

# Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

## Labor Day 1882

Happenings that occurred around Labor Day Monday, September 4, 1882 in Bucklesberry and La Grange centered on merchants, farming, weather, college students, politics and the passing of a local citizen. Reprinted here are items reported in the local newspaper that week:

1882, September 6: "Rev. G. W. Sanderlin was in town Saturday, the first time in some weeks. It is also rumored, that one or two additional bar rooms are to be opened in this place in the near future. J. S. Bizzell contemplates opening a hardware store, at the old drug store, about the first of October. K. E. and W. Bizzell are occupying their new stand on West Caswell street. John D. Walters & Co. are at the store vacated by them. Sim[eon] Wooten has moved to the store formerly occupied by Hines and Gray. J. S. and Shade Wooten are opening a new stock at Sim[eon]'s old stand."

"Freeman Smith's houses have been removed to a lot on the railroad in front of Murchison's [Store]. It is rumored that Simeon Wooten, the purchaser of Smith's lot, will build three large stores on that lot."

"A heavy rainfall on Monday night, in a portion of this county, Greene and Wayne, raising Bear Creek to overflowing, washing away bridges, etc. About fifty feet of the dam at Joyner's [later Alexander Sutton's] mill was washed away."

"C. L. Koonce for a long time clerk in the firm of Edwards & Murchison, expects to leave this place about the middle of this month, for Florida. W. M. Nettles, and it may be others, will follow sometime during the fall or winter."

"Cotton picking, if the weather is favorable, will commence in a few days. There is always a difference of opinion as to the crop. Some express an opinion that it will be better than last year, while others say that it is not so good."

"Mr. Dunn, Republican candidate for Clerk, was up Saturday, attending I suppose to the disaffected Republicans about here. If Coleman enters the field as an independent, Billy won't get all the Republican votes here, so say some of the voters."

"Miss Effie Rouse and Miss Delia Dawson, accompanied by N. J. Rouse and James Dawson, left here last week for Raleigh. Misses Rouse and Dawson are students at Peace Institute [College]."

Mr. Rouse is at [University of North Carolina] Chapel Hill pursuing the studies of his profession, and Mr. Dawson has returned to the city and may be found at his post at Dillon's."

"The Democrats held a meeting here Saturday. The meeting was not largely attended, but the business was transacted decently and in order. Delegates were elected to the county convention, viz: S. I. Wooten, S. I. Sutton, C. W. Joyner, G. L. Taylor and O. K. W. Howard, C. W. Joyner. M. H. Wooten, S. I. Sutton, Noah Rouse and G. L. Taylor were elected a township executive committee. M. H. Wooten was recommended as a suitable person to represent the county [Lenoir] in next Legislature, C. S. Wooten was recommended for the Senate, and E. W. Bizzell for Superior Court Clerk. John L. Hardy was nominated for Township Constable."

"Died at the residence of her husband, Josiah Sutton [Jr.], near La Grange [Bucklesberry], on the night of the 29th of last month. Martha Sutton, age 51 years. The deceased was, and had been for many years, a member of the Disciples Church and was a true and faithful Christian. Her daily walk through life was such as to leave no doubt in the minds of those who knew her, as to her happiness now. The husband has lost a kind and loving wife, the children a devoted mother, the community a good woman, and the church a Christian..." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)