

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

JOHN SCOTT BARNES was born on October 21, 1816, in Barnsville, [West] Virginia, Marion County, near Fairmont. Since he had to spend his younger years working, he was denied a formal public education. However, he was able to obtain a notable occupation from his work in the mill industry. He became a manufacturer of yarn and woolen goods and his knowledge of a gristmill provided him the opportunity to mill flour. His common sense and integrity earned him a place of honor among his friends and neighbors in Marion County. He was elected to represent them at Richmond in the Assembly sessions of 1853-54 and 1855-56. He was opposed to secession. His stance was with the West for a separate statehood. He therefore became a member of the Wheeling Convention. He served in the House of Delegates for the new State (West Virginia), from 1863-1865.

Source: 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=snippet&q=barns&f=false>.