

A SESQUICENTENNIAL MOMENT

APRIL 13 - 19, 1862



Two Confederate supporters accused of stealing mail in Ripley in an attempt to discover the locations and planned movements of Union troops went on trial during the week of April 13, 1862.

Ultimately, both Daniel Dusky and Jacob Varner were found guilty of being among the members of the Moccasin Rangers who broke into the post office and stole letters and papers on Dec. 19, 1861. The group also stole weapons from the Jackson County Courthouse and private residences.

“The Moccasin Rangers were represented to be very skillful in slipping around at night and picking up things,” according to an item

published April 14, 1862, in the *Wheeling Intelligencer*. Witnesses testified that the Rangers were carrying out orders from Virginia Gov. John Letcher.

Though the prosecuting attorney had asked the court to sentence both men to hang, the jury did not grant his request. Instead, Varner was sentenced to three years in prison while Dusky got four. Both sentences were served at a penitentiary in Washington City.

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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