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## SEPT. 7 - 13, 1862

On Sept. 13, 1862, Confederates seized control of the city of Charleston and the Kanawha County saltworks.

Nearly 5,000 Confederate soldiers captured the city after what Confederate Gen. William W. Loring described as "a stout resistance from the enemy."

In a Sept. 14 dispatch to Secretary of War George W. Randolph in Richmond, Loring said that besides inflicting great loss to the enemy, his troops captured wagons and horses worth at least \$1 million.

His troops also found a huge stockpile of salt, which was a valuable commodity during the war because it was used to preserve food and cure leather.

## The Kanawha Valley.

Our forces defeated at Charleston, Va., have fallen back to Ripley, Va. village about thirty miles east from Point Pleasant. The whole Kanawha Valley is now in possession of the rebels. lieved that Humphrey Marshall is there. and that the rebel forces altogether number ten to fifteen thousand. Our scattered troops are concentrating on the Onio river. We do not anticipate a raid in Ohio, but unless prompt measures are adopted to meet and drive back the enemy, Western Virginia will suffer. The crops are good in that section, and the rebels are in want of food

Despite that coup, though, the Confederacy was unable to sustain its stronghold in the Kanawha Valley. Six weeks after taking the city, Loring's troops were forced to withdraw under the threat of 12,000 Union soldiers approaching from the northeast.

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.