

A SESQUICENTENNIAL MOMENT

OCT. 6-12, 1861

In the fall of 1861, a Tucker County man and delegate to the Second Wheeling Convention pleaded with a U.S. senator to send federal troops to protect him and other Union loyalists from angry mobs.

Solomon Parsons' Oct. 9 letter to Sen. John S. Carlile says he had escaped a mob intent on hanging him, but his store wasn't so lucky. Rebels had robbed it of everything valuable. They also had stolen his 4-year-old mare.

Parsons blamed secessionists in the county for blocking an election for judge, and said the sheriff had threatened to hang anyone who voted for dividing Virginia.

While detailing how he had given Union loyalists assurances that the government would protect them, Parsons



said the response had been disappointing.

He says the relatively few Union supporters in the area were disheartened, and he felt powerless to help.



This sesquicentennial moment is brought to you by the West Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

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