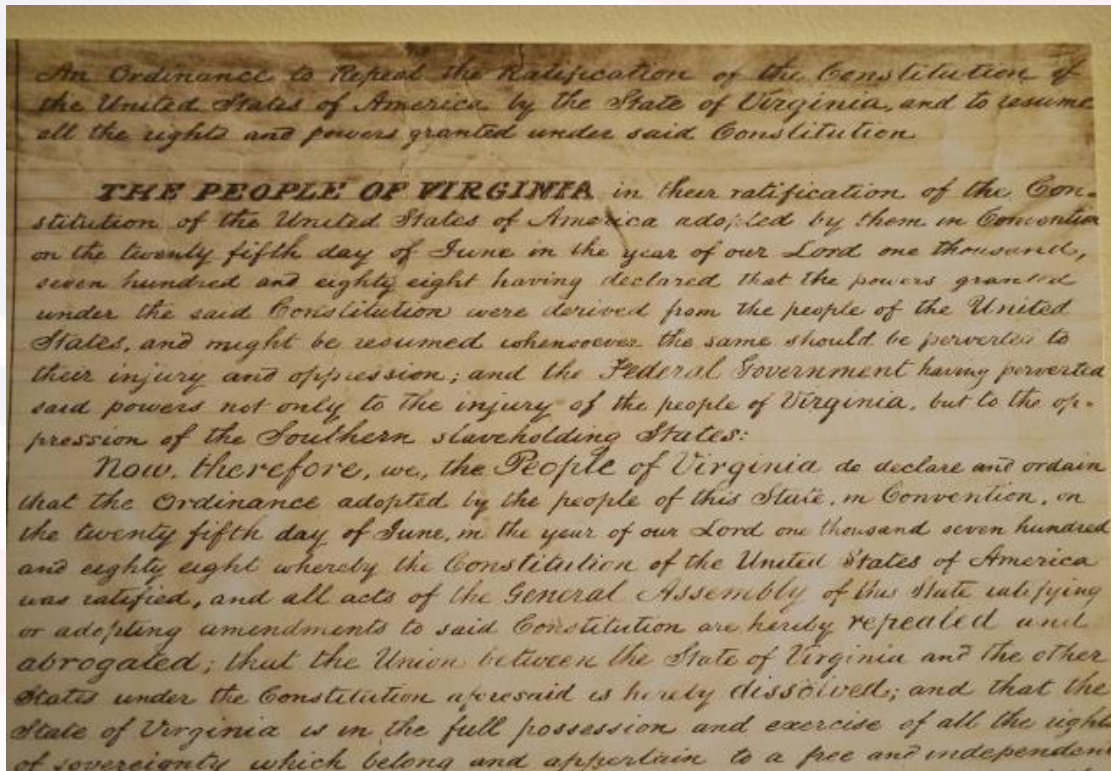


West Virginia Sesquicentennial Exhibit June 20, 2013

Gallery 2:
From Disunion to Statehood

West Virginia and Regional History Center
WVU Libraries

1861 Virginia Ordinance of Secession



On February 13, 1861, when delegates assembled in Richmond to decide the course Virginia would take in the in National Crisis, the majority from both east and west were intent on remaining with the Union. To the dismay of western Virginians, the tide quickly turned when Fort Sumter fell and President Lincoln called for volunteers, "... to cause the laws to be duly executed..."

On April 17, the delegates voted Virginia out of the United States. Despite a state law requiring a referendum vote by the people to make the ordinance legal, Virginia dispatched troops to capture the United States arsenal at Harpers Ferry only hours later.

Virginia Secession Convention, 1861

“To the Voters of Barbour County” (top left)

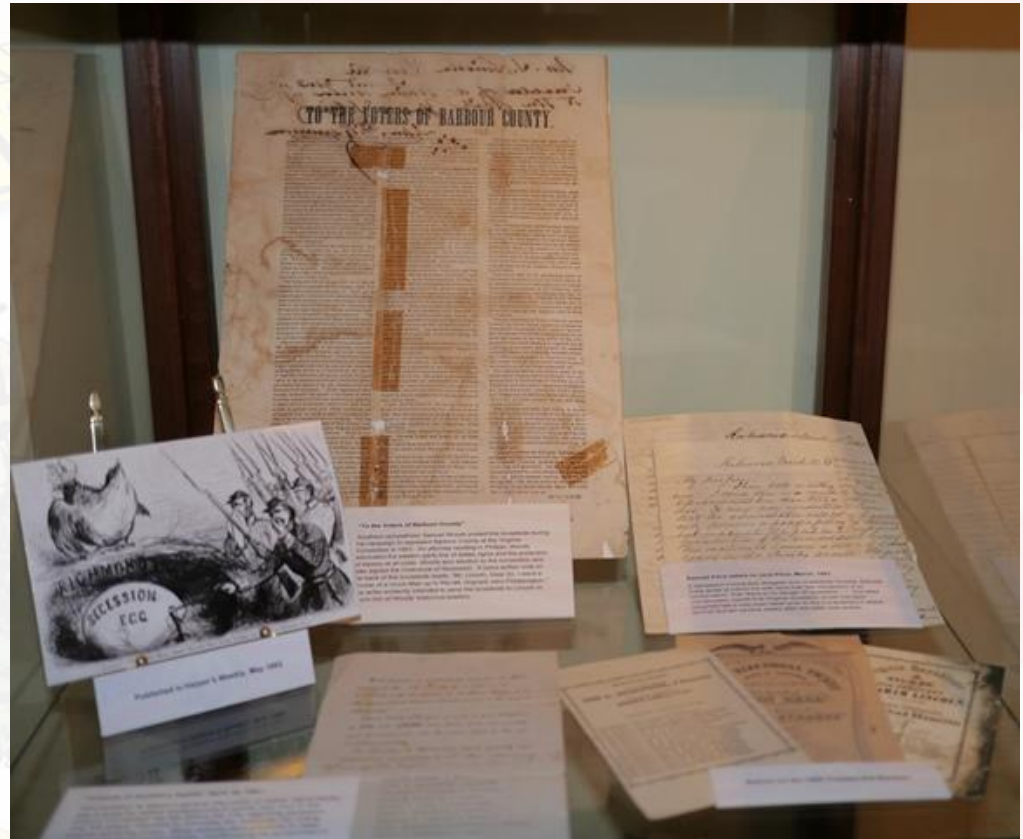
Southern sympathizer Samuel Woods posted this broadside during his campaign to represent Barbour County at the Virginia Convention in 1861. An attorney residing in Philippi, Woods advocated the eastern party line of states’ rights and the protection of slavery at all costs. Woods won election to the convention and later signed the Ordinance of Secession. A handwritten note on the back of this broadside reads, “Mr. Lincoln, Dear Sir, I send a circular of a Union Man up to the rail, (signed) John Fitzspurgeon.” The writer evidently intended to send the broadside to Lincoln to inform him of Woods’ traitorous position.

Political Cartoon Published in *Harper’s Weekly*, May 1862 (bottom left)

“Whew! That Old Man, JEFF DAVIS, has been trying to hatch a Rotten Egg!”

“Friends of Southern Rights” April 16, 1861 (bottom center)

This invitation, an offer to attend a discussion of Southern rights issues, was a guise for radical secessionists to gather next door to the Virginia Convention the day before the vote to decide Virginia secession. The “fire-eaters” intended to intimidate the delegates into voting Virginia out of the Union. Many radicals were prepared to rebel against Virginia Governor Letcher, overthrowing his government if the convention failed to vote in favor of secession.



Samuel Price letters to Jane Price, March 1861 (top right)

A Secession Convention delegate from Greenbrier County, Samuel Price wrote to inform his wife Jane that “the convention is so conservative” that “there is no danger of secession...” The letter corroborates reports that Virginia secession would not have occurred had a vote been taken prior to the Confederacy’s attack on Fort Sumter several weeks after this letter was written.

Ballots for the 1860 Presidential Election (bottom right)

Virginia Secession Convention, 1861

Henry A. Wise, Virginia Governor 1856-1860, Confederate General 1861-1865 (top left)

Post-War Letter from Governor Henry Wise to Charles J. Faulkner (bottom left)

Former Virginia Governor Henry Wise was so hostile to the Union that he refused to take the Oath of Allegiance when the Civil War ended. In this letter he explains to Faulkner that, since he never fought for the Confederacy, only for Virginia, there was no need for him to take the oath. Wise labeled himself an “unsubmitting rebel”.

Eyewitness to the Secession Vote, “A Sad and Sorrowful Picture” (bottom center)

Gideon Cranmer recorded the last emotional plea against secession by the President of Convention, John Janney, and the intimidation and threats against pro-Union delegates it spawned. He also reported Henry Wise’s reaction to the assembly regarding a proposal to postpone the vote. Removing a horse pistol from his coat, Wise announced, “Too late, in 15 minutes Harpers Ferry will be in the possession of Virginia troops.”

Political Cartoon Lambasting Secessionists (bottom right)

This cartoon is directed toward secessionists, but was delivered to John J. Davis of Harrison County. Davis stood against secession, but turned against the statehood movement when emancipation became a condition. Other penciled-in comments label Davis a traitor, placing him in the same category with secessionists.



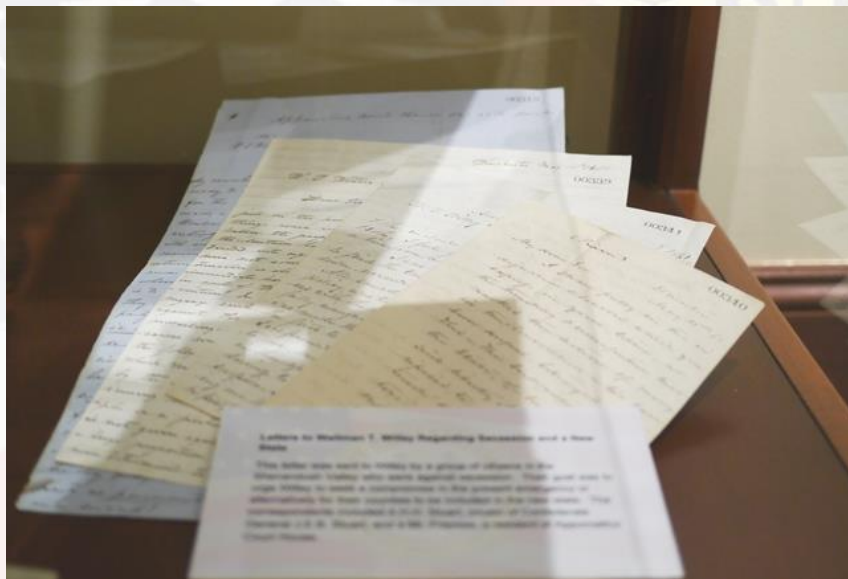
Federal Relations Committee Report, March 9, 1861 (top center)

This committee laid out 14 proposals to the Secession Convention, among them a justification of slavery and a defense of states’ rights. The committee also called for a special meeting of representatives from the eight slave states still in the Union. Their goal was to form a united front of states interested in achieving compromise rather than disunion.

John Carlile’s Speech Before the Virginia Convention, March 7, 1861 (top right)

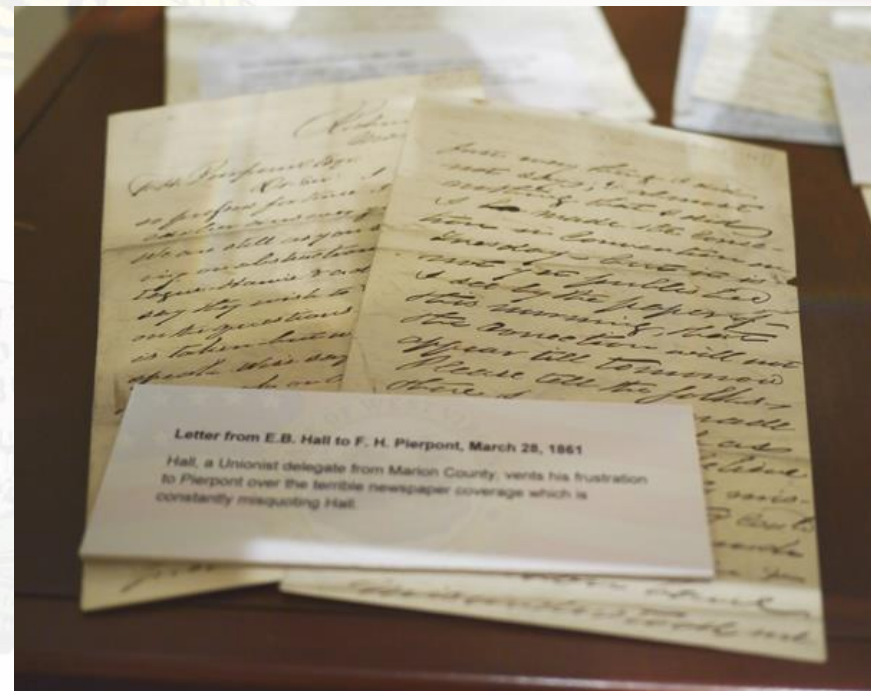
Clarksburg’s John S. Carlile was a leading pro-Union advocate in western Virginia. He used his considerable regional influence to rally citizens against secession in an effort to keep Virginia in the Union. After secession, Carlile was one of the first proponents of forming a new state. To the disappointment of many, he would later vote against the statehood bill in the United States Senate because the emancipation of slaves was attached as amendment.

