

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 Wesley A. Kuemmel

Abraham Dickerson Soper:

Abraham D. Soper was born on September 4, 1796 in Orange County, New York and died on March 25, 1876 at Sistersville, Tyler County, West Virginia. Soper studied law and was admitted to the New York Bar while still a teen. He held various public offices in New York, including justice of the peace, postmaster, delegate to the New York General Assembly and judge of the court of common pleas before moving his family to Tyler County in 1847. In Tyler County, he continued his law practice.

Soper was a delegate to the First Constitutional Convention and also the oldest at age 66 and, owing to ill health, deferred nomination to be the first governor of West Virginia to Arthur I. Boreman. Soper went on to serve in the West Virginia legislature and was later appointed to a circuit judgeship for Tyler and adjoining counties, which post he served until his death in 1876. (West Virginia. et al.) He was buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Sistersville, Tyler County, West Virginia. (Doan)

Doan, Becky. "Capt Abraham Dickerson Soper". 2007. *Find A Grave*. 11/11/10 2010. <<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=soper&GSfn=abraham&GSbyrel=in&GSdyrel=in&GSst=52&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=23648584&df=all&>>.

West Virginia., et al. *Debates and Proceedings of the First Constitutional Convention of West Virginia*. 1 vols. Huntington,: W. Va., Gentry brothers, 1939. Print.