

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Winter 1890-1891 (Part 2)

The winter of 1890-1891 was one of the coldest on record. Reported abroad, the Northeastern U.S. was hammered with frigid weather that season:

1890, December 30: "Rigorous winter in America...Bitterly cold weather is being experienced in many parts of the United States, and in the state[s] of New England traffic is suspended upon the railways owing to the trains being snow-bound." (*The Argus*, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia)

The Midwestern U.S. also faced extreme wintry conditions. At the Wounded Knee Massacre on December 29, 1890, historian Christopher Klein recollected, "Life for the Sioux had become as bleak as the weather that gripped the snow-dusted prairies of South Dakota in the winter of 1890," (www.history.com, 2018).

To a much greater extent, countries on the other side of the world endured a remarkably long, intense winter from November 25, 1890 to January 22, 1891 that finally broke by the end of January:

1891, January 28: "Western Europe is beginning to thaw. The longest cold spell in history is drawing to a close." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

Winter in Bucklesberry was not nearly as severe. Reports from surrounding towns of Goldsboro and New Bern documented a range of temperatures, from warm enough to plant in early-December, to a cold wave in mid-December that interrupted holiday shopping, to beautiful weather by Christmas Day.

New Years Day 1891 brought cold rain to the community. Fair weather returned in mid-January, allowing farmers to resume work in the fields. The final days of January saw inclement conditions that temporarily halted farming progress, only to be followed by fair weather once more by early-February:

1891, January 30: "The 'falling weather' yesterday broke in on the pre-planting operations of truckers of this vicinity, but there is time enough yet to plant." (*Goldsboro Daily Argus*)

1891, February 5: "The weather yesterday was cool and windy throughout the whole day....The truck farmers of this section are now taking advantage of the fair weather, and making active preparation for planting pease [peas]..." (*Goldsboro Daily Argus*)

By the end of February, Bucklesberry and nearby towns experienced a cold snap that somewhat mirrored the epic winter of 1890-1891 encountered in other parts of the world:

1891, February 27: "The telegraphic news from Richmond yesterday afternoon reported a heavy snow storm raging in that city and a driving sleet North of it. So we may look for a change hereabouts in consequence, and probably some real winter experiences....may [we] be spared the ordeal of a long and killing spell of cold weather at this late day..." (*Goldsboro Daily Argus*)

1891, March 1: "The cold snap, from yesterday's press reports, seem[s] to have extended all along the Eastern coast, where our chief fruit crops are grown....Sensational alarms about the destruction of our important fruit crops are so common that they are seldom heeded, but we fear that there is only too much reason to believe that a general scarcity of our most important Summer fruits will be made inevitable by the present Winter spell." (*Goldsboro Daily Argus*)