

We are also very proud to announce that Gerry Booth has agreed to become a Contributor for our Recollections Newsletter, and this is going to her first Article. Gerry is working hard to document early Texas History and how the Burlesons were very much involved.



Frank and Gerry Booth

## TEXAS JOURNEY by Gerry Booth

Have you ever seen a person who caught your eye because they looked like someone in your family? Then did you wonder if they could be a relative?

I saw a woman who reminded me of my grandmother at a Burleson family reunion. Now at a family reunion, obviously, there could be some relationship, but I don't think of myself as a Burleson. I am a Shipman.

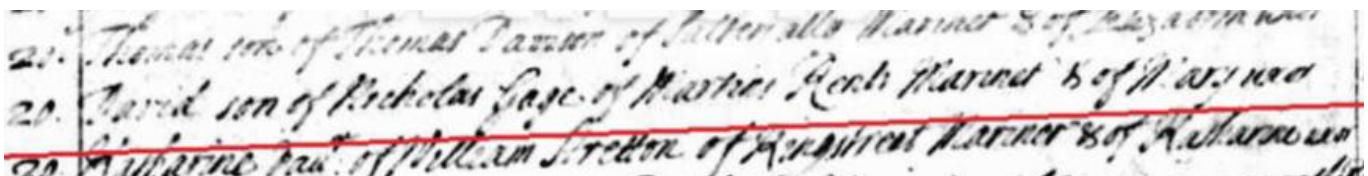
When I met the woman, Helen Burleson Kelso, I told her that even though I was attending the Burleson reunion, I really was a Shipman. She replied, "I am too!"

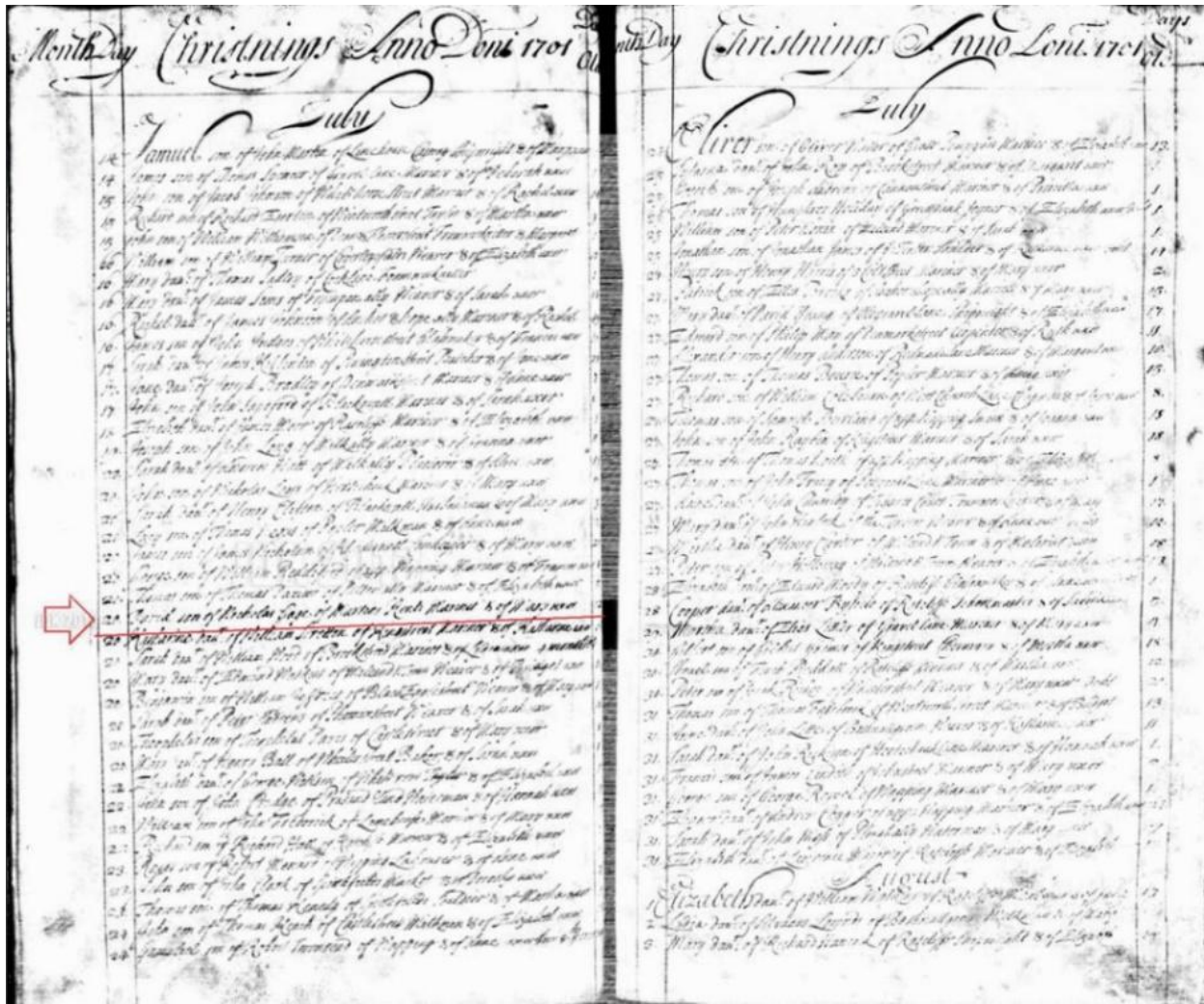
This event illustrates what we tend to do. We tend to be more interested in particular lines or surnames in our family tree. My grandmother was a Shipman descendant. Her great, great grandfather was an Old Three Hundred. An Old Three Hundred was a person who had settled in Stephen F. Austin's first colony in Texas. I am very proud to be a descendant of Moses Shipman. I have other ancestors with an additional 63 other surnames when I go back six generations, but I tend to focus on my Shipman ancestors. I have to go back two more generations before I find a Burleson grandmother, Elizabeth Burleson.

