

Recollections

of the

Burleson Family Research Group

*Burleson Family Research
Group Face Book Page*



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/865615111237035>

Sarah Gower, who lives in Northern VA

We feel that BFRG has really started doing what is needed; we are researching early documented Burleson History and Heritage. In this issue we wanted to recognize and honor one of our members that have excelled with her work and enthusiasm toward researching Burleson History, in Bedford, Va and Richmond, Va Archives

.Matt and Sarah Burleson Gower



Lieutenant General Willard (Bill) McKenzie Burleson III

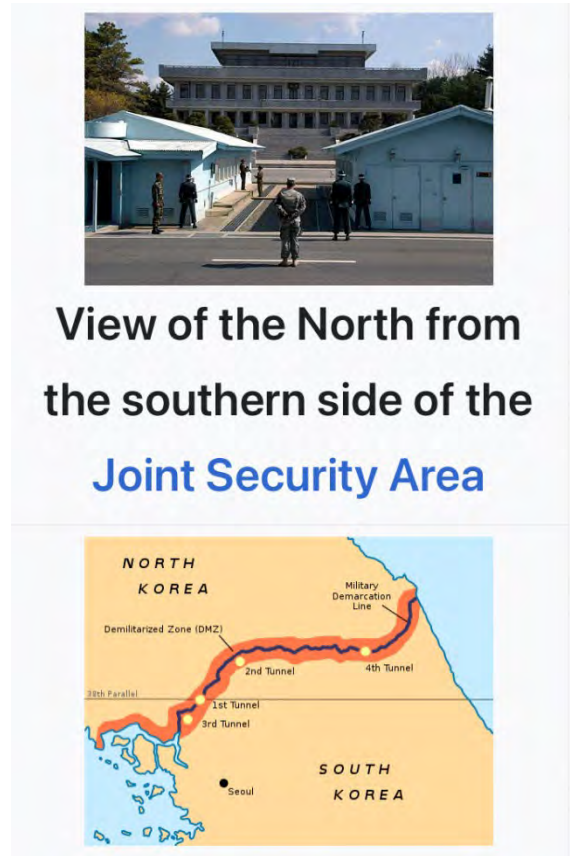
1965 – Living

By: Jim Burleson



Our Burleson heritage has enjoyed a very long list of patriots and heroes who participated in military actions for several hundred years on this continent and abroad. NEVER has our illustrious family had one of its sons rise to the rank of Lieutenant General (That's three stars).

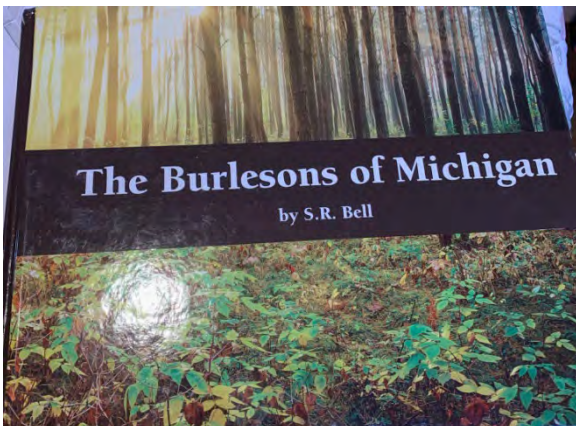
Lieutenant General Willard “Bill” McKenzie Burleson III, currently active in the United States Army holds the highest military rank EVER by a Burleson.



View of the North from the southern side of the Joint Security Area

A Personal Greeting to the BFRG from Lieutenant General Willard McKenzie Burleson III:

Greetings from the Republic of Korea! I'm humbled to be featured in this edition of "Recollections." While I am just a minute piece of the Burleson Family History. I certainly appreciate all that the Burleson Family Research Group does to keep us all informed of our family's lineage and achievements. I especially want to thank cousin Suzie Bell for her book, "The Burlesons of Michigan," which tells the story of my grandfather and his brother and their family.



