

BUCKLESBERRY BEGINNINGS

Joe P. Sutton, PhD

October 2024

Arguably the oldest named farm community in Lenoir County, North Carolina, Bucklesberry is nestled along the north side of the Neuse River, five miles south of the town of La Grange. Despite its age, and speculations by some about its beginnings, Bucklesberry's origins have not been firmly established to date. This paper presents historical evidence from digital archives that unequivocally proves the time period that Bucklesberry was opened for colonization. This research is discussed in light of other publications about Bucklesberry and greater Lenoir County.

NAME NOT UNIQUE

Bucklesberry is not a unique name, although it is admittedly unusual. A number of places in North Carolina and across the pond (England), some established long before Bucklesberry of Lenoir County, have variations of the same name, including "Buckleberry," "Bucklebury," "Bucklersbury," "Bucklesbury," and "Bucklesberie."

The earliest known mention of the name dates back to twelfth century England. The "Bucklebury" Estate of Berkshire County [1] was granted to the Benedictine Monks in 1121 by King Henry I. Once the Monasteries were dissolved in 1538, King Henry VIII granted the Estate to John Winchcombe in 1540. Included in the Estate was the "Bucklebury" House, built by Winchcombe in the mid-1500s. The estate descended through the female line and has remained in the Hartley family to the present day.

One of the oldest estates in England, the "Bucklebury" Estate comprises the parish of Bucklebury and about 1,600 acres of land, including woodland and farms, as well as commercial and private-residential property. More than half of the acreage is allocated for Bucklebury Common, from which commoners had particular grazing and wooding rights through the centuries until the early 1900s. Today, only a select group of households living in the Common are allowed to collect fallen dead wood for fireplace use.

In 1305, Willielmus Servat [2] was issued a license to construct a tower to fortify his palace in the city of London. Situated on the north side of "Bucklesbury" and Walbrook Streets, Servat's Tower of Bucklesbury, also referred to as the Sernes Tower in "Bucklesberie," was demolished in the sixteenth century. Interestingly, Bucklesbury Street at the time was narrow and flanked with grocery and apothecary stores. Still recognized today in the city of London is a suburb known as "Bucklersbury."

Presently, there is a village and civil parish located in West Berkshire, England, named "Bucklebury" [3]. The parish has a population of a little more than 2,000, although the village is considerably smaller. Not without fame, Buckleburry Common is where Kate Middleton, Duchess of Cambridge and wife of British royal Prince William, was reared. Her parents, Carole and Mike Middleton, currently own the 18-acre, seven bedroom "Bucklebury" Manor.

On this side of the pond, "Bucklebury" Court is a residential subdivision in Dominion Trace, a neighborhood located in Highland Creek on the outskirts of Charlotte, NC. But the most notable and historic place in North Carolina with this name is a rural, largely wooded area currently located in Bertie County called "Bucklesberry." Its earliest known mention is found in the will of John Hardy (1665-1718/19) of Chowan County [4] that referenced a 1717 land patent for hundreds of acres located in "Bucklesbury Swamp" bequeathed to his wife and daughter. One hundred and forty-two years later, the 1862 tax listing for Bertie County [5] listed only eleven residents holding properties in Bucklesbury.

The 1863 Gilmer map [6] confirms a geographic area in Bertie County called "Bucklesbury Capeheart." Similarly, the same area was called "Buckleberry Pocosin" on a 1938 map [7] of Bertie County. Virginia Crilley [8] identified the general location of the Bucklesberry community in Bertie County as "SW Merry Hill E of Windsor, on the south side of Highway 17 just N of intersection Hwy 45 toward Edenton."

Although Bucklesberry of Bertie County was apparently a thriving farming and residential community during the 1700s and 1800s, it has been reduced today to a mere hunting club located on Bucklesberry Road in Windsor, NC.

BOUNDARIES AND LANDMARKS

Predominantly unsettled swamp land in the beginning, Bucklesberry of Lenoir County is known today for its nutrient-rich soil that yields some of the finest crops in the Southeast. In fact, early land patents identified the area as "Bucklesberry Pocosin" (i.e., swamp or wetlands). As colonization progressed, it was simply referred to as "Bucklesberry" in later land documents and historical records.

Located on the west side of Lenoir County, Bucklesberry's geographic location has remained the same over time. County affiliation, however, varied during the 1700s when North Carolina counties were being formed and renamed. Initially, it was a settlement in old Craven County, from which Johnston County was created in 1746. It then became part of old Dobbs County that was carved out of eastern Johnston County in 1758. Bucklesberry eventually landed, as it were, in Lenoir County, which was created from the southern part of old Dobbs County in 1791.

Compared with its recognized perimeter today, late nineteenth century Bucklesberry was originally a much larger area. In an 1886 news article [9], "Bucklesberry: Some Interesting Notes from Lenoir County," famed attorney and journalist Council Simmons Wooten, Esq. (1840-1930) described Bucklesberry with broad boundaries that spanned approximately ten miles, from the west side of Bear Creek at Seven Springs (formerly, White Hall) to the east side of Bear Creek at Falling Creek. Over the years, land obtained by Bucklesberrians extended from the south side of the Neuse River near the Strabane community, northerly to U.S. Highway 70 and beyond to the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad.

There is general consensus that the geographic heart of Bucklesberry is Bear Creek, which empties into the north side of the Neuse River. Although omitting Bucklesberry by name, many of the oldest available land patents and surveys, nonetheless, identified Bear Creek and various

other associated geographic landmarks such as creeks, branches, pocosins, landings, and the like that were within close proximity to Bear Creek and greater Bucklesberry, including, but not limited to, the following:

Bogue Swamp (near Seven Springs) / Cabbin Branch / Deep Gully / Frogpoint / Groundnut Creek (near La Grange) / Herring Branch / High Hills (near Seven Springs) / Horsepoint / Indian Old Field (near Seven Springs) / Panther Creek (near Seven Springs) / Plow Branch / Saponney Landing / Skrubby Island / Sloop Landing / Stirrup Creek (near Falling Creek) / Stoney Creek (north of Seven Springs) / Walnut Creek (northwest of La Grange) / Thoroughfare Swamp (formerly known as Falling Creek) / Uzzell Mill Branch (near Walnut Creek) / Wolf Trap Branch.

PURPORTED COLONIZATION

The actual point in time that Bucklesberry of Lenoir County was opened to colonization has been bandied about for generations. Although an exact year is virtually impossible to ascertain, a November 6, 1924, news story nonetheless reported that colonization in Bucklesberry began in 1825. Reprinted here, the article appeared in the State's then-leading newspaper, *The News and Observer* of Raleigh [10]:

"Bucklesberry Will Celebrate—Famous Section of Lenoir County Approaching its 100th Birthday—Kinston, Nov. 5—The Bucklesberry section near here will celebrate the centenary of its 'creation' next year. The district, one of the richest in a farming way in Lenoir County, is all but 100 years younger than the most of the universe. Much of the land was 'made' in the first reclamation project ever launched in this part of the country. As late as 1905, land in the neighborhood sold for as little as \$12 to \$20 an acre. The average farmer there would not part with his holdings for ten times \$12 an acre now."

"Moseley Hall historians say John and Hardy Sutton of good old English stock opened Bucklesberry to colonization in 1825. Most of the land is still in the possession of the Suttons' descendants, however. Hundreds of Suttons are located in Moseley Hall Township. Bucklesberry is near La Grange, originally named Moseley Hall. The colonial hall from which the name was taken was the birthplace of William Moseley, first American governor of Florida, who moved to the peninsula in 1819 and became the State Executive when Florida was admitted to the union in the forties."

