

Bucklesberry, Back in the Day

Glimpse in Time: 1874

The end of the Civil War had been in the nation's rear view mirror for almost a decade in 1874. At the national level that year, the country's first zoo opened in Philadelphia, barbed wire was patented, and the Greenback political party formed with the large support of farmers.

Closer to home, the Old North State constructed its first tobacco factories in Durham and Winston-Salem in 1874, while the U.S. Lifesaving Service had begun operation on the N.C. coast.

More locally, one newspaper, the *Goldsboro Messenger*, reported happenings in Bucklesberry and Lenoir County in 1874. For example, the month of January brought unusually good weather to the area:

1874, January 15: "We have had quite a favorable winter, very little snow as yet, not enough to cover the ground. Never have I seen a more favorable time for winter plowing. We had quite a rain last Monday night and Tuesday night. Our creeks were full to overflowing, most of the bridges were afloat, some were washed away." (*Goldsboro Messenger*)

With generally ideal weather came better health for folks that was uncharacteristic of the typical winter months back then:

1874, January 15: "Very little sickness in the neighborhood. No deaths..." (*Goldsboro Messenger*)

The month of January also saw the seating of officers in the newly-formed Moseley Hall Grange. Known formally as the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, the Grange was a rural association of farmers that promoted community values and impacted State agricultural policies. One of Bucklesberry's very own, Samuel Ivey Sutton (1834-1904) was elected Overseer:

1874, January 15: "The Moseley Hall, Grange, No. 26. P[atrons] of H[usbandry] had a public installation of their officers on yesterday, by Dr. J. W. Jones of Snow Hill Grange. His remarks on the occasion were very appropriate, and if I am a judge he performed the duty in a graceful manner. The officers elected for that Grange, are viz.: C. S. Wooten, Master, S[amuel] I[vey] Sutton, Over[seer], J. M. Patrick, Chap[lain], J. F. Davis, Lec[turer], S. I. Wooten, Treas., J. M. Hines, Jr., Sec'y., J. W. Isler, St'd [Steward], C. G. Grady, A[ssistant] St'd., Mrs. H. L. Wooten, L[ady] A. St'd., Mrs. J. A. Wooten, Ceres, Miss S. E. Hines, Flora., Mrs. Clara Davis, Pomona, and L. Hines, G[ate] K[eeper]. I think their selection [is] a very good one upon the whole, and I hope the Grange will pardon me for congratulating them for having Mr. C. S. Wooten, as their

'Bell Cow,' for I think if they follow his instruction they may be benefited." (*Goldsboro Messenger*)

Prior to installment of officers, eight representatives of the Moseley Hall Grange joined 110 delegates from twenty-two other Granges in late-December, 1873 at a meeting in Kinston of the Atlantic Council of the Patrons of Husbandry. Among the important business conducted was adoption of a constitution and by-laws. Committees exploring the establishment of co-operative stores and a bank also reported progress.