

Biographies of western delegates who attended the 1861 Virginia Secession Convention were transcribed by undergraduate students enrolled in Dr. Billy Joe Peyton's Fall 2010 "Introduction to Public History" class at West Virginia State University.

By James Bailes

EDWARD M. ARMSTRONG, of Hampshire County (now in West Virginia), was born about 1816. He was a merchant and operated a store at New Creek Station (now Keyser). Armstrong was a justice of the peace of Hampshire County and served from 1849 to 1860. He was also interested in the development of the region's mineral resources, and shortly before 1860 he helped organize a company for the development of coal lands on New Creek. As one of Hampshire County's delegates to the State Convention, Armstrong voted against secession on April 4 and on April 17, but he subsequently signed the ordinance of secession.

Sources: Hu Maxwell, *History of Hampshire County, West Virginia* (Morgantown, 1897), pp. 277, 358; Justices, Reg, 7&8: census population schedules for Hampshire County, 1860.