

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

William B. Crane, the son of Jacob Crane was born on May 5, 1824 near Muddy Creek, Preston County, Virginia. He was educated in the common school and worked on his father's farm, where he developed into a robust and portly man. He left his father's farm and moved to Cranberry Summit, where was in the mercantile and agriculture business. He also owned a number of farms in the Portland district. Sometime around 1854, he married Rachel Elliot, they both attended Baptist churches. During the Secession crisis he was a Union supporter and was selected as a delegate to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wheeling Convention. During the war, he held the rank of Colonel in the local militia. After the war, his political view changed from a Unionist to that of a Republican. He was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1868 and in 1870 he was elected for the West Virginia Senate. He died on March 14, 1873 at Terra Alta.

#### Bibliography

Atkinson, Geo. W. and Alvaro F. Gibbens. *Prominent Men of West Virginia* (Wheeling: W.L. Callin, 1890) 329.