

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

**MOSES TICHENELL** was born in Monongalia County, Virginia. He served as a delegate to the recalled Convention in Wheeling from Marion County [West] Virginia. He became a minister at the young age of nineteen and received his license through the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was sent to the Middlebourne Tyler County Circuit after he was ordained as a deacon in 1832. He spent two years there but in the next twenty-six years he traveled the circuits around the state of Virginia. In 1834 he married Elvira Squires who shared his passion for the ministry and for the Union. He spent one year in New Lisbon, Ohio, in 1840. "For four years, beginning with 1851, he was presiding elder of the Clarksburg, [West] Virginia, district; in 1852 he was a delegate to the Methodist Episcopal Church General Conference; during 1855 he was 'Conference Tract Agent; and beginning with 1856 he was for three years presiding elder of the Wheeling district. He then re-entered the pastorate work and for four years was stationed at Triadelphia, Ohio County."

As a circuit rider, he developed rheumatism and was put on a list that kept him available, but not active, from 1861 through 1863. In 1867 he moved to Rosemond, Christian County, Illinois where he recuperated and resumed his ministry and established himself as an evangelist. He did not have a formal education but he was intelligent and

had a retentive memory. He was a relentless preacher who contributed to the spiritual background of the State of West Virginia. He was an effective and popular leader.

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. 97 & 98.