

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 Carolyn S. Quinlan

LOT BOWEN was born on November 17, 1824 in Greene County, Pennsylvania to Corby and Joanna Garrison Bowen who was of noble German descent. On September 7, 1843, he married Cassandra Gregg Wright whose family was from the same county. Together they had two daughters: Sarah, of Randolph County, was born September 14, 1844 and Mary M. Bowen, born July 11, 1849, became a well know literary writer. They settled in Harrison, County on March 15, 1850 where he began his public career.

He served one year as magistrate in Union district in 1860. He was a delegate to the Wheeling Convention that saved the western counties from secession. General George B. McClellan requested he join his army, in which he obtained rank of Captain and then Major. Disability forced him to resign his commission on December 14, 1864. "He was brevetted lieutenant-colonel and commanded mainly what is known as the 3d West Virginia Cavalry, of whose daring deeds and loyal services he gives grateful and enthusiastic praises. Each member of this regiment was honored with the badge of the 'red necktie,' conferred by their commander, Major-Gen. Phil. Sheridan, at the close of the war."

In his latter days he became a farmer, grazier, and cattle-broker in Sycamore Dale, Harrison County, West Virginia.

Source: Comstock, Jim., ed. 1974. Hardesty's: *The West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia*. Richwood. Jim Comstock. 1974.