Sadly my father lost his dad in a plane crash in 1940 (Lovettsville Air Disaster). His mother remarried and my father grew up in Virginia along with his brothers Richard Burleson and Edward (Andrew's). Bill was open to sharing the 105 page after action report on the crash; it's part of history... please see link below.

http://www.bfrg.info/bfrg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/1940.08.31_PennsylvaniaCentralAirlinesCorp_DouglasDC-3-A.pdf

My father chose not to follow the family medical business (see Burleson Sanitarium) and opted to attend the United States Military Academy, West Point and graduated in 1959. While serving in the Army in Germany in the early 1960s he met my mother, Marlene, a Department of Defense school teacher and they were subsequently married in Fort Knox, Kentucky in 1963. My father went on to serve for 32+ years, retiring as a Major General, which included service around the world to include Germany, Turkey, Vietnam and the Netherlands. He passed away in 2012 and rests eternally at Bruton Parish, Williamsburg, Virginia.

As a result of my father's overseas service my brother John and I spent a good amount of time growing up in Germany. I decided to attend the United States Military Academy graduating in 1988 and my brother graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1990. John is presently an Environmental Engineer living with his wife Sarah in Lexington, Virginia (daughter Emma is an engineer as well). I met Cindy (formerly Nobles) while on a break from West Point in 1987, and we were married three years later in April of 1990. We continue to have a great journey which has taken us all over the world together. Our son, Matthew Taylor, also went to the United States Military Academy and is currently an Army Captain, and our daughter Elizabeth Anne, graduated from James Madison University and is in business in Dallas.



This May will be 35 years in the Army for me and right under four continuous years in South Korea. I'm honored to lead our wonderful men and women in Korea at such a pivotal time in Asia. You should all be proud of what these great Americans do every single day to defend the Republic of Korea and our homeland.

Thanks again to the BFRG for all they do to keep our family informed and share our wonderful story. I am proud to be a Burleson!

Respectfully,

Bill

(Also known at times as Billy or Willard)



Born 9 October 1965 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Bill is the son of the late Major General. Willard McKenzie Burleson II and Marlene E. Titzkowski. Remarkably, Bill, his father and his son, Matt all graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point. What a proud and history making family!















Currently Bill serves as the Commanding General of the 8th United States Army and the Chief of Staff of the ROK/US Combined Forces Command. That position is stationed in South Korea. Bursleson has participated in the Gulf War, War in Afghanistan and the Iraq War. He has received the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Four Legion of Merit Medals, and Three Bronze Stars.

Below we have included pictures of his medals and ribbons with explanation due to LTG Bursleson's stature.





DISTINGUISHED SERVICE METAL AND PIC OF ALL MEDALS AWARDED







-  Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
-  Korea Defense Service Medal
-  Armed Forces Service Medal
-  Army Service Ribbon
-  Army Overseas Service Ribbon with bronze award numeral 5
-  NATO Medal for ex-Yugoslavia





- Combat**
-  Infantryman Badge with star (*denoting 2nd award*)
-  Ranger tab
-  Air Assault Badge
-  Master Parachutist Badge
- 7th Infantry Division**
-  Combat Service Identification Badge
-  German Parachutist badge

-  Southwest Asia Service Medal with service star
-  Kosovo Campaign Medal with service star
-  Afghanistan Campaign Medal with three campaign stars
-  Iraq Campaign Medal with two campaign stars
-  Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal with service star

-  British Parachutist Badge
-  Unidentified foreign parachutist badge
- 75th Ranger**
-  Regiment Distinctive Unit Insignia
- 9 Overseas Service Bars**
-  Army Distinguished Service Medal

-  Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters
-  Joint Service Commendation Medal
-  Army Commendation Medal with four oak leaf clusters
-  Army Achievement Medal with silver oak leaf cluster

-  Defense Superior Service Medal
-  Legion of Merit with three bronze oak leaf clusters
-  Bronze Star Medal with two oak leaf clusters
-  Defense Meritorious Service Medal

-  Meritorious Unit Commendation with oak leaf cluster
-  Superior Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters
-  National Defense Service Medal with one bronze service star
-  Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with service star

We requested Bill send us pictures that represented his military stay in South Korea. He sent these:



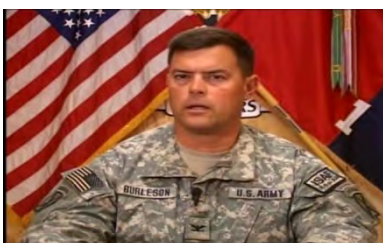
Burleson holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the United States Military Academy. He also earned a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College and a Master's Degree in Military Art and Science from the Army Command and General Staff College.



