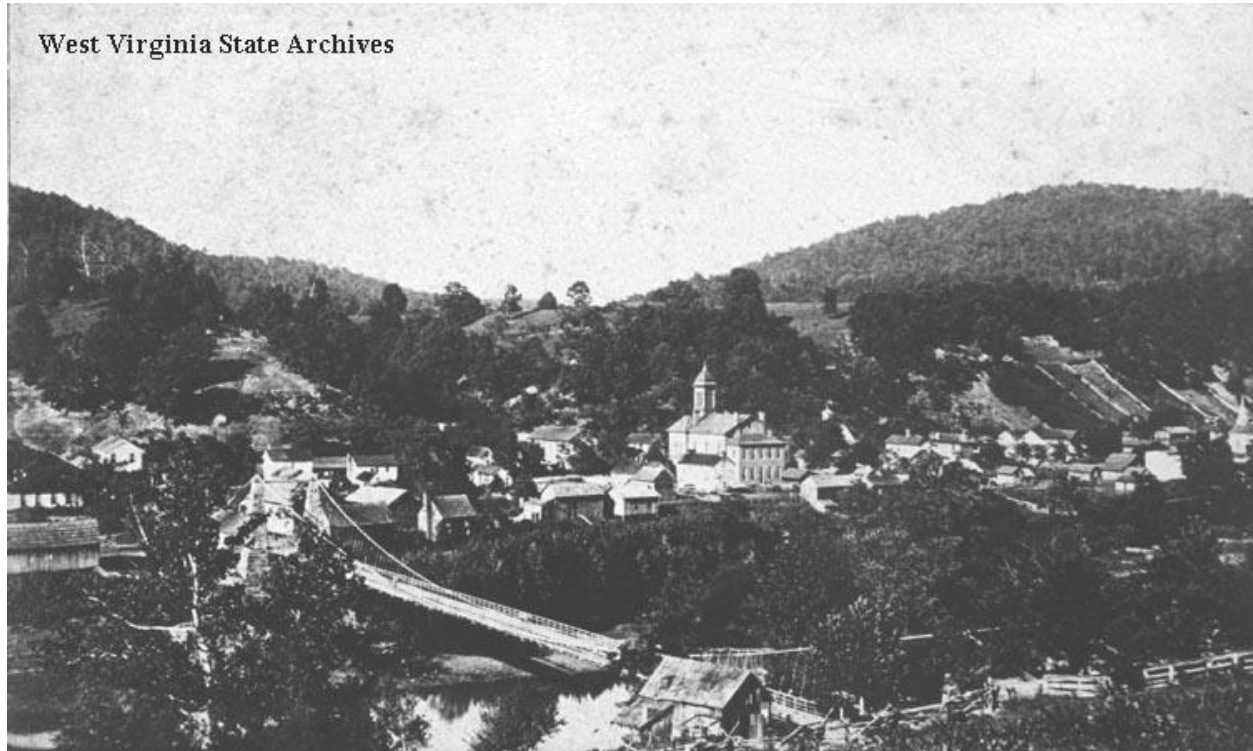


ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY DECEMBER 29



The town of Sutton was burned by Confederate raiders on December 29, 1861.

CSO: SS.8.22, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (West Virginia Adjutant Generals' Papers, Ar382, Box 17)

1. To whom is this letter addressed?
2. What is the letter reporting?
3. What two other structures were burnt as Union forces were pursued by the Confederates?
4. Union forces retreated to _____?
5. How many wounded were there as a result of the battle?

Think Critically: Who was the commander of the company? Where was he during the encounter? Who actually commanded the Union company during the encounter with Confederate forces? Does this letter from Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Maley Harris give you the impression that the Union company was caught off guard?

T. M. Harris^r

113

Clarksburg Dec 31st 1861.

Gen. F. W. Peirpoint,

Dear Sir,

You will have learned ere
this reach you that the
town of Sutton in Braxton
Co. has fallen into the hands
of the rebels. The amt.
of Military Stores which we
had there I learn was small.

The town was held by ~~one~~
Company of Cavalry belonging
to the 1st Va. commanded by
Capt. Rowan who unfortunately
was absent and had been
several days from his com-
mand. His first Lieut. was
also absent. The Company
under the command of
the second Lieut. acted

²
I am told with great cool-
ness and bravery defending
the town from behind forti-
fications erected by Col.
Seyler of the Ohio Yrs on
his first driving the rebels
from that County from
half past 10 o'clock A.M.
until 4 o'clock P.M.
against a greatly superior
force and only retiring
when their ammunition
was exhausted. They
report that from the light
which arose behind them
on their retiring and which
continued for some hours
they have no doubt that
the rebels burnt the
town. They also report
that they were pursued
for several miles that
on their retreat towards

3
Weston and that the
two Churches at the
Flat woods eight miles
this side of Sutton
which had been used
during the fall by two
Companies belonging to
the 3. Va that were
encamped at that place
for some two or three
months during the fall
and that have but
recently been ordered
away from there were
also burnt by the rebels
in their pursuit.

All the accounts taken
together and I have taken
pains to collect informa-
tion having conversed with
a number of intelligent
persons who were present
at the time of and dur-

⁴The attack make it appear probable that the rebel forces engaged in the affair amounted to ~~probably~~ five hundred. They are reported as being uniformed and well armed. We lost none in killed, but there were two wounded, one a boy that belonged to a wagon train that had been pressed into the service from this County who was engaged hauling wood into the town at the time of the attack. He had a horse killed and was wounded in the hip rather severely I understand. Our force