

Biographies of West Virginia statehood leaders were prepared by Marshall University Humanities Program graduate students enrolled in Dr. Billy Joe Peyton's Fall 2010 "Historical Studies" class at Marshall's South Charleston campus.

By Wesley A. Kuemmel

**Arthur Ingraham Boreman:**

Arthur Ingraham Boreman was born on July 24, 1823 in Greene County, Pennsylvania and came to Middlebourne, Tyler County, (West) Virginia while still an infant. As a young man, Boreman studied law with under the direction of his brother-in-law James McNeill Stephenson and eventually settled in Parkersburg, which would become his lifelong home. Boreman was elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 1855 and he served there until Virginia's secession from the Union in 1861.

Boreman served as president of the Second Wheeling Convention. In 1861 he was elected circuit judge and in 1863 was nominated by the Constitutional Union Party to be the first governor of West Virginia, to which post he was elected on May 28, 1863. As governor, Boreman guided the new state through the final years of the Civil War.

Boreman was re-elected to two additional two-year terms as governor, serving until 1869. During his terms in office, Boreman oversaw acts both progressive and repressive. It was under his governance that West Virginia dedicated itself to free public education, and created West Virginia University. The 1865 voters' test law, on the other hand, denied

former Confederates the right to hold office, practice law or teach. In 1869, Boreman left office to become West Virginia's third U.S. Senator, replacing Peter G. Van Winkle. He would serve in the Senate until 1875, when he returned to his law practice in Parkersburg. Boreman's final elected position was again as circuit judge, which post he served until his death on April 19, 1896. Boreman was buried in the Odd fellows Cemetery (now Parkersburg Memorial Gardens). (Sullivan and West Virginia Humanities Council., 75)

Sullivan, Ken, and West Virginia Humanities Council. *The West Virginia Encyclopedia*. Charleston, W. Va.: West Virginia Humanities Council ;, 2006. Print.