

# Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

## Eastertime 1903

Aside from Christmas, Easter is the most celebrated holiday of the year for those of the Christian faith. Although Christmas is more popular, given the tree-trimming, gift-giving, decorations, and such, Easter without doubt is the most significant of the two holidays for Christians.

Remembering the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord at Christmastime is important indeed. But it is His resurrection from death that catapults our Savior and the Christian religion above all others. This is what Easter is really all about for the believer, despite the traditional Easter bunny, candy baskets, and egg hunts.

Interestingly, the calendar date of Easter has always been a curious thing. Unlike Christmas with its fixed date of December 25 every year, Easter always falls on "the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox, placing the holiday between March 22 and April 25," according to Marisa Iata (*The Washington Post*, April 20, 2019).

Surely, Bucklesberry folks back in the day celebrated Easter with delectable foods and festivity as we do today. But it was the extended visits and overnight stays at each other's homes that characterized their Easter holidays.

For example, Easter weekend of 1903 occurred between Good Friday, April 10 and Easter Sunday, April 12. It was a matter of social news the weeks before and after Easter:

1903, April 7: "Mr. Levy Dawson, of Falling Creek, visited at Mr. J[ohn] F[rank] Barwick's Sunday. Mr. J. B. Creech, of Richlands, spent Sunday at Mr. John W. Sutton's. Miss Mary Sutton, who had been visiting near Institute, returned home Saturday. Mrs. Minnie Lynch, who has been visiting near Shine, returned home yesterday. Mr. Thos. Sutton, of Goldsboro, spent Saturday night and Sunday at Mr. Julius E[ri] Sutton's. Misses Annie brown, Bertha and Annie Johnson, of Kinston, attended church at [White] Oak Grove Sunday. Messrs. Paul Kinsey and Walter Sutton, of La Grange, visited at Mr. J[ohn] F[rank] Barwick's yesterday evening. Mr. and Mrs. John I[vey] Sutton, and children, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Fields, of near Kinston, from Friday until Sunday." (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston)

1903, April 14: "Some of the farmers here will begin transplanting tobacco this week. Messrs. Joe and Billy Rouse, of Strabane, visited relatives here Sunday. Mr. Benj. Grant and two daughters, of Angle, spent Sunday at Mr. J. W. Sutton's. Mr. [Amaziah] Clarence Sutton and sister, Miss Ava [B. Sutton], visited near Beston Saturday night and Sunday. Messrs. Ed and

Leon [B.] Sutton, of Falling Creek, visited at Mr. J[ohn] F[rank] Barwick's Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Joel Elmore spent Sunday in La Grange, with their daughter, Mrs. Wm. Fields [Mary Odorey Elmore]. Miss Polly Uzzell, of Seven Springs, spent Saturday night and Sunday with her aunt, Mrs. J[ohn] F[rank] Barwick. Mr. Isom Quinn and Miss Callie Ivey, of Seven Springs, visited at Mr. Chas. [Charlie Andrew] Sutton's Saturday night. Messrs. Paul Kinsey and Walter Sutton, of La Grange, visited at Mr. J[ohn] F[rank] Barwick's Sunday evening. Quite an attraction there for Walter and Paul." (*The Daily Free Press*)

Not so different from 1903, and the more than a century of Eastertimes that have passed, celebrating Easter with family is still central today.