

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 Rob Hawkins

JOHN N. HUGHES, of Randolph County (now in West Virginia), was born in 1831. He was a lawyer and lived at Beverley, Randolph County. He represented Randolph and Tucker counties in the Convention and voted against secession on April 4. Although he had been elected as a Unionist, Hughes voted for secession on April 17. He returned to Beverley after the Convention with the intention of joining the Confederate army. While serving as a civilian volunteer with Confederate troops, he was killed at the battle of Rich Mountain on July 11, 1861. The Virginia Convention subsequently passed a resolution of tribute in his honor.

Sources: Census population schedules for Randolph County, 1860; Hu Maxwell, *Randolph County* (Morgantown, 1898), pp. 233, 244; *Journal of the Convention*, p. 335.