

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

This Week in May 1882

Of the many significant periods in history, this week in May 1882 was certainly not among them. Even sensational news was virtually absent. Only two national events were noted by managing editor James Graham of onthisday.com.

One was the tenth running of the Preakness in Baltimore, MD on May 27, 1882. Jockey Tom Costell grabbed the win aboard racehorse Vanguard. The other event was an unseasonably rare six-inch snowfall in Iowa on May 23, 1882.

The most notable State headline this week in May 1882 was the closing and cleanup of the commemoration of the 1775 pre-Revolutionary War Mecklenberg Declaration of Independence. Some 20,000 people joined then Gov. Thomas Jordan Jarvis (1836-1915) and other dignitaries for the gala affair on May 20, 1882.

Locally in Lenoir County, happenings reported by Bucklesberrian and La Grange townsman Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1843-1904) were generally unremarkable as well. S. I. often wrote about topics of personal interest, including crime (he was a Magistrate and Justice of the Peace during the 1880s) and politics (he ran for a seat in the NC House of Representatives in 1876). True to form, S. I.'s May 24, 1882 "La Grange News" column in *The Daily Journal*, New Bern, referenced both topics:

"If John Reed has made a correct report, there is a man in town who is hard to beat eating strawberries. John says that he eat three quarts at one sitting."

"Sickness still continues. A son of Julius [Eri] Sutton is quite sick with bilious fever, also an infant of Ben. H. Sutton is dangerously sick with bowel disease."

"L. J. Edwards and D. C. Murchison are on a trip to Florida. They purchased a small tract of land in that State some years ago, and may have gone thither looking after their interest in that quarter."

"To give a correct idea as to the number of fruit tree agents about here, a gentleman from the country was in town, and seeing a stranger passing down the street inquired if that was an apple tree agent. The stranger was the engineer of the freight train."

"It is reported that it has been a custom of certain drunken rowdies on leaving town on Saturday evening to fire off pistols and to otherwise act in a lawless and offensive manner. Last Saturday this conduct was repeated. Several pistol shots were fired in front of J[ohn] W[illiam] Sutton's and Fred. Field's. A lady was terribly frightened at Mr. Sutton's, and something serious may be the result. Let the town authorities be up and doing."

"We frequently hear complaints about party rings and machine politics, or that a party is run by a few, for their own purposes. There is no doubt but much of this is done. The cause is, that many stay at home, (and these in most instances are the best element of the party) and take no active part in selecting candidates, or in shaping the campaign. The remedy is, let all, and especially those who complain and think matters badly managed, attend all meetings and see that the interest of the party is attended to, and not that of individuals."