

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

Andrew Wilson was born in 1811 near the Old Wilson's homestead at Waugh's mill 3 miles east of Wellsburg. He is the grandson of Andrew Wilson who moved to Brooke County, Virginia before the Revolution. He died in 1813, at the age of 92. He only had few opportunities for advance education, but he applied to what was available. Staying on the homestead until the age of 21, Wilson learned the trade of millwright. Once he left the homestead, he became a steam boater that traveled up and down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers until 1837. After which he moved to Jackson County and worked at a lumber and flour mill. A year later, he married his first wife, Marry Patterson and had one son named Robert, who would become a Major in the Infantry. In 1847, he relocated to Wheeling, where he worked in lumber and steamboat manufacturing until the War. His wife died in 1853 and then remarried in 1854 to Elizabeth C. Updegraff. From his marriage there were six children: Mary, Andrew, Julia, Frank, Henry. He was selected as a delegate to the 2nd Wheeling Convention and in the new state he was elected into both the House of Delegates and to the Senate. He was a life-long Democrat, who voted for Andrew Jackson in 1832 and General Hancock in 1880 Presidential elections. Andrew Wilson died at his home in Wheeling on April 2, 1877.

Bibliography

Atkinson, Geo. W. and Alvaro F. Gibbens. *Prominent Men of West Virginia*. (Wheeling W.L. Callin, 1890) 999.

Year: 1870; Census Place: *Wheeling Ward 5, Ohio, West Virginia*; Roll: *M593_1696*; Page: *308B*; Image: *622*; Family History Library Film: *553195*.

Year: 1880; Census Place: *Wheeling, Ohio, West Virginia*; Roll: *1410*; Family History Film: *1255410*; Page: *330B*; Enumeration District: *204*; .