

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

DECEMBER 29 - JANUARY 4, 1862

**The Civil War is often referred to as a struggle of “brother against brother” and “neighbor against neighbor.”**

*Nothing better illustrates this than the burning of Sutton on Dec. 29, 1861.*

Federal troops held the small Braxton County seat as dawn arrived that Sunday morning. However, when Confederate partisan rangers appeared on the hillside above Sutton, the Federals retreated, and the town was taken by the rangers.

Given the events that followed, it is ironic to note that the leaders of the rebel group were from the area and were known to Sutton residents.

The partisans attempted to collect supplies from townspeople, but some residents

refused to hand over their property. In response, the Confederates set fire to a house. The flames spread to other buildings before some of the partisans extinguished the blaze. Other partisans, meanwhile, gathered the goods that had not been given freely.

Their work done, the partisan rangers left Sutton, leaving residents to deal with their losses, including their county courthouse.

Sutton and Braxton county civilians would live in the midst of turmoil throughout the war.

*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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