

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

### **Edward Winston Ryan**

Edward Winston Ryan (October 28, 1837-November 25, 1916), delegate from Fayette County to succeed Captain James S. Cassady, resigned, was a native of that county. He was educated in its schools and in Allegheny College, a Baptist controlled institution at Blue Sulphur Springs, Virginia. Although the Rev. Ryan was one of the youngest delegates in the Convention, he was already a school-teacher of experience. In 1861 he entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church, as a junior preacher on the Nicholas circuit in present West Virginia. After serving Malden and Point Pleasant circuits, he was stationed in turn at Catlettsburg (Kentucky), Hartford City, Charleston, Wheeling, Morgantown, Charleston (a second time), and Grafton. From 1883 to 1887 he was presiding elder of the Wheeling district. He was then transferred to Tabernacle Church, Detroit, Michigan, where he filled other pastorates, among them one at Ypsilanti. For a time he was presiding elder of the Ann Arbor district.

The Rev. Ryan was twice married: First, (May 8, 1866) to Susan Cherrington of Gallipolis, Ohio, who bore him four children, and second, to Charlotte Hance who bore him two children. Mary Ryan, his eldest daughter by his first wife, is a divorced wife of the late Senator Royal S. Copeland of New York. The Rev. Ryan died in Detroit, Michigan, and is buried in Grand Lawn Cemetery in Detroit.

Sources:

Atkinson and Gibbens, *Prominent Men*, p. 599; Ryan Family records; Geo. W. Atkinson, *The West Virginia Pulpit*, pp. 110-112.

Ambler, Charles H., Francis Haney Atwood and William B. Mathews, editors, *Debates and Proceedings of the First Constitutional Convention of West Virginia (1861-1863)*, p. 89, Huntington: Gentry Brothers Printers.