

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Summertime 1882 (Part 3)

Neighborhood news abounded in the summer of 1882. Bucklesberrian and townsman, Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904), then-contributor to several local newspapers, reported a variety of happenings and events from the greater La Grange area:

1882, July 18: "A Falling Creeker seems to have taken a great liking to our town [La Grange]. Maybe we shall hear more from him in a short while. Rev. Mr. Mann passed through this place Friday on his way to Piney Grove [Church, Seven Springs] where he held the Quarterly Conference of his church Saturday and Sunday. A big trial Saturday evening over a little [child] for stealing a little purse with a little money in it. So far as I heard, there was but little positive evidence that he did it. Bound over to court. Three young gentlemen of La Grange, after having made engagements to take some young ladies to the Springs last Sunday were unable to secure vehicles. Guess they took advantage of the occasion in calling for an explanation. Frank Rouse came to town Saturday on a visit to his father. When about two miles from town he noticed that his horse appeared to be much jaded. In one hour after he arrived here, the horse was dead. Some said the disease was colic, others that it was inflammation of the bowels. Simeon Wooten has sold his store and lot attached for two thousand five hundred dollars. He purchased this property five or six years ago for one thousand two hundred, an increase of over one hundred percent, the sale was made to J. S. Wooten of this county and Shade Wooten of Greene [County], who will open a full stock of general merchandise next fall. The seasons are very favorable to crops. Corn and cotton are doing well, where proper attention has been given. I saw, last Friday, crops in bad condition for want of work, on which account the land cannot yield a full crop. Bad farming is injurious, not only to the tiller and owner of the soil, but to the entire community. A 'hubnub' among...[some] on the streets Saturday about a watch from the pocket of James Barrow. Upon enquiry, Barrow did not own one, but he had on a vest that was used by his brother, who did. His brother's was brass, and so was the one in May's possession. Constable Waters got hold of the time piece and informed May that he would retain it, till his taxes were paid. It is a bad wind that blows nobody good." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1882, July 26: "Bob Joyner was seen the other day trying to get up a funeral—playing with the tail of a young mule. Rain has been excessively plentiful for some days. It is good for corn, but may push cotton too fast. In some places grass still abounds. A. A. Rouse was contracted to move the old store on the John Bizzell lot, to a lot purchased by K. E. Bizzell on the south side of the Railroad. The meeting of Co. C., 27th North Carolina Regiment advertised for Saturday 20th inst., has been postponed to the 1st Saturday in August, at which time the members are requested to meet in this place. 'The times change and men change with them,' and I believe men change

with their occupation. If you should see Capt. Jake in his fatigue suit, he has every appearance of a regular engineer. The new firm, J. S. Wooten and Shade Wooten, has procured the services of E. W. Bizzell as clerk. 'Lige' has clerked a number of years in 'the city' and stands second to none in the place in that capacity. He will accompany the 'bosses,' in their trip North this fall. If any attempt has been made to get up a Liberal or Greenback Party in this place, it has been unsuccessful thus far. A very few among us try to talk Greenbackism, but these few are not of us—the Democrats—they come from the other side, and we don't propose to be 'bamboozled' by them. D. C. Murchison, of Edwards & Murchison, represents insurance companies in North Carolina, Virginia, and elsewhere. He proposes to insure gins and other property on living terms to all. He is also agent for several gins and presses which he proposes to sell at factory prices, freight added. Thursday, of last week, was used by a number of the La Grangeites and citizens on the south side of Neuse in a picnic way at Seven Springs. 'Old Man Bob' and Mrs. Old Man Bob, Connway (Groceries) and Mrs. Connway, who were so profuse in their visits to the Springs last year, two of them under different names, were present. Rev. B. W. Nash held the quarterly Association of Baptists [meeting] at Hickory Grove [Church] last Saturday and Sunday. His service as pastor is appreciated by a large number of the congregation at that place. The *Baptist Review* of which Mr. Nash is editor, strongly, and rightly too, advocates prohibition. It is not right in that organ, however, to assume that the Democratic party has been, or is now, responsible for the failure of prohibition. They, the Democrats, propose to let it remain where the people themselves have placed it. The Republicans, I believe, assume the cause of anti-prohibition. When the Englishes in North Carolina show their hand, where will the [*Baptist*] *Review* be found politically? Many favor prohibition, but would prefer it straight without politics." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)