

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 Angela Mink

DAVID PUGH, of Hampshire County (now in West Virginia), was born at Capon Bridge, Hampshire County, in 1807. He was a farmer and tanner by occupation. He was for some years a justice of the peace of Hampshire County, and he was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates during the 1841-1842 session.

As delegate from Hampshire County in the State Convention, he voted against secession on April 4 and on April 17, but he subsequently signed the ordinance of secession. During the war he was "faithful...to his state and the cause which she espoused." Pugh was a member of the West Virginia Senate from 1876 to 1879. He died at Capon Bridge on January 29, 1899.

SOURCES: Hu Maxwell and H. L. Swisher, *History of Hampshire County* (Morgantown, 1897), p. 723; RGA, p. 420; obituary from *Hampshire Review*, Feb. 1, 1899 (copy provided by Charles Shelter, West Virginia University Library).