A SESQUICENTENNIAL
MOMENT
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

MAY 18 – 24, 1862

A Skirmish in Western Virginia.— Defeat of the Rebels at Lewisburg.

CINCINNATTI, May 24.—Colonel Heth, with 3,000 men attacked our forces, under Colonel Crook, at Lewisburg, yesterday morning, and after a severe fight, the enemy were driven back and completely rout-

The town of Lewisburg, strategically located between the Atlantic Coast and the Ohio Valley, awoke to the sound of gunfire and cannons on the morning of May 23, 1862.

Confederate soldiers, roughly 2,300 in strength, attacked Union troops that were occupying the town of about 800. Within less than an hour, 80 Confederate and 13 Union soldiers were dead. Nearly 140 others from both sides were wounded.

Though many of the town's residents were Confederate sympathizers and took up arms themselves, the Union forces were victorious. Lewisburg was key to the Union's goal of taking the fight across the mountains into the heart of the Confederacy to the east. Their presence in the valley also was part of a larger effort by the Union to sever railroad communications between Virginia and Tennessee.

The South had its sights set on Lewisburg because it was eager to regain the valley that was rich in salt, a valuable war-time commodity used to cure food and leather.

For more information, visit www.wvculture.org