

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 Patricia Mosley

SAMUEL WOODS, of Barbour County (now in West Virginia), was born on September 19, 1822, in Canada and was the son of Irish immigrants. His parents migrated to Meadville, Pennsylvania, when he was a boy, and grew up there. Woods worked as a plasterer in his youth, and was educated at Allegheny College at Meadville, Pennsylvania. After completing the classical course there, he went to Pittsburg, where he studied law. He subsequently settled at Philippi, in Barbour County, and was living there when he was elected to represent the county in the State Convention. He voted for secession on April 4 and on April 17.

During the war Wood served with the Confederate army and was a member of the famous Stonewall Brigade. He returned to Barbour County after the war and was a member of the West Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1872. In 1883 he was appointed judge of the State Supreme Court of Appeals to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge ALPHEUS F. HAYMOND and served until 1888. He died in 1897.

Sources: PMWV, p 426 (picture p. 427); obituary in West Virginia Bar Association Report 1897, pp. 136-147.