CHAPTER 12

The Civil War and West Virginia's Statehood Movement

CHAPTER PREVIEW

TERMS

strategy, blockade, ordinance, cabinet, proclamation, capitol

PEOPLE

Francis H. Pierpont, Waitman T. Willey, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, Albert Gallatin Jenkins, Arthur I. Boreman, Peter G. Van Winkle, Martin Delany

PLACES

Philippi, Rich Mountain, Scary Creek, Kessler's Cross Lanes, Carnifex Ferry, Summersville

President Abraham Lincoln and most northerners believed secession was illegal. After all, the Constitution provided for adding states to the Union, but it made no mention of states withdrawing from the Union. The president believed that the Union must be preserved at all costs. To this end, Lincoln and his advisers developed a three-part **strategy** (a detailed plan for using military forces) for winning the war and reuniting the country. The plan included the capture of the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia; a **blockade** (the use of naval forces to stop shipping) of southern seaports to prevent the Confederates from receiving supplies; and control of the Mississippi River, which would split the Confederacy and squeeze the two parts.

Western Virginia played an important role in the plans of both Union and Confederate leaders for four reasons, all having to do with its strategic position. First, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which ran through western Virginia, was the most important east-west rail line near Washington, DC. Control of this railroad and the nearby turnpikes was essential for the movement of supplies and troops. Second, western Virginia's eastern panhandle included the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley, an area that both sides needed to control in order to access the most convenient north-south route for their armies. Third, control of the saltworks along the Kanawha River would ensure a supply of this important substance. Fourth, the possibility of the division of Virginia, the most important of the Confederate states, would be a military and political victory for the Union.

Additionally, the capitals of the Union and the Confederacy were located within one hundred miles of what were then the borders of western Virginia. Since each side had as a goal the capture of the other's capital, troops often found themselves in western Virginia. But the Civil War was much more than a mere military encounter. Even as military clashes occurred, politicians were busily moving forward with plans to change forever the face of Virginia and that of the nation.

SIGNS of the TIMES

History

An estimated 3.5 million Americans fought in the Civil War. Of that number, nearly 620,000 died. The Battle of Gettysburg had the largest number of casualties. Some 51,112 soldiers lost their lives, including 23,049 Union and 28,063 Confederate.

Economics

Eggs were as much as $6 a dozen and bacon was $0.15 a pound; the price of both rose 75% during the war. A plate of beans, potatoes, corned beef, bread, and a cup of coffee was $0.15 in the North; by the end of the war, it was impossible to buy that in the South.

Government

West Virginia became the first (and only) state to be established by presidential proclamation.

Geography

The Confederate States of America depended on trade with England. This was one reason for the Union blockade of southern ports. With more than 3,000 miles of coastline, it was difficult to monitor the blockade.

Everyday Life

Population: Life expectancy was 41.8 years.

Fashions: Women's fashions changed when Ebenezer Butterick invented the first paper dress patterns sold in the United States.

Science/Technology: One of the innovations of the Civil War was the ironclad, a ship protected by thick iron armor. The Gatling gun, which had a rotating barrel with a dozen cylinders, was first used by the Union army during the Civil War.

Recreation: Union soldiers played a form of baseball as well as football. The football game looked more like a brawl and often resulted in broken noses and fractured limbs. Croquet and roller skating were introduced. In 1863, Joe Coburn won the American Boxing Championship after a 63-round event.
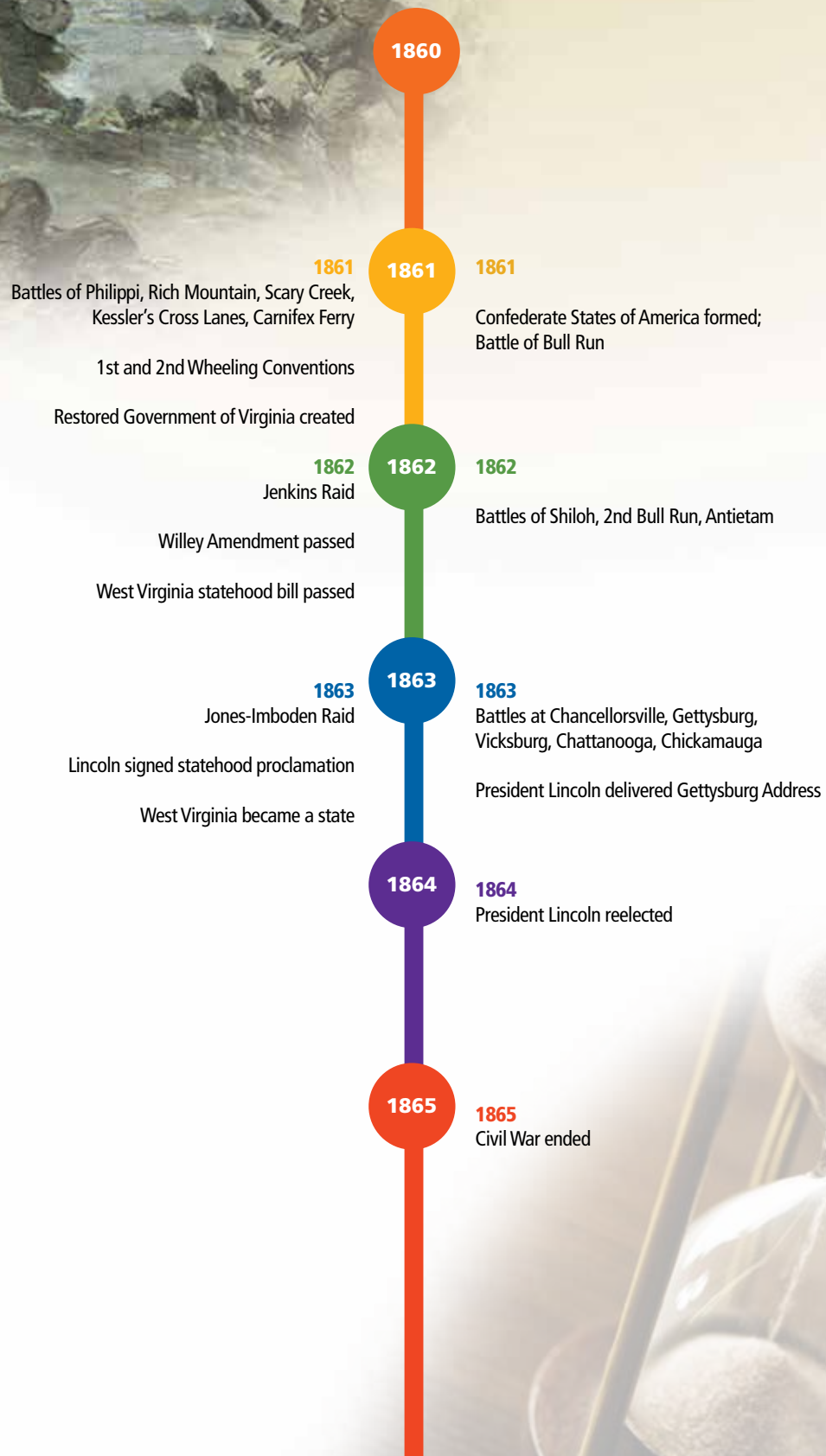
Religion: In May 1861, all regimental commanders in the Union army were ordered to appoint chaplains who earned a salary of $1,700 a year. General William Rosecrans, a devout Catholic, never fought on Sunday. Stonewall Jackson tried to avoid fighting on Sunday, and, if that was not possible, he set aside another day to rest.

Music: Songs of the period included "John Brown's Body," "Beautiful Dreamer," "Dixieland (Dixie)," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Tenting Tonight," "The Bonnie Blue Flag," "Marching through Georgia," and "When Johnny Comes Marching Home."

Literature: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow published the *Tales of a Wayside Inn*, which included "Paul Revere's Ride." Mary Mapes Dodge published *Hans Brinker* or *The Silver Skates*. Walt Whitman published *Drum-Taps*, a collection of Civil War poems.

Figure 12.1   Timeline: 1860 – 1865

1860

1861

1861
Battles of Philippi, Rich Mountain, Scary Creek, Kessler's Cross Lanes, Carnifex Ferry

1st and 2nd Wheeling Conventions

Restored Government of Virginia created

1861
Confederate States of America formed; Battle of Bull Run

1862
Jenkins Raid

Willey Amendment passed

West Virginia statehood bill passed

1862

1862
Battles of Shiloh, 2nd Bull Run, Antietam

1863
Jones-Imboden Raid

Lincoln signed statehood proclamation

West Virginia became a state

1863

1863
Battles at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Chickamauga

President Lincoln delivered Gettysburg Address

1864

1864
President Lincoln reelected

1865

1865
Civil War ended

Distinguishing Fact from Opinion

DEFINING THE SKILL

Not everything you read in a textbook is fact. Sometimes authors weave facts, inferences, and opinions into their writing to make it more interesting. This writing style, however, makes it more difficult to separate facts from opinions.

