

Nov. 16-22, 1862

Obnoxious drunken soldiers resisting arrest and allegations of soldiers engaging in immoral conduct filled the headlines of the *Wheeling Daily Intelligencer* during the third week of November 1862.

A Nov. 21 story said a soldier named Venus was placed on a rail and "drummed out of camp and through the streets" of Parkersburg for writing a letter critical of his comrades to Gov. Frances Pierpont. Venus' letter accused members of his company of "all sorts of immoral practices."

"Immediately a rail was procured and he was put astride of it and was thus carried all about the camp by one of the

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. most disgraceful modes of conveyance ever invented," the *Wheeling Daily Intelligencer* reported.

A story published the next day told of two soldiers who were sent to retrieve two drunken soldiers in Wheeling, but instead got drunk on whiskey, too. The four "were very riotous in their proceedings, jostling roughly against citizens standing upon the sidewalks, attempting to fire off their guns and using profane language," the article reads.

Only "after a great deal of trouble" were the four "placed safely in the Atheneum."



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