Hon. Jeremiah Smith of Horry
1840 - 1927

Published Quarterly By
The Horry County Historical Society
P.O. Box 2025
Conway, S.C. 29526
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July       11, 1994
October    10, 1994

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The Independent Republic Quarterly

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Dues for annual membership
and subscription to The Independent Republic Quarterly
are payable by January 1, to:

Horry County Historical Society
PO Box 2025
Conway, SC 29526

Individual .... (1 subscription) .............. $ 20.00
Couple .......... (1 subscription) .............. $ 25.00
Two subscriptions IRQ ................ $ 30.00
Sponsor ....... (to further the work of the
Society, 1 subscription) .... $ 50.00
Patron ......... (to further the work of the
Society, 1 subscription) .... $100.00

BACK ISSUES of the IRQ, if available, can be purchased from the
HCHS for $5.00 each. If they are to be mailed please include an
additional $1.00 per issue for postage and handling.

The Independent Republic Quarterly (ISSN 0046-88431) is published
quarterly (Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall) by the Horry County
Historical Society, PO Box 2025, Conway, South Carolina 29526.
Subscription: Individual, $20.00; Couple, $25.00; Two
subscriptions IRQ, $30.00; Sponsor, $50.00; Patron, $100.00. Second-
class postage paid at Conway, South Carolina 29526.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Horry County Historical
Society, PO Box 2025, Conway, South Carolina 29526.

**AFTER THE WAR**

From Appomattox Court House, Jeremiah Smith returned to his home in South Carolina. He lived and farmed in the Socastee section of Horry County until the 1890s. Late in the century he moved to Conway. There, he and his last wife operated a hotel until his retirement. He was married three times and reared a large family. Eleven of his children lived to adulthood: Kitsey Jane Smith Shackleford, Marion Beauregard Smith, Olive O. Smith, Daniel T. Smith, Jeremiah B. Smith, Viola O’Neal Smith Battle, Arabella Smith Hardee, Lillian Florence Smith McCumbee, Sarah Elizabeth Smith Smith, Wade Hampton Smith, and Cora Ellen Smith Hucks.

Five children of his second wife added to the household: Ann Rebecca Hucks Elkes, David Hucks, Frances Susan Hucks Dewitt, Joseph Benjamin Hucks, and Annie Eliza Hucks Hardee.

Jeremiah was interested and active in public affairs, and he attained provincial renown in 50-odd years of South Carolina politics. He was widely respected, sometimes popular, always colorful. He was known, affectionately, as “Uncle Jerry” for many years. His political record includes:

- **Trial Justice (Magistrate), 1875-1880**
- **S. C. House of Representatives, 1880-1883**
- **S. C. Senate, 1884-1891**
- **Defeated for U. S. Congress, 1892**
- **S. C. Constitutional Convention, 1895**
- **S. C. House of Representatives, 1899-1900**
- **S. C. House of Representatives, 1903-1904**
- **Mayor of Conway, 1906-1908**
- **S. C. Senate, 1921-1924**

Throughout his long career Jeremiah was a political conservative. In 1874 he was a delegate to the County Convention that was called in opposition to the Horry County Republican Party. Two years later he participated in the campaign that elected Wade Hampton governor of the state. He never wavered in his support of Hampton. As an individual he voted for Hampton for a second term as governor. As a senator he voted to reelect Hampton to the United State Senate. When Tillman partisans denied Hampton his senate seat in 1890, Jeremiah was one of thirteen South Carolina senators who voted for the old champion on every ballot.

In 1889 Jeremiah attended the memorial services for Jefferson Davis in New Orleans. He went as a
MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE OF FIVE LEGISLATORS APPOINTED TO REPRESENT SOUTH CAROLINA AT THE COMMEMORATION.

JEREMIAH WAS ACTIVE IN ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING AGRICULTURAL ADVANCEMENT. HE SERVED AS AN OFFICER OF THE FIRST SOCASTEE GRANGE IN 1876. AS THE MOVEMENT GREW, HE GREW WITH IT. HE WENT AS A DELEGATE TO THE INTER-STATE FARMERS’ CONVENTION IN ATLANTA IN 1887 AND TO THE STATE FARMERS’ ALLIANCE CONVENTION IN 1889. IN 1890 HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE HORRY COUNTY CHAPTER.

HOWEVER, HE ARDENTLY OPPOSED BENJAMIN R. TILLMAN. WHEN THE STATE DEMOCRATIC CANVASS CAME TO CONWAY IN JULY 1890, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHOSE JEREMIAH TO LEAD THE DEBATE AGAINST GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE TILLMAN. JEREMIAH NEVER MADE PEACE WITH TILLMAN. AND HE CONTINUED HIS FIGHT AGAINST TILLMAN’S DISPENSARY SYSTEM AS LONG AS IT REMAINED A PART OF SOUTH CAROLINA POLITICS.

JEREMIAH WAS A ZEALOUS ADVOCATE OF FREE RANGE FOR CATTLE. HE BATTLED THE INROADS OF THE STOCK LAW FOR MORE THAN FORTY YEARS. THE STATUTE FINALLY WAS ENACTED TO APPLY TO HORRY COUNTY BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 1921, YEARS AFTER JEREMIAH HAD RETIRED FROM THE HUSTINGS. DEFENDERS OF FREE RANGE CALLED UPON THE OLD WARRIOR TO STAND FOR THE SENATE AND “AGAIN TAKE CARE OF THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE AS HE DID IN DAYS GONE BY.” THE ENSUING CAMPAIGN OF 1920 WAS ONE OF THE MOST HEATED IN THE HISTORY OF HORRY COUNTY. EIGHTY-YEAR-OLD JEREMIAH WAS ELECTED TO A THIRD SENATORIAL TERM. BUT HE WAS TOO LATE TO CHANGE THE LAW THAT WAS ALREADY IN FORCE. THE FARMERS CONFINED THEIR CATTLE AND REMOVED THEIR FENCES, AND FREE RANGE VANISHED FOREVER FROM THE HORRY COUNTRYSIDE.

JEREMIAH RETIRED AT THE END OF HIS TERM WITH ALL DUE HONOR AND RECOGNITION FOR HIS LONG SERVICE. THE SENATE WOULD NOT SEE HIS LIKE AGAIN. HE WAS ITS LAST CONFEDERATE VETERAN.

HE DIED FEBRUARY 17, 1927, IN CONWAY AND WAS BURIED IN LAKESIDE CEMETERY.

Smith’s career will be treated more fully in Hon. Jeremiah Smith of Horry; the first two chapters of that work are included in this issue of the Quarterly. Chapters on the Tillman years and the closing years are in preparation.

Appomattox Court House, Va.,
April 15th, 1865.

THE BEARER, of Co. A, 7th Regt.

of S.C. C. R. C. I. C. as a Paroled Prisoner of the Army of Northern Virginia, has permission to go to his home, and there remain undisturbed.

Copy of paroled prisoner’s pass issued to Jeremiah Smith at Appomattox Court House, Virginia.
The Reconstruction Years

With his parole in his pocket Jeremiah Smith departed Appomattox Court House that April day of 1865. Many months before and miles away—in 1861 on the South Carolina coast—young Jeremiah had joined Captain Joseph Blyth Allston’s Company, South Carolina Volunteers. As second lieutenant of his company, Jeremiah was mustered into Confederate service at the end of that year. Both he and Captain Allston became casualties of army reorganization in the spring of 1862. When he was not reelected to office, Jeremiah resigned his commission and, four days later, enlisted in Captain John H. Tucker’s cavalry company. As 2nd Sergeant, Company F, Seventh S. C. Cavalry Regiment, Jeremiah fought in Gary’s Brigade in the 1864-1865 operations north of the James River in Virginia. He was wounded once during the long struggle to save Richmond; a musket ball crashed into his left shoulder at Riddell’s Shop on June 13, 1864. After many weary months of effective resistance against the Union Army of the Potomac and the Army of the James, Gary’s cavalry retreated westward with General R. E. Lee’s forces to their final bivouac. At Appomattox Court House, General Lee surrendered his spent Army of Northern Virginia to Union General Grant. Now, along with other Confederates, Jeremiah was a paroled prisoner of war holding permission to return to his home, and there remain undisturbed.

Long weeks of fatiguing travel brought him to his rude home in Horry District, South Carolina. There, in the Socastee community, he took up his life where the War had interrupted it. Good wife Ellen, constant and devoted, welcomed his safe return. Five-year-old Kate and three-year-old Beauregard mirrored the happiness of their mother; infant Olive was too young, at two months, to express any emotion upon her father’s arrival.

Jeremiah’s small farm had lacked the enterprise of a strong man for four years, and much labor was required to put the place back into full production. Fortunately, under the lenient terms of the surrender at Appomattox Court House, General Grant had permitted the Confederate cavalrymen to retain their own mounts; so Jeremiah had a beast of burden for the resumption of his suspended vocation. The ensuing few years, full of near-poverty and misery, required all of Jeremiah energy and industry to hold together the bodies and souls of his growing family.

Five years remained of his and Ellen’s life together. Another son was born the year after Jeremiah returned from the War. This one was named for the father. On little Olive’s third birthday, March 15, 1868, a third son joined the family. He was named Daniel in tribute to Jeremiah’s deceased father. Late in the year 1869 a third daughter, Viola O’Neal, was born to Jeremiah and Ellen. Little Neely would be their last child.

Ellen died the following year. She had seen some eleven years of marriage, interrupted by war and punctuated by six childbirths. Jeremiah buried the wife of his youth in the Socastee Methodist Church cemetery. The elements, in time, destroyed the improvised marker at her grave. But Ellen was not forgotten. Years later her son Daniel placed a more durable tombstone at the site.
The new memorial recorded her date of death as July 11, 1873 (the year should actually have read 1870), and recited the epitaph, "She hath done what she could." Her memory is preserved by numerous descendants who bear her name.

Many decades later the children of Jeremiah and Ellen met at the old home site. Young Jerry (Jeremiah B.) spoke for the family, ". . . This wild forest, this sacred spot, was once our home. Fifty years have passed since the bloom of youth faded from Mother's cheek and she fell asleep. Long and peaceful has been that repose. We reverence this sacred soil upon which she walked. We honor the memory of Mother. . . . Then, we gathered around his [Jeremiah's] knee, his heart broken, his hope shattered. He counseled us in distress and praised us in success, loyal to his responsibility. . . ."

The autumn after Ellen died, Jeremiah paid off the extraordinary debts he had incurred during Ellen's illness and death. The fifteen dollar balance for medical care was an enormous sum for that time and circumstance. Dr. Jno. H. Grant acknowledged receipt of the payment in full October 8, 1870.

Jeremiah and his brood of six children did not live long by themselves, for he was never one, from his early manhood to his advanced age, to remain long outside the bonds of matrimony. A few miles away lived the widow of one of his Seventh Cavalry troopmates, along with her five children. Jeremiah soon considered a merger of the two families.

Isabella West Hucks was then thirty-one years of age, eight and one-half months older than Jeremiah. Her family had resided in the region for several generations and her great-grandfather had served in the Continental Army during the American Revolution.

Isabella and her first husband Ben Hucks were married December 9, 1858, almost a year before Jeremiah and Ellen. Ben and Isabella established their home on the northeast side of the Waccamaw River a few miles above Peachtree Landing. The first child born to the young couple was Ann Rebecca. After Becky's birth February 3, 1860, came David, Joseph Benjamin (little Ben), Frances Susan (Sue), and finally Annie Eliza ('Liza) on December 4, 1867.

Born in 1833, Ben had never enjoyed very good health. Early in the War, and as late as the spring of 1863, Dr. Grant and other surgeons had pronounced Ben physically unfit to perform the duties of active soldiering. But a few months later Ben's frailties were overcome or overlooked, for in September of 1863 he was inducted into Tucker's Cavalry.

Ben went with the squadron to Virginia, lasted with the Seventh South Carolina Cavalry throughout the operations north of the James, and was paroled along with Jeremiah at Appomatt-
tox Court House. The erstwhile trooper returned to his home in Socastee. Held in high regard by his neighbors, Hucks served along with T. W. Gore, W. S. Edge, P. Vaught, Jr. and J. J. Dunn as Commissioner of Roads for All Saints Parish. He lived less than three years after his return from the War. He died September 15, 1867, shortly before his last child was born.

