

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

Daniel Lamb was born on January 23, 1810 in Connellsville, Pennsylvania. His family was all of the Quaker faith, Daniel however eventually converted to Episcopalian. His father was a saddler and a cobbler. Not known to be a strong child, he focused on books. In 1823, his family moved to Wheeling to sell leather for a Baltimore firm and it is here that he continued his public education. At the age of 20, he was a clerk and a year later was a secretary for a fire and marine insurance company. From 1834-37, he was the secretary and treasurer of the Wheeling Savings Institute. During which, he studied law under Morgan Nelson and was admitted to the bar in 1837. He started a successful practice with Charles W. Russell and in the same year, he married Maria M. Clark daughter of John Clark of Belmont County, Ohio of which there were three children: Gertrude, Julia, and J.C. He retired from practicing law in 1848, and at this time he took a cashier position with the Bank of Northwestern Virginia. When the debates were held on the topic of secession, Lamb did not become active until it was absolutely necessary to stand against secession. He was selected as a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wheeling conventions and was a chairman of the Constitution Convention committee on the Legislative committee. Once the new state was formed he was a member of its 1<sup>st</sup> Legislature. At the start of the war, his political affiliations were that of a Republican, but through the actions and policies of the party, he began to think their policies were too vigorous and aggressive for the party and the country. In 1870,

was one of the leaders of the “Conservatives” to advocate for the liberal principles until they were later defeated.

### Bibliography

Atkinson, Geo. W. and Alvaro F. Gibbens. *Prominent Men of West Virginia* (Wheeling: W.L. Callin, 1890) 255.

*Debates and Proceedings of the First Constitutional Convention of West Virginia (1861-1863)*  
Edited by Charles H. Ambler, Frances Haney Atwood, and William B. Mathews.  
(Huntington: Gentry Brothers Printers, 1939) 77-78.

Year: 1860; Census Place: *Wheeling Ward 5, Ohio, Virginia*; Roll: *M653\_1368*; Page: *340*;  
Image: *348*; Family History Library Film: *805368*.