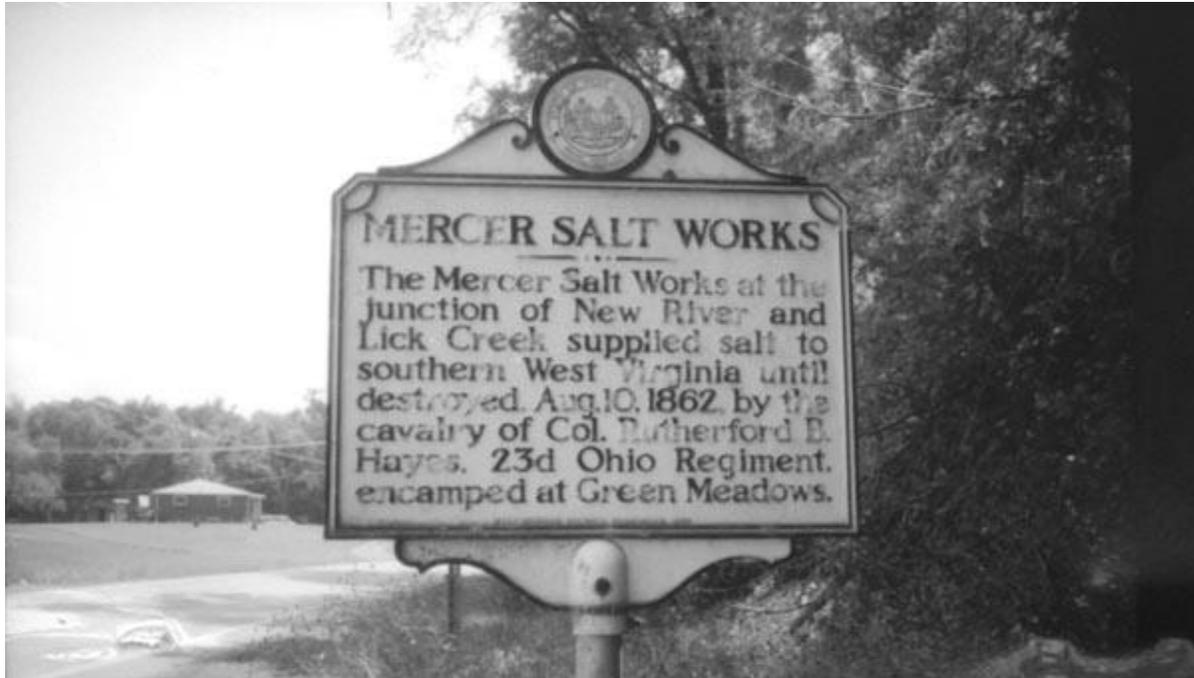


### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY AUGUST 10



**On August 10, 1862, Union troops destroyed the Mercer Salt Works in present-day Summers County.**

**CSO: SS.8.22 and SS.8.13**

**Investigate the Document:** (*The New- Kanawha River and the mine war of West Virginia*, 38; Ma132-9)

1. The Mercer Salt Works was found near the mouth of *this* body of water in present-day Summers County.
2. Who was the commanding officer of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Regiment at the time? To what prominent position would this man later be elected in 1876?
3. Use the map and excerpt to answer the following:
  - a. After reading the excerpt 'Mercer Salt Works Destroyed,' can you conclude what the blue square on the map signifies?
  - b. Can you locate the Mercer Salt Works' location?

**Think Critically:** Why was salt important to armies of both sides? Where were the largest salt works in western Virginia?

## Mercer Salt Works Destroyed

Before the Civil War, salt for the New River Territory was provided by an elaborate salt works on New River near the mouth of Lick Creek, now in Summers County, West Virginia, but then in Mercer County. It was known as the Mercer Salt Works.

The 23rd Ohio Regiment was encamped on August 10, 1862 at Camp Green Meadows near the mouth of Bluestone River—with Lieut. Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes in command.

He dispatched a detachment of cavalry to ride to the salt works and destroy it and it never operated after that date. The cavalry rode 50 miles that night. They reached the salt works at 2 A. M., found it going full blast, with steam operation, and it was burned out “root and branch.” No one was hurt, but three horses were badly wounded.

One volley was fired, then the salt works was burned to the ground.

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