won't just send them on their way with a kind word and half-a-dollar, but give them a warm bed and hot food for a few weeks, or even longer, so that they can go on their way stronger and better able to face the trials of life."

Locked in Louis Buss's safe (Locksmith x1/2 to open) are several sets of ledger books. Amongst these there is a set of books for the Dollard Mining Company. Closer examination will reveal that there are two sets of books. One set shows that, of the three mines, the North Ridge Mine has made a substantial loss since the closing of Edith shaft; an Accounting roll will show clearly that it is not economic to keep the mine open with only Martha shaft operating.

However, examining the second set of books and a second Accounting roll will show that they have been falsified to show that all three mines are profitable. This has been done by transferring sales proper to Big Rock and Eagle Creek Mines to North Ridge and allocating costs proper to North Ridge to the other two mines.

To discover all of this will take several hours of study and the investigators will not be able to realize any of this information from a few minutes' cursory scanning. Nevertheless, the investigators should be able to see quickly that there are two sets of books covering the same operating periods.

The accounts have been doctored to avoid any troublesome inquiries from state or federal auditors: the Coven believes that a company consistently filing returns showing taxes payable is much less likely to attract attention than one that continues to operate while showing persistent losses.

The safe also contains ledgers for the Armstrong Foundation.

The Dollard Mining Company

The Dollard Mining Company's offices hold copies of the doctored accounts for the three mines it owns.

The Town Hall

The Town Hall holds birth, death and marriage records for Armstrong since the town's founding. So long as the investigators can convince the Town Clerk, Dean Sullivan, that their business is legitimate and not concerned with any investigation into the activities of the Armstrong Coven (Credit Rating or Fast Talk to do so), then he will permit them access to the records. A day's study and a successful Library Use will enable the

investigators to reconstruct the Armstrong family tree as shown in AP #14 at Appendix 1.

Dean Sullivan is about 50, bald, fat and asthmatic. He is probably the weakest link in the Coven and the cultist most likely to crack under pressure from the investigators or state authorities. The Coven will not hesitate about disposing of him if they think that he is about to betray them. A Psychology roll will show that Sullivan is nervous and frightened about something, but not what this is. A special success with Persuade and a guarantee of secrecy and safety will be needed to get Sullivan to spill anything of what he knows, but if he can be confronted with evidence of his involvement in the Coven's activities a simple success with the skill will break him.

The Town Hall is also the local Court and the records of Court proceedings are kept in locked filing cabinets in the judge's chambers. Getting to see these records will be tougher than persuading Sullivan to permit access to Armstrong's population records, for they are strictly confidential.

Judge Dollard will only grant interviews to investigators with a good reason and a successful use of Law. He is a tall, hawk-faced man, imperious and very sure of his own importance. He will discuss cases he has handled in general terms, stressing the need to instill respect for the law, but also the need to tinge justice with mercy. A successful use of Psychology will reveal his inner neuroses and disdain; a special success with the skill will lead the investigator to guess that Dollard would have few scruples about perverting the law for his own purposes.

Breaking into the Town Hall will be difficult, given the building's proximity to the Marshal's Office. Ground floor windows are barred and the front doors have a STR of 20 on the resistance table; the side and rear doors each has a STR of 16, but they are also bolted from the inside when the Town Hall is closed at night (a special success with Luck may find that one of the bolts has not been closed properly). The Court is a separate part of the Town Hall and both doors into it are also locked when the Court is not in use (STR 12). The door to Judge Dollard's chambers is locked

as well (STR 10), as are his filing cabinets (STR 8). All exterior locks may be opened with a successful Locksmith x3/4; interior locks yield to unmodified Locksmith.

A Library Use is needed to find the transcript of the Farley case. Reading the report takes less than half-an-hour and any investigator who succeeds with Law will be horrified at the contempt for proper procedure that it demonstrates. The only witnesses to testify were Dr Packer and Marshal Wiggins and no evidence was offered concerning Farley's guilt beyond the Marshal's arrest report; Farley did not take the stand and, in fact, there is nothing to prove that he was ever in Court (he was, but heavily drugged almost to the point of unconsciousness). Farley's lawyer is identifiable as Hubert Lamont; at the very least he appears to be guilty of gross negligence as far as the conduct of his client's case is concerned. Francis Bannerman is named as the prosecutor.

The Presbyterian Church

Andrew Cameron is the Minister of the Armstrong Presbyterian Church. If the investigators have trouble gaining access to the various records in the Town Hall and fail to think of it for themselves, an Idea will allow them to realize that much of the information pertaining to births, deaths and marriage will be held in the local church registers.

To persuade Minister Cameron to allow access to these registers will require either Fast Talk or Persuade. If the registers can be inspected two days' study and a successful Library Use will again allow the Armstrong family tree to be reconstructed.

Cameron is a rather dull-minded, unenquiring man. He is a bachelor aged about 50. He has been Minister in Armstrong for twenty years and is completely ignorant of the existence or activities of the Coven. Psychology will show him to be self-satisfied and basically stupid; he is pleased with what he is and where he is. Unequivocal evidence will need to be presented to him before he will even begin to think that something might not be altogether proper about the community he serves. Nevertheless, once this evidence is presented Cameron will be steadfast in his determination to root out evil (he is not a

bad man, after all, and his faith is strong). If he is shown an empty grave he will willingly supply a letter testifying to this fact for presentation to the State Police.

The Armstrong Museum

Henry Griffith is the Curator of the Armstrong Museum. He is an average sort of man with an average sort of appearance. Outwardly there is nothing unusual about him, expect perhaps for the pince nez glasses that he affects. A successful use of Psychology will show that he has a mocking attitude, as if secretly he finds something very funny about life.

Relatively free access to the facilities of the Armstrong Museum, including the basement store rooms, may be gained by any investigator who can persuade Griffith that he has a proper purpose in being allowed such access. A successful Archaeology or History roll will convince the Curator that the investigator is a legitimate researcher.

If an investigator is working in one of the basement stores, a Luck roll followed by a successful Spot Hidden will lead to the discovery of the hand-written notes and typewritten top copy original report of David McLean, the geologist commissioned to survey the Edith Shaft of North Ridge Mine following the 1918 disasters. The report and notes are amongst a collection of as yet unsorted material on the mining industry in Armstrong. They were included in error when the material was gathered together for transport to the museum; indeed, McLean's notes and report were supposed to have been destroyed after the fake report was concocted, but by mistake only an earlier draft of the report and some associated notes were burned.

Studying these notes and reports together will show clearly that the Edith shaft could have been successfully and economically re-opened. A successful Geology roll will let an investigator realize that McLean's findings left him wondering about the cause of the disasters in the first place; as far as he could tell, the shaft was safe and there was no evidence of methane seepage, creep or crush - damage seems to have been caused by explosives and deliberate weakening of pillars. It will take at least a day's study

for an investigator to come to these conclusions.

The Marshal's Office

Marshal Mortimer Wiggins represents the forces of law in Armstrong. His office is also the Coven's first line of defence against any threat from outside. Strangers in town will quickly come to Marshal Wiggins' notice and it will not be long before he makes it his business to meet them. He is a large, heavily-built man with an uncompromising face. He will ascertain the strangers' business in town and warn them against making trouble. As long as the strangers seem to be upright citizens, Wiggins will then leave them alone, although his deputies will keep an eye on them and they will most likely be questioned by one of them about any out of town trips they might make; however, this will be done in a casual, friendly fashion.

A successful use of Psychology on Mortimer Wiggins will reveal his inner brutality; this law officer is a bull and he would just love to break your skull with his nightstick if the opportunity offered: anyone spending a night in Wiggins' cells is almost certain to become intimately acquainted with this side of the Marshal's personality. Psychology used on the four deputies will show that Homer Bentley is mean, in all senses of the word; Paul Hewitt is hiding something that he does not want anyone to find out about (he is homosexual); Bert Anderson is psychopathic; and Howard Wiggins is a latent hysteric.

Griffith, Cantwell & Lamont

Anyone with legal business in Armstrong can make an appointment to see one of the partners at Griffith, Cantwell & Lamont, Armstrong's only law firm. However, the senior partner, Carl Lamont, has little to do with everyday clients and a special success with either Credit Rating or Law is needed for an appointment with him. Fees charged are \$25 for an appointment with either Francis Bannerman or Hubert Lamont, and \$50 for one with Carl Cantwell.

Carl Cantwell is in his 60s. He is tall and distinguished, with silver hair and piercing blue eyes. He is Mayor of Armstrong, although this position has

little in the way of official duties attached to it. He does not bother himself with trifling legal matters in the law firm, leaving these to his junior partners. An important client, such as one wishing to make an expensive property purchase, would be dealt with by Cantwell.

Successful Psychology will reveal that there is a cold, inhuman side to Cantwell's personality; he might even be called evil. Francis Bannerman reveals xenophobic tendencies. Hubert Lamont is neurotic, an obsessive about personal cleanliness.

The front and back doors to the law offices require Locksmith to open; alternatively, they have a STR of 14 on the resistance table. There are locked filing cabinets in all offices in the building, but none contains documentation of interest to the investigators. However, the safe in Cantwell's office is worth breaking into.

To open Cantwell's safe calls for a special success with Locksmith unless the investigator has experience in cracking safes, in which case a simple success is enough. The safe door has a STR of 50 and no more than two investigators may combine their STRs against it.

Amongst various legal papers, Cantwell's safe contains the following items of likely interest to the investigators:

- \$2,300 in cash (10s, 20s and 50s).
- A copy of *Azathoth and Others* by Edward Derby (+4% Cthulhu Mythos, -1D4 SAN).
- Two letters from Mortimer Wiggins, written in a crabbed, cramped, none too literate hand, implicating the Marshal directly in the murder of David McLean. From the letters it is clear that Cantwell and Wiggins conspired to kill McLean, but their motive is unspecified beyond reference to 'his discovery of our secret.'

Speakeasies

Casey's is the speakeasy catering for the lower social end of Armstrong's drinking population. It is run by Jimmy 'The Hat' Whelan a small-time criminal who pays off Marshal Wiggins and his deputies regularly for protection.

Whelan's cousin, Harry Bekker, has been a patient at the county sanatorium. Fast Talk with any of the bar staff will learn this, but if anyone wants to speak

with Harry they should make sure that Whelan doesn't think they're pumping his cousin for information. If Whelan thinks Harry is being pressured, he will have no hesitation in confronting an investigator and turning verbal warnings into violent action. If there are several investigators to deal with, he will enlist the help of several of the cheap hoodlums he employs as bar staff.

People likely to be encountered at Casey's: Mike Dunne, Etta Cain/Dorothy Kelly, Chester Glass, Dean Sullivan, Martha Griffith, Meredith Taylor, Grover Yates, Elizabeth Price, Jack Glover, Harry Bekker, deputy marshals, miners, asylum staff, Louis Buss's secretary, Eleanor Bannerman's chauffeur.

Harry Bekker is always happy to talk to anyone who'll buy him a drink and, if the drink is bought him, Fast Talk x1/2 will elicit the information in AP #15.

The Blue Sapphire is a more up-market establishment than Casey's, with a dance-floor, band and restaurant. There is also a small casino (roulette and blackjack). The Blue Sapphire is owned by Louis Buss and run by his son-in-law Calvin Bishop.

AP #15: Harry Bekker's Information

Harry Bekker identifies the staff of Dr Packer's sanatorium as:

'... two shrinks - that's Packer and his wife, only she's called Doc Bannerman - and six nurses - three men and three women. The shrinks, they're 'bout as crazy as you'd reckon 'em to be, but I guess the nurses ain't too bad, least ways not if you don't give 'em no trouble. There're a coupla kitchen skivvies and a kinda general fella who looks after the grounds - he's sorta weird, crazy eyes, he ougtha be a patient. Oh yeah, and a secertery - kinda cute, I guess.'

He will say that there are at least two staff on the premises all the time and that Dr Packer and Dr Bannerman live close by and can reach the sanatorium within a few minutes by automobile.

People likely to be encountered at The Blue Sapphire: Mortimer Wiggins, Ernest

Wiggins, Carl Cantwell, Louis Buss, Raymond Greeves, J. Gillespie Griffith, Lloyd C. Dollard, Francis Bannerman, Hubert Lamont, Edward King.

Both speakeasies purchase their booze from mobsters in Norfolk, sending their own trucks, cars and guards. They also get supplies from local moonshiners (Casey's more than The Blue Sapphire). With Prohibition still a relatively new phenomenon, Armstrong has not yet been bothered by out-of-town mobsters trying to muscle in on the local speakeasies.

The Telephone Company

All telephone calls out of Armstrong pass through the Armstrong Telephone Company's exchange.

The Post Office

Telegrams may be sent from the Post Office.

The Memorial Park

The Charles W. Griffith Memorial Park was named in memory of Charles Griffith, drowned in the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. Trees, grass and flowers are tended carefully to provide a pleasant area in which to stroll, sit and picnic. At the centre of the park there is a larger than life-size statue of Charles Griffith himself, with a plaque extolling his many civic and personal virtues. In 1916 a similar statue of Henry Dollard was erected nearby in memory of his death on board the Lusitania. Edward Griffith's involvement in the deaths of Charles Griffith and Henry Dollard is developed in later investigations.

The County Sanatorium

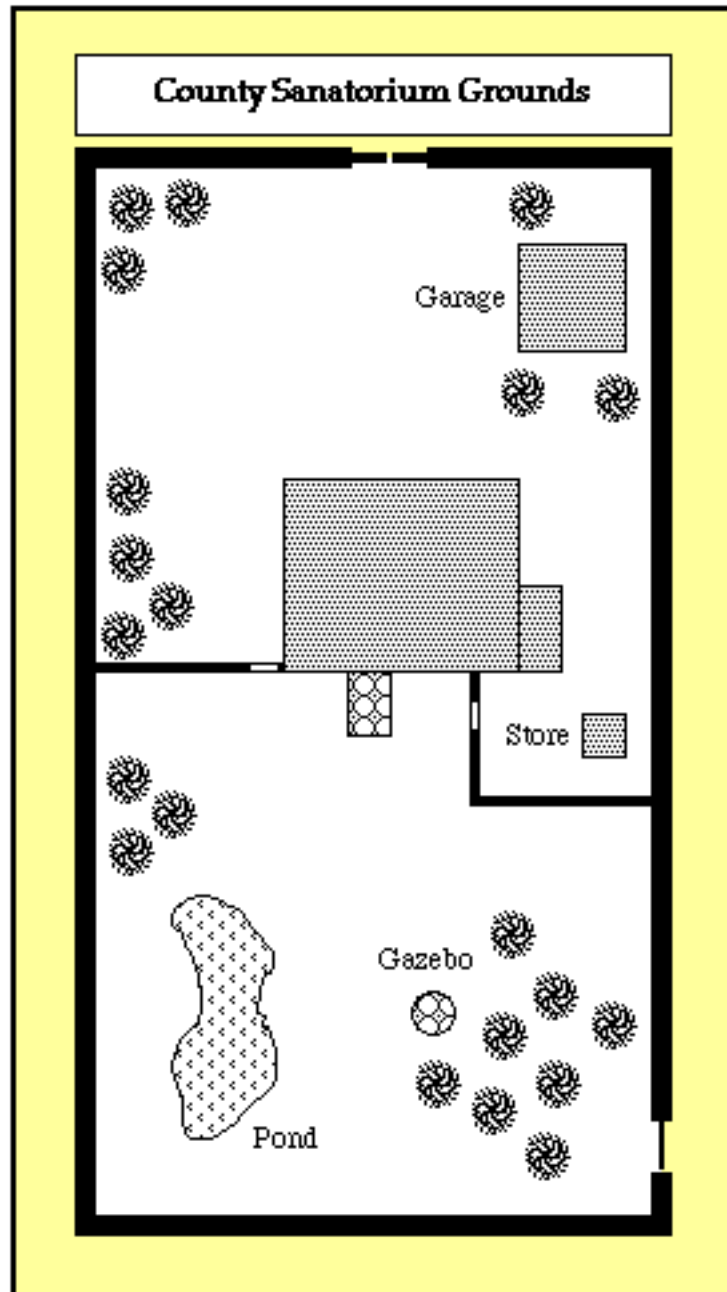
The investigators will undoubtedly be interested in tracking down and speaking with either ex-patients or members of staff at the asylum. To track down someone who can give them inside information about the asylum, the investigators will need to speak with either someone who works there currently or who has worked there recently.

