A Sesquicentennial

JANUARY 12 - 18, 1862

Hostility toward the Union cost Logan County its courthouse during this week in January 1862.

Union Col. Edward Siber wrote in a dispatch to headquarters that except for Union settlements in Hewitt and Spruce Fork, everyone between Little Coal and Guyandotte was "in the highest degree hostile to the Union."

Siber also noted that many of Logan's public buildings were being used as barracks and refuges for the rebel cavalry.

Photograph provided by the West Virginia State Archives.

Before Union troops arrived, all of the town's men had left town with their rifles and positioned themselves on a steep mountain on the other side of the Guyandotte River.

After clashing with Confederates along the river from Chapmanville to Logan, Union troops seized control of Logan.

Siber said that because the Confederate sympathizers "acted with so much animosity and treachery," on Jan. 15 he ordered the public buildings in town burned. He said it was his duty "to deprive the enemy of such position, only valuable to him and useless to us."



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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