

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

AUG. 3 - 9, 1862

A Methodist minister and former member of the West Virginia Constitutional Convention died on Aug. 7, 1862, in Washington, D.C., after a prolonged battle with camp fever.

The Rev. Gordon Battelle was 48 years old.

*The Marietta Register* described Battelle as “a physician to the bodies as well as the souls of the suffering. ... He was a Christian soldier, devoted by all his philanthropic and religious hopes and convictions to the success of the glorious cause of the Union.”

As a delegate, Battelle proposed emancipation for all children born of slaves. He



also was an honored minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church for 25 years. At the time of his death he was the chaplain for the 1st Virginia Regiment.

Despite being ill, Battelle defied his family's wishes and left home to rejoin his regiment, saying he would “regain his health in the discharge of his duties, or else not at all.”

*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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