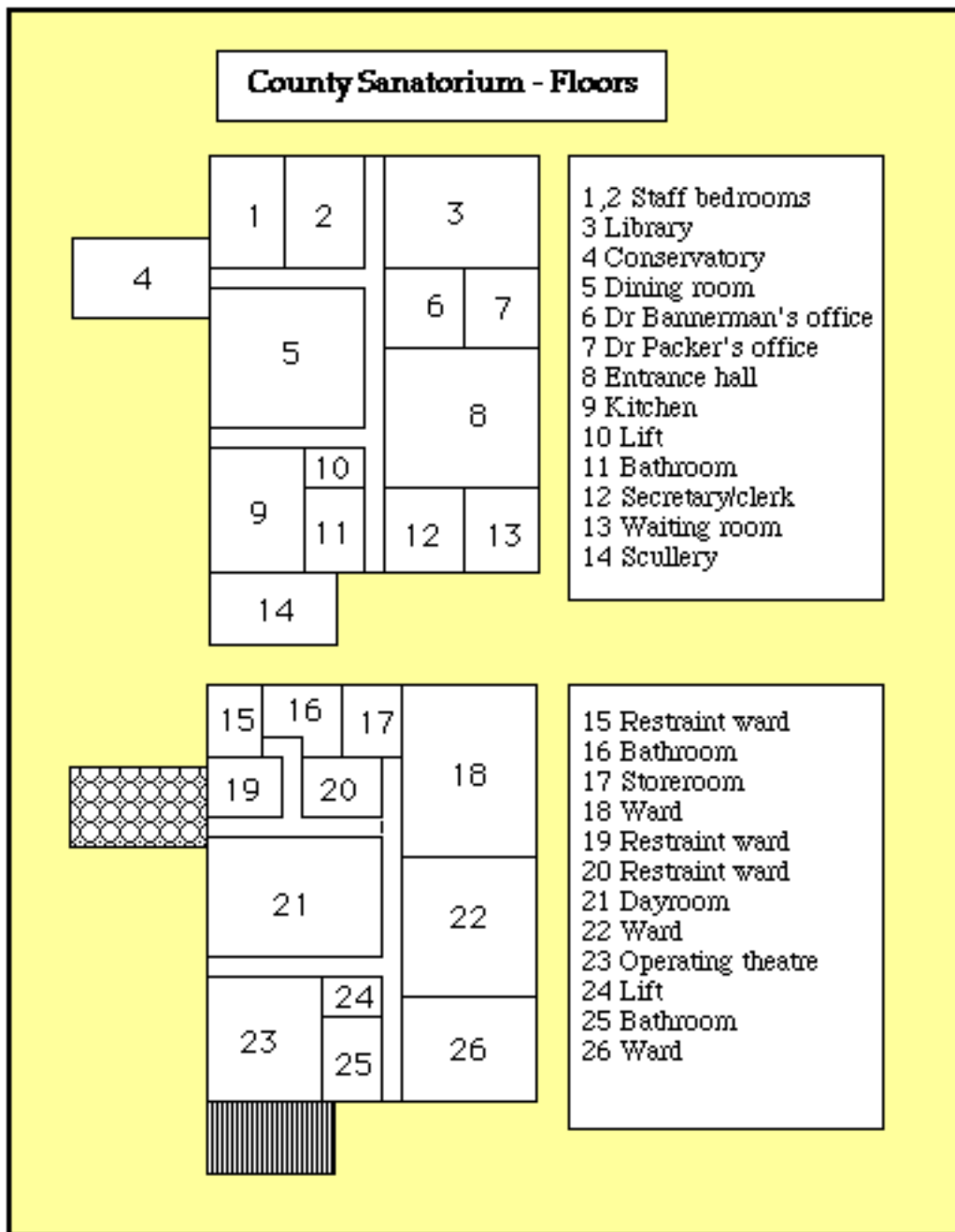
The asylum lies along East Harriet Street, some three hundred yards beyond the Charles W. Griffith Memorial Park. It is staffed by two psychiatrists, Dr Warren

Packer and Dr Mary Bannerman. Dr Bannerman is Packer's wife, but she practices psychiatry under her maiden name. The sanatorium also has a staff of ten: six nurses, a secretary/clerk, two kitchen staff and a janitor/handyman. The janitor/handyman is George Packer, the Packers' semi-retarded son. Dr Packer and Dr Bannerman have rooms at the asylum in

addition to their private home; at least two nurses are always on duty, one male and one female.

Psychology used on Dr Packer will show that he is disdainful and single-minded. Dr Bannerman is revealed as a cold-blooded and certainly not empathic personality.





The following descriptions are keyed to the plan of the Packer Sanatorium.

- Dr Bannerman's office [6]: In a locked filing cabinet Dr Bannerman keeps all the records of her patients, filed alphabetically, noting the reasons for their admission, the psychiatric disorders from which they are suffering, the treatment used to care for them, and notes on the progress they are making; discharged patients' records are also kept here,

together with a register of their current addresses if known. Scanning any of the files with a successful use of Psychoanalysis will indicate that everything seems to be above board, even if the investigator may not agree with the methods of treatment used in the asylum.

- Dr Packer's office [7]: Dr Packer files his patients' records in the same fashion as Dr Bannerman. Packer is in charge of Nathan Farley, whom he is ostensibly

'treating' for insanity. Farley's file is locked in Packer's filing cabinet under 'F'. According to the file, Farley is being treated for severe mental disturbance manifested through extreme agoraphobia and demophobia, and by unprovoked and unreasoning fits of violence. Anyone making a successful Psychoanalysis roll while reading the file will agree that the treatment described is a proper psychiatric method; however, Farley's investigator friend will have difficulty recognizing his old professor from Packer's records.

- Office [12]: All the administrative work of the sanatorium is carried on here. There is a telephone and a typewriter. Details referring to purchase of supplies, payment of salaries, dates of admission and discharge of patients, etc, are kept in filing cabinets. There are no files concerning the illnesses and treatment of patients, however; these are kept in Dr Bannerman's or Dr Packer's offices as appropriate.

- Restraint Wards [15, 19, 20]: The restraint wards are a group of three rooms and a bathroom fitted out to hold patients suffering from severe psychiatric disorders causing them to act in ways dangerous to themselves and/or other people. The windows of the two wards with outside walls have been bricked up. All interiors have been lined with padded material. There are no movable objects, no sharp edges. Each ward's door has a spy-hole and may only be opened from outside. Each ward has a light recessed into the ceiling and protected by a thick glass plate which is virtually unbreakable and only removable with tools; this light is operated from the corridor outside. There is a single bed in each room; this bed may be fitted with a harness to restrain patients. Farley is in one of these wards, confined to bed by a restraint harness and is kept heavily sedated when visitors are around. Farley is being treated with mind-altering drugs in the Coven's efforts to drive him insane, as the professor's will-power has proven too strong for other methods. The drugs being used to treat Farley are kept in the room as long as he is restrained. If an investigator has a chance to inspect these drugs for a few moments, a successful use of Pharmacy will identify that they are not the sort of drugs that should be used to treat

a patient supposedly in Farley's condition.

- Wards [18, 22, 26]: These are simply rooms converted for use by patients not requiring restraint. They are fitted out to provide accommodation for up to six patients and include separate water closets. The doors are usually locked from the outside at night; there are glass panels in the doors to allow the interiors of the wards to be seen from the corridor.

Staff at the Asylum

Apart from the doctors there are a number of other staff at the asylum who may be tracked down and spoken to by the investigators in attempts to glean further information. These are listed below. As required, you may use any of these characters to assist the investigators' inquiries, using appropriate communication skills and bribes as required. However, you should decide according to the needs of the developing investigation to what extent any given staff-member will give out information to strangers and also the likelihood of their reporting the inquiries to their bosses, with appropriate consequences for the investigators.

Male nurses: Sam Hood, Billy Lyle, Ted Norris.

Female nurses: Teresa Carlton, Mary Nash, Jane Tubbs.

Kitchen staff: Josie Davies, Annie Mather.

Secretary/receptionist: Barbara Wallace

Janitor/handyman: George Packer

Patients at the Asylum

There are a number of genuine patients at the asylum, but only one who will prove of interest to investigators:

- Earl Bentley, driven insane by exposure to Nyogtha's awesomeness during Coven ceremonies. Earl is Deputy Homer Bentley's older brother and a member of the Outer Circle of the Coven. He has not just been driven insane by recurring exposure to Mythos horrors, but has become unstable, erratic and paranoid. Homer is not unduly upset by his brother's state as Earl always bullied him mercilessly, even after they became adults.

To obtain any information of use from Bentley requires successful Psychoanalysis

applied over a period of at least an hour. Even then, Bentley's information will be barely coherent. Investigators will be able to infer that something terrible is happening in Edith Shaft.

The Refuge

The Refuge has two purposes. First, it acts as the charitable institution described in AP #13, providing temporary accommodation for around twenty-five down and outs, mostly men. Second, it supplies the Armstrong Coven with the steady supply of human sacrifices it needs for its worship to ensure that its foul deity remains within Edith shaft. The Refuge was established specifically for this purpose: although the Coven could kidnap victims from nearby towns or from amongst visitors to Armstrong, the Coven's leaders fear that sooner or later this would lead to a police investigation from outside Armstrong; they are determined to preserve secrecy at all costs and believe that The Refuge allows them to select sacrificial victims at little risk to the members of the Coven, drawing prey from the apparently endless supply of human flotsam that makes its way to the haven that The Refuge seems to offer to the penniless drifter with no hope and no future.

The Refuge is run by Meredith Taylor, the warden, and Grover Yates, his assistant. Part-time workers come in to help with food, laundry and so forth. Any investigator succeeding with Credit Rating or Fast Talk can get in to see Taylor. Any investigator posing as a hobo will find a vacancy at The Refuge if he can make a Luck roll; if this is failed, a Fast Talk will persuade Taylor to squeeze in this latest hard-luck story somewhere -The Refuge doesn't like turning anyone away.

Taylor is of less than average height and adopts an air of pious concern about the well-being of his charges. He always evinces distress at the ill-fortune of those whose circumstances are so bad as to bring them to The Refuge. He will come over as a worthy do-gooder with a thick layer of sanctimonious piety. However, Psychology will discern the sly, devious personality beneath the outward show.

Yates is a less complicated character. He is a big man, but rather stupid. He

stifles his essentially brutal nature with difficulty and Psychology will confirm his violent traits. Given the chance, he will ill-treat the more helpless of the Refuge's inmates and, if he can get away with it and they are not too old and/or unattractive, he will rape any women who stay there, threatening to kill them if they try to report him afterwards. Basically, Yates is a dirtbag and deserves to be treated like one. Taylor is unlikely to respond to any complaints about Yates that cannot be proved and down-and-outs are not usually considered reliable witnesses.

The Refuge's method of selecting the Coven's victims is simple. As part of its administrative procedure, it asks for quite detailed personal histories of those for whom it caters. As each ceremony of worship approaches, Taylor consults the records of those currently staying in The Refuge and from amongst them he chooses a victim whose disappearance is least likely to cause concern. As most of those who find their way to The Refuge are usually lacking in both of these, Taylor's task is a not particularly difficult one.

The chosen victim is given a powerful sedative during a routine visit from Dr Van Dusen and later taken from the refuge on the grounds that he needs treatment at the local hospital (as evidenced by his state of deep unconsciousness). Naturally, the patient never makes it to the hospital, his record is marked as deceased through natural causes, together with a faked death certificate from Van Dusen, and he ends up as a sacrifice to Nyogtha.

The records of those who have stayed at The Refuge are kept in a locked filing cabinet in Meredith Taylor's office on the ground floor of the building. The office is always kept locked when Taylor is not using it and only he has keys to it and the filing cabinet. Both the office door and the cabinet may be opened by a successful Locksmith. The door has a STR of 8 on the resistance table and the cabinet a STR of 6. The window of Taylor's office is barred and could only be pried open if at least two of the bars were first removed (STR 28); it has a STR of 7 once this has been done.

An investigator examining Taylor's records carefully and making a successful Idea roll will notice that, amongst the

inevitable deaths of inmates likely to be expected in such an institution, since 1920 there is a regular pattern emerging so that around the same date each month there is a death. All death certificates are signed by either Dr King or Dr Van Dusen. However, the number of death certificates signed by Van Dusen far outnumbers those signed by King (42/7) and a successful use of Medicine will lead an investigator to consider the causes given by van Dusen for deaths to be both a little vague and repetitive, seeming to show a predilection for pneumonia.

If the investigators think to examine the local cemetery, they will find graves for the deceased inmates of The Refuge in the paupers' section. Minister Cameron will confirm that he conducted funeral services for the Refuge's dead. Exhuming the graves will reveal that the cheap wooden coffins of the Coven's victims contain only bags of sand of sufficient weight to substitute for the absent corpses; the Refuge's other deaths are genuine and the coffins will contain bodies in various stages of decomposition, the sight of which will cost the investigators 0/1D3 SAN.

The Hospital

The hospital records contain files of admissions of patients. The hospital administration office is on the ground floor of the two-storey building. Gaining access to the records requires either the co-operation of Elizabeth Price, the filing clerk, or the assistance of a member of hospital staff who can facilitate an investigator's presence in the hospital outside office hours. Successful Library Use amongst these files will demonstrate conclusively that many of the patients who left The Refuge ostensibly for the hospital never made it there.

Bribes or APP (in the case of male investigators) in conjunction with successful Credit Rating, Fast Talk or Persuade exercised on Elizabeth Price or one of the nurses will gain the investigator entry to the administration office. If Elizabeth Price is not helping, the investigator will need to use Locksmith +20% on the locked filing cabinets.

If an entry to the admissions' files is attempted without inside assistance, you should call for Luck and Sneak rolls to pass

unnoticed. Getting into the hospital via windows or back doors will call for Locksmith. First floor windows may be reached via a Climb or, alternatively, one of the two fire-escapes.

Drs King and Van Dusen

The investigators may want to look at the records of the two doctors, or they may want to interview the doctors themselves. Whichever course of action they choose, there is no positive information to be gained.

Neither doctor's files contain any notes on The Refuge patients (such records as there are of this type on the vagrants are kept at the hospital).

Under interview both doctors will talk freely about non-medical matters, but refer to the necessary confidentiality of their profession if asked about the medical states of any of their patients, either current or past.

King is an alcoholic, but staff at the hospital speak quite highly of him: 'Even drunk he's a better doctor than Van Dusen.'

Psychology used during conversation will show that Van Dusen has a streak of indifference to suffering that might be thought unusual in a doctor; he also conceals a hidden nervousness whenever patients from The Refuge are mentioned.

Van Dusen is a member of the Coven, but King is not.

Other Agents, Other Agendas

The investigators are not the only outsiders who have business or interests in Armstrong that they would rather was not public knowledge. These other characters are:

- BI Agent Raymond Greeves.
- IWW activists Mike Dunne and Etta Cain.
- Industrialist Edward Masters.

The Industrial Workers of the World (The Wobblies)

As and when they encounter evidence of its activities, any investigator who succeeds with Know can be given the information about the IWW contained in AP #16.

Mike Dunne has come incognito to

Armstrong to find out more about the disappearance of IWW organiser Hedley Mitchell. He is also to determine what progress Mitchell made in organising revolutionary cells amongst the local mineworkers and to continue Mitchell's work.