A fact is something that can be proved or verified. Facts can be verified by observation or by research. "Eighteen-year-olds have the right to vote" is a statement of fact.

An opinion, on the other hand, is something a person thinks, believes, or feels is true. Opinions are open to debate and cannot be verified. Opinion statements often include words like *bad, good, probably, believe, feel, think, greatest, worst, best, most, least, always, never, all, none,* and *may*. For example, "A person should not be allowed to vote until he or she is twenty-one years of age" is a statement of opinion.

PRACTICING THE SKILL

Read the following statements. Write the statements on a separate sheet of paper or on a form like that below. Then, identify each statement as a fact or opinion and give a reason for your choice.

1. John Carlile was indecisive about his support of West Virginia statehood.
2. Westerners believed that the government under Governor John Letcher had acted illegally in seceding from the Union.
3. Philippi was the first land battle of the Civil War.
4. The West Virginia statehood movement was a revolutionary act.
5. During part of the Civil War, Virginia had two governments.
6. The West Virginia statehood bill would not have been approved without a definitive statement about slavery.
7. Some people did not vote on West Virginia's new constitution because some counties did not have elections.
8. The only good thing that happened to Robert E. Lee in western Virginia was his encounter with the horse that he would one day purchase.
9. The constitutional convention chose the name "West Virginia" for the new state.
10. West Virginia was a "child of rebellion."

Statement	Fact	Opinion	Why?

Early Events Set the Stage for Big Changes

As you read, look for
- the location of the fighting in western Virginia;
- the steps that led to West Virginia statehood;
- term: **ordinance.**

John Carlile had supported the creation of a new state in western Virginia. After Virginia's vote to secede from the Union, Carlile changed his position and decided to support reorganizing the government of Virginia. Westerners believed that the government of Governor John Letcher had acted illegally in seceding from the Union. Therefore, they had the right to form a new government, one that would remain loyal to the Union. But, while plans to change western Virginia moved forward, the battle to control trans-Allegheny Virginia began.

"The Philippi Races"

Union General George B. McClellan, who had been reluctant to move into western Virginia, crossed the Ohio River with 20,000 Union troops to protect the B&O Railroad. When Confederate forces gained control of the railroad town of Grafton, McClellan moved in from the east, and Colonel Benjamin F. Kelley came to join him from the north. Realizing he could be caught between Union forces, Confederate leader Colonel George Porterfield moved to Philippi.

On June 3, 1861, a short, almost bloodless, battle took place. Kelley's forces routed the Confederates, chasing them to Beverly in Randolph County. Because the southern soldiers fled so quickly, the battle is often called "The Philippi Races." Since the fighting here appears to have been the first land engagement between organized armies, Philippi sometimes is considered to be the first land battle of the Civil War. Perhaps its real importance, however, is that it demonstrated the North's commitment to securing the safety of the B&O Railroad.

Above: On June 3, 1861, a short, almost bloodless, battle took place in Barbour County. The skirmish was called "The Philippi Races" because the Confederates fled so quickly.

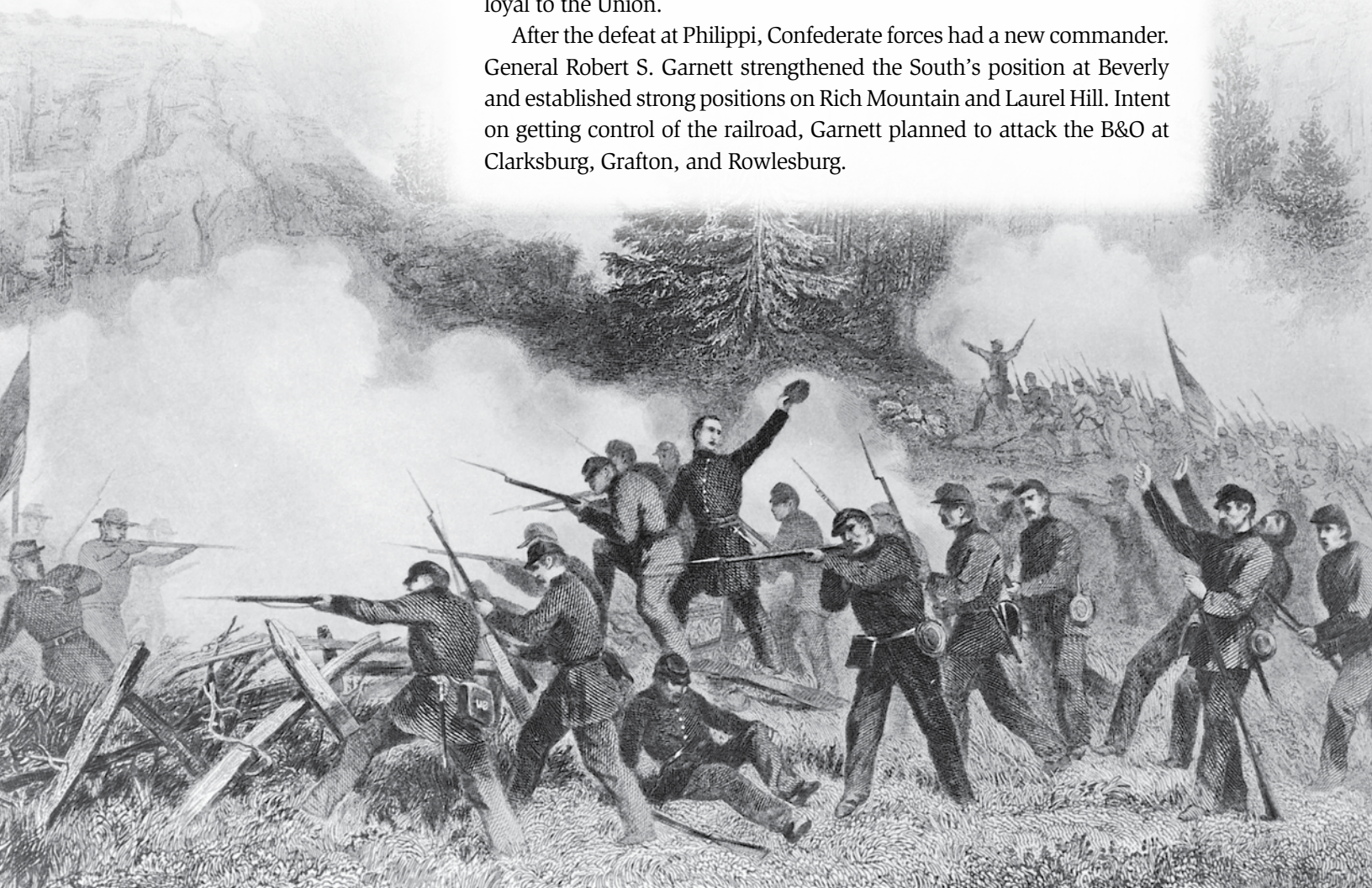## The Restored Government of the State of Virginia

Two weeks after the skirmish at Philippi, in an unprecedented action, the Second Wheeling Convention adopted a resolution restoring the government of Virginia to the Union. The next day, the delegates nominated and elected Francis H. Pierpont from Marion County as the governor of the Restored Government of the State of Virginia. The purpose of the restored government was to form a government that would support the creation of a new state from within the borders of the old one. After completing this stage of their work, the convention adjourned until August 6, 1861, when the question of a new state would be decided.

At this point, Virginia had two governments: one in Richmond that supported the Confederacy and one in Wheeling that supported the Union. Governor Pierpont called together the General Assembly of the restored government on July 1, 1861, to fill all the state offices and to elect two United States senators, John S. Carlile and Waitman T. Willey.

The Battle of Rich Mountain

After the victory at Philippi, Union General McClellan decided to drive the Confederates completely out of the Monongahela Valley. Such a move would ensure Union control of an important section of the B&O Railroad and encourage the people in northwestern Virginia to remain loyal to the Union.

After the defeat at Philippi, Confederate forces had a new commander. General Robert S. Garnett strengthened the South's position at Beverly and established strong positions on Rich Mountain and Laurel Hill. Intent on getting control of the railroad, Garnett planned to attack the B&O at Clarksburg, Grafton, and Rowlesburg.

McClellan, who controlled the railroad line from Parkersburg to Rowlesburg, developed a strategy to keep the Confederates away from the rail line. Union General Thomas A. Morris was to hold Garnett on Laurel Hill while another Union army under General William S. Rosecrans held the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike.

On July 11, 1861, ten days after Governor Pierpont called together the restored General Assembly, Confederate Lt. Colonel John Pegram was encamped atop Rich Mountain, five miles west of Beverly. General Rosecrans, with 2,000 Union troops, was ordered to drive the southerners out of West Virginia. In the battle, 20 Union soldiers were killed and 40 were wounded. More than 100 Confederates were killed, wounded, or captured.

