

ZACHARY SMITH BROOKS.

Capt. Zachary Smith Brooks I remember seeing often in my youth and early manhood. Zoar Methodist church, Persimmon Creek, as it was then called, was one to which I frequently went in my youth. Col. Brooks was a regular attendant. For many years, if my memory is not at fault here, his was the only carriage in all that part of the country, and the only one seen at that meeting house. It then seemed to me to be a very grand sort of life to be able to ride to church in a two horse carriage with a servant driving. And then when the carriage stopped to have him to let the steps down and help the master out! I remember the horses were bay, with nicked tails, as was the fashion in those days. I believe the first time I ever shook hands with Col. Brooks was at a Baptist camp meeting at or near Mt. Ebron. Carriages and buggies became quite common in that community after awhile and the good old fashion of riding horseback to church gradually gave way, though it is not entirely abandoned yet. Horseback riding has its advantages—it gave young folks such splendid opportunities of cutting one another out, which, I dare say, the girls enjoyed, but some of the boys, especially those who were cut out, did not.

In the same general region of country, not far from Persimmon Creek, settled Crawford Perry and the Merchants, whose names are still well known in that community. The Barneses also came in at an early day. There was also a Captain John Hamilton and his brother Edward. These, however, did not come to Edgefield until after the Revolutionary War. Of this I am not right sure. Captain Hamilton was an officer in the British army, serving under his brother Col. Hamilton, who commanded a regiment in the left wing of the army at the Battle of Camden and aided greatly in the defeat of the Americans. These Hamiltons were Scotch, but they had been living in South Carolina—Lee, in his memoirs, says Norfolk, Virginia—engaged in mercantile pursuits before the war, but, unfortunately, took the wrong side in the contest, as many good men did. At their death they left very little property. I know of no descendants.