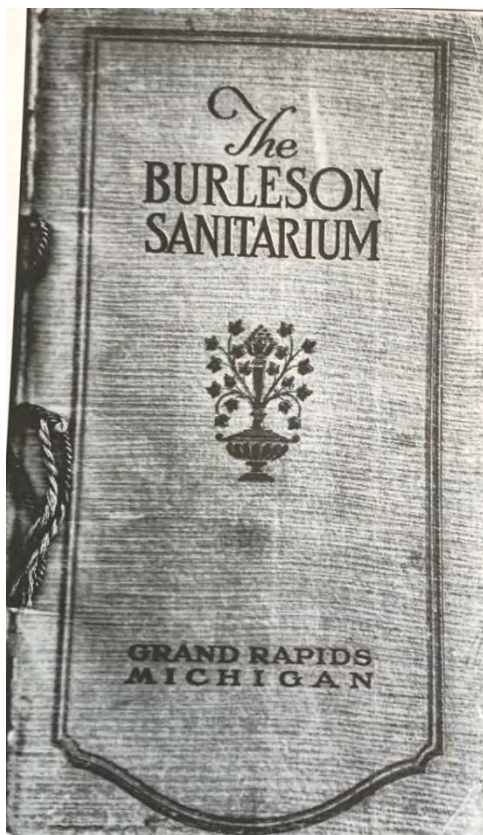
Bill graduated from the United States Military Academy and was commissioned into the Infantry in May 1988. Burleson's first assignment was the seventh Infantry Division (light), Fort Ord, California, which included service in the Multi-National Force and Observers, Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, and the invasion of Panama. He also served in 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Savannah, Georgia. He later commanded airborne companies in Vicenza, Italy which included service as part of the initial entry force for operations in Bosnia, Herzegovina.

After completing duties in Italy, Burleson returned to the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia and then served as Aide-De-Camp to the Commander of the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command. Burleson later served in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, with deployments to Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Burleson next served as Aide-de-Camp to the Commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps, with duty in the Combined Joint Task Force 180 and Multi-National Corps Iraq. After attending United States Army War College, Burleson returned to the 10th Mountain Division as Commander of the 1st Brigade, which included a deployment to Regional Command-North, Afghanistan. Upon completion of Brigade Command, he served as the Commander of the Joint Readiness Training Center's Operations Group at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Burleson later served as Deputy Commanding General (Operations), 7th Infantry Division (United States), Joint Base Louis-McChord, Washington Director of the Mission Command Center of excellence at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and as Senior Advisor to the Ministry of Defense, Afghanistan. Before serving in the Republic of Korea, Bill served as the commanding general of 7th Infantry Division at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.



Bill comes from not only a military family but from a long line of physicians. Several generations of his Burleson's formed and served the famous Burleson sanitarium in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This information and photos come from our cousin and colleague Sue R. Bell, "the Burleson's of Michigan".



Burleson is eligible for entry in the Sons of American Revolution through maternal lines for William Spaulding and George Taylor.