"Bucklesberry planters will celebrate the centenary by making crops larger than John and Hardy Sutton ever dreamed would be produced there, they say. No plans have been made for formal observances. Steps may be considered shortly, however. The Bucklesberry and Moseley Hall communities lead Lenoir county in the production of cotton, tobacco, and corn. Many fine plantations have not had their boundaries changed since their establishment 75 to 100 years ago."

This news story did not make front page headlines in the State's top news outlet, but it was a featured, page one story in a down east newspaper, *The Morning New Bernian* of New Bern [11]. Although not as detailed, the brief November 8, 1924 article announced Bucklesberry's impending centennial anniversary:

"Bucklesberry Exercises—Kinston, Nov. 7—The Bucklesberry section near here will celebrate the centenary of its 'creation' next year. The district, one of the richest in a farming way in Lenoir County, is all but 100 years younger than most of the universe. Much of the land was made in the vast reclamation project ever launched in this part of the country."

Coverage of this story by multiple newspapers was tacit acknowledgment of Bucklesberry's prominence as a well regarded farm community. Unfortunately, these news pieces were written by staff reporters who had few research tools at the time for finding supportive documentary evidence. Other than a general reference to Moseley Hall historians (none named), *The News and Observer* article, in particular, failed to provide any proof for the claim that Bucklesberry was opened to colonization in 1825.

PRE-REVOLUTION SETTLEMENT

A 1924 article in *The News and Observer* claimed that colonization in Bucklesberry began in 1825. This article was followed three years later by a 1927 publication from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Authors R. C. Journey and W. A. Davis [12] reported the results of a Lenoir County soil sample survey, which suggested, to the contrary, that colonization ensued much earlier.

In a likely veiled reference to Bucklesberry, Journey and Davis indicated there was a pre-Revolutionary War "settlement [that] began near the present site of La Grange" (p. 3). Indeed, recently discovered archived documents dating back to the early 1700s of the Colonial era confirm colonization of the Bucklesberry area began many years before the Revolutionary War.

One document, a 1720 land grant to John Herring (1684-1760), was for a tract of land on "Bear Swamp." This parcel is believed to have been within close proximity to, if not located squarely in, present-day Bucklesberry. Largely reclaimed swampland, the Bucklesberry community has historically been directly associated with Bear Creek, which empties into the Neuse River a few miles south of the town of La Grange. In his 1969 genealogical narrative, descendant Dr. Robert A. Herring, MD [13] referenced an indexed abstract of the 1720 land grant:

"Bertie County deed book D, p. 276, records the transfer of 380 acres of land by John Herring to Abram Herring which 'is part of a patent to John Herring granted to him August, 1720, on the south side of Bear Swamp' [for] consideration [of] 150 pounds, deed dated May 10, 1736, witnessed by Simon Herring whose name appears as witness on many of John Herring's deeds. Bear Swamp is the location of the original John Herring holdings in present Lenoir County, N.C...." (p. 2).

Short of naming Bucklesberry per se, this indexed abstract stands as the earliest known evidence that proves the pre-Revolution, Colonial era existence of Bucklesberry. Further, it represents some of the first land obtained in the backcountry of then old Craven County.

One other significant document, a 1738 land patent issued to John Williams [14], is believed to be the first known document that explicitly identifies Bucklesberry by name:

"[King] George the Second Know ye that we have Given & Granted to John Williams One hundred and fifty Acres of Land lying in Craven County on the North side of Neuse River and on Bucklerberry [i.e., Bucklesberry] Branch...1 March 1738 Gab. Johnston"

These two archived documents, having now come to light, refute the legendary claim that colonization of Bucklesberry began in the early decades of the nineteenth century. In fact, it began fully a century earlier. Therefore, the purported 1825 settlement year, as indicated in *The News and Observer* article, is effectively debunked.

Interestingly, these two land records prove that Bucklesberry was on the map long before the nearby towns of La Grange, Goldsboro, and Kinston. Not incorporated until 1869, La Grange [15] was an outgrowth of Moseley Hall township that was not settled until soon after the Revolutionary War ended in 1783. Kingston, now Kinston [16], was founded in 1762, and Goldsborough, now Goldsboro [17], grew out of Waynesborough, the first town to emerge in Wayne County in 1787.

THE BACKCOUNTRY

An abundance of land awaited the earliest settlers who arrived in the unsettled backcountry of Bucklesberry in the early to mid-1700s. Defined by historian and author Dr. Lindley S. Butler, PhD [18], the backcountry was a "term used during the early settlement and colonial periods for the vast interior of North Carolina, located away from the coastline and including both the modern day Piedmont and Mountain regions" (para. 1).

Extensive research on the backcountry was conducted by Dr. Creston S. Long, III, PhD [19] in his 2002 doctoral dissertation titled, *Southern Routes: Family Migration and the Eighteenth-Century South Backcountry*. The backcountry of North Carolina was expansive and appealed to colonists who were willing to accept the challenges and risks of settling unknown territory. "For those who sought to improve their situations...or to join family in other backcountry areas," wrote Dr. Long, "heading south a hundred or so miles seemed to be a manageable risk to take..." (p. 137).

Acquisition of land was an unquestionable motive for colonists in their exodus from the settled counties in the northeastern part of the State into the unsettled backcountry of places like Bucklesberry. Associated with better life, Dr. Long explained that a major draw was abundant unclaimed and unsettled land that could be purchased at once-in-a-lifetime, discounted prices:

"The widespread belief that it was easy to acquire land in North Carolina and the growing opportunities in the backcountry made the area attractive to many colonial settlers...[and] was greater than virtually anywhere else in the colonies in the mid-eighteenth century. Between the late 1740s and the early 1760s, migrants entered the western portion of the colony and purchased large tracts for very little money." (p. 138)

Colonists had other motives for migrating inland as well. Many of the first settlers of Bucklesberry faced limited opportunities to advance their lives in the areas where they were born

and reared. In the backcountry, they could join other like-minded family and friends. According to Dr. Long,

"Families often took up land near or adjacent to other relatives and associates. As they sought out land, they did their best to secure tracts that allowed them to build secure lives and maintain their networks of family and associates (p. 141)...When families decided to abandon their former communities, leaving behind land of varying size or no land at all, they often moved to an area where they could, to some extent, replicate their communities. To do this, families and individuals had to migrate to an area that had land enough not only to accommodate their own families, but to allow extended family and other associates to settle near them." (p. 143)

The social connection among the colonists who moved inland from the coast was also an important factor. They were able to bond together to establish new communities in the backcountry that were similar to their homelands. Per Dr. Long,

"Throughout the North Carolina backcountry in the mid-eighteenth century, there were dozens of networks of families and relatives living close to each other.... Various underlying factors pulled these groups of families together across the hundreds of miles which constituted the migration route. Chief among them were religion, culture, and ethnicity....[They] were able to replicate many of their social networks...but they were able to do so where many of them could own more land than they had before." (p. 144)

Colonists, then, were motivated to move inland for multiple reasons. In the backcountry, they found land aplenty, more than they could ever hope to acquire in their homelands, a conclusion Dr. Long reached in his research:

"When settlers left an area in which economic conditions were tightening and moved to an area where land was abundant....The amount of land a migrant could obtain in the backcountry dwarfed that of his former holdings. Indeed, it appears as though the question of motivation is readily answered: migrants moved on because they perceived better opportunity to advance themselves socially and economically." (p. 147)

FIRST INHABITANTS

Challenges and risks awaited early eighteenth century settlers who arrived in the unsettled Bucklesberry area of then old Craven County. According to historian and author Dr. Lindley S. Butler, PhD, "The backcountry was the last area of the State to be settled and, consequently, the most volatile region of North Carolina society for many years" (para. 1).

