

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 Byron Holmes

**WILLIAM McCOMAS**, of Cabell County (now in West Virginia), was born near Pearisburg, Giles County, in 1795 and was the son of Elisha McComas. The family moved west when William McComas was still young and settled in what is now Cabell County.

McComas was a farmer, a lawyer, and a Methodist minister. He married Mildred Ware and had six sons by her. He was a member of the Virginia Senate from 1830 to 1833. He was then elected, as a Whig, to the federal House of Representatives and served there from 1833 to 1837.

He was elected as Unionist to represent Cabell County in the State Convention and was a member of the Committee on Federal Relations. He voted against secession on April 4 and again on April 17. He died on his farm near Barboursville, Cabell County, on June 3, 1865.

SOURCES: BCAC, p. 1287; George S. Wallace, *Cabell County Annals and Families* (Richmond, 1935), p. 448; RGA, p. 401.