

# Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

## Summertime 1882 (Part 2)

An accomplished, multiply talented man, Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904) operated his farm in Bucklesberry while serving as magistrate for Moseley Hall (La Grange) in the early 1880s. Also a contributor for several newspapers, he was unusually productive in reporting the news of interest in the summer of 1882. Three of his columns are reprinted here:

1882, June 28: "A hack [horse-drawn cab] runs from Seven Springs to this place [La Grange] twice a week, for the accommodation of visitors. Hail fell in La Grange on last Monday. The pieces were large, but not very thick, and there being but little wind no damage was done. A seasonable rain and hot June has improved cotton and corn very much for the last few days. The stand is not good, and nothing can be done to remedy the evil. Alpheus Kennedy's house was burned last Friday night. The first is said to have been accidental. Mr. Kennedy saved about one-third of his furniture. No insurance. Large potatoes and plenty of 'em is the cry of all. Koonce had one in town weighing 1 1/2 pounds. One from Thomas Sutton's weighed 1 pound 3 ounces. Large potatoes are these. Wheat threshing was in full blast through the Bucklesberry section, and in other places, last week. The damage by rust was considerable, but the supply will be sufficient for home demands. In some places the grain was excellent and the yield large. Some of our townsmen have been trying to have a little fun at the expense of Stanton's new engineer, Capt. Harper. 'Jake,' like all industrious men, accepts the first position offered, while others lounge about waiting for 'something to turn up.' This place could furnish several more engineers and not be damaged. A meteor, or 'shooting star,' was seen Saturday night about half-past 9 o'clock. The light was very bright—much brighter than that of the moon. A few minutes after the star disappeared a loud report was heard, somewhat resembling that of a cannon. The course of the star was nearly south. Astronomers and scientists must explain. Rev. B. W. Nash, editor of the *Baptist Review*, was in town Saturday on his way to Hickory Grove [Church], where he preached Sunday. Mr. Nash went from this place to Goldsboro last winter, and has been patronizing the [Hickory Grove] Graded School in that place. Those who are disposed to speak of this school as a failure should hear his opinion. He says that it is a complete success, and that it is giving universal satisfaction, the representation of others to the contrary notwithstanding." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1882, July 4: "The first cotton bloom heard of in the Bucklesberry section was on John A. Sutton's farm, June 27th. Thos. Sutton had one June 30th. Crops are improving, General Green commanding. New wheat selling at – per bushel. The largest yields of wheat that I hear of is M. H. Wooten, 936 bushels from 67 acres. Lovet Hines in Institute Township, 350 bushels from 20 bushes sown. A. D. Parrott, from Falling Creek, reports 792 bushels from 25 acres. The tax list

shows about \$290,000 of real and personal property in this township [La Grange]. Noah Rouse is largest taxpayer, listing near \$13,000. Sam Wooten is next, listing over \$11,000. Richmond Wooten heads the colored population with over \$600. The largest number of hogs listed (77) was by Elisabeth Wood. Sheep raising receives but little attention, only 133 listed in the Township..." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1882, July 13: "Lard, 16 1/2 to 20 cents. N. C. Hams, none in market. Sides, Northern, 16 cents. L. J. Edwards has returned from Florida after an absence of several weeks. The I. O. O. F. [Independent Order of Odd Fellows] revived their Lodge in this place last Thursday. They set out with 11 members. The first water melons offered for sale this season was on Saturday the 8th. Price from 25 cents down. Henderson Kinsey has returned from his Maryland trip, looking about the same old 'two and sixpence.' James H. Fields, the hotelist, has purchased the J. S. Bizzell property on North Railroad Street, and will build a hotel on the same. Shade Fields went to the 'banks' last week. He returned Friday with a pony, which is too small or Shade is too large. Rev. G. W. Sanderlin and Maxy Sanderlin, his brother, were in town Saturday. Maxy seems to be the senior of G. W. by about 10 or 12 years. They have, jointly, a fine farm in Pasquotank County where they raise large quantities of corn, etc. Mr. Sanderlin says the price received for corn this year has been remunerative—from 80 to 90 cents per bushel." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

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[Caption to accompany photograph]

Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904) of Bucklesberry. Photograph courtesy of Audrey Rouse of Kinston, fourth great-granddaughter of S. I. and Mary Jane Uzzell Sutton.

