Charleston
Retreat
Lightburn's
Military Occupation

This large bronze bell, now at the Oglebay

Tyree
Huntington
(Battle of

The Great Raid
92

— Mary Elizabeth

"It may be said with truth that no

"Who should we risk a new government in the

Julia Pierpont
Charles Town native and

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**THE FIRST CAMPAIGN**

In the spring of 1861, after the American Civil War began, locals in West Virginia were divided between supporting the Union or the Confederacy. Some residents supported the Confederacy, while others remained loyal to the United States. As the war progressed, both sides sought to control or influence the state, leading to military engagements and guerrilla warfare.

**GUERRILLA WARFARE**

Confederate commandery, eager to secure the border areas that bordered Maryland and West Virginia, set out to establish a foothold in the state. Under Gen. Robert E. Lee, to western Virginia was in the summer of 1861, much of the area was controlled by Gen. John Imboden, who began a series of raids through the Potomac Valley. Imboden’s forces, including Confederate guerrillas, attacked Union garrisons and supplies. The primary goal was to destroy the Northwestern Virginia Railroad, which connected the Northwestern Virginia Turnpike and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad as a supply line through Petersburg and Martinsburg. Imboden’s forces, under Gen. John Imboden, captured prisoners and destroyed supplies at Farmington, West Virginia, and harassed Union supplies and communications in Maryland.

**TRAVEL RESOURCES**

Visit West Virginia's Civil War Trails for more detailed travel information and interactive access to the trails. For more information, contact any of the West Virginia CVB offices or visit visitmountaineercountry.com. For more information, contact any of the West Virginia CVB offices or visit visitmountaineercountry.com. For more information, contact any of the West Virginia CVB offices or visit visitmountaineercountry.com.