

Biographies of western delegates who attended the 1861 Virginia Secession Convention were transcribed by undergraduate students enrolled in Dr. Billy Joe Peyton's Fall 2010 "Introduction to Public History" class at West Virginia State University.

By Victoria Souhala

JAMES HENRY COUCH, of Mason County (now in West Virginia), was born on August 3, 1821, in Hanover County, Virginia, and the son of David Couch and Sarah Richardson Couch. His parents moved to Kanawha valley soon after his birth, and he grew up there. He was a lawyer and practiced at Point Pleasant, Macon County. He married Helen J. Waggener. He represented Mason County in the State Convention. He opposed secession, and voted against it on April 4 and on April 17. After the war he resumed the practice of law at Point Pleasant. He died at Long Meadow, his estate in Mason County, on November 24, 1899.

SOURCES: John P. Hale, *History of the Great Kanawha Valley* (Madison, Wis., 1891), I, 294, II, 37; William S. Laidley, *History of Charleston and Kanawha County* (Chicago, 1911), p. 512