

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

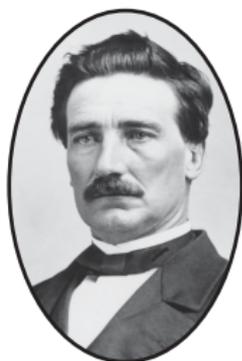
JUNE 1 - 7, 1863

The adage that the Civil War pitted neighbor against neighbor was never any truer than during the summer of 1863.

A story in the June 6 edition of the *Wheeling Intelligencer* says state Delegate-elect John Boggs and Captain Harper of Pendleton County oversaw “a very respectable vote” despite Rebels who “tried to hold an election to vote for the old Virginia candidates.”

“These Swampers (as some Union supporters were called) deserve everlasting honor for the courageous manner in which they have defended Pendleton County,” the newspaper editors said. “They have formed a little company of loyal men, and have established themselves in what is almost a wilderness surrounded by Rebels of every description, and they defy the whole Confederate army.”

The newspaper said Confederate Gen. John Imboden had recently urged the Swampers to join his



troops because “it was folly for them to hold out longer as the Confederates intended to occupy the whole state.”

The Swampers rebuked Imboden, and in a reply told him that they intended to fight “as long as there was a man able to load and discharge a rifle.”

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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