

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Thanksgiving 1883 (Part 2)

Journalist, Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904) reported on happenings in his native community of Bucklesberry and greater La Grange in the 1880s. He filed three reports over the two-week period around Thanksgiving Day (November 29) of 1883. The first report was presented in the previous Bucklesberry article. The final two reports are reprinted here:

1883, November 28: "'Cotton is little off,' sayeth the buyer. Rev. C. J. Nelson preached in the Baptist church in this place [La Grange] last Sunday. Carson Cobbs, of Greene County, had his gin house burned last Saturday, together with about four bales of cotton. The fire was caused by sparks from the engine. No insurance. N[oa]h J. Rouse, Esq. had a runaway last Saturday night. The horse started forward before entirely free from the buggy, became frightened and ran, doing considerable damage to the buggy. Rev. J. D. Cavanaugh filled his appointment at Hickory Grove [Church, Bucklesberry] last Saturday and Sunday. I learned that the congregation was large on Tuesday, and that he is making a very favorable impression on the people. So mote it be. Two rows in town Saturday, in both of which attempts were made to use the knife, so I hear. No serious damage was done. A little more stringent police regulations would have a wholesome effect in such cases, and put a stop to such disgusting conduct of drunken men as was committed here on Friday. Rev. J. D. Carpenter...of this circuit M[ethodist] E[piscopal] Church, will leave for Statesville tomorrow (Tuesday) to attend the Annual State Conference of his church. Mr. Carpenter has been here for twelve months, and has, by his piety, zeal and ability, won to himself many warm friends, who hope for and expect his return to this field. Thomas Dawson died at his residence in Lenoir Institute township, this county, on the 24th inst., in the 64th year of his age. Mr. Dawson had long been a true and faithful member of the [Bear Creek] Primitive Baptist Church and was a dedicated Christian. In his family he was one of the kindest of husbands and best of fathers. His life as a citizen was beyond reproach. A true Christian, a loving companion and father and a peaceful citizen has died. His afflictions were long and severe, but: 'Servant of God, well done! Rest from thy loved employ. The battle fought, the victory won. Enter thy Master's joy! The voice at midnight came; He started up to hear; A mortal arrow pierced his frame, He fell but felt no fear. The pains of death are past, Labor and sorrow cease, And life's long warfare closed at last, His soul is found at peace.'" (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1883, December 5: "Business in town [La Grange] was a little lively Saturday. It is not expected to last long. Rev. Mr. Isler filled his regularly monthly appointment here last Saturday and Sunday night. Headquarters for Santa Claus this season in this place, judging from present appearances, will be at Kinsey's [General Store]. Sheriff [James] Davis, N[oa]h J. Rouse, J. R. Uzzell, Esqrs., of Kinston, and C. C. Taylor of the JOURNAL were here Saturday. Wheat

sowing is now going on among the farmers. A large crop should be put in; it comes in mighty nice, and plenty of grain is a sure remedy 'for pups' will kill all the bad effects of the no fence law, and make cotton bring a better price. Jefferies, the bridge-builder, says the new [Hardy Road] bridge across Neuse River [Bucklesberry] will be completed by the last of this week. This will be a new starting point with the citizens in the upper portion of our county. Heretofore there has been but little communication between the people on the north and south sides of the River, and those of the south side, in that section, have been deprived of a nearness to the railroad to which they were justly entitled. Now the chasm is about to be spanned, communication will be easy, the convenience will be great and good results will follow. The opposition to obtaining county help to this enterprise has been considerable, and the people of the two sections have had to make no little sacrifice to get a bridge, but we will try to forget the unkindness of those who opposed and almost ridiculed us for asking public aid, and be content with the little received, and the completion of the work." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)