Etta Cain, Dunne's lover and fellow-IWW agitator has also come to Armstrong to be near him and to provide him with support and another means of gathering information. She is also travelling incognito, firstly because she does not want to blow Dunne's cover, secondly because there is a federal warrant out for her arrest on charges of subversion.

Etta is not averse to using her considerable attractiveness as a way to advance the IWW's objectives, but no matter who she sleeps with her heart will always belong to Dunne.

Dunne wants to:

- Find out what has happened to Mitchell.
- Find out about any anti-IWW agents in Armstrong and Lewisburg.
- Find out about any anti-IWW miners at any of the mines.

If he can enlist their assistance, Dunne will want the investigators to :

- Help uncover the BI agent, Raymond Greeves.
- Uncover any IWW miners who may have betrayed Mitchell.

Mitchell successfully formed a cell of mineworkers working in the North Ridge Mine in Armstrong: Lee Drummond, Jim Glancy, Henry Hunnam and Luke Paris.

Dunne and Cain will try to find out what the investigators are up to if:

- The investigators are asking questions amongst miners.
- They know that Raymond Greeves has contacted the investigators.

The Bureau of Investigation

Should the Bureau of Investigation come to their attention, any investigator who succeeds with Know +25% can be given the information about the organisation contained in AP #17.

Bureau of Investigation agent Raymond Greeves has been sent undercover to Armstrong to try and track down IWW agitator Etta Cain who is suspected of being

in the area. Greeves is an angular, grey-skinned man in his late 40s and has the lugubrious air of a didactic preacher about him. He is neither particularly honest nor particularly corrupt, but he is unlikely to be swayed by any offers that IWW agents are likely to make. He has made himself known to Marshal Wiggins, but no one else in Armstrong is aware of his true identity.

Greeves knows:

- That the IWW has been active in the area.
- He suspects the presence of at least one more IWW agitator in the area apart from Etta Cain, but he does not have proof of the agitator's identity.
- He knows that Jim Glancy is an IWW cell-member at the North Ridge Mine.

Greeves suspects that one of the following women, arrived in Armstrong within the last six months, may be Etta Cain:

- Dorothy Kelly, job-seeker staying at Mildred Baxter's lodgings.
- Genevieve Long, self-employed music teacher.
- Mary Deans, newly married wife of miner Arthur Deans. Naturally he also suspects her 'husband' of IWW affiliations.

AP #17: The Bureau of Investigation

The Bureau of Investigation was set up by Attorney General Charles Joseph Bonaparte in 1908 as a small group of investigators within the Department of Justice to pursue land thieves in the West and trusts in the East. During the Great War various espionage laws and the Selective Service Act widened the Bureau's duties, as did the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act of 1919. In December 1919 and January 1920 the Bureau was widely used in raids on suspected Bolsheviks and subversives.

By 1923 the Bureau is widely seen as corrupt and disorganized.

Greeves wants to:

- Uncover communist infiltrators in Armstrong, make a spectacular arrest of Etta Cain and her gang and boost his BI

standing.

• Make sure that no one screws up his investigation by warning IWW agitators or

revealing his identity prematurely.

AP #16: The Industrial Workers of the World, aka The Wobblies

The IWW was founded in Chicago in 1905 in opposition to the 'establishment' policies of the American Federation of Labor. The founders included William D. Haywood of the Western Federation of Miners, Daniel DeLeon of the Socialist Labor Party, and Eugene V. Debs of the Socialist Party.

The IWW was riven by internal strife, however. In 1906 the Western Federation of Miners withdrew from the IWW and in 1908 the IWW split into two factions, one supporting political action for its goals, the other general strikes, boycotts and sabotage. Under Vincent St. John and William Haywood the revolutionary faction took control of the IWW and the Wobblies became a revolutionary organisation dedicated to gaining control of the means of production.

The IWW's original aim had been to organise skilled and unskilled workers into one union and then to call a general strike which would topple capitalism and establish a socialist industrial democracy. After 1908, however, more and more the Wobblies concentrated its efforts amongst unskilled workers. Because they carried all their belongings with them in a bindle, vagabond agents of the IWW became known as 'bindlestiffs'.

In 1915 the execution of IWW organiser Joe Hill for a murder of which he was possibly innocent gave the movement a folk hero and martyr throughout the labour movement, and the Wobblies achieved some notable successes amongst the mining and lumbering industries in the Pacific north-west. However, as the only labour organisation to oppose US involvement in the Great War, the IWW made itself vulnerable to establishment action supported by post-war popular anti-radicalism. The Sabotage and Espionage Acts were used to prosecute and jail IWW leaders, the Red scares of 1919 and 1920 also saw IWW activists rounded up and jailed and the organisation was widely harassed by local officials and vigilantes. By 1923 the effectiveness of the Wobblies is clearly on the wane.

On first learning of the investigators presence in Armstrong he will suspect that they may themselves be communist agitators (or communist agents sent to distract his attention from the 'real' troublemakers in the town). He will keep a close eye on their activities.

If the opportunity offers Greeves will use the investigators to further his objectives in Armstrong. If he is confident they are not IWW agents he may introduce himself to the investigators quietly and privately in the following circumstances:

- He knows they have been talking with miners and/or making inquiries about North Ridge Mine.
- He thinks they may know who Etta Cain is.
- He thinks they know the identity of any other IWW agents in Armstrong.

Edward Masters

Of peripheral but possible future interest to the investigators is Edward Masters. Born Edward Griffith, brother of J. Gillespie Griffith and cousin to Eleanor Griffith Bannerman, Edward was familiar with the Coven's activities but disillusioned with small-town life. Self-centred and largely unprincipled, in 1893 he disappeared from Armstrong, taking with him a substantial sum of money from his father's safe and the Coven's copy of the Mythos work *Dei Veri*.

Changing his name to Edward Masters to avoid any vengeful pursuit by the Coven, Edward prospered in industry and pursued his own interests in the Mythos. In 1921 a whimsy led him to write to Eleanor, partly to tease her, partly to tantalise her. A copy of the letter is provided as AP #18.

Keepers may substitute any named

character from their own campaigns as Edward Griffith's new persona, using this investigation either to introduce the character or to develop further links to (and from) him.

North Ridge Mine

Introduction

North Ridge Mine lies half-a-mile west of Armstrong, in the shadow of the ridge after which it is named. It is operated by the Dollard Mining Company. The manager of the mine is Ernest Wiggins.

To enter the mine requires the permission of Ernest Wiggins and no employee will let strangers in without his say so. An investigator will need a good reason and a successful use of Fast Talk, Credit Rating or Geology to get into the mine, and then only to talk with Wiggins and, perhaps, look at Martha shaft. When interviewed, Psychology will show that Ernest Wiggins is deeply suspicious and distrustful; like many other members of the Coven, he would love an excuse to bar the investigators.

The mine is fenced round on three sides to prevent trespassers straying onto it. On the north side of the mine the steep slopes of North Ridge and East Spur are considered sufficient deterrent to any interlopers. Any investigator seeking to gain access to the mine via North Ridge or East Spur must make four successful Climbs or suffer the consequences of a fall.

North Ridge Mine does not work round the clock. These are two nine-hour shifts, working Monday to Saturday between 0500 and 2300, the mine closing for the remaining six hours each day. The mine is closed all day on Sunday. While the mine is closed, a watchman is on duty; when the Armstrong Coven has ceremonies in Edith shaft, they make sure that this watchman is a member of the Outer Circle, Lemuel Roach.

All of the mine buildings are locked outside of working hours and the disused buildings are, supposedly, kept locked at all times. Except where noted below, it is not too difficult to break into any of these buildings. A successful Locksmith will open any door. Where a lock is particularly

stubborn, doors may be jemmied open by a resistance table roll against a STR of 12. Windows have a STR of 8.

- Conveyor: The conveyor carries coal from the head of the shaft to the screening plant.

- Disused buildings: Ostensibly all the buildings associated with Edith shaft are now disused, but the machinery room is kept fully maintained so that the cultists can gain access to the underground gallery where the manifestation of Nyogtha can be worshipped. It should be obvious to even the most mechanically inept investigator examining a 'disused' machinery room that there is a lot of expensive equipment here in surprisingly good condition considering its years of neglect.

- Edith shaft: Edith shaft is the non-working section of North Ridge Mine. It is in one of its underground galleries that the Armstrong Coven has called a manifestation of Nyogtha to dwell.

- Explosives store: The store is a strongly constructed building some distance from the other buildings of the mine. It has thick brick walls, a stout roof, no windows and a heavy steel door secured by a massive lock. The lock requires Locksmith x1/2 to open; otherwise the door has a STR of 40. No more than two investigators may work together to jemmy the door.

Dynamite, detonators and the paraphernalia of blasting are all kept here. There are more than enough explosives here to destroy Edith shaft and collapse its underground galleries, so dispelling Nyogtha, but to do so they will have to be placed properly, a task which will take a period of at least eight hours and successful Electrical Repair and Mechanical Repair by the same investigator. Simply tossing sticks of dynamite down the shaft may cause some damage, but will not destroy the mine. Lowering the twenty cases of dynamite kept in the explosives store to the bottom of the shaft will devastate, but leave Nyogtha unharmed.

- Gate: The gates are the only entrances to the mine through the fence. The south gate is wide enough to let two trucks pass through at the same time. Both gates are kept closed and locked when the mine is not working.

- **Lockers:** This building holds lockers and washrooms for the miners. Each man has a personal locker where he can keep valuables, a change of clothing, etc, while he is underground.

- **Machinery rooms:** Here are the winches for raising and lowering cages and trams in the mine shafts. The machinery rooms also hold pumps for removing excess water from underground.

- **Martha shaft:** Martha shaft is the operating part of the mine.

- **Offices:** The administrative work of North Ridge Mine is carried on here. Orders for equipment and supplies are made up here, the shipment of coal is processed, wages are paid, and employee records are maintained. All of the papers relevant to these matters are kept in the front office, where Esther Bentley and the other clerks work. This office also contains detailed plans of the underground workings of Martha and Edith shafts, although the latter have not been amended since 1918. More confidential papers are kept in Ernest Wiggins' office, including a doctored copy of David McLean's report on Edith shaft (see The Library). The safe is used to keep a cash reserve of \$500 and, on pay day, the wage packets of the employees until they are handed over. The safe also contains Wiggins' diary. This record, written in an erratic, irregular fashion, contains specific details of the sabotaging of Edith shaft by Wiggins and Curtiss Hewitt (the mine foreman), acting under the directions of Robert Dollard.

- **Screening plant:** The screening plant is a large building raised on a sturdy framework over the railway track. It sorts coal from spoil and loads it into railway wagons which pass beneath it.

- **Spoil heaps:** Useless spoil is taken from the screening plant and dumped into the nearby heaps. Since the closing of Edith shaft, spoil has been deliberately dumped to screen it from the working sections of the mine.

- **Stores:** The stores hold all the items necessary to keep the mine working - safety lamps, rails, belting, conveyor structure, spare parts and machinery, roof supports, drums of oil, nuts and bolts, cotton waste, etc.

- **Ventilation machinery:** These

buildings house fan machinery for circulating air to the underground workings.

- **Watchman's hut:** The mine's watchman is based here when he is on duty. Once every ninety minutes he is expected to make an inspection of the mine's two gates and its surface buildings; he is not expected to inspect the disused buildings, but will if he notices anything suspicious. He is armed.

- **Workshops:** Here all the technical and maintenance jobs vital to the smooth working of the mine are carried on. Machinery and equipment is built, repaired and serviced. Mechanics, electricians, blacksmiths, joiners and painters all work here.

Mine Workers

Naturally the only mine workers who know the secret of Edith shaft are those who are members of the Armstrong Coven. However, there are a lot of rumours circulating about the pit, the most popular and generally credited being that it is haunted by the ghosts of those who died underground in the disasters of 1918. Most miners are also aware that the pit-head machinery is still in remarkably good condition after many years of disuse.

Of course, reticent West Virginian miners are not going to blab their tales of hauntings to the first city slicker that comes along. However, any miner who can be plied with bootleg hooch can, with a successful Fast Talk, be made to repeat the rumours of ghosts and the facts concerning the pit-head equipment. Obviously there is a danger that investigators may question a miner who is a member of the Coven; decide whether or not this happens by a Luck roll.

Even if the miner quizzed is not a member of the Coven, there is a chance that news of the questioning will get back to the cultists. Each day after the interview takes place, a Luck roll should be made by the investigator with the highest POW; if this is failed the Coven learns of the matter and begins to take action against the investigators.

Operating Mine Machinery

A certain technical skill is needed to operate the equipment associated with the mine. As a general rule, for all heavy

machinery at North Ridge Mine - the winding gear, ventilators, screening plant, etc - an investigator must succeed at Mechanical Repair x2 to figure out how it works and either Operate Heavy Machinery or Mechanical Repair x1/2 to actually work it properly. A failure at Operate Heavy Machinery/Mechanical Repair may cause the equipment to

malfunction part-way through its operation - which might be fatal in the case of a cage. The investigators should note that the winding gear is operated from the surface and not by any automatic push-button device inside the cage itself. There is a buzzer at the foot of the shaft to indicate to the above-ground operator that the cage should be raised or lowered.

AP #18: Edward's Letter to Eleanor

My Dear Cousin,

I know it has been an uncommonly long time since we were in touch with one another. I suspect that you still harbor ill-feelings towards me for my abrupt departure with Dei Veri, but I always believed that it would serve me better than those I left behind me and I think I have been proved right. I know that Father and Uncle Charles were really quite angry with me, but in spite of their anger truly I regret missing their funerals, despite the senseless beatings they used to visit upon me. Although, of course, since their bodies were never recovered they were only memorial services and so perhaps not that important after all. Oh well, one must learn to live with these disappointments.

I think Aunt Martha was quite upset with me too, which is sad because of the three it was always she that I was almost fond of. I presume that, following her death, you have stepped capably into the shoes she has left vacant.

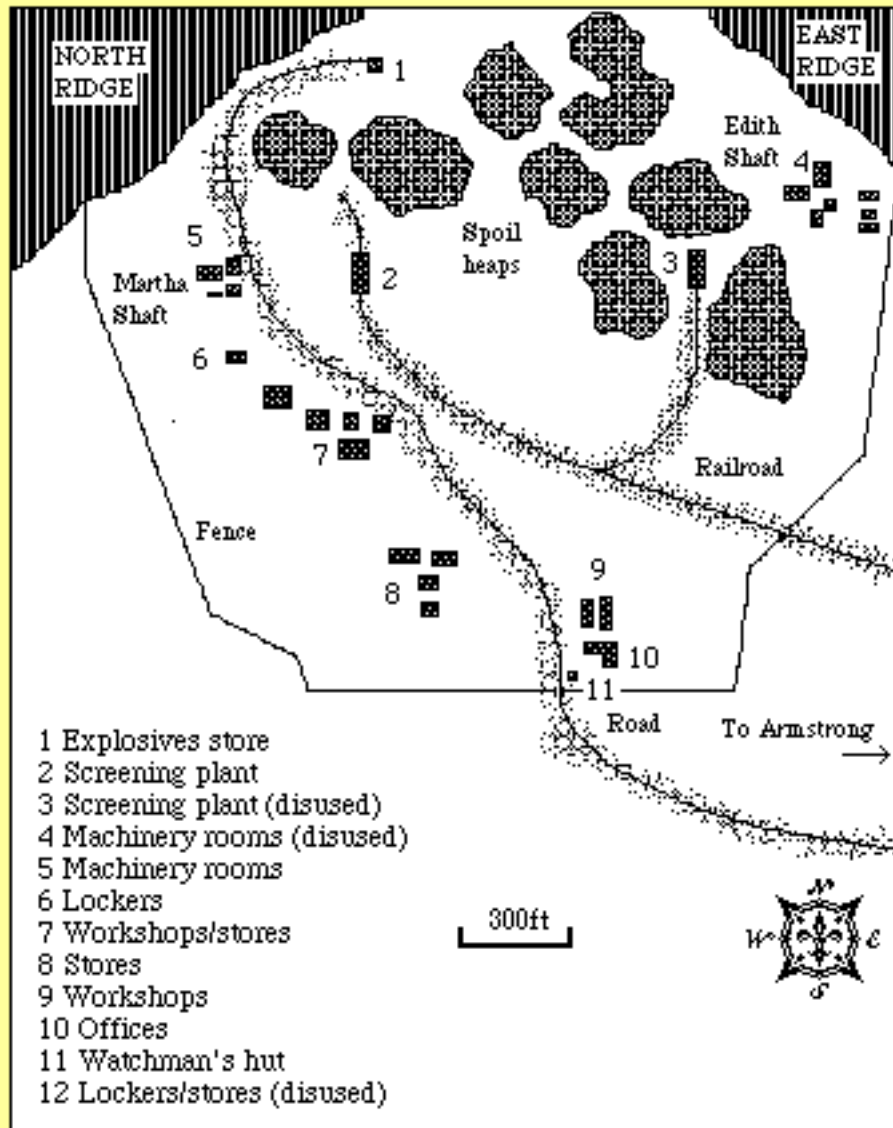
Enough of family chit-chat.

