

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Agriculture 1927

A historically significant report published in 1927 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture discusses the origins of Lenoir County and the state of agriculture there at the time. Referenced in this report is the pre-Revolutionary War farm community of Bucklesberry, established in the mid-1700s.

Authors R. C. Journey and W. A. Davis begin the report with a geographic overview of the county. They continue with a description of the climate and conclude with a synopsis of agriculture as it was observed firsthand back then. Excerpts from the report follow:

"In general Lenoir County consists of a nearly level plain, dissected by shallow valleys. The relief ranges from almost level to undulating and gently rolling on the uplands and is flat or undulating on the stream terraces. The most nearly level areas lie on interstream divides and near the sources of streams. Extensive areas of such relief occur in the northern part of the county in the vicinity of Dawson and south of Hugo in the southern and eastern parts of the county south of Woodington School, east of New Home Church, in Bearwell Pocosin, and south of British Church. The more rolling areas occur as belts along streams." (p. 1)

"Along Neuse River and Contentnea Creek and some of the other large creeks second bottoms, or terraces, have been formed. These terraces range in width from a few hundred feet to about 4 miles from stream to bluff. Such areas are nearly level." (p. 1)

"The slopes leading to drainage ways are gentle, and nearly everywhere a well-defined bluff lies between the uplands and alluvial plains..." (p. 1)

"Neuse River flows eastward across the central part of the county, and, with its tributaries, serves as an outlet for most of the drainage water. A small part of the county is drained northward into Greene County, and a small part southward into Jones County." (p. 1)

"In addition to the main drainage ways, smaller streams and intermittent drains, to one or more of which nearly every farm is connected directly or by ditches, extend to nearly all parts of the county. In the northern and southern parts broad, flat, and level areas or pocosins are inadequately drained, not being crossed by any well-defined natural drainage way. Other flat poorly drained areas are on the river terraces. The first bottoms and swamps are inadequately drained and are subject to overflow...." (p. 2)

"Lenoir County was formed from Dobbs County in 1791. The early settlers were English, Scotch, Irish, and Swiss, and the present population consists largely of their descendants and of others who have entered from adjoining territory..." (p. 2)

"Kinston, the county seat and largest town...is an important marketing and shipping point and is also important in the lumber industry and in the manufacturing of cotton goods. La Grange, in the northwestern part of the county, is the town in next importance. Smaller towns and local trading places are scattered throughout important agricultural sections..." (p. 2)

"Kinston and La Grange are important markets for cotton and Kinston is an important tobacco market. Some tobacco is marketed at Wilson and Greenville. Hogs are shipped to Richmond, Va., for sale." (p. 2)

More excerpts from this report will be shared in upcoming Bucklesberry articles.