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Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Glimpse in Time: November 1882

Among his many talents, Bucklesberrian, Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904) was a noted journalist. Called an itemizer, he regularly reported happenings in the prominent, well-known community of Bucklesberry and La Grange in the 1880s.

S. I. occasionally shared news from White Hall (Seven Springs) and Falling Creek, both part of broader Bucklesberry at the time. Reprinted here are three of his reports posted 138 years ago this month:

1882, November 1: "The candidates are here today, Monday. Crowd small. Will report in my next [column]. D. M. Stanton has an office fitted up at the post office. Mr. Stanton is agent for several popular brands of fertilizers. Another child, Herman [Sr., 1875-1958], son of Julius [1847-1925] and Nancy Sutton [1857-1929], has been dangerously sick of throat disease. His condition was some better at last account..." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1882, November 15: "Sheriff [James K.] Davis was in the burg on Saturday. W. L. Hardy in Trent township, lost a child last week to erysipelas, so I learn. Cotton 9 5-16, corn 50 cents, wheat seed, \$1.25, eggs 15 cents, N.C. bacon, none in market. J[ames] K[earney] Driver has a child seriously ill of sore throat. Dr. Kirkpatrick says it is caused by disordered liver. Another shooting affair at White Hall [i.e., Seven Springs] last Saturday night. O. K. Uzzell was shot at twice by William G. Davis. Nobody hurt. W. B. Walters, the township constable, has been appointed town policeman, and now wears the proper emblem of his office. He promises to be a terror to the vulgar and profane. The recent election news, so favorable to the Republicans, has produced quite a change in countenance and conduct of many of the 'truly loyal.' One is reminded of the sunshine after a summer shower. The Falling Creek mills, owned by Mr. J. T. Askew, and under the management of Messrs. Fields and Holland, have been overhauled and thoroughly repaired. Mr. B. F. Aldridge, who did the work, has had considerable experience in building and repairing mills, and pronounces them in fine order....Complaints are being made in the Bucklesbery section about hog thieves. Thomas Sutton [1826-1894], a prosperous farmer in that place, says that he loses about one a month, and that in order to make his meat he has to keep nearly twice the quantity necessary. William [Harmon, Sr.] Sutton [1832-1903] had one stolen last week in the same locality. The thieves had better beware. More is known about them than they have knowledge of." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1882, November 22: "Saturday was a cold, rainy day. Cotton sold last week as high as 9.47. Still distressingly low to eaters of Western pork, time customers and those in debt generally. A

marriage was to have taken place in Bucklesberry on Sunday evening, but at last accounts the male end of the contract had not come to time....The heaviest hog of the season up to date, was killed by Capt. Harper last week. Weight, 495 lbs. The Captain is some on porkers as well as long rice heads. Thieves like a change of diet. The last raid in Bucklesberry was on Joe [Josiah, Jr.] Sutton's turkeys. Joe thought he 'smelt a mouse,' and was on the scout Saturday evening. Ben Hughes tarried in town late Friday night, and when he went for his team, there was no team to be found. Strict search was made in various directions but they had not been found at last accounts. It is reported that the gin house of James Wood of Wayne, was burned last Tuesday. The origin of the fire, the amount of cotton lost and if there was any insurance, I have not learned. A canvass across the street, near R. B. Kinsey's, with the picture of a fish and the name B. E. Willis, shows the spot where fish and oysters may be had especially on Saturdays. The Itemizer is now laboring under the effects of an overbait of the bivalvular part of his stock." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)