As a lingering token of my sincere affection for my dearest cousin and, if you wish, a gesture of reconciliation which I hope you will accept in the spirit in which it is offered, the enclosed stock certificates are for you to do with as you please.

Your always affectionate cousin,

Edward

North Ridge Mine



AP #19: A Glossary of Some Mining Terms

Cage: The lift or elevator in which personnel are winched up and down a mine shaft.

Creep: Where pillars were cut too small and the floor of the mine was of soft fireclay, the floor could burst upwards as the pillars were pushed into the floor by the weight of rock above.

Crush: Less common than creep, but similar in effect except that the pillars would simply be crushed by the roof settling down.

Drift: A horizontal tunnel dug to allow the extraction of coal underground.

Head frame: The wooden or metal framework through which runs the cables and guides for raising and lowering cages and trams.

Hoist house: The building housing the winch machinery for raising and lowering cages and trams.

Room and pillar: A method of deep mining where two or more parallel galleries are dug with cross-cuts joining them for ventilation and haulage. 'Rooms' are excavated perpendicular to the galleries as the coal is removed. The 'pillars' between the rooms serve to support tunnel roofs. In practice, the layout of galleries, cross-cuts and rooms may deviate significantly from the geometric precision of the ideal layout.

Raise: A vertical tunnel dug upwards from one level of a mine to a higher level.

Shaft: A vertical or sloping tunnel dug from the surface to the level(s) at which coal is to be mined.

Tram: A small, wheeled wagon for carrying coal underground and capable of being winched up the shaft.

Winze: A vertical tunnel dug downwards from one level of a mine to a lower level.

In Edith Shaft

The sketch map shows the general layout of the pit and the cavern where the Armstrong Coven performs its ceremonies in honour of Nyogtha.

Edith shaft is about 350 feet deep. It

takes the cage about forty seconds to descend and one minute to ascend the shaft.

Any investigator who descends Edith shaft will be surprised at the relatively good state of conditions down the pit. True, many of the side galleries have suffered damage and deterioration over the years - roof collapse, wall bulge, etc - but the main drift is generally well-repaired. A success at Geology or Mechanical Repair x1/2 will lead the investigator to conclude that there is little that is preventing the pit being reopened.

A more extensive examination of conditions in Edith shaft will turn up evidence that there has been dynamiting of some galleries and that rubble and debris has been clearly removed from the main drift. To discover this evidence requires both successful Spot Hidden and Geology/Mechanical Repair x1/2, one 'set' of each turning up one item of appropriate evidence after 1D3 hours' investigation.

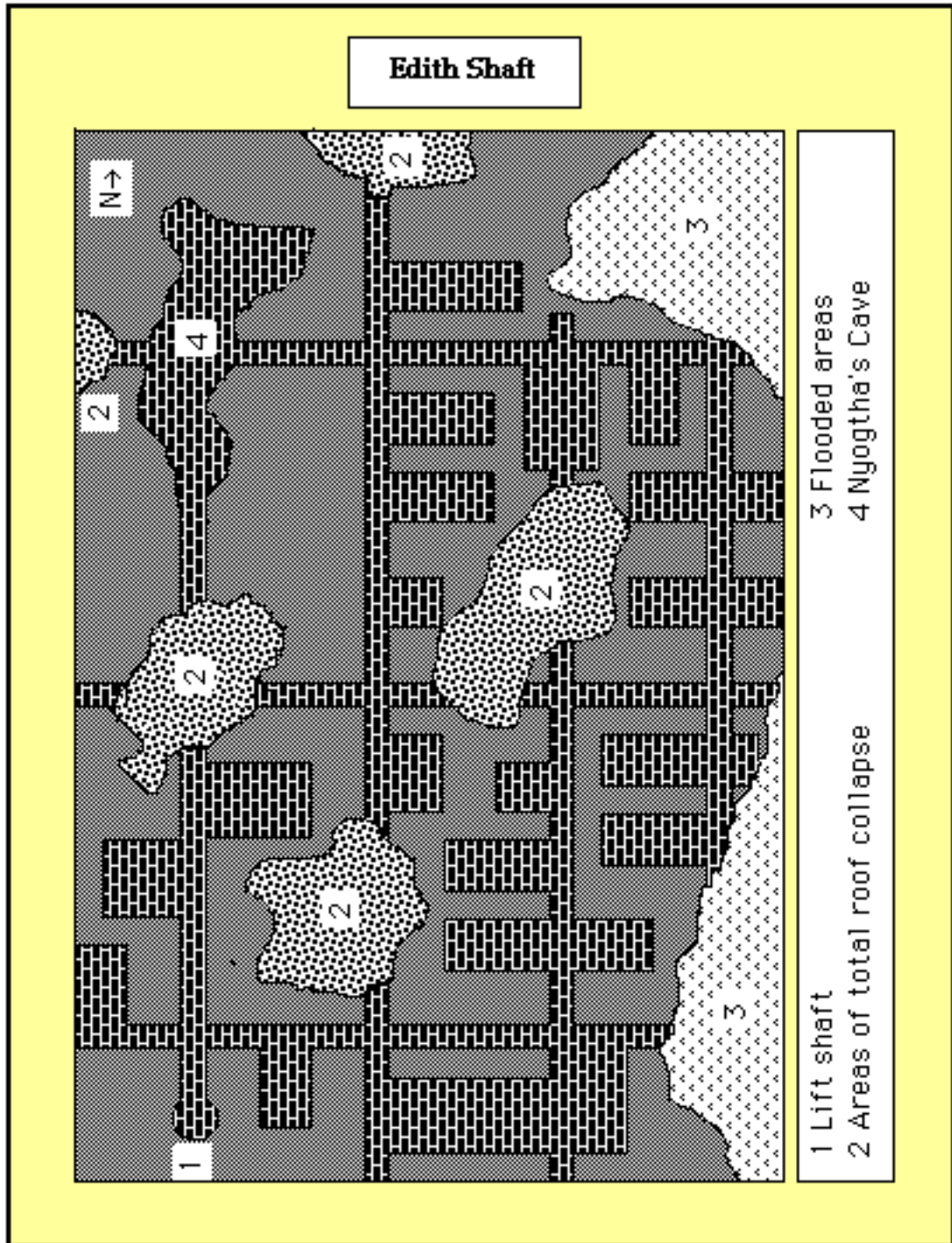
In Nyogtha's Chamber

The manifestation of Nyogtha called to Edith shaft by the Armstrong Coven is in permanent residence in the mine. It dwells in a series of connected pits deep in the floor of the chamber shown on the map of Edith shaft. The closer an investigator approaches to this chamber, the greater will be the sense of oppression and fear that weighs down upon him, a sense that will have made itself felt the moment he steps from the lift at the bottom of the shaft.

Nyogtha's immediate reaction to any investigators in its chamber will be to ignore them, but the moment that they take any action against its pits it will react aggressively. There is also a chance that Nyogtha will attack, even if the investigators are doing nothing more than poking around aimlessly. The investigator with the lowest POW should make a series of Luck rolls, the intervals being left to your discretion; once a roll is failed Nyogtha will come crawling out of its pit.

Investigators may try to disable Nyogtha by tossing sticks of dynamite down the entrances to its pits, but this is unlikely to prove effective. To destroy Nyogtha the entire chamber needs to be collapsed to ensure that the Great Old One

is crushed beneath thousands of tons of rock.



The Coven's Activities

Introduction

Like all 'proper' covens, the leadership of the Armstrong Coven centres on thirteen individuals who are privy to all or most of the Coven's secrets. These thirteen are amongst the most powerful people in Armstrong, regardless of their membership of the Coven:

AP #20: The Inner Circle of the Armstrong Coven

Eleanor Griffith Bannerman, Francis Bannerman, Ida Bannerman, Louis Buss, Lloyd C. Dollard, Robert Dollard, Helen Cantwell Griffith, Henry Griffith, J. Gillespie Griffith, Martha Griffith, Hubert Lamont, Mary Bannerman Packer, Marian Dollard Wiggins

Most influential amongst members of the outer circle of the Coven are:

AP #21: The Outer Circle of the Armstrong Coven

Bert Anderson, Earl Bentley, Esther Anderson Bentley, Homer Bentley, Walter Bentley, Hugo Buss, Hubert Lamont, Warren Packer, Dean Sullivan, Meredith Taylor, Ernest Wiggins, Howard Wiggins, Mortimer Wiggins

By and large, the Armstrong Coven is generally circumspect about its activities. There is no obvious evidence of Mythos carryings-on in Armstrong; after all, only a minority of the inhabitants are involved in the Coven, albeit a very powerful one. Once a month, however, the Coven conducts an important ceremony of worship in the underground galleries of Edith shaft to ensure that the manifestation of Nyogtha remains with them. At this ceremony a human victim must be sacrificed and to this end they have established The Refuge as a source of prey whose deaths will pass

unremarked.

The Coven and the Investigators

The extent to which the investigators find themselves beset by the members of the Coven will depend ultimately upon the actions that they take. Unless they are particularly clumsy or foolish there will be no immediate reason for the Coven to perceive the investigators as a threat. Obviously if four or five strangers come mob-handed to Armstrong with no very plausible reason for their visit and then begin turning the town upside-down hunting high and low for conspiracy, then the Coven is going to get its act together very quickly and react to the investigators' troublemaking. Even if the Coven has no suspicions about the strangers in town, the legal system will still operate normally against law-breakers: acting suspiciously, trespassing, house-breaking, burglary, theft, assault, wounding and murder will all be dealt with appropriately. Investigators guilty of serious crimes can expect no easy let off because the law in Armstrong is controlled by a gang of insane cultists.

Generally, the response of the Coven to the investigators' carryings on may be seen as a graduated 'ladder of escalation', with the Coven's actions being largely decided by the activities of the investigators. However, the investigators can trigger this ladder at any point and not just at the lowest rung.

- At the bottom of the ladder, the Coven will simply look on the investigators as harmless strangers with entirely legitimate reasons for being in Armstrong. There will be no reason for the cultists to fear them and to take action against them. The law will take its course against malefactors normally.

- The next rung up the ladder of escalation is reached when the Coven first becomes suspicious of one or more of the investigators due to relatively minor infractions, such as an expression of doubt about Professor Farley's commitment to the asylum, evidence of illegal entry at one of the Coven's homes or business premises, etc. If the investigators are clearly identifiable as a group, then all will be regarded as a danger if one is. The Coven's first move will

be to try and scare the investigators off, frightening them into leaving Armstrong. They will do this by methods intended to be gradually more threatening and dangerous to the investigators.

First, the Coven's control of the Marshal's Office will be used to harass the investigators. If they are guilty of the smallest misdemeanour, Mortimer Wiggins or one of his deputies will pounce. Even if the investigators lead an apparently blameless existence, Wiggins and his fellow lawmen won't be put off doing their best to intimidate them. At the same time, minor incidents will plague the investigators: rooms will be broken into and belongings rifled, if they have an automobile its tyres will be slashed, and so on. To any complaints the investigators make to the Marshal he will demonstrate at best scepticism and at worst suspicion of the investigators. All this will be calculated to give the investigators the jitters and make them think seriously about quitting Armstrong before things get worse.

Second, if the investigators prove immune to Marshal Wiggins' heavy-handed threats, Eleanor Bannerman, the leader of the Coven, will use her spells Create Sendings and Implant Fear to spook them into fleeing the town while their lives are still intact.

Finally, if these relatively innocuous methods fail, the investigators will be framed and jailed on trumped-up charges. The more serious the crime with which the investigators can be charged, the happier the cultists will be, and if a murder can be laid at their door this will be wonderful.

- The third rung is marked by indisputable proof that the investigators are enemies of the Coven, determined at the very least to interfere with its activities, perhaps set on destroying it altogether. The Coven will do its best to rid itself of the investigators' troublesome attentions by killing them. It will attempt this a number of ways, all of which are designed to avoid any suspicion falling upon Coven members.

First, the investigators will simply disappear. If any investigator is captured, say while burgling a cultist's home late at night, then he will be killed and the body dumped, in Edith shaft if possible, but

somewhere inaccessible and lonely anyway.

Second, an investigator may be 'accidentally' killed, say in an automobile accident or, perhaps, in a fall while on Painted Cave Mountain or North Ridge. Obviously such an incident will require careful planning by the Coven.

New Spell: Create Sendings

A new spell, Create Sendings, is provided in The Armstrong Malison for use by Eleanor Bannerman.

This spell costs the caster two magic points and one SAN. Its range is unlimited, but the caster must be familiar with the location it will affect. The spell causes the chosen site (typically a room in a house) to be affected by one paranormal phenomenon for up to one minute, plus one minute for each extra magic point expended at the time of casting; some phenomena take place instantaneously, while others fade and recur over the spell's duration. The caster may choose which phenomenon affects a location. Each phenomenon is unique and separate phenomena require separate castings of the spell. Examples of typical phenomena are listed below:

1. A sudden fall in temperature occurs, dropping by 15+1D20 degrees in the space of a few seconds.
2. A small object flies across the room and smashes against a wall.
3. A sudden draught blows where none could be expected.
4. A black formless shape appears and disappears.
5. There are scratchings and tappings at a window or door.
6. A doorknob rattles furiously.

Other phenomena may be devised. Phenomena associated with this spell are unlikely to physically harm anyone (an unlucky character might be struck by a flying object, of course), but they can cause 0/1 SAN loss for those who experience them.

Third, Eleanor Bannerman will use her more powerful spells (The Black Binding,

Summon/Bind Dimensional Shambler and Mental Suggestion) against the investigators. If these don't reduce their numbers, then they should at least help towards driving them insane, an equally desirable objective for the Coven. Eleanor is unlikely to use the Clutch of Nyogtha at this stage unless she is directly threatened.

- The final stage is reached when the investigators have commenced overt and probably violent action against the Coven. At this point the cultists will lose what few inhibitions they have remaining. They will, if necessary, kill without any thought for the consequences, even carrying out murder in broad daylight in the middle of Armstrong. However, it is most likely that such gross action will be assigned to lesser members of the Coven who can then be dealt with relatively leniently by the Coven-controlled Court.

Investigating the Coven

Each Coven member will hold certain common items. Individual Coven members will have individual items and secrets.

All Inner Circle members will have a set of blood red robes, similar to a monk's, with hood and cord belt. The robes will have Nyogtha's cult symbol emblazoned on the chest in black.

All Outer Circle members will have a set of white robes, identical except in colour to those of the Inner Circle.

