

attracting attention in all parts of the country, and, with his father, came to Wisconsin, locating first at Kenosha (then Southport), and there pursued his studies in the office of the late Hon. O. S. Head. He was admitted to practice at the bar of the United States court, Hon. A. G. Miller presiding, on the fourth of July, 1843. Spending a short time in Kenosha after his admission, he returned to Ohio, and united himself in marriage with Miss Eugenia Weed, of Medina. Then, with resolute courage, he again turned westward, and, in the fall of 1845, located in Madison, the capital of Wisconsin. It was here that he literally fulfilled the Greeley advice of growing up with the country. Wisconsin then contained but a small population; Madison was a village of three or four hundred souls. The young attorney at once took a leading position in his new home; and rapid as was the growth of the west, he kept pace with it, and in all after-life, kept in the front rank of its citizens. He at once entered upon the practice of his chosen profession—and one which he dearly loved—in the several courts of the then territory, and continued a prominent member of the Wisconsin bar, to the time of his death.

In January, 1846, Mr. Smith was appointed district attorney for Dane County, and for six years held this important position, giving to the discharge of its duties rare ability, close attention and thought, and a fidelity to the trust reposed in him that is seldom bestowed in professional life. He was prompt and efficient in the discharge of every duty, and rendered the county and state very valuable service. He soon became marked as a young man of more than ordinary ability. This was shown in his being selected by his fellow citizens, when he was less than twenty-four years of age, to represent them in the constitutional convention that assembled in Madison in October, 1846. He was the youngest man, in years, there was in that very distinguished body of able men; a body generally conceded to have contained the largest amount of talent of any that ever assembled in the State. Young as was Mr. Smith, he was able to sustain himself with great credit in contests with these brilliant minds, and was acknowledged to have been one of the most active members of that convention. He was chairman of the committee on a bill of rights, and performed