

### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY AUGUST 27



Junction of Anthony's Creek and the James River and Kanawha Turnpike, scene of the Battle of White Sulphur Springs

**Confederate forces defeated Union troops led by General William Averell at the Battle of White Sulphur Springs, fought on August 26-27, 1863.**

#### CSO: SS.8.22

**Investigate the Document: (War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union & Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol. 29, Part I Reports)**

1. Brigadier General William W. Averell led an expedition through these five counties in August 1863.  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where does General Averell state in his correspondence that he fought in a severe engagement?
3. What essential resource was destroyed by the Union soldiers?

**Think Critically:** Throughout Major William McLaughlin's report he references a "battery." What is a battery? What well-known destination is located in White Sulphur Springs?

- No. 4.—Col. William L. Jackson, Nineteenth Virginia Cavalry, commanding brigade, of operations August 21–29.
- No. 5.—Col. George S. Patton, Twenty-second Virginia Infantry, commanding brigade.
- No. 6.—Col. James M. Corns, Eighth Virginia Cavalry.
- No. 7.—Maj. R. Augustus Bailey, Twenty-second Virginia Infantry.
- No. 8.—Lieut. Col. Clarence Derrick, Twenty-third Virginia Infantry Battalion.
- No. 9.—Lieut. Col. George M. Edgar, Twenty-sixth Virginia Infantry Battalion.
- No. 10.—Col. William H. Browne, Forty-fifth Virginia Infantry.
- No. 11.—Maj. William McLaughlin, C. S. Artillery.
- No. 12.—Capt. George B. Chapman, C. S. Artillery.

No. 1.

*Reports of Brig. Gen. William W. Averell, U. S. Army, commanding expedition, of operations August 5–31.*

HUTTONSVILLE, VA.,  
August 30, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report the safe return of my command to this place after an expedition through the counties of Hardy, Pendleton, Highland, Bath, Greenbrier, and Pocahontas. We drove General Jackson out of Pocahontas and over the Warm Springs Mountain in a series of skirmishes, destroyed their saltpeter-works; burned Camp Northwest, and a large amount of arms, equipments, and stores; fought a severe engagement, with a superior force under command of Maj. Gen. Samuel Jones and Colonel Patton, at Rocky Gap, near White Sulphur Springs.

The battle lasted during two days. We drove the enemy from his first position, but the want of ammunition, and the arrival on the second day of three regiments to re-enforce the enemy from the direction whence the co-operation of General Scammon had been promised, decided me to withdraw. My command was withdrawn in good order, with the loss of only 2 men during the operation.

Our loss in the battle is probably over 100 officers and men killed and wounded, among whom are Capt. Paul Baron von Koenig, aide-de-camp, killed while leading an assault upon the enemy's right, and Major McNally, Second [West] Virginia, and Captain Ewing, artillery, dangerously wounded. I have reason to believe the enemy's loss equal to, if not greater, than our own.

One Parrott gun burst the first day, and, becoming worthless, was abandoned. Great efforts up to noon to-day have been made by the combined forces of Imboden and Jackson to prevent our return, but without success.

We have brought in over 30 prisoners, including a major and 2 or 3 lieutenants, a large number of cattle, horses, &c. Your aide-de-camp, Lieut. J. R. Meigs, who accompanied me, is safe.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
WM. W. AVERELL,  
Brigadier-General.

Brigadier-General KELLEY.

My surgeon, Dr. B. H. Hoyt, rendered every needful attention to the wounded, and exhibited the highest surgical skill in his operations and treatment.

Inclosed you will find a list\* of the casualties in my regiment resulting from the action.

Your obedient servant,

WM. H. BROWNE,  
*Colonel, Comanding Forty-fifth Virginia Regiment.*

Col. GEORGE S. PATTON,  
*Commanding First Brigade, Army of Western Virginia.*

No. 11.

*Report of Maj. William McLaughlin, C. S. Artillery.*

LEWISBURG, W. VA.,  
*August 31, 1863.*

COLONEL: At your request I submit the following report of the operations of the artillery in the battle of White Sulphur Springs on the 26th and 27th instant:

Having ascertained that the enemy were advancing in force, I ordered up two pieces of Captain Chapman's battery, which were rapidly brought up and placed in position and opened upon the enemy, which, with the assistance of Captain Read's company of the Twenty-sixth Virginia Battalion deployed as skirmishers, succeeded in checking the enemy until the other troops could be put in position. The other two pieces of the battery were soon placed in position in the same neighborhood.

This battery (the only one present) then engaged the enemy's battery of four Parrott and two 6-pounder guns, and at intervals during the day and the morning of the next day continued to fire upon the enemy's artillery and infantry, a more detailed statement of which will be found in Captain Chapman's report.

It affords me great pleasure to bear testimony to the efficiency with which the battery was handled, and to its marked effect upon the enemy, as attested by the destruction of the timber in and around his battery, and by one of his guns being permanently disabled and another dismounted, the carriage of which was left upon the field.

The men of the battery stood bravely and steadily by their guns, though subjected to a steady, hot, and well-directed fire from the enemy's guns, and too much credit cannot be awarded to Captain Chapman for the zeal, gallantry, and energy displayed by him throughout the engagement.

I have the honor to be, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM McLAUGHLIN,  
*Major, Commanding Artillery, Dept. of Western Virginia.*

Col. GEORGE S. PATTON,  
*Commanding First Brigade.*