

# A SESQUICENTENNIAL ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ MOMENT

JANUARY 19 - 25, 1862

**Murder and arson struck terror in the hearts of many Pocahontas County residents on both sides of the war during the third week of January 1862.**

*On Jan. 24, 1862, about a dozen drunken men abducted the Rev. Henry Arbogast, Eli Buzzard and Timothy Alderman from their homes.*

They told the men they were being taken to Huntersville to answer charges of being Union supporters. But the Baptist Banner reported that after traveling a short distance, the outlaws instead “shot them down like dogs, and left their lifeless bodies lying in the road.”

The next day arsonists set fire to Confederate supporter M.B. Gillilan’s stables, killing five horses and destroying grain and equipment worth more than \$1,800. The Staunton Spectator suggested The fire was an act of revenge.

The newspaper later urged citizens to exercise “sufficient vigilance to detect some of these vile rascals and succeed in having justice served to them.”

Months later, Pocahontas County Prosecutor William Skeen asked the commanding general in the area to disband the Confederate rangers in the county and bring two of them to justice for the murders of Arbogast, Buzzard, and Alderman. According to Skeen, “these lawless banditti” were a threat to Union and Confederate supporters alike.

*This sesquicentennial moment is brought to you by the West Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Archives and History Section.*

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