All Coven members will also have a set of black rosary beads, with the crucifix attached upsidedown. Some will also have pentagrams fashioned out of palm rushes, similar to the crosses used by Christians on Palm Sunday. Some will also have copies of 'prayer sheets' to Nyogtha.

Eleanor Bannerman

Eleanor Bannerman is the leader of the Armstrong Coven, powerful and completely insane - but cunning, clever and far from crazy. She leads the Coven's monthly ceremonies and conducts the sacrifices, but her public persona in Armstrong is of a rich and eccentric recluse, widow of the late Leon Bannerman. She is rarely seen around the town, perhaps three or four times a year crossing the sidewalk from her chauffeur-driven Packard to the offices of

Griffith, Cantwell & Lamont or the bank.

Eleanor Bannerman's home lies on Grant Street, along with the homes of most of Armstrong's other notables. The house is large and rambling, and Eleanor has half-a-dozen servants in residence: chauffeur, butler, cook, two maids and a gardener/handyman. The investigators could break into the house easily enough, but they will find nothing incriminating that would stand up in a court of law; there are various paraphernalia which investigators will recognize as typical of agents of the Mythos, but any 'rational' person would regard them as simply indicative of an interest in spiritualism and the occult.

Dreams of the Abyss

Language: English

Knowledge +: 16%

Spells: all Eleanor's spells

Effect on SAN: -2D10

However, there are two items of particular interest. In 1811 there came into possession of James Armstrong a pure copper dagger. Unknown to Armstrong the dagger was an enchanted weapon, the material component for casting the spell to summon a Dimensional Shambler. Armstrong died without an inkling of the true nature of the weapon and it was not until his daughters began their experiments with the Mythos that its purpose became known. Since then ownership of the dagger has been the token by which the leader of the Armstrong Coven is acknowledged and the dagger is used as the chosen weapon for the despatch of sacrificial victims to Nyogtha. It has a symbolic value to the Coven far beyond its value either as an enchanted weapon or, simply, a rare antiquity. Eleanor keeps the dagger in her bedroom in an ornately-carved wooden chest in her dressing-table. The designs on the box may be recognized with a successful use of Cthulhu Mythos as associated with the worship of Nyogtha.

Also kept in Eleanor's bedroom, in a hidden compartment in the wall behind her bedhead, is a copy of *Dreams of the Abyss*, a major Mythos work. The hidden

compartment may be found with a Spot Hidden. The details of the book are given nearby.

Other Coven Members

- Hugo Buss is the owner of the Armstrong Bank. He is in his 50s, heavy set and tall, with a bald and imposingly high-domed head. He is slow and deliberate in his speech. Investigators may only gain an interview with Buss if they are intending to conduct business through his bank. A successful use of Psychology will discern Buss's latent paranoia.

In his home on Grant, locked in the study bureau, Buss keeps a diary detailing his activities in the Coven. The bureau lid has a STR of 6, or may be opened with Locksmith +20 percentiles. The diary is written in a code of Buss's own invention. To break the code an investigator will require several hours' work and a successful Idea. A thorough examination of the diary will allow the members of the Coven listed in AP #22 to be identified as present at the monthly ceremonies; it clearly shows Eleanor Bannerman to be the most important member of the Coven. The diary also contains unmistakable reference to sacrifices of human beings.

AP #22: Names from Hugo Buss's Diary

Eleanor Bannerman, Francis Bannerman, Ida Bannerman, Cora Buss, Hugo Buss, Louis Buss, Carl Cantwell, Lloyd C. Dollard, Robert Dollard, Henry Griffith, J. Gillespie Griffith, Martha Griffith, Hubert Lamont, Mary Packer, Warren Packer, Meredith Taylor, William Van Dusen, Ernest Wiggins, Felix Wiggins, Howard Wiggins, Mortimer Wiggins, Sarah Wiggins

- Robert Dollard is the head of the Dollard Mining Company. However, he leaves most of the day-to-day running of the company to its various mine-managers and his accountant, Louis Buss. Dollard is away from Armstrong a lot: he stays a month each year in Florida and visits the West Coast at least once a year as well.

When in Armstrong, he spends much of his time in the privacy of his large house and grounds on Grant or shooting and fishing in the surrounding mountains. There is a 30% chance that Dollard will be in Armstrong when the investigators are there. Each day that the investigators remain in Armstrong, there is a 5% chance that Dollard will return.

Dollard is in his 40s and looks like an athlete. He will refuse any attempts by the investigators to see him, no matter what reasons they put forward.

Dollard's house is staffed even when he is away from Armstrong. The staff permanently in residence include a housekeeper/cook, a butler, a maid and two large, fierce dogs. Dollard travels with a secretary/bodyguard, a valet/bodyguard and a chauffeur/bodyguard. He is also smart enough not to keep incriminating material at home and investigators who break into his house hoping to find evidence of his connections with the Coven will be disappointed. Dollard is the second most powerful member of the Coven and will never crack, no matter what pressure is applied to him.

- Martha Griffith is the daughter of J. Gillespie Griffith and Helen Cantwell. She is a student at Armstrong High. She is being groomed by the aging Eleanor Bannerman as her successor as leader of the Coven. By no means yet lost to the forces of the Mythos, Martha is the Coven member most easily saved through effective Psychoanalysis.

- 'Standard' Cultists: Two sample cultists are provided in the NPC stats. They are intended for use whenever you need a character who isn't detailed elsewhere. The characteristics and skills given are guide-lines only and you should feel free to customize individuals freely. You may also use these standard cultists as 'ordinary' characters if necessary, deleting any references to spells and adjusting SAN to equal their POW x5.

Painted Cave Mountain

Introduction

Painted Cave Mountain is, frankly,

something of a red herring, but a visit to the caves may produce something of value to the investigators in a meeting with Jack and Abigail Glover and Andrew Jackson Jones.

The caves of Painted Cave Mountain are a well-known landmark in the area, but most Armstrong residents have little or no interest in the paintings found there, regarding them as a minor curiosity at best. Nevertheless, they are quite happy to tell the occasional visitor how to get to see them.

It is not possible to drive all the way to the caves in an automobile, but the track through Martha's Forest may be followed for about two miles before it becomes too rough and broken for a vehicle to negotiate. If an investigator is driving along the track, he must make a successful Drive Automobile roll every half-mile or he will find that he cannot drive any further and must walk. Should the investigators enquire, they will be told by anyone in town that horses may be hired from the Glover Farm.

The caves may be reached quite easily on foot or horseback, being neither inaccessible nor concealed. The Painted Caves are a group of three caverns, stretching perhaps one hundred yards into the mountain. At their entrance they are about nine feet high and twelve feet wide, but they narrow to a funnel shape inside until they are about three feet across at their furthest extent.

The cave paintings are about two-thirds of the way inside each cave. Because of the bends and kinks of the tunnels they occupy they cannot be seen clearly without artificial light. They occupy stretches of wall ten to twelve feet long. They are truly macabre and investigators might easily believe that they are representations of Mythos monsters, but in fact they are not. However, despite Professor Collier's doubts, they are authentic pre-Columbian art forms and much more ancient than anyone suspects - more than 10,000 years old.

The investigators will no doubt wish to examine the paintings and caves closely. Apply skill uses as described below; you should roll the dice in secret each time one of these skills is used.

- **Anthropology:** A successful use of Anthropology will confirm that these caves are a unique form of Indian art. There are no comparable North American analogues, except perhaps for Navajo sand paintings which have vague similarities with some of the forms depicted, although the connection is very tenuous and probably not sustainable in debate.

- **Archaeology:** A special success with this skill by an investigator familiar with Aboriginal cave and cliff paintings in Australia will see strong similarities with these. Some of the paintings are strikingly akin to the Aboriginal works. Otherwise, a successful use of Archaeology will produce the same information given for Anthropology.

- **Chemistry:** A DEX x3 success is needed to scrape enough paint from the wall to enable a chemical analysis to be undertaken. If this is done - and a laboratory will be needed to conduct such an analysis - the investigator will discover that the pigments are authentic, in the sense that they are made up of the same ingredients that pre-Columbian Americans would be likely to use. However, post-Columbian Americans could just as easily make up such pigments.

- **Cthulhu Mythos:** A special success will convince the investigator that these are definitely not Mythos beings.

A simple success will leave the investigator uncertain - Isn't that painting there a gug? This costs the investigator 0/1 SAN.

A failure makes the investigator pretty sure that these are nasties from the Mythos - You're darn right that's a gug! This costs the investigator 0/1D3 SAN.

If the failure is bad enough (96-00), the investigator is convinced that a veritable pantheon of Mythos deities and their servants is laid out before him - These paintings represent a major manifestation of Mythos horrors which must have infested this area for centuries! My God! There's something coming out of the end of the cave! Run! Run! This costs the investigator 1/1D6 SAN.

- **Photography:** If the investigators have the proper equipment with them for photography in very poor light conditions, they will need a special success with this

skill to produce prints of any analytical use. If the prints are usable, sight skills may be applied at three-quarters of their normal value, rounding up. For example, an investigator with an Archaeology skill of 60% would use it at 45% if he was looking at photographs of the paintings.

- **Spot Hidden:** A successful Spot Hidden will convince the investigators that although the caves continue for some way beyond the point to which adult humans can progress easily, they come shortly thereafter to dead-ends.

- **Track:** A successful use of Track will identify both human and animal spoor around the caves, but nothing that would cause alarm. However, if any of the human tracks are followed two further successful Track rolls will bring the investigators to the cabin of Andrew Jackson Jones, about two miles to the east of the caves.

- **Zoology:** A special success with this skill may persuade an investigator that the creatures depicted in the cave paintings are gross distortions of familiar beasts, perhaps even representations of ancestral forms - This looks like a beaver. This could be a deer.

Jack and Abigail Glover

Jack and Abigail Glover run the Glover Farm, about five miles south of Armstrong. They are a middle-aged couple and work the farm with two field-hands. They keep a number of horses for farm-work and riding and will hire these out to anyone who wants. The cost is \$2 a day per horse, take it or leave it, and the hirer pays for any injury to the animals or damage to their harness.

Neither Jack nor Abigail, nor either of their field-hands, knows anything at all about the Armstrong Coven, having very little contact with the town apart from the occasional trip to collect supplies. However, they do regard Armstrong with some dislike, considering its administration corrupt due to its control by a few big families who have held power in the town for decades. Because of their distrust of Armstrong's leaders, the Glovers will prove sympathetic to any requests for help from the investigators if they can be convinced of the justice of the investigators' case. To convince the Glovers, successful Fast Talk is

required.

Jack and Abigail also know various stories about the origin of the cave paintings, including the tale that they were faked in the 1820s by the then owner of their farm. Both will agree that they think the paintings are probably genuine.

Andrew Jackson Jones

Andrew Jackson Jones is a recluse. He is well over 70 years old, but still spry, alert and active. He gets almost everything he needs to live from the wild. He is friendly and hospitable to strangers, so long as they treat him with courtesy. A Psychology roll will show that he is calm, but concerned about something. If the investigators make a successful Fast Talk or Persuade and tell Jones the truth about their presence in Armstrong, then he will tell them what he knows about the situation in Armstrong; however, he will not help them directly, although he will offer his home as a refuge and his skills as a healer if they are needed.

Jones has been aware of an aura of evil over Armstrong for some years now. He can pin-point his first recognition of this aura as occurring in 1917. It has been gradually gaining in strength ever since. He can identify its source as in the vicinity of North Ridge Mine, probably underground.

The recluse knows the Indian cave paintings well and has studied them thoroughly over the years. He is convinced that they are genuine, for he can sense the spirits of those who created them in the forms, shapes and colours of the art.

Wrap-up and Awards

Wrap-up

The Armstrong Coven can be seriously disrupted, and perhaps destroyed altogether, by the due process of the law. If evidence can be brought to the State police in Charleston, it will trigger a major investigation into goings-on in Armstrong.

It can be proven that leading members of the Coven have been directly involved in murder, kidnapping, fraud and professional misconduct. The various items of evidence are enumerated below.

- The papers found in Carl Cantwell's safe implicate Robert Dollard and Mortimer Wiggins in the murder of David McLean.

- The records in The Refuge combined with proof of the empty graves and the hospital admissions' files are sufficient to involve Meredith Taylor, Grover Yates and Drs King and Van Dusen in a murder investigation. If interrogated by State police Taylor will quickly crack, claiming that he was forced to engage in Satanism by threats from Robert Dollard, Mortimer Wiggins and others. He will testify that the missing destitutes were sacrificial victims in Black Mass ceremonies conducted by Eleanor Bannerman in Edith shaft.

- The transcript of Nathan Farley's trial is at least sufficient to declare a mistrial and is circumstantial proof of a conspiracy to unlawfully commit Farley to the Packer Sanatorium. This will prima facie implicate Judge Dollard, Francis Bannerman, Hubert Lamont, Marshal Wiggins and Dr Packer in kidnapping.

- The financial records in Louis Buss's office are evidence of fraud involving the Dollard Mining Company. They are enough to lead to the arrests of Buss and Robert Dollard at least. David McLean's draft report and notes are further proof of fraud by the Company and implicate the Company in murdering several of its employees by sabotaging Edith shaft.

- Ernest Wiggins' diary is sufficiently incriminating to lead a reader to conclude that Edith shaft was deliberately sabotaged by Wiggins and Curtiss Hewitt acting on Robert Dollard's orders. If arrested, Hewitt will turn State's Evidence in an attempt to save himself from execution on a multiple homicide charge.

Awards

All awards are made on the basis that the investigators know what they've done. If the investigators are ignorant of the particular circumstances for an award, but they know they've done something good, halve the award.

Destroying the Coven and dispelling Nyogtha from Edith shaft is worth an award of 2D8 SAN. Achieving one but not the other reduces the SAN award to 1D10. These awards are in addition to any for

defeating Mythos monsters.

If the investigators manage to only damage the Coven by causing the arrest and imprisonment of various of its members for criminal activities, reward each such arrest with 1 SAN.

The investigators receive awards irrespective of their own situations. Even if they're in jail charged with murder, if they've destroyed the Coven and Nyogtha in the process then they get the award.

You may make whatever awards you choose for proving the authenticity of the Indian cave paintings. Typical bonuses include fees for journalists and writers, promotion for academics, etc.

