

Aug. 11-17, 1861

A Martinsburg native who was an ambassador to France and a Confederate sympathizer got into a little trouble in August 1861.

Charles Faulkner was arrested Aug. 12, 150 years ago, on accusations that he negotiated the sale of French arms to outfit the Confederate military while in Paris.

As a noted 19th-century lawyer and politician, and the recently replaced ambassador to France, Faulkner's arrest upon his return to the United States received a lot of attention

Though Faulkner refused to take an oath of allegiance to the United States, he denied the allegations against him and negotiated his own release four months later by trading himself for a New York congressman captured during the first battle of Bull Run.

Ultimately, Faulkner joined the Confederate Army and served as a member of Confederate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's staff.





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.