

# A SESQUICENTENNIAL MOMENT

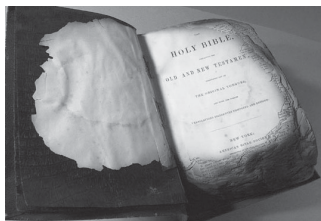
APRIL 27 – MAY 3, 1863

With the goal of disrupting the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, cutting telegraph communication and weakening federal control of western Virginia, Confederate Generals William E. “Grumble” Jones and John D. Imboden led more than 5,000 men into north central West Virginia between April 24 and May 22, 1863.

On April 29th at Fairmont, Jones waged the largest battle ever fought in that part of the state and burned Restored Government of Virginia Governor Francis Pierpont’s personal library. After blow-

ing up a railroad bridge across the Monongahela River, Jones linked up with Imboden at Buckhannon, and together they moved to Weston. Jones continued west to Burning Springs, where he set fire to about 150,000 barrels of oil and producing wells, sending a sheet of flame floating down the Little Kanawha River.

Imboden said in his report that the raiders covered 700 miles, captured nearly 700 prisoners, 1,000 cattle and 1,200 horses, burned 16 railroad bridges and a tunnel, two trains of cars and several boats. Despite the Confederates’ success, they never seriously threatened the area again.



Gov. Francis Pierpont’s burned Bible

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*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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