

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Accidents Happen

Bucklesberry is a great place to live. From the rich agricultural resources and peaceful lifestyle found here, generations of descendants have not only survived in this old farm community, they have flourished since the mid-1700s.

In many ways, Bucklesberry is not exceptional, but typical and representative of broader rural America. Locals have celebrated countless joys and successes that have extended and impacted beyond the geographic boundaries of the community. That said, accidents happened to some Bucklesberrians, which resulted in unpleasant, occasionally tragic, moments from time to time.

During the 1880s, area and State newspapers reported on some of the accidents experienced by, or related to, various Bucklesberrians, including Joel Elmore (1831-1919), Agnes Mae Sutton (1876-1950), Jeremiah Sutton, Sr. (1836-1900), Junius Eri Sutton (1847-1931), W. Henry Sutton (1861-1940), and Dempsey Eugene Wood (1847-1921):

1881, July 14: "A runaway [horse] that bid fair to be serious, took place at, or near, the township gate near Mr. Joel Elmore's on Tuesday of last week. A gentleman, after leading his horse through, turned to close the gate when the horse became frightened and ran nearly half mile. The horse was stopped by Mr. Junius E. Sutton. A little girl was in the buggy at the time. No damage, except severe fright." (*The Kinston Journal*)

1881, December 1: "A little daughter (Agnes) of Junius E. Sutton's [and Susan Elizabeth Daly Sutton, 1859-1912] was painfully burned one day last week, by the turning over of a pot of hot coffee." (*Kinston Journal*)

1882, March 22: "We learn that in the Rockford section, of Lenoir County, on Thursday last, at a log rolling, [W.] Henry Sutton and Lewis Hinson got into a dispute, when the latter dealt the former a blow on the head, fracturing his skull." (*Goldsboro Messenger*)

1884, June 24: "Our friend, A. M. F. Cameron, on his way from Kinston on Saturday night last, had his buggy shipwrecked near the house of Mr. Dempsey [Eugene] Wood. The old gray became obstreperous, took spasms in his hind legs, and took to the Bucklesberry woods and proceeded to demolish things then and there. The old gray horse came out of the wilderness though and made the trip, nevertheless." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1886, August 25: "Dr. M. W. Parks had quite a risky time in crossing Neuse River last Sunday at the new bridge. The water was very high and the horse plunged into an out side of road, the

buggy was turned over and the Doctor thrown into the water. He came out without immediate hurt, we are glad to hear, but a chill followed and the Doctor is now quite sick at Dempsey [Eugene] Wood's." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1889, July 27: "A man by the name of Peter Joyner was drowned in Neuse River, opposite Mr. Dempsey [Eugene] Wood's place, about seven miles from Kinston, Tuesday." (*News and Observer*, Raleigh)

1889, December 11: "Robert Arnett, living on Jere [Jeremiah, Sr.] Sutton's place, had the misfortune to cut his leg last week. The cut was so severe that amputation was necessary." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)