

Thomas Perrin Smith, Second Printer of Easton. -

Easton's second newspaper, the Republican Star or Eastern Shore Political Luminary, enjoyed a longer and less harried existence. Its founder, Thomas Perrin Smith, according to a letter written by his nephew, Charles Perrin Smith of Trenton, New Jersey, was born in Princess Ann County, Virginia, January 17, 1776. He was the son of Perrin Smith and Margaret Wishart, and the grandson of Charles Smith and Margaret Perrin. The first American representatives of the family had settled in Virginia in 1706.³⁵

His nephew's letter states that he was probably not a practical printer, for there were no facilities for acquiring such a trade in his native county.³⁶ Norfolk, however, which could not have been far from his home, boasted a press as early as 1774.³⁷ At any rate, Smith himself stated that he came to Easton with no intention of establishing a newspaper; that the Republican Star was an afterthought suggested by a number of citizens of the shore who expressed a wish for a second paper.³⁸

The first number of the Republican Star made its

35 Harrison, S.A. Memoranda of the annals of Talbot county, Maryland. Biographical annals.

36 Ibid. Biographical annals.

37 McMurtrie, D.C. A history of printing in the U.S. p. 292.

38 Easton star. March 20, 1877.