

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

James G. West:

James G. West was born on November 25, 1794 near Morgantown and moved to what is now Wetzel County in 1820. West was a large landholder in Wetzel County, at one point owning some 7,000 acres. He also served in various capacities in Wetzel County government, including commissioner of revenue and county sheriff. (McEldowney) West was a delegate in the 1861 Virginia legislature when the secession question was addressed. (Myers) West was also a Methodist Episcopal minister and gave opening prayers at the Second Wheeling Convention where he served as delegate from his county. At Wheeling, West introduced the resolution calling for the division of the state. (Lewis) West was an important early figure in the creation and development of Wetzel County, having introduced the bill for the county's creation at the legislature in Richmond, and later championing the creation of roads in the county. (Cunningham) West died on October 20, 1872 and was buried at Kilcoyne Cemetery, Mobley, Marion County.

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**McEldowney, John C. *History of Wetzel County West Virginia*. Westminster, MD:
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**Myers, S. *Myers' History of West Virginia*. 2 vols. Wheeling, W. Va.: Wheeling News
Lithograph Co., 1915. Print.**