

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

### **Lemuel Edwin Davidson**

Lemuel Davidson was born on October 26, 1822 at Pruntytown, in Taylor County. His education consisted of about three month's instruction each year to age 18, followed by nine months studying at Rector College. Davidson taught school and worked as a carpenter for a short period before settling back into farming.

Davidson was elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 1861, but did not attend the Richmond Convention that debated the eventual secession of Virginia. He was sent to the First Wheeling Convention by Taylor County. He was a delegate to the First Legislature of West Virginia and again in its Fourteenth Legislature in 1879. (Atkinson 837-38)

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