

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 Jack Stephenson

JAMES LAWSON, of Logan County (now in West Virginia), was the son of Anthony Lawson and was born in Northumberland, England, about 1811. The Lawson family came to the United States about 1815 and settled, about 1823, in western Virginia on the Guyandotte River. Lawson, a farmer, became surveyor of Logan County in 1838. He married Matilda Dingess by whom he had eight children. He represented Logan, Boone, and Wyoming counties in the State Convention, and voted for secession on April 4 and again on April 17. He died sometime before 1890.

SOURCES: Census population schedules for Logan County, 1860; George T. Swain, History of Logan County, West Virginia (Logan, 1927), p 73; Justices, Reg. 6 & 7