

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

**RICHARD E. FAST** was married to his second wife, Letha Jacobs, in Marion County, [West] Virginia. Together they had a son, Richard E. Fast, born October 31, 1858. He served as Justice of the Peace for many years and was an ardent supporter of the Union. He represented Marion County in the Legislature for the Restored Government of Virginia.

He moved the family near Smithtown, Monongalia County. In that county his son, through his own diligence and perseverance, eventually became the Mayor of Morgantown, serving three terms. He was highly regarded in this capacity, for it was under his leadership that Morgantown gave way to new and improved infrastructure. In his systematic style, sidewalks were laid, natural gas was introduced which provided fuel and lights; and the establishment of a water works system was put into place.

Richard E. Fast [Senior], died in April 1865.

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=fast&f=false>.