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Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Glimpse in Time

Historical papers in the Clellan Sutton Collection, some copied and archived at East Carolina University Joyner Library, indicate that Bucklesberry was on the map by the mid-eighteenth century. The earliest document in the Collection identifying Bucklesberry Pocosin by name is a survey dated 1748.

Bucklesberry was an established community in old Dobbs County long before Lenoir County, Moseley Hall and La Grange came about. Lenoir County was formed in 1791 from Dobbs County. According to Patsy M. Boyette, not until after the Revolutionary War in the late 1700s can Moseley Hall be traced. La Grange eventually incorporated from Moseley Hall in 1869.

How this seemingly isolated, rural area gained such widespread notoriety is somewhat a mystery. Much of it had to do with Bucklesberry's agricultural success. But it also likely had to do with the character of its people.

In describing the handful of families who founded Bucklesberry, attorney and famed author, Council Simmons Wooten (1840–1930) wrote: "The original settlers were a thrifty, prosperous, industrious and honest population....By their prudence and foresight, they accumulated good fortunes and left their posterity in comfortable circumstances" (*Goldsboro Messenger*, August 2, 1886).

Journalists from across the State have written about Bucklesberry over the decades. One study identified more than 300 news pieces about this old community that were published between 1856 and 1922 in the following newspapers:

American Advocate (Kinston)
Charlotte Daily Observer
Charlotte News
Charlotte Observer
Chatham Record (Pittsboro)
Daily Free Press (Kinston)
Daily Journal (New Bern)
Farmer & Mechanic (Raleigh)
Free Press (Kinston)
Goldsboro Daily Argus
Goldsboro Headlight
Goldsboro Messenger
Goldsboro Weekly Argus

Greensboro Daily News
Kinston Free Press
Kinston Journal
Landmark (Statesville)
Morning Star (Wilmington)
NC Christian Advocate (Greensboro)
New Berne Weekly Journal
New Bernian
News & Observer (Raleigh)
Progress (Enfield)
Semiweekly Messenger (Wilmington)
Smithfield Herald
Winston Leader (Winston-Salem)

Topics discussed in these news items focused on birth and death notices, business and employment, churches and religion, crime, education and schools, farming, sickness, legal matters, marriages, politics, and social events.

Although newspaper articles cannot tell the entire story of a person or a community, they provide a snapshot or glimpse in time of real-life happenings and events that otherwise might go unobserved or unnoticed, and thus unrecorded. The *Gazette's Bucklesberry*, *Back in the Day* series will share some of these century-old newspaper items in future issues.