

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

AUG. 18-24, 1861

A telegraph detailing a skirmish at Hawk's Nest in Fayette County says the Confederate Army's commanding officer was so calm that one might suspect there was no enemy around.

Actually, throngs of Union troops were at Hawk's Nest in Fayette County on Aug. 20, 1861, when Confederate Brig. Gen. Henry A. Wise led troops into the area.

Ultimately, Union forces prevailed, but the threat of fighting breaking out or Confederates advancing toward Wheeling haunted pro-Union delegates on an almost daily basis as

Union and Confederate forces continued to fight for control of western Virginia.

The same day fighting erupted at Hawk's Nest, Wheeling delegates passed an ordinance seeking to define the boundaries of the proposed state of Kanawha, whose name eventually was changed to West Virginia.



Photo Courtesy of State Archives

This sesquicentennial moment is brought to you by the Archives & History Section of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

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