When General Garnett heard of the defeat, he tried to lead his forces off Laurel Hill but was turned back by General Morris. Garnett then turned toward Maryland. While his army was able to escape, the general was killed in a battle at Corrick's Ford, near Parsons, in Tucker County. This battle was fought on July 13, two days after the Battle of Rich Mountain.

The Battle of Rich Mountain changed the future of northwestern Virginia. McClellan's success in driving the Confederates out of the area allowed the Restored Government of the State of Virginia to operate safely and to push for statehood for western Virginia.

something extra!

General Robert S. Garnett was the first Confederate general killed in the Civil War. Before the war ended, 73 Confederate and 51 Union generals lost their lives.

Focus on Technology

Identify information needed and use search engines to gather material, place it in a database, and use the data to complete a class assignment.

Technology Tool: Search Engine, Software, e.g., Excel

Enter data relevant to the class assignment into a database and perform simple queries.

Go to website https://americancivilwar.com/statepic/west_virginia.html. Click on the link for each battle listed below the map and, using appropriate software, create a database that includes the name of the battle, the county in which the battle was fought, the date of the battle, the winner (Confederate or Union), and the number of casualties (Union and Confederate listed separately). After you create the database, complete the following tasks:
- Conduct a simple inquiry to show a list of counties where battles were fought.
- Conduct a second inquiry to determine the number of Confederate and Union losses.
- Create a graph of the data showing losses.
- Conduct a final inquiry to show the number of Confederate and Union victories.

The Battle of Scary Creek

A skirmish in Putman County occurred shortly after the fighting at Rich Mountain. Sentiment for the South was strong in the Kanawha Valley. As a result, Confederate General Henry A. Wise, who had been governor of Virginia from 1856 to 1860, believed the Confederates could take the region. He planned to follow the James River and Kanawha Turnpike and take Charleston, then proceed down the Kanawha River to Point Pleasant. Wise was able to occupy Charleston at about the same time Rosecrans was defeating Colonel John Pegram at Rich Mountain.

Since McClellan did not want Wise to launch a surprise attack on Union forces, he ordered General Jacob D. Cox to come from near Point Pleasant to intercept Wise's army. The two armies met on July 17, 1861, at the mouth of Scary Creek, between present-day St. Albans and Winfield. Wise defeated Cox, but then Wise suddenly retreated to Gauley Bridge. This move gave Cox time to receive reinforcements and then pursue the Confederates. Wise, anticipating the Union commander's move, crossed the Gauley River, burned the river's only bridge, and continued on to White Sulphur Springs. When Cox and his men reached the burned bridge, they were unable to go any further. At White Sulphur Springs, Wise joined forces with another former Virginia governor, General John B. Floyd.

The Battle of Knives and Forks

General Rosecrans, who succeeded McClellan as commander of the Union's northwestern Virginia army, faced a Confederate force that stretched from the Tygart Valley to the New River. As part of a plan to defend against this line, Rosecrans ordered Colonel Erastus B. Tyler and the Seventh Ohio Infantry to occupy Kessler's Cross Lanes, near Summersville.

Confederate General Floyd sent General Wise to keep the Union troops under General Cox occupied on Gauley Mountain. Since he did not have to worry about Cox's forces, Floyd attacked Tyler's forces at Kessler's Cross Lanes during breakfast on August 26, 1861. His 2,000 troops completely routed the federal troops. The battle has been called the "Battle of Knives and Forks" because those were the only weapons the Union troops had in their hands at the time of the attack.

Top: The only bridge crossing the Gauley River was burned by Confederate troops in 1861.
Above: The Battle of Knives and Forks earned its name because the attack took place at breakfast and those were the only weapons the Union troops carried.

The battle left the Union forces in a very poor position. Floyd and the Confederates had access to the central area of western Virginia. This could have been disastrous for the Restored Government of Virginia, which was meeting in Wheeling.

The Battle of Carnifex Ferry

General Rosecrans reacted to Floyd's victory by attacking the Confederates at Summersville. The southern forces retreated to Carnifex Ferry on September 10, 1861. Rosecrans attacked Floyd with 6,000 troops even though the Confederates had an excellent defensive position. Because of the steep terrain and the forest, the only thing the Union army could do was cross an open field and attack from the front. Each time the Union army went forward, however, they were driven back.

When nightfall came, the Union forces drew back to plan for the next day's attack. For some unknown reason, Floyd decided to use the cover of darkness to retreat across the Gauley River. The Battle of Carnifex Ferry marked the last significant fighting in the Kanawha Valley in 1861.

something extra!

A reenactment of the Battle of Carnifex Ferry is held each fall. Patterson House, which lay between the Union and Confederate lines, serves as an interpretive museum.

The Role of Southern Culture in West Virginia Today

Because West Virginia remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War, many people consider it a northern state, even though it is south of the Mason-Dixon Line, which has been considered a dividing line between northern and southern states. To make the situation more confusing, you may remember that West Virginia is often described as the most northern of the southern states and most southern of the northern states.

Although the location of the state may be debatable, its culture is not. Hospitality, a predominant cultural trait in the antebellum south, is found in all parts of West Virginia today. Friendly (sociable, pleasant) is a word used by visitors to describe West Virginians. Humble (not arrogant or assertive; putting another's needs before your own), courteous (well-mannered, polite, respectful, helpful), modest (not boastful or conceited), and well-behaved (not rude or loud) are behaviors associated with hospitality.

Other common cultural traits found throughout the state define its religion and politics. Parts of West Virginia, like other southern states, lie in the Bible Belt where evangelical Protestantism plays a strong role in society and politics. People in the Bible Belt tend to be socially conservative and have a higher rate of church attendance. A 2018 survey by the Pew Research Center shows the largest percentage (39 percent) of those who attend church in West Virginia identified themselves as evangelical Protestants while another 29 percent identified themselves as mainline Protestant.

The survey also examined the participants' views on the role of government. Again, West Virginia's data was like that found in other southern states. About 58 percent favored smaller government with fewer government services, and 55 percent thought government regulation does more harm than good. The belief that states should have more control over local affairs than the federal government was strongly supported in the antebellum South and was, in fact, a cause of that war.

With its citizens having such common beliefs with other southern states today, you might wonder why West Virginia broke from Virginia to remain loyal to the Union.

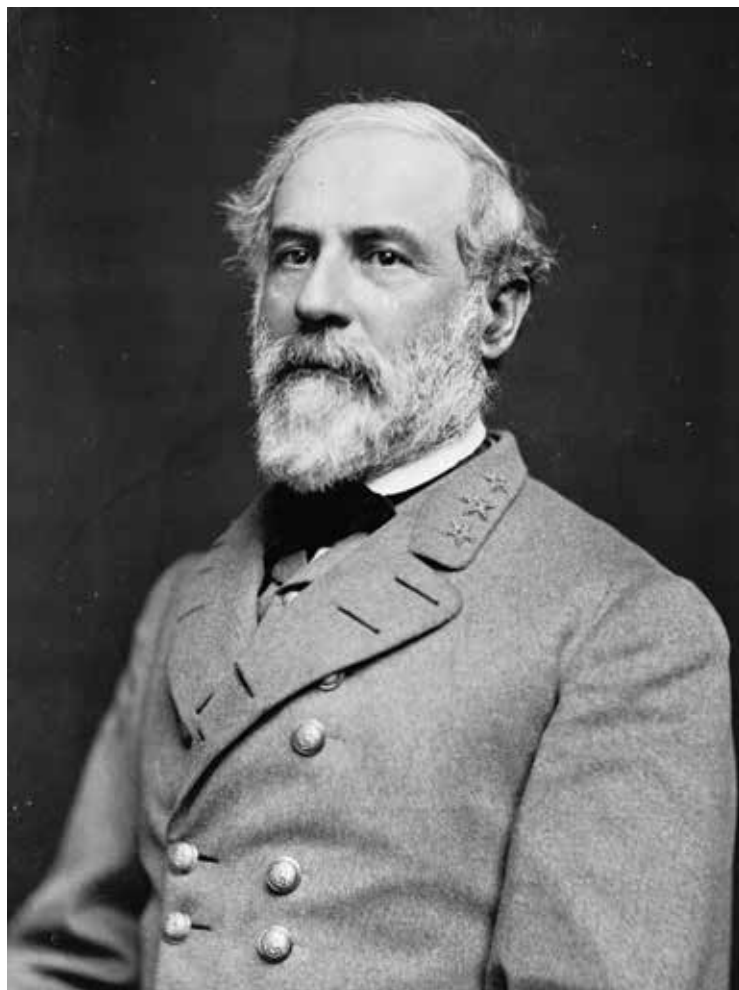Welcome

Robert E. Lee Visits Western Virginia

After General Garnett was killed in northwestern Virginia, General Robert E. Lee brought his troops to the area, hoping to develop a plan to recapture the Monongahela Valley. Everything appeared to be in Lee's favor, but nothing went well. A cold spell brought torrential rains, freezing temperatures, and mud that made moving equipment impossible. And if those problems weren't enough, an epidemic of measles swept through the Confederate army. Those troops who were not demoralized by the weather were ill. Lee had also hoped Confederate forces under Wise and Floyd would be able to attack Rosecrans on Big Sewell Mountain, but that too never happened. Because the approaching winter promised more bad conditions, Lee was transferred to South Carolina to examine the Confederate coastal defenses.

