

### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY JANUARY 5



The Cabell County community of Guyandotte was established on January 5, 1810.

#### CSO: SS.8.22

#### Investigate the Document: (*Calendar of Virginia State Papers, Vol. 11, 1836-1869, 975.5 V8172 v.11*)

1. According to the report, how many Confederate troops were under the command of Col. John Clarkson at the Battle of Guyandotte?
2. How many Union prisoners did the Confederates capture?
3. After reading the report, name (2) strategic advantages the Confederate forces held to allow them to gain an advantage on the Union forces.

**Think Critically:** Discuss West Virginia's role in the Civil War. What was the significance of the Battle of Guyandotte? If you were in charge of the Confederate war effort, what strategies would you have implemented? On the other hand, if you had to create the Union strategy, what would you have proposed?

## K. V. Whaley To The Governor

## Official report of the Battle of Guyandotte

The undersigned by your order in command of the 9<sup>th</sup> Va. Regiment would beg leave to report to your Excellency.

After recruiting at Camp Pierpoint, sixty men under Capt. Uriah Payne, we repaired to Camp Paxton Guyandotte and took possession of that place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of Oct. last. Orders to fill up companies were issued to Capts. Wm. Turner, \_\_\_ Thomas, \_\_\_ Bratton and \_\_\_ Ross, who had each recruited a few men, some of whom were in camp and some had been allowed to go home on furlough. Capt. Payne's Company contained 86 men, but were not all in Camp. All companies included about 150 men.

On the night of the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, we were attacked by two parts of Regiments of cavalry under command of Clarkson and Jenkins of the Rebel army. Clarkson being chief in command, numbering about 1,200 men. The attack was made about half-past 8 o'clock, they having marched down the Guyandotte river about forty miles that day, as was afterwards ascertained. Our Picket guard stationed at the bridge, one mile up the Guyandotte river, failed to give the alarm by firing, but the noise of their crossing that bridge was distinctly heard by us, and I immediately rallied my men, or a portion of them. But the enemy coming in at full speed did not give us time to get but a portion of our force in line to resist them.

Having drawn up about 40 men in the shade of a building near the wire suspension bridge, they fired upon a force led by Capt. Corns, who crossed the bridge to cut off our retreat to the west side of the Guyandotte river. While Col. Jenkins led about 500 around on the east side of the town to cut off our retreat in that direction, Col. Clarkson, with the remainder of their force, made the attack upon us, charging down the main street. Our force then concealed themselves in squads in the buildings and alleys, and kept up a brisk fire upon the enemy for near three quarters of an hour. I then attempted to rally them to the brick hotel on the bank of the Ohio, where I had ordered a box of cartridges for their use. At this place they also fired briskly for a short time. I then returned again to the street to rally what men I could find to the hotel, and near that point was charged upon by a company of rebels commanded by H. Clay Pate. We resisted the attack for a short time, but were finally overpowered by superior numbers and taken prisoners. The firing then ceased, the men concealing themselves as best they could in different parts of the town.

Our loss, so far as known, was six killed and six wounded, and sixty prisoners, 32 horses (including wagon horses hired), 98 Enfield Rifles – a few suits of clothing.

A portion of the horses above mentioned belonged to Capt. Winter's company, attached to the command at Camp Pierpoint, and had been sent to my support a few days previous. This squad of cavalry was under the command of Lieut. W. E. Feasel, who had declined to obey my order

that day to take a portion of his command and go to Barboursville and remain there until late at night. His reason for declining was that it would conflict with instructions from Capt. Winters, his superior officer.

The cavalry was not engaged in the fight, except three by the names of Biars, Patert, and Nance, who fought cavalry. The others retreated at the beginning of the fight, except six, who were taken prisoners. The loss of the enemy is known to be seven killed and 12 wounded, among the number Capt. Huddleston killed, Capt. of the Rockbridge rangers mortally wounded, and Capt. Herndon severely. Fourteen horses of the enemy killed in the streets and five crippled. None of our companies were mustered into service. Among our killed was Capt. G. B. Bailey, who was appointed assistant Surgeon, but not commissioned. Capt. Ross and Capt. Thomas, and Capt. Uriah Payne, Quartermaster Sergeant T. J. Hayslip, Dr. Jonathan Morris, appointed Surgeon; Lieut. James E. Wood, and another Lieut., name not remembered, were taken prisoners by the enemy.

K. V. Whaley  
Wheeling, Va. Dec. 6, 1861.