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Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

This Week in August 1885

No news of national significance occurred in the U.S. one hundred thirty-eight years ago this week. Internationally, however, two countries made history. On August 14, 1885, Britain raised the age of consent from 13 to 16, thereby helping protect children from prostitution, and Japan awarded its first patent for a rust-proof paint.

In Bucklesberry and greater La Grange, local news this week in 1885 was typically less eventful. Reprinted here is the "La Grange Items" column published August 16, 1885 in *The Daily Journal*, New Bern, NC:

"Papa Shade Fields, and it is not a boy either.

Jos[eph] A. Paris returned from a visit to Tarboro last Thursday.

We are sorry to hear that Mrs. Henry Fields is again quite sick.

Mrs. S. E. Hodges is visiting her son, Dr. Hodges, in our place.

It is said that quite a number of persons are now at Seven Springs.

Hot and dry. Crops are in many places suffering for rain.

An appeal was taken in the case of Daniel Glissen at Wayne Court.

Willis Reid made a short visit here last Tuesday. He returned to Tarboro Thursday.

The people in our community are having a great deal of sickness. Many severe cases.

William Wooten and wife, of Greene County, have been visiting relatives and friends in our town this week.

The cotton crop is said to be materially injured by want of rain in Bucklesberry. We hope that it is not so much so as reported.

The office of Dr. Hodges was entered last Sunday or Sunday night and robbed of a book, and it may be of other articles. His instruments were scattered promiscuously.

Frank Tilghman...was captured by Deputy Sheriff George W. Warters last Wednesday and lodged in jail, to await hearing at the next term of Superior Court.

The biggest chub fish, or the biggest fish story we have heard of this season, was the one hung by Dempsey Wood while 'bobbing' in Bear creek a few days ago. His companion, Junius [Eli] Sutton, declared his mouth to be large enough to take in his hat. This was told by Dempsey himself.

The fall session of the schools in our town will begin, about the first of next month. We hear that the prospects for an increased number of pupils are good. Rev. Mr. Morgan, of the Institute, is working faithfully and receiving much encouragement, while everything indicates that Davis' School will be much larger than ever before."