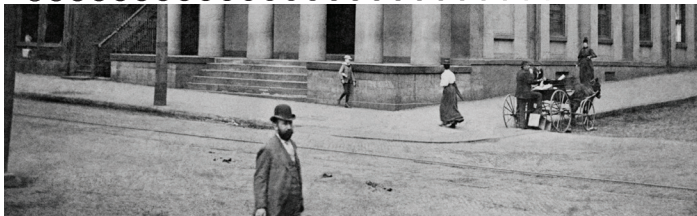


A SESQUICENTENNIAL ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ MOMENT

APRIL 6 - 12, 1862



An exchange of insults led to a fistfight between a U.S. marshal and U.S. senator on April 12, 1862, in Wheeling.

U.S. Marshal E. M. Norton and U.S. Sen. John S. Carlile exchanged blows for about two minutes outside the Merchant's and Mechanic's Bank before being separated. The scrap resulted in a warrant being issued against the lawman.

The two men were angry with each other after Norton sent Carlile a letter accusing him of acting in bad faith in the procurement of certain military appointments. In response, Carlile accused Norton of not

being a gentleman, and had both letters published in the *Wheeling Daily Press*. The disagreement escalated after Carlile refused Norton's request to have the offensive language withdrawn from the newspaper.

"The affair created a ripple of excitement upon the quiet Rialto where it occurred, and there was some running to and fro on the part of the populace," according to the published account of the altercation in the *Wheeling Intelligencer*.

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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