

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

Archabald J. Wilson was born on January 10, 1801 near Beverly, Randolph County, Virginia. Much of his early life is unknown, but in 1825 he married Elizabeth Hudkin, daughter of Barton Hudkin of Simpson Creek. From this marriage he was given twelve children: John Marshall, Basil Hudkins, Horatio Nelson, Barton H., Leroy P., Eveline (who married J. Smith Bee), Temperance J. (who married Rev. Thomas Wesley Ireland), Love Ann (who married Alexander Prunty), Sarah Elizabeth (who married Columbus Monroe Collins), Archibald Blackburn, Winfield Scott, and Josephine (who married Jesse Hammond). At 1828, he moved his family to Oxford in Taylor County from Simpson Creek in Taylor County. Archabald moved again in 1838 to Lynn Camp. He died on September 24, 1866 and was buried at the United Brethren Church of Pennsboro, West Virginia.

Mr. Wilson was known as a schoolteacher and as one of the first surveyors of Ritchie County, which served himself and his children well in the future. He was able to accumulate five thousand acres of land in Ritchie County, where each of his children were given land to start farms. At the age of 60, he was a delegate to the Constitution Convention in 1861, where he favored free public education and the division of counties into districts for organization and administration of the new state.

Bibliography

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