

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Postcard Messages

The need to communicate is innate. Modern technology allows for quick communication to broad audiences of people. Through computers, cell/smart phones, and social networking sites, folks of all ages enjoy e-mailing, messaging, and texting to get their messages out.

Postcards were a popular communication tool in the early-1900s. Used frequently during most of the twentieth century, folks still send postcards today, although not nearly as much.

The Clellan Sutton Collection includes eight postcards mailed in 1915. The postcards were addressed to Walter C. Sutton (1891-1918) from three of his cousins, all Bucklesberry residents: Glenn Marie Sutton Maxwell (1895-1953); Lillie Estelle Sutton (1892-1962); and Sue Belle Sutton Cobb (1896-1960). They didn't have advanced technology, but they needed to communicate just the same. Transcribed below are the postcard messages:

Postcard 1, Sue to Walter: "Thurs. a.m. Will ans. [answer] your card rec'd some time ago. How are you enjoying your self these beautiful days? I have a fine job. I bet you can guess what it is. You can imagine I am doing fine working alone. Guess you will go to church Sat. night & Sun. Bye. Ans. You must excuse this writing I'm in a [corner of card cut away]"

Postcard 2, Sue to Walter: "How are you progressing these beautiful days? Guess you are about through picking cotton. We had a nice time yesterday. You had ought to of gone. Guess I must stop and go to work."

Postcard 3, Sue to Walter: "Guess I had better ans. as you say so. Wonder what you are doing today. Having a good time I suppose. I have been working all day but am going to rest this P.M. Do you blame me? Good-bye. Ans."

Postcard 4, Sue to Walter: "Heigho. Guess you will be surprised to hear from me. Am busy crocheting these days. Wonder what you a doing? Walter, Uncle [Amaziah] Clarence [Sutton, 1886-1949] and I are going to Aunt Lizzie's [Elizabeth Sutton, 1867-1959] Sun. If nothing happens, you come to see us Friday night. Am going to look for you and some time soon. Love you, S.B.S."

Postcard 5, Lillie to Walter: "Heigho! I guess I had better answer as you know what you said Sat. evening. I guess you went to church Sun. I wanted to go, but I didn't feel like it. I guess the other girls were there alright. I know you are sorry to see such rainy weather so you can't work. I expect I will go down the road about Sat. evening. Lorena [Wessie Lorena (Rena) Elmore

Rackley, 1894-1917] said she might stay with me Sat. night. If she does, I will go after her. I'm looking for a card from her this week. Bye-bye L.S."

Postcard 6, Lillie to Walter: "Thur. a.m. Heigho, I wonder what you are doing today? I am having a nice time. Carrie [Mae Bizzell Best, 1886-1976] said tell you, you didn't come over for her to tell you good-bye, but that's all right. I am as ever a friend. L.E.S."

Postcard 7, Lillie to Walter: "Heigho Walter, you just ought to be with us now. We are having a fine time. Carrie said you have put it off a long time to come to see her. Your friend."

Postcard 8, Glenn to Walter: "Heigho, Guess you thought I had forgotten your card but I haven't; have just neglected ans. Hope you had a nice time to the [Seven] Springs the fourth [of July]. I did. Sue Belle has just gone to Aunt Ava's [B. Sutton Gardner, 1887-1922] this week and I am so lonesome I can't be still. Bye-bye. Glenn"

The content of these postcard messages was nothing more than innocent gab and small talk. So it is with messaging and texting today. Much of it is idle chatter.

Postmarked in La Grange, it may have taken a couple of days to deliver a postcard in 1915. Since these cousins all lived in Bucklesberry, they could more easily have stood on the porches of their homes and hollered messages across the fields. But they enjoyed sending postcards. And like folks today who e-mail, message, and text, they realized the power of written communication.