Virginia Secession Convention, 1861



Letters to Waitman T. Willey Regarding Secession, March 27 - May 16, 1861

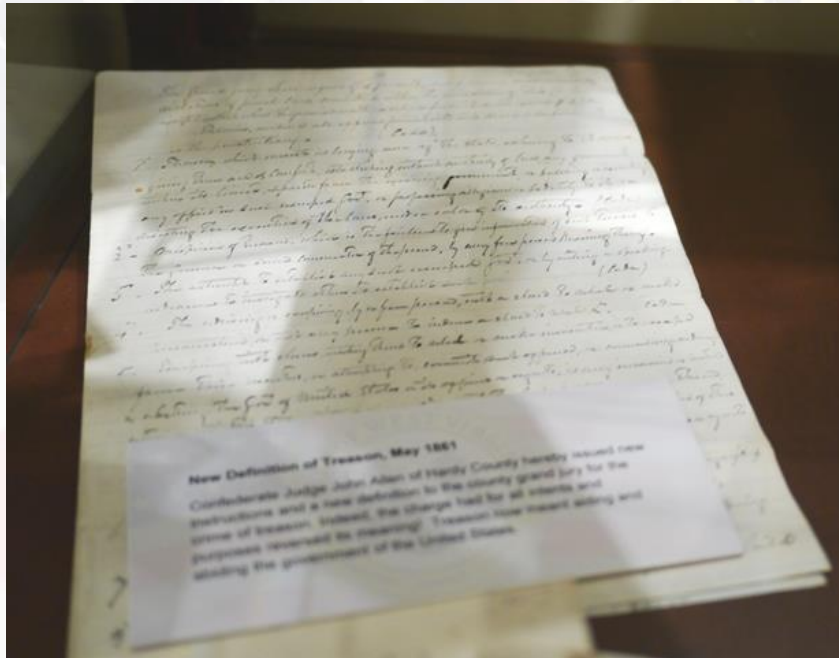
These letters were sent to Willey by citizens and convention delegates from the Shenandoah Valley who were against secession. They urged Willey to return to Richmond and to seek a compromise in the present emergency. If that failed, each writer resolved to take different paths, including submission to the Confederacy, fight the "invading Yankees," and reject secession by forming a new government. The correspondents included A.H.H. Stuart of Staunton, cousin of Confederate General Jeb Stuart, and a Mr. Fraysee, resident of Appomattox Court House.



Letter from E.B. Hall to F. H. Pierpont, March 28, 1861

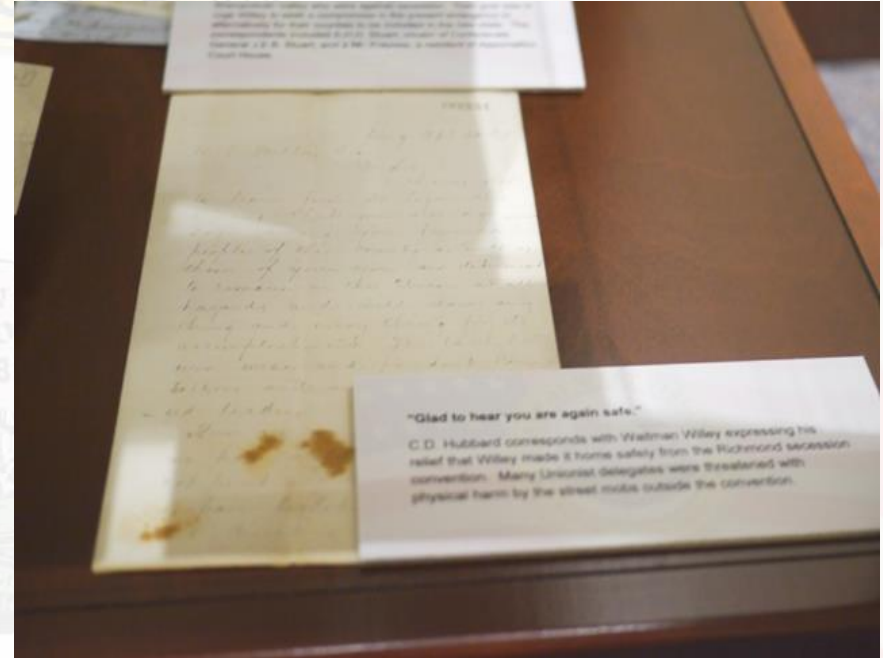
Ephraim B. Hall, a Unionist delegate from Marion County, vents his frustration to Pierpont over the terrible newspaper coverage which is constantly misquoting Hall.

Effects of Virginia's Secession



New Definition of Treason, May 1861

Confederate Judge John Allen of Hardy County hereby issued new instructions and a new definition to the county grand jury for the crime of treason. Indeed, the charge had, for all intents and purposes, reversed its meaning! Treason now meant aiding and abetting the government of the United States.



"Glad to hear you are again safe."

C.D. Hubbard corresponds with Waitman Willey, expressing his relief that Willey made it home safely from the Richmond secession convention. Many Unionist delegates were threatened with physical harm by the street mobs outside the convention.

Northwestern Virginians Rally After Secession Convention

A GREAT RALLY

OF THE

Friends of Liberty!

TO HELP SAVE THE

BEST GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD!

WILL BE HELD IN

Fairmont, on Monday, May 6th, Court Day.



Let every man who has the soul, the heart of an American beating within his bosom, be there. The glorious flag of our country has been torn down from the Capitol of our State and the flag of the traitors floats in its place.

AMERICANS, we ask you to come to the rescue of our country and our country's cause. Our chains are being forged; their clanking may be heard in Richmond, in that secret, that dark and damnable Convention. Then let all come to the rescue. The great champion of Western Virginia,

HON. JOHN S. CARLILE,

will be there to address the people. Let us give him a warm and glorious reception. Other noble speakers in the cause of our liberties will be there.

FAIRMONT, MARION COUNTY, VA, APRIL 29, 1861.

“Our chains are being forged . . . in that damnable Convention.”
April, 29, 1861

This broadside was posted in Northwest Virginia soon after Virginia seceded. It calls for Americans to rally and rescue their country. John Carlile, a Unionist delegate at the Convention in Richmond, was one of the driving forces in separating Western Virginia from Virginia and is billed here as the rally's featured speaker.

First and Second Wheeling Conventions, 1861

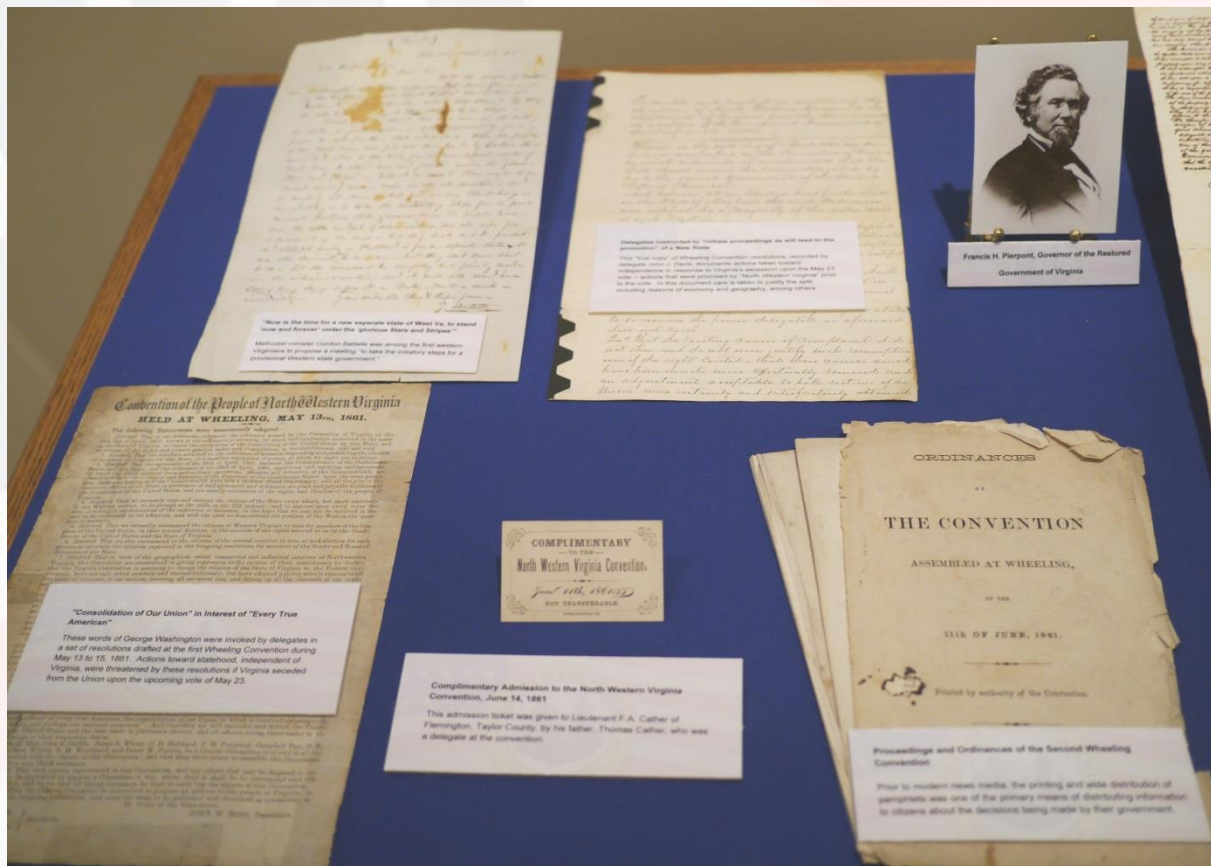


Photo of Francis Harrison Pierpont, Governor of Restored Virginia (top right)

"Consolidation of Our Union" in Interest of "Every True American" (bottom left)

These words of George Washington were invoked by delegates in a set of resolutions drafted at the First Wheeling Convention during May 13 to 15, 1861. These resolutions threatened to create an independent state for the westerners if the upcoming vote of May 23 supported Virginia's secession from the Union.

Complimentary Admission to the North Western Virginia Convention, June 14, 1861 (bottom center)

This admission ticket was given to Lieutenant F.A. Cather of Flemington, Taylor County, by his father, Thomas Cather, who was a delegate at the convention.

Proceedings and Ordinances of the Second Wheeling Convention (bottom right)

Prior to modern news media, the printing and wide distribution of pamphlets was one of the primary means of distributing information to citizens about the decisions being made by their government.

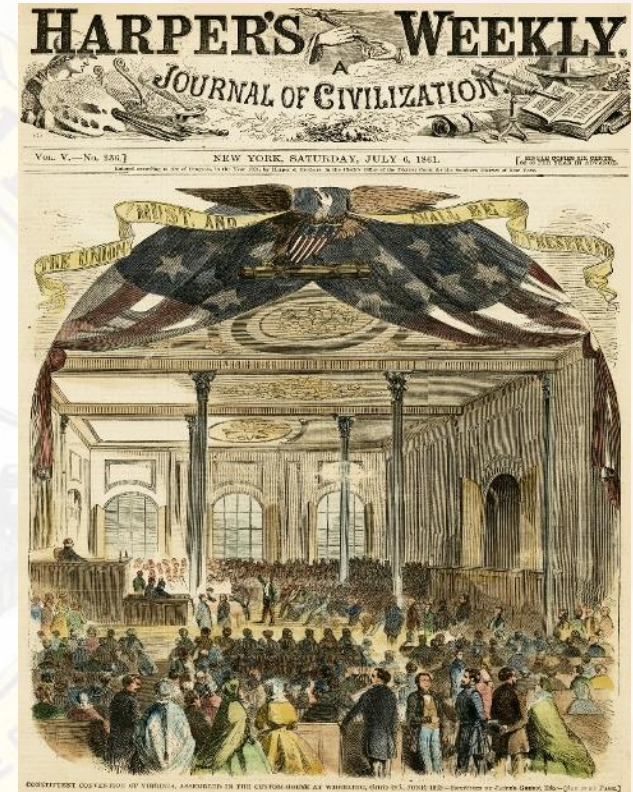
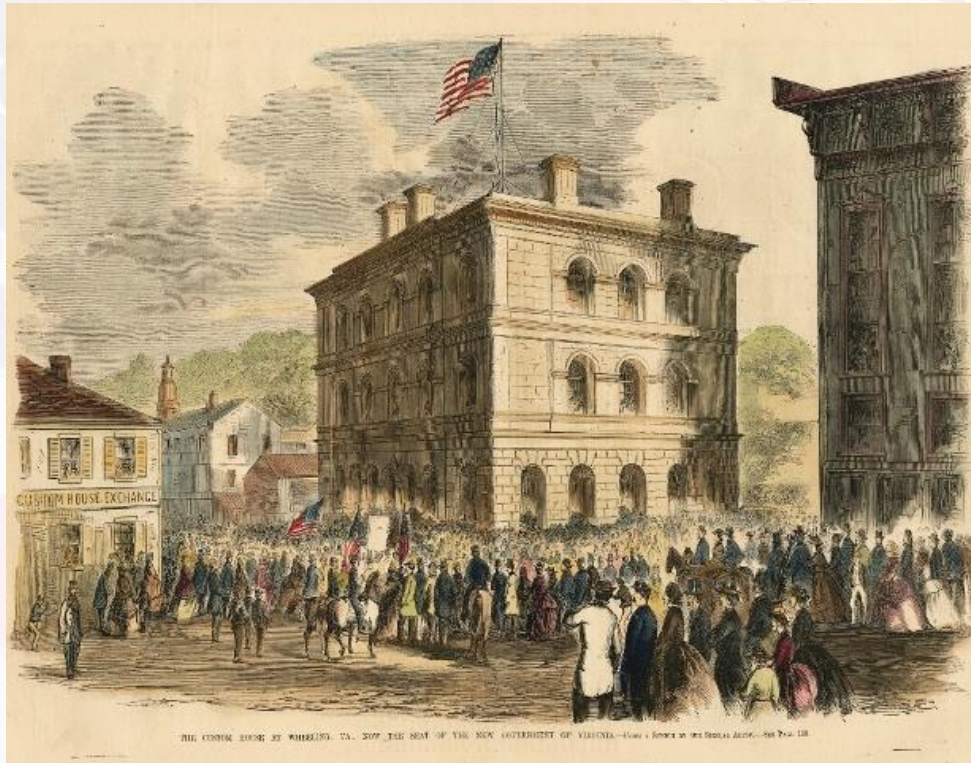
"Now is the time for a new separate state of West Va, to stand 'now and forever' under the 'glorious Stars and Stripes'" (top left)

Methodist minister Gordon Battelle was among the first western Virginians to propose a meeting "to take the initiatory steps for a provisional Western state government."

