

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

MARCH 29 – APRIL 5, 1863

Two men kidnapped near Glenville on April 2, 1863, won “impressible fame” for bravery when they killed a “noted guerrilla thief and marauder” and forced his accomplice to take “to his heels.”

An April 4, 1863, letter to the *Wheeling Intelligencer* from “James” says Lee Varner and Adam E. Gluck got help from Varner’s sister, who followed them with a revolver under her clothing.

James said William Wilson of Ritchie County and another kidnapper stole clothing, \$6 in cash, two horses and two rifles from Varner’s home.

While Wilson was pillaging another home, Varner’s sister slipped her brother the concealed revolver, and

he shot Wilson once in the shoulder and once through the heart. Gluck fired at the other kidnapper, “who took to his heels and made his escape, leaving all property they had stolen in the hands of the victors.”

James said “Such bravery as this exhibited by two beardless youths, and a frail girl, is sufficient to immortalize their names through coming centuries, and entitle them to the eulogium of the orators of Greece or Rome.”

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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