

Dr. Branton Lee Burleson

Dr. Branton Lee Burleson born 1978 is the pastor of the Grace Baptist Church in West Ashville, North Carolina. He is the husband of Jessica Nicole Godwin. The couple now also reside in West Ashville. But growing up Branton lived in the uniquely named Bat Cave, North Carolina. It was a heavily wooded and picturesque area in the western part of the state. Below you see a picture of a nearby gorge. This scene was utilized in the making of the movies Dirty Dancing and Last of the Mohicans.



former staff pastor at Covenant Baptist Church. His education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Christian studies at North Greenville University, a Master's Degree at Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte and a Doctor of Education at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Branton told me that he was very interested in the ancient Burleson Puritan theology.

When asked what led him to the ministry, Branton informed me that at age 19 he accompanied a missionary group with a pastor to the very depressed area of Warfield, Kentucky. It is a mining community near the Kentucky/West Virginia line. Their duties there included repairing farm structures and assisting area homeowners in fix-its. On one occasion, a



despondent miner came to his home where some of the missionaries and the miner's family were visiting. The

despondent miner committed suicide in front of the entire gathering. The onlooking pastor saw quickly nothing could be done for the miner and without hesitation began prayerful attendance to the horrified family. That minister's ability to tend to a hurting family in an emergency situation so impressed Branton, he decided on the spot, this is who and what I want to be.



Branton's church is large for the area and enjoys his full-time attention as its pastor. He does, however, find time to be an adjunct professor at the College of the Southeastern in Hendersonville. He has been a professor at the Fruitland Baptist Bible College. Branton was the

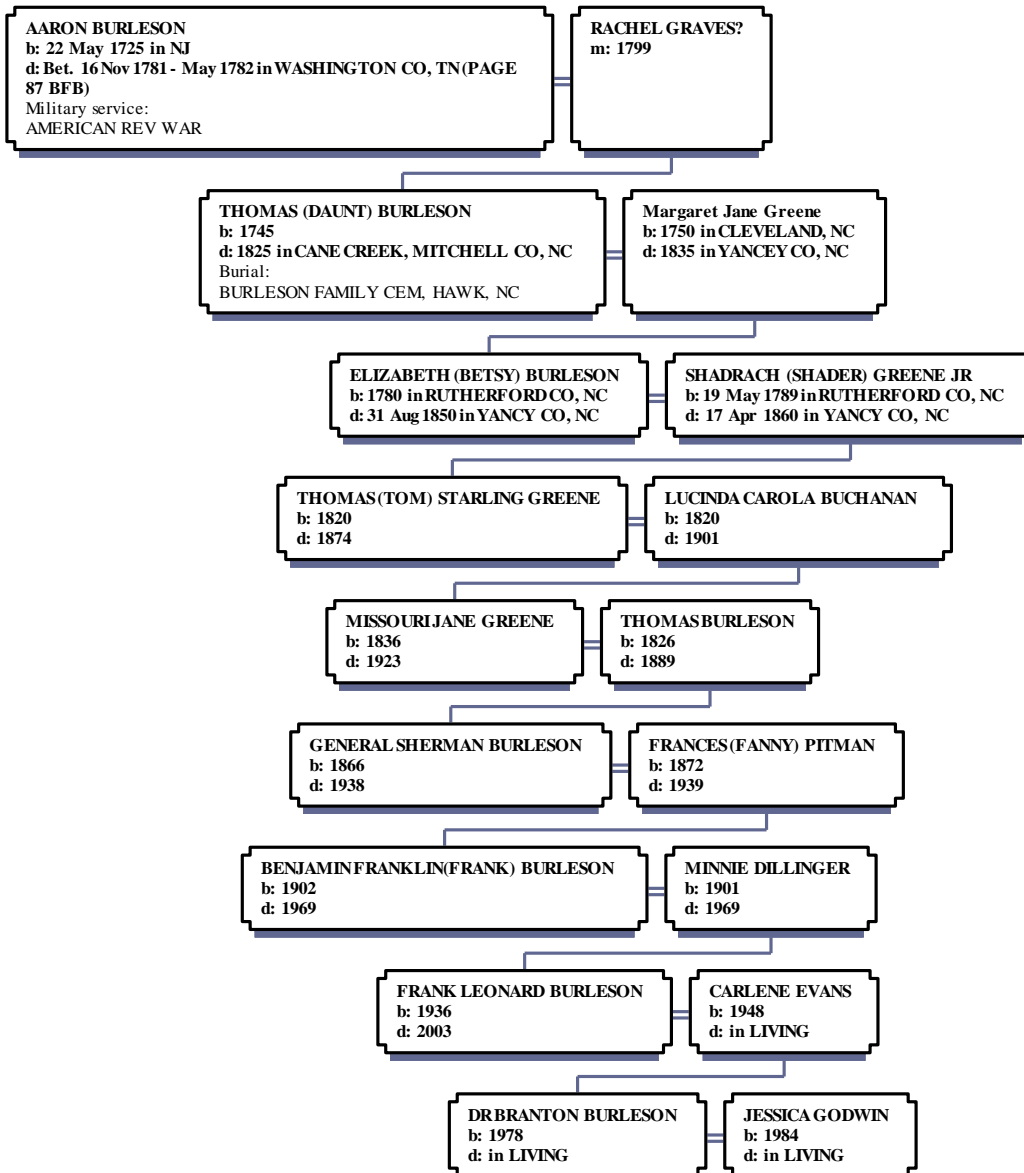




I commented to Branton that his name was unique for a guy growing up in Western North Carolina. He responded that his family had a great admiration for an older minister named Astor Buchanan. A member of Astor's family was a Branton Buchanan. His name was given to him as a homage to the Buchanans. Another oddity with regard to names is that of his great grandfather Sherman Burleson. It turns out Sherman is his middle name. His first name was General. Branton's cousin Russell Burleson and his uncle Howard Burleson had never heard him

to be known as General Sherman Burleson. These men remarked that Sherman had little to no education but was a natural mathematical whiz. As a manufacturer in the lumber business, Sherman commanded a remarkable ability to calculate complex problems quickly in his head.

Direct Descendants of AARON BURLESON



This couple has been blessed with four children including a set of twin girls.

Rev. Burleson told me that many of our shared ancestors were laid to rest at the Cane Creek cemetery. BFRG intends to visit east Tennessee/Western North Carolina in May. This cemetery will be among its must-see items.

By Jim Burleson