It has been said that the only good thing that happened to Lee during his time in western Virginia was that he found a horse that became his faithful steed through much of the Civil War and beyond. Traveller, whose original name was Jeff Davis, was bred in Blue Sulphur Springs in Greenbrier County. The grey American Saddlebred had been sold several times and was named Greenbrier when Lee first saw him. During their first encounter, Lee expressed his admiration for the horse to Captain Joseph Broun, the quartermaster of the 3rd Virginia Infantry. Lee predicted that he would use the horse before the end of the war. Before he could purchase the horse, however, Lee received word of his transfer to South Carolina.

As fate would have it, however, the 3rd Virginia Infantry was also transferred from western Virginia to South Carolina. It was in the Palmetto State that Lee had a second encounter with the grey horse that he had so admired in western Virginia. Recognizing Lee's attraction to the horse, Captain Broun offered him as a gift to the Confederate general. Lee refused to accept the horse as a gift, but he was interested in buying him. After checking with his brother Thomas, who was in a hospital in Virginia, Broun offered to sell Greenbrier to Lee for $200. Lee agreed. When he became the horse's owner in February 1862, Lee changed the horse's name to Traveller because of his rapid, springy walk.

Above: While Confederate General Robert E. Lee was in western Virginia in the fall of 1861, he first saw the horse Traveller, which he later bought.

The Constitutional Convention

On August 6, 1861, before the battles of Kessler's Cross Lanes and Carnifex Ferry, the Second Wheeling Convention reconvened. On August 20, it passed an **ordinance** (a regulation or decree) to create a new state named "Kanawha." In order to move further, the ordinance needed the approval of the voters in western Virginia.

The ordinance was approved a little over a month after the Battle of Carnifex Ferry by a vote of 18,408 to 781. At the same time, fifty-three delegates were chosen to attend a constitutional convention. Those charged with writing the new constitution faced three major issues: the name of the state, the boundaries of the new state, and the question of slavery.

Many delegates did not want to name the new state Kanawha. As a result, one of the convention's first items of business was to choose the state's official name. James Henry Brown of Kanawha County led the campaign for the name Kanawha. Opponents believed it would result in confusion because a county and the state's leading river were already named Kanawha. Brown pointed out that at least seven other states were named for their main rivers. Nevertheless, a number of other names were discussed, including Allegheny, Augusta, Columbia, New Virginia, Potomac, West Virginia, and Western Virginia. When the final vote was taken, the name "West Virginia" received thirty-nine votes; "Augusta," one vote; "Western Virginia," two votes; and "Kanawha," nine votes.
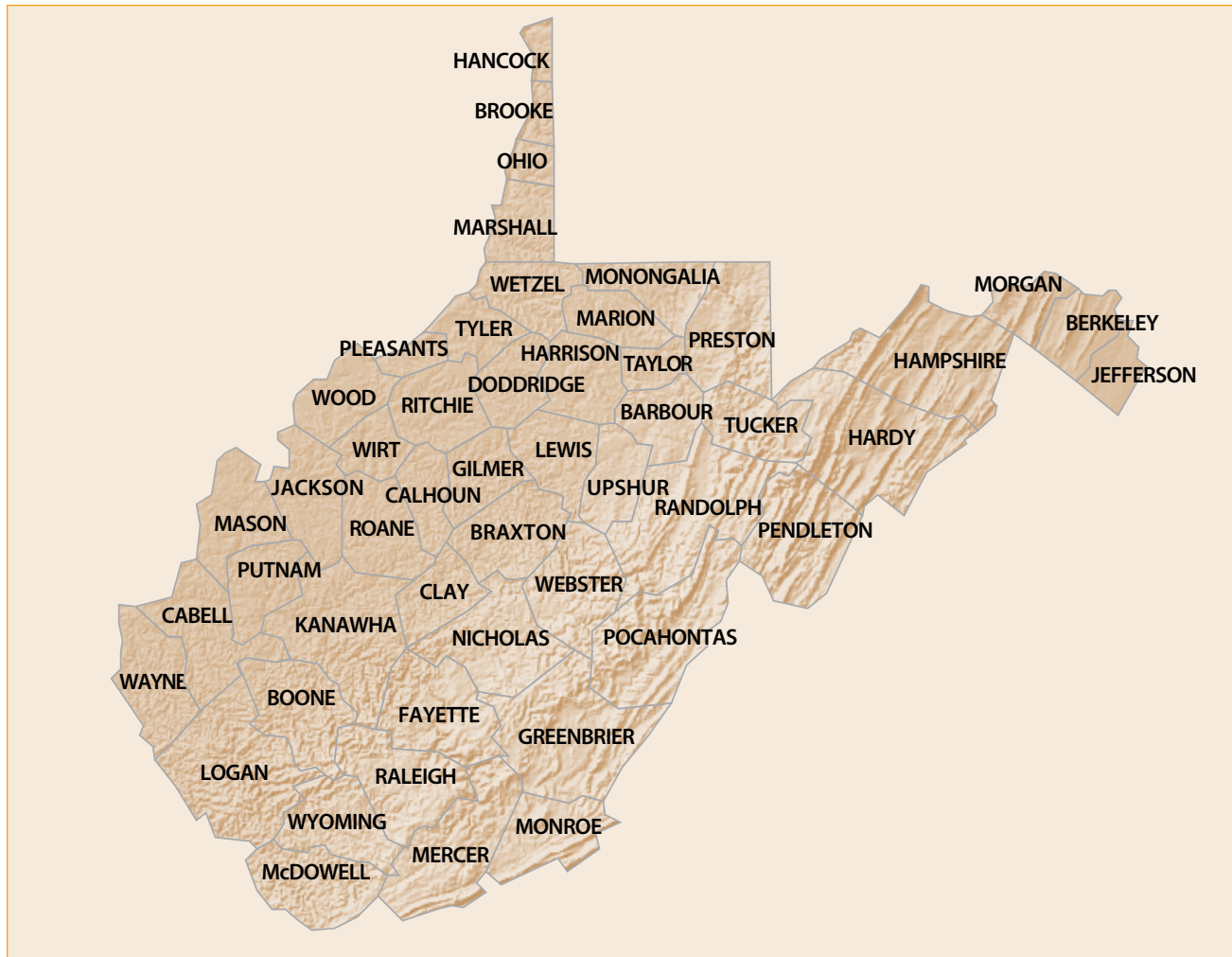
Bottom: Independence Hall, formerly the Wheeling Custom House, was the site of the West Virginia constitutional convention.

Map 12.1

West Virginia Counties, 1863

Map Skill: Name the three counties in the eastern panhandle.

Having settled on a name, the delegates turned their attention to the boundary question. At issue was how much land to include in the new state. More specifically, should the new state include just land west of the Alleghenies or add parts of the Shenandoah Valley as well? In the final proposal, the delegates recommended that Berkeley, Frederick, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Morgan, and Pendleton Counties be included in West Virginia. These eastern counties were added for one reason: the B&O Railroad, which ran through that region, was "the great artery . . . of this new state." When the delegates voted on the proposal, they approved the addition of all the counties except Frederick.

The third issue–slavery–was an explosive and hotly debated one. One delegate, Gordon Battelle, worked hard to secure a constitutional provision that would abolish slavery gradually. When that proposal was defeated, Battelle proposed letting the people vote on the issue. That proposal was also defeated, but by only one vote, 24 to 23. The delegates finally adopted a resolution that would not allow slaves or free blacks to enter the state after the new constitution became law. This provision, however, was unacceptable to Congress, as the delegates soon discovered.

The constitutional convention also took steps to separate West Virginia from its Virginia heritage. The county court system was replaced by the township system used in New England. Regular township meetings were scheduled. A procedure was set up for electing township officers, including a supervisor, a clerk, road surveyors, an overseer of the poor, constables, and justices. Some county offices, such as sheriff, were kept but limited to one term.

The constitutional convention set April 3, 1862, as the date to vote on the new constitution. Since counties were given two weeks after election day to send in the results, the General Assembly was to meet on April 18, at the call of Governor Pierpont. The new constitution was indeed approved by a vote of 18,062 to 514. Not everyone had the opportunity to vote, however, because some counties in the central, southern, and eastern parts of Virginia could not or did not hold elections.

