

DABNEY HOWARD SMITH

1867 – 1879

Dabney Howard Smith, was born November 24, 1821, in Scott County, Kentucky. He was the son of Nelson and Sarah (Kerr) Smith. He was educated under J.J. Flournoy and later entered Georgetown College and finished at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. He began the study of law and graduated in 1843 at Transylvania.

Dabney Howard Smith and Josephine Lemon were married in 1843. In 1849 he was elected to the Legislature by a large majority.

In 1853 he was elected State Senator and served four years in that body. He was a friend of Henry Clay and a member of the Whig Party. After the death of Henry Clay, and the rise and fall of Know-Nothingism, he became an active advocate of the Democratic Policy.

Although in favor of the Union and opposed to secession, when the war began he took sides with the South. He raised the Fifth Kentucky Cavalry for the Confederate and was elected its Colonel, serving part of the time with the Army of Tennessee, and afterwards with the Army of West Virginia. His regiment was transferred to the cavalry division of General John H. Morgan. He was then in charge of two regiments, the Fifth Kentucky and the Ninth Tennessee. On July 2, 1863, he started his command under Morgan on the famous raid through Indiana and Ohio, engaging heavily in the contests at Green River Bridge. He was prominent in the fight at Lebanon Depot which resulted in the capture of the Federal Colonel Charles S. Hanson. They had been old friends and the meeting was generous and cordial. After the surrender an attempt was made to assassinate Colonel Hanson and Colonel Smith saved his life. In a raid through Indiana and Ohio, Morgan's company was captured. Colonel Smith taken to Ohio Penitentiary and through the intervention of Colonel Hanson, he was sent to Fortress Monroe. In March 1864, he was returned to Richmond, Virginia. In 1867 he was nominated for Auditor of Public Accounts and was elected.

In 1871 he was again elected without opposition in the Democratic Party. In 1875, after a close race, he was again elected Auditor of Public Accounts.

He died in Louisville on July 15, 1889.