Delegates Instructed to "initiate proceedings as will lead to the promotion" of a New State (top center)

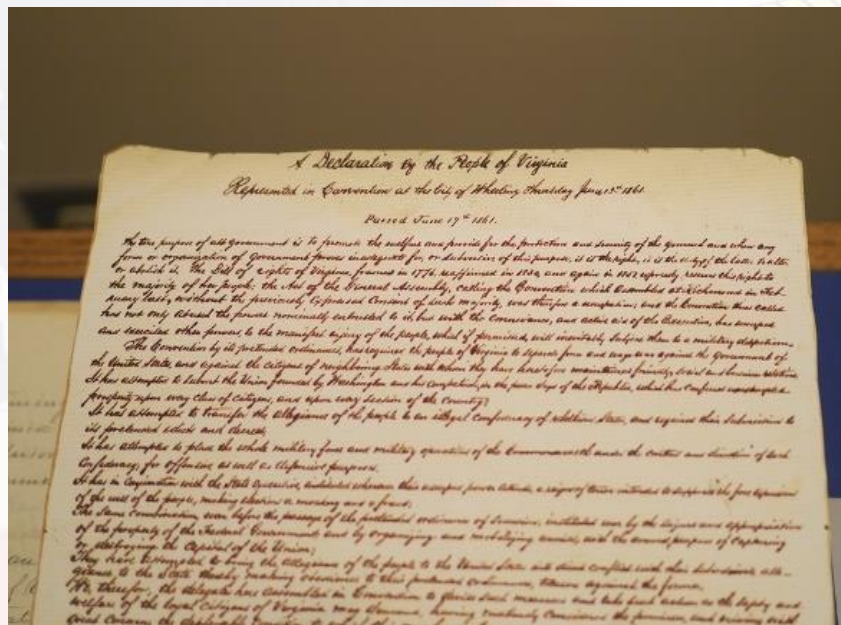
This "true copy" of Wheeling Convention resolutions, recorded by delegate John J. Davis, documents actions taken toward independence in response to Virginia's secession upon the May 23 vote -- actions that were promised by "North Western Virginia" prior to the vote. In this document, care is taken to justify the split, including reasons of economy and geography, among others.

Second Wheeling Convention, June and August, 1861



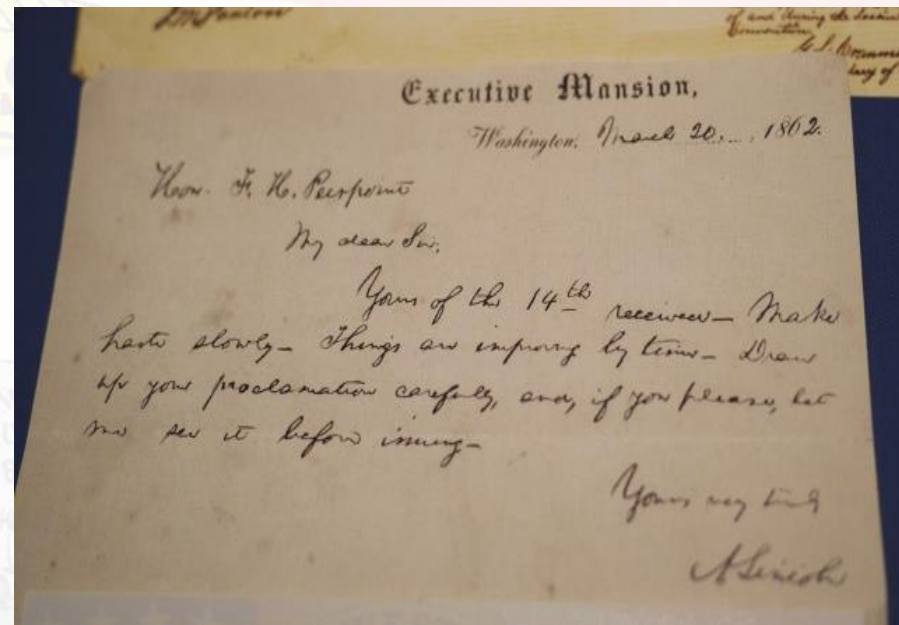
These sketches, from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* (left) and *Harper's Weekly* (right), depict the Second Wheeling Convention, during which delegates formed the Restored Government of Virginia and then proposed the creation of a new state, Kanawha. When the delegates met again to create the new state's constitution in November 1861, they would change the state's name to West Virginia.

Toward Separation



“We ... imperatively demand the reorganization of the government of the Commonwealth [of Virginia], and that all acts of said [Secession] Convention and Executive, tending to separate this Commonwealth from the United States, ... are without authority and void; and the offices of all who adhere to the said Convention and Executive, whether legislative, executive or judicial, are vacated.”

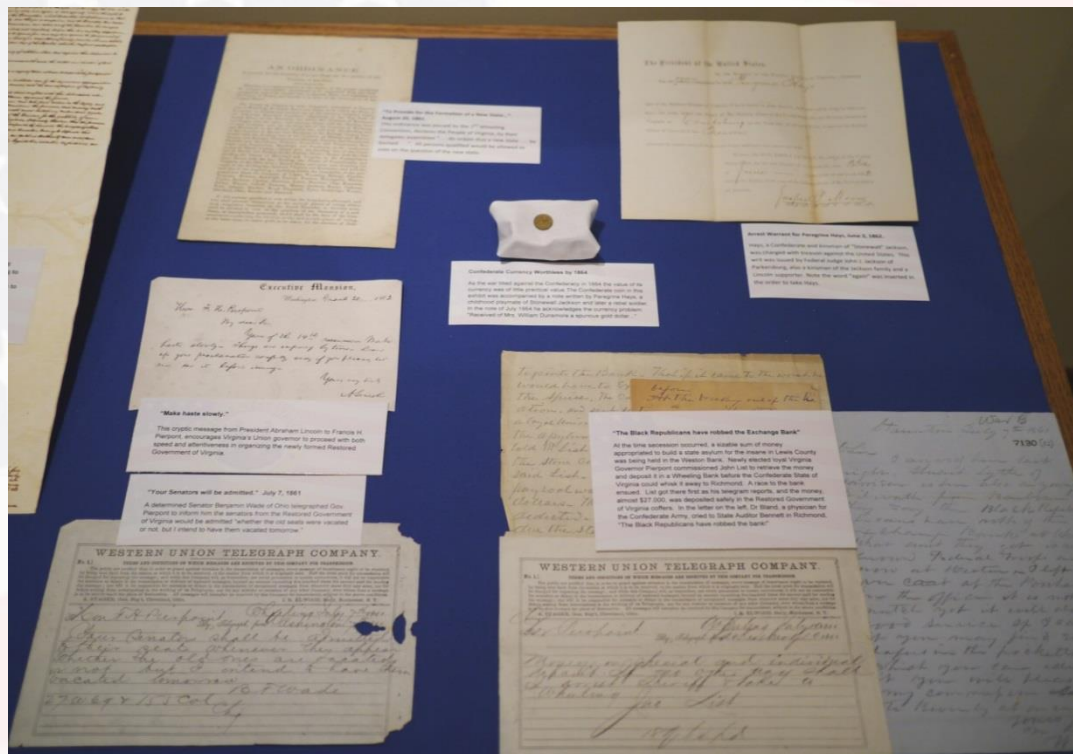
Excerpt from “A Declaration of the People of Virginia,” passed during the first session of the Second Wheeling Convention on June 17, 1861, and signed by the delegates three days later, on June 20, 1861.



“Make haste slowly.”

This cryptic message from President Abraham Lincoln to Francis H. Pierpont, encourages Virginia’s Union governor to proceed with both speed and attentiveness in organizing the newly formed Restored Government of Virginia.

Post-Secession



“To Provide for the Formation of a New State...”

August 20, 1861

(top left)

This ordinance was passed by the 2nd Wheeling Convention, declares the People of Virginia, by their delegates assembled “. . . do ordain that a new state . . . be formed . . .”. All persons qualified would be allowed to vote on the question of the new state.

Arrest Warrant for Peregrine Hays, June 3, 1862

(top right)

Hays, a Confederate and kinsman of “Stonewall” Jackson, was charged with treason against the United States. This writ was issued by Federal Judge John J. Jackson of Parkersburg, also a kinsman of the Jackson family and a Lincoln supporter. Note the word “again” was inserted in the order to take Hays.

Lincoln Telegram (center left) – see previous slide.

Confederate Currency (center) – see following slide.

“Your Senators will be admitted.” July 7, 1861

(bottom left)

A determined U.S. Senator Benjamin Wade of Ohio telegraphed Governor Pierpont to inform him the senators from the Restored Government of Virginia would be admitted “whether the old seats are vacated or not, but I intend to have them vacated tomorrow.”

“The Black Republicans have robbed the Exchange Bank” (bottom right)

At the time secession occurred, money appropriated to build a state asylum for the insane in Lewis County was being held in the Weston Bank. Newly elected loyal Virginia Governor Pierpont commissioned John List to retrieve the money and deposit it in a Wheeling Bank before the Confederate State of Virginia could whisk it away to Richmond. A race to the bank ensued. List got there first as his telegram reports, and the money, almost \$27,000, was deposited safely in the Restored Government of Virginia coffers. In the letter on the right, Dr. Bland, a physician for the Confederate Army, cried to State Auditor Bennett in Richmond, “The Black Republicans have robbed the bank!”

Confederate Currency Worthless by 1864

As the war tilted against the Confederacy in 1864, the value of its currency was seriously compromised. The Confederate coin in this exhibit was accompanied by a note written by Peregrine Hays, a childhood playmate of Stonewall Jackson and later a rebel soldier. In the note of July 1864, he acknowledges the currency problem: "Received of Mrs. William Dunsmore a spurious gold dollar..."



Governor and Mrs. Pierpont



**Photos of Julia Augusta Robertson Pierpont (top)
and
Francis Harrison Pierpont (bottom)**

“I had a little fun with some of the newly pledged officers of the Confederacy” May 17, 1861 (bottom left)

In a letter to her husband, Governor Pierpont’s wife Julia proudly tells of facing down two Confederate officers who came to the Pierpont home demanding to search the house for a rifle belonging to a friend. Julia, not to be “intimidated,” stood her ground, refusing to allow the soldiers entry.

“I don’t want you to come home” May 27, 1861 (bottom center)

In this letter, Governor Pierpont’s wife Julia warns her husband not to return home because a reward has been offered for his capture, along with that of John S. Carlile and John Burdette.

“My Dear I Am the Governor” June 20, 1861 (bottom right)

Governor Francis H. Pierpont informs his wife on June 20, 1861, that the convention in Wheeling has “conferred” upon him the position of Governor of Virginia.

Pierpont China and Pressed Glass Tableware (top)

The artifacts in this case were all personal possessions of Governor Francis H. Pierpont. Included, from left to right, are: a spoon holder made in Sandwich, Massachusetts, ca. 1850; a pickle dish made in Portland, Maine, ca. 1870; an egg cup, manufacture unknown, ca. 1860; and a sugar bowl made in Pittsburgh, ca. 1850. The platter in the rear of the case is a Canova pattern, blue and white Staffordshire, manufactured by Mayer, ca. 1835. The platter was a gift to the Pierponts from Mrs. Pierpont’s parents, Reverend and Mrs. Samuel Robertson. These pieces are a recent gift to the WVRHC by noted Harrison County historian Jack Sandy Anderson.

John J. and Anna Kennedy Davis

Photo of John J. and Anna Kennedy Davis, 1862 (top left)

“You and I are no longer citizens of the same government.”

April 20, 1861 (center left)

Anna Kennedy of Baltimore and her fiancé, John J. Davis of Clarksburg, were among many couples who were not in perfect agreement on the issue of secession. Correspondence in the WVRHC documents their evolving thoughts during this tumultuous period in history. In this letter, Davis lamented to his betrothed that they had become “foreigners” due to Virginia’s secession, adding “I hope we shall never be so in feeling.”

“Surely, surely you will not support it” **May, 1861** (bottom left)

In this letter, Miss Kennedy expresses her opinion that the Lincoln government is tyrannical, advising Mr. Davis that “if you fight, it will not be for oppression.” Despite their differing views, Kennedy and Davis were married in Clarksburg in August 1862.

Copperheads and Death Threats: February – October, 1862
(bottom right)

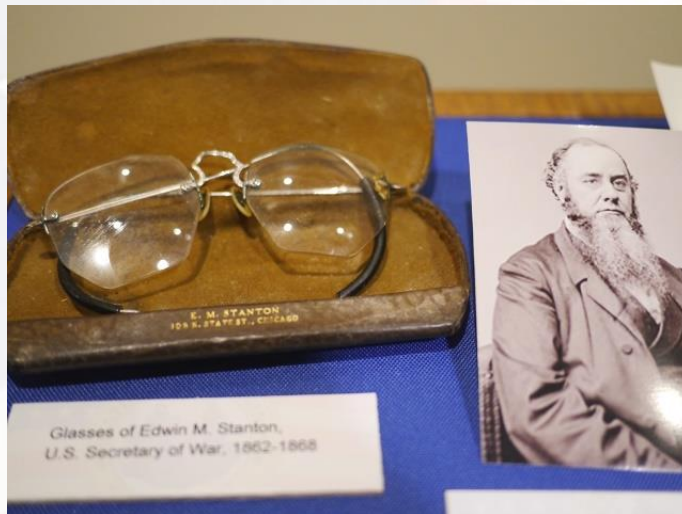
In these letters from Davis to Anna Kennedy, he declares his support of John Carlile’s vote against the statehood bill in the U.S. Senate because it had been amended to emancipate slaves in West Virginia. Both Davis and Carlile were now counted as “Copperheads”, standing for slavery and the “Union as it was”. This opposition to the new state resulted in threats against Davis such as these, warning him, “The less you say here after the better ... if you respect your personal safety”.



