

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 Kelly L. Pruett

Job Robinson

Job Robinson (1816-?), delegate from Calhoun County, was the son of William Robinson. He was born in Barbour County, (West) Virginia, member of a family which had emigrated from New Jersey by way of Brownsville, Pennsylvania. Sometime before the Civil War, William Robinson moved to Sycamore Creek, Calhoun County, where his neighbors were Polings, Hathaways, and Proudfoots. All were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and worshipped at Pleasant Valley. This building stands in a secluded spot about nine miles from Grantsville, Calhoun County.

While the war was still in progress or near its close, Job Robinson and his brother, James E. Robinson (August 2, 1826-November 9, 1908), moved to Van Buren County, Iowa, where James E. reared a family and Job died childless. Other members of the Robinson family remained in West Virginia, where they died and were buried in Sycamore Cemetery, Calhoun County. Something of their influence is attested by the fact that the magisterial district, in which they lived, was named for General Sherman. These Robinsons were of the same family as Judge Ira E. Robinson of Grafton, West Virginia, and of the late Sherman Robinson of Harrisville, Ritchie County, West Virginia. James E. Robinson had a son named Waitman, for Waitman T. Willey, one of the fathers of West Virginia.

Sources:

Robinson family traditions; Calhoun County Records.

Ambler, Charles H., Francis Haney Atwood and William B. Mathews, editors, *Debates and Proceedings of the First Constitutional Convention of West Virginia (1861-1863)*, pp. 86-87 Huntington: Gentry Brothers Printers.