

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 Wesley A. Kuemmel

Solomon Parsons:

Solomon Parsons was born in 1795 (also reported as 1793) (Fansler, 239) in Hardy County and studied medicine at the New York City Medical College before coming to Randolph County to serve as the county's first physician. Parsons attended to the Second Wheeling Convention as a delegate from Tucker County. His father, James Parsons, is thought to have been the first settler in the area now known as Hardy County, West Virginia, and his son, also named James Parsons represented Tucker County at the West Virginia Constitutional Convention. (Maxwell and Hyde) (West Virginia. et al.)

Parsons listed himself as a doctor, farmer and merchant on census forms in 1850 and 1860, suggesting his prominence in the small county. He was a slaveholder but freed his slaves prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. Parsons served as delegate from Tucker County from 1861 to 1863. (Fansler) In 1863, Parsons moved to Terra Alta in Preston County where he died in 1875. (West Virginia. et al.)

Fansler, Homer Floyd. *History of Tucker County, West Virginia*. Parsons, W. Va.,: McClain Print. Co., 1962. Print.

Maxwell, Hu, and Henry Clay Hyde. *History of Tucker County, West Virginia, from the Earliest Explorations and Settlements to the Present Time*. Kingwood,: W. Va., Preston publishing company, 1884. Print.

West Virginia., et al. *Debates and Proceedings of the First Constitutional Convention of West Virginia*. 1 vols. Huntington,: W. Va., Gentry brothers, 1939. Print.