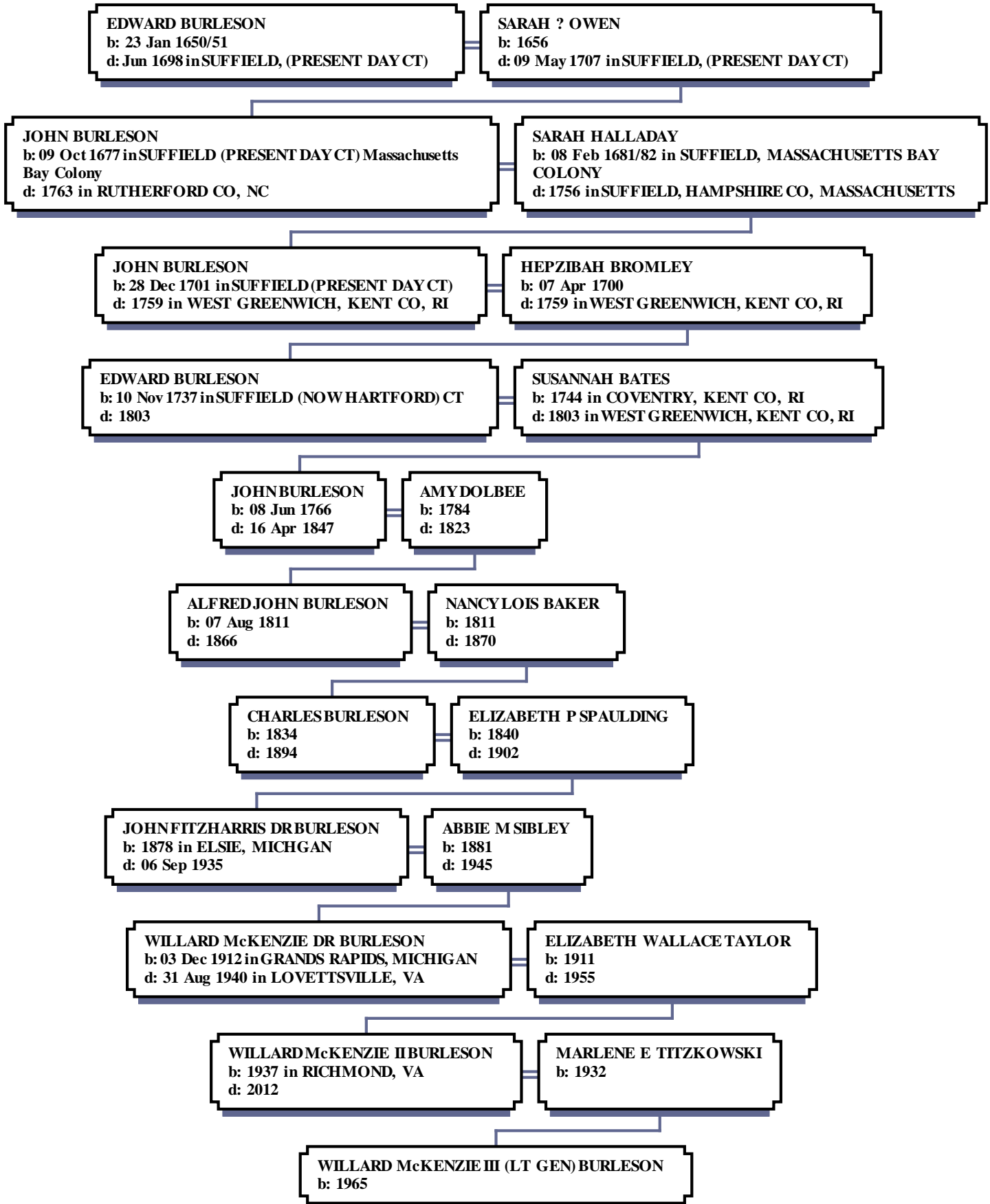
Bill connects ultimately to all of us through John Burleson 1677-1763 and Sarah Halliday 1682-1716 through what we term the Northern branch that funnels down John Burleson 1701-1759 and Mehepbizah Brumbley 1700-1759. Please see line illustrated below:

Were all very proud of this modern-day Burleson hero

End Notes:

Wikipedia, Military Times, Military Wiki, and Wikimedia Commons

Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



Yes It Is...Rocket Science!



...

Keith W. Burleson, Ph.D., M.B.A., P.E., PMP, CEMP

Dr. Keith W. Burleson, PhD, M.B.A., P.E., PMP, CEMP is a NASA engineer. JD Burleson saw this and responded, "He has ALL the letters!" Now wait... Keith has a Bachelor's of Science in Mechanical Engineering (Aerospace) from the U. S. Military Academy at West Point; a Masters of Business Administration from Syracuse University; a Master of Public Administration from the Florida Institute of Technology; and a Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He completed the Senior Executive Fellows Program at Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. Burleson capped off his education with a Doctorate in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Alabama/Huntsville. So I, quipped to JD, "He's got more degrees than a thermometer."