Timeline

| | |
|----------|---|
| 1895 | Founding of Armstrong by James Armstrong |
| 1820s | Gladys and Martha Armstrong found the Armstrong Coven |
| 1850 | Gladys Armstrong dies; Martha Armstrong leader of the Armstrong Coven |
| 1857 | Rev Whitfield Scoggins writes <i>God's Lost Children</i> , making particular mention of the evils of the Armstrong Coven |
| 1865 | Edith Dollard Griffith leader of the Armstrong Coven |
| 1881 | Martha Griffith leader of the Armstrong Coven |
| 15/04/12 | Death of Charles Griffith in Titanic disaster |
| 19/11/12 | Armstrong Foundation established by Charles Griffith's will. |
| 11/04/13 | Opening of Armstrong County Sanatorium |
| 07/05/15 | Death of Robert Griffith in torpedoing of the Lusitania |
| 25/12/17 | Armstrong Coven summons a manifestation of Nyogtha into Edith Shaft of North Ridge Mine; Martha Griffith is consumed in summoning; Eleanor Griffith Bannerman leader of the Armstrong Coven |
| 04/01/18 | Miner killed in Edith Shaft by Nyogtha |
| 28/01/18 | Miner killed in Edith Shaft by Nyogtha |
| 17/02/18 | Explosion in Edith Shaft kills eight miners |
| 18/09/18 | Six men killed in Edith Shaft by Nyogtha |
| 20/08/19 | David McLean begins investigation into disaster at Edith Shaft |
| 19/09/19 | Death of David McLean in a road accident |
| 04/04/23 | IWW agitator Hedley Mitchell arrives in Armstrong |
| 18/05/23 | Prof Nathan Farley arrives in Armstrong |
| 21/06/23 | Sacrifice of Hedley Mitchell (Beltane) |
| 29/06/23 | Arrest of Nathan Farley |
| 30/06/23 | Nathan Farley committed to County Sanatorium |
| 09/07/23 | Etta Cain arrives in Armstrong |
| 10/07/23 | Mike Dunne arrives in Armstrong |
| 13/07/23 | Investigators receive anonymous letter and newspaper cutting |
| 14/07/23 | BI Agent Raymond Greeves arrives in Armstrong |
| 01/08/23 | Lammas; major Coven ceremony in Edith Shaft |

BANNERMAN, ELEANOR GRIFFITH: Coven Leader

STR 9 CON 15 SIZ 10 INT 15 POW 19 DEX 14
 APP 13 EDU 16 SAN 0 HP 13

Weapons: Dagger 85% 1D6
 .22 auto 45% 1D6

Skills: Credit Rating 95%, Cthulhu Mythos 75%, Occult 90%, Persuade 80%, Psychology 60%

Spells: The Black Binding, Call Nyogtha, Clutch of Nyogtha, Create Sendings, Deflect Harm, Implant Fear, Journey to the Other Side, Mental Suggestion, Shrivelling, Summon/Bind Dimensional Shambler, Voorish Sign

Artifacts: Enchanted Dagger, Dreams of the Abyss

ELEANOR BANNERMAN'S DIMENSIONAL SHAMBLER

STR 18 CON 22 SIZ 24 INT 7 POW 12 DEX 12
 HP 23 Armour 3 SAN loss 0/1D10

Weapons: Right Claw 40% 1D8+2D6
 Left Claw 40% 1D8+2D6

Notes:

1. It can leave the current plane at will at a cost of four magic points and one round during which it cannot attack but may be attacked.
2. It can take objects and beings with it when it fades into another dimension, at a cost of one extra magic point for every ten points of SIZ that the object or being has.
3. It can attack with both claws at the same DEX.

ELEANOR BANNERMAN'S BLACK BINDING ZOMBIES

| | Zombie #1 | Zombie #2 | Zombie #3 |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| STR | 21 | 23 | 20 |
| CON | 8 | 14 | 23 |
| SIZ | 13 | 18 | 10 |
| POW | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| DEX | 7 | 7 | 11 |
| Hit Points | 11 | 16 | 17 |
| Weapon | Maul | Axe | Sabre |
| Attack % | 35 | 35 | 55 |
| Damage | 2D8+1D6 | 1D8+2+2D6 | 1D8+1+1D4 |
| SAN loss | 1/1D3 | 1/1D3 | 1/1D3 |

Notes: Impaling weapons, including firearms, do only one point of damage; all other weapons do half their rolled damage.

BANNERMAN, IDA: Librarian

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| STR | 10 | CON | 12 | SIZ | 11 | INT | 13 | POW | 13 | DEX | 12 |
| APP | 9 | EDU | 17 | SAN | 0 | HP | 12 | | | | |

Weapons: .22 auto 30% 1D6

Skills: Climb Steps 80%, Cthulhu Mythos 35%, Library Use 95%, Listen 90%, Occult 70%, Psychology 45%, English 90%

Spells: Shrivelling

BEKKER, HARRY: Ex-patient, County Sanatorium

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| STR | 9 | CON | 9 | SIZ | 8 | INT | 11 | POW | 10 | DEX | 13 |
| APP | 8 | EDU | 11 | SAN | 35 | HP | 9 | | | | |

Weapons: Fist/Punch 55% 1D3
 Pocket Knife 35% 1D3

Skills: Bargain 15%, Dodge 40%, Fast Talk 35%, Get Into Fights 90%, Hide 55%, Listen 45%, Lose Tail 85%, Sneak 60%

BUSS, HUGO: Banker

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| STR | 13 | CON | 10 | SIZ | 13 | INT | 14 | POW | 16 | DEX | 11 |
| APP | 14 | EDU | 16 | SAN | 0 | HP | 12 | | | | |

Weapons: .32 auto 40% 1D8

Skills: Accounting 75%, Bargain 80%, Credit Rating 95%, Cthulhu Mythos 20%, Drive Automobile 40%, Refuse Loans 100%

Spells: Deflect Harm

BUSS, LOUIS: Accountant

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| STR | 12 | CON | 13 | SIZ | 12 | INT | 12 | POW | 12 | DEX | 10 |
| APP | 11 | EDU | 14 | SAN | 0 | HP | 13 | | | | |

Weapons: 9mm auto 45% 1D10
 .22 rifle 40% 1D6+2

Skills: Accounting 85%, Credit Rating 65%, Drive Automobile 35%, Falsify Accounts 80%

Spells: Shrivelling

CANTWELL, CARL: Lawyer/Mayor

STR 9 CON 9 SIZ 16 INT 14 POW 15 DEX 11
APP 13 EDU 20 SAN 0 HP 13

Weapons: .22 auto 65% 1D6

Skills: Bargain 75%, Credit Rating 80%, Cthulhu Mythos 50%, Fast Talk 80%, Law 95%, Listen 60%, Persuade 90%, Psychology 70%, Latin 95%

Spells: Deflect Harm, Implant Fear, Shrivelling, Voorish Sign

DOLLARD, LLOYD C.: Judge

STR 14 CON 12 SIZ 14 INT 16 POW 12 DEX 11
APP 11 EDU 18 SAN 0 HP 13

Weapons: .38 revolver 55% 1D10
12g shotgun 40% 4D6

Skills: Accounting 45%, Cthulhu Mythos 35%, Law 80%, Persuade 60%

Spells: Implant Fear, Shrivelling

DOLLARD, ROBERT: Mine Owner

STR 14 CON 16 SIZ 14 INT 16 POW 16 DEX 15
APP 15 EDU 18 SAN 0 HP 15

Weapons: 7.65mm auto 70% 1D8
.30-06 rifle 80% 2D6+3
12g shotgun 75% 4/2/1D6

Skills: Bargain 75%, Credit Rating 65%, Cthulhu Mythos 40%

Spells: Clutch of Nyogtha, Deflect Harm, Mental Suggestion, Shrivelling, Voorish Sign

FARLEY, NATHAN A.: University Professor

STR 10 CON 14 SIZ 11 INT 17 POW 16 DEX 8
APP 10 EDU 21 SAN 16 HP 13

Weapons: Fencing foil* 85% 1D6
* Farley was on the US Olympic fencing team in 1904

Skills: Archaeology 95%, Credit Rating 70%, Cthulhu Mythos 10%, Fast Talk 85%, History 95%, Library Use 95%, Occult 60%, Persuade 90%, French 75%, Ancient Greek 80%, Latin 85%.

GRIFFITH, HENRY: Museum Curator

STR 10 CON 10 SIZ 13 INT 12 POW 11 DEX 13
APP 10 EDU 15 SAN 0 HP 12

Weapons: .32 revolver 40% 1D8
12g shotgun 40% 4D6

Skills: Archaeology 65%, Cthulhu Mythos 35%, History 80%, Natural History 50%

Spells: Mental Suggestion

GRIFFITH, J. GILLESPIE: Newspaper Editor

STR 12 CON 17 SIZ 12 INT 14 POW 13 DEX 14
APP 10 EDU 15 SAN 0 HP 15

Weapons: .38 revolver 40% 1D10

Skills: Archaeology 45%, Credit rating 60%, Cthulhu Mythos 40%, Fast Talk 75%, Law 40%, Psychology 70%

Spells: Shrivelling

GRIFFITH, MARTHA

STR 9 CON 14 SIZ 8 INT 16 POW 17 DEX 13
APP 16 EDU 11 SAN 46 HP 12

Skills: Cthulhu Mythos 15%, Dodge 35%, Hide 55%, Jump 45%, Listen 60%, Occult 25%, Sneak 60%

Spells: Deflect Harm, Implant Fear, Voorish Sign

JONES, ANDREW JACKSON: Hermit

STR 9 CON 11 SIZ 13 INT 15 POW 17 DEX 16
APP 13 EDU 17 SAN 85 HP 12

Weapons: .45 revolver 60% 1D10+2
.30-06 rifle 70% 2D6+3
Bowie knife 80% 1D4+2

Skills: Astronomy 80%, Biology 90%, Climb 75%, Conceal 85%, Fast Talk 90%, First Aid 90%,
History 70%, Listen 80%, Medicine 80%, Natural History 100%, Occult 75%, Persuade 90%,
Psychology 90%, Sneak 75%, Spot Hidden 70%, Swim 60%, Throw 85%, Track 95%

PACKER, DR MARY BANNERMAN: Psychiatrist

STR 9 CON 13 SIZ 10 INT 15 POW 14 DEX 12
APP 15 EDU 18 SAN 0 HP 12

Weapons: .32 auto 40% 1D8
.22 rifle 45% 1D6+2

Skills: Anthropology 45%, Cthulhu Mythos 30%, Drive Automobile 55%, Medicine 70%,
Pharmacy 60%, Psychoanalysis 95%, Psychology 90%

Spells: Implant Fear

PACKER, DR WARREN: Psychiatrist

STR 15 CON 10 SIZ 14 INT 15 POW 17 DEX 11
APP 14 EDU 20 SAN 0 HP 12

Weapons: .38 auto 35% 1D10
.30-06 rifle 35% 2D6+3

Skills: Anthropology 55%, Cthulhu Mythos 25%, Drive Automobile 50%, Pharmacy 70%,
Medicine 75%, Psychoanalysis 90%, Psychology 80%

Spells: Mental Suggestion

SULLIVAN, DEAN: Town Clerk

STR 10 CON 9 SIZ 15 INT 11 POW 9 DEX 10
APP 9 EDU 13 SAN 12 HP 12

Weapons: Fist/Punch 60% 1D3+1D4
Knife 40% 1D4+1D4

Skills: Accounting 40%, Cthulhu Mythos 10%, File Records 80%, Law 35%

Spells: Shrivelling

TAYLOR, MEREDITH: Refuge Warden

STR 11 CON 12 SIZ 11 INT 13 POW 12 DEX 12
APP 12 EDU 16 SAN 13 HP 12

Weapons: Club 60% 1D6
.38 revolver 35% 1D10

Skills: Accounting 45%, Cthulhu Mythos 10%, Drive Automobile 30%, First Aid 55%, Hide 45%, Listen 55%, Psychology 50%, Sneak 40%

Spells: Shrivelling, Voorish Sign

WIGGINS, ERNEST: Mine Manager

STR 13 CON 15 SIZ 15 INT 14 POW 8 DEX 11
APP 10 EDU 13 SAN 0 HP 15

Weapons: .45 automatic 60% 1D10+2
.30-06 rifle 50% 2D6+3
Fist/Punch 75% 1D3+1D4
Club 65% 1D8+1D4

Skills: Accounting 50%, Cthulhu Mythos 25%, Fast Talk 45%, Drive Automobile 55%, Electrical Repair 30%, Geology 65%, Mechanical Repair 55%, Operate Heavy Machinery (Mining) 70%

Spells: Deflect Harm, Shrivelling

WIGGINS, MORTIMER: Marshal

STR 15 CON 14 SIZ 16 INT 13 POW 12 DEX 12
APP 12 EDU 14 SAN 0 HP 15

Weapons: .38 revolver* 65% 1D10
.30-06 rifle# 60% 2D6+3
12g shotgun# 70% 4/2/1D6
Nightstick 80% 1D6+1D4
Fist/Punch 90% 1D3+1D4

* carried

in vehicle or office

Skills: Cthulhu Mythos 45%, Drive Automobile 45%, Listen 65%, Plant Evidence 90%,
Psychology 60%, Spot Hidden 55%, Sneak 40%, Track 45%

Spells: Implant Fear, Shrivelling

YATES, GROVER: Refuge Assistant

STR 15 CON 16 SIZ 15 INT 9 POW 10 DEX 8
APP 10 EDU 10 SAN 17 HP 16

Weapons: Fist/Punch 80% 1D3+1D4
Club 70% 1D8+1D4
S/off 20g 70% 2D6/1D3

Skills: Cthulhu Mythos 5%, Dodge 50%, First Aid 35%, Throw 70%

DEPUTY

STR 14 CON 12 SIZ 13 INT 13 POW 11 DEX 12
APP 12 EDU 12 SAN 10 HP 13

Weapons: .38 revolver* 50% 1D10
.30-06 rifle# 50% 2D6+3
12g shotgun# 55% 4/2/1D6
Nightstick 60% 1D6+1D4
Fist/Punch 70% 1D3+1D4

* carried

in vehicle or office

Skills: Cthulhu Mythos 10%, Drive Automobile 60%, Listen 55%, Psychology 45%, Spot
Hidden 60%, Sneak 50%, Track 55%

Spells: Shrivelling

MALE COVEN MEMBER

STR 11 CON 11 SIZ 13 INT 13 POW 11 DEX 10
 APP 10 EDU 12 SAN 0-25 HP 12

Weapons: .32 revolver 40% 1D8
 .30-06 rifle 30% 2D6+3
 20g shotgun 45% 2/1D6
 Fist/Punch 60% 1D3
 Knife 45% 1D6
 Wood Axe 35% 1D8+2
 Club 50% 1D8

Skills: Cthulhu Mythos 5%, Dodge 30%, Hide 35%, Listen 40%, Sneak 30%, Track 20%

Spells: Shrivelling (25% chance) or Voorish Sign (40%)

Notes: No cultist should be equipped with more than two weapons at the same time, and only rarely with two firearms.

FEMALE COVEN MEMBER

STR 10 CON 12 SIZ 9 INT 14 POW 12 DEX 11
 APP 11 EDU 11 SAN 0-25 HP 11

Weapons: .22 revolver 30% 1D6
 Knife 35% 1D4

Skills: Cthulhu Mythos 5%, Dodge 25%, Hide 40%, Listen 45%, Sneak 35%

Spells: Shrivelling (40%) or Voorish Sign (50%)

NYOGTHA

STR 85 CON 40 SIZ 80 INT 20 POW 28 DEX 20
 Move 10 HP 60

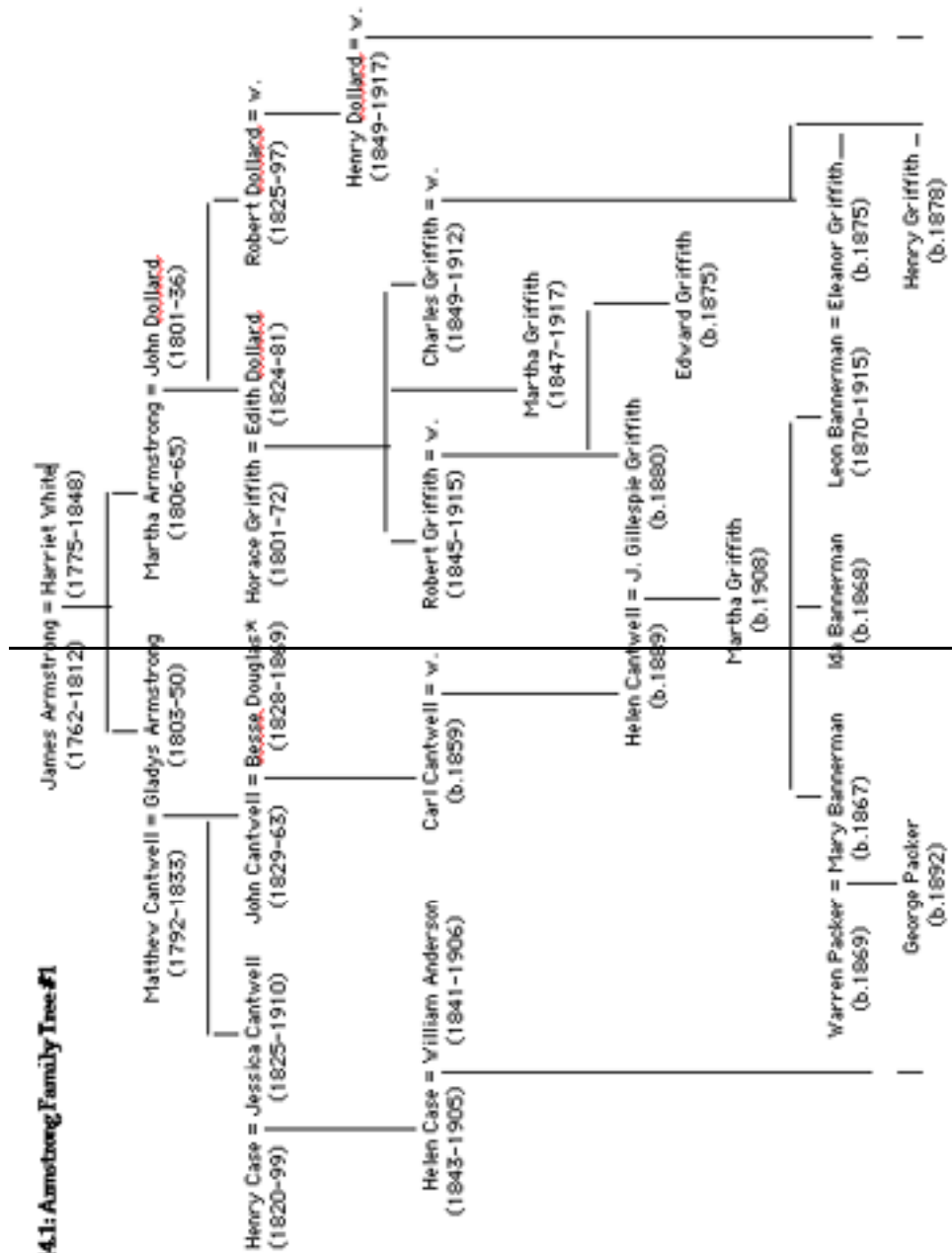
Weapons: Tentacle 100% 1D10 or entrap and grapple

Armour: The first 10 points of total damage received in a combat round are ignored. Nyogtha will be dispelled after receiving 60 points of damage.

