

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 Andrew J. Wood

Joseph Snider was born on February 14, 1827 in Rosedale, Monongalia County, Virginia. He was the son of a farmer, Elisha Snider and his wife Edith Britton, who made sure that their son received a "fair" education. He married Margarette Miller in 1844, which led to four children: Edith M., Elisha M., Ollie, and Frank L. In the Presidential election of 1860, he favored Stephen Douglas and was a stern opponent to secession. He was elected to be a delegate to the 2nd Wheeling Convention, after which he was selected as a member of the Legislature for the Reorganized Government of Virginia, where he voted against the continuation of slavery. Furthermore, he also served as a delegate to the Constitution Convention. During the Civil War he achieved the rank of Colonel in the 7th West Virginia Infantry, where he participated in the Battles of Antietam. At the battle of Fredericksburg his horse was shot out from under him and he suffered from a bullet wound to the head. After the devastating losses to the 7th Infantry, it was consolidated to form the 4th West Virginia Cavalry, where he served as Colonel until April 14, 1864. After the war's end, Snider served as a Member of the Constitution Convention in 1872, a member of House of Delegates in 1872 was re-elected in 1875, and State Senator in 1887 and 1889. During his time as a State Senator, he was the chairman of the committees of claims and grievances and served as a committee member on public printing, immigration and agriculture, railroads, public buildings, humane institutions, and judiciary. Joseph Snider died on

February 14, 1904 in Point Marion, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. At the time of his death he was a member of the Disciples of Christ church.

Bibliography

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