

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Clellan Sutton Interview (Part 4)

In a 1994 videotaped two-hour interview, Clellan Thomas Sutton (1909-1999) discussed Bucklesberry history with local genealogist and historian, Glenn Fields.

Provided below in Part 4 of the edited transcript of the interview, Clellan and wife, Pauline Sutton (1910-1995) share recollections of four Bucklesberry stores that operated in the early 1900s—Jenny Lind Store, Tommy Herring's Store, Dawson Store, and Rouse Store:

Clellan: "Have they ever told you about Jenny Lind Store up here and the way it got its name?"

Glenn: "No, I was going to ask you about that, though. I heard it was something about Jenny Lind [the famous singer], but I don't know anything about the story."

Clellan: "It's an old, old named store. And they said the old Jenny Lind woman sang there one night."

Glenn: "So that was back in the..."

Clellan: "Oh, it was back there."

Glenn: "In the 1800s, I reckon."

Clellan: "Yeah."

Pauline: "It was before my time."

Clellan: "That's where it got its name from, Jenny Lind [the famous singer]."

Glenn: "Yeah, I think I heard that she had come through. I didn't know that she sang there, though. But do you remember there being anymore much to Jenny Lind than there is now?"

Clellan: "Never heard that before."

Glenn: "Well, over there on the other side of the road [from Jenny Lind Store] at one time there was [another] small store."

Clellan: "Oh, yeah, there were two stores up there, one on each side."

Glenn: "Well, who ran the one on the other side of the road from the [Jenny Lind] store?"

Clellan: "Tommy Herring [Thomas Franklin Herring] mostly."

Glenn: "Tommy Herring."

Clellan: "Yeah."

Glenn: "Now, who was he compared to Herrings that I would know about?"

Pauline: "Katy [Garris] Herring's..."

Clellan: "Her husband's brother."

Pauline: "Katy's and Oscar's brother, and Alphonse [Alpha Haskins Herring Lancaster]."

Glenn: "That's right, and Oscar [Edward Herring, Sr.], yeah."

Clellan: "...You know it was off of Sutton's place up there..."

Glenn: "Marcellus [Lanier Sutton]."

Clellan: "On Marcellus' land. But he [Tommy Herring] ran it a long time until he died."

Glenn: "Well, were there anymore stores down in the Bucklesberry area back during the years of Jenny Lind?"

Pauline: "Oh, yeah, there were, Clellan!"

Clellan: "Used to have one...right over here [pointing to the current Pine Bush Road]...James Rouse."

Pauline: "James [Leon] Rouse over there, and...Albert [Leon] Rouse."

Clellan: "Yeah, where James lives...and we had one over here at the Dawson place, right over here [pointing to Frank Barwick and Dawson Mill Roads]...three stores right here in the neighborhood."

Glenn: "Well, it was like a shopping center, then, wasn't it?"

Pauline: "Yeah, that's right."

Glenn: "You wouldn't have to go too far!..."

Currently under restoration by George Foss, only the Jenny Lind Store still stands in the heart of Bucklesberry today, although its doors have been closed for many years. Lisa K. Britt researched how Jenny Lind Store got its name in a 1984 article published in *The Weekly Gazette*.

Local legend has it, wrote, Ms. Britt, that, "Jenny Lind actually came to the rural community and sang under a tree that was located near the community store." She also reported that travel records proved Jenny Lind sailed to Charleston, SC by way of Wilmington, but there is no evidence she ever made a pit stop to Lenoir County. Historical records, however, are not always complete. It may well be that the legend, embraced by many for generations, is indeed true.

[Caption to accompany photograph]

Jenny Lind Store, Bucklesberry. Photograph, likely taken in the 1980s, found at the Historical Preservation Group, Kinston, NC, website.

