

JULY 14-20, 1861

"It is now forgotten except by those, who then first met the enemy & who will still talk of 'Scary' around their campfires."

Those words from Confederate Colonel George S. Patton note the July 17, 1861, battle of Scary Creek in Putnam County.

Union troops commanded by Gen. Jacob D. Cox landed in western Virginia and dislodged secessionist militia at Barboursville on July 13 before advancing into the Kanawha Valley. Four days later, both sides suffered heavy losses at Scary Creek. Confederate forces claimed victory by returning to the battlefield after the Union army withdrew. Their victory was hollow, however, as they were forced to evacuate the Kanawha Valley a few days later.

The campaign helped to secured Union control of western Virginia and allowed delegates working in Wheeling to worry less about the possibility of a Confederate attack.



George Patton



Jacob Cox

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