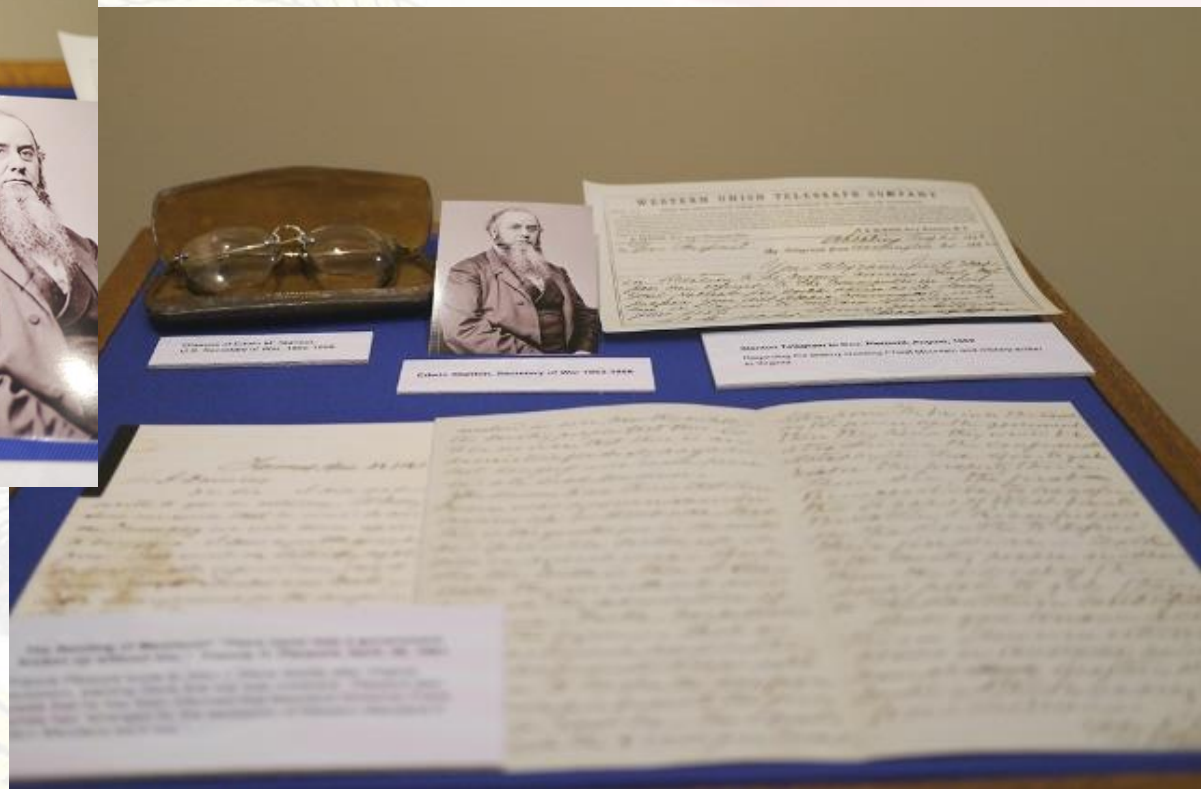
Envelope from Miss Kennedy’s letter to her husband, 1861



Edwin M. Stanton



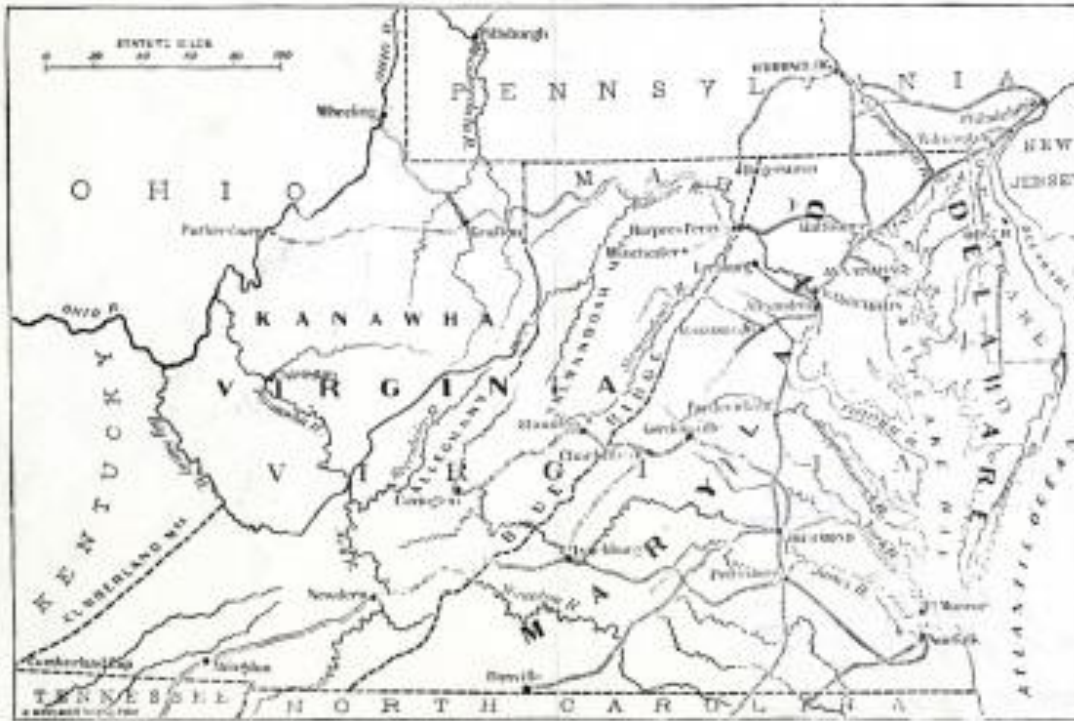
Glasses and Portrait Photograph of Edwin M. Stanton, U.S. Secretary of War, 1862-1868 (top left & inset)



Stanton Telegram to Governor Pierpont, August 1862 (top right)
Regarding the enemy crossing Cheat Mountain and military action in Virginia.

The Rending of Maryland? "There never was a government broken up without war." Francis H. Pierpont, April 28, 1861 (bottom left)
Francis Pierpont wrote to John J. Davis shortly after Virginia secession, warning Davis that war was imminent. Pierpont also reveals that he has been informed that Maryland Governor Frank Thomas had "arranged for the secession of Western Maryland if Eastern Maryland went out."

The State of Kanawha, 1862



This 1862 map illustrates a plan allegedly proposed by Edwin Stanton, United States Secretary of War, to completely reorganize Virginia and surrounding states. “Kanawha” was the first suggested name for the new western Virginia state; a vote was taken on December 3, 1861, during the First Constitutional Convention, to change the name to “West Virginia.” It is likely that the creator of the map did not hear about the name change until weeks later. Note that the states of Maryland and Delaware would have been permitted to annex portions of eastern Virginia.

The Statehood Movement Progresses



Minority Report at Wheeling Convention Opposes Division of State! (top left)

The citizens of northwestern Virginia, living in a region bordering North and South, were of divided loyalties and diverse viewpoints. It should therefore be unsurprising that a resolution was introduced at the Convention to abandon the question of separation, in order to avoid alienating the "earnest cooperation of every true patriot."

Willey warned: Carlile is causing "great injury to the . . . new statehood," July 24, 1862 (center right)

E. C. Meoderwell informed Senator Willey of John Carlile's attack on the Statehood Bill during a speech Carlile delivered in Clarksburg.

"The life of the church and the new state hangs on the same contingency," June 27, 1862 (bottom left)

These letters, addressed to Waitman Willey, were penned by ministers, emphasizing the important link between the church and statehood. The Christian church, particularly the Methodists, played a significant role in the statehood movement. Church leaders, ministers, and lay people championed education, social reform, and internal improvements in western Virginia throughout the 19th century. Clergymen such as Gordon Battelle, Wesley Smith, and Moses Tichenell were among the most eager advocates of forming a new state.

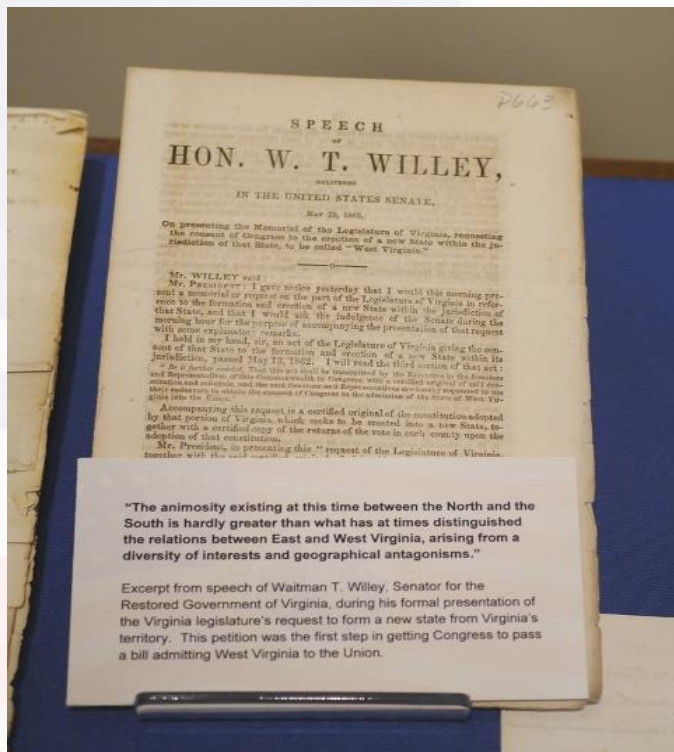
"Confidential," May 19, 1862 (bottom right)

Henry Dering of Morgantown addressed a poignant issue in his correspondence with Waitman Willey. If McClellan takes Richmond and the Reformed Government moves to the state capital, "old Virginia" will "throw obstacles in the way" of the new state movement.

Slavery and the Constitutional Convention of 1861-1862 (center)
Abolitionist and Ohio County representative Gordon Battelle wrote a pamphlet titled "An Address to the Constitutional Convention and the People of West Virginia," urging his fellow delegates to tackle the slavery question. Battelle, one of eight delegates at the Constitutional Convention of 1861-1862 who were ministers, volunteered as chaplain to the First Virginia Volunteer Infantry and died of typhoid fever in Washington, D.C., on August 7, 1862.

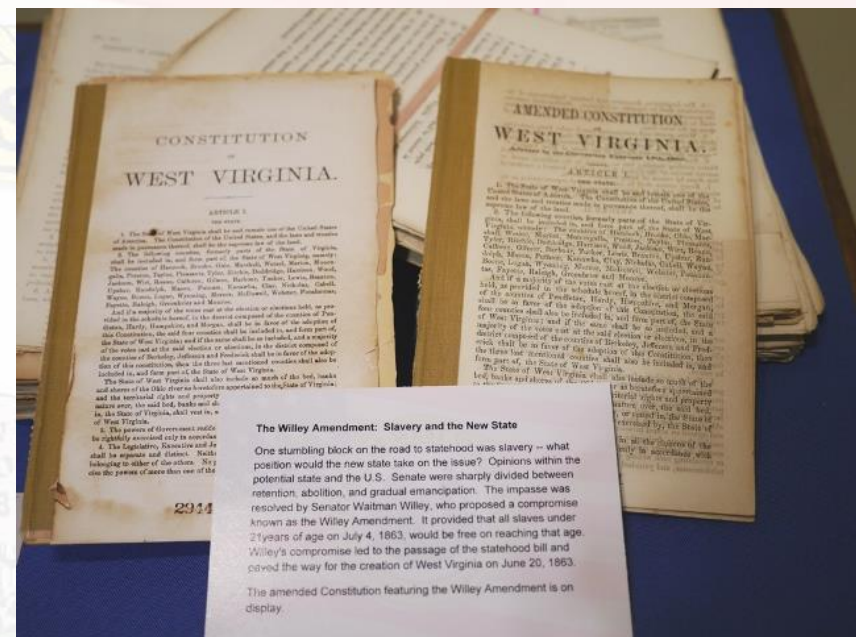
Photo of Reverend Gordon Battelle (bottom center)

Waitman Willey's Politics



"The animosity existing at this time between the North and the South is hardly greater than what has at times distinguished the relations between East and West Virginia, arising from a diversity of interests and geographical antagonisms."

Excerpt from a speech by Waitman T. Willey, Senator for the Restored Government of Virginia, during his formal presentation of the Virginia legislature's request to form a new state from Virginia's territory. This petition was the first step in getting Congress to pass a bill admitting West Virginia to the Union.



The Willey Amendment: Slavery and the New State

One stumbling block on the road to statehood was slavery -- what position would the new state take on the issue? Opinions within the potential state and the U.S. Senate were sharply divided between retention, abolition, and gradual emancipation. The impasse was resolved by Senator Waitman Willey, who proposed a compromise known as the Willey Amendment. It provided that all slaves under 21 years of age on July 4, 1863, would be free on reaching that age. Willey's compromise led to the passage of the statehood bill and paved the way for the creation of West Virginia on June 20, 1863. The amended Constitution featuring the Willey Amendment is on display.

Constitutional Convention



Photograph of William G. Brown Sr. and Daniel D. Farnsworth, ca. 1860 (top left)

Brown was one of West Virginia's first U.S. congressmen; Farnsworth served at the Second Wheeling Convention and in the new state government.

