

West Virginia Archives and History

ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY March 6



Industrialist Johnson Newlon Camden, who served as United States senator from 1881 to 1887, and 1893 to 1895, was born in Lewis County on March 6, 1828.

CSO: SS.8.9, SS.8.23, ELA.8.1, ELA.8.5

<u>Investigate the Document:</u> (*Parkersburg Sentinel*, April 25, 1908; *Papers of Governor Jacob Beeson Jackson (1829-1905)*, Ar1727)

Document 1

- 1. Camden was an important figure in what significant industries during his lifetime, amassing an estimated \$25,000,000 in his dealings.
- 2. How would you summarize Johnson Camden's contribution to West Virginia? Cite businesses, infrastructure and communities which he impacted (3-5 paragraphs).
- 3. Based on his obituary, Camden had a significant influence on *this* community that meets at the confluence of the Little Kanawha and Ohio River—an exit off Interstate 77 that runs near the city, bears his name.

Document 2

- 1. To whom is Camden writing in this correspondence? What is the main idea of the letter?
- 2. What role did the creator of this source play in the key events of the period?

Think Critically: Describe how Camden played a role in the booming Mid-Ohio Valley oil and gas industry during the late-1800s. The oil and gas industry began as an extension of what other significant early-western Virginia industry?

WV A&H

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U. S. SENATE CHAMBER Governor J. O. Jackson Wheeling, W.Va. My dear Governor? Dr. George A. Carpenter of Moorfield is an applicant for an appointment under the medical Bill passed by the last Legisla ture and several of his friend have written me requesting to join in endoring him for the position. He is no doubt a good man for the place and I comment him to your favora = ble aftention, Sappreciate the och that you have applicate