

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 Carolyn S. Quinlan

DANIEL POLSLEY was born on November 3, 1803 at Palatine, Marion County, [West] Virginia. He was of German heritage on his fathers' side and his mother was a sister to Judge Alpheus F. Haymonds' grandfather. He was unable to obtain a formal education but he learned a great deal from tending to the duties on the farm. Self educated, he studied law and attended the lectures of Judge Tucker in Winchester. When he moved to Wellsburg, Brooke County, after his fathers' death, he became a notable lawyer.

He married Eliza V. Brown in 1827. She was the niece of Philip Doddridge and granddaughter to an officer in the Revolutionary War, Captain Oliver Brown.

In 1833, he edited and published a Whig paper, the *Western Transcript*. Known as an unpretentious man, he sold the printing business in 1855, retired from law and bought a farm of 1200 acres, on the Ohio River, near Racine, where he could dabble in agriculture once again and enjoy the quiet life. This did not last long, since he was elected as delegate to the Wheeling Convention to restore State Government, from Mason County; he then was named Lieutenant Governor of the Restored State Government. In 1862 he was chosen Judge of the Seventh Circuit of Virginia and continued presiding over the same counties once West Virginia reached Statehood. This position lasted until

1866 at which time he was elected from the Third District to the Fortieth Congress. He moved to Point Pleasant at the end of his term and died there on October 14, 1877.

Sources: Atkinson, George Wesley and Alvaro F. Gibbens, *Prominent Men of West Virginia*, Wheeling: W. L. Callin, 1890.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=vLYUAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=prominent+men+of+wv&source=bl&ots=9mO46TGFfl&sig=d3B9o7HLgIMG2tPSb9a87-#v=onepage&q=POLSLEY&f=false>.