Photograph of John Carlile of Harrison County (center left)

"The powers of Government reside in all the citizens of the State and can be rightfully exercised only in accordance with their will and appointment." Article I – Constitution of West Virginia (top center)

This assemblage of committee reports, proposals, and amendments documents West Virginia's first Constitutional Convention. Delegates met in Wheeling in November 1861 and produced a Constitution establishing the foundational principals for the new state government. The Constitution was passed by referendum, 18,862 to 514 on April 3, 1862.

Willey's Response to Hagans' Anxieties Regarding the Statehood Bill, May 7, 1862 (bottom left)

Willey explained to Harrison Hagans his belief in the wisdom of moving cautiously in the process of forming a new state.

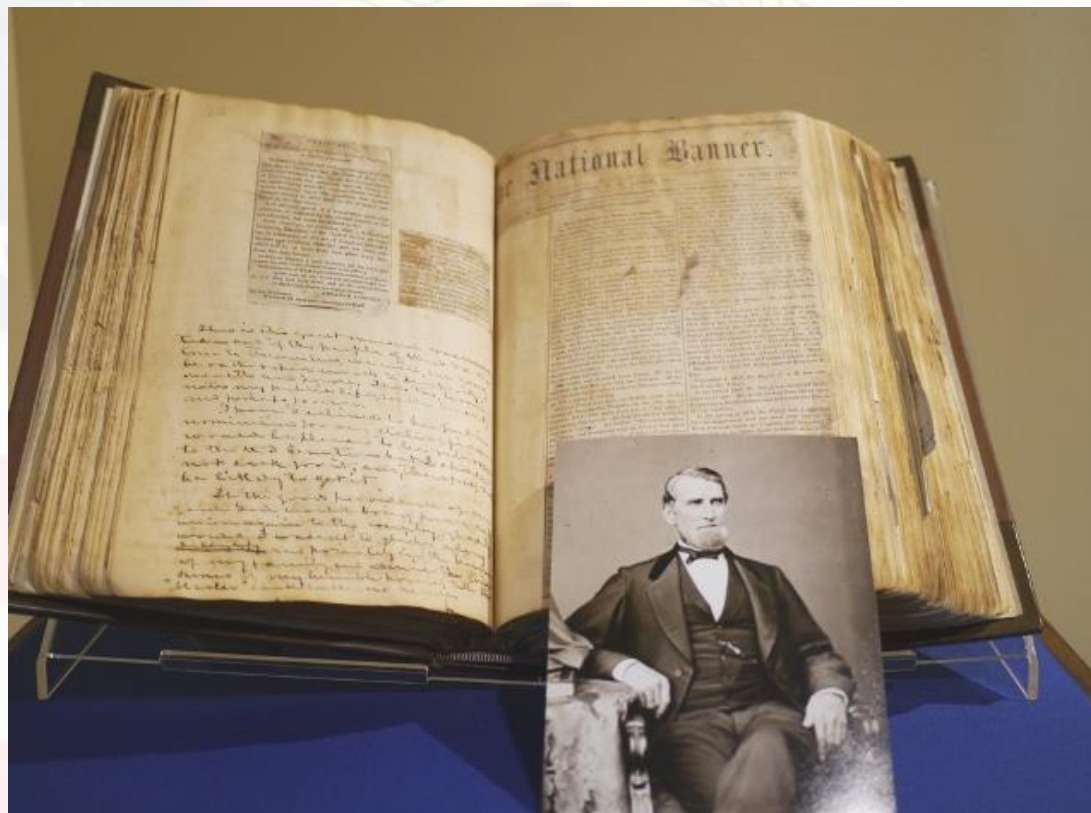
Constitution Changes Necessary for Statehood (bottom right)

Senator Peter G. Van Winkle's rough draft of "Address of the Delegates composing the New State Constitutional Convention to their Constituents" (February 1863) explains the changes made to the West Virginia constitution, which were a condition of Congressional approval of statehood. The rough draft rests on a clipboard which Van Winkle used during his political career.

The Amended Constitution Featuring the Willey Amendment, February 18, 1863 (top right)

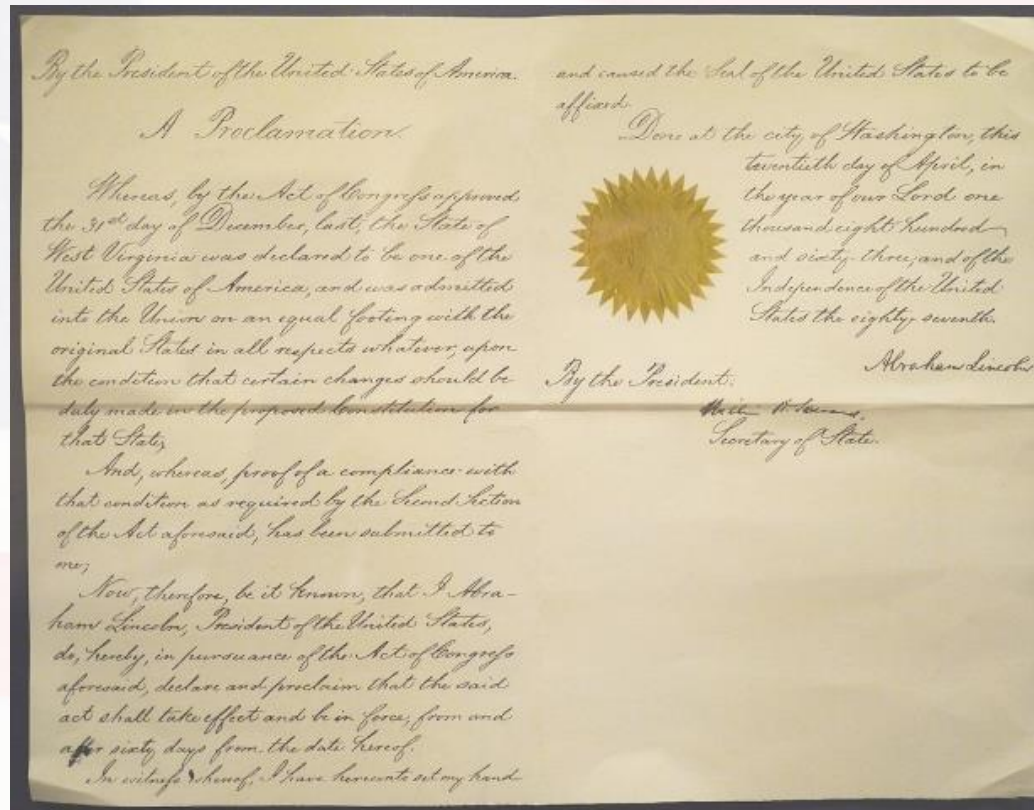
One stumbling block on the road to statehood was slavery. Opinions within the potential state and the U.S. Senate were sharply divided between retention, abolition, and gradual emancipation. Senator Waitman Willey proposed a compromise known as the Willey Amendment. It provided that as of July 4, 1863, all slaves under age 21 would be free on reaching that age. Willey's amendment was ratified by the people of the proposed new state, paving the way for passage of the statehood bill in the U.S. Congress.

“Thus is the Great Measure Consummated” The Diary of Waitman T. Willey



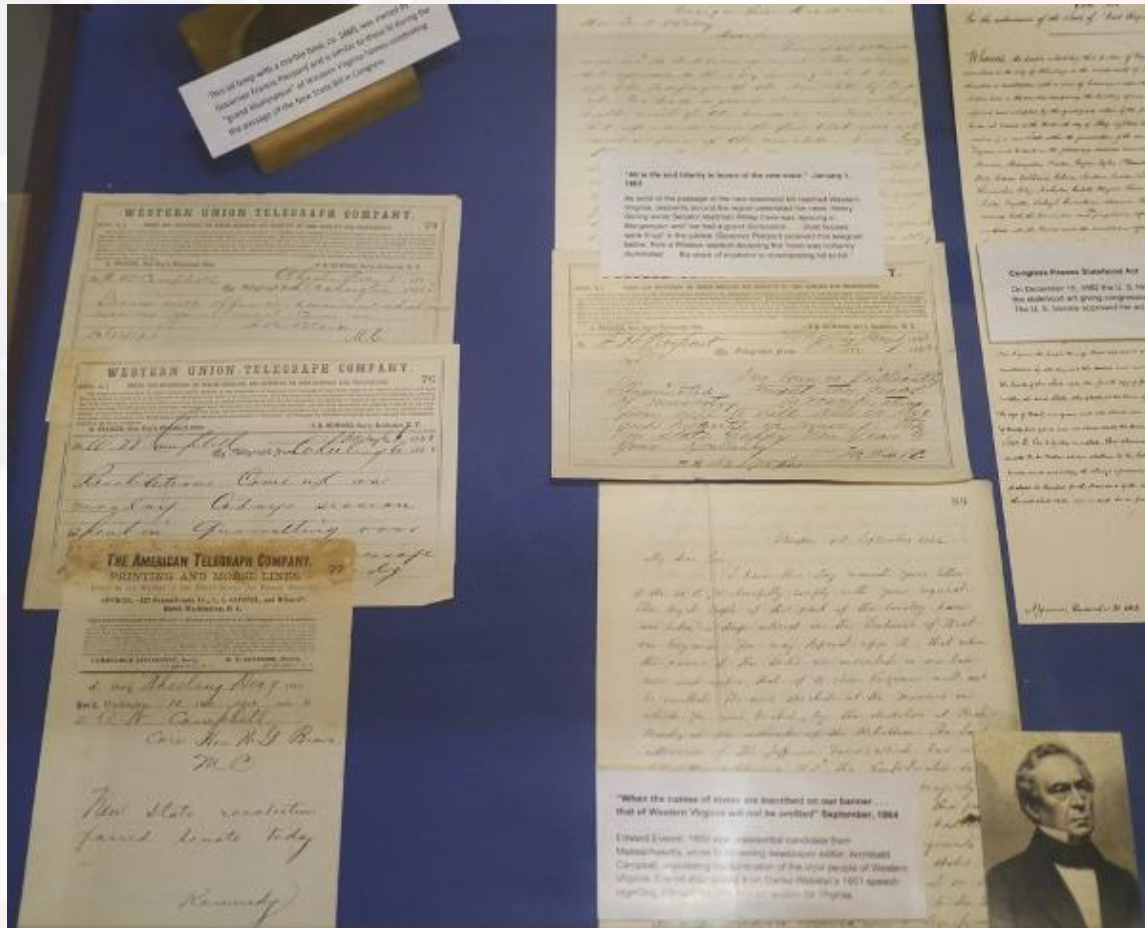
On this page of Waitman T. Willey's diary, the Senator has pasted a newspaper announcement of Lincoln's proclamation of West Virginia statehood. Beneath the clipping, Willey offers his personal reflection on this triumphant achievement.

Lincoln's Statehood Proclamation



After the revised constitution was adopted on March 26, 1863, Abraham Lincoln wrote a proclamation admitting West Virginia to the Union sixty days from the proclamation's date (April 20, 1863). During the following two months, West Virginians nominated and elected their new state officers, including West Virginia's first governor, Arthur I. Boreman. On June 20, 1863, West Virginia officially became the 35th state in the Union.

Celebrating Statehood



“When the names of states are inscribed on our banner . . . that of Western Virginia will not be omitted” September, 1864 (bottom right)

Edward Everett, 1860 vice presidential candidate from Massachusetts, wrote to Wheeling newspaper editor Archibald Campbell, expressing his admiration for the loyal people of Western Virginia. Everett also quoted from Daniel Webster’s 1851 speech regarding Western Virginia and separation from Virginia.

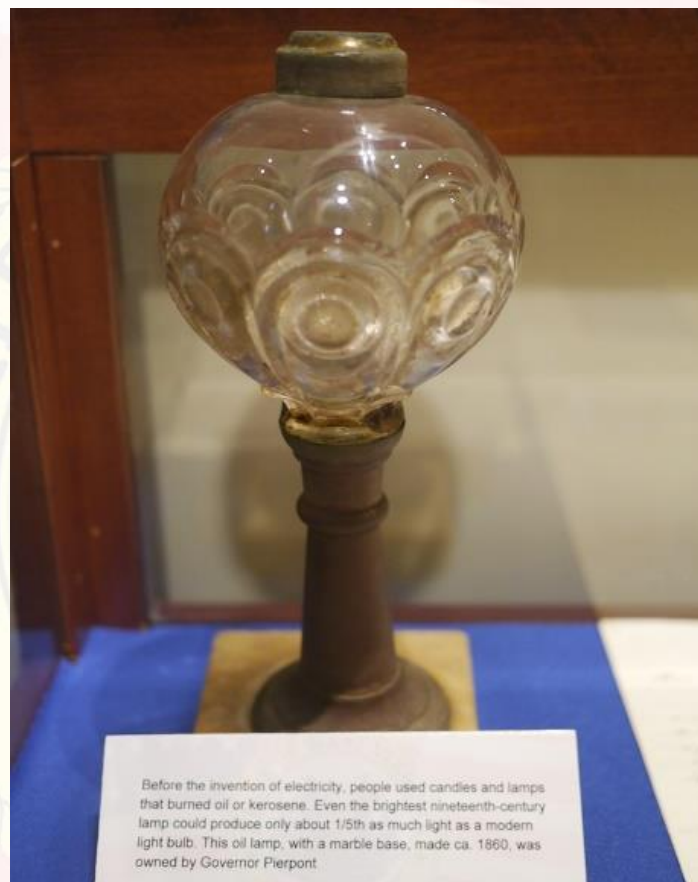
“All is life and hilarity in honor of the new state.” January 1, 1863 (top center)

As word of the passage of the new statehood bill reached Western Virginia, residents around the region celebrated the news. Henry Dering wrote Senator Waitman Willey that there was rejoicing in Morgantown and “we had a grand illumination... most houses were lit-up” in the jubilee. Governor Pierpont received a telegram from a Weston resident declaring the “town was brilliantly illuminated ... the crack of musketry is reverberating hill to hill.”

