

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 Autumn Drummond

### **Leonard S. Hall (Wetzel)**

LEONARD STOUT HALL, of Wetzel County (now in West Virginia), was born on August 29, 1824, in Harrison County (now in West Virginia) and was the son of Samuel G. Hall and Rachel Hudkins Hall. He was a lawyer and practiced in Wetzel County. In 1851 he became county escheator, and he was later commonwealth's attorney of Wetzel County. He married Jeanette McGregor in 1846 and have five children by her.

Hall was Wetzel County's delegate in the State Convention. He voted for secession both on April 4 and on April 17. Because of his Southern sympathies, a group of Richmond secessionists presented him with a gold cane. He supported the Confederacy and "presented" Wetzel County, which had by then become part of West Virginia, in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1863 to 1865. He died November 18, 1875, at New Martinsville, West Virginia.

Sources: Thomas C. Miller and Hu Maxwell, *West Virginia and its People* (N. Y., 1913), II, 371; McEldowney, *History of Wetzel County*, p. 95; Granville D. Hall, *The Rending of Virginia* (Chicago, 1902), pp. 150-151; RGA, p. 383. Justices, Reg. 7.