

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Accidents Happen (Part 2)

Generations of descendants have enjoyed the peaceful presence and rich agricultural resources of Bucklesberry. Their joys and successes have been many. Nevertheless, accidents happened to some Bucklesberrians, and their otherwise happy existence was occasionally interrupted, although briefly, back in the day.

During the late-1800s and early-1900s, area and State newspapers reported on accidents experienced by, or related to, several Bucklesberry folks, including Benjamin Hardy Sutton (1847-1909), Charlie Andrew Sutton (1883-1945), John William Sutton (1860-1906), Kirby Edward Sutton (1866-1930), Thomas Sutton (1833-1894), and Dempsey Eugene Wood (1847-1921):

1890, November 19: "Mr. Robert Williams, of New Hope township, while quite a child had his leg severely burned in some accidental manner. The wounds healed up and gave him no further trouble until a few days ago when inflammation set in. In order to save his life the leg was amputated Monday. Mr. Williams is now 23 years old and lives on Mr. Thos. [Thomas] Sutton's place." (*The Goldsboro Headlight*)

1893, July 20: "A portion of New Hope township was visited by a very destructive wind and hail storm Friday night, extending into a portion of Lenoir County. The crops on the lands of George Garris, B[enjamin] H[ardy] Sutton and Howell Garris were badly damaged. Trees were taken up by the roots, fences leveled with the ground and several outhouses were demolished....Snow Best and wife living in Lenoir County, were badly stunned by lightning, the woman barely escaping from being burned to death by the explosion of a lamp, which she was about to blow out when the flash came." (*The Goldsboro Headlight*)

1893, December 21: "An accidental fire destroyed the house of Thomas Sutton with all its contents, near here [Seven Springs], Tuesday night. No insurance." (*The Goldsboro Headlight*)

1894, April 19: "The children of Mr. John [William] Sutton of Bucklesberry were playing in his yard when a mad dog entered, and but for the timely interference of Mr. Sutton's own dog some of them would have been bitten. The mad dog escaped but was killed afterwards, and much to his sorrow, Mr. Sutton had to kill the dog which had defended and saved the lives of his children, he having been bitten in the encounter." (*New Berne Weekly Journal*)

1900, June 26: "Mr. Charlie [Andrew] Sutton, while returning home from here Saturday night, was shot in the hip. Dr. Hadley probed for the ball, but failed to find it. The shooting happened

near the cemetery while he was in company with others, and is supposed to have been accidental." (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston)

1909, December 1: "While out hunting Mr. Dempsey [Eugene] Wood was accidentally shot by young Lem Broome, one of the party. A bird was flushed which flew in the direction of Mr. Wood, the young man fired, forgetting about Mr. Wood. The shots struck Mr. Wood in the side, peppering him from head to foot. The wounds were in no wise serious, though painful." (*News and Observer*, Raleigh)

1918, August 1: "Trying to make a turn at the bridge across Bear Creek near La Grange Wednesday, a car containing a young man and two young women rolled down a steep embankment and was partly submerged in the Creek. The occupants escaped injury. Extrication of the car presented a real difficulty because of the steepness of the embankment." (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston)

1918, August 24: "Mr. Kirby Sutton,...prominent planter, ran a nail almost through his foot at La Grange Friday. Mr. Sutton carelessly stepped upon the nail to bend it down. Instead of bending, it passed through the sole of his shoe and almost penetrated his foot. He is reported to have spent a sleepless night." (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston)