

A SESQUICENTENNIAL MOMENT

JUNE 15 - 21, 1862



Sometimes it's not so much the event as the way the story was told 150 years ago that grabs the eye. Such is the case of a barroom brawl in Wheeling that landed a few drunken soldiers in jail on June 17, 1862.

The Wheeling Intelligencer reported that some drunken stragglers from Col. James A. Mulligan's regiment were arrested after they beat up a tavern owner.

Instead of saying the men were drunk, the newspaper said they "like their grog and are very strongly opposed to discipline when under its influence."

Instead of saying the men

pummeled the bartender, the paper said this: "On Tuesday, some of Mulligan's Regiment got into a difficulty with a tavern keeper at Benwood, named Sullivan, who had been selling them whisky, and a general row ensued, during which Sullivan was pretty badly used."

After the soldiers were arrested and jailed, Mulligan ordered all the whiskey in Sullivan's tavern destroyed.

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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