

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

**EDWARD SPENCE MAHON** (McMahon) was born in 1816, in Maryland. As a young man he moved to Pennsylvania where he became a bus driver. He and his brothers moved back to Jackson County by way of Brooke County. He was a staunch supporter of the Union; and from 1863 through 1867 served as a Senator in the West Virginia Legislature. He was representative from Jackson County in the Sixth and Seventh Legislatures of 1868 and 1869. In his later years, he was not active politically.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge of Ravenswood and their records record his death as: "E. S. Mahon, old and decrepit, wandered from the lodge room and festal board on December 27, 1893, and mysteriously disappeared. His body was recovered from the Ohio River on May 22, 1894, and given due Masonic burial."

Source: Ambler, Charles H., Frances Haney Atwood and William B. Mathews, eds. *Debates and Proceedings of the First Constitutional Convention of West Virginia, (1861-1863)*. Huntington: Gentry Brothers. 79.