

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Buying and Selling

As Reconstruction (1865-1877) began after the Civil War ended, there were serious needs that required healing of all kinds in the South, emotionally, socially, and physically. Economically, most farmers in Bucklesberry, still owned their land, which allowed for a slow, but steady pathway toward recovery. Families survived by growing their own food. For various other necessary food items and staples, they bought, sold, and bartered with local merchants.

The War was particularly hard for some in Bucklesberry, for example, Annie Hill Sutton (1807-1881), who was widowed when her husband, Hardy Sutton (1803-1861), died in January just prior to the start of the War in April, 1861. She was left to rear their youngest four of fourteen children, Louisa, twin boys, Julius Eri and Junius Eli, and Christiana, all school-age. Still grieving the death of her husband, Annie suffered the loss of daughter, Louisa, who passed away a few months later in May.

Transcribed and edited below, five receipts in the Clellan Sutton Collection of Bucklesberry papers, dated 1867 to 1869, document some of the items that Annie bought and sold as she provided for her family soon after the War:

1867: Moseley Hall, NC, Mrs. Annie Sutton to J. L. Hardee, August 27, 2 shovels, \$3.80; curry comb for Junius, \$0.50; balance on suit clothes, \$3.00; [total] \$7.30; received payment, October 25, 1867, J. L. Hardee by M. A. Croom
1868: Moseley Hall, NC, Mrs. Annie Sutton to John L. Hardee, December 4, 2 sacks salt, \$6.50; December 21, 1 pair shoes, 16 yards bagging, \$7.30; 18 pounds [unreadable], \$2.52, [subtotal] \$16.32; January 2, balance on dress, \$6.00, [total] \$22.32; received pay by Colton for this above account, January 9, 1869, John L. Hardee.

1868: Moseley Hall, NC, Mrs. Annie Sutton to John L Hardee, October 29, dress trimmings, 3 skeins ribbon, \$2.30; November 13, 1/2 pound tobacco, \$0.47; November 14, 1 pair shoes, med[icine] pounds large, \$5.00; December 16, 7 yards bagging...\$3.21, difference in account, 1 pair traces, \$1.30, [subtotal] \$12.48; December 19, 2 buns cotton, \$4.50, [subtotal] \$16.98; fish, \$0.50; December 19, 1868, received pay for the above account John L. Hardee, [total] \$17.48.
1868: Moseley Hall, NC, Mrs. Anny Sutton to John L. Hardee, May 11, 1 bell per Julius, \$0.40, per R. M. Barwick; July 18, paper & pens, tobacco, \$1.15, 1 fish, [subtotal] \$1.65; August 8, 1 pair shoes, \$2.50; September 17, 1 pound salts, \$0.20, [subtotal] \$2.70; October 5, 3 yards linsey, 1 dozen coat buttons, \$1.75, 1/2 dozen coat buttons, 1 skein silk, \$0.20; October 15, 1 pair suspenders, 2 axes, \$4.75, 1 hain belt, 1 suit clothes, \$15.25; October 17, 2 yards calico for Jack,

\$0.40, [subtotal] \$22.35, [total] \$26.70; credit, June 6, by eggs, \$0.40, [total] \$26.30; December 17, 1868, received pay for the above account, John L. Hardee.

1869: La Grange, NC, Mrs. Annie Sutton to John L Hardee, May 20, 10 gallons molasses, \$9.00; May 22, 4 buns cotton, \$9.00; May 24, cash, \$5.00; May 25, 25 pounds sugar, \$5.00; May 29, 1 coat, 1 pair shoes, Allen, \$8.50, [subtotal] \$36.50; August 12, [unreadable] John, \$21.75; September 25, 2 buns cotton, \$4.80; October 20, 7 yards domestics; 1/2 pound spice, \$1.65; November 13, 1 pair shoes for Jack, \$2.25; November 15, 1 1/2 pounds blue stone, \$0.45, [subtotal] \$30.90, [total] \$67.40; credit, May 31, by 1 coat returned, \$6.00, [total] \$61.40; November 25, 1869, received payment, J. L. Hardee by W. H. Croom.

John L. Hardee, named in all five receipts, was one of several merchants operating in La Grange and listed in the *1869 Branson's Business Directory* for Lenoir County.