

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

David W. Gibson was born in 1829, near the Old Field Fork of the Elk River and was one of the sons of David and Nancy Gibson. The Gibson family is known as one of the pioneering families in Pocahontas County and through their tutelage in thriftiness the children of David and Nancy were all successful and prosperous. David Gibson gained his education at Buckhannon Academy in Buckhannon, Virginia and later studied medicine in Richmond.

In January 24, 1860 David married his wife Martha of Elkwater, Randolph County, Virginia, who is the daughter of Jacob and Ellen Stalnaker. He built a permanent residence in Elkwater after his marriage, where he later practiced medicine in Randolph and surrounding counties. During their marriage they had three children; William, Florence and Charles.

During the American Civil War, David Gibson was a physician and a scout for the Union army. His actions are unclear surrounding the death of Colonel John A. Washington, an aid to Robert E. Lee. At the age of 32, he was selected a delegate to the Constitution Convention in 1861. His selection as a delegate was challenged by Rev. Samuel Young, on the basis of regularity and legality of the creation of West Virginia. His later life is unknown, other than his death in 1904 at his residence.

Bibliography

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