

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

This Week in October 1886

One hundred thirty-six years ago, local news in greater La Grange this week focused on church services and protracted meetings (revival services), sickness and death, a tragic accident, the cotton crop, and the Davis Military School. Bucklesberrian and townsman Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904) was a reporter at the time for several news outlets. His "La Grange News" column published October 6, 1886 in *The Weekly Journal* (New Bern) is reprinted here:

"Church services at the P[rimitive] B[aptist] Church last Sunday and at the M[ethodist] E[piscopal] Church Sunday night."

"Mrs. John W. Rouse, who has been seriously ill for several days, but had changed for the better, was taken suddenly and seriously worse last Monday."

"Rev. W. E. Swain preached at Hickory Grove [Church, Bucklesberry] last Saturday night and Sunday. The meeting will be protracted and how long we are not informed at this time."

"Rev. W. W. Rose has been conducting a series of meetings at Institute the past week with 16 or 17 accessions to the church. The meeting is still in progress."

"The protracted meeting at the Baptist Church here [La Grange] closed last Friday with the addition to the church. The Rev. Mr. Hines was assisted by the Rev. Mr. Fulford, of Snow Hill."

"Several cases of severe sickness in our town. We learn that W. T. Best is quite ill, and also the youngest child of D. C. Murchison. We also hear of much sickness in the surrounding country."

"Sunday morning a bale of cotton on the platform here was found to be on fire. How long it had been burning or how long it was set on fire, is not known. That a fire, indeed, did not occur, is the strangest thing of all."

"Two deaths in our town last week. Mrs. Larson, mother of John Larson, Esq., and a child of W. S. Fields. We have not learned the nature of the disease of either. We extend our sympathies to the bereaved."

"Cotton picking is going on with tolerably satisfactory progress. Farmers are getting it out and marketing it much faster than usual. The price, so far, has exceeded their expectations and to this we must ascribe the cause."

"O. K. W. Howard, Esq. had his right arm caught in a gin while feeding Monday, and the flesh literally torn off from the elbow out. Dr. Hadley rendered the necessary surgical aid. The particulars as to how it was caught has not been learned, as no one was present at the time. The wound is a very serious one and may yet render amputation necessary."

"Our cotton buyers are complaining about freights being raised on cotton from this place to Northern markets. We don't know anything about freights or the rules governing freight lines, but it seems to us that there is a right and a fair way to conduct this business as well as all others, and that discriminations, if any have been used, are not right."

"Col. Davis has about completed a two story building from the North R. R. Street. The first floor is to be used as commissary department for the school, and the second floor for a tailor's room and printing office, where the Colonel will have his printing done and issue the *Davis Cadet*....To say that our schools are doing well, is to feebly express it. The patronage is much better than any one of the principals expected, while the facilities for doing work, and good work, has been proportionately increased....The increased number of cadets renders it necessary for the Davis School to increase the number of barracks, and work will commence on one [that is] one hundred feet long feet long this week."