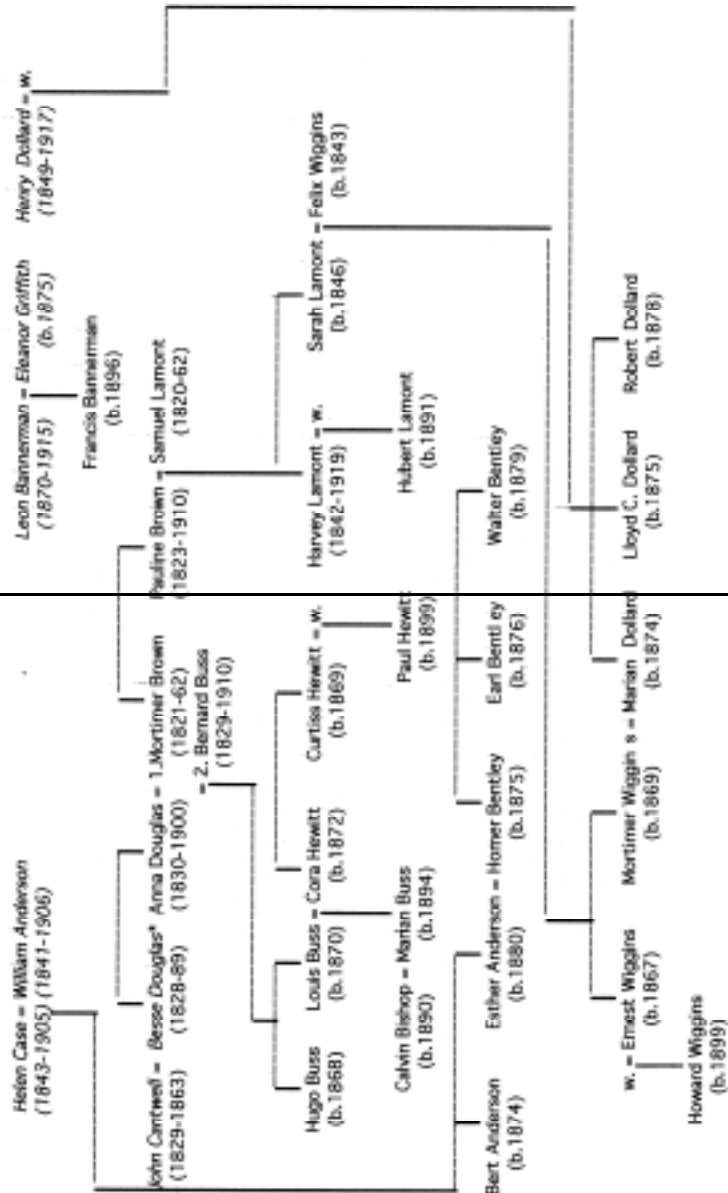
Spells: All Call and Contact spells and Create Gate.

SAN Loss: 1D6/1D20

APF14.1: Armstrong Family Tree #1



AP #14.2: Armstrong Family Tree #2
 Names in italics are brought forwards from #1



The Armstrong Malison: Handouts

AP #3: The Newspaper Cutting

'PROFESSOR' COMMITTED TO ASYLUM

Yesterday County Court Judge Lloyd C. Dollard ordered Nathan A. Farley committed to the County Sanatorium for treatment for a dangerous mental disturbance. Farley, a recent visitor to Armstrong, was arrested by Marshal Wiggins following reports of a violent incident at the home of a prominent resident. This was the latest of several similar incidents involving Farley since he came to our town.

Giving evidence after interviewing Farley, Dr Packer of the County Sanatorium told the Court that Farley is suffering from a mental illness which has led to his violent behavior. Following Dr Packer's expert testimony, Judge Dollard agreed that a jail sentence would be inappropriate for dealing with Farley, who is reputedly a professor of history. He ordered Farley confined for treatment by Dr Packer, the cost to be met from County funds. Farley's committal would be reviewed in three months' time when Dr Packer would make a medical report to the Court. The Marshal's Office was charged with tracing Farley's relatives and notifying them of his committal.

AP #22: Names from Hugo Buss's Diary

Eleanor Bannerman, Francis Bannerman, Ida Bannerman, Cora Buss, Hugo Buss, Louis Buss, Carl Cantwell, Lloyd C. Dollard, Robert Dollard, Henry Griffith, J. Gillespie Griffith, Martha Griffith, Hubert Lamont, Mary Packer, Warren Packer, Meredith Taylor, William Van Dusen, Ernest Wiggins, Felix Wiggins, Howard Wiggins, Mortimer Wiggins, Sarah Wiggins

AP #8: Lewisburg-Armstrong Railroad Timetable

Train Times - Monday-Saturday

| Dep Lewisburg | Arr Armstrong |
|---------------|---------------|
| 0630 | 0830 |
| 0930 | 1130 |
| 1500 | 1700 |
| 1900 | 2100 |

| Dep Armstrong | Arr Lewisburg |
|---------------|---------------|
| 0700 | 0900 |
| 1200 | 1400 |
| 1430 | 1630 |
| 1830 | 2030 |

Adult single fare is \$2.00, adult return fare \$3.75. There are no trains on Sundays.

AP #20: The Inner Circle of the Armstrong Coven

Eleanor Griffith Bannerman, Francis Bannerman, Ida Bannerman, Louis Buss, Lloyd C. Dollard, Robert Dollard, Helen Cantwell Griffith, Henry Griffith, J. Gillespie Griffith, Martha Griffith, Hubert Lamont, Mary Bannerman Packer, Marian Dollard Wiggins

AP #21: The Outer Circle of the Armstrong Coven

Bert Anderson, Earl Bentley, Esther Anderson Bentley, Homer Bentley, Walter Bentley, Hugo Buss, Hubert Lamont, Warren Packer, Dean Sullivan, Meredith Taylor, Ernest Wiggins, Howard Wiggins, Mortimer Wiggins

AP #1: Nathan A. Farley

During your time at _____ University, Nathan Farley was probably your closest friend amongst the teaching staff. A professor of history, he was renowned throughout the university as an erudite scholar with a captivating teaching style and a seemingly unlimited supply of apposite and amusing anecdotes, and he enlivened many a dinner-party with his humorous tales. Never at a loss for a word for anyone, Farley was an eager and confident conversationalist, almost compulsive, and he would talk cheerfully with anyone about anything.

Farley now teaches at _____ University in _____, but in the intervening years since last you worked with him you have continued to keep in touch, exchanging letters and Christmas cards and visiting one another occasionally.

Although his academic specialty is the political history of Colonial and Revolutionary America, he has an almost fanatical interest in occult practices in North America and he has written a number of books on witchcraft in New England. He is a bachelor in his late 50s, has no living relatives and his work dominates his life.

AP #2: The Anonymous Letter

It isn't right what they've done to Professor Farley locking him up in that place for crazy people saying he was violent and dangerous. He was always very kind and polite to me and if he's crazy then so am I. He wrote an envelope for a letter to you just before he was arrested by Marshal Wiggins but didn't finish it which is where I got your address from. I've sent you a cutting from the local paper too. Someone ought to do something about it. I can't because I'm weak and afraid but perhaps you can if you care anything at all for your friend. But be cautious and careful. It'd be best for you if you didn't tell everyone your business. This can be a dark and nasty town for anyone who upsets the people in charge and lots of things aren't talked about or understood by us ordinary folk.

A friend of Professor Farley

PS Here is Armstrong, W.Va.

AP #12: Newspaper Reports Concerning the Dollard Mining Company

*The Armstrong Inquirer, Monday ,
February 18th, 1918*

Yesterday afternoon there was an underground explosion in a gallery of Edith shaft of the North Ridge Mine. Eight miners were killed and three were badly injured. Following the earlier deaths of two miners in Edith shaft last month this incident represents the most serious and shocking tragedy Armstrong has suffered for many years . . .

*The Armstrong Inquirer, Tuesday,
September 30th, 1919*

As anticipated, the geological survey of the Edith shaft of North Ridge Mine, commissioned after the disasters of last year, blames natural causes for the deaths of several miners. It recommends that the shaft not be re-opened as the cost would be excessive and its safety cannot be guaranteed. This news will come as a blow to laid-off miners hoping to return to their jobs, but Mr Dollard told this newspaper that the Dollard Mining Company expects to be able to find work for most of them at the Company's other mines. . .

*The Armstrong Inquirer, Thursday,
September 19th, 1918*

Six men were killed while working in the collapsed galleries of disaster prone Edith shaft yesterday. Their deaths occurred as an underground explosion, probably caused by the build-up of methane gas, ripped through the workings.

Reports from the North Ridge Mine indicate that this latest tragedy probably seals the fate of Edith shaft. Tunnels have collapsed over a wide area and Mr Dollard told this newspaper that the costs and difficulties of repairing the damage may be too much for the Dollard Mining Company to bear. Mr Dollard said that the Company will be conducting a complete engineering and geological survey of Edith shaft before deciding on what course to follow, but that there is little hope of mining restarting in less than a year . . .

*The Armstrong Inquirer, Wednesday,
September 24th, 1919*

State police investigating a fatal accident on the Beckley-Charleston road last Friday night have identified the badly burned body of the driver as that of David McLean from Columbus, Ohio. Apparently Mr McLean's automobile left the road at a dangerous bend and plunged to the bottom of a steep ravine, where it burst into flames.

Many Armstrong residents will be saddened at this news, for they will remember Mr McLean as the cheerful and friendly geologist charged by the Geological Service with conducting a survey of the damaged Edith shaft at North Ridge Mine. Mr McLean's report was submitted to the Geological Service and to the Company on the morning of his tragic death and its findings will be reported next week.

*The Armstrong Inquirer, Tuesday, June
25th, 1918*

The problems of Edith shaft continue to bedevil the North Ridge Mine. Extensive roof collapse has taken place in two of the main galleries and mining will be severely restricted until the galleries can be re-opened. This will take at least two months according to Mr Dollard . . .

AP #13: Newspaper Reports Concerning Armstrong Notables

The Armstrong Inquirer, Monday, April 22nd, 1912

All of Armstrong will be in mourning this week as news reaches our peaceful town that amongst those drowned in the tragic sinking of the liner Titanic last Monday was Mr Charles Griffith, a Director of the Dollard Mining Company and a much respected member of our community. Mr Griffith was returning from Europe where he had been discussing investment possibilities in their mining industry with the Austro-Hungarian Government. . .

The Armstrong Inquirer, Monday, May 17th, 1915

All of Armstrong will be saddened at the news that Mr Robert Griffith, a Director of the Dollard Mining Company and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Armstrong Foundation, is amongst those missing following the torpedoing without warning of the liner Lusitania by a German submarine on May 7th. Mr Griffith was en route to England and Sweden where he was to discuss several business opportunities.

We all recall the tragic death of Mr Griffith's brother, Mr Charles Griffith, in similar circumstances in 1912 when the liner Titanic sank after striking an iceberg.

The Armstrong Inquirer, Friday, April 11th, 1913

Today sees the official opening in Armstrong of the County Sanatorium for treating illnesses of the mind. The sanatorium will provide expert care from Dr Warren Packer and his wife, Dr Mary Bannerman, who is also a respected psychiatrist. The sanatorium will be staffed by fully trained nurses and Dr Packer gave assurances that no one need fear the patients who will come for treatment. "We have come a long way from the times when we thought all mental illnesses indicated a dangerous and violent insanity," he told this newspaper. "We cure people now rather than locking them up to hide our own fears."

The sanatorium has been largely funded by generous grants from the Armstrong Foundation and the Foundation will also provide financial assistance for its operation.

The Armstrong Inquirer, Wednesday, April 17th, 1918

Yesterday saw the opening of the Armstrong Refuge, a charitable institution funded entirely by the generosity of the Armstrong Foundation. The Refuge will provide the homeless who come to its doors with a bed and nourishing food for as long as they want to stay.

Mr Meredith Taylor, Administrator of The Refuge, told this reporter, "This is a welcome day for the needy people who pass through our town. At last they will have somewhere to turn to, somewhere that won't just send them on their way with a kind word and half-a-dollar, but give them a warm bed and hot food for a few weeks, or even longer, so that they can go on their way stronger and better able to face the trials of life . . ."

AP #6: North American Indian Art by Lewis Mason, Mauna Publishers Inc, New York 1914

The cave paintings found near Armstrong, West Virginia, in 1821 have been a source of some dispute amongst scholars of Indian art. Distinct from any other Indian art forms yet discovered, the primitive sketches of monstrous shapes and forms unlike those of any other aboriginal paintings found in North America have led some authorities to doubt their authenticity. Professor Oliver Collier of Miskatonic University is amongst the most sceptical of these authorities, attributing the paintings to an early nineteenth century practical joker. The only alternative is to accept their pre-Columbian origin and a style of art radically different from any other found in North America. The weight of current archaeological and anthropological opinion agrees with Professor Collier's conclusions and the authenticity of the paintings is largely discredited. They remain, however, of some interest to the rare visitor to this part of West Virginia.

AP #7: Cabals, Covens and Cults: Witchcraft and Magic in the Appalachians by Martha Clifford Wells, Goodrich, Brown & Wilson, Baltimore, 1913

Isolated communities have long been associated with primitive beliefs and practices. The high mountains of North America's east coast have been no exception to this rule . . .

Long lost to posterity in the flames of the Civil War, the Reverend Whitfield Scoggin's privately published memoir on manifestations of occultism and black magic in the interior of Virginia, *God's Lost Children*, is reported to have included explicit eye-witness descriptions of devil-worship, necromancy and thaumaturgy in Armstrong County in what is now West Virginia . . .

AP #10: Mildred Baxter's Statement

'Professor Farley was such a nice man. He was a pleasure to have stay with me. So polite and considerate, always please and thank you and never at a loss for something to talk about, not like some of the people I have staying here.