Governor Pierpont recommended that the General Assembly accept the constitutional convention's request for statehood. The governor disagreed with opponents who suggested that the statehood movement was a revolutionary act. Pierpont argued that history, geography, and social attitude had created the need for the separation of Virginia. Therefore, on May 13, 1862, the General Assembly of the restored government authorized the creation of the state of West Virginia.

Below: The inside of Independence Hall where issues such as the state's name, boundaries, and position on slavery were decided.

The New State Receives Approval

According to Article IV, Section 3, of the U.S. Constitution, a request for statehood must be approved by both houses of Congress and signed by the president. Senator Waitman T. Willey of the restored government submitted West Virginia's application to the U.S. Senate on May 29, 1862. Debate and proposed amendments (additions or corrections to a document, bill, or law) caused the bill to move slowly through Congress. Senator John S. Carlile of the restored government served on the Committee on Territories. He tried to ruin the bill's chance for approval by proposing that fifteen counties in the Shenandoah Valley be added to the state's territory. Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts proposed an amendment whereby West Virginia's admission as a state depended on its being classified as a free state. The Senate rejected both proposals. It was evident, however, that West Virginia's statehood bill would not be approved without some definitive statement about slavery.

Senator Willey offered a solution that became known as the Willey Amendment. The amendment withdrew the provision that prohibited free blacks from entering the new state. It also created a systematic way to free all the slaves within West Virginia. Specifically, it stated that all slaves in West Virginia under the age of twenty-one on July 4, 1863, would be free when they reached twenty-one years of age. This proposal passed the Senate on July 14, 1862, by a vote of 23 to 17, two months before Lincoln's famous Emancipation Proclamation. After the Senate gave its approval, the House of Representatives approved the bill in December 1862 by a vote of 96 to 55.

Reviewing the Section

Reviewing the Content

1. Where was the first land battle of the Civil War fought?

2. What three issues faced delegates to western Virginia's constitutional convention?

3. What was the Willey Amendment and why was it important?

Using the Content

Pretend that you are a delegate to the constitutional convention or the Second Wheeling Convention. Write at least ten diary entries describing what you observed.

Extending the Literacy Skill

Write ten factual statements found in Section 1. Tell why each of these statements is a fact.

Above: Senator Waitman T. Willey offered a solution to the slavery issue that helped get the Senate's approval for West Virginia's statehood. **Opposite Page:** The B&O Railroad played an important role in the Civil War.

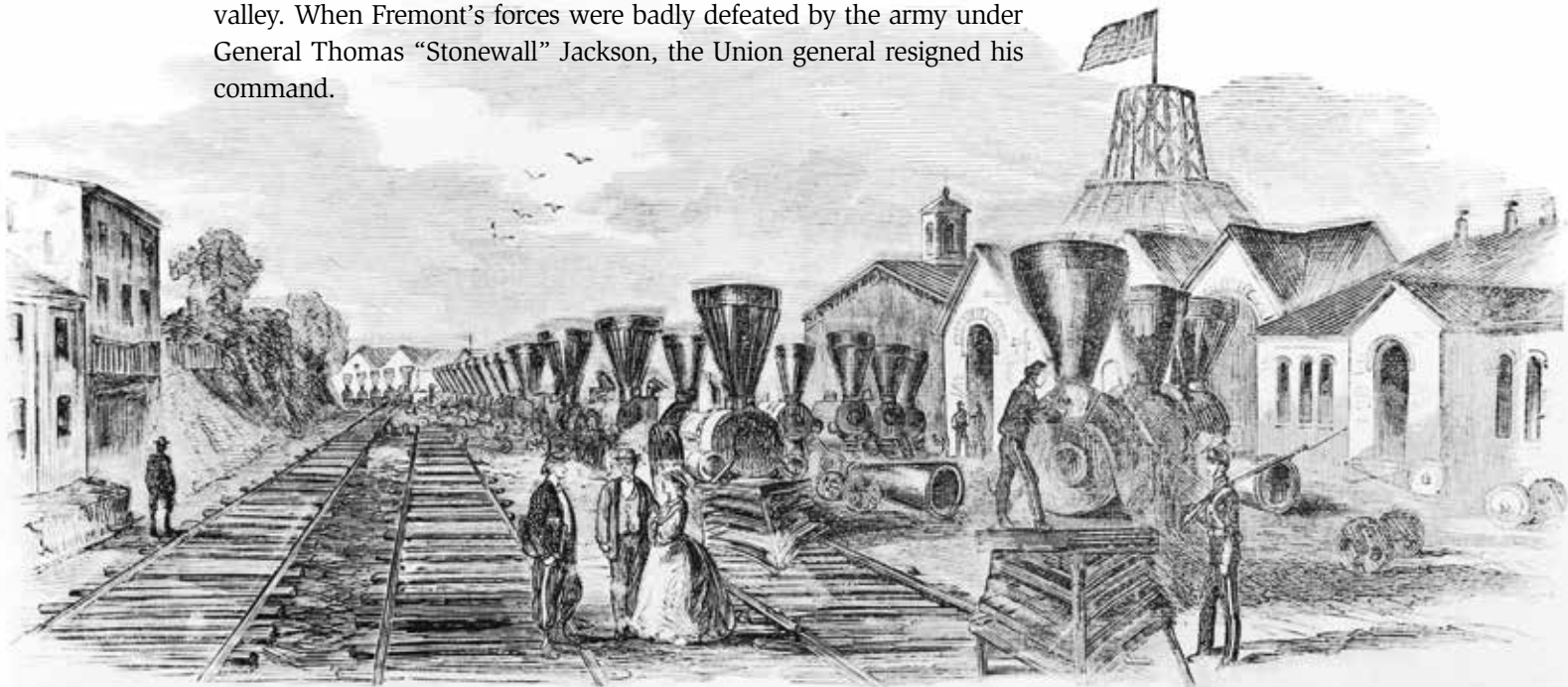# The Final Days of the War and a New Day for West Virginia

As you read, look for
- the location of the final fighting in West Virginia;
- the final steps to West Virginia statehood;
- terms: **cabinet, proclamation, capitol.**

Although West Virginia's statehood movement had received a major boost when it passed the scrutiny of Congress, it still needed the approval of the president. As the statehood bill raced toward resolution, the Civil War was entering its last stages in western Virginia. The final conflicts in the region focused on the control of the B&O Railroad.

The Battles for Control of the Railroad

Union forces held the upper hand at the beginning of 1862. The new commander for western Virginia, General John C. Fremont, decided to attack the rebel forces in the Valley of Virginia. He moved his troops by way of the B&O Railroad from New Creek Station (now Keyser) into the valley. When Fremont's forces were badly defeated by the army under General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, the Union general resigned his command.
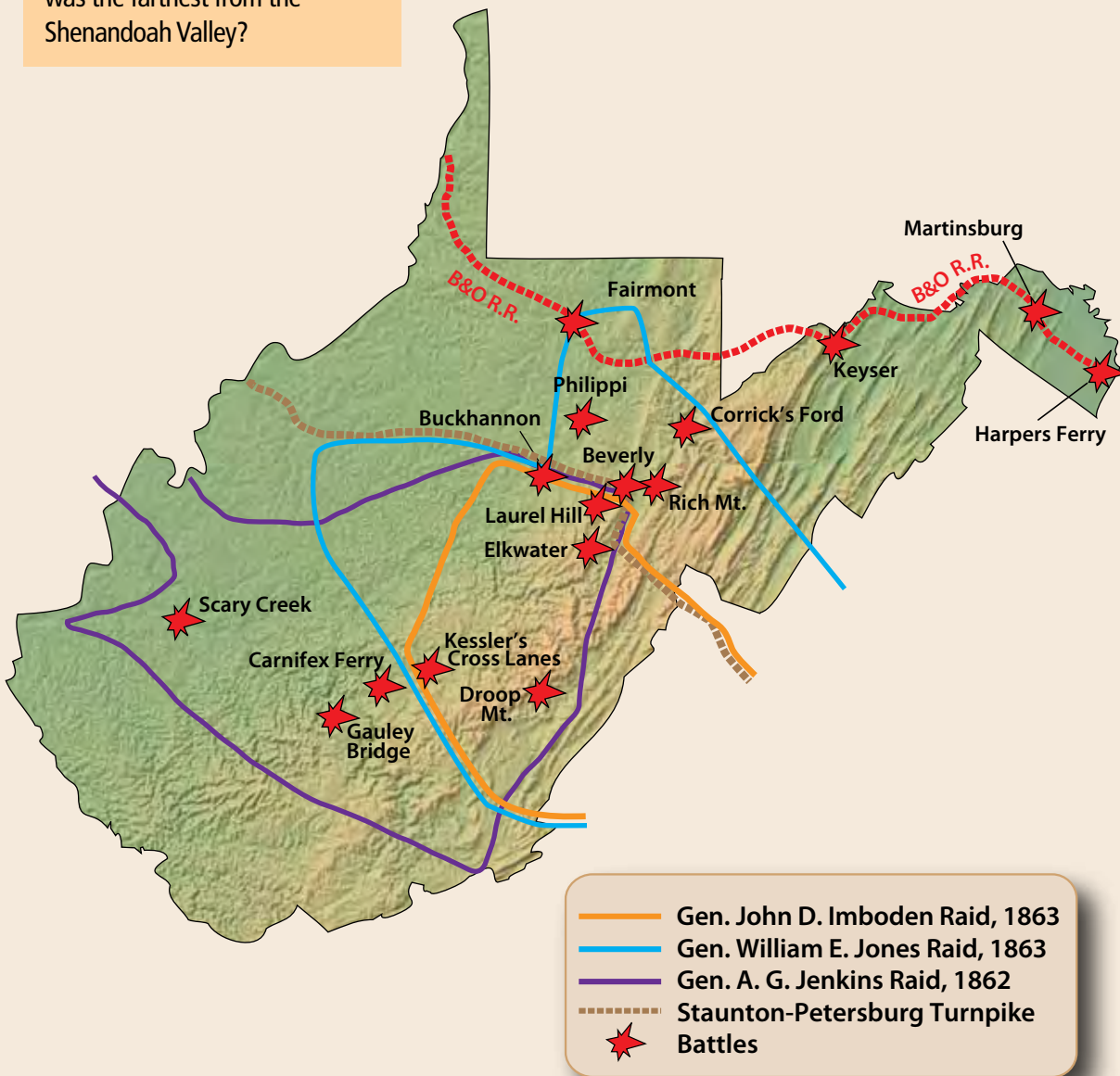
Union forces soon regained control of the railroad and set about protecting the repaired B&O, which had been reopened on March 30, 1862. For the next six months, there were only brief interruptions in service. In September 1862, however, General Jackson made a move toward Harpers Ferry. On the way, Jackson destroyed the track around Martinsburg. In October, the Confederates gained control of the rail line again and destroyed over thirty-five miles of track. They also burned engine houses, stations, blacksmith shops, and other B&O property. They even destroyed the rails on which the trains ran. After ripping the rails loose from the cross ties, they set the ties on fire. Then they heated the rails over the flames and bent them around trees.