**West Point - The U.S.
Military Academy**

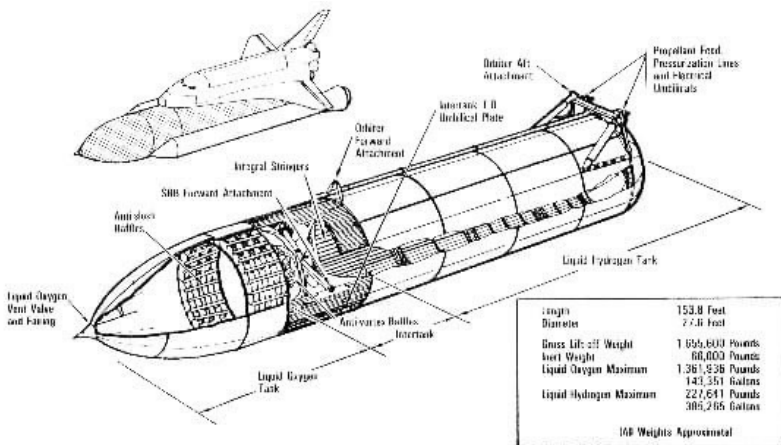


Following graduation from West Point, Keith was assigned to military training schools in Georgia where he was certified to fly Cobra attack helicopters; then New York to fly OH-58 scout helicopters... resulting in duty as Platoon Leader for Air Cavalry. He prepared flights for hurricane relief in Florida (Hurricane Andrew) and Somalia (Operation Restore Hope). "He was serving on the 10th Aviation Brigade's staff as a member of the Quick Reaction Force in Mogadishu, Somalia during the infamous 'Black Hawk Down' incident in 1993.



Burleson left military service in 1994 to serve in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Huntsville, Alabama. In 2000, he transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) at the Marshall Space Flight Center where he attained his Professional Engineering (PE) certification and his cert for Professional Management (PMP).

It was at NASA that Keith enjoys much satisfying work on the Space Shuttle Program. Specifically, he re-designs exterior fuel tank safety measures. Post Challenger accident, many project participants keep pictures of the crew and the mid-air explosion on their desks as a reminder: "Never Again."



Lightweight External Tank





Standing: Ellison Onizuka, Christa McAuliffa, Gregory Jarvis, Judith Resnik,

Seated: Dick Scobee, Michael J Smith, Ronald McNair

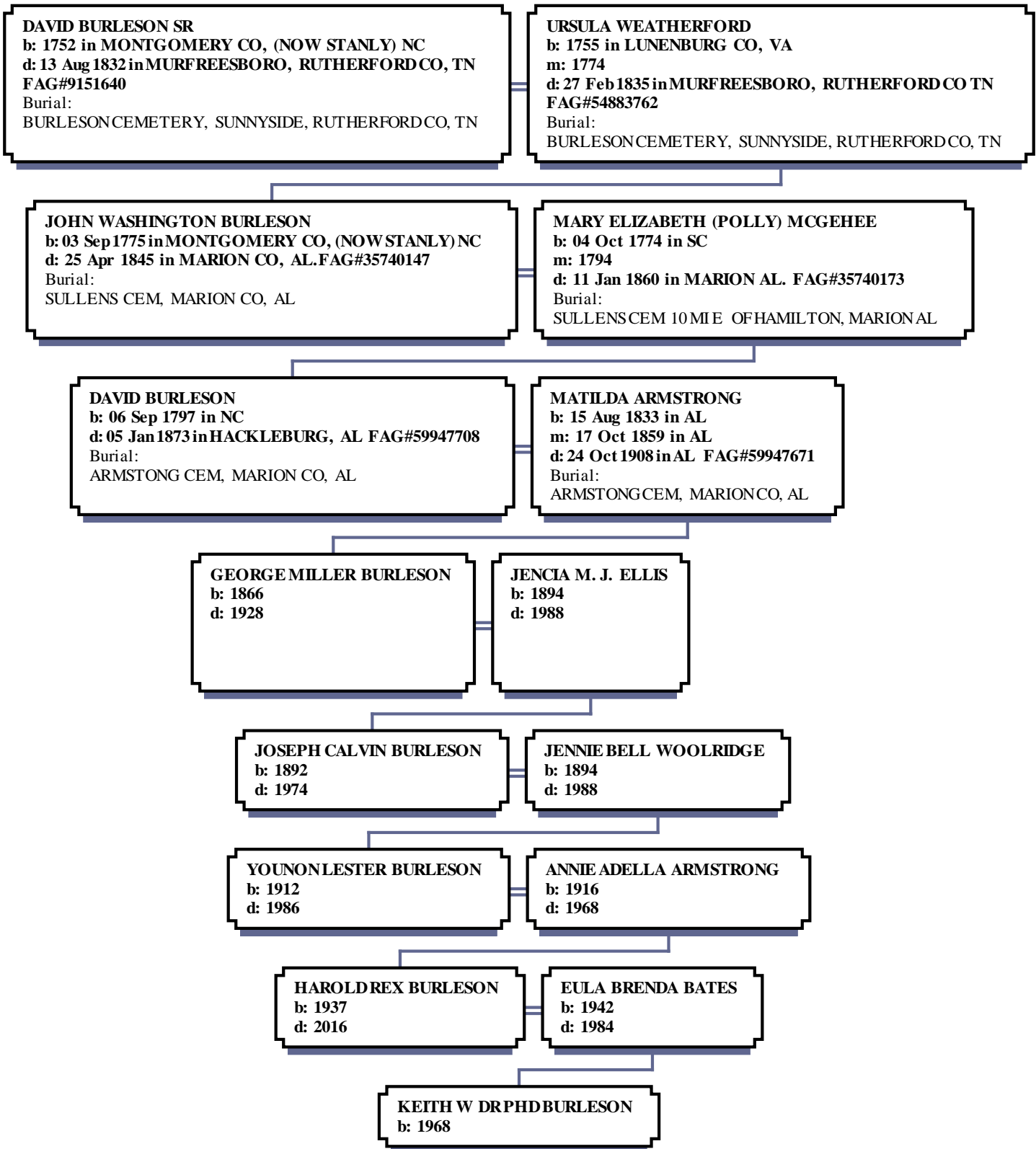
Keith has promoted to NASA Business Manager for the Stages Element of the new Heavy-Lift Launch Vehicle, Space Launch Systems Program in Huntsville, Alabama. Keith, born in 1968 is the son of the late Harold Rex Burleson and Eula Brenda Bates (Burleson).

