

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

James Evans was born around 1810 and was the son of John and Gilley Strother Evans in Monongalia County, Virginia. In 1839-40, he served as a member in the Virginia General Assembly. After which he took up the position as Justice of the Peace and served as a member of the County Courts. In 1843 he married Delia Ray, who bore him three children: Harvie A., Thos R., and Gillie C. He served as a delegate to the 2nd Wheeling Convention in 1861. During the war, he joined the 7th West Virginia Infantry where he gained the rank of Colonel. He was captured in Winchester in 1862. After his release, James Evans became ill which caused him to resign his command. In May of 1865, he lived in Morgan on a farm called the Evans homestead. He lived there with his family until 1880, when he moved them to Wharton, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, where he continued to work as a farmer. He died in 1888.

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Year: 1880; Census Place: *Wharton, Fayette, Pennsylvania*; Roll: 1130; Family History Film: 1255130; Page: 605D; Enumeration District: 63; Image: 0743.

Year: 1890; Census Place: *Morgantown, Monongalia, West Virginia*; Roll: 109; Page: 2; Enumeration District: 76.