Jeremiah and Isabella were married February 9, 1871, less than a year after Ellen died, and close to three and one-half years after Ben’s death. The Smiths moved to the Hucks place where the combined households formed a family of thirteen. Undaunted, Jeremiah and Isabella continued for twelve years to add infant members to the family.
Jeremiah had perceived the advantages to be gained through formal education. He himself had ended the War as a sergeant, while Allston, Tucker, and Wallace—all educated men—had been his company captains. Lieutenant Gillespie was a lawyer. Aleck Haskell held a degree from South Carolina College, and he had made colonel although only a year older than Jeremiah. Further formal education was not feasible in Jeremiah’s circumstances but he could, and did, continue
his self-education. Even with the short supply of funds, he found money to subscribe to newspapers and periodicals. *The Peoples Literary Companion, The Horry News, The Weekly News, Horry Progress,* and *Christian Neighbor* illustrate the reading matter that received his attention by 1870 and probably earlier. But these publications were ephemeral. There was also the *Holy Bible,* which he learned well, and later the *South Carolina Code of Laws.*

Thus he supplemented his meager formal education. His interest in public affairs kept him well versed in the current events of his time. This knowledge, his native intelligence and sharp wit, and his earnestness of expression, made him an effective public speaker. He developed a fine vocabulary and an excellent use of words, both written and oral, but he gave scant attention to spelling and less to punctuation.

During his career Jeremiah found time to serve as a school trustee for at least six years. Politically, he was always a strong supporter of the public schools.

Jeremiah was justly proud of the results of his efforts at self-improvement. In his later years, one of his political opponents suggested that Jeremiah's time of usefulness had passed. Jeremiah
HON. JEREMIAH SMITH of HORRY

remembered this man as a rotund young child visiting in his home, moving from one adult to another begging for someone to carry him in his arms at the end of the visit. When Jeremiah rose to speak, he dismissed his opponent's suggestion that he retire from the Democratic hustings. "When I was a grown man, sitting at my desk, studying for the good of my country," Uncle Jerry said, "that little stuffed toad was walking around asking, 'Who'll tote me?'"

Jeremiah was a member of Socastee Methodist Church. He took an active part in church affairs, not only at Socastee but in the other churches of the circuit. His children became loyal supporters of the church, and the religious influence continues even to the present generation.

Isabella was likewise a devoted Methodist of Socastee. The influence of her dedication lives still. Her son David became a minister and remained a member of the Methodist Conference until his death at the age of 50 in 1911. He was buried in Socastee Methodist cemetery.

An interesting article in The Independent Republic Quarterly, Vol. 12, No. 3, states that at a dedication in 1957, Herbert Hucks of Pinopolis, S. C. (Joseph Benjamin's family), and members of the P. J. Elkes family (Becky's descendants) expressed appreciation for Socastee Methodist Church as a direct guiding influence in their lives. Susan Hucks DeWitt was mentioned in the memorials. With the Reverend David's tomb almost at the front door, the descendants of Benjamin and Isabella Hucks were prominently represented at the celebration.

Jeremiah's uprightness and diligence soon brought him recognition and responsibility, as he was appointed to small leadership roles in the community. For a while he served as a subcommissioner of roads.

The simple roadways of the time were maintained in simple fashion: the able-bodied male citizens were required by law to contribute their labor to road maintenance. County commissioners oversaw the operation, and appointed assistants to call out the workers and supervise them in the various localities. The practice has now gone the way of many American institutions. As the region became more modern, the law allowed the citizens to pay a road tax in lieu of contributing the required days of work. These provisions grew more liberal with the years (in spite of com-
office, Board Co. Camden
Conway, S.C.

Henry L. B. Hucks
or Jere Smith,

I am directed by the Board of Canvass, Camden, to call your attention to the condition of Socastee Bridge, and the law governing your action as to your liabilities in case of accidents as to said bridge, if said bridge is not repaired, it is the law that you will repair said bridge, and proceed at once to repair same. I render your bill for lumber by 20th Monday in October next.

You will order all road hands to your assistance in your best respect,

Respectfully,

Your obt. S.

P. H. Norman
Clk of Bd.
HON. JEREMIAH SMITH of HORRY

plaints from the poor that the legislators were belittling their honest toil) and the road tax completely supplanted the obligatory labor until it, too, gave way to modern machinery and more sophisticated methods of exaction. But money was dearer than toil in the Socastee of the 1860s and 1870s, and Jeremiah and his neighbors assembled upon call to repair the roads and bridges of the community.

Evidently, Jeremiah continued as a sub-commissioner of roads at least until the end of 1873, judging by one document which Isabella considered important enough to preserve with the valuable papers.

The black, acidic water of the nearby Waccamaw River was frequently a more convenient travel route for Jeremiah’s family than the deeply rutted roadways. A short paddle down and across the river brought one to Bucksville or, in the opposite direction, to Rheuark’s Landing (persistently corrupted by most of the natives to Looark’s). So the Smith boys chose to patronize the merchants at those locations for most of their store-bought requirements. The post office at Bucksville, too, was more convenient than others in the county; Jeremiah and his Socastee neighbors sent and received their mail there. His Bucksville mailing address, then and later, caused some perplexity, for many assumed that he lived in that community. Actually, Jeremiah never lived west of the Waccamaw in Bucks Township, but he continued to use the facilities on the west bank for several decades.

In the late 1860s and early 1870s, the old relationships of families and neighbors were resumed largely as they had existed before the War. Life in the Socastee community went on much as it always had. Young people married, old folks died, children were born; crops were planted and
harvested in season. Government, even at the district level, was still far away. But, politically, South Carolina and the whole South were seething under a new order.

By mid-year 1865, Benjamin F. Perry, formerly a reluctant secessionist, was appointed provisional governor of South Carolina, and he supervised the reestablishment of civil functions under the victorious national authorities. Perry called a convention and the Constitution of 1865 was adopted. Before the end of the year, James L. Orr became governor, edging out Wade Hampton who asked not to be considered. The newly-elected legislature met in regular session under the new constitution. South Carolina ratified the Thirteenth Amendment, acknowledging that slavery was abolished. By the spring of 1866, President Andrew Johnson declared the state ready to rejoin the Union. However, federal control still was exercised through the military and the Freedmen's Bureau.

Reconstruction was not to be accomplished so painlessly. The new state government grievously misjudged the attitude of Congressional leaders, and made no attempt to mollify the victorious Northerners. In 1865, the legislature enacted the "Black Code," which severely restricted the civil rights of Negroes. The following year the lawmakers rejected the Fourteenth Amendment, which guaranteed civil rights to a newly-defined citizenship and restricted the rights of former Confederates.

South Carolinians understood clearly that they had lost the War, that secession was dead, and that slavery was ended. They apparently thought, somewhat naively, that they would now return to the Union without further punishment. Certainly, they were woefully unprepared for Northern response to the South's enactment of the "Black Codes" and its rejection of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Even if all white southerners had been repentant and obsequious—which they were not—northern public opinion doubtless would still have exacted political satisfaction; in the states outside the old Confederacy, the "waving of the bloody shirt" was an effective election stratagem for decades. And, even if no prejudice against the erstwhile Rebels had obtained in the North, human and moral concerns would likely have prompted the victors to institute reforms in the conquered regions. But no such lofty motives were required for the Radical Republicans who gained complete control of the Congress in the 1866 elections. The Reconstruction Acts of 1867 dissolved the governments of the Southern states and divided the area into military districts. South Carolina was plunged into an era of misrule and corruption that lasted more than eight years.

With most former leaders subject to new voting and office-holding constraints while the freed-
Original document is 8½ inches wide. From the collection of O. Richard Wright (hereafter designated by ORW). Numerous documents now in his possession were preserved by his mother, Olive Battle Wright and his aunts, Catherine B. Wright, Ellen B. Meares, and Ida B. Harris.

men were granted universal right to the ballot, South Carolina had a large Republican majority created primarily from the recently emancipated Negro slaves. Opportunists, white and black, converged on the state and, indeed, the whole South, and those of knavish propensities manipulated the uneducated masses and pocketed the spoils. Many native whites joined the Republican party and shared the plunder. And, since the Radicals controlled a substantial majority in South Carolina and clearly could win any state election, many other native whites joined the Republicans because they perceived no other way to wield any meaningful influence in the political process.

Late in 1867, the newly defined electorate chose delegates to a constitutional convention: forty-eight whites and seventy-six Negroes. Of the total, all but four were Republicans, and eighty-two paid no taxes, indicating that they owned no property. The delegates convened the following spring and fashioned the Constitution of 1868, the provisions of which have received the approbation of many modern scholars. Robert K. Scott, a carpetbagger from Ohio, became governor of South Carolina. Scalawag Thomas J. Robertson and Frederick A. Sawyer, an educator who had come to Charleston before the War, were honored with seats in the United States Sen-
ate. The three seats on the state Supreme Court were filled with a native Republican, a lawyer recently immigrated from New York and another from Ohio. Congressional and other offices were filled in like manner. Twenty-five of the thirty-one state senators were Republicans; ten were Negroes. One hundred ten of the 124 representatives were Republican; seventy-eight were Negroes. Ninety-one of the Representatives paid no taxes.

In 1870 the Republicans nominated Scott for another two-year term as governor. He outpolled the candidate of the Union Reform Party by some 33,000 votes out of 136,000. Scott was succeeded by Franklin J. Moses, Jr., a native South Carolinian who easily defeated the protest candidate. Moses’ machinations were so flagrant that he was indicted for thievery while he was still governor. The September 1874 Republican convention nominated Daniel H. Chamberlain for governor and R. H. Gleaves for lieutenant governor. Chamberlain was a brilliant, cultured native of Massachusetts, educated at Yale University and Harvard Law School. He had been out of office for two years, but had served as South Carolina attorney general for four years prior to that. His inherent ability and his prior harmonious associations with some of the most unscrupulous Radicals made him the first choice of the assembled corruptionists. But his selection was not unanimous. Those delegates clamoring for reform within the party could not stomach Chamberlain and Gleaves, a Negro of unsavory reputation. Accordingly, they bolted from the convention, organized as the Independent Republican Party, and nominated John T. Green for governor and Martin R. Delany for lieutenant governor. Green was a native, a judge, and a Republican of good reputation. Delany was a Northern Negro of good character. In the November election Chamberlain and Gleaves won by a small majority, but the “years of good stealing” in South Carolina government were nearing an end.

Reconstruction in the South was an era of unparalleled corruption and debauchery. Scholars, pundits and buffs have told the story in many books and articles. Claude G. Bowers in The Tragic Era and James S. Pike in The Prostrate State; South Carolina Under Negro Government painted as dark a picture as possible. If the telling was distorted by those authors, a reliable recitation of the facts was provided by Dr. D. D. Wallace in his South Carolina and other works. Of course, Professor Wallace wrote from the perspective of a white man in a segregated society. But even the revisionists of recent times have been unable to dispel the stench of those calamitous years. Public debt and taxes soared to heights previously unimaginable; fraudulent bonds were issued; exorbitant expenses were paid; political offices were bought; pardons for convicted felons were sold; bribery was widespread and routine, frequently funded from the public treasury; legislators brazenly offered their votes for sale, and then complained if the payments were discriminatory.

Because whites in Horry County outnumbered blacks, Radical Republicans never gained control of Horry politics as they did in most South Carolina counties. Horry sent one of only six Democratic senators to the first General Assembly elected under the Constitution of 1868. (The other counties were all upstate: Anderson, Lancaster, Oconee, Pickens, and Spartanburg.) Horry’s House members that year also were Democrats. This circumstance and the fact that the Democrats were in complete control of the County during Wade Hampton’s 1876 campaign for governor have left the impression that Reconstruction did not affect the politics of Horry. For example,
Alfred B. Williams, in writing of the 1876 canvass, spoke of Horry as "one county in which Radicals never got a foothold."

Actually, when Jeremiah's activity and influence began to spread outside his local community in the early 1870s, individuals who were or had become Republicans held several powerful county offices, both elective and appointive, and those persons continued to dominate their party conventions until after Hampton's victory. Horry native Republicans were, inferably, honorable men; they were not accused of malfeasance and they apparently were not considered scalawags. The native leaders of the party evidently retained the respect of their neighbors, and their families suffered no lasting hurt because of their affiliation.

The Republican county convention met August 22, 1874, to elect delegates to the district and state nominating conventions. Joseph H. Derham (county treasurer) served as chairman and R. G. Sessions (county auditor) acted as secretary. The delegates sent for Thomas C. Dunn (state senator from Horry) to address the meeting. The convention elected William Wright and John McCrae as delegates to the district convention and Senator Dunn and W. H. Jones as delegates to the state convention. (In another context, Jones was identified by the County's historian as minister of the Conway AME church.) Upon motion by W. S. McCaskill, seconded by N. W. Gause, the convention resolved that it would make no party nominations ("...it is evident that the Republican party is in such a minority in this county as to render it certain that no strictly Republican ticket for county offices can be nominated by them with any chance of success at the ballot box..."), but would support the most suitable candidates. Other persons mentioned as participating in the meeting were: Rev. H. W. Jones (possibly an incorrect reference to Rev. W. H. Jones), James McLure, Handy Frank, and Augustus Thompson.

On the day following the Republican convention in Conwayborough, meetings were held in the several townships to elect delegates to the "County Convention", a scheduled assemblage of all good citizens with no party designation indicated.

