

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

THOMAS TRAINER was born on January 20, 1820 in Augusta County, Virginia. He was a delegate to the Convention from Marshall County. He had very little formal education but in 1849 the Methodist Episcopal Church licensed him as an exhorter. It was four years later that he began his public ministry. "He served successively, charges at Lumberport, Monogalia, Fetterman, Marion, Grave Creek, Marshall, Wesley Chapel, Mannington, Benwood and Blacksville in present West Virginia, was for a time presiding elder of the Guyandotte District which covered a part of Kentucky." On August 30, 1862, he served as chaplain to the Twelfth [West] Virginia Infantry organized in Wheeling. After the war he served as a delegate to the Third West Virginia Legislature.

He was an articulate and forceful preacher. He was married three times: First to Jane Hart of Beverly, Randolph County, in 1837 with whom he had thirteen children; second, to Erana Loyd; and third, to Elizabeth Tibbs. He died on April 19, 1891 and was buried beside his first wife in Mount Rose Cemetery, Moundsville, West Virginia.

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=trainer&f=false>.

Ambler, Charles H., Frances Haney Atwood and William B. Mathews, eds. *Debates and Proceedings of the First Constitutional Convention of West Virginia, (1861-1863)*.
Huntington: Gentry Brothers.