

Biographical Sketches of State Officers.

Governor: EDWIN WARFIELD (Democrat), of Howard County.

Mr. Edwin Warfield was born May 7, 1848, at "Oakdale," Howard County, Maryland. His father was Albert G. Warfield, one of the leading citizens of the county, and his mother was a daughter of Colonel Gassaway Watkins, a distinguished soldier of the Revolutionary War, a member of the Maryland Line and its last surviving officer, who at the time of his death, in 1840, was President of the Maryland Society of the Cincinnati. His paternal and maternal ancestors were among the first settlers of the State of Maryland, were prominent in the early Colonial period, and in all subsequent important political movements in the State and its government. He was educated in the public schools of Howard County and at St. Timothy's Hall, Catonsville, Md., but was prevented from obtaining a collegiate education by the civil war, involving, as it did, the emancipation of his father's slaves. At the age of eighteen he began teaching school and studying law, and did both at the same time successfully.

His first political position was that of Register of Wills of Howard County, to which office he was appointed in 1874 to fill a vacancy, and was unanimously nominated by the Democrats in 1875 and elected for a term of six years, leading his ticket in the popular vote. At the expiration of his term he declined re-election, preferring to take up the practice of law.

In 1881 he was elected to the State Senate to succeed Hon. Arthur P. Gorman, who had been elected United States Senator; was re-elected in 1883, and made President of the State Senate in 1886. During his first two sessions he was a member of the most important committees. His rulings were made purely upon the merits of the questions, and his decisions were never appealed from.

President Cleveland appointed Mr. Warfield Surveyor of the Port of Baltimore on April 5, 1886. He made no application for this office, and was the unopposed choice of his party. He entered upon his duties on the 1st of May, 1886, and served until the 1st of May, 1890. Upon assuming the duties of this office he resigned as a member of the Democratic State Central Committee, in recognition of Mr. Cleveland's known views as to the participation of his appointees in politics.