At the Socastee meeting James D. Newton was elected chairman and Thomas McCormick (then trial justice) was selected secretary. James D. Newton, Philip J. Elks (Elkes), and Jeremiah Smith were elected delegates to the county convention. These three became members of the county executive committee, as did most of the other delegates. The Socastee meeting instructed its delegates to suggest the following persons for nomination by the county convention: T. F. Gillespie (former first lieutenant of Company F, Seventh S. C. Cavalry, Jeremiah's old Confederate troop) and Lucian D. Bryan for representatives; James D. Newton, Stanley D. Barnhill, and Samuel Smart, Sr. for county commissioners; Isaac G. Long for probate judge; and Thomas McCormick for school commissioner.
Jeremiah craved honor and service, and he followed the correct path to those ends. Then, as now, the road to acceptance by the party begins at the precinct level. A correspondent who signed himself "Socastee" protested that the date of the township meeting was not generally known and it was not well attended. Similar observations doubtless could be made in this age about precinct meetings; but those persons, like Jeremiah, who desire to enter the political lists must stay informed and alert about such matters. "Socastee" also objected strenuously to Mr. Newton as an office-holder; he threatened repudiation, but he observed that "Socastee wishes to stand firmly, as she ever has done since the war, in the support of Conservative nominations."

The County Convention met in Conwayborough September 7, 1874, and organized with E. D. Richardson as chairman and B. Louis Beatty as secretary. It then received the following communication addressed "To the Conservative Convention for Horry County."

GENTLEMEN: EQUALLY DESIROUS WITH YOURSELVES TO SECURE FOR OUR COUNTY HONEST AND COMPETENT MEN IN OFFICE, WE ARE DESIROUS OF UNITING WITH YOU IN SELECTING SUCH, AND IF ADMITTED TO JOIN WITH YOU WILL SUPPORT CHEERFULLY THE NOMINEES OF THE CONVENTION, PROVIDED THAT WE MAY HAVE A VOICE IN THE SELECTION.

WE ARE, GENTLEMEN, RESPECTFULLY YOUR OBEDIENT SERVANTS, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.


The signatories included the county treasurer and the auditor, both appointed officials, and the probate judge.

Upon receiving the communication, a committee consisting of one from each township, including Jeremiah Smith from Socastee, was appointed to confer with the correspondents. The conference committee returned and "made a verbal report in substance as follows":

THAT WE ARE NOW, AS AT ALL FORMER TIMES, WILLING AND ANXIOUS TO MEET AND UNITE WITH ALL CLASSES OF OUR FELLOW-CITIZENS IN DELIBERATIVE BODY, AND IN ACTION FOR THE COMMON GOOD, AND TO ACCORD TO ALL THEIR JUST RIGHTS; BUT REGARDING OURSELVES AS BEING HEREE ASSEMBLED, NOT AS A PARTY, BUT AS A DELIBERATIVE BODY OF CITIZENS TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE WELFARE OF THE ENTIRE COUNTY, WE MUST SAY TO THIS RESPECTABLE BODY OF OUR FELLOW-CITIZENS THAT WE CANNOT FAVORABLY ENTERTAIN ANY DEMANDS OR PROVISOARY PROPOSITIONS FROM THEM AS A PARTY. AND WE

Directory Of Horry County.

Judge of Probate—Isaac Curryon.
Sheriff—Abraham H. Skipper.
Clerk of Court—J. W. Sessions.
Auditor—R. G. Sessions.
Treasurer—J. M. Devall.
Coroner—D. W. Oliver.
School Commissioners—Daniel Law.
County Commissioners—Charles Graham, Joseph W. Holliday, Peter Vaught. —Jr. II Norman, Clerk.

TRIAL JUSTICES,

Buck's Township—Cornelius B. Sarvis.
Conwayborough Township—Samuel N. Beatty.
Dug Bluff Township—W. E. Cooper.
Socastee Township—Thomas W. McCune.
Little River Township—W. A. Bessant.
Green Snow Township—Ben F. Yorke.
Galvin's Ferry Township—E. F. Pitman.
Floyd's Township—Henry Floyd.
Simpson's Creek Township—T. L. Harder.

LAWYERS IN CONWAYBORO:

Walsh & Lesesne, Thomas F. Gilkeson, Moonson Price.

MERCHANTS—CONWAYBORO, S. C.


Drogist—Evan Norton, M. D.

Physicians—James H. Ohmann, Evan Norton, John H. Grant, James E. Grant.

Hotels—Norman House, Mrs. Jane Norman Proprietress.

Traveler's Rest—William P. Nelson, Proprietor.

Post Master—H. T. Jollie.

MERCHANTS—LITTLE EZER, S. C.

Thomas G. Dunn, Biltsa & Davis, Thomas W. Gore, J. W. Veece, J. Veece.

MERCHANTS.


Socastee—C. Gilbert.

Green Sea—J. H. Derham, Grohn & Syd-

vev.

Hopkinton Swamp—D. M. Reaves.

Hickman's—Holl & Haynes A. Soule, Boyd & Pringle.

Dugwood Neck—N. Adams, Cox & Brandon.

A. H. J. Gaither.

Gilvain's Ferry—Joseph W. Holliday.

Bayboro—F. G. Burroughs Co.

From The Horry Weekly News January 6, 1874.
HON. JEREMIAH SMITH of HORY

NOW, AS HERETOFORE, SAY TO THEM, THAT WHEN THEY COME AS CITIZENS, AND NOT AS A PARTY ASKING FOR RESPECTIVE PARTY RIGHTS, WE WILL MOST CORDIALLY WELCOME THEM TO SHARE WITH US THE TRUSTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNTY OFFICES. BUT FULLY RECOGNIZING THE FOLLY OF LONGER KEEPING UP PARTY DISTINCTIONS AND PARTY STRIFE IN OUR COUNTY ELECTIONS, WHICH MAY EVENTUALLY RESULT, AS IS NOW THE CASE IN A MAJORITY OF THE COUNTIES IN THIS STATE, IN FILLING OUR PUBLIC OFFICES WITH IGNORANCE AND INCAPACITATING; AND EARTHILY DESIRING TO AVOID THIS EVIL AND CURSE TO A FREE PEOPLE, WE MUST DECLINE ALL PARTY PROPOSITIONS.

Having stated its altruism so regally, the convention proceeded with its regular business of nominating candidates. The assembly also directed that an executive committee be appointed, and adopted a series of stirring resolutions which ended by entreating "all of our citizens to make dear to their hearts the common good of all; to rise above unworthy motives and party slavery in uniting with us to rebuke at the ballot box the corruptionists now in power; to rescue our State from her present anarchy, ruin, and future despair by electing to office such men as have heretofore been spotless in their public and private character, of known ability, and honesty, and who will discharge the duties of office without distinction of party or person, with unswerving right and justice to all."

Horry Republicans receded quietly after the rebuff by the "Conservatives," and reconvened following the Republican state convention in Columbia. By then, rumors of money passing hands at the Columbia meeting had reached Horry, causing some dissent among party leaders. One of Horry's delegates to the meeting, the Rev. Henry Jones, had gone to Columbia with "too small an allowance of ready spendulkx", it was whispered, but the old gentleman denied any wrong-doing and proved his point by listing his sources of funds and his expenditures. He had left Conwayborough with the four dollars the party had given him for expenses; on the way Mr. Derham gave him two dollars and in Columbia Capt. Dunn gave him five dollars. He counted his expenses as one dollar per day in Columbia and railroad fare, a total of $12.70. The local newspaper editor, however, thought that Jones, a former school teacher and current school trustee, should be able to cipher better than that.

With Robert Wilkins and Needham Gause dissenting, Horry Republicans endorsed the state ticket of Chamberlain and Gleaves. (Gause was referred to in the Horry Weekly News of January 27, 1877, as "an intelligent colored citizen, a Republican, and one of the managers of elections [1876] at Simpson Creek.") The party did not offer candidates for county offices.

The partisan situation at the state level was precisely opposite. South Carolina conservatives did not field any candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor in 1874; instead he state convention supported the nominees of the Independent Republican party, Green and Delany. Horry County was not represented at the Conservative party convention. Her two delegates crossed the Little Pee Dee at Gallivants Ferry, knowing the dangers of the high water across
THE RECONSTRUCTION YEARS

the river. After a harrowing accident in "neck-deep" water, they returned to the Horry side and spent the night. The following day "Mr. Holliday" drove their buggy across the Little Pee Dee swamp while the delegates crossed in a boat. They traveled on to Marion and took the train, but when they reached Columbia, the convention had completed its agenda and adjourned.

Mr. Derham took exception to the newspaper report of his remarks at the Republican meeting, stating that he had not urged any one to support any particular person or party for legislative and county offices. "I, for one," he continued, "propose to stand by what I have already declared I would do; that is to say, 'to vote for the best men then offering.' I did however endeavor to impress on those present the great importance of reform in our party, and I believe the leaders were honestly intent on bringing it about. . . ."

In late October, Governor Moses changed several members of the Board of Commissioners of Election in each county. He stated in his proclamation that he had received numerous complaints that the several political parties were not adequately represented on the boards as constituted, and there was grave apprehension of trouble in the conduct of the approaching election because of the lack of representation. Governor Moses removed J. H. Derham and H. W. Jones from the Horry board and appointed Charles I. Johnson and Thos. F. Gillespie in their stead. There is nothing in the record to indicate that Derham's removal was in any way related to his stance concerning reform within the Republican party. However, Moses is not considered by historians to have been one of the reformers.

Chamberlain defeated Green by about 11,500 votes, a much smaller majority than most Republican candidates enjoyed during Reconstruction. Gleaves beat Delany by a larger majority, some 15,000.

To the surprise of many observers, Chamberlain made a good governor for the times. He attempted to restrain the excesses so common during the preceding few years, and he contended with the dishonest and unscrupulous elements of his party throughout his administration. His record as governor is so free of chicanery and fraud that historians are not quite sure whether he was a reformed malefactor while governor or an unwitting dupe of rapacious associates during his earlier tenure as attorney-general. Is the latter view at all credible? Chamberlain was brilliant, talented, educated, and cultured; he was smarter than most of his contemporaries. Did he cover his earlier tracks well? Most other southern states had turned Radical Republicans out of office by the close of
Fall, 1993

HON. JEREMIAH SMITH of HORRY

1874, and South Carolina had almost done so. Did Chamberl
see the end approaching? In any case, he made a good
governor until it became clear that he could not easily win
reelection in 1876.

In Horry County, Green and Delany beat Chamberlain and
Gleaves by about two to one in the 1874 election. The Con-
servative slate swept the county elections. Republican in-
cumbents whose terms did not expire in 1874 served the remain-
ing two years, of course, but the voters of the Independent Re-
publican denied all county offices to professed Republicans for a
century or more thereafter.

Jeremiah Smith, who had been a delegate to the 1874
County (Conservative) convention and was a member of its
executive committee, was appointed a Trial Justice for Horry
County, replacing a person who also had been active in the
conservative movement of that year. Jeremiah's commission
was dated December 7, 1874, but he did not subscribe the
oath until May 3rd of the following year. Then he rode
back to his home community to succeed Thomas McCor-
mick as judge in Socastee Township.

The Columbia Daily Phoenix reported the trial justice
appointments for Horry County in its February 27, 1875
paper: C. B. Sarvis of Bucks Township, Thomas F. Gillespie
of Conway, W. H. Privitt of Bayboro, John W. Mishoe of
Dog Bluff, E. P. Pitman of Gallivants Ferry, Avery Floyd of
Floyds, Alva Enzor of Green Sea, W. M. Benton of Simpson
Creek, Jeremiah Smith of Socastee, Wade H. Parker of
Dogwood Neck and W. A. Bessant of Little River*. The an-
nouncement contained no hint of the selection process:
how much Horry's Republican senator influenced the deci-
sions or whether the governor considered these appoint-
ments important or routine. There surely is no basis for as-
suming that the appointees supported Governor Chamberlain either then or later. Five of the
appointees were incumbents: Sarvis, Pitman, Floyd, Enzor and Bessant. Five of them had been
executive committeemen of the County Convention of 1874: Privitt, Floyd, Benton, Smith and
Bessant; and Pitman was a delegate to that convention. Nor did the offices buy the magistrates' al-
legiance to the Republican Party. In 1876, many of the names were mentioned prominently in
the movement to oust the Radicals in South Carolina and elect Wade Hampton governor.

The office of trial justice (or justice of the peace or magistrate) had become a part of the

* The spelling of names in documents was frequently erroneous or variable. No attempt has been made to correct
the family names to contemporary spelling.
The State of South Carolina.

By His Excellency

D. H. Chamberlain,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the State aforesaid:

To William [Name]

I, reposing special trust and confidence in your ability, care, prudence and integrity, have Commissioned, Constituted and Appointed and by these Presents do Commission, Constitute and Appoint you, the said [Name], as Trial Justice in the State aforesaid, to have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office of Trial Justice for [District], together with all the rights, privileges, profits and emoluments, whatsoever, thereunto belonging, or in any wise appertaining.

This Commission to continue in force during the pleasure of the Governor.

