

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 Kelly L. Pruett

**Johnson, Daniel Dye**

Daniel Dye Johnson (April 28, 1836-?), delegate from Tyler County, was a soldier and legislator. He was born in Tyler County. He grew up on the family farm, attending private school at home during the winter months. When he was 21 he became a student at Marietta College, Ohio, where he spent two years, and in 1860 graduated from Columbian college in Washington, D.C. He was opposed to Secession and was a member of the two Wheeling Conventions of 1861.

In 1862 he entered the Union Army and served in several engagements as Colonel of an infantry regiment. He was wounded at Opequan and several times was called upon to act as Brigade Commander. In 1866 he was elected to the House of Delegates, where he opposed imposition of the test oaths on former Confederate sympathizers. He unsuccessfully sought election to Congress as a Democrat in 1866, served in the State Senate from 1872 to 1879 and was its President and in 1873 was appointed Regent of the State University, later serving as President of the Board. He was a Presidential Elector in 1880 and an alternate to the Democratic National Convention that year, was a delegate to that party's Convention in 1888 and Chairman of the State Conventions of 1876 and 1880. Shortly after the Civil War he became a lawyer and continued practicing and farming the rest of his life. He received the A.M. degree

from his alma mater in 1868 and delivered the Master's oration. He was Clerk of the Senate for one term.

Sources:

George W. Atkinson and Alvaro F. Gibbens, *Prominent Men of West Virginia (1890)*, p. 467.

Comstock, Jim, Editor, *The West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia*, Volume 21, p. 2536, Richwood: Jim Comstock Publishing, 1976.