

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 Wesley A. Kuemmel

**Harmon Sinsel:**

Harmon Sinsel was born in Taylor County on December 13, 1817. Sinsel was educated at Rector College where he displayed a facility for design and construction. Many of the public buildings and private residences around Pruntytown were designed or built by Sinsel, to include the remodeling of the old county courthouse and the construction of the jail. In 1870, he left contracting behind in favor of the retail trade and continued as a merchant until his retirement in 1891.

His public service includes the offices of county surveyor, justice of the peace and delegate to the First Constitutional Convention. (West Virginia. et al., 91) Sinsel died at Pruntytown on May 9, 1897.

West Virginia., et al. *Debates and Proceedings of the First Constitutional Convention of West Virginia*. 1 vols. Huntington,: W. Va., Gentry brothers, 1939. Print.