

# A SESQUICENTENNIAL MOMENT

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OCT. 26-NOV. 1, 1862

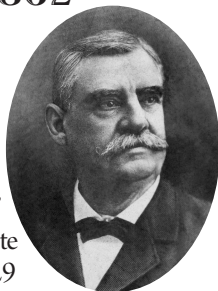
Two men from western Virginia played significant roles in Confederate efforts to control the Kanawha Valley during the fall of 1862.

In August, Gen. Albert G. Jenkins' Border Rangers began an arduous 500-mile sweep across western Virginia that took them through Buckhannon, Weston, Ripley, Guyandotte, and other locations en route to the valley.

Brig. Gen. John Echols, who replaced Gen. W. W. Loring on Oct. 15, 1862, with orders to defend the Kanawha Valley, was hampered by a lack of supplies and troop reinforcements.

"The country from the counties of Monroe and Giles to the Kanawha River is now little better than a desert, having

been heretofore pillaged and laid waste by the enemy," Echols wrote in an Oct. 29 plea for help to headquarters.



*Brig. Gen.  
John Echols*

Echols was a lawyer who represented Monroe County at the Virginia Secession Convention and voted for secession.

Jenkins was a Cabell County plantation owner and U.S. congressman who became the first to raise the Confederate flag on Ohio soil.

Two days after Echols pleaded for help, Union forces drove the Confederates out of the valley.

*This sesquicentennial moment is brought to you by the  
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