Telegrams Report to Western Virginia the Day to Day Status of the Statehood Bill in Congress, December, 1861 (left)

Updates tracking the West Virginia Statehood bill were sent to Wheeling Intelligencer Editor Archibald Campbell as the resolution was debated in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill, having passed the Senate in July, was held up in the House by a proposed amendment to abolish all slavery. The third telegram announces the news, “The New Statehood Resolution passed the Senate” when actually the House had passed the bill, sending it on to the President for his signature.

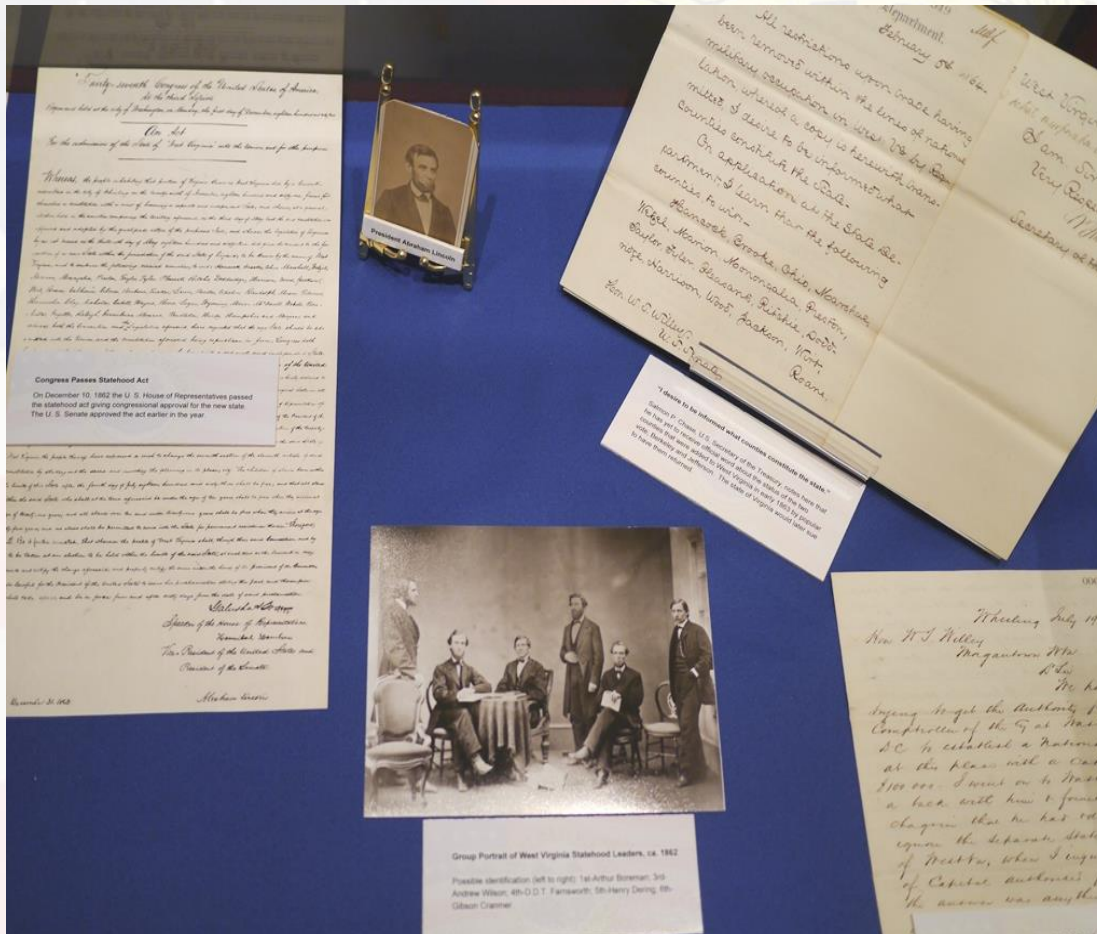
Celebrating Statehood



Before the invention of electricity, people used candles and lamps that burned oil or kerosene. Even the brightest nineteenth-century lamp could produce only about 1/5th as much light as a modern light bulb. This oil lamp, with a marble base, made ca. 1860, was owned by Governor Pierpont.

This **oil lamp** with a marble base, ca. 1860, was owned by Governor Francis Pierpont and is similar to those lit during the “grand illumination” of Western Virginia homes celebrating the passage of the New State Bill in Congress.

Post-Statehood Complications



Congress Passes Statehood Act (left)

On December 10, 1862, the U. S. House of Representatives passed the statehood act giving congressional approval for the new state. The U. S. Senate approved the act earlier in the year.

"I desire to be informed what counties constitute the state." (top right)

Salmon P. Chase, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury, notes here that he has yet to receive official word about the status of the two counties that were added to West Virginia in early 1863 by popular vote, Berkeley and Jefferson. The state of Virginia would later sue to have them returned.

Group Portrait of West Virginia Statehood Leaders, ca. 1862 (bottom center)

Possible identification (left to right): 1st - Arthur Boreman; 3rd - Andrew Wilson; 4th - D.D.T. Farnsworth; 5th - Henry Dering; 6th - Gibson Cranmer.

"I went on to Washn [Washington D.C.] and had a talk with him and found to my chagrin that he had and does still ignore the separate state organization of West Va." (bottom right)

Governor Arthur Boreman writes to Senator Waitman T. Willey of his difficulty in securing recognition and funds for the state over two years after it was added to the Union.

Oaths of Allegiance

Defense of the “Oath Law” by E. B. Hall, Attorney General of West Virginia (center)

In February 1865, Governor Boreman approved the “Oath Law,” which denied the right to vote, as well as other political rights, to citizens who could not prove their loyalty to the Union, meaning that former Confederates were disenfranchised by the law. Because of this, the constitutionality of the law was frequently challenged.

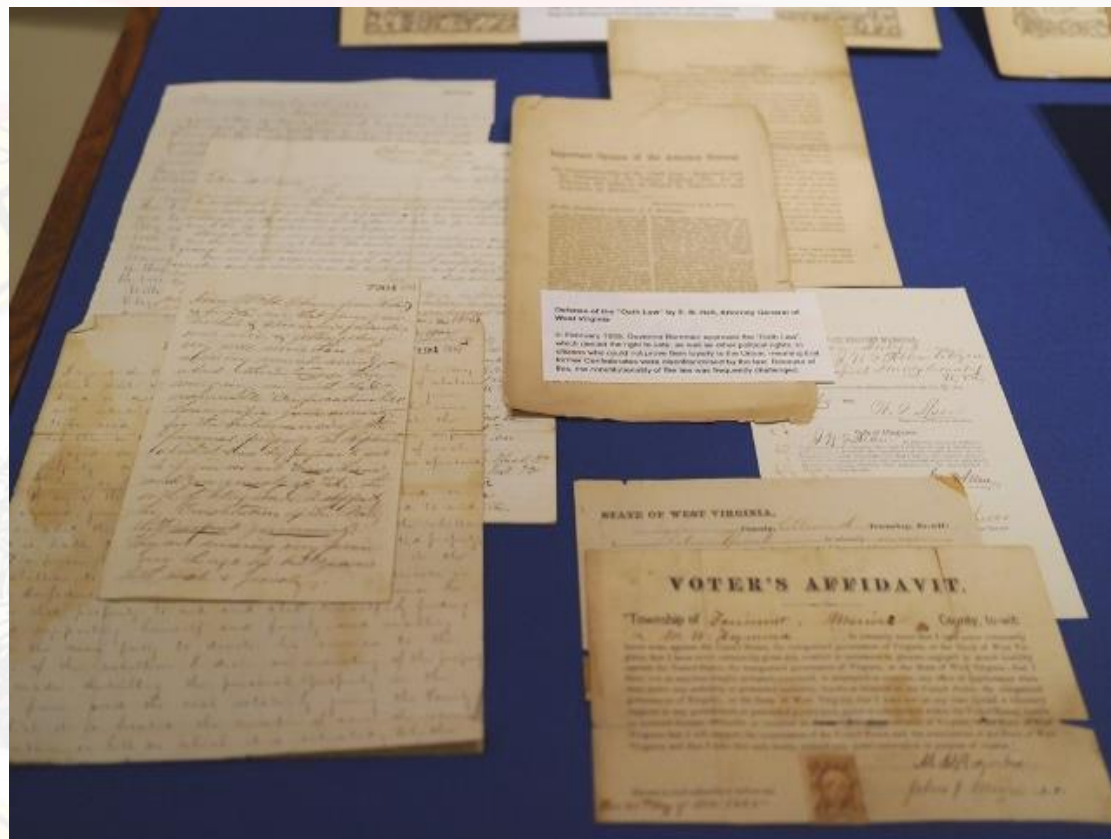
“I _____, do solemnly swear . . .” , 1865-1868 (bottom right)

Affidavits swearing to never having borne arms in rebellion against to United States, the Restored government of Virginia, and West Virginia were required to vote, obtain leases, and hold office, among other activities.

Judge John Allen’s Oath of Allegiance, July 3, 1865 (middle right)

Judge Allen of Hardy County was a staunch Confederate. After the war, he was not allowed to practice law until he signed this oath binding him to supporting all laws “made during the existing rebellion” including the emancipation of slaves. At one time Allen owned and sold slaves.

Instructions for the U.S. Marshal Regarding Property Confiscation (bottom left)



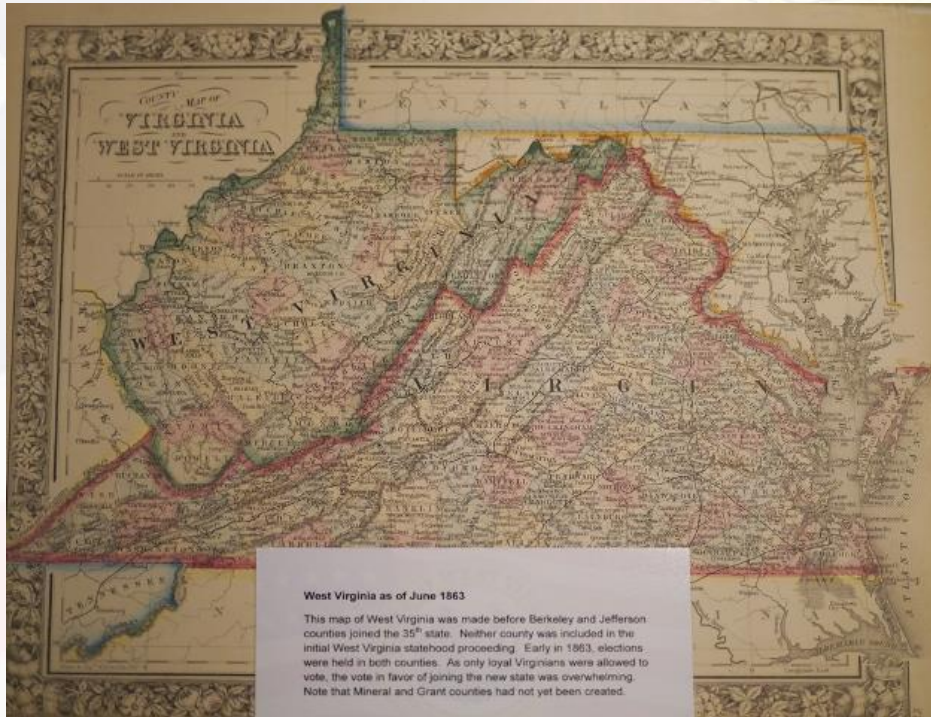
“We have signified our willingness to take the prescribed oath and to live inconformity to its requirements.” May 27, 1863 (top left)

Listed in this letter to Senator Waitman Willey are the names of several Confederate Officers still held at Fort Delaware as prisoners of war. Though more than willing to take the oath for their release, the officers needed Willey to help cut through the red tape.

“. . . that damnable bill.” 1862 (middle left)

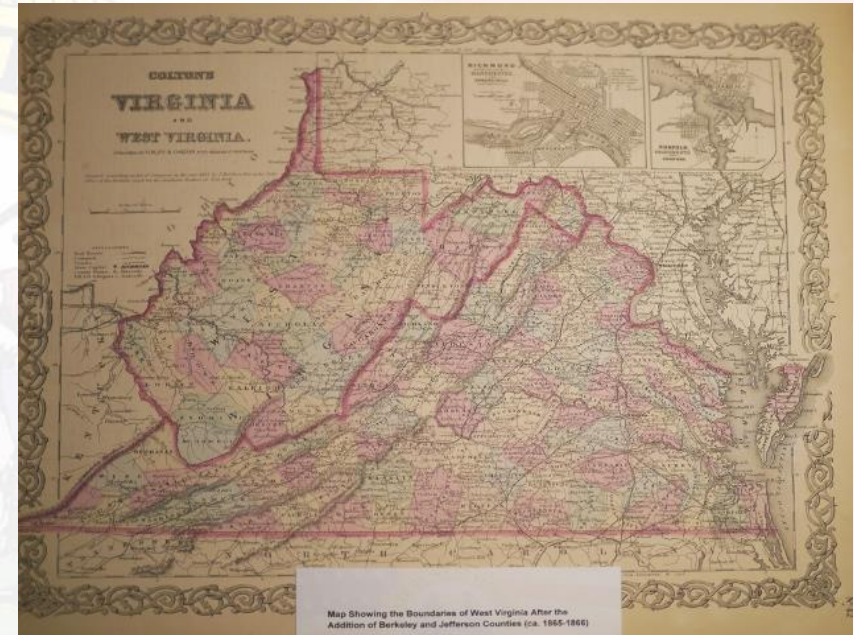
The U.S. Congress passed several ordinances ordering the confiscation of property owned by persons in rebellion against the United States. In this letter to Jonathan Bennett, a friend warns him to either take the oath or face losing his property and being arrested.

