

A SESQUICENTENNIAL MOMENT

AUG. 25-31, 1861

“Last evening six secessionists were arrested.”

News such as this, which was published in the Aug. 30, 1861, edition of the *Wheeling Intelligencer*, was fairly common during the Civil War.

Whether the arrests involved individuals who were pro-Union or pro-Confederate depends on whether the newspaper was distributed in the southern, mostly pro-secessionist counties of what would become West Virginia or in the northern, mostly pro-Union counties of the state.

Throughout the western half of Virginia, sentiment was split about 60-40 in favor of the Union in the northern

counties and 60-40 in favor of secession in the southern counties.

Differing opinions often fueled distrust among neighbors, and would continue to cause political difficulties in West Virginia through the early years of the 20th century.

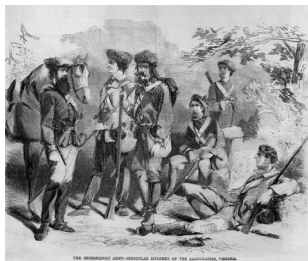


Photo Courtesy of State Archives

This sesquicentennial moment is brought to you by the Archives & History Section of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

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