

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

This Week in July 1882

One hundred forty years ago this week, Bucklesberrian and La Grange townsman Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904) wrote about happenings in greater La Grange. A newspaper reporter in his spare time, S. I. was politically savvy, and his humor was inescapable. His July 26, 1882 column is reprinted below:

"Bob Joyner was seen the other day trying to get up a funeral playing with the tail of a young mule."

"Rain has been excessively plentiful for some days. It is good for corn, but may push cotton too fast. In some places grass still abounds."

"A[lexander] E. Rouse has contracted to move the old store on the John Bizzell lot, to a lot purchased by K[ichen] E[zechiel] Bizzell on the south side of the Railroad."

"The meeting of Co. C., 27th North Carolina regiment [Civil War] advertised for Saturday 27th inst., has been postponed to the 1st Saturday in August, at which time the members are requested to meet in this place."

"'The times change and men change with them,' and I believe men change with their occupation. If you should see Capt. Jake in his fatigue suit, he has every appearance of a regular engineer."

"The new firm, J[ames] S[terling] Wooten and Shade Wooten, has procured the services of E[lijah] W[ooten] Bizzell as clerk. 'Lige' has clerked a number of years in 'the city' and stands second to none in the place in that capacity. He will accompany the 'bosses' in their trip North this fall."

"If any attempt has been made to get up a Liberal or Greenback party in this place, it has been unsuccessful thus far. A very few among us try to talk Greenbackism, but these few are not of us—the Democrats—they come from the other side, and we don't propose to be 'bamboozled' by them."

"D[uncan] C[ameron] Murchison, of Edwards & Murchison, represents insurance companies in North Carolina, Virginia, and elsewhere. He proposes to insure gins and other property on living terms to all. He is also agent for several gins and presses which he proposes to sell at factory prices, freight added."

"Thursday, of last week, was used by a number of the La Grangeites and citizens of the south side of Neuse in a picnic way at Seven Springs. 'Old Mau Bob' and Mrs. Old Man Bob, Connway (Groceries) and Mrs. Connway, who were so profuse in their visits to the Springs last year, two of them under different names, were present."

"Rev. B[ushrod] W[ashington] Nash held the quarterly Association of Baptist at Hickory Grove [Church, Bucklesberry] last Saturday and Sunday. His services as pastor [are] appreciated by a large number of the congregation at that place. The *Baptist Review* of which Mr. Nash is Editor, strongly, and rightly too, advocates prohibition. It is not right in that organ, however, to assume that the Democratic party has been, or is now, responsible for the failure of prohibition. They, the Democrats, propose to let it remain where the people themselves have placed it. The Republicans, I believe, assume the cause of anti-prohibition. When the Englishes in North Carolina show their hand, where will the [*Baptist*] *Review* be found politically? Many favor prohibition, but would prefer it straight without politics." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern, NC, July 26, 1882)