Map 12.2

The Civil War in West Virginia

Map Skill: Which battle was the farthest from the Shenandoah Valley?

Gen. John D. Imboden Raid, 1863
Gen. William E. Jones Raid, 1863
Gen. A. G. Jenkins Raid, 1862
Staunton-Petersburg Turnpike
Battles

The Jenkins Raid

While the battle for the B&O raged in the eastern panhandle, a daring plan developed by Confederate General William W. Loring tested Union forces in the Kanawha Valley. Loring sent General Albert Gallatin Jenkins, a native of Cabell County and a Charleston lawyer, on a cavalry raid. (Cavalry are troops on horseback.) Since he had served under both Floyd and Wise in 1861, Jenkins was familiar with the area.

What was to become known as the "Jenkins Raid" began on August 24, 1862. Jenkins, leading nearly six hundred cavalrymen, left Salt Sulphur Springs in Monroe County. He rode through Beverly, Buckhannon, Weston, Glenville, Spencer, Ripley, and finally Ravenswood, where he crossed into Ohio. He then traveled south and recrossed the Ohio River south of the Kanawha. Returning to his native Cabell County, Jenkins followed the Guyandotte River to Raleigh County. Along the way, Jenkins confiscated $5,525 from a Union paymaster in Ripley and captured three hundred Union soldiers in Spencer. His most important seizure, however, was five thousand stands of arms at Buckhannon. (A stand of arms is a complete outfit of weapons for a soldier: a rifle, powder, minie balls, a side arm, and a bayonet.)

Jenkins's raid alarmed the Union forces, making them realize how weak they were while pointing out that the group organizing a new government in Wheeling was virtually unprotected. On the other side, the raid convinced Confederate General Loring that he could take the Kanawha Valley. As a result, he attacked Union General Joseph A. J. Lightburn at Fayetteville on September 10, 1862. Lightburn retreated, leaving thousands of dollars of supplies behind. Charleston fell to Loring three days later. Because Loring did not take advantage of the situation, Union troops soon regained control of the territory. Loring's hesitation after his initial victory caused him to be removed from his command.

Top: General William W. Loring. **Middle:** General Albert Gallatin Jenkins. **Bottom:** Jenkins led nearly six hundred cavalrymen on what became known as the "Jenkins Raid."

Lincoln's Dilemma

Having cleared Congress, West Virginia's statehood now depended on President Lincoln. This was not an easy decision for the president, who worried that the bill might not be constitutional (permitted by the U.S. Constitution). Lincoln sought the advice of his **cabinet** (the group of department heads chosen by a president as advisers). His cabinet, however, was of little help because they too were divided over the issue. The final decision, then, rested with Lincoln alone.

President Lincoln wrestled with the facts. He believed the new state was constitutional because the people of the state had voted for it. Even if the people in the seceded state of Virginia had not chosen to vote, Lincoln stated that it was the "qualified voters, who choose to vote, that constitute the political power of the State." The president also believed it was a good move by the federal government because it was a time of war. Lincoln rationalized that actions taken in wartime would not necessarily be taken in times of peace. Some opponents had charged that the statehood bill promoted secession; after all, wasn't West Virginia seceding from Virginia? Lincoln, however, replied, "There is still difference enough between secession against the Constitution, and secession in favor of the Constitution." On December 31, 1862, the president finally signed the bill. But the issue was still not completely resolved.

Since Congress had amended the original bill by adding the Willey Amendment, the West Virginia constitutional convention had to vote on the revised bill. After much debate, the convention accepted the amendment on February 18, 1863. Now, the amended bill had to once more be submitted to the people for approval. Before the scheduled vote on March 26, Senator Carlile again tried to defeat the bill. His efforts, however, were unsuccessful as the voters followed the advice of Governor Pierpont, Senator Willey, and a member of the West Virginia Legislature, Peter G. Van Winkle. On March 26, 1863, the voters approved the bill by a vote of 26,632 to 534.

President Lincoln was informed of the vote on April 16, 1863. Four days later, he signed the **proclamation** (an official or public announcement) that admitted West Virginia to the Union. Sixty days later, on June 20, 1863, a thirty-fifth star was added to the flag of the United States.
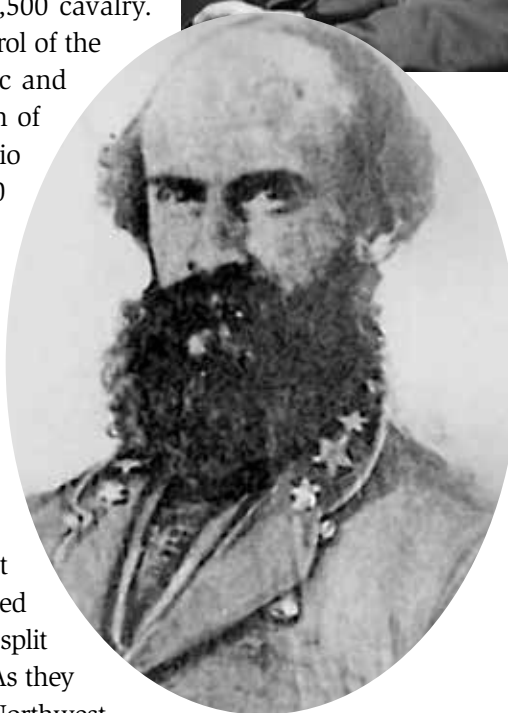
The Jones-Imboden Raid

Two Confederate generals, John D. Imboden and William E. Jones, led the last major action of the Civil War in western Virginia. The Jones-Imboden Raid, which took place in 1863, had three objectives: (1) to overthrow the Restored Government of the State of Virginia in order to stop the West Virginia statehood movement, (2) to completely destroy the usefulness of the B&O Railroad, and (3) to acquire supplies and recruit troops. Because General Lee was planning an invasion of Pennsylvania, the Confederates desperately needed men, horses, grain, and food.

General Imboden left Staunton on April 20, 1863, with 3,400 troops and traveled through Beverly and Weston. Along the way, Imboden captured Buckhannon, but Union forces at Clarksburg and Grafton stopped him. In the meantime, General Jones headed for Moorefield and Terra Alta with 2,500 cavalry. Although unable to gain complete control of the B&O, Jones's cavalry did create panic and destruction across the northern section of western Virginia all the way to the Ohio River. Jones's troops inflicted over 100 casualties and destroyed a bridge across the Cheat River at Albright, but they failed to destroy the longest tunnel in the world at Tunnelton. At Fairmont, Jones burned Governor Frances H. Pierpont's private library, but he could not capture Waitman T. Willey because the senator fled to the safety of the state of Pennsylvania.