Fueling the volatility was unrest among native Indians, who were indisputably the first inhabitants [20] of the backcountry. Long before European settlers began migrating inland from the coastal areas, native Indians occupied North America. To them, settler encroachment represented an unwarranted land grab. Further, they viewed settlers as interlopers who threatened their societal culture and mores.

"The European discovery and settlement of the Carolina region," wrote historian William G. DiNome [21], "signaled an era of radical change for local Indians, one marked by the toppling of the previous Indian way of life..." (para. 5). In an effort to protect their culture and the land they believed was theirs, the Indians fought back.

The most populous and powerful Indians in eighteenth century North Carolina were the Cherokee and the Tuscarora, both Iroquoian tribes. The Cherokee occupied the Blue Ridge Mountain region in the western part of the State while the Tuscarora dwelled along the coast and in the central Piedmont areas, which included the Bucklesberry area.

Tuscarora resistance against encroachment came to a head with the Tuscarora War of 1711-1713. The culminating battle occurred a few miles north of Bucklesberry in present-day Snow Hill, NC. "The once great and powerful Tuscarora Nation was broken into pieces when their final stronghold, Fort Neoheroka, was burned to the ground," explained Sara Whitford [22], "a major blow to the Tuscarora, one from which the nation would never fully recover." (para. 17)

Although approximately 950 Tuscarora Indians were killed or enslaved in the defeat, according to Roberta Estes of the Native Heritage Project [23], "about 1,500 Tuscarora fled to NY to join the Iroquois Confederacy [while] as many as 1,500 additional Tuscarora sought refuge in the colony of VA, " (para. 37). Further, "perhaps as many as 3,000 by some counts, fled into the swamps of NC...to hide out for many years to save their families, " (para. 38).

A remnant of Tuscaroras remained in their hunting territory villages along the Neuse and Cape Fear Rivers after the war. They had a continued presence in Johnston County [24], which was carved out of old Dobbs County in 1746, and from which Wayne, Lenoir, and Jones Counties were eventually formed:

"From time immemorial to the eighteenth century, there were Indian villages and Indian trails in the upper Neuse River region of North Carolina that became the land of Johnston County. Early English explorers and settlers who penetrated this region in the middle 1700's or earlier moved along Indian trails even as they were guided by the course of the Neuse River in traveling west from New Bern." (Johnston County Visitors Bureau)

Since the Bucklesberry Pocosin was located on the north side of the Neuse River, some aging and next-generation Tuscarora Indians doubtless were living in or near there when early settlers began trickling into the area. Not in great numbers, they resided in isolated villages. As colonization was well underway in the backcountry by the mid-1700s, settlers remained on alert for lingering Indian attacks, although most had ended by 1725.

EARLY SETTLERS—THE SUTTONS

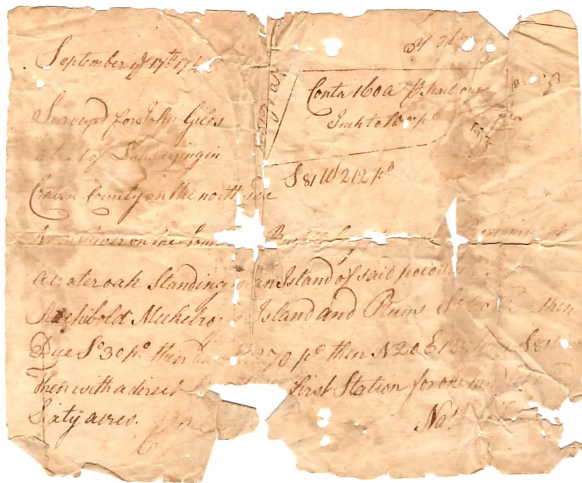
A 1924 article published in *The News and Observer* reported that Bucklesberry was opened to colonization in 1825. This claim has been debunked, based on two archived land documents that have recently come to light. One dated 1738 explicitly named Bucklesberry. The other dated 1720 referenced the geographic area of Bucklesberry, proving colonization began fully a century before 1825.

The same article asserted that Bucklesberry was settled by brothers John Sutton (ca. 1779-1848) and Hardy Sutton (1803-1861). However, historical documents available today, not readily available when the 1924 news article was published, conclusively prove this was also an incorrect claim. Not the Sutton brothers, but rather their grandfather John Sutton, Sr. (1720/30-bef. 1773), rightly should be credited as one of the early settlers of Bucklesberry.

Included in the Clellan Sutton Collection [25] of more than 300 historical documents are two surveys, one dated 1745 and the other dated 1757, that identify Bucklesberry land obtained by John Sutton. He was the first of his paternal line to migrate to Bucklesberry from Bertie County, NC.

Although he is not explicitly named, the 1745 survey for 160 acres in Bucklesberry is attributed to John Sutton. Passed through the family line to John's descendants, the presence of this survey in the Collection suggests it originated with John Sutton.

This survey (pictured) is smaller than a standard five-by-seven-inch greeting card. Written with quill pen and ink on cream/tan-colored rag paper (cotton or linen paper), the beautifully flowing and slanted penmanship is in the Copperplate or English Round Hand style. Stronger than paper today, rag paper is incredibly durable, which explains in part why the survey is still intact after more than a quarter of a millennium. The literal transcription of the survey [26] clearly identifies Bucklesberry (blanks represent tears or holes in the document from deterioration along the creases of the folds):

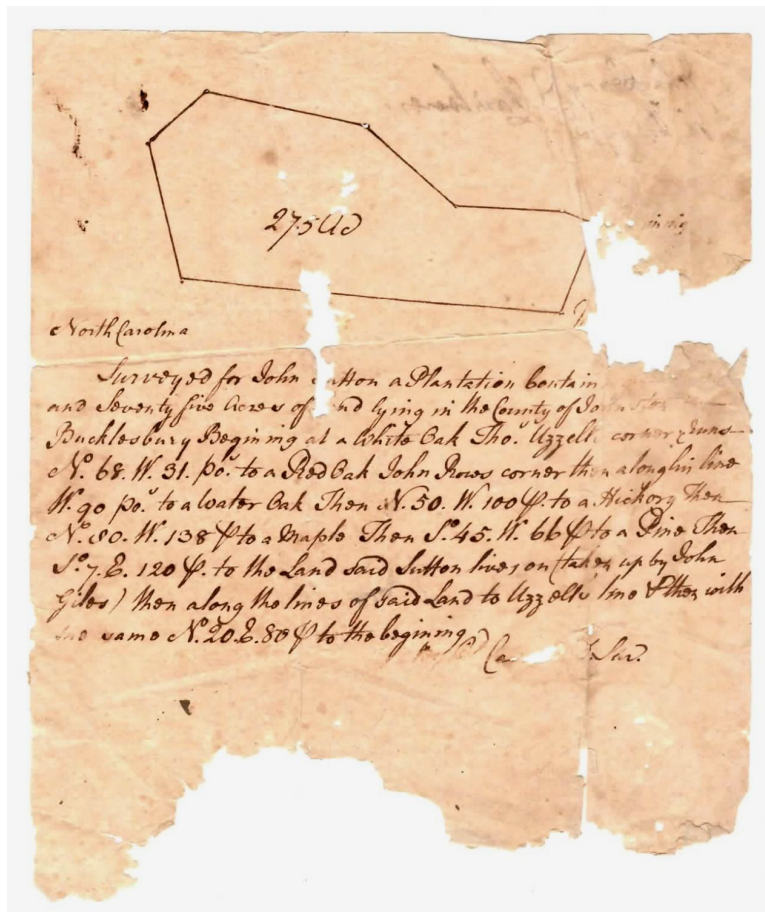


"September 17th 174_ Surveyed for John Giles a tract of land lying in Craven County on the north _ Neus River on the South _ Bucklesberry pocosin Beginning at a water oak Standing on an Island of said pocosin _ Archibald Mukelroys Island and Plums Island then Due So 30 po then _ 70 po then N 20 E 128 _ _ Then with a direct _ First Station for one hundred and sixty acres [torn area] Na. _"

The last digit of the year on the survey is indiscernible. The indication of Craven County, along with the month and day of September 17, suggests the survey necessarily occurred between the patent request date of April 6, 1745 (per State Archives of North Carolina) and June 28, 1746,

the founding date that Johnston County was created from Craven County. Thus, the confirmed year of this survey is 1745.

