

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Summertime 1882 (Part 4)

Bucklesberrian and townsman, Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904) was a reporter for several local news outlets during the 1880s. He posted ten articles on social news that occurred in greater La Grange in the summer of 1882. His final three columns of the season are reprinted here:

1882, August 10: "The two schools in this place opened yesterday with flattering prospects. Dr. Seawell is doing very well. The ball was found and taken out last week. Neuse River is high and still rising. Already I hear of low lands in cultivation being overflowed. The Thomas Uzzell White Hall affair is to be investigated, legally, today (Thursday), so I learn. Will give particulars if I can get them. The 'surviving members' of Co. C, 27th North Carolina Regiment, met here Saturday to make arrangements for the reunion at Goldsboro 17th inst. Lewis Grady announces himself an independent candidate for county Treasurer, and bids for Democratic support, so I hear. All 'Old Line Democrats' will take due notice and act wisely...." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1882, August 16: "Thomas Dawson, an industrious citizen of this township, lost a child about 3 years old a few days ago. The waters of Neuse [River] are falling. Those having low lands in cultivation near this stream will be glad to know this. Township conventions next Saturday, the 19th, county convention the Saturday after, the 26th. Take notice and figure accordingly. Business in town is very dull. Corn has declined 4 to 7 cents per bushel. Wheat is selling at 90 cents per bushel; N. C. hams 18 cents; pork 13 1/2 cents per pound. Harrison, the town policeman, gave Jim Potlicker, the town vagrant, a race last week. Harrison's legs are long, and Jim's feet are large....Crops are doing very well. Corn is nearly made and fodder-pulling will soon be upon us. Cotton, in growth, or size of weed, is better than for several years, and is believe to be fruiting and forming very well. In some places the forms are dropping, but not so badly as I have seen. The trial of Thomas Uzzell, Wright Uzzell and Atlas Uzzell for assault upon Thompson, the White Hall policeman, resulted in the acquittal of Thomas and Wright, and in the conviction of Atlas. The fine imposed was ten dollars and costs. The evidence given did not sustain the rumors, so I learn from parties present. Politics, Republican-ward, are above fever heat about here. La Grange will have its full quota of aspirants for many of the county officials. There are, up to this writing, two for clerk, one for sheriff and one for the House, heard from, with John, Homer, Hardy and others at the 'wires.' If the reaction don't kill, things are working splendid." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)

1882, August 23: "Charlie, son of R. K. Fields, was kicked and severely hurt by a horse, on Saturday. Ben F. Sutton, Jr. passed through town with a watermelon, which he said weighted 51

lbs. William A Fields, a resident of Pitt County, and brother of our hotelist, while assisting in sawing some lumber at a steam mill, was thrown upon the saw and his arm entirely cut off near the shoulder and thrown ten feet or more. Dr. Bynum attended to him professionally, and on Thursday he was doing as well as could be expected. Lieut. [Louis] Foss' family met with an accident last Thursday night, that came near being very serious. On their return from the reunion of the 27th regt., while crossing Bear Creek bridge near Spring Hill, the night being very dark, the driver missed the way, and the buggy, containing Foss' wife, a small child, a girl, and one of his sons, was upset, and with the horse thrown into the Creek, Foss and an older son were close at hand and went to the rescue. The Creek was full at the time, but strange to say, not one was lost or seriously hurt, and all the contents of the buggy saved. The Republican Township meeting (or more correctly, meetings) was held here last Saturday. It was easy to see 'in early morn' that all was not lovely. Groups could be seen here and there in close conversation. Parker, with his Campaign coat, was on the war path. Pope came out of his hole to do service. Moore, the judge was planning. Stauton looked thoughtful. Homer walked around with all the dignity due his former position. McIntyre, the new out, was smiling, and Carter was not idle. And what more can I say, for time would fail me to tell of W. B. Walters, N. G. Sutton, West Wooten, Hardy Barnes and a host of others, who all worked like Turks. At 11 o'clock, the masses assembled at the appointed place, and it soon became apparent that things were 'cut and dried'...." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)