Why did I take a sudden interest in my Burleson ancestors and attend a Burleson family reunion? Simple, I had just found out that my husband is a Burleson. Through my research, I have learned that the Shipmans and the Burlesons have always been very close. The Burlesons and the Shipmans have lived in the same areas together, they have migrated to new frontiers together, and they have even fought in wars together to create two independent nations, the United States of America and the Republic of Texas.

My research turned up the stories of how these two families came to America and became so close. According to family tradition, Aaron Burleson came from England to Baltimore, Maryland, about 1726 and met up with more of his family that had already migrated to Connecticut. However, there is absolutely no documentation for this story. Some people think that Aaron Burleson was born here in America. There is actual proof that suggests that Aaron was a Burleson named Jonathan.

Family tradition states that my branch of the Schiffmann family lived in Germany, about eighteen miles from Hamburg on the Elbe River. Mr. and Mrs. Schiffmann had two sons, Daniel and Joseph. The family decided to immigrate to New Jersey. The first leg of the trip took them to Wales. On this part of the voyage, Mr. Schiffmann became ill and died. After his death, Mrs. Schiffman and the boys lived in Wales. Mrs. Schiffman met Nicholas Gage. Here the story is confusing. Some say Nicholas Gage and Mrs. Schiffman married and had a son, David, who would have been the half-brother to Daniel and Joseph. Daniel Shipman (great-grandson of the Daniel Shipman who immigrated to America) wrote a book, *Frontier Life*, in which he stated that David was a half-brother to his great grandfather Daniel. Some say that Nicholas Gage had a son by his first wife, Mary. In some trees on Ancestry, there is a baptismal record from England for David, the son of Nicholas Gage, and his wife, Mary.





DAVID GAGE, JULY 20, 1701, CHRISTENING, DUNSTON, STEPNEY MIDDLESEX, ENGLAND

RECORD FROM FAMILY SEARCH FOR THE SAME EVENT

**Nicholas Gage**  
mentioned in the record of David Tools

Name:	Nicholas Gage
Sex:	Male
Son:	David

**Other information in the record of David**  
from England Deaths and Burials, 1538-1991

Name:	David
Gender:	Male
Death Date:	22 Feb 1704
Death Place:	Dunston, Stepney, Middlesex, England
Father's Name:	Nicholas Gage

On Family Search, there is a death record for a David Gage who died on February 22, 1704. The name of the father is the same, and the location is the same. This record appears to be for the same child. The record of this event could mean one of three things. One, Mary and Nicholas could have had another child that they named David, and he was a step-brother to the Shipman brothers. Two, Nicholas Gage had another child with Esther Gage and that David was a half-brother to the

David Gage		Tools
England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975		
Name:	David Gage	
Gender:	Male	
Christening Date:	20 Jul 1701	
Christening Date (Original):	20 JUL 1701	
Christening Place:	SAINT DUNSTAN,STEPNEY,LONDON,ENGL AND	
Father's Name:	Nicholas Gage	
Mother's Name:	Mary	

