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 Wesley A. Kuemmel

James William Parsons:

James Parsons was born on January 13, 1813 at Horse Shoe in Randolph County. He

served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention from Tucker County. In 1863,

Parsons moved to Kingwood in Preston County where he would spend the rest of his life

working as a dry goods merchant and serving in local government. In Preston, he was

elected a justice of the peace and served as the chairman of the Republican Committee of

Preston County for many years. He died on February 1, 1892 and was buried at

Kingwood. (West Virginia. et al., 82-3)

West Virginia., et al. *Debates and Proceedings of the First Constitutional Convention of West Virginia*. 1 vols. Huntington,: W. Va., Gentry brothers, 1939. Print.