ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY
October 5

The second Virginia constitutional convention opened in Richmond on October 5, 1829.

CSO: SS.8.2, SS.8.21, SS.8.22, ELA.8.1

Investigate the Document: (Ms79-1.23-162)
1. The letter suggest that the people would be satisfied if the representation in the Lower House was based on ______________ and the Senate on ________________.

2. N.B. Madera states in his letter that the majority of the county was against him (Charles S. Morgan) based on what?

Think Critically: As the population continued to rise in western Virginia, it became obvious that the original 1776 state constitution needed to be revised. Can you infer from the letter, what was the western counties chief grievance? Why would the western counties not want slaves counted for representation? Does this strife between eastern and western Virginia at the 1829-1830 Virginia Constitutional Convention foreshadow the state’s future?
Morantown 19 June 1829

De Sir I do not think there are so men in this district that would wish to have a Constitution submitted to them based in any part upon slaves. I believe the People would be satisfied providing you could do no better to have the Lower House based on White Population and the Senate on Federal members but if it should be otherwise it will be rejected in Mass. I am sorry to inform you there is a Majority in the County is against you on account of your vote for electing the Governor we have had a great Election in this place last week the Methodists are playing hop there are about 30 that signed. Let us place Nathan Godby Judge. Wilson, two of the lawyers won't Henry Morns. Mulkey, etc. I hope Moses White and I expect the will get Agnes Wilson, two of Mr. Coat's family. Dr. Willey and wife, etc. Mr. Maple and a number of others. I understand the way the will stand till all your ancestors shall be Christians. I say success to them. I think the only way to appease your friends is to send them a good many Newspapers I thought that EM Yee was in town. I hope he is. I send to many papers all over the County. Truly yours MR. Madison.