

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 Carolyn S. Quinlan

**SOLOMON S. FLEMING** was born October 19, 1812, in Middletown Virginia near Fairmont [West] Virginia. Growing up on his fathers' farm, he received very little formal education. Resources were scarce and the teachers were ill prepared.

He married Elizabeth Ebert in 1835, and in 1841 they moved to Shinnston, Virginia where he was a farmer and merchant. Together they had eight children, six girls and two boys who all later married and made their residence in Harrison County [West], Virginia.

It was not until 1861 that he began public service; first as a member of the Wheeling Convention to restore the State Government of Virginia; and served in the House of Delegates for the newly formed State of West Virginia, from 1863 until 1869. He served as presiding officer for part of the time and was involved in various committee functions. From 1866-1867 he served as Chairman of the Committee of Finance and Taxation. He was commissioned in 1862 to re-organize the One Hundred and Thirty-eight Regiment of Virginia Militia. In an attempt to prevent General Morgan's crossing into West Virginia territory, he voluntarily joined the Legislative Company that went to Brown's Island to assist. His store was raided and his merchandise stolen by the Confederate cavalry under General Jones, in 1865.

Sources: Atkinson, George Wesley and Alvaro F. Gibbens, *Prominent Men of West Virginia*, Wheeling: W. L. Callin, 1890.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=vLYUAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=prominent+men+of+wv&source=bl&ots=9mO46TGFfl&sig=d3B9o7HLgIMG2tPSb9a87-#v=onepage&q=FLEMING&f=false>.