

Snow Hill, where he died in 1850, leaving his son John an orphan, with but small means available for his education and support. After his father's death, Col. Smith's relation, the late Walter P. Snow, an able lawyer and a man much beloved in his community, was appointed guardian, and upon Mr. Snow's death, the late Senator Wilson became his guardian. He was sent to school at Union Academy in Snow Hill, where he pursued the English and classical course of that institution. At school he was noted for his studious habits and good scholarship, excelling especially in mathematics. He left school at the age of eighteen to accept a position as clerk in the large mercantile house of George H. Richardson & Brother, of Snow Hill. In this position he soon evinced an unusual talent for business, and as a result was taken in as a partner in the firm while still quite a young man. This firm, now known as Richardson, Smith, Moore & Co., after Mr. Smith became a member of it, engaged largely in the lumber business, both in his county and in Virginia, and has been eminently successful. Colonel Smith is today a wealthy man, though in the prime of life. The firm, of which he is a member, has been of great service, largely through his instrumentality, to the laboring people of Snow Hill and Worcester county, giving employment to a large number of laborers and other employees. Nor has he overlooked the interests of the farmers, for it was through his influence that the large canning factory of which he is owner, was located in Snow Hill. In 1887, he helped to organize the First National Bank of Snow Hill, and was elected its president. Though so actively engaged in business pursuits, he has yet had time to indulge a natural fondness for politics. For many years he has been prominent and influential in the politics of his county and State, and during these years, no man has served his friends in politics more faithfully and unselfishly than he. He has been many times a delegate to State and Congressional conventions. In the State convention of 1887, he was an earnest supporter of Governor Jackson, and did more, perhaps, than any other man in bringing about that gentleman's nomination. In 1880 he was a delegate to the Congressional convention which met in Salisbury and aided in securing the nomination of Mr. Covington, after a hard fought battle. At the next convention, in 1882, he again was one of Mr. Covington's delegates, and