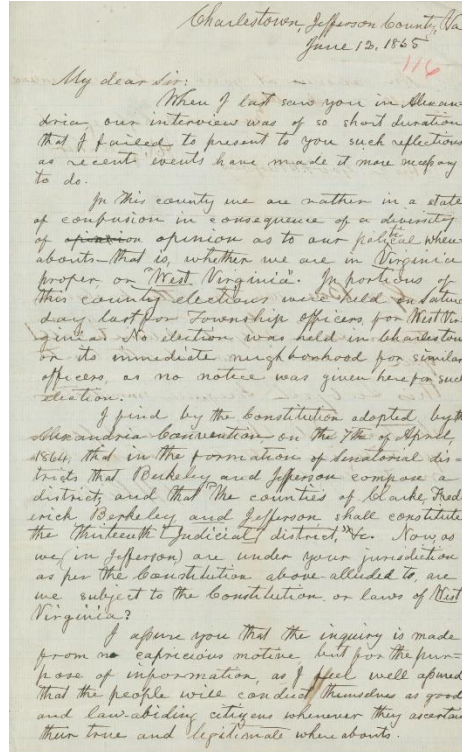


ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY MARCH 7



On March 7, 1866, the U. S. Congress recognized and consented to the transfer of Berkeley and Jefferson counties from Virginia to West Virginia.

CSO: SS.8.25, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (*Papers of Governor Arthur I. Boreman, AR-1723, No. 116, June 12, 1865*)

1. What does the author of the letter say is the reason for the “state of confusion” in Jefferson County?
2. What facts are presented in this source? *List two.* Are there any presented that would explain why the header reads, “Charlestown, Jefferson County, Va” despite the letter being dated in 1865? If so, what?
3. What position did Francis Pierpont and Arthur Boreman hold at one time, respectively?

Think Critically: The Civil War had just concluded, and the state of West Virginia was still in its infancy; what issues do you believe the young state had in the years following the war? Did Virginia believe West Virginia was created constitutionally? What information was not included in the letter?

Charlestown, Jefferson County, Va
June 12, 1865

116
My dear Sir:

When I last saw you in Alexandria, our interview was of so short duration that I failed to present to you such reflections as recent events have made it more necessary to do.

In this county we are rather in a state of confusion in consequence of a diversity of ~~opinion~~ opinion as to our political whereabouts—that is, whether we are in Virginia proper, or "West Virginia". In portions of this county elections were held on Saturday last for Township officers, for West Virginia. No election was held in Charlestown or its immediate neighborhood for similar officers, as no notice was given here for such election.

I find by the Constitution adopted by the Alexandria Convention, on the 7th of April, 1864, that in the formation of senatorial districts that Berkeley and Jefferson compose a district, and that the counties of Clarke, Frederick, Berkeley and Jefferson shall constitute the Thirteenth Judicial District, &c. Now, as we (in Jefferson) are under your jurisdiction as per the Constitution above-alluded to, are we subject to the Constitution or laws of West Virginia?

I assure you that the inquiry is made from no capricious motive, but for the purpose of information, as I feel well assured that the people will conduct themselves as good and law-abiding citizens whenever they ascertain their true and legitimate whereabouts.

An answer at your earliest convenience
will much oblige

Yours, with high regard

W. Gallaher

To His Ex. Gov. F. N. Pickens

Gov. Boone. This letter has been
read and is only an exponent of many
others on same subject. I desire to call
your serious and earnest attention to
this subject. It requires immediate
attention. I don't know in what form
you will give it attention that is not for
me to suggest —

F. N. Pickens