

Biographies of western delegates who attended the 1861 Virginia Secession Convention were transcribed by undergraduate students enrolled in Dr. Billy Joe Peyton's Fall 2010 "Introduction to Public History" class at West Virginia State University.

By Victoria Souhala

SHERRARD CLEMENS, of Ohio County (now in West Virginia), was born on April 28, 1820, at Wheeling and was the son of Dr. James W. Clemens. He was educated at Washington College (now Washington and Jefferson College) in Pennsylvania. Clemens was a lawyer and practiced in Wheeling, Ohio County. He was a member of the federal House of Representatives from 1852 to 1853 and again from 1857 to 1861.

Clemens was a delegate from Ohio County in the State Convention and he voted against secession on April 17. He resumed the practice of law at Wheeling after the war. He later moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where he died on June 30, 1881.

SOURCES: *PMWV*, p. 269; *Ency. Va. Biog.*, II, 104; *BDAC*, p. 706; Bassett French Papers