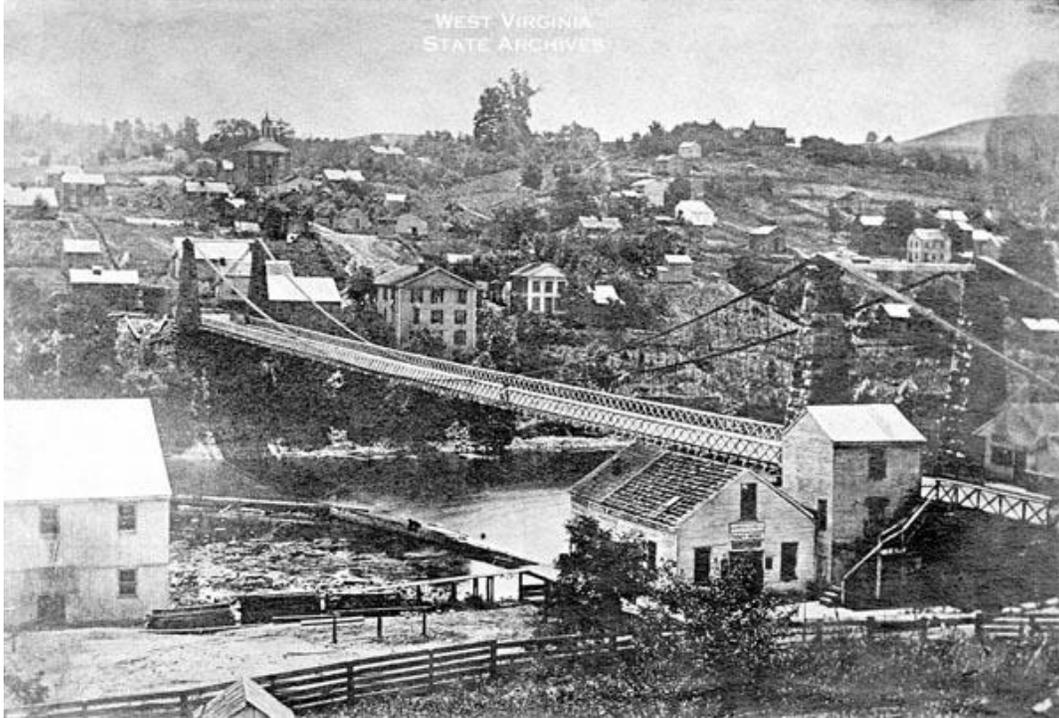


### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY APRIL 29



Undated photograph of Fairmont, showing suspension bridge

**On April 29, 1863, Confederate troops under General William Jones captured the town of Fairmont.**

**CSO: SS.8.22, ELA.8.1**

**Investigate the Document: (Letter, F. W. Cunningham to Francis P. Pierpont, regarding parole status of Union militia captured at the Battle of Fairmont; Bible, Francis Pierpont; Muster Card, Theo. Coffman)**

1. On April 29, 1863, Confederate General William “Grumble” Jones attacked the town of Fairmont, capturing \_\_\_\_ Union militiamen before paroling them under what condition(s)? What did Jones say would be the consequences for violating their parole? (Use the text to cite his words.)
2. What was Governor Pierpont’s stance on the parole given by Jones to the Union militia at Fairmont?
3. Although anxious, Captain William Hall ordered his men to take up arms due to what he felt were indirect orders from whom? How did his men feel about this response?

**Think Critically:** William “Grumble” Jones captured Fairmont during the month-long Jones-Imboden Raid, which had what three primary objectives? How did the capture of Fairmont fit into this plan?

Jefferson Harrison Co. W.V. Aug 30<sup>th</sup> /63  
General. F. H. Pierpont,

Sir, Admit  
me through the medium of the pen  
to lay before you for your decision  
a subject of importance.

At the Battle of Fairmont, the Rebel  
Gen. Jones succeeded in capturing some  
sixty of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of Va. Volunteer  
Militia, and paroled them on the spot with  
the understanding that if they violated  
it they should be severely dealt with.

The Government refused to recognize  
this parole as being legal. But Governor.

F. H. Pierpont, after due consideration  
advised them to respect it as a violation  
of it might not only jeopardize their  
own lives but that of the entire militia  
of West Va. should they fall into  
their hands.

Notwithstanding this advice

Capt. Wm Hall of Company C. (Who was paroled) being anxious to hold his command has ordered ordered his men to again take up arms under what he claims to be orders indirectly from you. A majority of our men are greatly dissatisfied with this decision as they took the obligation in good faith in preference to being incarcerated in a Rebel Prison. Many of them are conscientiously indisposed to taking up arms to say nothing of dangers to which they would be subject in so doing.

Therefore I humbly appeal to you to relieve those from further duty untilt legally exchanged

I am Sir very Respectfully  
yours Oth. Serot

O. W. Cunningham  
acting 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. Com. Co. 1<sup>st</sup> Bat. 176<sup>th</sup> Reg. W. V. Militia

