

### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY JANUARY 13



On January 13, 1905, Joseph H. Diss Debar, legislator, Commissioner of Immigration, and designer of the State Seal, died in Philadelphia.

**CSO: SS.8.22, VA.6-8.5, VA.6-8.7, VA.6-8.9**

**Investigate the Document:** (Joseph H. Diss Debar Sketches, No. 52, Photograph of the original design of the State Seal of West Virginia, with the report of the Committee on Seals.)

1. Joseph H. Diss Debar was an American artist, responsible for the original design of the State Seal of West Virginia (see below.) Use the image provided to answer the following:
  - Listed on the bottom ring of the Great Seal is the state motto, "*Montani Semper Liberi.*" What is the translation of this phrase?
  - In the center of the Great Seal is a stone with the date, "June 20, 1863" carved into it. What is the significance of this date?
  - Adjacent to each side of the stone, located in the center, are two men; what do these two men represent?
  - In front of the two men, are two crossed rifles and a liberty cap. What do you think these items represent?

**Think Critically:** Does your opinion about the artwork change after understanding what the items on the Great Seal represent? How do the individual elements of this artwork help contribute to the message of the whole artwork? If you were to create your own Great Seal of West Virginia in the present-day, what would you include or remove from Joseph H. Diss Debar's original design?

