

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 Jeffrie Carroll

Henry L. Gillespie (Fayette and Raleigh)

HENRY L. GILLESPIE, of Raleigh County (now in West Virginia), was born about 1817. He was a lawyer and was the first commonwealth's attorney of Raleigh County, which was formed from Fayette County in 1850. He was the delegate from Raleigh and Fayette counties (both now in West Virginia) in the State Convention. Gillespie voted against secession on April 4, but he voted for it on April 17. After the war he became judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of West Virginia, and served from 1868 to 1873.

Sources: PMWV, p. 46; David E. Johnson, *Middle New River Settlements* (Huntington, W. Va., 1906), p. 324; Hedrick, *Memoirs of Raleigh County*, pp. 2, 4; census population schedules for Raleigh County, 1860.