End Notes: Wikimedia Commons; Linked-in: The Cullum Times-Cullum, Alabama



Keith W. Burleson

Direct Descendants of DAVID BURLESON SR



BLACK IN BLUE BURLESONS

Jonathan Burleson (1789-1866) spent the last fifty years of his life in Morgan County Alabama. He and his young family settled there in 1816. The land they settled was located less than one mile east of Flint Creek and less than six miles south of the Tennessee River. His first home, a log cabin, was built two years before Cotaco County (named changed to Morgan County in 1821) was established and three years before Alabama became a State. The first official land sales for Cotaco County were held in July 1818, at which time Jonathan purchased 160 acres. The young frontiersman and Creek War veteran thus became a farmer. As his landholdings increased, he became a planter and by the time the War Between the States started in 1861, he owned several thousand acres of land. His land holdings included tracts scattered over Morgan County and land in north Mississippi. The bulk of his land was located adjacent to and included his original home, and his later home built in 1841. The 1850 Federal Census reports 4,650 contiguous acres he operated and managed around his home. Jonathan maintained his own cotton gin and cotton press. His farm had its own blacksmith shop, shoe shop, tailor's shop, tannery, equipment sheds, farm office, corn cribs, smoke houses, stables, barns, hog pens and other out-buildings necessary to the successful operation of his farming enterprises.

Living and working on the Burleson plantation were several black slave families. Census records report Jonathan owning 20 slaves in 1830, 43 slaves in 1840, 64 slaves in 1850 and 49 slaves in 1860. The 1820 Census for Morgan County was lost. Scattered on the farm were at least a dozen slave dwellings. Most were simple log structures similar to Jonathan's first home. Some were frame houses built with sawn lumber. One such dwelling, built with a combination of logs and sawn lumber was still standing in the 1960's. The majority of the slave houses were located on a rocky knoll in what was called the "Hickory Grove" located along the north side of Red Bank Lane which extended east and west through the plantation. The grove was located just west of the site where the cotton gin and press were located and about one quarter mile northwest of the family cemetery.