Jones and Imboden met on May 2 at Buckhannon. The two raiders then decided to head back across the mountains. They split up, agreeing to meet at Summersville. As they marched, Jones destroyed part of the Northwestern Virginia Railroad between Parkersburg and Grafton. His troops also burned 150,000 barrels of oil at Burning Springs in Wirt County.

The Confederate raid was a military success. The two generals took seven hundred prisoners, three thousand cattle, and $100,000 worth of horses, mules, and wagons. Imboden and Jones destroyed two trains, sixteen bridges, one tunnel, and several engines. The raid did not, however, achieve the political objective of overthrowing the Restored Government of the State of Virginia and thus stopping the West Virginia statehood movement.

Opposite Page: President Lincoln with his cabinet drafting the proclamation, admitting West Virginia to the Union and adding a thirty-fifth star to the flag of the United States. **Top:** General John D. Imboden. **Bottom:** General William E. Jones.

The Civil War Discovery Trail

The Civil War Discovery Trail is a wonderful way to visit and learn about this turbulent period in our nation's history. The trail links more than three hundred sites in sixteen states and includes battlefields, historic homes, railroad stations, cemeteries, and parks. There are fifteen sites in West Virginia along the Civil War Discovery Trail.

At an elevation of 4,400 feet, Camp Allegheny in Bartow (Pocahontas County) is one of the highest camps built during the Civil War. It was established to control the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike. Union General George McClellan established Cheat Summit Fort in Durbin (Pocahontas County) to protect the B&O

Railroad and the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike. Telegraph technology may have been used here for the first time. The Rich Mountain Battlefield Civil War Site in Beverly (Randolph County) is where Union troops under General McClellan defeated Confederate forces, giving the Union control of northwestern Virginia. The site includes the battleground, Confederate Camp Garnett, and parts of the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike. Grafton National Cemetery (Taylor County) was established in 1867 as the final resting place for 2,133 soldiers. Many of the bodies were moved here from smaller cemeteries. Philippi Historic District and Covered Bridge

Above: Cannon at Droop Mountain.

(Barbour County) was the site of the first land battle of the Civil War. Jackson's Mill Historic Area near Weston (Lewis County) is the site of Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's boyhood home. The 2-1/2-story mill is the last of the original Jackson family buildings. The Bulltown Historic Area in Burnsville (Braxton County) was the site of Union fortifications overlooking a covered bridge over the Little Kanawha River. You can see Union trenches here as well as the graves of Confederate soldiers. The Cunningham Farmstead preserves the living conditions of the period.

The Jenkins Plantation Museum (Cabell County) was the home of Confederate General Albert Gallatin Jenkins. The Belle Boyd House in Martinsburg (Berkeley County) was the childhood residence of the famous Confederate spy. Many of the buildings in the Shepherdstown Historic District (Jefferson County) were used as Confederate hospitals after the Battle of Antietam, which was fought just across the border in Maryland. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (Jefferson County) is the site of John Brown's raid in 1859. The town has been restored to the era.

Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park (Nicholas County) was the site of a battle on September 10, 1861. The battle ensured that the West Virginia statehood movement went forward. Droop

Mountain Battlefield State Park (Pocahontas County) was the site of one of the largest and last important Civil War battles in West Virginia. Lewisburg Historic District (Greenbrier County) commemorates the battle that was fought there on May 28, 1862. The site also includes a Confederate cemetery, a library that was used as a hospital, and a monument to the Confederate dead. Finally, West Virginia Independence Hall (Ohio County) was the site of the meetings and debate that led to statehood.

There are a number of other important Civil War sites in West Virginia. They include the Craik-Patton House in Kanawha County, Fort Mill Ridge in Hampshire County, General McClellan's First Headquarters in Grafton (Taylor County), the Jefferson County Courthouse in Charles Town, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's birthplace in Clarksburg (Harrison County), and the Weston and Gauley Turnpike, completed in 1858, which connects the towns of Weston (Lewis County) and Gauley Bridge (Fayette County).

Finally—Statehood!

One month before West Virginia became a state, leaders held a convention in Parkersburg to nominate state officials. The convention nominated Arthur I. Boreman of Parkersburg for governor, Samuel Crane of Randolph County for auditor, Campbell Tarr of Brooke County for treasurer, J. Edgar Boyers of Tyler County for secretary of state, and A. Bolton Caldwell of Ohio County for attorney general. All of these men were elected without opposition on May 28. By the end of May, three judges had been elected by the people. Two months later, the judges met in Wheeling and organized the highest court in the state–the West Virginia court of appeals. With the establishment of the court, all three branches of government–executive, legislative, and judicial–were in place.

One of the first actions by the Legislature was to select West Virginia's first two U.S. senators. Waitman T. Willey of Monongalia County and Peter G. Van Winkle of Wood County were chosen on August 4, 1863. Governor Boreman called the new Legislature into session on June 20 at a temporary **capitol** (a building in which a legislature meets) at the Custom House in Wheeling. The first state Legislature included twenty senators and fifty-one delegates, none of whom were Democrats or Republicans or members of any other political party. All members were simply pro-Union.

Both Governor Pierpont of the Restored Government of the State of Virginia and West Virginia Governor Boreman spoke at the opening day of the new state Legislature. Governor Pierpont cautioned West Virginians to guard their freedom and be "free from all the shackles that shackle me." Governor Boreman listed the reasons for the formation of West Virginia. In his opinion, West Virginia was "the child of the rebellion." His main desire was to advance the new state to a point of respect. Boreman also spoke of the integrity and loyalty Pierpont displayed in resolving a difficult issue.

After the creation of West Virginia, the Restored Government of the State of Virginia had to find a new place to conduct business. Pierpont and the other government officers moved to Alexandria, Virginia, where they took one final action in regard to West Virginia. Berkeley and Jefferson Counties were given permission to vote on joining West Virginia or staying with Virginia. Both counties chose to join West Virginia, bringing the total number of counties in the new state to fifty. Five other counties were added later, created from larger counties.

The War Moves out of West Virginia

After the Jones-Imboden Raid, General Lee moved into Pennsylvania where the southern forces were defeated at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. After that time, except for battles around Salem and Droop Mountain, the Civil War passed from West Virginia. Droop Mountain, where Union General

William W. Averell defeated Confederate General John Echols on November 6, was actually one of the largest battles fought in West Virginia. Over 7,000 troops took part in the fighting, and there were over 400 casualties.

For years after the battle, many Civil War veterans met to reminisce. One of those veterans, John D. Sutton, was a private during the battle and a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates in the 1920s. In 1927, he persuaded the Legislature to create a commission to study the possibility of commemorating the battle site. The recommendation of the commission resulted in the creation of Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park. The park, dedicated in 1928, was the first West Virginia state park.

Below: Droop Mountain Battlefield State Park was the first West Virginia state park.

For the most part, West Virginia's role in the war after 1863 was political. The formation of the new state, which resulted in the division of the most powerful state in the Confederacy, was a tremendous psychological blow to Virginia and the whole South.

During the Civil War, an estimated 10,000 West Virginians served in the Confederate army. West Virginia provided an estimated 32,000 regular troops to the Union army, 212 of whom were blacks. Another 2,300 blacks served in the state militia. One of the volunteers, Major Martin R. Delany of Charles Town, received an appointment from Abraham Lincoln in 1865, making him the first black to become a major in the United States Army. A number of West Virginians lost their lives during the Civil War. Of the 3,224 who died fighting for the Union cause, 820 were killed in action while the remainder died of accidents, wounds, or diseases. There are no reliable estimates, however, as to the number of those who lost their lives on the Confederate side.