Given under my hand, and the seal of the State, in Columbia, this 7th day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, and in the twenty-fifth year of the Independence of the United States of America.

By the Governor:

D. H. Chamberlain

Secretary of State
The prescribed oaths signed by Jeremiah Smith appear on the reverse side of each of his commissions as trial justice issued successively by Governors Chamberlain, Hampton and Simpson. Each document contained three separate oaths: a general one, one specifically relating to sale or sharing of profits of the office, and one relating to the laws prohibiting gaming and gaming tables. The oaths reproduced here are from the commission signed by Governor Hampton because its format, when reduced, more nearly fitted the dimensions of the page.
THE RECONSTRUCTION YEARS

English judicial system centuries before and had existed in South Carolina since the early days of the colony. The sitting judge was charged with important tasks of the peace-keeping process: suppressing violence, issuing arrest warrants, hearing criminal misdemeanor cases and the preliminary proceedings of more serious offenses, trying petty civil suits, and tending to the profuse details of the legal system at the lowest level. The editor of the county newspaper described the good offices of the lowly magistrate as follows: "A good trial justice is a blessing to a neighborhood. He will prove a conservator of the peace and not a stirrer up of strife. He will rely more on his good offices as a citizen, to settle up neighborhood difficulties in a neighborly way, than upon law and juries." In addition to his official duties as an officer of the court, the trial justice was looked upon as something of the poor man's lawyer or scribe. Local citizens came to him to prepare documents, witness signatures, acknowledge oaths, settle estates, and impart advice. Late in life, Jeremiah listed among his credits eight years service as trial justice.

Life in Socastee Township was laborious but tranquil as Jeremiah settled into his new responsibilities. At the state level the Radical Republicans chaffed under the restraining policies of Governor Chamberlain who, although one of them, was actually executing his rhetoric of reform. Late in 1875 the Radical legislators took advantage of the governor's temporary absence and elected W. J. Whipper and F. J. Moses, Jr. to the office of judge in the state courts. Chamberlain refused
HON. JEREMIAH SMITH of HORRY

The election of the two corruptionists to the bench incensed the decent people of the state, and the governor's denial of the commissions aroused favorable reactions in all quarters.

Horry County citizens assembled in the courthouse January 3, 1876, to express the sentiment of the people with respect to recent actions of the legislature and the governor. The meeting was duly organized with James E. Dusenbury, a former representative, as chairman and Jeremiah Smith as secretary.

J. T. Walsh addressed the meeting and proposed several resolutions including a preamble that summarized the county's experience with Republicanism: "No section of South Carolina, nor even of the Southern country, has been more distinguished for conservatism and moderation, during the past ten years, a period of trying test, than Horry County. With the whites largely in the majority, and the vast majority of them staunch Democrats, this majority has invariably invited an extinguishment of party lines, and a union of all good men, without regard to party or color, in the fight against the public frauds of the day. On these principles it battled in the Reform campaigns of 1870 and 1872, and in the Independent Republican campaign of 1874. We showed our sincerity by our actions. In 1870, we voted for Republicans. In 1872, we gave the highest office in our gift to a Republican, and had three Republicans on our State ticket in this county. During all this time we have acted in a spirit of compromise and conciliation, but alas, all to no purpose. . . ." Walsh then referred to the action of Republicans in the election of "two thieves to be judges of this State" and moved adoption of four resolutions: (I) to thank and praise Governor Chamberlain for his refusal to commission Whipper and Moses; (II) to take "such action as shall result in the overthrow and banishment of the faction
which has so long ruled, robbed and degraded us;" (III) that it was the duty of all good citizens of the county of all parties, races, and colors to organize for such action; (IV) that the chairman appoint an executive committee of fifteen people to organize the county to attain these ends. C. P. Quattlebaum seconded the resolutions and they passed unanimously.

The committee appointed by Dusenbury met early in February 1876 and organized with L. D. Bryan as chairman (N. B. Cooper acted as president pro tem) and Jos. T. Walsh as secretary. The committee appointed subcommittees for the several townships. J. D. Newton, R. B. Singleton, and J. M. Oliver were appointed for Socastee.

The County Convention (still with no party designation) met April 3rd and selected Lucius D. Bryan, Daniel Lewis, F. I. Sessions and B. N. Ward as delegates to the state Democratic Convention. That assemblage was scheduled to meet in Columbia on May 4th to select delegates to the national convention. N. B. Cooper acted as permanent chairman of the county meeting and E. Norton served as secretary. Socastee was not represented at the meeting.

The Horry Republican Convention met on the same day and organized by electing Henry W. Jones chairman and Geo. W. Thompson secretary. The delegates chose Gov. Daniel H. Chamberlain and Joseph H. Derham to represent Horry County at the state Union Republican Convention the following week.

The state parties would name their gubernatorial choices later in the year. Many commentators saw in Chamberlain a possible reform candidate who could be reelected as a compromise nominee appealing to honorable Democrats and Republicans alike, and they supported the Fusion strategy. Some leaders, notably Matthew C. Butler and Martin W. Gary of Edgefield (former Confederate major general and brigadier, respectively) advocated a Straight-Out ticket, a full slate of Democratic candidates "from governor to coroner." Wade Hampton was their choice for governor. As the summer passed, race—black versus white—became the driving force in the coming election in spite of Hampton’s attitude of conciliation.

The "Hamburg Riot" occurred July 8, 1876. Four days before, two white men traveling along the highway had an altercation with the Negro militia near the little town. The men charged the militia with obstructing the highway, and the matter was scheduled before the Negro trial justice. With violence threatened, both sides came to the hearing ready for trouble. It came. One white man and one Negro were killed.
then, and several more Negroes were killed that night before the complainants’ attorney, General M. C. Butler, could stop the violence.

Governor Chamberlain characterized the affair as a massacre, and requested President U. S. Grant to supply full military support to preserve order during the political campaign. Chamberlain’s immoderate characterization of the event and his excessive reaction to it—it was a criminal act of violence by any standards—further polarized the people. All Democrats finally decided that there was no hope in Republicanism or Fusionism if the Radical element could not be suppressed by an upright a governor as Chamberlain had been.

Horry preferred a straight-out fight. No longer were the meetings those of Citizens or Conservatives or unnamed; instead the name Democrat was proudly displayed. The call went out from Democratic Party---Horry County for the selection of delegates to the county convention to be held the first Monday in August. Jeremiah Smith was appointed to call the township meeting for Socastee.

Wade Hampton carried the banner of the state Democratic Party. He had long been South Carolina’s champion, and was then probably the most highly respected man in the state. Alexander C. Haskell, former Confederate colonel commanding Jeremiah’s cherished Seventh S. C. Cavalry, was chairman of the State Executive Committee. Gen. Martin W. Gary, Jeremiah’s brigade commander during the War, was the firebrand in Edgefield and adjacent counties; the brigadier who would not surrender at Appomattox Court House refused to be reconstructed when he returned to South Carolina. After a campaign fraught with impending violence, and an election rife with purported or actual fraud on both sides, Hampton was elected by a statewide majority of little more than a thousand votes.

When the Democratic administration finally was recognized as the legal government of South Carolina, the leaders of the movement received their rewards. Gen. Butler was selected by the new General Assembly as United States Senator. Col. Haskell was elevated to the state Supreme Court, and he was thereafter addressed as judge although he served on the bench only a few years. Gen. Gary was not rewarded—moreover, he later was denied the gubernatorial nomination by the Democratic party—and therein lay the seed for bitter factional strife.

Jeremiah Smith still ranked no higher than a non-com, and he had not earned a reward. He continued as Trial Justice for the County of Horry, his commission signed by Wade Hampton May 21, 1877. He also became Second Lieutenant in the "Horry Rifles" Volunteer State Troops. Company officers of the militia were elected by the rank and file. Governor Wade Hampton

From The Horry Weekly News August 12, 1876.
signed his commission June 27, 1877 to rank from June 8th. This was the first time Jeremiah had been a military officer since May of 1862, when he had resigned his lieutenancy upon his failure to win reelection during the reorganization of the Confederate Army.

Jeremiah rejoiced that the state had found a Deliverer. He was ever a steadfast disciple of Wade Hampton. When Jeremiah's and Isabella's last son was born in late September of 1877, he was named first William, for the family, and then Wade Hampton, for Jeremiah's hero (when Wade grew up, he dropped the needless William from his name). Jeremiah joined Hampton's camp in fighting all the political battles. In December of 1890, when the magnificent old warrior finally was banished by the Tillman forces, Jeremiah and twelve other senators stood with him to the bitter end, and again succumbed with him in honorable defeat.

From The Horry Weekly News October 21, 1876.
The Republican party ceased to be a factor in South Carolina politics. Differences were settled among the factions largely within the party ranks, and nomination by the Democrats remained tantamount to election until late in the twentieth century. Except for a few professional Republicans to dispense the patronage of the national party, none were left to confess affiliation.

Horry Countians who had been Republicans melded into the political system—unless they were Negroes—and they or their descendants utilized their talents within the Democratic Party. Recrimination and bitterness, if prevalent, were soon transcended by the passions of fresher quarrels. Only the participants themselves recalled the wounds of interparty conflict. The politicians, main actors in the drama, remembered! (In the late 1940s my Uncle Daniel, Jeremiah’s third son, told me of a person—or a family—who exercised influence over Negro voters. I do not recall the name he mentioned, and I do not remember how specific Uncle Dan was as to dates and localities. Thus, the bitterness of the events was remembered by him with some specificity for possibly longer than seventy years. Ordinarily, all feeling would have subsided with the passing of three generations or less.)

Photograph identified as federal grand jury of unknown date. Jeremiah Smith is in center of front row.
The State of South Carolina

By His Excellency Wade Hampton,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the State aforesaid.

To Jemmy Smith

I, reposing special trust and confidence in your ability, care, prudence and integrity, have Commissioned you to be County Sheriff in the State aforesaid, to have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office of Sheriff,

with all the rights, privileges,

prospects and emoluments whatsoever thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining.

This Commission to continue in force during the pleasure of the Governor.

GIVEN under my hand and the Seal of the State, in Columbia, this th day of May, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-three, and in the year of the Independence of the United States of America.

By the Governor.

W. H. Seay
Secretary of State.
VOLUNTEER TROOPS, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

To: Lieut. Jeremiah Smith

Greeting:

We, relying upon your突出 trust and confidence, as well in your patriotism, conduct and loyalty, as in your integrity and readiness to do us good and faithful service, have appointed and constituted, and by these Presents do appoint and constitute, you, the said Jeremiah Smith, Second Lieutenant "Perry's Rifles",

with rank from JUNE 1st, 1867.

You are, therefore, to observe and follow such orders and directions, as you shall from time to time receive from our Commander-in-Chief of the Military Forces of our said State, or any other, your Superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, and hold the said office in the manner specified in and by the Constitution and Laws of our said State, in pursuance of the trust reposed in you; and for so doing, this shall be your Commission.

By Testimony Whereof, We have caused our Seal for Military Commissions to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS

Wade Hampton, Governor of our said State, Commander-in-Chief of the Military and Naval Forces of the same, at our City of Columbia, this 27th day of June, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven.

C. M. "Perry's Rifles",
Adjudant and Inspector-General.

Wade Hampton
YEARS OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICE

Jeremiah and Isabella had been married little more than ten months when Arabella (Bell) was born. At regular two-year intervals thereafter Lillian Florence (Lilly), Sarah Elizabeth (Sally), and William Wade Hampton (Wade) came along. Three years after Wade’s arrival Cora Ellen (Cora) joined the family, and after another three-year interval little Isadora was born. The last child lived only five weeks. The lifeless form was borne sadly to the Socastee Methodist churchyard and buried beside Jeremiah’s first wife.

Jeremiah’s family was not a completely self-contained unit, but most of its needs were supplied by the surrounding fields and forests. The men tended the crops to furnish grains for milling, sweet potatoes for banking, beans for drying, sugar cane for grinding and cooking into syrup, and fresh vegetables for the table and for preserving. Cultivated orchards bore luscious fruits in season. Milch cows grazing in the fields or kept in the lot provided milk and the makings of butter and cheese. Meat for eating and curing could be had from the cattle and hogs ranging the woodlands, bearing the stock mark of the family. Wild deer, turkeys, and other game provided sport as well as victuals. Toward fall the mullet swam thick in the Atlantic surf near the Sand Ridge. A night of fishing with cast net or hand seine would yield a fine mess and enough left over to salt down for the winter. The forests afforded firewood for fuel, and blocks and lumber for repair of the farm buildings. A small patch of tobacco was cultivated for family chewing. The scarce cash from the crops was augmented by the sale of raw turpentine from the pine trees, as the naval stores industry flourished. When Wade had grown up and learned just how to cook the sugar cane squ squings, syrup was added to the list of money sources.

