

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 Carolyn S. Quinlan

GREENBURY SLACK, nicknamed "Uncle Green," was born December 3, 1807 in Kanawha County, (West) Virginia. It has been written that he was an "omnivorous reader," and few could equal or surpass his aptitude for learning and retention. His father, John Slack, provided the opportunity for him to attend the most suitable schools and obtain an education that would serve him well.

The Virginia Governor commissioned him Justice of the Peace. In 1861, he was sent to Wheeling to serve as a Delegate to the Constitutional Convention to reorganize State Government. He returned to the Convention in 1863 to help frame the Constitution for what would soon become the State of West Virginia and where he would serve in the State Senate from 1863 to 1868.

He died at home in Charleston, West Virginia on July 1, 1873, at the age of sixty-five.

Sources: Atkinson, George Wesley and Alvaro F. Gibbens, *Prominent Men of West Virginia*, Wheeling: W. L. Callin, 1890.
<http://books.google.com/books?id=vLYUAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=prominent+men+of+wv&source=bl&ots=9mO46TGFfl&sig=d3B9o7HLgIMG2tPSb9a87-#v=onepage&q=slack&f=false>.