

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 Andrew J. Wood

Dudley S. Montague was born on August 26, 1800 in Cumberland County, Virginia to English born parents. On March 22, 1821, he married Elizabeth daughter of John Brooks of Fluvanna County, Virginia, who gave him ten children: John R., William J., George R., Sarah H., Robert W., Thomas H., Peter C., Martha J., Albert G., Francis M. After marrying Elizabeth they made a permanent residence at Red House Shoals, Putnam County, Virginia. Elizabeth died on January 28, 1866, Dudley soon remarries on July 24, 1866, to Mary Keeney, who gave him 7 more children: Dudley S. Jr., Daniel W., Charles B., Joseph D., Lewis C., Claudius H., and Earl B. Somewhere around 1850 he builds a hotel in Red House Shoals, after which he is selected as County Commissioner of Revenue for Putnam County. In 1858, he holds the positions of county escheator and county notary. During the Secession crisis, he was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention, where he was very active, especially during the passage of the Willey Amendment. He personally conducted polls of General Lightburn's soldiers in the trenches of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Late in life he was selected to the position of Justice of the Peace, and a year before he died he joined the Methodist Episcopal Church. He died on January 31, 1886 and is buried at Spring Hill Cemetery near Charleston, West Virginia.

Bibliography

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