West Virginia Taking Shape



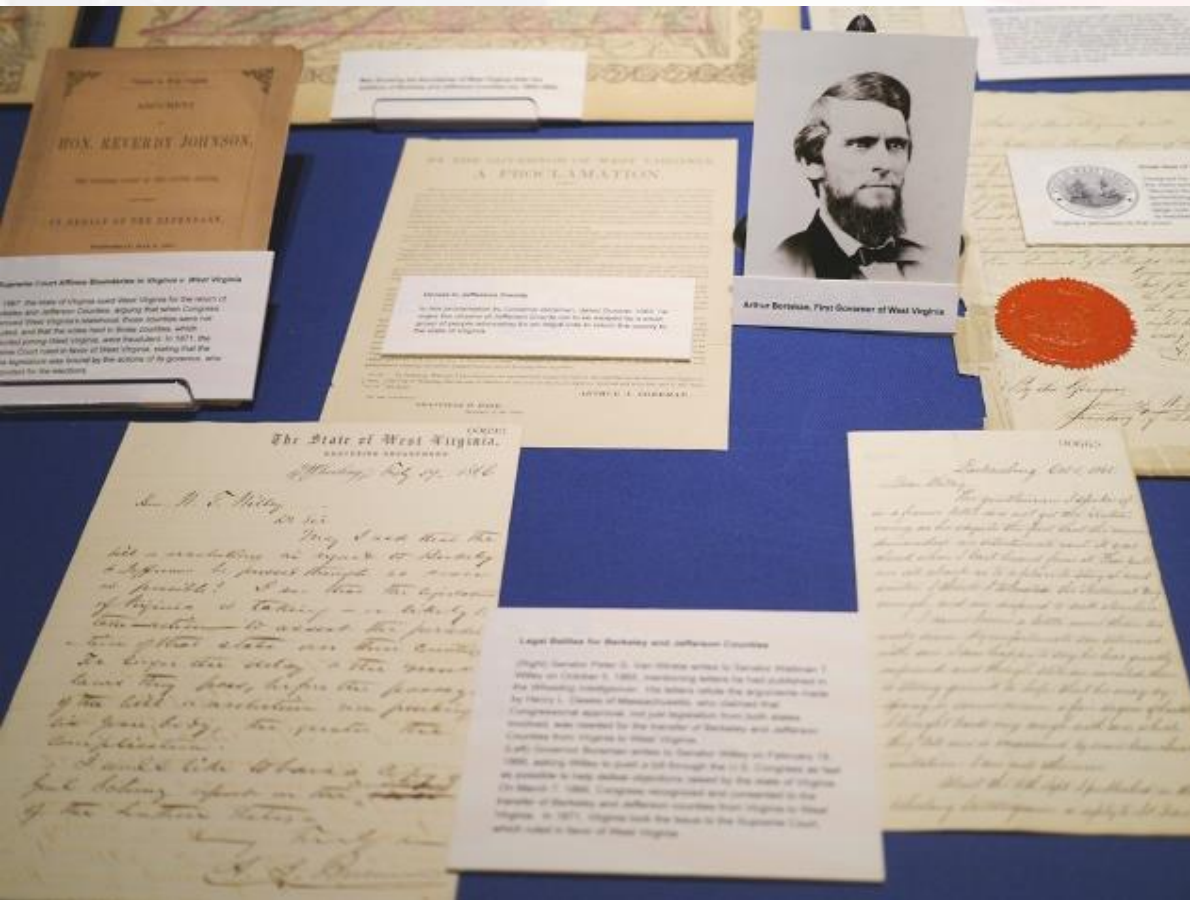
West Virginia, ca. June 1863

This map of West Virginia was made before Berkeley and Jefferson Counties joined the 35th state. Neither county was included in the initial West Virginia statehood proceeding. On May 28, 1863, elections were held in both counties. As only loyal Virginians were allowed to vote, the vote in favor of joining the new state was overwhelming. Note that Mineral and Grant counties had not yet been created.



Map Showing the Boundaries of West Virginia After the Addition of Berkeley and Jefferson Counties (ca. 1865-1866)

State Boundaries in Question



Unrest in Jefferson County (center)

In this proclamation by Governor Boreman, dated October 1865, he urges the citizens of Jefferson County not to be swayed by a small group of people advocating for an illegal vote to return the county to the state of Virginia.

Photo of Arthur Boreman, First Governor of West Virginia (top right)

Legal Battles for Berkeley and Jefferson Counties (bottom)

(Right) Senator Peter G. Van Winkle writes to Senator Waitman T. Willey on October 5, 1865, mentioning letters he had published in the *Wheeling Intelligencer*. His letters refute the arguments made by Henry L. Dawes of Massachusetts, who claimed that Congressional approval, not just legislation from both states involved, was needed for the transfer of Berkeley and Jefferson Counties from Virginia to West Virginia.

(Left) Governor Boreman writes to Senator Willey on February 19, 1866, asking Willey to push a bill through the U.S. Congress as fast as possible to help defeat objections raised by the state of Virginia. On March 7, 1866, Congress recognized and consented to the transfer of Berkeley and Jefferson counties from Virginia to West Virginia. In 1871, Virginia took the issue to the Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of West Virginia.

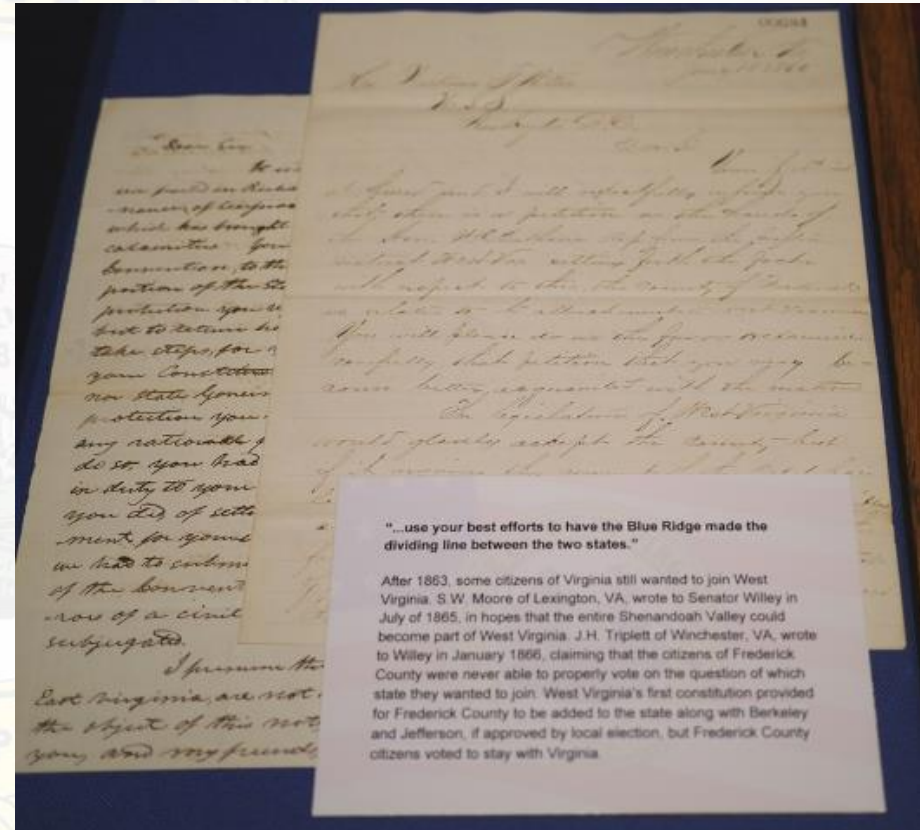
Supreme Court Affirms Boundaries in Virginia v. West Virginia (top left)

In 1867, the state of Virginia sued West Virginia for the return of Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, arguing that when Congress approved West Virginia's statehood, those counties were not included, and that the votes held in those counties, which supported joining West Virginia, were fraudulent. In 1871, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of West Virginia, stating that the Virginia legislature was bound by the actions of its governor, who had provided for the elections.

State Boundaries in Question

“...use your best efforts to have the Blue Ridge made the dividing line between the two states.”

After 1863, some citizens of Virginia still wanted to join West Virginia. S.W. Moore of Lexington, VA, wrote to Senator Willey in July of 1865, in hopes that the entire Shenandoah Valley could become part of West Virginia. J.H. Triplett of Winchester, VA, wrote to Willey in January of 1866, claiming that the citizens of Frederick County were never able to properly vote on the question of which state they wanted to join. West Virginia's first constitution provided for Frederick County to be added to the state along with Berkeley and Jefferson, if approved by local election, but Frederick County citizens voted to stay with Virginia.



Great Seal of West Virginia



Designed by Joseph H. Diss Debar, the state seal includes the motto "Montani Semper Liberi." A farmer, symbolizing agriculture, and a miner, symbolizing industry, stand beside a large rock, symbolizing strength, which is inscribed with the date of West Virginia's admission to the Union.

United State 35 Star Flag, ca. 1863

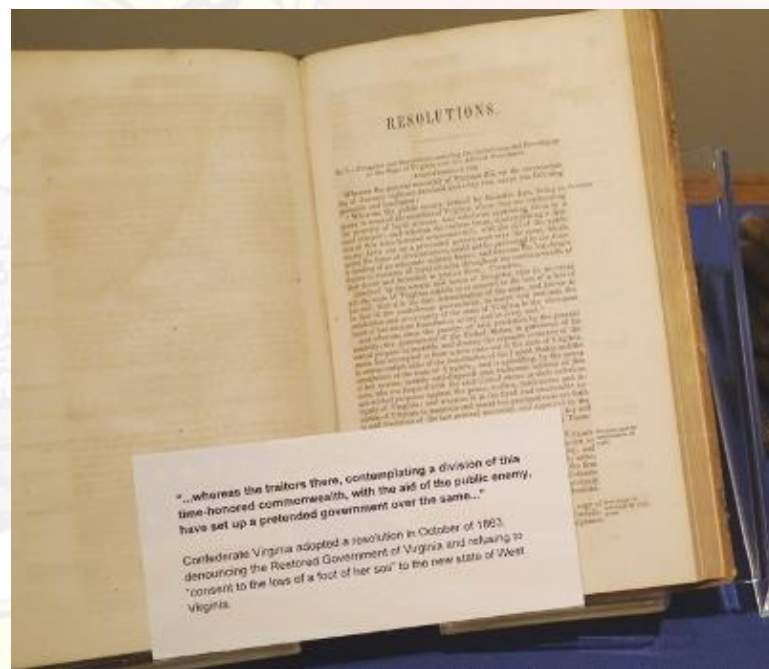


The 35 Star United States Flag was only in use for a period of two years (July 4, 1863-July 3, 1865)—Nevada became the nation's 36th state on October 31, 1864, but the new flag design did not become official until the following Independence Day. Due to its brevity, period examples of the flag are somewhat rare today. While a great many were produced for use by Union military regiments, a large number of these did not survive the war. This flag, acquired from a private collector in Louisiana, is too large to have been carried on horseback. Measuring more than 9 ½ feet in length by 6 feet in height, it was likely made for display over a public building.

Confederate Virginia's Sentiments

“...whereas the traitors there, contemplating a division of this time-honored commonwealth, with the aid of the public enemy, have set up a pretended government over the same...”

Confederate Virginia adopted a resolution on January 18, 1862 (and again on October 8, 1863) denouncing the Restored Government of Virginia and refusing to “consent to the loss of a foot of her soil” to the new state of West Virginia.



Defending West Virginia

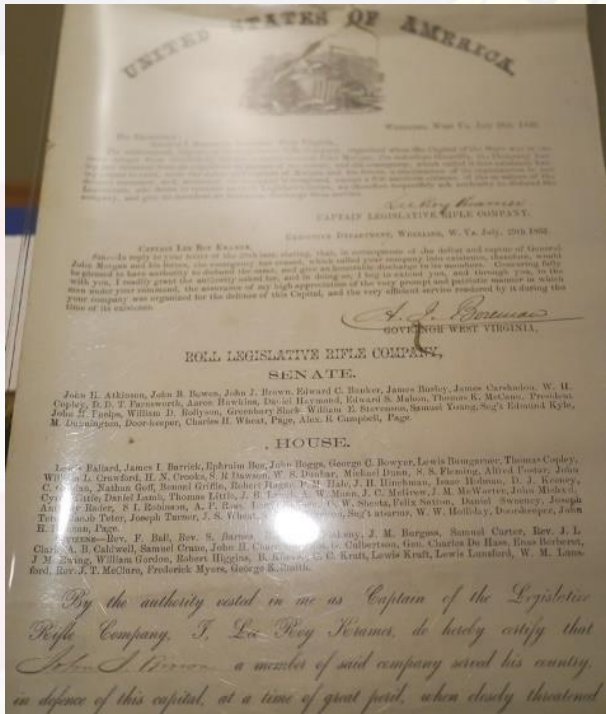
West Virginia Legislature's Rifle Company

In 1863, the state legislature formed a rifle company to defend Wheeling, then capital of West Virginia, from General John Morgan's raid. John J. Brown's honorable discharge from that rifle company lists the names of all West Virginia legislators who served.



