

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

New Year's 1887

For Bucklesberry and surrounding communities, the New Year of 1887 rang in with little fanfare. Happenings in early January were relatively routine. According to a newspaper column by La Grange townsman Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904), there was no public New Year's celebration.

Interestingly, the report closed with an admonition to farmers. Not surprisingly, S. I. was born and reared in Bucklesberry, was a farmer there for much of his adult life prior to his move to La Grange in the 1880s, and he cared deeply for his rural kinsmen:

1887, January 5: "No preaching in town Sunday. Shade Wooten went to Snow Hill Monday. [Noah] J. Rouse of Kinston was in town [La Grange] Saturday. We are glad to hear that Mr. C. W. Joyner is improving. Misses Alma and Laura Speight are visiting friends in Greene County."

"Dr. J. S. Bizzell and Elijah W. Taylor have gone into the buggy business. Miss Lillia Turnage of Greene County is visiting the family of J. H. Fields. Geo. L. Taylor, now route agent on the [Wilmington & Weldon] R. R., was in town last week."

"The new Disciple[s] Church is nearing completion. This church is said to be the finest in town. Miss Lula H. Pell of Goldsboro, music teacher in [Joseph] Kinsey's School [for Girls and Young Ladies, La Grange], returned Monday night."

"We hear that Mr. William Wooten, an extensive farmer of Greene County, has made an assignment. Mr. Baker, of the firm of M. N. Baker & Bro., left Monday with a cargo of [men] to work his turpentine farm in Georgia. Wonder what poor little Willie will do now another 'Brick' thrown against him? Guess he would like to go over the [Neuse] River too."

"Misses Lillian M. Dillon and Lillie E. Rouse, who have been spending the holidays with their parents, left Tuesday to resume their studies at Peace Institute [College, Raleigh]. Prof. H. H. Williams spent Sunday at Mr. Noah Rouse's. We learn that Mr. Williams is taking a theological course at Yale College [University]."

"We hear that one of our young men will soon move to Durham to accept a position in the establishment of W. T. Blackwell & Co. We suppose that Blackwell has lost his ox. Mr. Geo. A. Pitts, our chief of police, is expecting to get a \$1,200 dollar position in Washington City. We

would like to see Mr. Pitts honored with the position; he has made us a good officer and we have reason to believe he would do his duty there."

"Young lady in drug store: 'Now you are sartin [i.e., certain], young feller, that those are love powders and not something else?' 'There is nothing certain in this world, Madame,' exclaimed the young man, 'but those fascinating eyes of yours are the prettiest things I have ever beheld.'

"The old year has passed and a new one has come. We hope to see the farmers of our community do better in the future than they have in the past; let everyone enter into a new year's work with the determination to raise all he can for his own use and make his support. We believe this is essential to the farmers' success; every farmer should keep his own books and carry on his business in a business-like manner." (*The Daily Journal*, New Bern)