ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY

April 29

On April 29, 1863, Confederate troops under General William Jones captured the town of Fairmont.

CSO: SS.8.22, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (Letter, F. W. Cunningham to Francis P. Pierpont, regarding parole status of Union militia captured at the Battle of Fairmont; Bible, Francis Pierpont; Muster Card, Theo. Coffman)

1. On April 29, 1863, Confederate General William “Grumble” Jones attacked the town of Fairmont, capturing ___ Union militiamen before paroling them under what condition(s)? What did Jones say would be the consequences for violating their parole? (Use the text to cite his words.)

2. What was Governor Pierpont’s stance on the parole given by Jones to the Union militia at Fairmont?

3. Although anxious, Captain William Hall ordered his men to take up arms due to what he felt were indirect orders from whom? How did his men feel about this response?

Think Critically: William “Grumble” Jones captured Fairmont during the month-long Jones-Imboden Raid, which had what three primary objectives? How did the capture of Fairmont fit into this plan?

General, H. P. Blandford,

Sir, submit hereby the document of the present, for your decision, a subject of importance.

At the Battle of Fairmont, the Red E. D. Jones succeeded in capturing some sixty of the 1st Battalion of Va. Volunteer Militia, and paroled them on the spot, with the understanding that if they violated it they should be severely dealt with.

The Government refused to recognize this parole as being legal. But Governor E. H. Blandford, after due consideration, advised them to respect it as a violation of it might not only jeopardize their own lives but that of the entire militia of Brack, Va. Should they fall into their hands.

Notwithstanding this advice
Cap't. Wm. Tate, of Company C. (who was paroled) being anxious to hold his command has ordered ordered his men to again take up arms under what he claims to be orders indirectly from you. A majority of our men are greatly dissatisfied with this decision as they took the obligation in good faith in preference to being incarcerated in a Rebel Prison. Many of them are conscientiously indisposed to taking up arms to pay nothing of dangers to which they would be subjected in so doing.

Therefore I humbly appeal to you to relieve those from further duty until legally exchanged.

I am sir, Very Respectfully, your ob. servt.

W. Cunningham
OFFICER

Rank: Private
Capt.: Wm. Hall - C Co.

Age:

Appears on, Company Mustee Roll of the organization named above.

Roll dated, June 20th, 1863.

Joined for duty and enrolled.

When, Aug. 21, 1862.
Where, Marion Co., Va.

Period, 20 years.

Mustered in,

Mustered out and discharged,

Remarks: [Handwritten] killed in battle at Fairmont, 27th Apr. 26, '63.

Organization changed to,