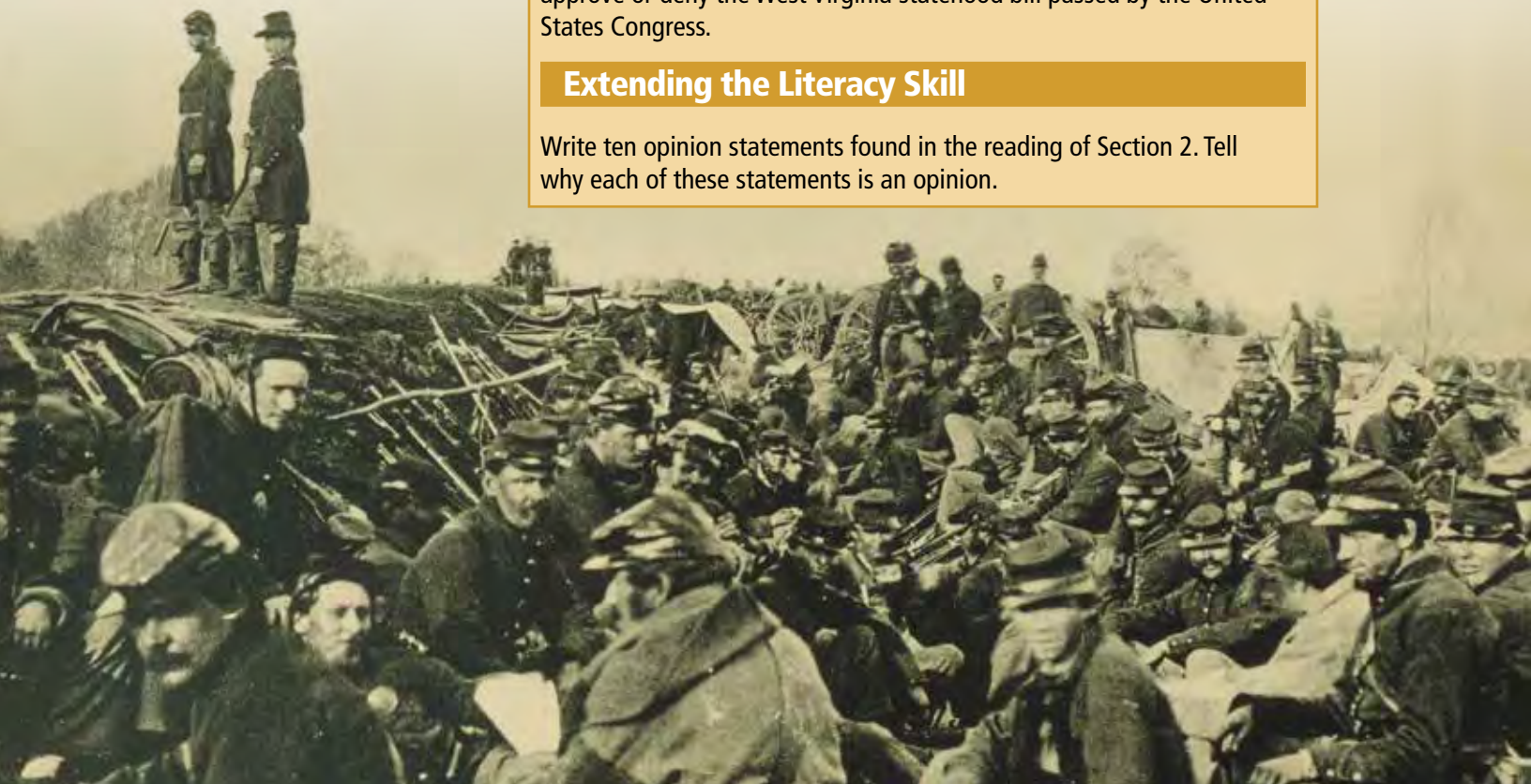## Reviewing the Section

Reviewing the Content

1. What was the importance of the Jenkins Raid?

2. What was the last major Civil War action in West Virginia?

3. When did West Virginia officially become a state?

Using the Content

Write a letter to the editor advising President Abraham Lincoln to approve or deny the West Virginia statehood bill passed by the United States Congress.

Extending the Literacy Skill

Write ten opinion statements found in the reading of Section 2. Tell why each of these statements is an opinion.

Martin Delany

Martin R. Delany was born a slave on May 6, 1812, in Charles Town. When he was ten years old, Martin and his mother made their way to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, after it was discovered that the Delany children were learning to read.

From 1847 to 1849, Martin edited *The North Star*, an abolitionist newspaper, with former slave Frederick Douglass. Delany then entered Harvard Medical School, studied to become a doctor, and opened a practice in Philadelphia in 1852.

In 1852, Delany wrote "The Condition, Elevation, Emigration, and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States," which is considered to be the first publication to support Afro-American nationalism. In 1854, he helped organize the National Emigration Convention, at which his proposal for the resettlement of blacks to Africa was discussed. Delany himself moved to Canada in 1856. While out of the country, Delany explored establishing a colony for blacks in West Africa. In 1859, he traveled to a number of possible locations for such a colony. In 1861, Delany returned to the United States and tried unsuccessfully to recruit blacks to emigrate to his proposed colony.

When the Civil War began, he recruited blacks for the famous 54th Massachusetts Volunteers, for which he served as a surgeon. President Lincoln appointed him a major, the first black field officer of high rank. After the war, Delany lived in South Carolina, where he worked for the Freedmen's Bureau and became active in politics. Delany died January 24, 1885, in Wilberforce, Ohio.

Chapter Summary

Section 1: Early Events Set the Stage for Big Changes

- Many western Virginians believed that Virginia's secession was illegal, and, as a result, they had the right to establish a new government.
- The fighting at Philippi is sometimes considered the first land battle of the Civil War.
- The Second Wheeling Convention adopted a resolution restoring the government of Virginia to the Union.
- Francis Pierpont was elected governor of the Restored Government of the State of Virginia, and John S. Carlile and Waitman T. Willey were elected to the U.S. Senate.
- The victory at Rich Mountain allowed the Restored Government of the State of Virginia to operate safely and to push for statehood for West Virginia.
- Confederate General and former Virginia Governor Henry Wise defeated General Jacob D. Cox at Scary Creek, but his retreat to Gauley Bridge allowed Cox time to receive reinforcements and pursue the Confederates.
- The Second Wheeling Convention passed a regulation to create a new state to be named "Kanawha."
- A battle at Kessler's Cross Lanes is known as the Battle of Knives and Forks because those were the only weapons the Union troops had in their hands at the time of the attack.
- The Battle of Carnifex Ferry was important because it marked the last significant fighting in the Kanawha Valley in 1861.
- Robert E. Lee's horse, Traveller, was bred in Greenbrier County.
- Delegates to the 1861 constitutional convention faced three issues: the name of the state, the boundaries of the new state, and the question of slavery.
- Eastern counties in western Virginia were added to the new state because of the importance of the B&O Railroad.
- On May 13, 1862, the General Assembly of the Restored Government of the State of Virginia authorized the creation of the state of West Virginia.
- The Willey Amendment to West Virginia's statehood bill helped it gain Congressional approval.

Section 2: The Final Days of the War and a New Day for West Virginia

- The fight to control the B&O Railroad took place in the eastern panhandle.
- The Jenkins Raid gave the Confederates needed weapons and exposed the weakness in Union forces. Confederate General William Loring then attacked Charleston, but he was removed from his command for not taking advantage of the situation and allowing Union troops to regain control of the area.
- On December 31, 1862, President Lincoln signed a bill to make West Virginia a state.
- On April 16, 1863, Lincoln signed a proclamation that admitted West Virginia to the Union sixty days later. West Virginia became a state on June 20, 1863.
- The Jones-Imboden Raid was the last major Civil War military action in western Virginia. The Confederate raid was a military success but fell short of its political objective of overthrowing the Restored Government of the State of Virginia.
- Arthur I. Boreman became West Virginia's first governor.
- The Custom House in Wheeling became West Virginia's first capitol.
- After West Virginia became a state, the Restored Government of the State of Virginia moved its offices to Alexandria, Virginia.
- Droop Mountain was the scene of some of the last fighting in West Virginia.
- Martin Delany was the first black to become a major in the U.S. Army.

Chapter 12

The Civil War and West Virginia's Statehood Movement

Chapter Review

Recalling the Facts

1. What was the Union's strategy to win the Civil War?

2. What was western Virginia's importance to the war effort?

3. What was the importance of the Battle at Rich Mountain?

4. Why was the Battle of Carnifex Ferry important?

5. What did the Second Wheeling Convention do?

6. What were the objectives of the Jones-Imboden Raid?

7. Who were West Virginia's first state officials?

8. Who were West Virginia's first U.S. senators?

9. Where was West Virginia's first capitol located?

10. What happened to the Restored Government of the State of Virginia when West Virginia became a state?

Learning Skill

1. If you had been a delegate to the constitutional convention, what name would you have chosen for West Virginia? Give reasons for your choice.

2. Why do you think John Carlile changed his position on West Virginia statehood?

3. West Virginia's statehood movement was called "revolutionary." Do you agree or disagree with that assessment? Give reasons to support your position.

4. Do you think West Virginia is a legal state? Give reasons to support your position.

Community Connection

1. Interview ten people and ask: If West Virginia were given a new name, what should it be? Bring those names to class to share.

2. Use reference materials to determine the role your county played, if any, in the Civil War. Bring pictures or other information to class to create a bulletin board.

Literacy Skill

1. Pretend that you are Abraham Lincoln and respond to one of the following writing prompts:

    A. "I should support West Virginia's petition for statehood because . . . "

    B. "I should not support West Virginia's petition for statehood because . . . "

2. Pretend that you were a soldier at one of the battles described in the chapter. Write a letter home describing what you experienced. You should include sensory words that tell what you saw, felt, and heard.

Technology Tool

1. Use a search engine to find a home page for one of the places listed in the chapter, such as Droop Mountain State Park. Send an email asking a question about something that you would like to know more about.

2. Go to website www.wvculture.org/HISTORY/journal_wvh/wvh45-12.html to read about the West Virginia Civil War Medals. Why were they created? What three classes of medals were made?