

A SESQUICENTENNIAL ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ MOMENT

AUG. 10 - 16, 1862

FROM PRESTON COUNTY.

**War Meeting at Kingwood – Speeches
by Gov. Peirpoint and Hon. Wm G.
Brown, and Others.**

As tensions rose between Union and Confederate sympathizers during the late summer of 1862, the Rev. Moses Titchnell of Preston County gave a rousing speech that “alternately convulsed the audience with laughter, and moistened many manly cheeks with tears.”

Titchnell’s Aug. 11, 1862, speech was one of many orations given in Lewis, Harrison, Preston and Taylor counties that week as citizens met to discuss West Virginia’s statehood bid.

The *Wheeling Intelligencer* described Titchnell as “a tower of strength to the Union cause in West Virginia, whose bitter,

withering denunciations of treason and secession and vivid pictures of the blessings of the Government of our fathers, awakened the devotion of every patriotic heart.”

A group of citizens attending that same meeting passed a resolution urging U.S. Sen. John S. Carlile to resign. Though Carlile was an early leader in the push for statehood, he ultimately voted against the bill that passed the Senate, “wholly contrary to the wishes of the loyal people of Preston.”

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

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