

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

Daniel Duane Tompkins Farnsworth:

D.D.T. Farnsworth was born in Staten Island, New York on December 23, 1819. His family came to (West) Virginia when Farnsworth was a child, and he was raised in Pocahontas County and Upshur County. The Farnsworth family was among the first residents of Buckhannon.

Farnsworth worked as a tailor from age 15 to 28 when he became a merchant in Buckhannon. Later in life he returned to his roots in farming, but he maintained his ties to the business community, owning shares of a flourmill, a small railroad and the Buckhannon Bank. (Sullivan and West Virginia Humanities Council.)

Farnsworth entered government as postmaster, having been appointed to the post in 1847. (Society, np)He then became a county magistrate and was later elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 1860, a seat he would never occupy due to the secession crisis.

Farnsworth was an ardent Unionist and represented Upshur County at the Second Wheeling Convention where assisted in determining the boundaries for the new state.

Farnsworth was elected to the West Virginia State Senate in its first three sessions and in

1869 he became the second governor of West Virginia, replacing Arthur I. Boreman, who vacated the office to serve in the U.S. Senate. Farnsworth's term as governor lasted only six days until he was replaced by William E. Stevenson, who had been elected to the post the previous fall. Farnsworth returned to the West Virginia Senate where he served seven years in total. He also participated in the Constitutional Convention of 1872 where he warned against the rising influence of industry in the state. (Sullivan and West Virginia Humanities Council.)

D.D.T. Farnworth died on December 5, 1892 and was buried at Heavner Cemetery, Buckhannon, Upshur, West Virginia.

Society, Upshur County Historical. *Year Book of Upshur County Historical Society*. Buckhannon, WV1928. Print.

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