

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 Robert Roush

ALFRED M. BARBOUR, of Jefferson County (now in West Virginia), was born in 1829 and was a son of John Strode Barbour of Culpeper County and Elizabeth Byrne Barbour. He was educated at the University of Virginia and became a lawyer. He settled in western Virginia and represented Monongalia County in the Virginia House of Delegates during the session of 1857-1858. He married Kate Daniel of Jefferson County. In January, 1859, he was appointed superintendent of the United States Armory of Harpers Ferry, and was serving in that capacity at the time of John Brown's raid.

As one of Jefferson County's delegates to the State Convention, Barbour voted against secession on April 4. He then returned to Harpers Ferry, where he made an unsuccessful attempt to persuade the workers to support the Confederacy, and was thus absent from the Convention when it voted for secession on April 17. On April 30 he returned to Richmond and recorded his vote for secession.

Barbour became a major in the Confederate army and served on the staff of General Joseph E. Johnston. He died in 1865 in Montgomery, Alabama.

SOURCES: Raleigh T. Green, *Genealogical and Historical Notes on Culpeper County, Virginia (Culpeper, 1900)*, II, 140; Schele, *U Va*; Joseph Barry, *Annals of Harper's Ferry* (Hagerstown, Md. 1869), pp. 16-42.