

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 Wesley A. Kuemmel

Richard Locke Brooks:

Richard L. Brooks was born in Tazewell County on December 5, 1810. (Society; Cutright, Maxwell and Brooks) He was a direct descendant of English philosopher John Locke. Brooks attempted many occupations, including farming, tanning, coopering, carpentry and teaching before settling into the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church. Reverend Brooks represented Upshur County at the West Virginia Constitutional Convention and was an early advocate of free education. He retired from the ministry in 1861 and died in September 1895. (West Virginia. et al.) Brooks was buried in the Brooks-Crites Cemetery in Alexander, Upshur County. (Lane)

Cutright, William Bernard, Hu Maxwell, and Earle Amos Brooks. *The History of Upshur County, West Virginia, from Its Earliest Exploration and Settlement to the Present Time*. Buckhannon?: W. Va., 1907. Print.

Lane, Leon. "Rev Richard L Brooks". 2009. December 4 2010.

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=brooks&GSfn=richard&GSbyrel=in&GSdyrel=in&GSst=52&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=45251341&df=all&>.

Society, Upshur County Historical. *Year Book of Upshur County Historical Society*. Buckhannon, WV1928. Print.

West Virginia., et al. *Debates and Proceedings of the First Constitutional Convention of West Virginia*. 1 vols. Huntington,: W. Va., Gentry brothers, 1939. Print.