

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

August 1879 (Part 2)

Bucklesberry was one of the earliest settlements in old Dobbs County in the mid-1700s. It was a self-supported community during most of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The early generations were able to grow and make just about all they needed in the nutrient rich soil and with the abundant timber there.

Far from recluse, Bucklesberrians historically have been sociable people. Back in the day, they mingled with family and friends in the adjoining La Grange area and traded with town merchants as needed. Social columns in nineteenth century newspapers reported happenings and events in their lives. Continued here from the previous article are additional La Grange news items from the month of August 1879:

1879, August 21: "Messrs. S. I. Wooten & Bro. have realized from 20 acres of land cultivated in tobacco last year \$2,100. Their crop averaged between 22 and 25 cents per pound. Mr. R. C. Croom reports that Mr. Levi Hill has a twenty acre field of cotton that will average 400 lbs. of lint to the acre. Mr. Hill has not used any fertilizer, has never bought but three sacks, and regretted that. I passed through his crop in June and found it very nice. Mr. Hill, judging from his appearance, is physically unable to perform much manual labor; yet he has since the [Civil] War been buying land and increasing his farm property. What say our able-bodied farmers, who are burdened with debt and mortgage on their homestead, to this?"

"We have, also, in our community two young men who commenced life in 1874 to rented land with a mother and nine children to support. In Jan. 1878, having accumulated \$250 in cash, they borrowed \$250 more and bought 80 acres of land for \$800, making a \$500 cash payment. Last October they paid back \$250 with interest, and have left supplies enough to make this year's crop. What can our young men, who inherited or married farms and supplies to begin with and are now in bondage to some commission merchant, say to this? Can they say with these facts that farming will not pay?"

"I have been favored with a copy of the Memorial address on the life and character of Rev. W. M. Wingate, D.D. late President of Wake Forrest College, delivered last commencement by Rev. F. H. Ivey of Goldsboro. It is well worth any one's perusal. On the first page he draws a nice distinction between admiration, esteem, reverence, and love. Permit me to quote the paragraph. it is this: 'I stand here today among the wise and eloquent of the land, to honor the memory of this departed great man of Zion. I am but the mouth-piece of this occasion, to voice your thought and feeling, my brethren, in declaring that he was great and wise and strong—and we admired him;

that he was true, and faithful, and noble—and we esteemed him; that he was meek, and pure, and consecrated—and we revered him; that he was amiable, and gentle, and good—and we loved him..." (*Kinston Journal*)

1879, August 28: " Among our mountain excursionists who left some days ago, I noticed that the following have returned: Luther Koonce and wife, C. P. Barrow, J. H. Kinsey, H. M. McDonald, R. B. Kinsey, and A. J. McIntyre. All give glowing accounts of the mountain country, pure air and cool water except our Mayor, who upon a friend's expressing a hope that he had had a nice time, replied 'Well no I got wet and sick and did not enjoy it so well.' Several of the party were caught on Mt. Mitchell in the night and rain..."

"Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Dillon are bereaved at the loss of their little son Algernon aged eight months. He was buried in the town cemetery Saturday 4 P.M. This is the fourth boy they have lost, all apparently healthy children, especially the last who was a fine looking baby. They have the sympathy of our citizens in their afflictions." (*Kinston Journal*)