

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Summertime 1882

Down South, the scorching sun and high humidity make the summer heat almost unbearable at times. Imagine what it was like back in the day when there was no air conditioning, let alone electricity to power a simple fan that could provide relief from the sweltering heat.

The summer of 1882, however, brought more than hot temperatures. Local newspapers were replete with sizzling social news about La Grange and surrounding areas. Then-reporter Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904) of Bucklesberry published ten news pieces on community happenings and events during the months of June, July, and August.

A dedicated journalist, S. I. wrote about the honest news of the day. From crops and weather, to schools and business, to weddings and deaths, even politics, S. I. covered the gamut of interests, sometimes coloring it with his own commentary. Two of S. I.'s summertime 1882 news articles are reprinted below:

1882, June 9: "D. C. Murchison has returned from his Florida trip. Mr. Edwards [of Edwards and Murchison] is still absent. Mr. W. H. Elmore and Mrs. Nancy Barwick were married at Hickory Grove Church on Sunday, 4th instant. S. I. Sutton, Esq. made the two 'one flesh.' Hughie, youngest son of B. H. and Christiana Sutton, died on Monday, 5th instant. The little one suffered for weeks, but has gone where the weary are at rest. C. S. Wooten left for Wake Forest on Monday last. He will deliver an address at the College on Thursday. Joseph Kinsey is on a visit to Raleigh. He will visit Peace Institute, and may extend his trip to other important schools of the State. The first ripe peach of the season in this section was gathered from the orchard of your correspondent [Samuel Ivey Sutton] on the 4th instant. Crops have improved some. Rain last week, and a few warm days, brought them out, but the present cold snap is throwing them back again. Davis' School closed last Friday. The speaking [recitations, etc.] of the boys came off Thursday night. Friday, Mr. Murray, of Wilson, delivered the address, and the members of the Washington Society spoke. Friday night the concert was given. Business prevented me from being present, so can't give particulars. Miss Belle Paris, of La Grange, and Mr. — Braswell, of Halifax, were married on the 31st of last month. The marriage ceremonies took place at the Methodist Church in this place, Rev. John Paris, D. D., father of the bride, officiating. The church was beautifully decorated, and many friends witnessed the imposing ceremony." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1882, June 17: "Wheat cutting is in full blast. Threshing will commence in a week or so. The grain is badly damaged by rust in some places. Cotton continues to be backward. It is believed to

be at least three weeks later than last year, with a very poor stand. Rev. G. W. Sanderlin reports 15 acres planted in the famous Ozler cotton, highly manured with stable manure, acid phosphate and kainit. He says this cotton is ahead of his other in growth and appearance. Mrs. S. I. Wooten sent McDonald, the seedsman of this place, the finest cabbage seen in this section this season. It was firmly headed and weighed five pounds and five ounces. The steam engine attached to the brick machine near this place, was fired again this morning, and another effort was made at making bricks. I have not learned of the stresses. Heretofore the enterprise has been a failure. A party went to Seven Springs to picnic today. Some of our town people who visited that place quite often last season, have not paid their first visit this year. It is reported that W. M. Nettles will leave for Florida today. There seems to be a Florida fever about here just now. How long it will continue, and with what effect remains to be seen. Since the school commencements, business has been very dull in town. Some of the merchants kill time by 'boxing' dog's tails. They should remember the fate of the man with the first crackers, about Christmas time." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)