

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

Andrew F. Ross was born on September 17, 1813 in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. He attended public schools and Washington College. In 1838, he graduated from Franklin College in Cadiz, Ohio. After graduation he began reading law with John A. Bingham and was admitted to the bar shortly after graduating. In 1840 he took a chairman position at Bethany College in Ancient and Modern languages. He stayed at this position until 1857, when he took a principal position at West Liberty Academy in West Liberty Virginia. Ross stayed at this position until he resigned in 1861, to fight the secession movement. After losing the battle in the Virginia Secession Convention, he took up the West Virginia statehood movement. He took the delegate position that was formerly held by Rev. Gordon Battelle, who died in the line of duty in Washington D.C. Once the new state of West Virginia was created, he was elected as a delegate to the 1st Legislature and his focus was on free education program. After the war, he setup a farm at Fredricktown, Ohio, but after one year on the farm; he took the job as president of Oskaloosa Collage in Oskaloosa, Iowa, and he retained the position for 4 years. He then took a presidency at Franklin College, in New Athens Ohio, which he retained until his death in February 8, 1876.

Bibliography

Debates and Proceedings of the First Constitutional Convention of West Virginia (1861-1863) Edited by Charles H. Ambler, Frances Haney Atwood, and William B. Mathews. (Huntington: Gentry Brothers Printers, 1939) 87-88.

Year: 1860; Census Place: *West Liberty, Ohio, Virginia*; Roll: *M653_1368*; Page: 433; Image: 445; Family History Library Film: 805368.