The 1757 survey for 275 acres (pictured) names both Bucklesberry and John Sutton and is also written with quill pen and ink on cream/tan-colored rag paper. At the top of the survey is an elongated octagonal-shaped diagram inscribed with "275 ac" (i.e., 275 acres). Measuring about the size of a standard piece of copy paper, the ink is consistently dark throughout, with only a few faded spots.



Although sizeable sections of the document edges have deteriorated over time, the text is largely readable. The literal transcription of the survey [27] clearly identifies "Bucklesbury," a spelling variation of Bucklesberry (blanks represent words that could not be translated because of fading or holes):

"North Carolina Surveyed for John Sutton a Plantation Containing two hundred and Seventy five Acres of land lying in the County of Johnston _ Bucklesbury [i.e., Bucklesberry] Beginning at a White Oak Tho. Uzzell's corner land No. 68. W. 31. Po. to a Red Oak John Rows corner then along his line W. 90. Po. to a Water Oak Then N. 50. W. 100 P. to a Hickory Then N. 80. W. 138 P. to a Maple Then So. 45. W. 66 P. to a Pine Then So. 7. E. 120 P. to the Land said Sutton lives on (taken up by John Giles) Then along the lines of said land to Uzzell's line & then with the same No. 20. E. 80 P. to the beginning. __ Surv."

John Sutton flourished in the backcountry of North Carolina. He continued to expand his land holdings after settling in Bucklesberry. A large landowner, even by twenty-first century standards, John and his three known sons—Benjamin, John, Jr. and William—and their heirs amassed significant acreage that extended north and south of the Neuse River, and from the Bear Creek area near Seven Springs eastward to the current Pot Neck and Falling Creek communities, and northward to U.S. Highway 70 and beyond to the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, stretching into the northwest area of Kinston.

The U.S. Census began recording acreage of land owned by farmers in 1850. John and his three known sons were deceased by that year, which precluded their inclusion in that Census. However, all of John's known male descendants, some of whom were fourth-generation great-grandsons, were named in that Census. All but one of the Sutton heirs had obtained hundreds of acres of land through inheritance or purchase, collectively totaling an astounding 7,249 acres.

Incredibly, after more than a quarter of a millennium, much of the land in Bucklesberry amassed by John Sutton and his descendants has been passed down through the generations. The land remains in the possession of present-day Sutton heirs, some of whom continue to reside in Bucklesberry. Clearly, the Sutton farmers of Bucklesberry viewed their land as a precious commodity. They were highly protective of it, and strived to keep it in the family line through gifting. They also utilized the legal maneuver of life estate, whereby land was automatically transferred to their heirs through the surviving widow, a practice that continues today.

Probably no other family contributed more to the colonization and growth of Bucklesberry and Lenoir County over the years than the Suttons. A procreant ancestral line, one local genealogical researcher has conservatively documented more than 3,000 descendants of John Sutton, Sr. representing at least ten generations. According to Forebears website [28], Sutton was the most prevalent surname in Lenoir County by 1880, followed in rank order by Davis, Jones, Williams, and Taylor.

EARLY SETTLERS—THE HERRINGS

Based on the results of a YDNA-6 study [29] conducted in 2015, John Sutton (1720/30-bef. 1773) is the proven patriarch of generations of Lenoir County Suttons to the present day. John was also an early settler of Bucklesberry, arriving around 1745-1750. Not the only settler, though, nor the first, evidence suggests that ancestors of the Herring family line of Lenoir County preceded John Sutton's arrival.

The late genealogist and historian Martha Mewborn Marble (1944-2019), herself a descendant of the Bucklesberry Sutton line, believed the Herrings were among the first to migrate to Bucklesberry of then old Craven County in the early to mid 1700s. Further, in a 2019 email communication with this writer, Ms. Marble suggested that the Bucklesberry name may have originated with the Herrings, who owned and sold land in the coastal area of Merry Hill in Bertie County where, interestingly, there was also Bucklesberry Pocosin.

Two communities with the same name, in the same time period, and in the same geographic region of the country, albeit one hundred miles apart, is almost certainly not happenstance.

Marble's belief is supported in part with land records that indicate the Herrings were residents in the Bucklesberry area of Bertie County prior to their migration to the Bucklesberry area of then old Craven County.

In his 1969 genealogical narrative, Dr. Robert A. Herring, MD noted that his ancestor John Herring, Sr. (1684-1760) was "one of seven brothers who lived in eastern North Carolina" in Bertie and Chowan Counties during the early 1700s. The other six Herring brothers were Abram (Abraham), Anthony, Edward, Samuel, Simon, and Thomas. Abstracts of ten land deeds [30] dated 1723 to 1757 named three of the Herring brothers—Abraham, John, Sr., and Samuel—as grantor, grantee, or adjoining landowner of land tracts in the Bucklesberry area of Bertie County.

Archived online historical documents recently unearthed indicate the Herrings were also among the first landowners in the Bucklesberry area of then old Craven County. In his narrative, Dr. Herring reported an indexed abstract of a 1720 land grant to his ancestor John Herring, Sr., believed to be the first known tract of land in greater Bucklesberry, by way of Bear Creek.

In addition, seven patents and surveys [31] of Bucklesberry area land in pre-Lenoir, old Craven County dated 1738 to 1747, totaling 1,525 acres, were issued to Abraham, John, Sr., and Samuel Herring. These eight land documents support the claim made by the Lenoir County Historical Association in their mammoth 1998 book, *Coastal Plain And Fancy: The Historic Architecture of Lenoir County and Kinston, North Carolina* [32] that, "The Herring family had settled in Lenoir County by the 1730s" (p. 273).

Following the lead of their fathers, second generation Herrings continued to amass land. Included were John, Jr. and Joshua (proven sons of John Herring, Sr.), Benjamin and Simon (purported sons of John Herring, Sr.), Anthony, Michael, and Stephen (proven sons of Samuel Herring), and Jacob and Joseph (purported sons of Samuel Herring). These Herring descendants are named in twenty-two Bucklesberry area land patents and surveys [33] dated 1738 to 1759, totaling 6,932 acres.

Thus, by the mid-1750s, a growing number of Herrings had migrated to, and were living in the Bucklesberry area of then-Johnston County, which had been created in 1746 from old Craven County. The 1755 Johnston County militia roster [34] proves their presence. Among the 93 men listed on the roster were the following seven Herring men: Anthony, Frederick, Jacob, John [Jr.], Joseph, Joshua, and Simon Herring, who served as Captain and Commander.

Prior to the Revolutionary War, the foundational basis of the U.S. Military were militias created in local governments, which enrolled almost all free white men who were landowners and residents in the county. To be members of the Johnston County militia in 1755, then, the seven Herring men necessarily were residents of Johnston County by that year, as all had been issued one or more land patents in the Bucklesberry area before 1755, except Frederick and John, Jr. Presumably, they were living with other Herring relatives in Johnston County.