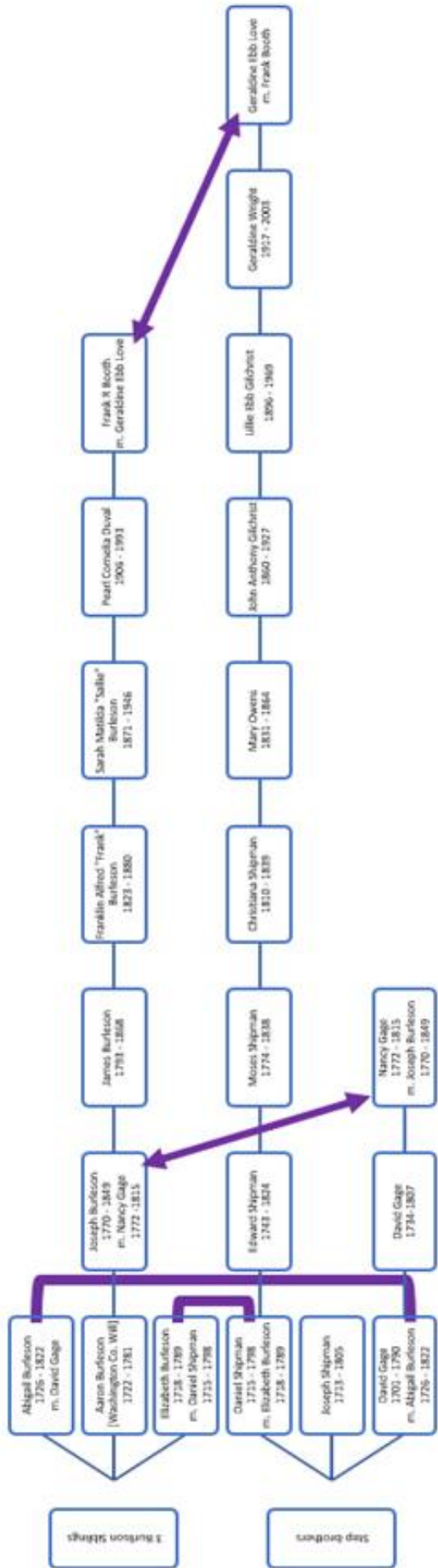
Shipman brothers like Daniel Shipman stated in Frontier Life. The final possibility is this record could be for the wrong people. At this time, since I have no documentation for David, I will use the traditional story told for generations to describe David Gage as a step-brother to Daniel and Joseph Shipman.

David, Daniel, and Joseph set out together for America. On the voyage, Joseph and Daniel changed their name from Schiffman to Shipman. Joseph Shipman settled in the New Jersey area. David Gage married Abigail Burleson soon after his arrival. David and Abigail moved with her parents to Brunswick (now Lunenburg) County, Virginia. Daniel Shipman went to the Pennsylvania Dutch Country for several years but later decided to follow David. Daniel moved to Brunswick County, where he married Abigail Burleson's sister Elizabeth Burleson. There is no documentation for this story, but it has been told for generations.

These traditional family stories describe a time when there were fewer people around to consider for marriage and starting a family. I drew a chart to show the relationships between the Burlesons, Shipmans, and Gages. When reading the chart, remember that David Gage, Daniel, and Joseph Shipman were step-brothers, so they are like one family. Aaron (Washington County Will), Abigail, and Elizabeth were Burleson siblings. (There were other siblings, but I wanted to focus on my immediate family). The purple lines on the chart designate marriages: David Gage and Abigail Burleson, Daniel Shipman and Elizabeth Burleson, Joseph Burleson and Nancy Gage, and Frank Booth and Gerry Love. The first two marriages were between two sisters and two step-brothers. The chart extends the family lines to my husband Frank and me. Frank's lineage splits off at Aaron (Washington County Will), brother to Abigail, and Elizabeth. One of Aaron's sons was Joseph Burleson, who married his aunt's granddaughter, Nancy Gage. Considering how many dangerous things these brave souls faced, harsh weather, wild animals, disease, Indians, and Tories, you realize how much they needed each other. It is easy to see why, with so many dangers and so few people, many people wound up marrying another person in their own family.

At the end of my chart, you can see that Frank and I are sixth cousins twice removed<sup>1</sup>. Looking at the chart, I saw another way to think of our relationship. My husband is my sixth great grandfather's step-brother's fourth great-grandson. Until I made this chart, I had never thought about our sixth and fourth great grandfathers being step-brothers.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.genealogyexplained.com/basics/cousin-calculator/> - This website has a Cousin Calculator.



Elizabeth Burleson had a grandson named Moses Shipman. Moses Shipman is my ancestor, who was an Old Three Hundred. Moses' son, Daniel Shipman, wrote in *Frontier Life* that "when he was a little boy in old South Carolina, I think it was in the year 1810 or 1812, I well recollect hearing my father say to mother that he wanted to go to Red and Sabine rivers, which was the line between the United States and Mexico, and the latter belonged to old Spain, and the Spanish government proposed to give 640 acres of land to the head of a family coming well recommended, and his wife 320 acres, and each child 160 acres, and that he would like to go to some country where he could get land enough to settle all his children so that they would not have to rent land, and be tenants and have to work all their lives for other people; and, if he could get that much good land that he thought he could make it answer his purpose." On March 5, 1814, Moses packed up his family and set out headed west, looking for "enough land to settle all his children." Sometimes on his journey, he traveled with his Burleson cousins, and sometimes he would settle near where they had already settled. Eight years later, on March 9, 1822, Moses and his family crossed over the Red River into Texas.

*Texas Journey* will appear in *Recollections* to tell about the Burlesons, the extended family, and the close friends who migrated to Texas. The articles will look at the relationships, history, and the family stories of the journey. Your contributions to this collection of stories are welcomed. (Send stories to [bfrginfo@gmail.com](mailto:bfrginfo@gmail.com))

The night I met Helen, we talked about the Shipmans and Burlesons and how they shared so much history, a history that began back in the 1700s. She told me that the members of these families attended a small Baptist Church in North Carolina located on the banks of a little creek called Sandy Run. In the next *Recollections*, the Texas journey will begin with the Burlesons, Shipmans, and Gages at Sandy Run Baptist Church in Mooreboro, North Carolina.

On the chart, you see that Daniel Shipman and

