

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

This Week in June 1883

One hundred forty years ago this week, local news in Bucklesberry and greater La Grange focused on crops, sickness, construction, school closures, a childish assault, a stray cow, and a sad case of mental illness. Reprinted in full here is the "La Grange News" column published June 21, 1883 in *The Daily Journal* of New Bern:

"The corn crop is fine, and is growing rapidly."

"C[ouncil] S. Wooten, Esq. returned from New Berne Saturday."

"The grain of the wheat crop now being cut is said to be good."

"Sickness in the county is not abating. One morning last week Dr. [Jacob Milton] Hadley received two calls before breakfast."

"Dr. John S. Bizzell has returned from Goldsboro to this place [La Grange], and will make it his place of business, for the present at least."

"Glad to hear favorable reports in regard to stock in the no-fence districts. The tax listing now going on shows that the hogs are more valuable than at last year's listing."

"Three new public roads are to be laid off in this township during next week. A plenty of good public roads, school houses and churches, speak well for the moral and financial condition of a country."

"Jesse Whitfield assaulted Jesse Moore in this place last week. Some licks were passed but nobody seriously hurt. The Mayor took charge of the case, judgment, both guilty. Whitfield fined two dollars and cost, Moore a penny and cost."

"Occasionally a cow strays off, on mischief bent, and is not 'penned.' During the night, when all slumbered and slept, the stray one enters someone's roasting-ear patch. When the fact is learned next and the corn man sees all hopes of a mess blasted, he uses some hard words and makes bad wishes against the stock law man."

"Since vacation began our town shows a deserted appearance. The ladies are nearly all gone, and this always takes off the young gents; and the young gents are nearly all gone, and this takes

away the young ladies. Even the principals of the schools (all of them young gentlemen) are putting on flying arena airs. I don't know what ails Murphy, but somehow he has much travel, and it's all East of this place."

"Our town was a little agitated Thursday evening by Mrs. Nancy – being on the streets in a deranged condition. It has been suspected for some time that Mrs. –'s mind was giving way and on that evening her conduct was such as to leave no doubt. Policeman Carter took her in charge and she was confined till Friday evening. Saturday morning an examination was had, which showed that she was insane and a fit subject for the Insane Asylum. Her physical condition is such, however, as to forbid her being removed to that institution for the present. She is now in the custody and care of her relatives."