

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

**John William Moss:**

John W. Moss was born in Fairfax County, Virginia on October 4, 1816. He studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania before coming to Wood County in present day West Virginia in 1840. Moss was sent to north from his home in Parkersburg to serve as President of the First Wheeling Convention, and later in the Reorganized Government's First Legislature.

On July 3, 1861, Moss was appointed Colonel of the Second West Virginia Infantry, a position he held until May 20, 1862. His Union service continued as surgeon for the Fourteenth West Virginia Infantry Regiment. He died of disease while serving in Petersburg, West Virginia in January 1864 and is buried in Riverview Cemetery in Parkersburg, Wood County, West Virginia. (Atkinson 217)

Atkinson, Geo W. and Gibbens, Alvaro F. *Prominent Men of West Virginia*. Wheeling: W.L. Callin, 1890. Print.