The contribution of the Herrings in the early colonization of Bucklesberry is historically significant. Among the first and largest landowners in the unsettled backcountry of North Carolina, their land holdings were vast. By the late 1750s, the first and second generation

Herrings had obtained more than 8,000 acres of land in or near Bucklesberry. Their land acquisition outpaced that of the Suttons, whose holdings did not exceed 7,000 acres until a century later in 1850.

Herring descendants remain landowners and residents in Bucklesberry today. Some of the acreage inherited from their ancestors is presently located on the north side of the Neuse River, where Bear Creek empties, between Jenny Lind Road and the aptly named Ben F. Herring Road, south of the town of La Grange. Benjamin Franklin Herring, Sr. (1828-1907) was the twice great-grandson of patriarch John Herring, Sr.

Whether the Herrings actually brought over the Bucklesberry name from Bertie County when they migrated inland to Bucklesberry of old Craven County may never be proven for certain. Doubt remains, since the 1720 land grant to John Herring, Sr. did not reference Bucklesberry per se, although the tract of land was within close proximity to, if not located squarely in, the Bucklesberry area. Perhaps John Williams, whose 1738 land grant explicitly named Bucklesberry, may eventually prove to be the originator. As with the Herrings and the Suttons, Williams also hailed from coastal Bertie County.

OTHER EARLY SETTLERS

Many settlers joined in the early colonization of eighteenth century Bucklesberry. An extensive search of archived documents from online sources (e.g., NCLandgrants.com) identified a total of 131 records [35] dated 1729 to 1759 for land in or near greater Bucklesberry, including the Herring and Sutton land records. The referenced geographic features in these land documents included branches, streams, and the like within close proximity to Bear Creek and the Neuse River, which constituted greater Bucklerberry. The county affiliation varied from old Craven County, to old Johnston County (formed from Craven in 1746), to old Dobbs County (formed from old Johnston County in 1758-1759) from which Lenoir County was formed in 1791.

Amazingly, a total of 92 principal and adjoining landowners are named in these land patents and surveys. Their contributions to the colonization of the Bucklesberry area have rightly earned them an honorable place in what may be referred to as the "Settler Hall of Fame." Below is a comprehensive listing of the 92 landowners:

Atkins, Robert / Ayers, Ambrose / Baxter, Theopholis / Belk, William / Blackman, John / Blackman, Stephen / Boyd, Abraham / Boyet, Thomas / Boykin, Thomas / Burnet, Thomas Sr. / Busley, [Unnamed] / Byrd, Richard / Cade, Stephen / Carruthers, Joseph / Caswell, Richard Jr. / Cox, Thomas / Creel, John / Croason, John / Croom, Major / Daniel, James / Dawson, Joseph / Dean, Richard / Faris, William / Fisher, Thomas / Fryer, John / Fryer, Martin / Gainer, [Unnamed] / Giles, John / Grant, John / Ham, William / Harrison, Christopher / Harrison, Thomas / Herring, Abram / Herring, Anthony / Herring, Benjamin / Herring, Henry / Herring, Jacob / Herring, John Jr. / Herring, John Sr. / Herring, Joseph / Herring, Joseph / Herring, Joshua / Herring, Michael / Herring, Samuel / Herring, Simon / Herring, Stephen / Hines, Robert / Hopton, Charles / Howell, Joseph / Howell, Thomas / Howell, William / Hughes, Caleb / Hughes, Thomas / Ipock, Christian / Jones, Richard / Jones, Thomas / Jordan, William / Mackilroy, Archibald / Mann, John / Manning, [Unnamed] / Mulkey, Jonathan / Palmer, William

/ Parker, James / Parks, Robert / Ratcliff, Moses / Roach, John / Roberson, John / Roberts, George / Rouse, John / Sarsnat, Richard / Smith, Judge / Stanley, John / Stone, Philip / Sutton, John / Thompson, Jacob / Turner, John / Turner, Lazarus / Uzzell, Elisha / Uzzell, Thomas [Jr.] / Vining, William / Waters, John / Whitfield, Luke / Whitfield, Matthew / Whitfield, William / Wiggins, George / Wiggins, Gersham / Wiggins, John / Wiggins, Richard / Wiggins, William / Williams, Edward / Williams, John / Young, Lovick

The 92 landowners represented 64 surnames. Further analysis of those with the same surname, who were likely related, allowed for a determination of the landowners who accrued the most acreage indicated on the land records. Below is the rank-ordered, top-ten list (settler surname; number of landowners; number of land patents and surveys issued; and total acreage):

#1. Herring; 12 landowners; 30 land records; 8,757 acres / #2. Wiggins; 5 landowners; 9 land records; 2,192 acres / #3. Jones; 2 landowners; 4 land records; 1,871 acres / #4. Byrd; 1 landowner; 7 land records; 1,260 acres / #5. Williams; 1 landowner; 4 land records; 1,246 acres / #6. Rouse; 1 landowner; 7 land records; 1,051 acres / #7. Boyd; 1 landowner; 1 land record; 1,000 acres / #8. Turner; 1 landowner; 2 land records; 930 acres / #9. Hughes; 2 landowners; 5 land records; 906 acres / #10. Blackman; 2 landowners; 4 land records; 830 acres

Not surprisingly, the Herring family earned the top spot with the most acreage. They also represented the largest number of landowners with the same surname. Observably absent from the top ten list are the Suttons, whose patriarch John Sutton arrived in Bucklesberry by 1745-1750. Of note, John and his descendants eventually accumulated more than 7,000 acres by the mid-1850s.

Aside from one outlier land record for 1,000 acres, the 131 land tracts altogether averaged 238 acres. Upwards to half (44%) of the land documents were small to medium tracts of land that ranged from 16 to fewer than 200 acres. Below are the number and percent of land records per one hundred acre increments:

Fewer than 100 acres; 8 land records; 6.1% / 100 to 199 acres; 50 land records; 38.2% / 200 to 299 acres; 35 land records; 26.7% / 300 to 399 acres; 21 land records; 16.0% / 400 to 499 acres; 5 land records; 3.8% / 500 to 599 acres; 1 land records; 0.8% / 600 or more acres; 11 land records; 8.4%

MIGRATION AND ARRIVAL

Understandably, the 92 settlers named in the 131 land documents did not all migrate to the backcountry of Bucklesberry at the same time. Just as determining the exact year that colonization began in Bucklesberry is virtually impossible, so is identifying when the earliest settlers first arrived.

The issue years of the land records are suggestive, however, of when landowners may have arrived in the geographic area of Bucklesberry. Dividing the thirty-year period (1729 to 1759) of the land records into ten-year intervals, and assigning the landowners to the corresponding

interval according to the first year they were named in a land record, a possible order of arrival follows (alphabetically by last name):

First Ten-Year Arrival Period (1729-1739):

Atkins, Robert–1729 / Ayers, Ambrose–1736 / Herring, John Sr.–1738 / Herring, Simon–1738 / Rouse, John–1736 / Turner, Lazarus–1736 / Wiggins, John–1736 / Williams, John–1738

Second Ten-Year Arrival Period (1740-1749):

Blackman, John–1740 / Boyd, Abraham–1748 / Burnet, Thomas Sr. –1741 / Byrd, Richard–1740 / Cade, Stephen–1749 / Carruthers, Joseph–1747 / Creel, John–1743 / Croom, Major–1747 / Faris, William–1746 / Fisher, Thomas–1748 / Fryer, John–1749 / Fryer, Martin–1741 / Giles, John–1745 / Harrison, Christopher–1743 / Herring, Abram–1744 / Herring, Anthony Sr.–1749 / Herring, Jacob–1744 / Herring, John Jr. –1745 / Herring, Joseph–1744 / Herring, Joshua–1748 / Herring, Samuel–1739 / Herring, Stephen–1749 / Howell, Joseph–1744 / Howell, Thomas–1744 / Hughes, Thomas–1749 / Ipock, Christian–1748 / Jones, Thomas–1741 / Mackilroy, Archibald–1743 / Mann, John–1747 / Mulkey, Jonathan–1743 / Palmer, William–1747 / Parks, Robert–1745 / Roberson, John–1745 / Roberts, George–1746 / Sarsnat, Richard–1745 / Thompson, Jacob–1742 / Whitfield, Luke–1746 / Wiggins, George–1745 / Wiggins, Gersham–1746 / Wiggins, Richard–1743 / Wiggins, William–1739 / Williams, Edwards–1746