Spencer Carbine, ca. 1861 (above)

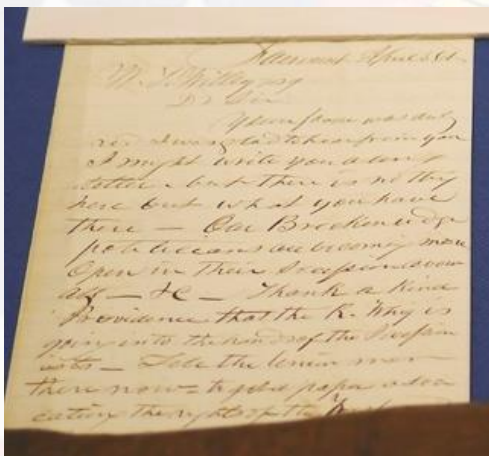
The Spencer repeating rifle was capable of firing 20 rounds per minute which represented a great advantage over the musket. Also shorter and lighter than the musket, the U.S. Army was reluctant to purchase them until Lincoln himself ordered their use after personally witnessing a demonstration. This Spencer Carbine was recovered from the Rich Mountain Battlefield.



Epaulets of John J. Brown

John James Brown, of Preston County, was Major of the 148th Regiment of the Infantry of the Virginia Militia until 1860. Brown also served as a delegate to the Second Wheeling Convention and the Constitutional Convention, a member of the first three legislatures in West Virginia, and a member of the Legislative Rifle Company in 1863 (see left).

Defending West Virginia



“There is another thing you may set down as settled. This difficulty is not going to be settled without a fight. I am satisfied on that head.”

An excerpt from F.H. Pierpont’s letter to Waitman T. Willey on April 3, 1861, when Willey was attending Virginia’s Secession Convention.

West Virginia Civil War Medals

For Liberty (issued for those who died of disease and wounds received in battle):

William K. Smith, Company F, 14th Regiment, Infantry Volunteers

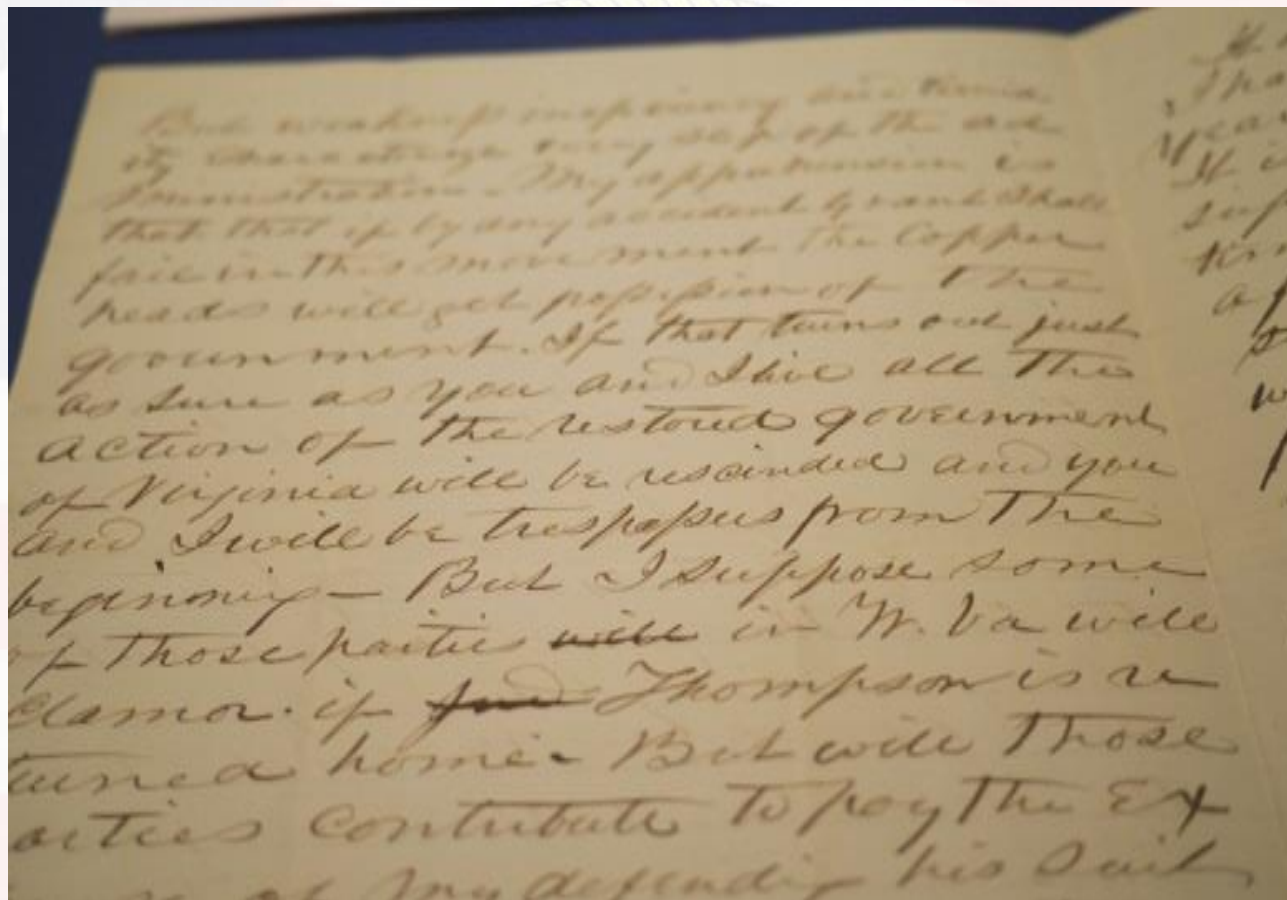
Honorably Discharged:

John H. Blaney, Company A, 6th Regiment, Cavalry Volunteers

Over 4000 Civil War service medals have yet to be claimed; for more information, see

<http://www.wvculture.org/history/medals.html>.

“If [Grant should fail,] just as sure as you and I live all the action of the restored government of Virginia will be rescinded and you and I will be trespassers from the beginning” - Pierpont to Boreman, May 18, 1864



This remarkable letter from loyal Virginia Governor Pierpont to West Virginia Governor Boreman reveals the precarious position that both leaders held. At the time, General Grant was trying to wear down the Confederate Army during the Overland or Wilderness Campaign. The outcome of the war, however, was still in doubt. Had the Confederacy prevailed, Pierpont and Boreman would have been charged with treason and possibly even faced execution.

Defending West Virginia



Letter from Captain A. J. Squires, Company D, 6th West Virginia Cavalry, March 4, 1863 (left)

In a letter to his sister, Matildah, Captain Squires of Preston County, encouraged her to “get out the vote” for the new state. He wrote, “I want the people of Preston to all go to the election and vote for the New State for Preston is the most loyal County in the State, has proven herself So in Votes and volunteers, and I want her to confirm it again in the coming election.”

Society of the Army of West Virginia certificate of membership for F.H. Pierpont, 1872, and Society of the Army of West Virginia ribbon, undated (center)

“I will not indulge in any remarks on this national calamity, as you know ... how much depended upon him in reinstating the secession states in their proper position in the Union.” (1865) (right)

Excerpt from Peter G. Van Winkle’s letter to Waitman T. Willey regarding the assassination of President Lincoln. Though West Virginia had achieved statehood and the war was over, there was still much to be done to put the Union back in order.

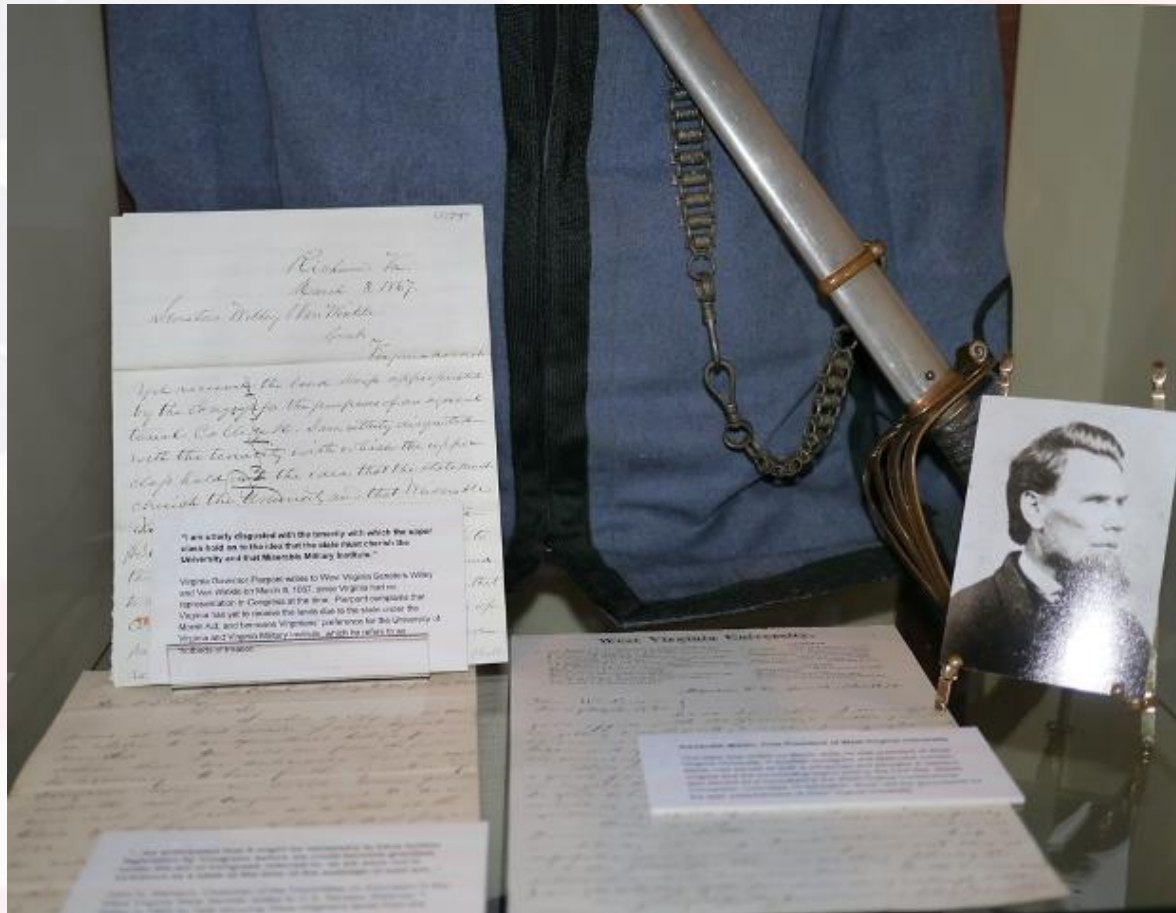
Statehood, the Civil War, and WVU

West Virginia University Cadet Uniform, ca. late 1800s

West Virginia University owes its existence to West Virginia statehood. The notion of establishing a land-grant university occurred to the state's founders even before West Virginia came into existence. Military training was compulsory at land-grant colleges and, indeed, one of the motives for their very existence.



Statehood and WVU



“I am utterly disgusted with the tenacity with which the upper class hold on to the idea that the state must cherish the University and that Miserable Military Institute.” (top left)

Virginia Governor Pierpont writes to West Virginia Senators Willey and Van Winkle on March 8, 1867, since Virginia had no representation in Congress at the time. Pierpont complains that Virginia has yet to receive the lands due to the state under the Morrill Act, and bemoans Virginians’ preference for the University of Virginia and Virginia Military Institute, which he refers to as “hotbeds of treason.”

Alexander Martin, First President of West Virginia University (right)

This letter was written by Martin while he was president of West Virginia University. A Scottish immigrant and Methodist minister, Martin had served as both a clergyman and educator in western Virginia and the surrounding region prior to the Civil War. Martin also served as a consultant to the West Virginia Constitutional Convention committee on education, which laid the groundwork for the later establishment of West Virginia University.

“...we anticipated that it might be necessary to have further legislation by Congress before we could become grantees under the act of Congress referred to, as we were not in existence as a state at the time of the passage of said act...” (bottom left)

John H. Atkinson, Chairman of the Committee on Education in the West Virginia State Senate, writes to U.S. Senator Waitman T. Willey in 1864 for help securing West Virginia’s lands from the Morrill Act.

Confederates at WVU



University President in Same Town He Raided During the Civil War: A Story of Sectionalism after Achievement of Statehood (bottom right)

Sectarian tensions remained within West Virginia after the war, as evidenced by the affairs of West Virginia University. As President of WVU in 1882-1883, William Lyne Wilson conducted its business with what's been described as "heroic equanimity" in the face of tensions still remaining between North and South. He claimed that "West Virginia is neither a Northern nor a Southern State, and that students from every section should be welcomed with equal hospitality..." Yet only about 20 years earlier he took part in a Confederate raid on Morgantown, declaring it "the meanest Union hole we have yet been in, [including] the residence of Senator Willey." When Wilson left WVU to serve in the United States Congress, the faculty and administration were still in contention along sectarian lines, a legacy of the Civil War, and earlier.

West Virginia University

The men highlighted in this case were involved in the war and/or the statehood movement. Most fought for the South and its antebellum culture. Nevertheless, shortly after the war, their names started to appear on the WVU Board of Regents, replacing well-known statehood founders. Many of these men made valuable contributions to the growth and quality of WVU.

Letter from Confederate Soldier P.B. Reynolds to his mother, 7th August 1863 (left)

"If matters look as dark in the country as they do in the army these is dark times indeed."

This letter describes Reynolds' participation in Lee's Gettysburg Campaign. About a year after writing this letter, Reynolds was captured and sent to a federal prison. After the war, he joined the Baptist faith and became a minister. He also continued his education and later became a professor, chaplain, and vice-president of WVU.

Charles James Faulkner (July 6, 1806 - November 1, 1884) (top right)

Faulkner served in the Virginia State Legislature, U.S. Congress (1851-1859), and was U.S. minister to France for 14 months before the Civil War. Arrested for treason in 1861, Faulkner was later exchanged and served on Stonewall Jackson's staff. After the war, he was re-elected to the U.S. Congress (1875-1877), and served on West Virginia University's Board of Regents.

John Robinson (b. 1831) (bottom center)

Robinson served in the Confederate Army and Confederate Virginia's legislature. He later served on WVU's Board of Regents (1877-1897).