'He was really cheerful the first week or so he was here, but then he got quiet and sort of inside himself and I could tell that something was bothering him, though he was still as nice as pie to me.

'Then he was arrested! Well, when I think about that it just makes me mad. I mean, what a lot of stuff and nonsense about him being violent and crazy. I told the Marshal as much when he came to interview me, but they never let me have my say in court. I was kept away, just like everyone else. Something to do with cameras the Deputy said when I tried to get in, though I don't know what he meant.

'Professor Farley must have upset the people who run this town is all I can say, so they've locked him away where he can't trouble them any more. He probably found out about some shady deal or something that they were up to, I wouldn't be surprised.'

AP #11: Around Armstrong

The Bank: The President of the Armstrong City Bank (on Washington) is Hugo Buss. Hugo is the brother of accountant Louis Buss.

The Dollard Mining Company: The Dollard Mining Company (on South Armstrong) has extensive mining interests. It operates the North Ridge Mine in Armstrong and two other mines in nearby towns - the Big Rock Mine in South Ford and the Eagle Creek Mine in Leman. The company is controlled by the Dollard, Cantwell and Griffith families. Company President is Robert Dollard. The company provides work for a large proportion of the town's labour force. Robert is the brother of Judge Lloyd C. Dollard and Marshal Wiggins' wife Marian.

The Law: The Town Marshal is Mortimer Wiggins. There are four Deputy Marshals; these are Bert Anderson, Homer Bentley, Paul Hewitt and Howard Wiggins. Howard Wiggins is Mortimer Wiggins' nephew.

- Lloyd C. Dollard is the County Judge. His sister Marian is married to Mortimer Wiggins. His brother is Robert Dollard.

- Griffith, Cantwell & Lamont is the local law firm (on West Harriet). The current partners are Carl Cantwell, Francis Bannerman and Hubert Lamont. Carl Cantwell is also Mayor of Armstrong.

Medicine: Dr Warren Packer and his wife Dr Mary Bannerman run the Armstrong County Sanatorium for Illnesses of the Mind (out of town, along East Harriet). The Sanatorium acts as a centre for the treatment of psychological disorders from many towns in this part of West Virginia.

- Drs Edward King and William van Dusen are the local MDs.
- Peter Fiedler is the local pharmacist.

The Museum and Library: Henry Griffith is the Curator of the Armstrong Museum (junction of Columbus/South Armstrong). The Museum has a great deal of material on the development of mining in Armstrong, as well as an extensive collection of locally found items of historical interest, including fossils discovered during mining operations and several Indian artifacts. It houses the Armstrong-Griffith Collection, a collection of paintings by minor European and American masters. There is a section devoted to the contribution of the Armstrong, Cantwell, Dollard and Griffith families to the development and prosperity of Armstrong. Henry's sister Eleanor was married to Leon Bannerman, brother to Mary Packer and Ida Bannerman.

- Ida Bannerman is Chief Librarian at the Armstrong Library (junction of Columbus/South Armstrong). The Library has many books dealing with local history, geography, geology and botany. There is a large collection of occult works also. Ida's sister Mary is married to Dr Warren Packer; her brother was married to Eleanor Griffith until his death in 1915.

The Museum and the Library are both funded by the Armstrong Foundation.

The Newspaper: The local newspaper is The Armstrong Inquirer (junction of West Harriet/South Armstrong). Its proprietor and editor is J. Gillespie Griffith. Chester Glass's by-line appears on many of the stories printed. Griffith is Eleanor Bannerman's cousin.

The Refuge: The Refuge (north along Sherman) is a small charitable institution devoted to providing a temporary haven for down-and-outs seeking a bed and a meal. It welcomes the destitute from wherever they might come, so long as it has room for them. It also helps needy families in and around Armstrong with food. It has accommodation for about twenty-five individuals, although it can usually squeeze one or two more in if required. The Refuge is run by Meredith Taylor and funded by the Armstrong Foundation.

Speakeasies: There are two speakeasies in Armstrong, Casey's (west along West Harriet) catering for the lower end of the market and The Blue Sapphire (south along Washington) for the higher.

The Telephone Company: the exchange for the Armstrong Telephone Company can be found on the corner of Washington and Columbus. The 'phone company is owned by Eleanor Bannerman. The exchange is operated by Barbara Jessel.

The Post Office: the Post Office is on the corner of Washington and West Harriet. The post mistress is Mae Hodgins.

Eating Places: Food is served at The Chelsea Diner (Tom and Joyce Gaff), Lucy's Kitchen (Lucy Clark) and The Blue Sapphire speakeasy.

AP #15: Harry Bekker's Information

Harry Bekker identifies the staff of Dr Packer's sanatorium as:

'... two shrinks – that's Packer and his wife, only she's called Doc Bannerman - and six nurses - three men and three women. The shrinks, they're 'bout as crazy as you'd reckon 'em to be, but I guess the nurses ain't too bad, least ways not if you don't give 'em no trouble. There're a coupla kitchen skivvies and a kinda general fella who looks after the grounds - he's sorta weird, crazy eyes, he oughta be a patient. Oh yeah, and a secertery - kinda cute, I guess.'

AP #16: The Industrial Workers of the World, aka The Wobblies

The IWW was founded in Chicago in 1905 in opposition to the 'establishment' policies of the American Federation of Labor. The founders included William D. Haywood of the Western Federation of Miners, Daniel DeLeon of the Socialist Labor Party, and Eugene V. Debs of the Socialist Party.

The IWW was riven by internal strife, however. In 1906 the Western Federation of Miners withdrew from the IWW and in 1908 the IWW split into two factions, one supporting political action for its goals, the other general strikes, boycotts and sabotage. Under Vincent St. John and William Haywood the revolutionary faction took control of the IWW and the Wobblies became a revoltionary organisation dedicated to gaining control of the means of production.

The IWW's original aim had been to organise skilled and unskilled workers into one union and then to call a general strike which would topple capitalism and establish a socialist industrial democracy. After 1908, however, more and more the Wobblies concentrated its efforts amongst unskilled workers. Because they carried all their belongings with them in a bindle, vagabond agents of the IWW became known as 'bindlestiffs'.

In 1915 the execution of IWW organiser Joe Hill for a murder of which he was possibly innocent gave the movement a folk hero and martyr throughout the labour movement, and the Wobblies achieved some notable successes amongst the mining and lumbering industries in the Pacific north-west. However, as the only labour organisation to oppose US involvement in the Great War, the IWW made itself vulnerable to establishment action supported by post-war popular anti-radicalism. The Sabotage and Espionage Acts were used to prosecute and jail IWW leaders, the Red scares of 1919 and 1920 also saw IWW activists rounded up and jailed and the organisation was widely harassed by local officials and vigilantes. By 1923 the effectiveness of the Wobblies is clearly on the wane.

AP #18: Edward's Letter to Eleanor

My Dear Cousin,

I know it has been an uncommonly long time since we were in touch with one another. I suspect that you still harbor ill-feelings towards me for my abrupt departure with Dei Veri, but I always believed that it would serve me better than those I left behind me and I think I have been proved right. I know that Father and Uncle Charles were really quite angry with me, but in spite of their anger truly I regret missing their funerals, despite the senseless beatings they used to visit upon me. Although, of course, since their bodies were never recovered they were only memorial services and so perhaps not that important after all. Oh well, one must learn to live with these disappointments.

I think Aunt Martha was quite upset with me too, which is sad because of the three it was always she that I was almost fond of. I presume that, following her death, you have stepped capably into the shoes she has left vacant.

Enough of family chit-chat.

As a lingering token of my sincere affection for my dearest cousin and, if you wish, a gesture of reconciliation which I hope you will accept in the spirit in which it is offered, the enclosed stock certificates are for you to do with as you please.

Your always affectionate cousin,

Edward

AP #19: A Glossary of Some Mining Terms

Cage: The lift or elevator in which personnel are winched up and down a mine shaft.

Creep: Where pillars were cut too small and the floor of the mine was of soft fireclay, the floor could burst upwards as the pillars were pushed into the floor by the weight of rock above.

Crush: Less common than creep, but similar in effect except that the pillars would simply be crushed by the roof settling down.

Drift: A horizontal tunnel dug to allow the extraction of coal underground.

Head frame: The wooden or metal framework through which runs the cables and guides for raising and lowering cages and trams.

Hoist house: The building housing the winch machinery for raising and lowering cages and trams.

Room and pillar: A method of deep mining where two or more parallel galleries are dug with cross-cuts joining them for ventilation and haulage. 'Rooms' are excavated perpendicular to the galleries as the coal is removed. The 'pillars' between the rooms serve to support tunnel roofs. In practice, the layout of galleries, cross-cuts and rooms may deviate significantly from the geometric precision of the ideal layout.

Raise: A vertical tunnel dug upwards from one level of a mine to a higher level.

Shaft: A vertical or sloping tunnel dug from the surface to the level(s) at which coal is to be mined.

Tram: A small, wheeled wagon for carrying coal underground and capable of being winched up the shaft.

Winze: A vertical tunnel dug downwards from one level of a mine to a lower level.

AP #17: The Bureau of Investigation

The Bureau of Investigation was set up by Attorney General Charles Joseph Bonaparte in 1908 as a small group of investigators within the Department of Justice to pursue land thieves in the West and trusts in the East. During the Great War various espionage laws and the Selective Service Act widened the Bureau's duties, as did the National Motor Vehicle Theft Act of 1919. In December 1919 and January 1920 the Bureau was widely used in raids on suspected Bolsheviks and subversives.

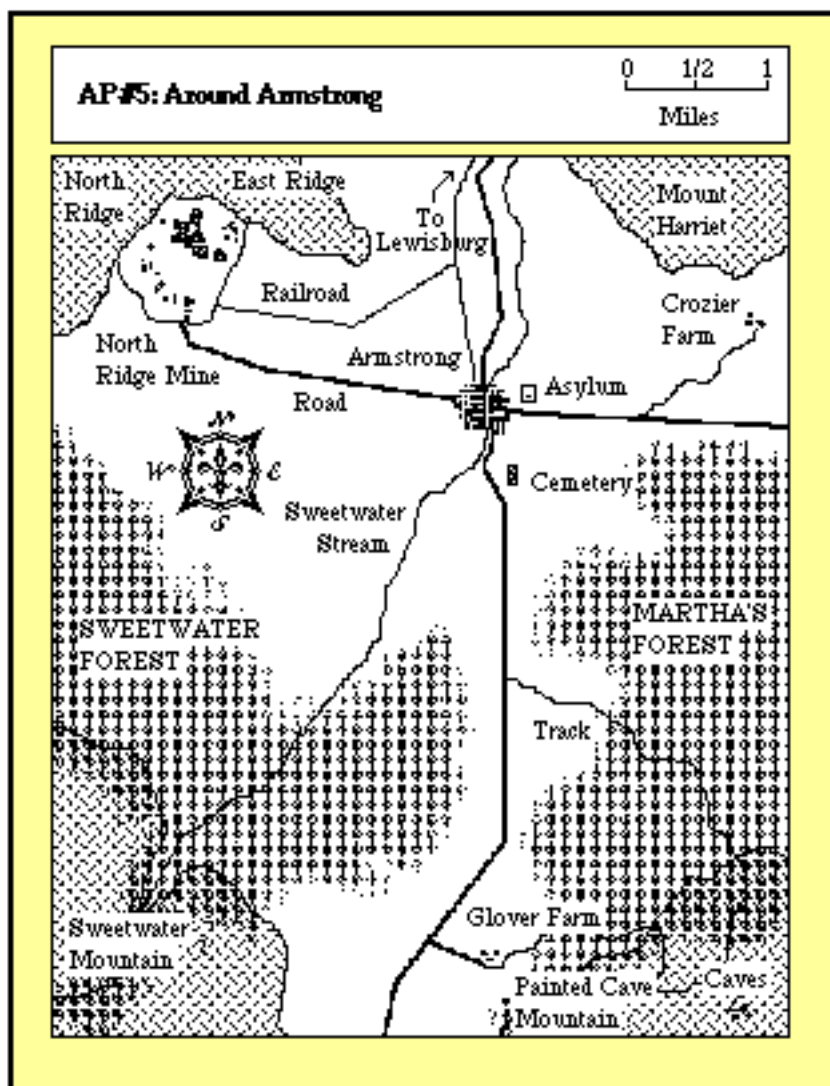
By 1923 the Bureau is widely seen as corrupt and disorganized.

**AP #4: The Mining Towns of West Virginia by Howard Potter, Pillar Publishers Inc.,
Charleston, W.Va., 1912**

1. Founded in 1805 and named after James Armstrong (1762-1812), who first settled there and was the community's first mayor.

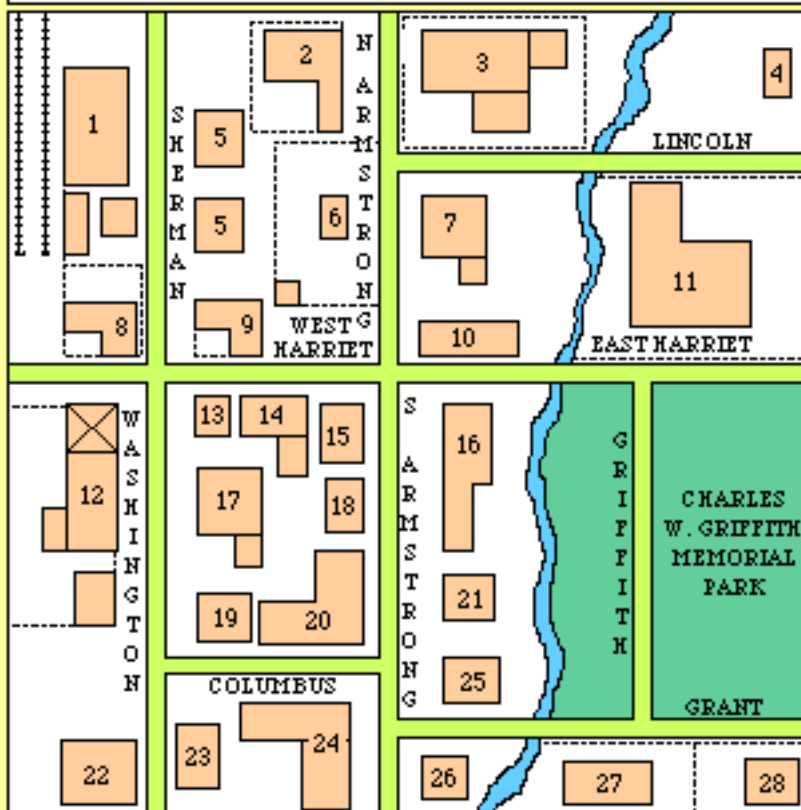
2. The town is the county seat of Armstrong County. Its population in 1910 was 1,953.

3. The Dollard Mining Company was then the principal employer in Armstrong. It owned three coal mines - the North Ridge Mine in Armstrong and the Big Rock and Eagle Creek Mines near Lewisburg.



AP#9: Armstrong Town Centre

0ft 30ft 60ft



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Railroad Station | 16 Town Hall |
| 2 The Refuge | 17 Armstrong Hotel |
| 3 Armstrong Hospital | 18 Drugstore |
| 4 Dr Van Dusen | 19 Store |
| 5 Rooming Houses | 20 Library |
| 6 Builder's Yard | 21 Dr King |
| 7 Garage | 22 Robert Dollard |
| 8 Marshal's Office | 23 Louis Buss |
| 9 Methodist Chapel | 24 Museum |
| 10 Stores | 25 Store |
| 11 Armstrong High | 26 Empty House |
| 12 Church & Manse | 27 Eleanor Bannerman |
| 13 Store | 28 Lloyd Dollard |
| 14 Griffith, Cantwell & Lamont | |
| 15 Armstrong Enquirer | |

North Ridge Mine