Third Ten-Year Arrival Period (1750-1759):

Baxter, Theopholis–1751 / Belk, William–1756 / Blackman, Stephen–1751 / Boyet, Thomas–1754 / Boykin, Thomas–1756 / Caswell, Richard Jr.–1754 / Cox, Thomas–1755 / Croason, John–1755 / Daniel, James–1757 / Dawson, Joseph–1754 / Dean, Richard–1755 / Gainer, [Unnamed]–1757 / Grant, John–1757 / Ham, William–1755 / Harrison, Thomas–1757 / Herring, Benjamin–1757 / Herring, Henry–1758 / Herring, Michael–1758 / Hines, Robert–1754 / Hopton, Charles–1754 / Howell, William–1757 / Hughes, Caleb–1756 / Jones, Richard–1755 / Jordan, William–1757 / Manning, [Unnamed]1755 / Parker, James–1756 / Ratcliff, Moses–1755 / Roach, John–1753 / Smith, Judge–1754 / Stanley, John–1750 / Stone, Philip–1757 / Sutton, John–1757 / Tucker, [John] –1755 / Turner, John–1756 / Uzzell, Elisha–1757 / Uzzell, Thomas [Jr.]–1754 / Vining, William–1755 / Waters, john–1751 / Whitfield, Matthew–1757 / Whitfield, William–1754 / Young, Lovick–1755

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Bucklesberry was purportedly opened to colonization in the early nineteenth century, according to a 1924 news story published in *The News and Observer* of Raleigh. The article also claimed settlement commenced in 1825 by brothers John Sutton (ca. 1779-1848) and Hardy Sutton (1803-1861).

Archived land documents, however, definitively prove a much earlier colonization. Settlers actually began migrating to Bucklesberry fully a century earlier in the early to mid-1700s. Further, Bucklesberry was not singularly opened by brothers John and Hardy Sutton. Rather,

historical records indicate the brothers' grandfather John Sutton, Sr. (1720/30-bef. 1773) was one of many proven early settlers of Bucklesberry.

Over time, two leading families—the Herrings and the Suttons—became the largest landowners in the Bucklesberry area, amassing thousands of acres of land. Their descendants continue to own much of the land in Bucklesberry today. Ancestors from both families migrated from Bertie County, NC. But colonization of Bucklesberry did not begin with, nor rest solely on, the Herrings and the Suttons.

Far from just a few early settlers, a study of 131 archived patents and surveys describing tracts of land in the greater Bucklesberry area, over the thirty-year period, 1729 to 1749, identified 92 landowners representing 64 surnames. Bucklesberry was explicitly named in eleven of the land records held by the following: John Williams—1738, John Giles—1748, Abraham Boyd—1748, John Rouse—1754, Simon Herring—1754, John Croason—1755, Thomas Uzzell, Jr.—1756, Caleb Hughes—1756, John Herring, Jr.—1757, William Jordan—1757, and John Sutton—1757. Although Bucklesberry is not named per se in the remaining land records, they nonetheless describe geographic features directly associated with Bucklesberry, including the Neuse River, Bear Creek, Falling Creek, and other landmarks.

Probably not all 92 landowners migrated to Bucklesberry during the thirty-year period of 1729 to 1759. It stands to reason, though, that most probably did. According to Creston S. Long, III, PhD, many colonists were simply looking for greater opportunities for themselves and their families. With regard to the colonists' motivation to migrate inland, Dr. Long concluded in his extensive research on the backcountry that "perceived better opportunity to advance themselves socially and economically" (p. 147) was the chief incentive.

Many of the 92 early settlers were likely living in greater Bucklesberry by the mid-1750s. Contemporary historical documents prove they were residents of then-Johnston County. For example, 17 of the 92 (18%) landowners are named on the 1750 Johnston County Quit Rent list [36]. Considerably more (39 of 92; 42%) were among the foot soldiers and officers listed on 1755 Johnston County Militia roster [34], proving they were residents in the area by that year. Early settlers not named on either of these two listings were omitted possibly because they had sold their land, moved elsewhere, or were deceased.

The 1769 Taxables (Tithables) list for Dobbs County [37] also provided confirmation of Bucklesberry early settlers. The 92 early Bucklesberry landowners were cross-referenced with the 947 residents named on this list. Fifty of the 92 (54%) were included. As for the remaining 42 of 92 (46%) not named, it is reasonable to surmise that some or most were deceased, may have sold their land, or possibly could have moved elsewhere by 1769.

Had all 92 early Bucklesberry area settlers been named among the 947 Dobbs County residents, they would have represented only about 10%, which begs the question—where were the remaining 90% of taxed individuals residing? The explanation has to do with the geographically expansive boundaries of Dobbs County in 1769. It encompassed all or part of four present-day counties: Greene County (formed 1791), Lenoir County (formed 1791), Wayne County (formed

1779), and the southern tip of Wilson County (formed 1855). Thus, the remaining 855 of 947 of the taxed residents were living in other sections of the four future counties of old Dobbs County.

Many of the early Bucklesberry settlers identified in this study are inexplicably omitted in other listings as well. For example, the well regarded 1976 book, *200 Years of Progress: A Report of the History and Achievements of the People of Lenoir County* by Kohler [38], identified 158 early settlers, representing 135 surnames, all of whom arrived in the Lenoir County area of old Dobbs County by 1757.

Strangely, only 23 of the 64 (36%) Bucklesberry area settler surnames identified in the current study, appear on Kohler's list of 135 settler surnames. They include Atkins, Bush[ey], Byrd, Cade, Carruthers, Dawson, Giles, Harrison, Herring, Hines, Hughes, Jones, Mackilroy, Parker, Roach, Rouse, Stanley, Sutton, Thompson, Turner, Vining, Whitfield, and Wiggins.

Archived records nonetheless prove that the remaining 41 of 64 (64%) of the early Bucklesberry area settler surnames in the current study that were omitted from Kohler's list, in fact, held land patents and surveys and should have been included. The omission is mostly like attributable to advances in technology since 1976 when Kohler's book was published. Many historical records in private collections and elsewhere, not available nearly a half-century ago when Kohler's list was researched, have been digitized and can be easily accessed online today. Thus, Kohler's list of early settler surnames for Lenoir County potentially should be expanded to 176, which includes the remaining 41 Bucklesberry settler surnames not accounted for in Kohler's list.

Factual findings in this report are also at odds with other historical accounts of early settlers in Lenoir County. For example, in the introduction of his 2014 book, *Images of America: La Grange*, local author Chris C. McCallister [39] wrote:

"La Grange began just a few miles from its current city limits as a small farming area known as Bear Creek. The settlement later grew into what would be known as Moseley Hall, which was begun in the early to mid-1700s by the Joshua Herring and Matthew Moseley families.... Eventually, other families began to move in and settle the area, including the Rouse, Dawson, Fields, Mewborn, Sutton, Best and Whitfield clans." (p. 7)

The contribution of Joshua Herring and Matthew Moseley in establishing Moseley Hall, eventually La Grange, is rightly acknowledged. However, McCallister's claim that Moseley Hall began in the "early to mid-1700s" is incorrect. Rather, historians generally agree that Moseley Hall township was not established until the late 1700s, after the conclusion of the Revolutionary War.

