

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.

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Edmund Pendleton, of Berkeley County (now West Virginia), was born in 1816 and was the son of Col. Philip Clayton Pendleton. He was named for his kinsman, the distinguished Revolutionary statesman and jurist. Pendleton was a lawyer and lived in Martinsburg. He was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates from 1843 to 1845.

He was elected to the State Convention as delegate from Berkeley County, and he voted against secession on April 4 and again on April 17. Berkeley County subsequently became part of the state of West Virginia, and Pendleton, who had been named judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of Virginia in 1869, moved to Winchester. He retired from the bench the following year and thereafter continued to live in Winchester, where he "enjoyed the ease and comfort of a retired lawyer" until his death in 1880.

Sources: J.E. Norris, *History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley* (Chicago, 1890), p. 588; Thomas K. Cartmell, *Shenandoah Valley Pioneers and the Descendants* (Winchester, 1990), pp. 457-458; F.V. Aler, *History of Martinsburg and Berkeley County* (Hagerstown, Md., 1888), p.281.