

## Consolidated Light and Power Co. (Ronceverte)

### Business Timeline

**September 1905** Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows Ronceverte Electric Light Works had one dynamo and one 40' chimney at its light plant on Monroe Ave opposite the end of Chestnut St.

**October 1907** Blue Grass Milling sells its light plant to Consolidated Light and Power Co.

**September 1910** Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Ronceverte): Consolidated Light & Power has 2 dynamos and two 40' chimneys

**February 1914** Consolidated Light and Power sells its assets to Virginia Western Co.

**June 1921** Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Ronceverte): Virginia Western only has a supply room and office, the dynamos and chimneys had been removed.

There is a very interesting article in the May 23, 2017 issue of the [Mountain Messenger](#) that describes the history of the electric power plants in Ronceverte,

**Deed 83-635** October 1, 1907 (excerpts)

*The Blue Grass Milling company sells the electric light plant with all equipment, less boilers, to the Consolidated Light and Power Co.*

“This deed, made this 1<sup>st</sup> day of October, 1907, between the Blue Grass Milling Company, party of the first part, and the Consolidated Light and Power Company . . . WITNESSETH: That in consideration of the sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars . . . doth hereby sell, transfer, set over and deliver unto the said party of the second part, its successors and assigns, the electric light plant, equipment and outfit, which it, the said party of the first part, has been operating, in connection with its milling business, in the town of Lewisburg, West Virginia, the said plant including the large Corliss engine, the Bullock dynamo, about fourteen feet of line shafting, belting, switch-boards, transformers, poles, wires, material on hand, etc., it being the intention hereof to include in said sale the entire electric light plant, outfit, and equipment, except the boilers, which are expressly not sold, and including such franchises as the said party of the first part may own for operating the said plant . . . shall have (*for six months*) the right to continue to operate said plant at its present location, on the property of the party of the first part until the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 1908, but shall have the right to take away sooner if it shall so elect. And in lieu of rent for the use of and occupancy of the building, and the use of the boilers in the boiler house, which are property of the party of the first part, the party of the second part agree to supply and furnish to the party of the first part, coal sufficient to run its mill during the day-time, the quantity thereof for such purpose not to exceed one ton per day when said mill is actually running, and the party of the first part shall have all the coal, that is, all that is used by both of the parties hereto, in the operation of said plants, from the bins of the Lewisburg Supply Company to the coal-houses at said plants; and the party of the second part agrees to furnish to the party of the first part free of charge, light for its mill-plant so long as the said light plant is operated at its present location . . . “

**Deed 86-102** February 9, 1914 (excerpts)

*The Consolidated Light and Power Company sells all its assets to the Virginia Western Company for \$50,000.*

“This deed made this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1914 between the Consolidated Light and Power Company, a West Virginia corporation, of the first part, and the Virginia Western Company, a Virginia corporation . . . WHEREAS At a general meeting of the stockholders, . . . Mr. Van Sickler reported to the meeting that he had negotiated the sale of all of the assets, rights, and franchises, property, poles, wires and all other things belonging to the Company, except its bills and accounts receivable prior to

January 1<sup>st</sup> 1914 to the Virginia Western Power Company, at the price of fifty thousand dollars . . . All of the right,title, and interest of the party of the first part in and to that part of Chestnut Street . . . all buildings and improvements situate and being on said two parcels of land, and all machinery, boilers and engines, electrical appliances, equipment and all other things connected with or used in said building, in the operation of the business conducted, and all appurtenances, rights and privileges,appurtenant to or used in connection with the plant located on said lot . . . and all the rights, privileges and franchises from the City of Ronceverte, and from the County of Greenbrier, and from the Lewisburg and Ronceverte Electric Railway Company and in and from the Town of Lewisburg, also all equipment,supplies, poles, wires, meters,transformers, and other property . . . of whatever kind or description and wherever located . . . Also the right to the grantee to use and maintain certain poles and wires now in the right of way of the Lewisburg & Ronceverte Electric railway company, for the purpose of transmitting over the same current for light and power and other purposes, but subject to the right of said Railway Company, to attach its span wires and feed wires to any of the said light poles on said right of way, provided said Railway Company properly stay or brace said poles and make proper installation . . . “

This [brief history](#) of the L&R Railway Company is taken from the 10/16/2015 Beckley Register-Herald article by Tina Alvey:

“The L&R began operations in 1907, transporting coal from the C&O’s main line in Ronceverte to a point in Fairlea where the coal was off-loaded and carried in wagons to Lewisburg. A leg of the L&R was later extended from Fairlea to the site of the present Morgan Manor on Echols Lane, leading to the construction of the passenger depot now owned by the Johnsons and freight buildings.

The line was extended further in 1918, through Lewisburg’s Graham addition and along the east side of the Old Stone Presbyterian Church Cemetery past the current location of the True Value hardware store on Court Street and ending at the Neely Building, where there was another passenger station.

A victim of the increasing popularity of freight-hauling trucks, the L&R folded in 1931. In recent years, the towns for which the railroad was named have joined forces to construct a hiking trail along the L&R’s route.”

#### **References:**

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, Sanborn Maps Collection, West Virginia, Ronceverte

The complete deeds are on file in the County Clerk's office at the Greenbrier County Courthouse.