In addition, McAlister's assertion that Moseley Hall township "began just a few miles from its current city limits as a small farming area known as Bear Creek" is largely incorrect as well. Located near Bear Creek, north of present-day La Grange, there was farming area settlement called Rantersville [40]. Matthew Moseley's plantation home was the first sizeable house of its kind built there. Although the township eventually took on the name of Moseley's plantation, referred to as Moseley Hall, the township did not begin where Moseley's plantation home was situated.

According to Patsy Boyette, "The two-story [Moseley Hall] was the only home of any consequence in the area at that time....[and] reference to Moseley Hall includes all areas in the township," (p. 8), not just Rantersville. Thus, the early Moseley hall township in all probability also drew settlers who were residing in Bucklesberry, the only other known, older, and more established settlement along Bear Creek at the time.

In actuality, an expanding Bucklesberry community that began colonization around 1720-1730 probably contributed much to the growth to the Moseley Hall township, and eventually to La Grange. Still considered outskirts of greater La Grange today are several other nearby farm communities that added to Moseley Hall's population, prior to the incorporation of La Grange in 1869. They include Jason, Institute, the west side of Falling Creek, and the east side of Seven Springs (formerly White Hall).

McAlister's claim that, "Eventually, other families began to move in and settle the area, including the Rouse, Dawson, Fields, Mewborn, Sutton, Best and Whitfield clans" is also not entirely accurate. In fact, four of the seven named families—Dawson, Rouse, Sutton, and Whitfield—had already migrated to the area decades before Matthew Moseley arrived and built his plantation home in 1777. Identified in the current study, these four families are named in numerous land documents dated in the early to mid-1700s that were geographically associated with Lenoir County.

Findings in the current study of Bucklesberry's origins are also discrepant with information in the 1998 book, *Coastal plain and fancy: The historic architecture of Lenoir County and Kinston, North Carolina*. With regard to early ownership of land that would become Lenoir County, co-authors Robbie D. Jones, Penne Smith, Scott Power, and M. Ruth Little stated:

"Much of the land that would become Lenoir County was owned in the eighteenth century under absentee ownership, by speculators who resided in early coastal communities. Such individuals obtained large grants, often of thousands of acres....In the vast frontier that would become Lenoir County, a few large landowners shaped the future, often from afar....In Lenoir County, as elsewhere in North Carolina during the eighteenth century....Its members lived on large estates..." (pp. 12-13)

Analysis of the acreage of the 131 greater Bucklesberry area land documents dated 1729 to 1759 in the current study, representing some of the oldest owned land in Lenoir County, indicates that virtually all of the land tracts were not large, let alone thousands of acres. With an average of 238 acres per land record, only one of the land documents for Abraham Boyd dated 1748 was for 1,000 acres. These numbers call into question the assertion by Jones et al. that Lenoir County "members lived on large estates....[and] obtained large grants, often thousands of acres." Clearly, most did not.

Further, the 92 proven early Bucklesberry area landowners identified in this study challenge Jones et al.'s view that only "a few large landowners shaped the future [of Lenoir County], often from afar." Moreover, their claim that "Much of the land...was owned...by speculators," that is, investors who were non-resident, absentee owners who lived in coastal communities, cannot be supported, at least for the land in the greater Bucklesberry area section of Lenoir County.

In conclusion, a true accounting of history demands verifiable facts and documentation, free of unsubstantiated information incorrectly drawn from scant data or legend that rests on no evidence at all. Until now, Bucklesberry's beginnings have not been firmly established, despite previously published reports by various sources that have purported its origins.

Land documents recently unearthed from digital archives and reported herein unequivocally confirm Bucklesberry was opened to colonization around 1720-1730, fully a century before 1825, its traditionally held year of origin. Short of other unknown documents or historical records that may emerge in the future that might provide information to the contrary, the factual evidence presented in this report definitively prove that settlement in Bucklesberry began in the early eighteenth century.

Bucklesberry's prominence cannot be overlooked or understated. Unfortunately, renowned historian William S. Powell (1919-2015) failed to mention Bucklesberry anywhere in his 1963 book, *The Story of Lenoir County and Kinston, N.C.* [41]. To Powell's credit, he identified "a number of communities important enough to have their own names but not large enough to be incorporated as towns," which included Dawson, Fountain Hill, Institute, Parrotts, Sandy Bottom, and Woodington. Observably absent is Bucklesberry.

Powell's omission of Bucklesberry was a glaring, albeit unintentional, oversight. As acknowledged previously, many historical records available online today, in addition to the land records identified in this study, were probably inaccessible to Powell when he researched and wrote his 1963 book. For example, a Newspapers.com search of the seventy-year period from 1855 to 1924 identified more than 800 news items and articles that reported happenings and events in Bucklesberry and area residents.

Reiterating, information provided in this report confirms the arrival of some 92 first settlers in Bucklesberry around 1720-1730. The 131 early eighteenth century land records identified in this study firmly substantiate this conclusion. Moreover, coupled with the hundreds of newspaper articles published to date, these land records support Bucklesberry's indisputable standing as the oldest named, most recognized, and historically significant farm community in Lenoir County.

ADDITIONAL READING

The Weekly Gazette, former newspaper for the town of La Grange, NC, published more than 300 articles in a series titled, "Bucklesberry, Back in the Day," from 2016 to 2023. These articles discuss the rich history, happenings, and people of Bucklesberry, including extended research on local church histories and brief biographies of Bucklesberrians whose lives were remarkably impactful. See <https://www.olddobbers.net/sutton/gazette1.html>. A sampling of article titles follows:

Farming at its Best / BBQ and Chicken Pie / Strong Women / Forgotten Cemeteries / Animal Stories / Politics and Plows / Playtime Places / Country Crimes / School's Out / Trouble in Paradise / Early Patriarchs / Cotton Comeback / First Matriarchs / Social Frills / Expert Farmers / Prize Porkers / Primitive Worship / River Lifeline / Loving Adoption / Homeplace Houses / Tenth Generation / Death Diseases / Healing Business / War Heroes / Glimpse in Time / Basics

of Life / Fight for Freedom / Small Business / Medicine Men / Twins Aplenty / Postcard Messages / Family Squabble / Accidents Happen / Great Hurricane 1883 / What Mean These Trees? / Buying and Selling / Crimes and Campaigns / Ninth Spring / Death and Drinking / Social Scuffle / Fourth Time's a Beauty / Tuberculosis, Typhoid 1920 / Dog Days / Bumper Crop 1902 / Harper's Landing / Agriculture 1927 / Match Made in Heaven / Educated Farmers / Hefty Hogs / Extreme Animals / The Sick and the Dead

