

A SESQUICENTENNIAL ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ MOMENT

JULY 28 - AUG. 3, 1861

In an attempt to regain military control of western Virginia for the Confederacy, Gen. Robert E. Lee arrived at Huttonsville on Aug. 3, 1861.

Lee had hoped to put more pressure on northwestern Virginia during his first war assignment, but he overestimated Union strength at Cheat Mountain in Randolph County and opted not to attack because of a lack of Confederate coordination.

In October, Lee renewed operations against Sewell Mountain in Fayette County, but that, too, was called off, mainly because of poor communication and a lack of supplies.

Unprecedented rainfall, bickering subordinates, inexperienced officers, and rampant disease contributed to both failed campaigns.

In the aftermath, Lee served in administrative positions until June 1862, when he assumed command of the Army of Northern Virginia.

One bright spot for Lee: he first saw his great war horse, Traveller, during the Sewell Mountain campaign. He later purchased the Greenbrier County born-and-bred horse for \$200 in Confederate currency.



Photo Courtesy of State Archives

*This sesquicentennial moment is
brought to you by the
Archives&History Section
of the West Virginia Division of Culture
and History*

For more information, visit www.wvculture.org