

# Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

## Early Patriarchs

Remembering those who preceded us is a virtue that everyone should embrace. After all, our ancestors conceived us, first introduced us to God, passed on timeless values and traditions, paved our way financially, sacrificed for us unselfishly, and, most importantly, loved and cared for us unconditionally.

Family reunions are a great way to remember our predecessors. Aside from the succulent foods, these gatherings honor ancestors, recognize descendants, and allow for reflection on ones roots.

This week's article acknowledges five of the early forefathers or patriarchs of Bucklesberry. Published in local newspapers more than a century ago, reprints of their death notices follow.

William (Old Billy) Sutton, Sr. (1796–1884): Mr. William Sutton, Sr., one of the oldest and best citizens of Lenoir County, died in Kinston, last Thursday night. He was in his 89<sup>th</sup> year; was one of the few remaining veterans of the War of 1812, and was one of the most devout Christians we ever knew. When 'Hail to the brightness of Zion's glad morning' rings through the corridors of heaven, and the graves give up their millions, he will doubtless be one who will be bidden—'come up higher.' (*The Weekly Transcript and Messenger*, Goldsboro, June 13, 1884)

Josiah Sutton, Sr. (1810–1898): Mr. Josiah Sutton, Sr., died at his home in Bucklesberry Monday morning, the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, at 4 o'clock, in the 89<sup>th</sup> year of his age. Mr. Sutton has been wonderfully blessed with good health, and a remarkable degree of success. He has never had to buy corn nor bacon and always had some to sell. He was the first to pay his taxes every year. He would not allow you to credit him for anything. If he did not have the money with him he would wait until he came again. He was never unmindful of the source from whence came all blessings. "Owe no man" was his motto. In all his dealings with his fellow man he was scrupulously honest. He was, perhaps, the oldest man in the county, and for 66 years lived with the wife whom his death leaves a widow. He leaves a large family of children, grand and great grand children, a widow and a host of friends to mourn his demise. The remains were laid to rest in the family burying ground Tuesday afternoon in the presence of a large concourse of people. (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston, September 13, 1898)

Thomas Sutton (1826–1894): On Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, at his residence in Bucklesberry, at 10:40 a.m. Mr. Thos. Sutton departed this life, after a confinement of five weeks from typhoid fever. Aged about 68 years. He was a bright Mason, a kind neighbor and a useful man to the community. Successful in worldly affairs, he has dispensed in a benevolent manner to all around him. Married the second time only about two months ago, his life seemed filled with happiness and bade fair to be one of joy and cheerfulness. His remains were laid to rest Wednesday

afternoon with Masonic honors at the family burial ground. To his devoted widow and family connections we tender our condolence. (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern, July 27, 1894)

Samuel Ivey Sutton (1834–1904): Mr. S. I. Sutton died at his home on Railroad Street today, aged 68 years. On Sunday night he was stricken with paralysis and it is thought he suffered but little owing to his unconscious condition. He has been a public official the past twenty years, as postmaster and railroad agent, the latter position he held at time of death. Mr. Sutton merited the reputation he had of carrying out instructions to the letter. He was a consistent member of the M. P. Church, was a bright Mason and took a lively interest in politics. Mr. Sutton leaves a widow and five children. The burial will be conducted tomorrow at 11 o'clock with Masonic honors, Rev. Mr. Dozier, his pastor, performing the last sad rites. We tender our sympathy to the bereaved ones. (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston, April 7, 1904)

Jeremiah Sutton, Sr. (1836–1900): Mr. Jerry Sutton died at his home, in Bucklesberry, Thursday morning at 4 o'clock. For three years his health had been very bad, and about a week ago he was taken worse. Mr. Sutton's standing among his fellow men was in every way most honorable. He was regarded as an upright citizen, an affectionate husband and father, a modest and worthy gentleman, and a Christian whose religion had as its characteristics simplicity and reverential devotion to duty. Deceased was about 69 years of age, and leaves a grief-stricken widow, twelve children and a brother to mourn their great loss. Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock we laid his mortal remains to rest in the family burying ground near his home. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Hollowell, of La Grange. May God comfort all the bereaved ones and bring them together at the end in His own kingdom of glory. (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston, June 5, 1900)