Located north of and adjacent to the Burleson plantation was the 400-acre farm of Jonathan's son, William Byrd Burleson (1818-1865). The farm had been given to William by his father soon after William's marriage to Minerva A. Stephenson (1822-1907) in January 1840. According to the 1850 Federal census William owned 11 slaves. The 1860 census reports William owning 15 slaves. Some of the slaves had formally worked on the plantation of Minerva's father, Arthur Stephenson (circa 1792-1858). The bulk of the Stephenson farm was located about six miles northwest of the Burleson farm. The Stephenson-Burleson cemetery is located on a portion of the land.

The above information lays the groundwork for the purpose of this article, which is to discuss the five black Burleson's who in the later stages of the Civil War left their homes and joined the Union army. Yankee forces had occupied the Tennessee Valley area of North Alabama on and off since shortly after the battle of Shiloh in April 1862. The town of Decatur and its important railroad junction served as headquarters for the Union forces in Morgan County. At various times thousands of Union soldiers were quartered in Decatur. Union officers spent considerable time recruiting white and black men for the army. Numerous black men in Morgan and adjacent counties ran away from their plantations and made their way to Decatur to volunteer for service. However, some of the Yankee recruitment efforts included forcing slaves from their homes and pressing (forcing) them into the Union army. Another tactic recorded in Madison County (adjoining Morgan County to the north and east across the Tennessee River) involved Union troops surrounding churches on Sunday and taking away black men at the point of a bayonet so they could "volunteer" for the army. Four black Burleson's from Jonathan's plantation wound up in Union blue along with one slave from William's farm. Just how the four men from Jonathan's plantation were recruited is unknown. Information for this report has been pieced together from military records, census records, family descendant genealogy records, government depositions and affidavits from the soldiers themselves and from friends and family members, newspaper articles, Freedman Bureau records, deed records, estate files and one diary. The following are the stories of five brave soldiers who fought for their freedom and for a better way of life.

Nelson Burleson and William Burleson were brothers. Their parents were possibly Phillip Burleson-Fennoy and Julia Burleson. Nelson and William had four known siblings, all born on the Burleson plantation. Based on depositions given by Nelson in 1915, he was born April 12, 1831 (census records indicate birth year to be 1835 or 1836). He stated he was married to Maria Johnson in 1853 and that they were married in a church and William Byrd Burleson performed the ceremony. He stated the church was in the area where the village of Flint would later be established. Possibly they were married in Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church. Jonathan Burleson and his

family attended church at Mt. Pisgah. Church records list approximately 150 white members and about 50 black members in the years leading up to the start of the Civil War.

Military records show Nelson Burleson (spelled Burleston in service records) enlisted March 1, 1864 at Decatur. He was officially mustered into service a few weeks later near Pulaski, Tennessee. He served as a private in Company "I", 111th Regiment of the United States Colored Infantry. Within two months of enlistment, Nelson's company was sent to the fort guarding the Sulphur Branch trestle, an important railroad bridge located a few miles north of Athens in Limestone County. The trestle and fort were located about a mile south of the village of Elkmont near the Tennessee-Alabama state line. The trestle was part of the Tennessee and Alabama Central Railroad which had been chartered in 1853 by the State of Alabama with the purpose of building a railroad line from Montgomery, Alabama northward to the Tennessee state line where it would tie into an existing rail line which along with another line, further north, extended all the way to Nashville, Tennessee. The only part of the rail line finished before the Civil War was the 27-mile stretch between Decatur and the Tennessee state line. It was finished in the spring of 1861 just before the war started. At Decatur Junction, the T&AC railroad joined the Memphis & Charleston Railroad which extended west to east through north Alabama. Both railroads were important for the transport of men and supplies for the Confederate army at the start of the war and later in the war for the Union army. The Sulphur Branch trestle was built of wood, was 72 feet tall and about 300 feet long. To protect it from Confederate forces, the Union army had constructed a formidable fort on a hill on the east side of the trestle at the south end of the bridge. The fort had two block houses, earthen and wooden breastworks and living quarters for the approximately 1,200 troops stationed there. In the fall of 1864, Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest moved south from Tennessee into Alabama. On September 24th his troops captured Fort Henderson in Athens with over 1,300 prisoners taken. On September 25th Forrest and his men attacked the Sulphur Branch fort. After a few hours of bombardment by Forrest's artillery, the fort surrendered. According to Confederate reports, 200 of the enemy had been killed and 973 men taken prisoner. Included in the captured men was Nelson Burleson. Most of the captured black Union soldiers from Fort Henderson and Sulphur Trestle were marched in columns to Cherokee, Alabama. There some of them were carried by train to Mobile to work on Confederate fortifications. Some of the prisoners were marched to Mobile; the journey on foot took 12 days. In a deposition given by Nelson Burleson years after the war, he stated: "After we were captured the Rebel soldiers burnt the trestle bridge. It was not torn down but burnt down. From there we marched clear down to Mobile, Alabama, crossing the Tennessee River near Tuscumbia, Alabama. The river was so low that we forded it. We stayed in Tuscumbia one night and then marched to Cherokee, Alabama. I am sure we prisoners marched the whole way to Mobile. We got on the train once at some little station, name not now known. But then the cars ran off of the track and then we did not get on again." In his efforts to obtain a military pension after the war Nelson Burleson gave the following statement June 29, 1889: "I was put to work on breast works and the guard struck me with his gun across my back, and disables me for work, about three weeks. Was sent to the Rebel hospital during that time and they gave me such medical treatment as was common at such places, I suppose. When I was exchanged and got back to my regiment, I did not have much hard duty to do and my back did not give me much serious trouble until I was discharged and returned home and commenced work on the farm, then I found out that my back would not admit me to do hard labor and was compelled to call on a physician for advice and medicine. My first physician was Dr. Wesley Price, his P.O. address was Priceville, Morgan County, Alabama but he is dead, has been dead about five years. Since that time I have called on Dr. Scott Rountree for medicine for my back a few times but none of their treatment seems to do but little good, if any. His P.O. address is at this time, Hartselle, Morgan County, Alabama. I have not been at any time so that I could not go about but could not attend to the hard part of work that was necessary for a farmer to do at many times all the way down from the close of the war to the present time."

