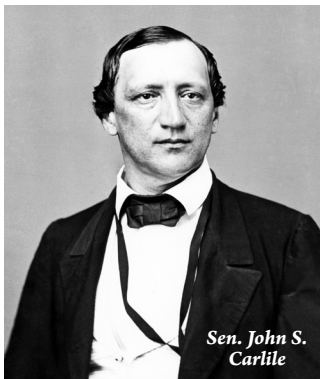


A SESQUICENTENNIAL ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ MOMENT

JULY 13 - 19, 1862

On July 14, 1862, the U.S. Senate passed a bill granting western Virginia's bid for statehood, but the man who led the charge ultimately voted against it.



Sen. John S. Carlile

Sen. John S. Carlile's decision to oppose the statehood bill prompted calls for his resignation as many western Virginians viewed him as a traitor. It also ended his political career.

Carlile wanted a statewide election on the issue of slavery and refused to support a com-

promise bill that called for gradual emancipation.

Sen. Benjamin Wade of Ohio seemed to dismiss Carlile's objections.

"No gentleman urged this measure upon us more strongly than he ... and yet all at once, when we become earnest and see that the people want this done, we have to encounter his violent, determined and persistent opposition," Wade said. "Sir, it is sheer trifling."

The vote to approve statehood was 23-17.

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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