

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Extreme Animals

Featured on television, Internet videos, and books for young and old, extreme animals have lived on earth since God created the world. During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, interesting accounts of animals in extreme situations were reported among Bucklesberrians:

1883, July 12: "The *Free Press* asks can any Lenoir County farmer make the same statement as 'one of Nash County's most successful farmers.' Yes, Thomas Sutton, a farmer for over twenty-five years in the Bucklesberry section of this township, has never bought a pound of meat or lard, nor one bushel of corn or wheat, or one pound of flour, for his own use, and now has a goose with her second brood of goslings hatched by her from eggs laid by her this spring. It is rarely the case when a friend cannot get a barrel of corn or ham or bacon from him. The *Wilson Advance* will have to trot out another man." (*New Berne Weekly Journal*)

1901, May 6: "Messrs. W. L. Kennedy and Dempsey Wood, of Falling Creek, and Mr. Tom Martin, of Durham, are at Ft. Myers, fishing for tarpon. Mr. Wood, in a letter to Mr. John F. Mewborne, says: 'The sport is grand. On May 1st we caught three very large ones. Mr. Kennedy's weighed 157 pounds; Mr. Martin's 155 pounds; mine 157 pounds.'" (*Kinston Free Press*, cited in *The Durham Sun*)

1902, August 4: "Master Phil Moore has a large owl in a chicken coop on exhibition in front of his father's store. The owl is one of the largest that has been brought to Kinston in years. It was caught in the Bucklesberry section near Falling Creek. It caught seventeen chickens, though, before entrapped in steel." (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston)

1903, June 2: "Mad dogs are very numerous in our neighborhood [Bucklesberry]. Mr. Herman Sutton killed one recently, and Miss Bettie Sutton's fine shepherd dog went mad and probably did some serious damage, as it bit Sylvester Wooten....We haven't learned of further damage as yet. We hope no one else was bitten. The dog was killed." (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston)

1903, June 19: "Mr. W[illiam] L[ee] Herring tells of a very remarkable shot made by him recently with a shotgun, by which three chicken snakes were killed, measuring 21 feet, an average of seven feet." (*Kinston Free Press*, cited in *The Wilmington Morning Star*)

1909, October 13: "Mr. Dempsey Wood, of Kinston, who has been on a fishing trip to Oriental, was a visitor in the city [New Bern] yesterday. He was exhibiting a large sea turtle weighing about fifty pounds, which he caught with a small hook and line while there. After seeing the

turtle it seemed rather impossible for it to have been hooked with anything less than a spike or something similar." (*New Bern Journal*, cited in *The News and Observer*, Raleigh)

1914, May 16: "Last Thursday a [man] killed a bald eagle near Hickory Grove Church in Bucklesberry, that measured 7 feet from tip to tip and weighed 11 pounds. He had claws that contracted measured 2 inches in length and when extended would reach 7 inches. It is the first bird of this species seen in these parts in some time, and it was generally believed that they had become extinct. For some time the farmers in this vicinity have been suffering the loss of young animals, and it is believed that the eagle was the cause of the disappearance. When exhibited on our street he attracted quite a deal of attention." (*La Grange Sentinel*, cited in *The Charlotte News*)

More about extreme animals will be shared in the next Bucklesberry article.