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Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Thanksgiving 1884

Bucklesberrian and La Grange townsman Samuel Ivey (S. I.) Sutton (1834-1904) was the community news reporter for *The Daily Journal* of New Bern during the 1880s. Excerpts from his "La Grange Items" column, published one hundred thirty-eight years ago on November 26, 1884 during Thanksgiving week, are reprinted here:

"Cotton selling Monday at 9 3/8 [9.375 cents per pound] for the best."

"Dr. Hadley has purchased a pair of 'dapple cream ponies.' Those needing his professional services will be served at shortest notice possible."

"We saw last Saturday seven bales of cotton on a four mule team. The load was a heavy one, and the manner in which the wagon was loaded was a novelty."

"W. M. Murchison, formerly of our town, but for the last two or three years a resident of Florida, arrived here last Saturday. We are sorry to see Mr. M. in so bad health."

"Rev. Mr. [A. J.] Hiers preached in the Baptist church here [La Grange] Sunday. No service Sunday night. He will preach at Hickory Grove [Bucklesberry; then a Baptist Church] on the fourth Sunday in December, at 3 o'clock, p.m."

"Rev. J. D. Carpenter, P[reacher in] C[harge], this [Methodist Episcopal, South] circuit, will leave for his State Conference this week. Mr. Carpenter and his estimable lady have endeared themselves to people of the circuit, and we hope they will be returned to this field again."

"A report in town today, Monday, that two...teamsters in the employ of Haywood Dail, of Snow Hill, were shot from their wagons last Saturday night and one of them instantly killed. The shooting is said to have taken place not far from 'Becton Old Field,' and the cause, as we learn, was plunder or robbery."

"Miss Adilia M. Kirkpatrick left here for her father's house in Orange County last Friday. Miss Kirkpatrick has been for some time teacher in the primary department of the [La Grange] Collegiate Institute, and the patrons of the school, no doubt, will regret her withdrawal. Probably our loss will be another's gain. She may put on the veil and become a nun."

"Our farmers who engaged in peanut farming are finding much trouble in having the peas picked. The machine for picking did not fill the bill, and picking by hand is slow, expensive and wasteful. The cultivation is easy enough, but unless some more satisfactory way of picking can be had, we hardly think a second crop will be tried."

"We regret the much burning of towns going on just now. Surely it can have no connection with the late election results. Certainly no party claiming to represent a free people would resort, or advise others, to any such measures of defeat. And yet one is almost forced to the conclusion that there may be some connection, after reading Mr. [James G.] Blaine's speech."

"Gov. Jarvis arrived here Saturday night and left at once for the famous Seven Springs, where Mrs. Jarvis is, for the present, sojourning. The Governor comes as quietly as any private citizen could, and returns in the same manner. His excellent administration as chief officer of the State and his valuable services to the Democratic party, will be fondly remembered long after Thomas J. Jarvis is no more."