

# Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

## This Week in August 1887

Born and reared in Bucklesberry, Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904) was a farmer in the Frog Point area near Hardy Bridge for much of his adult life. A well-regarded La Grange townsman in his latter years, S. I. served as Magistrate of Moseley Hall in the early 1880s.

In 1885, he was named Postmaster of La Grange. That same year, he received a six-year appointment from the House of Representatives of the North Carolina General Assembly to fill the vacancy of Justice of the Peace for Moseley Hall Township. In 1890, he became the railroad and express agent for the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, a position he held till his death.

Arguably one of Bucklesberry's most accomplished sons, S. I. was also a reporter for several local newspapers. Never forgetting his roots, he often referenced farming and his beloved Bucklesberry in his weekly column, which he did one hundred thirty-five years ago this week. Reprinted here is his August 11, 1887 news piece published in the *New Berne Weekly Journal*:

"Preaching at the P[rimitive] Baptist Church [La Grange] last Saturday and Sunday."

"Crops are reported as doing tolerably well. The seasons are very favorable, we think."

"The sick in our place and surrounding community are improving, we are glad to hear."

"Rev. Mr. [W. W.] Rose reached home last Saturday from his protracted meeting at Bell's Ferry, quite sick."

"From nearly all quarters news reaches us of tremendous floods. Our section has been blessed so far."

"The protracted meeting at Hickory Grove [Church, Bucklesberry] closed last Sunday on account of the disposition of the pastor [Rev. W. E. Swain]. Six were added to the church."

"We heard a farmer from the section visited by the severe hail in last June, say a few days ago that if his crop was damaged by it he was unable to see it. At the time the crops appeared to be seriously hurt, but we were glad to hear such opinions as that given by the farmer alluded to."

"Willie N. Hadley died in this place [La Grange], of consumption, on Monday morning, 8th inst. He had been a sufferer of this disease for over eighteen months. He was a young man of promise,

a good citizen, and a devoted member of the M[ethodist] P[rotestant] Church. His sufferings were at times almost beyond endurance, but these he bore with all the fortitude possible, always having the hands of loving parents near to soothe his sufferings. To the sorrowing family we extend our sympathies."

"The picnic at Hickory Grove [Church, Bucklesberry] last week was a complete success. Everybody present enjoyed themselves to the fill. There was rations in abundance and to spare. The speaking before dinner by Rev. J. D. Stanford, and after by Rev. G. W. Sanderlin, is said to have been most excellent. We are unable to give even a synopsis of the speeches, but hear Mr. Sanderlin's captivated the crowd. The people are highly pleased with all things connected with the picnic, and we hope they will be stimulated to renewed efforts for the future. For good eating, and plenty of it, Bucklesberry can't be beaten, and now let them show that they are equal to the task in other things."