

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Glimpse in Time: March 1904

No news is good news, so goes the adage. But a little news was better than no news in the early 1900s when the only source of societal news and information for rural communities was the newspaper.

Who visited a neighbor, who received a guest, and who traveled afar? Who was feeling poorly, whose health was improving, and who passed away? What special events happened? Did pastors preach at the appointed time? Did bad weather harm houses or barns? How were crops progressing? Were planting and harvesting on schedule?

These were matters of interest to Bucklesberrians more than a century ago as springtime unfolded in 1904. On March 8, in particular, unusual activity was reported for both the Jenny Lind area and Bucklesberry in general. Many people identified in these columns have descendants who reside in greater La Grange today:

1904, March 8: "Jenny Lind Items. Miss Sallie Williams and Mr. Major Herring attended a party at Mr. Hughe White's last Friday night. Miss Eliza Herring and Mr. Leon Wiggins attended a party at Mr. Hughe White's last Friday night. Mr. Duffy Hines, who has been visiting his sister, Mrs. Delia Dawson, returned to his home in Martin County Sunday. Miss Mollie Wiggins and Mrs. Eugene Herring visited at Mr. Issac Lane's Sunday. Mr. J[ohn] W. Foss and Miss Effie Dawson visited at Mr. John A. Sutton's Sunday. Miss Sallie Williams, who has been visiting her grandfather, Mr. Franklin Herring, returned to her home in Johnston County, Saturday. Mrs. Delia Dawson continues to be very feeble. Farmers are badly behind with work on account of unfavorable weather. Shad are as scarce up here as hen's teeth. Messrs. J[ohn] W. Foss and Seth Dawson intend to put in their seine as soon as the Neuse [River] gets low enough. Rev. A. E. Rouse filled his appointment at White Oat Grove [Church], Sunday and Sunday night. Expect before long the wedding bells will be ringing in our neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pelletier visited her mother, Mrs. Delia Dawson Saturday night and Sunday. Mr. Simon Foss, of La Grange, visited at Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Ivey's Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Herron, of La Grange, visited his sister, Mrs. Anna Ivey, Sunday. Miss Ada and Mr. Dee Dawson, of Falling Creek, visited at Mrs. Delia Dawson's Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Lubie Measley visited at Mr. Louis Foss' Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Rouse visited at Mr. Jesse Rouse's Saturday night and Sunday. Rev. Louis Foss preached at Dail's School House on Sunday." (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston)

1904, March 8: "Bucklesberry Items. Miss Winnie Hatch, of Mt. Olive, is visiting at Mr. L[eonidas] J. Moore's. Rev. A. E. Rouse filled his regular appoint at [White] Oak Grove [Church]

Sunday and also Sunday night. Messers. K[irby] E[dward] Sutton and Flavius Allen, of La Grange, visited at Mr. A[lbert] H[ardy] Sutton's Friday night. Mr. Johnnie Benton and sisters, Misses Lucy and Bettie, visited relatives near La Grange Sunday. Messers. Emmett Roberson and Paul Kinsey, of La Grange, visited at Mr. J[ohn] T[homas] Barwick's Sunday evening. Mr. James R. Daly and sister, Miss Sudie, of Seven Springs, visited at J[ohn] W[illiam] Sutton's Sunday. Mr. Joe Rouse, of Strabane, visited at Mr. B[en] H[ardy] Sutton's Sunday. Miss Lula Wells, of Pikeville, visited Miss Hepsie Sutton Saturday night and Sunday. Mr. G[eorge] W[illis, Jr.] Rouse, of Strabane, visited Mr. Julius [Eri] Sutton Sunday. Farmers are getting badly behind with their work owing so much rainy weather. Mr. Walter Sutton, of La Grange, visited at Mr. J[ohn] W[illiam] Sutton's Sunday evening. Mr. Joe Kinsey, of La Grange, was in our vicinity a few hours last week. Mr. Herman Sutton is paying havoc with the hawks. He has killed nine for the past two months. Now somebody beat that! Mr. Esdras Elmore killed a fine wild turkey last week." (*The Daily Free Press*)