

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 Carolyn S. Quinlan

**JOHANIS P. HOBACK** was born on September 13, 1836 in Floyd County, Virginia. His parents moved the family to Beaver Creek, Virginia that is known today as Beaver, West Virginia in Raleigh County. He received a decent education and was known as "a good school teacher." Against his father's wishes, James (Old Squire) Cook, he married Martha Cook on May 21, 1861. She gave birth to twins that died in infancy.

He was appointed as a member of the Convention at the same time as Richard Cook and in the same convoluted manner. He died in February 1863, either during the Wheeling Convention or on his way home from the session. He was buried at Marmet, or Brownstown, which at the time, was known for steamboat navigation on the Kanawha River.

His family moved to Gallia County, Ohio about the time of his death. His widow married Thomas B. Cook of Raleigh County, West Virginia. On August 15, 1930, she died at Damron, West Virginia in Raleigh County.

Source: Ambler, Charles H., Frances Haney Atwood and William B. Mathews, eds. *Debates and Proceedings of the First Constitutional Convention of West Virginia, (1861-1863)*. Huntington: Gentry Brothers. 76 & 77.