

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

This Week in August 1887

La Grange townsman Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904) often reported on Bucklesberry, where he was born and reared. Excerpts reprinted here from his August 24, 1887 column in *The Daily Journal* (New Bern), however, focused largely on the town and the Institute community:

"Our merchants, some of them, will go North the last of this week to purchase their fall and winter stocks.

The protracted meeting at the Disciples Church in this place closed Sunday night. There were two added to the church. No services at the M[ethodist] E[piscopal] Church last Sunday on account of the sickness of Mr. Rose, who we are glad to learn is improving.

The grounds around the L[a Grange] C[ollegiate] I[nstitute] has been fenced, and it adds to the appearance. The buildings are being put in order for the coming session.

Our schools will open next week—the L. C. I. Monday, Kinsey's Wednesday, and Davis' Thursday. We learn that full schools are expected at all the institutions.

Work is progressing on the Baptist Church. When completed the seating capacity will be increased considerably, and the general appearance will be improved we presume.

Joseph Kinsey returned home Sunday from a trip to Jones and Onslow Counties. He says that rains in the sections visited by him have been very heavy. We are glad to learn that he met with encouragement in his business.

A dastardly act was prevented in our town last Friday night by the timely arrival of one of our citizens. A few pistol cracks put the villain to flight and prevented what would have been a real calamity. Mr. Paris deserves the thanks of every citizen.

We learn from Simeon Wooten who has been visiting friends in Pitt County, that a heavy rain fell in the vicinity of Farmville last Thursday night, doing considerable damage to crops. The rain was accompanied by a tremendous amount of electricity and thunder.

The health of our town is rapidly improving, in fact there are but few cases and all them on the mend. This year has been an unusually sickly one with us, and we have not failed to say so, preferring to call things by their proper names. That La Grange is a healthy town can't be denied. The health record of the large school here will show it, and the citizens here can verify it.

We hear the complaint universal that the cotton crop is poorly balled in this section. This is said to be especially so in cotton well grown. There is another complaint, that the bolls are small. Our own observation, and it has been somewhat extended, is that both complaints are not without foundation. To say that crops about here will be over an average, will be saying more than the windup will justify, we think.

We saw a beautiful and valuable watch that was presented [to] Capt. V. H. Byrd, our worthy county Superintendent of Public Instruction, by the teachers of the county. The watch is as handsome as well as valuable one, and when it is considered to have been presented for the untiring efforts of Capt. Byrd in the cause of education, it becomes almost priceless. The captain has been watched and well watched by the teachers of this county."