

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

EPHRAIM BENONI HALL, one of fourteen children, was born on August 29, 1822 to Rynear Hall and Susannah (Lowe) Hall in Middletown, Virginia, which is now Fairmont, West Virginia. He practiced law in Middletown after receiving his degree from Rector College, Pruntytown, [West] Virginia. He married Ella Sophia Jones on May 10, 1854.

He was a member of the First and Second Wheeling Conventions and became the Attorney General of West Virginia in 1865. In 1872, because of his wife's failing health, he resigned his position as Tenth Judicial Circuit Judge of Jefferson, Berkeley and Morgan Counties, to move to Santa Barbara, California. He continued to practice law and was active in church. He died on January 16, 1898 at the age of 75.

Sources: Atkinson, George Wesley and Alvaro F. Gibbens, *Prominent Men of West Virginia*, Wheeling: W. L. Callin, 1890.
<http://books.google.com/books?id=vLYUAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=prominent+men+of+wv&source=bl&ots=9mO46TGFfl&sig=d3B9o7HLgIMG2tPSb9a87-#v=onepage&q=hall&f=false>.

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Gaines, Jr., William H. *Biographical Register of Members Virginia State Convention of 1861*. First Session. Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1969. 75.

