

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Holy Week 1883

Born and reared in Bucklesberry, La Grange townsman Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904) was a news reporter in his spare time during the 1880s. A charter member of Hickory Grove Church, S. I. was keenly aware it was holy week when he filed his "La Grange News" column on March 19, 1883.

Predictably, much of the news he reported that week leading up to Easter Sunday on March 25 focused on area churches and preachers. Excerpts from S. I.'s column follow:

"Rev. G[eorge] W[ashington] Sanderlin was in town Friday and Saturday."

"Services at the M[ethodist] E[piscopal] Church Sunday by pastor. Large attendance."

"Rev. B[ushrod] W[ashington] Nash, editor of the Baptist Review of Goldsboro, was in town Sunday. He served the congregation at Hickory Grove [Baptist Church] on that day."

"Friday night the pastor of the M[ethodist] E[piscopal] Church in this place received, as he deserved, a heavy "pounding." The circumstances were as follows: About forty of the citizens of the place, without regard to sex, age or otherwise, met at the residence of one of our townspeople and being armed with such things as the kind people furnished, proceeded to the parsonage, unceremoniously entered and proceeded at once to the work. The parson meekly submitted to the laying on, which is said to have been heavy, and when quiet was restored closed the occasion with praise and prayer. [Rev.] Mr. Carpenter has been here but a short time, but during that time, many have become endeared to him and his good lady for their earnest and zealous efforts in the protracted meeting just closed. Below is Mr. Carpenter's appreciation of the matter."

"Mr. Editor: Will you please allow me a few lines in your excellent paper, to give an account of the generosity of the citizens of La Grange. On the evening of the 16th inst., forty persons—ladies, gentlemen and little children—came to the parsonage of La Grange Circuit, M. E. Church, South. Each one brought a token of friendship, a bundle of nice refreshments. Some of them were large packages—all precious and valuable. The 'pounding' articles consisted of flour, ham, sausage, cake, canned fruit, sugar, coffee, rice, batter, peanuts, candies, raisins, soap, matches glassware, nails, and many other, articles too tedious to mention."

"If the people of La Grange constitute a fair sample of Lenoir County, which I do not question, I will venture to say that no county in the State is superior to Lenoir in showing kindness to clergy

men. Various Christian denominations bore a part in this surprise expedition. The children, my better-half, and myself were overcome with gratitude for the above expression of La Grange kindness."

"After a few remarks by the writer, and singing by the friends, we bowed in prayer to Almighty God. Then some left, some remained longer, and some said they were happy. Surely no town or circuit in the North Carolina [M. E. Church, South] Conference surpasses La Grange village and circuit in kindness to the preacher. J[ames] D[de Lafayette] Carpenter, La Grange, March 17th, '83." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)