REFERENCES

- [1] Estate Office of Bucklebury House. (n.d.). *Over 900 years of history*. Berkshire County, England: Author. <https://www.buckleburyestate.com/bucklebury-history/>
- [2] Davis, Phillip. (2017, June 26). *Servat's Tower, Bucklesbury*. <http://www.gatehouse-gazetteer.info/English%20sites/4170.html>
- [3] Wikipedia Foundation, Inc. (2024, March 27). *Bucklebury*. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bucklebury>
- [4] Duffy, Nola. (2011, September 11). *John Hardy's will, 1719*. USGenWeb Archives, North Carolina, Chowan County. <http://files.usgwarchives.net/nc/chowan/wills/hardy1996gw1.txt>
- [5] Roanoke Chowan Academy United States History Class. (1976). *Confederate tax census for Bertie County, North Carolina 1862*. <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/331631-confederate-tax-census-for-bertie-county-north-carolina-1862>
- [6] Gilmer, J. F., Goemer, P. W. O., & Miller, H. J. (1863). *Field map of Lieut. Koemer's military survey between Neuse and Tar Rivers North Carolina* [digital image]. Raleigh, NC: State Archives of North Carolina. <https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/1810>
- [7] North Carolina State Highway and Public Works Commission. (1938). *Bertie County, North Carolina* (digital image). Raleigh, NC: State Archives of North Carolina. <https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/ncmaps/id/428/rec/2>
- [8] Crilley, Virginia. (2018, September 10). *Geographic features of Bertie County*. <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~ncbertie/swamp.htm>
- [9] Wooten, Council S. (1886). *Bucklesberry: Some interesting notes from Lenoir County*. <https://www.newspapers.com/article/goldsboro-messenger/3543724/>
- [10] The News and Observer. (1924). *Bucklesberry will celebrate: Famous section of Lenoir County approaching its 100th birthday*. Raleigh, NC. <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-news-and-observer/128125602/>
- [11] The Morning New Bernian. (1924). *Bucklesberry exercises*. New Bern, NC. <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-morning-new-bernian/3579223/>

- [12] Journey, R. C. & Davis, W. A. (1927). *Soil survey of Lenoir County, N.C.* Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils.
<https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=a4iSBn93puIC&pg=GBS.PP2&hl=en>
- [13] Herring, Robert A. (1969). *The John Herring family of North Carolina and Mississippi.*
<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/301090/?offset=0#page=1&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=>
- [14] Williams, John. (1738). Land patent, Craven County, issued March 1, 1738.
<https://www.nclandgrants.com/grant/?mars=12.14.50.725&qid=984227&rn=8>
- [15] Boyette, Patsy M. (n.d.). *A brief history of La Grange.* <https://lagrangenc.com/723/History>
- [16] Lenoir County, North Carolina. (n.d.). *Lenoir County history.*
<https://lenoircountync.gov/about-lenoir-county/history-of-lenoir-county/>
- [17] Moore, Claude. (1985). *A history of Waynesborough, North Carolina.*
https://www.carolana.com/NC/Towns/Waynesborough_NC.html
- [18] Butler, Lindley S. (2006). *Backcountry.* NCpedia. <https://www.ncpedia.org/backcountry>.
- [19] Long, Creston S. III. (2002). *Southern routes: Family migration and the eighteenth-century southern backcountry* [Ph.D. dissertation]. Richmond, VA: The College of William and Mary.
<https://scholarworks.wm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3202&context=etd>
- [20] Denevan, William M. (Ed.). (1992). *The native population of the Americas in 1492* (2nd ed.). Seattle, WA: University of Wisconsin Press. ISBN: 978-0299134341.
- [21] DiNome, William G. (2006). *American Indians, Part III: Indian tribes from European contact to the era of removal.* NCpedia. <https://www.ncpedia.org/american-indians/european-contact>
- [22] Whitford, Sara. (2014). *A new look at the Tuscarora War.*
<https://www.coastalcarolinaindians.com/case-1-on-the-trail-of-tom-or-a-new-look-at-the-tuscarora-war/>
- [23] Estes, Roberta. (2012, June 24). *Tuscarora populations.* Native Heritage Project.
<https://nativeheritageproject.com/2012/06/24/tuscarora-populations/>
- [24] Johnston County Visitors Bureau. (2019, August 13). *Early history of Johnston County.* Smithfield, NC. <https://www.johnstoncountync.org/articles/post/early-history-of-johnston-county/>
- [25] Sutton, Joe P. (2024). *Clellan Sutton collection.* USGenWeb, North Carolina, Lenoir County. http://www.usgwarchives.net/nc/lenoir/suttonclellan/sutton_clellan.htm

- [26] Sutton, Joe P. (2017a). *John Giles survey 1745* [transcription]. USGenWeb Archives, North Carolina, Lenoir County. <http://files.usgwarchives.net/nc/lenoir/bios/sutton/survey/survey11748.txt>
- [27] Sutton, Joe P. (2017b). *John Sutton survey ca. 1757* [transcription]. USGenWeb Archives, North Carolina, Lenoir County. <http://files.usgwarchives.net/nc/lenoir/bios/sutton/survey/survey1757.txt>
- [28] Forebears. (2024). *Most common surnames in Lenoir County, 1880*. <https://forebears.io/united-states/north-carolina/lenoir-county#surnames>
- [29] Sutton, Joe P. (2015). *Sutton ties to Bertie County; DNA proves John's origins*. https://suttonancestry.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/DNA.Bucklesberry-study.all_-1.pdf
- [30] Sutton, Joe P. (2024a). *Herring land records, Bucklesberry Pocosin, Bertie County, NC, 1723-1757*. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rJLcYUEpk_klbhs-aHaWUvsEg8g8sp3n/view?usp=sharing
- [31] Sutton, Joe P. (2024b). *Herring land records, Bucklesberry Pocosin, Craven-Johnston County, NC, 1738-1746*. https://drive.google.com/file/d/17DC6GloFSbSuIX6mrmOKceo7L_-y2QM9/view?usp=sharing
- [32] Jones, Robbie D., Smith, Penne, Power, Scott, & Little, M. Ruth. (1998). *Coastal plain and fancy: The historic architecture of Lenoir County and Kinston, North Carolina*. Kinston, NC: Lenoir County Historical Society, Inc. ISBN 0-9668319-0-x.
- [33] Sutton, Joe P. (2024c). *Herring land records, Bucklesberry Pocosin, Craven-Johnston County, NC, 1738-1759*. https://drive.google.com/file/d/17DC6GloFSbSuIX6mrmOKceo7L_-y2QM9/view?usp=sharing
- [34] State Archives of North Carolina. (1755, October 7). *A list of the company of foot soldiers commanded by Captain Simon Herring and his inferior officers*. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Digital Collections. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/johnston-county-soldiers-commanded-by-captain-simon-herring/5753575>
- [35] Sutton, Joe P. (2024c). *Early colonial land records, Bucklesberry area, Craven-Johnston County, NC, 1729-1759*. https://drive.google.com/file/d/12d9OpfIxy5V_NoFKh0TkoDqFhcyjmzQ/view?usp=sharing
- [36] Potts, Guy. (n.d.). *Johnston County, NC: Quit rent 1750*. USGenWeb, North Carolina, Lenoir County. <http://files.usgwarchives.net/nc/johnston/taxlists/quitrent.txt>
- [37] Tew, Jerome. (n.d.). *Dobbs County 1769 taxables* [transcription]. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina State Archives. USGenWeb, North Carolina, Lenoir County. <http://files.usgwarchives.net/nc/dobbs/taxlists/dobbs2.txt>

[38] Kohler, Mike. (1976). *200 years of progress: A report of the history and achievements of the people of Lenoir County*. Kinston, NC: Kinston-Lenoir County Bicentennial Commission and the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners.

[39] McCallister, Chris. C. (2014). *Images of America: La Grange [NC]*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing. ISBN 978-1-4671-2030-2.

[40] Boyette, Patsy M. (1998, September). La Grange-The garden spot continues to bloom. *Olde Kinston Gazette*. <https://lib.digitalnc.org/record/242695?ln=en&v=uv#?xywh=-304%2C-1%2C8500%2C4931&cv=7>

[41] Powell, William S. (1963). *Annals of progress: The story of Lenoir County and Kinston, North Carolina*. Raleigh, NC: State Department of Archives and History. <https://www.seekingmyroots.com/members/files/H004926.pdf>

File authored and contributed for use in USGenWeb Archives by Bucklesberry native and resident Joe P. Sutton, PhD, jpsutton56@gmail.com.

Copyright © 2024