

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

First Matriarchs

The Scriptural command, “Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due...[and] honor to whom honor” (Romans 13:7), is not limited only to those in authority or high office. It has broader application when viewed in conjunction with the Fifth Commandment to “Honor thy father and thy mother” (Exodus 20:12a).

The late Bible commentator, Matthew Henry, interpreted this passage to mean that we are to give tribute, honor and due respect to kings and magistrates as well as to all superiors, including parents. This would certainly extend to grandparents, elders and ancestors.

An earlier article in this series acknowledged early patriarchs of Bucklesberry. This article recognizes several of Bucklesberry’s first matriarchs. Below are reprints of their death notices published in area newspapers more than a century ago:

Annie Hill Sutton (1807–1881): “At her residence in Lenoir County after a long and painful illness, Mrs. Annie Sutton, aged 74 years. The death of this estimable lady, although for sometime expected, has fallen like a shock on our entire community. The announcement to those who are ignorant of the sad event, who knew and loved her, will add many a drop to the fountain of sorrow and lay new offerings of sympathy on the family altar. She was a consistent member of the church and showed her devotedness to Christianity by her regular attendance. Perhaps it is not quite proper to indulge in eulogy in a motive of this kind—indeed, to commemorate the virtue of the deceased, there is no need of eulogy—for true worth and merit require no words of praise to perpetuate their influence. We have watched her career from our earliest childhood, and can never cease to remember her scrupulous fidelity to every obligation, and a thousand other impulses which designated her as a good woman. Her patient endurance throughout her illness elicited our greatest admiration, and her placid resignation indicated full trust in the Great Power Which giveth and taketh away life. Like the last full-bloom flower of summer she has withered and passed away leaving a barren spot; but the beauty and perfume of her life will ever linger with us. No more will the firm elastic step which used to gladden our hearts be heard on our threshold, no more will our household rejoice at her coming; for the cheerful voice is hushed and the kindly beaming eye is closed in death. But—‘Let not tears embalm her tomb, None but the dews by twilight given; Oh! Let not sighs disturb the gloom, None but the whispering winds of heaven.’” (*Kinston Journal*, April 28, 1881)

Patsy Sutton Elmore (1829–1922): “Mrs. Patsy Elmore, 93, died in the Bucklesberry section recently. She was one of the oldest women in that vicinity. Her death was unexpected. She is survived by one son, Jerry Elmore, and five daughters, Mrs. J[ohn]. F[rank]. Barwick, Mrs. Dora Fields, Mrs. J[ohn]. I[rving]. Vause, Mrs. R. Rackley and Mrs. Lou Rouse. She was a woman of

fine Christian character. Burial took place in a private burial ground.” (*Kinston Free Press*, March 15, 1922)

Mary Jane Uzzell Sutton (1833–1915): “Mrs. Mary Sutton, Octogenarian member of a prominent Lenoir family, who was badly burned when her clothing caught on fire from an open grate, at her home in La Grange Saturday, died that afternoon. The funeral was held Sunday shortly before noon. Mrs. Sutton was 83 years of age, and the mother of A[ndrew]. J[ackson]. Sutton of Kinston, Joshua Sutton of Bucklesberry, Mrs. J. W. [Louisa] Graham and Miss Nan Sutton of La Grange, and Mrs. L. D. [Alice] Harris of Goldsboro.” (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston, December 13, 1915)

Alice Matilda Peele Sutton Quinn (1863–1921): “Mrs. Alice Quinn died at her home in the Bucklesberry section recently, succumbing to pneumonia. She was the widow of David Quinn, of Duplin County. A former husband was Noah Sutton, who died some years ago. The body of Mrs. Quinn was buried beside that of her first husband. The following children survive: Mrs. John [Ethel] Vinson, Mrs. Leslie [Rachel] Sutton and Miss Mellie Sutton and Felix Sutton, who is about a man-of-war in foreign waters. Before her first marriage Mrs. Quinn was Miss Alice Peele, of Wayne County.” (*The Daily Free Press*, Kinston, February 18, 1921)

[Caption to accompany photograph]

Alice Matilda Peele Sutton Quinn (1863–1921). Photograph courtesy of Beverly Faye Edwards Abbott, 2xgreat-granddaughter.