The passing years softened the children’s memories of backwoods adversities. But those early times molded their characters and their tastes. As an old man, Wade attempted to preserve a large catch of mullet in a barrel of brine but, alas, he had lost the art. Perhaps he wished, not so much to preserve the fish but, to savor the salt mullet with sweet potatoes again. He still relished the old tastes; he never had considered any meal complete, he said, if it did not include a sweet potato.

Jeremiah’s conduct of his office of trial justice during his six-year tenure won him a lasting place in the affections of his neighbors. He became something of a Sage of Socastee, and those steeped in the lore of the region repeated tales of his prowess and sagacity a hundred years after the fabled happenings.

One summer a pesky chicken hawk preyed upon the fowls in the Smith yard. Whenever a human form appeared, the malicious bird immediately flew out of shooting range and, so, always lived to strike again. Tiring of the stand-off, Jeremiah waited until one day the hawk was perched in a nearby tree watching for an opportunity to plummet downward upon the unsuspecting chickens. Jeremiah then, shouldering his shotgun, took one of the children with him to a nearby scare...
The State of South Carolina,

BY HIS EXCELLENCY,
The Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the State aforesaid.

To Jeremiah Smith

In considering your ability, care, prudence and integrity, have Commissioned, Constituted and established, and by these Presents do Commission, Constitute and establish, you, the said Jeremiah Smith, to have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office of [Position] in the State aforesaid; to have, hold, exercise and enjoy the said office of [Position] together with all the rights, privileges, profits and emoluments whatever thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining.

This Commission to continue in force during the pleasure of the Governor.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the State, in Columbia, this [Date] day of [Month] in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and [Year] and in the one hundred and [Year] of the Independence of the United States of America.

By the Governor:

[Signature]

Secretary of State.
YEARS OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICE

crow. After an interval of time, he sent the child back to the house. Apparently believing the threat to be gone, the hawk swooped down toward an old hen and her biddies. Jeremiah dispatched the hawk with one shot. (This anecdote is related not to demonstrate the mental acuities of a chicken hawk but to illustrate the duration of the legend of Jeremiah. The story was told to me in the 1970s by Mr. L. L. "Bubba" Perry who lived on present-day McCormick Road. He told the tale as if it had happened at Jeremiah's old home across the Intracoastal Waterway from the Perry farm. The occurrence, if it happened at all, probably transpired at the Hucks place on the other side of Socastee, nearer Conway. Jeremiah moved from the old place in the early 1870s, about a hundred years before the story was related to me. His legends lived long after Jeremiah left Socastee community.)

As much as Jeremiah prized his position as trial justice in Socastee Township, he desired a larger constituency. The opportunity came with the Democratic county convention of 1880. "On the eve of the convention," wrote James Henry Rice, Jr., "a local newspaper attacked him, alleging that he was incompetent to discharge the duties of a legislator, one reason being that he lacked a college education. The convention met. Uncle Jerry was there, paper in hand. He rose to a question of personal privilege . . . . His voice was drowned out in cheers and he was nominated by acclamation and made a splendid representative." (Rice stated the year, erroneously, as 1878.)

"Uncle Jerry was sent to the General Assembly, and accomplished numerous and unforgettable deeds for Horry County," read the essay of a Socastee High School student, penned in 1960, eighty years after Jeremiah Smith first was elected to House of Representatives.

Detached from the personality of the man himself, an impartial scrutiny of Jeremiah's twenty-year record as revealed in the journals of the House and Senate, might lead to a different conclusion about his peerlessness as a legislator. He was resourceful in debate, superb in repartee, noble in motive, unswerving in determination. He was respected by his colleagues and constituents alike for his integrity and admired for his patriotism and purpose. He was personable and popular and, over the years, endeared himself to a large following by his public service and public spiritedness. But he was never progressive, even in the then restricted meaning of the term. Always, he was concerned more with controlling expenditures than with legislating improvements. He was a true exponent of personal liberties and popular democracy (at least for white males), and he remained throughout his long public career true to his convictions and a hero to those from whom he sprang.

Jeremiah journeyed to Columbia that fall to attend the month-long legislative session beginning November 23, 1880. The other Horry representative, E. D. Richardson of Broad Landing, was beginning his second term. T. W. Beaty of Conway had been elected to succeed T. W. Daggett as Horry senator. Jeremiah was recorded as a farmer from Bucksville, a correct mailing address but an inaccurate depiction of his residence. It was still easier for him to paddle across the river to Bucksville than to travel the sandy or muddy roads to a post office east of the Waccamaw—all residents of Socastee Township patronized the Bucksville post office. Jeremiah was assigned to
the Committees on Internal Improvements, and Mines and Mining. He introduced a bill to regulate the fees of state witnesses for Horry County and a bill to regulate the jury law for Horry County. Both bills appear to have foundered in committee. The session ended December 24, 1880, and Jeremiah returned home to his waiting wife and children. Christmas in those days was celebrated in a fashion notably different from the festivities of the late twentieth century, and Jeremiah’s late arrival was accepted as a matter of course.

The General Assembly convened November 21st for the 1881 session. Five days later Jeremiah fired the opening salvo in a controversy that would demand his energies throughout the remainder of his legislative service. Saturday, November 26th, Representative Smith presented the petition of “332 citizens of Horry County praying the General Assembly to enact no law that will compel them to fence their stock.” Appropriately, the document was referred to the Committee on Agriculture. It was reported out of committee the following Monday and referred to the Horry Delegation. With one day’s deliberation, Mr. Smith made a favorable report from the delegation on Tuesday, and the matter was ordered for consideration the following day. A week after the petition was presented to the House it was "laid on the table." It was not revived at that session. Jeremiah had failed to persuade his fellow representatives to adopt his point of view in his first skirmish for free range. But a stock law for Horry County was not passed at that session, or the next, or the next. When he was eighty years old, Jeremiah was called out of retirement to fight the last battle of the long struggle. But no one could peer forty years into the future. Jeremiah was now forty-one years old, in the prime of his manhood, and he did not shrink from the fight for his precious rights and those of his cherished neighbors.

Cattle raising on the open range was one of the first industries of the earliest settlers of South Carolina. From the time the colony was founded, livestock had always been allowed to roam at large, munching the grasses in the abundant forests and savannahs. Owners had to construct barriers to keep the animals out of their yards and fields. As fields multiplied and expanded with the passing years, pressure mounted to require the stock owners to fence in their cattle rather than burden others with the necessity of fencing their fields and houses.

By 1874 the debate resulted in mild legislation affecting Anderson County—entirely across the state from Horry. Laws providing some restrictions of free range in specific localities were enacted during the following years, until a general stock law was passed in 1881 while Jeremiah was serving his first term in the House of Representatives. The new law made it unlawful for an owner to permit any "horse, mule, ass, genet, swine, sheep, goat, or neat cattle of any description" to run at large beyond the lands owned or controlled by him; failure to confine his stock would result in liability for damages and 25 to 50 cents per head for strayed cattle seized.

But, thanks to Jeremiah and others of the his delegation, Horry was one of the counties excepted from the provisions of the act. Counties so excepted were required to build fences with necessary gates between their territory and the counties not excepted. Fortunately for Horry, streams would be considered acceptable barriers if they were wide and deep enough. The law established both Pee Dee rivers, the Lumber River, the Waccamaw River and Bull Creek as legal fences where those streams coincided with county lines.

The stock law generated continuous wrangling as counties and sections sought exception from its provisions, and as fences and other elements of the act were defined and clarified. The
YEARS OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICE

From Horry County Deed Book B, page 246.
HON. JEREMIAH SMITH of HORRY

South Carolina, Horry District,

This is to certify that I have paid to my said

Honorably Smith, in consideration of the sum of Five hundred dollars to me paid by Benjamin C. Burroughs, and Benj. B. Collins, in partnership under the name of Burroughs & Collins, in the said county and state, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged. Do warrant, release, and forever quit claim, unto said Burroughs & Collins, all that parcel of land, in the said county and state, lying on and near Black Creek, Raison Township, containing so many acres, of the other tract of land originally granted to my father, David Smith, for 100 acres, on 29th of December 1642. As are included in a grant to Eno Thomas Randall, under which they claim.

To Have and to Hold the same, with all the rights, privileges and

affluences to the same belonging, unto the said Burroughs & Collins, and the survivors of them, their, and heirs, forever, so that neither I, the said Smith, nor my heirs, nor any person or

persons claiming under me or them, shall, at any time hereafter, by

any way or for any whatsoever, have, claim or demand any right or

title to the said premises, or any part thereof.
stock law was preferred, generally, in the upcountry. The wooded and swampy areas of the Pee Dee and lowcountry were more suitable for free range. In Horry, the small farmers along the rivers and dense woodlands preferred to turn their stock loose to range at will, as they always had; but prosperous farmers in other sections of the county, with higher ground and broader fields, found open range irksome. The number of stock law supporters increased as agricultural practices improved and Horry awoke from its isolation, but a small majority of Horry voters still favored free range as late as 1920.

The controversy over free range in South Carolina continued for generations and was extremely bitter during much of that time. The stock law frequently was characterized as the rich man’s oppression of the poor. Finally, in 1921, the last two counties of the state, or the last portions of them, became subject to the "fence law" or "no-fence law" or "stock law."

Many commentators have attempted to cast the controversy in a moral light. Dr. Wallace (South Carolina: A Short History, page 610) referred to free range as "this communistic privilege of raising cattle, hogs, etc., on other men’s land." James Henry Rice, Jr. (Aftermath of Glory, page 41) opined, "on the face of it, pasturing cattle on another man’s land, is morally indefensible..." The stock law, of course, was not a matter of morality; it was simply the defining of a property right. It had no more moral implication than any other property right subject to legislation. Indeed, if there is a moral issue, it is in denying any human the right to the enjoyment of any spot on earth; but an orderly society requires some such denial and also demands the enactment of rules defining such denial. Ordinarily, the rules are driven by economics, and that was precisely the case with the stock law. What was good for the country or its inhabitants when the colony was founded might not be good in the twentieth century, because the economy changes with the times. And what is best for South Carolina in the twentieth century is not necessarily best for certain portions of the Southwest where the principles of free range still obtain.

The 1881 session was a long one, lasting well over two months. Mr. Richardson was granted a leave of absence, on the motion of Mr. Smith, from December 17th until the recess later in the month. The legislature did not adjourn until February 9, 1882, and then the solons were called back for a special session which lasted from June 27 to July 5, 1882.

The Democrats of Horry were pleased with Jeremiah’s service during his first two-year term.
as a representative; he was nominated for a second term at the county convention and was duly
elected in the fall. P. A. Parker of Port Harrelson succeeded E. D. Richardson in the House. T. W.
Beaty's senate term continued until 1884. The General Assembly met November 28, 1882 and
continued until December 23. Jeremiah remained on the Internal Improvements Committee, but
his seniority permitted him to transfer from the Committee on Mines and Mining to the Committee
on Agriculture. The interests of his constituents could be better served by the change.

The 1883 legislative session began November 23rd, but Jeremiah did not appear on the first
day. A week later he gave notice of his bill to require the County Commissioners of Horry County
to build a fence on the line between Horry and Georgetown counties and erect gates where the
public highways crossed the line. An act of the year before provided for a survey to determine
the disputed line between Horry and Georgetown Counties. Now that the line had been settled,
it was time to build the fence. Jeremiah's bill was introduced December 3rd; it passed and was
ratified.

D D D

From the Senate came a bill to change the name of the county seat to Conway. Mr. Parker
of Horry presented a petition from the citizens of Conway borough supporting the legislation. Jer-
emiah was not in favor of the shortened name of Conway. He preferred the old familiar sounds.
And people out in the county probably would have liked to drop the "Conway" and keep the
"borough," for that is what many of them called the town anyway. Once, C. P. Quattlebaum was
discussing the matter with Jeremiah, for the Colonel wished to have "borough" dropped from the
town's name. Jeremiah demurred. "How would you like to have 'baum' dropped from your nam-
e?" Jeremiah asked his friend. "How would you like to be named 'Quattle.'" (This anecdote was
told to me by Laura Quattlebaum Jordan, a granddaughter of the Colonel.) Nevertheless, Jeremiah
supported the bill in the House; he was satisfied for the wishes of the Conwayborough citizens
to prevail over his individual predilection. The bill received a favorable committee report and
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Passed without opposition. Governor Thompson approved the act December 22, 1883, but the country people continued for many years to go the "The Borough" rather than to "Conway."

As the election of 1884 approached, Jeremiah Smith was ready for another promotion, and he actively sought the nomination for county senator. Among his detractors was The Horry Progress, a semi-weekly newspaper owned and published by James W. Ogilvie. (Ogilvie in later years became a staunch admirer and firm supporter of Uncle Jerry.) Again, at the county convention Jeremiah took the floor and excoriated the journalist. Horry delegates delighted in such forensic jousts, and Jeremiah easily won the nomination for the coveted Senate seat.

