

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

This Week in August 1884

Local news for Bucklesberry and greater La Grange this week in 1884 centered on accidents and deaths, church meetings, politics, travelers, and a budding author. Baseball was also discussed, although reporter Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904) acknowledged he had little interest in the sport. Reprinted here is S. I.'s "La Grange Items" column published August 27, 1884 in *The Daily Journal*, New Bern:

"John Reid had his hand badly hurt while playing a game of baseball last week.

Shade Wooten, E. W. Bizzell and K. E. Bizzell left for Baltimore this (Monday) morning.

Rev. J. D. Cavanaugh preached at Hickory Grove [Church, Bucklesberry] last Saturday and Sunday, his regular appointment.

Miss Addie M. Kirkpatrick, teacher in primary department La Grange Collegiate Institute returned here last Saturday.

A nine from here will go to Goldsboro next Friday, to play nine [in base ball] from there. We want our boys to beat, but really we feel but little interest in such.

Calvin Hinsin, an aged citizen of the Bucklesberry section of this county, died on the 34th inst. Mrs. Nannie Fields, wife of our townsman, W. Fields, died in this place at 7 o'clock this (Monday) morning after an illness of several weeks. Jordan Best, a colored man on the plantation of Josiah Sutton, Sr. died on the 25th inst.

Rev. Mr. Hiers and Rev. Mr. Bryan are conducting a series of religious meetings at the Baptist church in this place, Mr. Hiers is an able minister and pastor of the church. Mr. Bryan is a native of Duplin County, now a student at the Louisville Theological Seminary. His discourse Sunday night was one of the most interesting we have heard for many days.

The poem 'Amid the Slain,' written by Miss Lidia Whitfield and published in The [Daily] Journal a short time ago, is quite interesting. Miss Whitfield has considerable talent, and has written several pieces that have been published in different papers in our State. She is a Lenoir [County] lady, and lives but a short distance from our town. We wish her success in her new field.

The two [political] parties now have a full ticket in the field of our county, with an independent or so to make the thing lively. James Carter, an independent Republican from here will go before the Republicans claiming to be the regular nominee, and before the people as 'anti-stock law.' We hear that Mr. Cox, the other 'regular nominee,' was a strong stock law man in the beginning, but has changed his tactics. Mr. Grainger, the Democratic candidate, will, we presume, leave such matters with those interested."