

[Series Article #290]
Published 8.24.22, *The Weekly Gazette*, La Grange, NC

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

This Week in August 1889

Among the many national observances in the month of August is National Farmers Market Week. Recognized the first full week of August each year, it is regrettably omitted in some listings of national observances (e.g., thespruce.com). Nonetheless, the U.S. Department of Agriculture officially proclaimed National Farmers Market Week in 1999.

Farmers markets have operated for centuries as an outlet for the sale of local fruits and vegetables. Their importance to the economy cannot be understated. Nationwide, more than 8,500 farmers markets generate an estimated one billion dollars annually in total sales (agmrc.com).

Although farmers markets per se were not mentioned in an August 21, 1889 "La Grange Items" news column, the condition of farmers, crops and vegetables were prominently reported. Also discussed were school opening, churches, and two Bucklesberrians, Laurah Wood Swain (1856-1934) and Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904). Reprinted here is the column that was published one hundred thirty-three years ago this week in *The Daily Journal* (New Bern, NC):

"The La Grange Collegiate Institute opens on the 29th inst."

"There is no section of the country where the crops are as little damaged by recent rains as through this vicinity."

"Our...people advise the sowing of turnip seeds, during the full of the moon if you desire 'big roots' and 'small tops.'"

"Miss Laura [six., Laurah] Wood, a lady of superior accomplishments, and well known in our county, will teach in the Institute the following year."

"The...pastor, Rev. Isaac Taylor, of the colored Missionary Baptist Church here is to be sent to Africa. He assumes to be quite happy over the appointment."

"There is a spring some miles from our town so infused by mineral qualities that the sulphurous odor is detectable thirty yards from the spot where the spring is located."

"Rev. Mr. [William Walter] Rose has been conducting a religious meeting at new Falling Creek church. We are happy to learn his efforts have been rewarded by many converts to the church."

"Mr. D[allas] M[ifflin] Stanton is our next appointed postmaster. Mr. [Samuel Ivey, S. I.] Sutton our present postmaster, has filled the office during the past four years most fittingly and excellently. Mr. Stanton takes charge the first of September."

"Unusual interest is manifested by our farming people over the election of cotton weighers for our town. There is a decided variance between the commission and the farmers. We think the farmers are in the right and should be accorded the privilege of installing a farmer, if they so choose, in this position. The farmers have cogent reasons for dissatisfaction with past experiences in this matter. However, the young man who holds this position will beyond all doubt prove himself entirely worthy in these duties, and give perfect satisfaction."