The newspaperman would not desist. He continued to lament Jeremiah’s meager formal education and criticize his workmanship. "We learn that the Hon. Jeremiah Smith ‘read our titles clear to the mansions in the skies’ during the [recent county Democratic convention]," the editor wrote. "We are sorry we did not hear him, for if he ‘drew up’ the ‘titles’ we will have a great deal of trouble locating our ‘mansion’ if they are in keeping with some of the papers we have seen coming from him while he was Trial Justice." Then, as the parting irony, the newspaper reported the Horry Democratic Ticket in full, except that "write-in" was substituted for "Jeremiah Smith" for senator.

Jeremiah was elected senator, of course, for no clique of dissidents could successfully oppose the Democratic party of Horry during those decades. Samuel Hickman, a farmer from Hickman’s, was elected to the House. E. D. Richardson was returned to the House after a one-term hiatus, now listing himself as a farmer from Hammond. Jeremiah, after years of paddling across the Waccamaw to the Bucksville post office, finally had acquired a Socastee mailing address. He was assigned to the Committee on Printing and was named chairman of the Committee on Contingent Accounts.
HON. JEREMIAH SMITH of HORRY

Hundreds of miles away in Mobile, Jeremiah's older brother Daniel was elected to the Alabama Senate. This first son of Daniel and Celia Benson Smith had emigrated from Horry District decades before. He had settled in southern Alabama and become active in public affairs. Mobile County sent him to the Alabama Senate in 1884, and Daniel continued in that office for eight years, paralleling the career of his baby brother Jeremiah in his old home state of South Carolina.

The session of 1884 was memorable because of the South Carolina General Assembly's reelection of Wade Hampton to a second term in the United States Senate. (Amendment XVII to the U. S. Constitution, providing for popular election of senators, was adopted in 1913. Until then, South Carolina's U. S. senators were elected by the General Assembly. By 1896 the Democratic nominee was chosen in the party primary and the legislature then elected the successful aspirant.) When the General Assembly met in joint session to elect the U. S. senator in 1884, thirty-three of the thirty-five senators voted for Hampton; the conservatives who had won the 1876 election still held firm control of state government. Two Negro senators, Thomas Reynolds of Beaufort and Robert Simmons of Berkeley, voted for W. J. Whipper, a corruptionist Negro politician of the Reconstruction era whose election to a judgeship in 1875 by the Radical legislature had incensed the good people of the state. The other Negro senator, B. H. Williams of Georgetown, voted with the majority. The Hampton senators assembled for a group picture. Senator Smith stood in the back row, as befitted his low seniority.

Even the short session of one month could not expire without some reinforcement of the free range fortifications. The act requiring a barbed wire fence between Horry and Georgetown counties was amended. The time for completion was extended for a year to May 1, 1885. Another
YEARS OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICE

Jeremiah Smith and his colleagues who supported Wade Hampton for reelection as United States Senator. Jeremiah Smith is the person with the dark beard standing in the back row beside Hampton's picture.
HON. JEREMIAH SMITH of HORRY

act authorized a referendum for a $10,000 bond issue to build a courthouse in Conway. The solons adjourned December 24, 1884. Jeremiah journeyed back to Socastee for a belated Christmas.

The General Assembly would not meet again for almost eleven months but the business of the county continued year-round. The county delegation was an integral component of governmental machinery at that level. Virtually all permits required legislative action, and the legislators were charged with enacting statutes to control matters of slight significance. So time was consumed with policy and administrative questions throughout the year.

Although only a year had passed since the last child was born to Isabella and Jeremiah, the older children of the household were already grown and some of them married. The oldest Hucks child was twenty-five and the oldest Smith child was nearly so. Little Cora, the youngest, was just three.

Within the next several years all the Hucks children had married and established their own homes. Isabella’s oldest daughter Becky married Peter James Elkes (A P. J. Elkes served in the Seventh South Carolina Cavalry, but the record does not clearly identify the soldier. Peter James Elkes was in his late teens when the War began. Philip J. Elkes was about eleven years older.) Susan Hucks married Gillespie DeWitt. ‘Liza, the youngest, married Joseph Marion Hardee. David Hucks married Mary Stalvey and Joseph Benjamin married Mary Etta Stalvey.

Jeremiah’s oldest son Beauregard married Julia Anna Hucks. Jeremiah B. Smith, unlike his father, was in no hurry to get married (his first marriage on February 1, 1894, ended unhappily), and he was free to enlist in the army when the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898. Daniel married Catherine (Kate) Stalvey, daughter of Asbury Stalvey. Young Asbury had been a comrade of Jeremiah’s in the Seventh South Carolina Cavalry. He too had been wounded at Riddell’s Shop and had served with the regiment until he was captured in a Richmond hospital when the Army of Northern Virginia retreated toward Appomattox Court House on the fateful April day in 1865. Jeremiah’s oldest daughter Kitsey Jane (Kate) married Charles W. Shackleford. Olive Smith never married; she preferred to remain single, she said, if she couldn’t have the man she wanted. Neelie, the youngest daughter of Jeremiah and Ellen, married James Battle some years later.

By early January of 1885, Jeremiah was ready to begin the farm work of the new year. He had been in Columbia for more than a month, and he needed to see to the many plantation tasks awaiting him. All the men joined in the hard work, from the seven-year-old Wade to the Smith and Hucks boys in their early twenties. The ditches were cleaned, the fields prepared, the crops planted and cultivated, the harvests gathered, the beans dried, the vegetables and fruits preserved, the molasses cooked, the potatoes banked, the hogs killed, the meat salted, the hams smoked, the mullet pickled, the tobacco cured and pressed, the buildings repaired, and the firewood cut and hauled for the winter. Late in the fall Jeremiah journeyed again to Columbia to attend the legislative session that began November 24, 1885.
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The office of state senator required an absorbing diligence during the short sessions if one was to do his full duty to his people. The lawmaker must sponsor legislation affecting his own county, and he must help decide matters of statewide significance. Standing committees met before and after the formal sessions of the body, and there was always a conference with a solicitor drafting a bill or a constituent requesting some action. The myriad details demanding the attention of the legislator are indicated by Jeremiah’s performance during the 1885 session as revealed by the Senate Journal.

The Senate convened at 12 M. (noon) November 24, 1885. Jeremiah Smith of Horry was present. November 25th Senator Smith presented an extract from the final presentment of the Grand Jury of Horry County. He also gave notice of four bills he would introduce. November 27th Mr. Smith was granted permission to introduce the four bills, which were read and referred to appropriate committees. November 30th Mr. Smith presented a petition for a highway from Socastee to Kingston Road, near property belonging to Peter Vaught. He presented another petition for a wharf at Pitch Landing on Socastee Creek. He also introduced a private bill affecting property rights. Mr. Smith’s bill favoring persons fishing with dip nets received an unfavorable report from committee. He moved to indefinitely postpone the report of the committee. After debate, his motion was agreed to and his bill passed its second reading. He voted "yea" to the joint resolution for calling a state constitutional convention. December 1st Mr. Smith’s private bill affecting property rights, his bill to charter the wharf at Pitch Landing, and his bill to establish a certain public highway in Horry County all received unfavorable reports from the respective committees. The first bill was ordered for consideration on the morrow, but the other two reports were adopted. Jeremiah was strangely silent during these proceedings, if he was present in the chamber. Later that day he voted with the majority for a constitutional convention, but the resolution failed to receive the two-thirds necessary for adoption. December 3rd Mr. Smith introduced a bill to charter the Wilmington, Chadbourne and Conwayborough Railroad Company. Later that day the Senate considered the unfavorable committee report on his private bill affecting property rights. Jeremiah succeeded in persuading his colleagues to reject the committee report and pass the bill at its second reading. Twenty-six other senators joined him. Only four, Earle, Munro, Patterson and Smythe, voted "nay." Still later that day Mr. Smith joined Mr. Byrd of Williamsburg in giving
notice of amendment on third reading of a bill to appoint a court stenographer.

Soon after the Senate convened on Friday, December 4, 1885, Mr. Smith obtained permission to introduce a bill to require the Horry County Commissioners to keep and maintain the fence between Horry and Georgetown counties. A short while later, Jeremiah's private bill received its third reading. Despite persistent opposition from prominent senators, the bill passed 20 to 11 and was ordered sent to the House of Representatives. Later in the afternoon the Senate resumed consideration of the bill to appoint a stenographer for the Third and Fourth Judicial Circuits. Jeremiah and his colleagues from Williamsburg and Marion, who opposed the bill, failed to enlist sufficient support to overcome the strength of the Senate leadership and prominent attorneys who advocated passage. The parliamentary maneuvers by opponents of the measure, including Mr. Smith's motion to amend, were thwarted and the bill passed its third reading.

Jeremiah did not stand alone on the Free Range issue. When the Senate convened December 5th the senator from Williamsburg presented free range petitions from citizens of his county and adjoining Clarendon. But Jeremiah was concerned with other matters that morning. The committee reported favorably on the bill to incorporate Eastern South Carolina Railroad Company, introduced earlier by Senator Moody of Marion, and upon motion of Mr. Smith the bill was made the Special Order for next Tuesday at 1:30 P.M. At the appointed hour on December 9th the Senate considered the committee report. Several technical amendments were adopted as recommended by the committee. Senator Smythe of Charleston, with whom Jeremiah frequently disagreed, argued for the recommended substantive changes also, but Mr. Smith opposed the amendments and won the debate on all points. The bill passed its second reading.

The following day Mr. Smith presented a petition of citizens of Horry and Georgetown counties to open a public road, and voted successfully against a proposed constitutional amendment. The Senate convened December 10th at 11 A.M. Jeremiah's bill for maintaining the fence between Horry and Georgetown counties passed its second reading, as did his bill to incorporate the Wilmington, Chadbourne and Conwayborough Railroad Company. Mr. Smith moved an amendment to recognize the shortened name of Conway. Jeremiah may not have liked the sound of the bobtailed word, but he recognized the validity of the change.

That afternoon the Senate considered a bill to regulate the introduction of measures in the General Assembly relating to private interests, and to limit the duties of the solicitors in drawing such bills. Senators wrangled over the provisions for more than two hours. Predictably, Jeremiah viewed the question from the peculiar perspective of his origin and his constituency, and he unhappily clashed with the giants of South Carolina politics who then sat with him in the Senate. Messrs. Smith of Horry, Howell of Clarendon, and Woodward of Fairfield contended with Messrs. Earle of Sumter, Smythe of Charleston, and Bobo of Spartanburg. During the long debates and parliamentary stratagems, Mr. Smith's motion to refer the bill back to committee was withdrawn and his motion to indefinitely postpone the bill failed by two votes. The bill passed its second reading despite the opposition of the egalitarians. In Jeremiah's view, the Senate had voted to become less responsive to the needs of the people. But his differences with the other senators were matters of principle. Before the close of the decade, Jeremiah would be in the same camp with Earle and many others, fighting the perceived evils of Tillmanism. (Earle left the Senate to become Attorney General in 1886, declined to become Tillman's candidate for governor in
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1888, lost the nomination and the governorship to Tillman in 1890, but defeated Governor Evans for the United States Senate in 1896. Thus, Earle became the first candidate to defeat a Tillman disciple after 1888; he bearded the despot in his own county and all over the state.)

Speaking for the Committee on Roads, Bridges and Ferries, of which he had become a member, Senator Smith introduced a bill providing for a highway between Marlow's Post Office in Horry County and the Methodist Parsonage in Georgetown County. The bill was ordered for consideration on the following day. Later that day, December 12th, the Senate considered a bill to repeal prohibition in Oconee County where the sale of liquor was then outlawed. Interestingly, Jeremiah voted for prohibition, even against the senator from Oconee. Again the solons followed their consciences; the prohibitionists were badly beaten, 21 to 8. On this issue, Jeremiah was joined by Coker of Darlington, Earle of Sumter, and McCall of Marlboro, all of whom had voted against him on the tenth, and by Field of Pickens, Howell of Clarendon, Leitner of Kershaw, and Moody of Marion, who had voted with him.

The highway bill, introduced the previous day, passed its second reading December 13th. Four days later Chairman Smith reported trivial matters for the Committee on Contingent Accounts. In the afternoon he explained his reason for not voting on an important matter; he was paired with the Senator from Newberry. Some time earlier Jeremiah had initiated a change of the voting precinct from Socastee School House to Dusenbury & Sarvis's Store. Jeremiah's insights appeared to be still provincial; he seemed more conscious of Socastee than of other townships, though he obviously responded to requests from all localities.

Another bill to appoint a court stenographer was considered December 21st, this one for the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Judicial Circuits. Mr. Smith moved to indefinitely postpone the bill. Mr. Earle's motion to table Mr. Smith's motion generated a tie vote which was decided by the presiding officer against Jeremiah. Then the senators squabbled over details until a much changed bill passed second reading. A short time later, Jeremiah found himself in the same column with Charleston senators Buist and Smythe when the Senate considered the exemption of certain portions of Berkeley and Charleston Counties from the operation of the stock law.

