

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

James W. Williamson, the son of Thomas and Frances Beatty Williamson was born on November 30, 1821. His family came to this area as Irish immigrants and is one of the first settlers of the region between Marietta and Wheeling. On September 27, 1847, he married Mary Jane Massey, daughter of John C. and Martha Massey. They had eight children: Charles Coleman, Hannibal Washington, Martha Emeline, James Madison, Harrison Jackson, Mary Belle, Rose, Ella, Amanda Jane, and Willie Walker. His trade prior to 1855 was that of a farmer. During the years of 1855-56, he was selected as the county commissioner of revenues. In 1859, he became a steamboat captain that navigated the Ohio River.

Bibliography

Koehren, Susie. *Tyler County Genealogy Project*.

<http://www.wvgenweb.org/tyler/Pages/biographical.htm>. Date Accessed: December 6, 2010.