

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

David Stuart Pinnell:

Born on June 9, 1812, David Pinnell trained as a physician and represented Upshur County in the Constitutional Convention, replacing fellow Upshur County resident Richard L. Brooks. Pinnell joined the Union Army in 1862, serving as assistant surgeon in the Third West Virginia Cavalry. He resigned his commission in 1864 to take a seat in the West Virginia Legislature, where he served until 1869, twice serving as speaker of the House. Pinnell was also a diplomat, acting as consul to Australia from 1869 to 1871. (West Virginia. et al., 85)

In addition to his military and government service, Pinnell was also an advocate of free education, acting as a trustee of the Buckhannon Male and Female Academy and helping to found the West Virginia Medical Association. (West Virginia. et al., 85) He was instrumental in passing the bill that would create West Virginia University in 1867. Pinnell died on August 13, 1885 and was buried at Leonard Cemetery, Buckhannon, Upshur County, West Virginia.

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