The House returned to the Senate Jeremiah's bill to incorporate the Wilmington, Chadbourne and Conway Railroad Company and the Senate considered the measure again on December 22nd. Mr. Smith moved to concur in all amendments, and the bill was changed to an act and enrolled for ratification. During the evening session and again on December 23rd Chairman Smith reported on trivial matters for the Committee on Contingent Accounts. At the evening session of the 23rd the Senate confirmed the appointments of J. H. Porter, Benjamin Holt, H. M. Anderson, T. F. Gillespie, and A. Z. Banta as Trial Justices for Horry County.

The legislative session had been intense and productive. Jeremiah had been busy all session with the bills he had sponsored and with debates and votes on the many other matters demanding decision by the lawmakers. The Senate worked all day and almost all night during the last full day of the session. The body assembled at 10 A.M. December 23rd, recessed at 2:40 P.M., reassembled at 7:30 P.M. and worked for two hours, reconvened at 11 P.M. and adjourned at 11:55 P.M. Ten minutes later the senators began another day. At 2:30 A.M. the weary statesmen took a recess until 8 A.M. The Senate adjourned sine die at 10:25 A.M. December 24, 1885. Jeremiah began his long, tiresome trip back to Socastee to celebrate another belated Christmas with his wife.
HON. JEREMIAH SMITH of HORRY

and children.

The year 1886 was a busy one on the Smith farm. Infants no longer joined the family—Jeremiah was forty-five years old and Isabella almost a year older. Little Cora was now five and Wade eight, both old enough to help with the profusion of tasks to be performed. But the management of such a large household was a taxing duty as the younger children matured and the older ones reached their majority and established their own homes.

Jeremiah Smith and his second wife Isabella West (Hucks).

Along with other farmers of the period, Jeremiah suffered through the hard times. An agricultural depression had spread throughout South Carolina. The state’s farmers forfeited 954,237 acres for taxes during 1886, and an additional 100,045 in 1887. But the large Smith clan hardly discerned any difference from other years. Life was arduous but pleasant. Fare was simple but
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nutritious and tasty (recollections of a mother’s cooking universally start the salivary juices flowing, regardless of the true quality of the viands); shelter was rude but dry; clothing was coarse but warm. Jeremiah embraced his domestic obligations gratefully and earned the affection of all the Hucks children as well as his own.

 Jeremiah found his highest elation in the political sphere. Nothing could match the intense satisfaction of election to public office. Senator Smith did not need to stand for reelection in 1886; his term continued for another two years. In the voting that fall Samuel Hickman retained his seat in the House of Representatives and Henry L. Buck, merchant and farmer of Port Harrelson, replaced E. D. Richardson.

As the General Assembly began its work, The News and Courier published biographical sketches of the legislators. The newspaper stated about Horry’s senator, "Mr. Smith is not learned, according to the schools, but possesses a large stock of plain, practical sense that enables him to grasp and comprehend the various questions presented for consideration in legislative assemblies. Tenacious of his own opinions, he yet can allow dissent without animosity. Of decided convictions, he has the courage to avow his convictions in the face of any opposition.”

The legislative session began November 23, 1886. Three days later Senator Smith was granted a three-day leave of absence for reasons which went unrecorded. He returned to his committee assignments: Contingent Accounts (Chm.); Legislative Library; Penitentiary; Printing; Roads, Bridges and Ferries. His service on the last-named committee eased the passage of his bill to establish and maintain a public highway in his county (from Socastee Bridge across Withers Swash by way of the bridge at William Todd’s to the old Kingston Road at or near Peter Vaught’s, "the same being the road already marked out along said described lines"). But his bill to regulate the number and pay of Horry trial justices and their constables apparently died in the House although it passed all three readings in the Senate. Again the session lasted until December 24th. Traditionally, the session would not extend beyond Christmas. The single month was hardly long enough to allow mature deliberation of all matters demanding attention, but stark economy and ultra conservatism were the order of the day.

 Differences in that era and ours are dramatically portrayed by the observance of Christmas. When did Jeremiah reach his Socastee home if he left Columbia as late as December 24, 1886? Although Jeremiah’s bill to incorporate the Wilmington, Chadbourne and Conway Railroad had been enacted the year before, the rails did not reach Conway until some months later. (Even when the railroad came, the connection with the Conway road had to be made in North Carolina.) Jeremiah had to take a slow train ride to Marion, a buggy ride to Galivants Ferry to cross the Little Pee Dee, then make his way to Conway, and finally to the Socastee farm home. Did he cross the Waccamaw at Cox’s Ferry, or did the boys paddle across the river to meet him at Bucksville? Whatever the route, it must have been an exhausted Jeremiah who finally arrived at the old
GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH CAROLINA.
Governor—John P. Richardson, of Clarendon.
Lieut. Governor—Wm. L. Mauldin, of Greenville.
Secretary of State—W. Z. Leitner, of Kershaw.
Comptroller General—W. E. Stoney, of Berkeley.
Treasurer—Isaac S. Bamberg, of Bamwell.
Superintendent of Education—James H. Rice, of Abbeville.
Adjutant and Inspector General—M.I. Bonham, of Abbeville.
Superintendent of the Penitentiary—A. J. Lipsecomb, of Newberry.
Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum—Dr. J. F. Griffin, of Darlington.

SUPREME COURT:
Chief Justice—W. D. Simpson, of Laurens.
Associate Justices—Henry McIver, of Chesterfield; Samuel McGowan, of Abbeville.

CIRCUIT JUDGES:
First—R. C. Presley.
Second—A. F. Atchison.
Third—T. B. Prater.
Fourth—J. H. Hudson.
Fifth—J. R. Kershaw.
Sixth—J. B. Witherspoon.
Seventh—W. H. Wallace.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.
Senator—Jeremiah Smith.
Representatives—Samuel Hickman, H. L. Buck.
Clerk of Court—J. M. Oliver.
Sheriff—R. G. Sessions.
Probate Judge—W. E. Hardwick.
School Commissioner—John P. Dermam.
County Commissioners—David Babson, B. G. Collins, John R. Suggs.
County Treasurer—E. H. Beatty.
County Auditor—E. Norton.
Coroner—A. H. J. Galbraith.

From The Horry Herald March 3, 1887

HON. JEREMIAH SMITH of HORRY

homestead for the holiday.


Eleven months later Jeremiah was back at his desk in the Senate chamber for the session which convened November 22, 1887. He introduced bills to establish a public school at Socastee and levy a local tax for its support, to provide for eight judicial districts and trial justices in Horry County, and to ratify and confirm the action of Horry County Commissioners in issuing bonds for certain townships to aid construction of the railroad. All these passed and were ratified. His bill to incorporate the Town of Conway foundered when citizens opposing the measure sent a petition to him; fittingly, he presented their protest to the Senate. A private bill for A. S. Anderson passed the Senate but was not ratified, and a petition to charter a ferry at Blackville (or Bucksville) drew an unfavorable committee report. Jeremiah voted for Henry L. Buck for membership on the Board of Agriculture.

Gubernatorial candidate Ben Tillman later would criticize Jeremiah for supporting Buck against the incumbent, W. H. Ellerbe. "Pitchfork Ben" attempted to cast the matter in a sinister light. Jeremiah was far from alone in his support of his colleague; Buck received a whopping 108 votes to Ellerbe's 25 when the House and Senate met in joint session. When Buck's term on the Board expired, the 1889 legislature elected him unanimously for another term.

Again, the legislative session lasted until December 24th. After adjournment at 10 A.M., Jeremiah began the tedious trek home.

From his early youth he had identified himself simply as Jeremiah Smith. Jerry was his nickname, of course, as it was of most who bore the name of the old Hebrew prophet. In many documents his name was abbreviated to Jere. Though he, inferably, felt no distaste for these variants, he always signed his full name. He followed this practice even in his letters to his children, though the austere signature was preceded by a warm and affectionate complimentary closing. But Jeremiah's constituency leaned toward less stilted labels. To many of them the senator was Uncle Jerry, although he was yet in his forties. The appellation is associated especially with his final senate term, when he was an old man in his eighties, but the expression was cur-
rent by the 1880s and was popular enough for the newspapers to use it in headlines before Jeremiah was fifty years old, although the Horry Herald appears always to have referred to him by the title of his office until a later decade. Thus, for at least forty years of Horry politics, Jeremiah Smith was Uncle Jerry to many if not most of his constituents.

From his early days Jeremiah always had a lively interest in public affairs. He was now relentlessly smitten with the desire for service and honor. Politics consumed much of his attention, and the deference he so keenly craved was lavished upon him. He was popular in all sections of the county. He was respected for his achievements and integrity even by those whose political views differed from his own. The threatening clouds of Tillmanism did not yet portend the developing storms. Happy in his current position and stature, the mature Jeremiah at the zenith of his political influence prepared for the 1888 election.

County Chairman E. Norton sent out a call in late April for a county Democratic convention to elect six delegates to the state convention. The Democrats met May 12 and chose E. Norton, E. R. Beaty, T. W. Daggett, C. P. Quattlebaum, J. E. Dusenbury, and S. S. Dusenbury (Socastee precinct chairman) as delegates and B. L. Beaty, J. M. Oliver, and J. A. Mayo as alternates. The convention unanimously passed resolutions opposing the primary system of nominations for state, congressional, and county offices. The school commissioner was selected for auditor. J. R. Cooper, who had served in the General Assembly ten years before, and B. L. Beaty received approval to replace the incumbent representatives. (Horryites have never fully comprehended the weightiness of seniority in the legislative process.) C. M. Campbell, new to office, was nominated for school commissioner.
The slate was elected without opposition. No one was yet willing to continue factional fighting outside the Democratic party; to do so might jeopardize the fruits of Wade Hampton’s pivotal 1876 victory over the Radicals.

Late in 1888 a biographical sketch in the *Sunday News* of Charleston contained the following about the Senator from Horry: "Mr. Smith is a man of fine judgement and strong common sense. His educational advantages in his youth were rather poor. He was educated in the common schools of the County. He is an earnest and forceful speaker, a ready debater, and sometimes quick at repartee. . . . Since the war Mr. Smith has successfully followed his vocation as a farmer. He has the full confidence of his constituents, as is shown by his long term of public service, first as trial justice from 1874 to 1880, when he was elected a Representative in the legislature. He served two terms as Representative, and in 1884 was elected to the Senate. He was renominated for that office by acclamation at the County convention in September, and was reelected to the Senate on November 6. It goes without saying that Mr. Smith is a straight-out Democrat and has ever been. In his domestic relations, it is worthy of remark, that Mr. Smith has been remarkably blessed. He has been twice married, and has as a result of those marriages sixteen living children and one child dead."

Reelected Senator Smith was present to reaffirm his oath of office when the Senate convened on Tuesday, November 27, 1888. His days were brimming until the end of the session. He was awarded a coveted seat on the Agriculture Committee. His other committee assignments were about the same as in the prior session: Contingent Accounts (Chm.); Roads, Bridges and Ferries; Printing; Penitentiary; and Legislative Library. He happily voted to confirm his Confederate comrade Jeremiah Mishoe as trial justice and his friend C. P. Quattlebaum as Supervisor of Registration. He pushed through a bill to provide for payment by the state of all costs for prosecution in criminal cases; but the measure was not ratified by the close of the session. The General Assembly enacted his bill to provide for the protection of fields and crops where the stock law was not in force. Peach Tree Ferry was rechartered. The act of last year fixing judicial districts and trial justices needed amendment; although the bill passed three readings in the Senate, it was not ratified by the end of the session. The County Commissioners were authorized to spend $1,000 for replacing and building public bridges. What a paltry sum that would seem a hundred years later.

The General Assembly unanimously elected M. C. Butler to a third six-year term as United
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States Senator; the forces of redemption and conservatism—the Straight-Outs of 1876, the "Confederate brigadiers" of Southern politics—were still firmly in control of South Carolina’s state government. During the busy session Jeremiah found time to introduce a private bill for a constituent and guide other legislation for absent colleagues. The Senate adjourned sine die at 4 A.M. December 24, 1888. The weary Jeremiah went to his bed for a short slumber and then headed homeward; he had farther to go than the others, and a harder way to travel, for Horry was still isolated from its neighbors and Socastee was remote indeed. Tardiness for the Christmas observance had become a way of life in the Smith household.

South Carolina of the 1880s was an agrarian society. The activities of a large majority of the population were determined by the constraints of the agricultural cycles. Thus, the General Assembly met in late November after the harvests had ended and before the fields were cleaned for the next growing season. The month between late November and Christmas was too short for the legislators to complete the many actions required of them. With the Constitution of 1895, the legislative session convened the second Tuesday in January. But Jeremiah was not a senator then. Had he been, the longer sessions beginning in January certainly would have interfered with Jeremiah’s farm work. Just as certainly, he would have found time to fulfill the duties of his office.

