Oxford, Miss., Sept. 25 --- Facing south atop a 30 foot monument on the courthouse square here stands a goateed Confederate soldier.

In his shadow today stood more than two dozen Mississippi sheriffs, deputies, constables and other peace officers, their faces as grave as the granite faced Confederates above them.

Tragically, there exists a symbolism between the two.

The War Between the States pitted brother against brother, kin against kin, and in no profession are bonds of brotherhood stronger than in law enforcement. And this marriage of the badge also include federal officers as well.

Yet those officers here today partly wait for a showdown they hope never comes: the mounting possibility their jurisdiction may mean battle of a open clash of jurisdiction between them and federal lawmen.

It is not a joking matter and there is no joking.

Even today should an agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or a United States Marshal be killed or assaulted by a bank robber or prisoners, the officers standing beneath Layafette county's Confederate memorial would scatter...