Annual pursuits other than politics were also restricted by the agrarian culture. The schools opened for short terms that did not interfere too seriously with the children’s work on the farms. In later years, as school terms lengthened, the boards devised "lay-by" schools in the rural communities. (A farmer would "lay-by" a crop when he plowed it for the last time.) Instruction stopped during the periods of intense cultivation so that pupils might work on the farms, and classes resumed after the crops were "laid by." (In my one personal conversation with the storied educator Wil Lou Graves, she talked of her work with the Horry schools, of the disruption caused by the "lay-by" schools and of her advocacy of bond issues for Horry school buildings.) Half or more of the twentieth century had passed before the country schools improved to the approximate quality of those in the towns.

The year 1889 was a pleasant time in Horry for those who enjoyed the planting, the plowing, the harvesting, the Sundays, the neighbors, the fishing, the casting and seining, the hunting, the funerals, the newborns, the kaleidoscope of happenings that filled the days and nights of the enterprising farmers. From the upcountry county of Edgefield emanated rumblings that, within two years, would transform the political shape of South Carolina. But the sounds had hardly reached the seclusion of the Independent Republic and Jeremiah was secure and happy as its political leader.

The positions of the factions hardened when the General Assembly met on the fourth Tuesday in November. The solons argued about the Clemson bequest and other programs of the oppo-
sation then forming against those in power, but the Straight-Outs were still in the majority on most issues. Jeremiah again voted for H. L. Buck when that Horryite was elected to a second term on the Board of Agriculture. He introduced a bill to regulate the freight charges of the railroads, which passed both houses. He voted in favor of a constitutional convention, and for prohibition in the towns of Central and Easley. He joined in the Clemson College debates, always with a view toward frugality.

Jeremiah gave abundant attention to the affairs of the citizens at home. His bill to incorporate Burroughs School and prohibit the sale of liquor within two miles of the site was enacted. His bill fixing the salary of the Horry County Clerk of Court was passed. A bill to charter a ferry at Wortham’s Landing and another bill to include Horry County in an earlier act for a more efficient road maintenance system passed three readings in the Senate but were not ratified. A private bill was introduced for a constituent.

The legislative routine was interrupted by the death of Jefferson Davis, late president of the Confederate States. The two houses met in joint session December 11, 1899, at the time appointed for memorial services throughout the South. Lt. Gov. Mauldin, Gen. Johnson Hagood, Col. A. C. Haskell, Gen. John Bratton, and General John D. Kennedy extolled the dead chieftain before the lawmakers.

While the orators eulogized their revered leader of the Lost Cause before the South Carolina General Assembly, Jeremiah sat with the mourners at the memorial service in New Orleans, Louisiana. He had traveled with the governor and delegations from the two houses of the General Assembly to represent the State of South Carolina at the observance. Young J. Pope of Newberry, first appointed as one of the Senate delegates, remained in Columbia while Jeremiah relished the honor of attending in his stead. Robert R. Hemphill of Abbeville, late sergeant major in Orr’s Rifles, was the other member of the Senate Committee. The House of Representatives sent: A. F. O’Brien of Colleton, a lawyer from Reevesville; I. G. McKissick, Unionville lawyer and farmer who had concluded his War service as lieutenant colonel of the Seventh South Carolina Cavalry; and John C. Haskell, a Columbia lawyer, former Confederate lieutenant colonel of Artillery and brother of Col. A. C. Haskell of the Seventh.

The delegation returned to Columbia to a full legislative calendar. The deliberations of the senators were more apt to be testy than at any time in Jeremiah’s experience, presaging an acrimonious 1890 campaign. After the adjournment at 5:15 Christmas Eve morning, Horry’s senator journeyed the tedious miles to his modest home in the hinterlands.

The year 1890 was one of the most turbulent in all of South Carolina’s political history. The agrarian agitation, begun several years before by Benjamin R. Tillman, garnered adherents as the
months rolled by. Tillman's aim to rescue the farmers from their economic depression was laudable. His proposed programs—to promote agricultural higher education for men and industrial higher education for women, abolish the lien law, regulate the railroads, and adopt a new state constitution—hardly seem revolutionary by modern precepts. Indeed, many of the principles were supported by Tillman opponents. But the Conservatives were unwilling to abolish The Citadel and cripple South Carolina College, as Tillman proposed, and many resisted the tax on fertilizer levied to support Clemson College.

Some of his proposed restraints were abhorrent to those who believed governments should be restrained instead of businesses and classes. Moreover, his detractors could not dissociate his programs from the personality of the man himself. Tillman vehemently censured state legislators and officials; he pilloried the icons of Redemption unmercifully; he appealed blatantly to prejudice and class hostility; within his power, he crushed those he could not convert and ruthlessly destroyed friend or foe who opposed him. The Conservative Democrats were ill trained to contend with such an adversary; he spoke in invectives without any of the courtliness commonly displayed between competing gentlemen. Smarting officeholders considered him a blackguard and formed solid ranks against him; in their view, nothing he advocated could be right or decent. But, Tillman attracted multitudes to his crusade, not only the farmers whom he championed but people of all classes and callings.

In spite of the noble resistance of Jeremiah and those of like bent, the Tillman crescendo reached its crest by election time, and the Edgefield farmer became governor of the state. Jeremiah was not a candidate for office—his senatorial term would last another two years—but he fiercely fought Ben Tillman and the Tillman movement, and thereby marked himself for political extinguishment. Good Horry names were listed with the Straight-Outs: Quattlebaum, Norton, Beaty, Oliver, Dusenbury, Cooper, Suggs, Rabon; but in the end they all went down before Ben's pitchfork. Upon invitation, Senator Smith debated Tillman in Conway that July, but Jeremiah could not stop the juggernaut. Nor could the venerated Hampton. Nor could the valiant Haskell. Nor could the senior U. S. senator, the heroic, one-legged Butler, who four years later would be ousted from his 1876 reward.

Tillman received the nod for governor at the 1890 Democratic state convention—without opposition but not unanimously—200 for, 40 against; and he won the general election against the splinter group led by A. C. Haskell.

Jeremiah and his friends were outnumbered by Tillmanites in the Horry county convention...
that fall. J. B. Daggett and J. B. Richardson received the Democratic nominations for Representative and won in the general election over the incumbents, Beaty and Cooper, who had bolted with Haskell. The correspondent of the News and Courier wrote of Daggett: "In the campaign just closed he espoused the cause of Capt. Tillman, and warmly advocated his nomination. His earnest work has resulted in the capture of the county from its old leader, who opposes Tillman. He will make a good member." And of Richardson: "He owes his election to his timely advocacy of the Tillman doctrine." The correspondent wrote of Senator Smith: "It goes without saying that he is a straightout Democrat, and has ever been." And so he remained! Had Jeremiah stood for election in 1890, the Horry Democratic Convention, irrefutably, would have denied him the nomination.

The Horry delegation—Senator Smith of Socastee and Representatives J. B. Williamson, a farmer of Cardel, and J. B. Daggett, a mechanic of Conway—journeyed to Columbia to attend the November 25, 1890 convening of the General Assembly. The new order of affairs was apparent from the opening gavel. All the Senate clerks and hirelings lost their sinecures to devotees of Tillman. Jeremiah retained his committee assignments and, of course, his seniority. But the deep chasm between the factions became more evident as the session progressed.

At 1 P.M. December 4, 1890, the Senate proceeded in a body to the hall of the House of Representatives, and then to the front of the State House, for the inauguration of the new governor. After the address of Governor Tillman, lasting almost two hours, the senators returned to their chamber to hear an address from their new president, Lt. Gov. Eugene B. Gary.

Jeremiah's stance toward state and local legislation did not change with the change of administration. His bill requiring the state to pay for prosecution in criminal cases passed all three readings, but was not ratified. His bill to require passenger trains to provide separate water closets for males and females on each coach received a favorable committee report, but it was indefinitely postponed. The legislature passed his bill for a referendum in Horry County to decide if the County should assume the debt of the townships in connection with the railroad. And the Senate passed his resolution to invite Columbia clergymen to open each day's session with prayer.

The legislative session of 1890 was notable because of the election of a Tillman disciple to replace the revered Hampton as United States Senator. Jeremiah was ever loyal to Hampton. The old champion had redeemed the State in 1876 and had ably and honorably represented South Carolina in the upper house of the Congress for twelve years. Even had he not favored Hampton, Jeremiah could hardly have stomach ed any protege of Tillman. But, it was a practical certainty that Hampton would be banished now that Tillman was governor and in control of a majority of the legislators. A vote of the South Carolina senators December 9th showed 14 for Hampton, 5 for the Tillman candidate J. L. M. Irby, and 15 for M. L. Donaldson. Two days lat-
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er the General Assembly met in joint session to conduct the election. Hampton’s strength among the state senators remained steadfast except that Senator Ferguson of Laurens did not vote on the first ballot and then switched to his fellow countian Irby on the ballots that followed. Bell of Aiken, Buist of Charleston, Dozier of Georgetown, Jenkins of Berkeley, Moody of Marion, Moore of Hampton, Sloan of Richland, R. M. Smith of Spartanburg, Jeremiah Smith of Horry, Smythe of Charleston, Verdier of Beaufort, Wilson of York, and Woodward of Fairfield remained resolute through all four ballots. Any doubt about Hampton’s ousting dissipated as the voting progressed. His strength did not change from first to last except for six additional House votes on the last ballot when Donaldson’s supporters succumbed to the domineering faction and Irby triumphed. The vanquished Hampton returned to his home to await the next call of his party. His conquered followers in the South Carolina Senate, Jeremiah Smith among them, sought out a photographer and posed for a group photograph.

Jeremiah returned to his Socastee home when the session ended. His youngest son, Wade, was now thirteen years old; his youngest daughter, Cora, was ten. Good wife Isabella suffered from chronic rheumatism. The crippling disease confined her to her chair during the late years of her life. There she sat and sewed and mended, while others accomplished the domestic tasks. The common illnesses of the times left her in bed too often. "I spend a lonely time in this room," she wrote to a daughter, "by myself a great deal of my time. So much work to do and I can’t do any!" She kept up a lively correspondence with her married children, urging them to write and visit. "Eliza, tell Joe we have a protracted meeting going on now [August 11, 1891] at Socastee [Methodist Church]. Don’t know how often they will have meeting until Thursday night, then Bro. Melton will be there and carry it on until Sunday. Do come down to the meeting and stay with us some."

When the Fifty-Ninth General Assembly met for its second session November 24, 1891, the expulsion of the old regime continued. This time the rejectee was W. H. Wallace, celebrated Speaker of the House of Representatives during the 1876 redemption. A vacancy had occurred on the Supreme Court and the legislators met in joint assembly to elect a judge. Young J. Pope, Tillman’s attorney general, outpolled Wallace 76 to 70. Jeremiah, predictably, voted for Wallace.

Legislation proposed by Jeremiah passed or failed, apparently, upon the perceived merits of each bill; senatorial courtesy persisted. The canny old lawmaker prevailed in the parliamentary maneuvering on a fish bill (he may have been the best fisherman in the assembly), but his bill to abolish the tax on fertilizer was defeated decisively. His bill to require separate water closets for males and females on each railroad coach passed in spite of an unfavorable committee report, but his bill to prohibit the selling of cotton except in the name of the true owner died aborning, and his resolution to inspect the ventilation in the House and Senate chambers (because of a prevalent sickness) saw no action. All of his local legislation—payment of a claim of the late sheriff, R. G.
HON. JEREMIAH SMITH of Horry

Sessions; the establishment of Peachtree Ferry vested in G. O. Delettre; and the question of the County assuming the debt of the townships in the railroad financing—received favorable Senate action, frequently over the protests of Smythe and several other perennial opponents.

The Senate adjourned sine die at 4:45 A.M. December 24, 1891, and Jeremiah began the familiar trek to Socastee, snoozing briefly while waiting for the train. Almost thirty years would pass before he would enter the Chamber again as Horry’s Senator. He was proud of his twelve years of legislative tenure and satisfied that he had represented his constituents well. His people were content with his service too, although the winds of change had irreparably weakened the group with whom he had chosen to associate himself, and his own expulsion was imminent. Until the fall election of 1892, Jeremiah would continue in office and respond to the local duties of his senatorial position.

The advent of Tillmanism, and intraparty fighting that ensued among the Democrats, extended the 1892 season of active campaigning. The county convention met in early May (the ticket for delegates had been predecided), and the Democratic canvass began by late spring. State office seekers came to Conway in June to solicit the votes and support of Horryites.

Jeremiah ran for the U. S. House of Representatives. The futile race ended in his mortifying defeat. Chagrinned at the rejection by his own people, even in his native county, Jeremiah withdrew from the lists and retired to his Socastee home. For the first time in more than two decades he was a private citizen with no public responsibilities beyond those of any other inhabitant of Horry County.

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$100.00 Rec'd of Jeremiah Smith Executors
of the estate of C. J. Harlow Dec
4th mo. 1892

Twelve Dollars my fee for this
Return May 20, 1892

Wm. E. Hardman
Probate Judge H.C.