Nelson Burleson was a prisoner of war until April 30, 1865. On May 4, 1865, he and numerous other former prisoners were turned over to Union General Canby by Confederate General Richard Taylor when he surrendered his army. Nelson and other members of his company were sent to Memphis, Tennessee where they rejoined their regiment, May 27, 1865. It appears Company "I" of the 111th Regiment was mustered out of service April 30, 1866, in Nashville, Tennessee. After the war Nelson returned home to the Jonathan Burleson farm. He and his wife Maria are shown living on the farm next door to Maria's mother Mary Johnson, in the 1866 Alabama State Census. Nelson and Maria eventually had six children: Samuel, Alexander, Mary Lou, Callie, Johnnie and Mattie. Samuel, the oldest was born in about 1868 and Mattie, the youngest was born in 1886. Nelson Burleson changed his surname from "Burleson" to "Fennoy" sometime between the 1866 census and when he registered to vote in 1867. He stated he and the other former Burleson slaves were encouraged to change their surnames and he

chose "Fennoy" since it was his father's name. It is not known who requested the former slaves to change their names; some say it was Jonathan Burleson. This is unlikely as Jonathan was suffering from dementia by the end of the war and until he died September 24, 1866, would not have been capable of making the request. Several former slave families did change their surnames, however, several Burleson families did not.

Nelson's wife Maria died July 28, 1897, and was buried in the Minor Hill Cemetery near Flint. On March 20, 1898, Nelson remarried. His bride was Jennie Minor, the widow of Sam Minor. Reverend W. A. Wilhite preformed the wedding ceremony which was probably held at the Minor Hill Baptist Church in Flint.

Jennie had been born on the Pryor plantation located in south Limestone County a few miles north of Decatur. According to her mother, Fannie Pryor, in a deposition given in 1920, Jennie had been born during the Civil War which would make her about 30 years younger than Nelson. In 1885, Jennie had married James Peebles, however, after about six months of marriage, it was discovered James still had a living wife when he married Jennie. Peebles ran off and was not heard from again. (Deposition could be in error. It appears Jennie was married to Peebles for at least six years and had three sons.) Jennie then married Sam Minor and went to Morgan County to live. After Sam died, she then married Nelson Fennoy. Jennie and Nelson had no children together. By the time of his second marriage Nelson owned a home and other real estate in the village of Flint. In 1907, in efforts to get his military pension increased he asked the two surviving children of Jonathan Burleson, Dabney Adair Burleson (1835-1912) and Mattie Burleson Orr (1837-1923) to provide testimony to assist him in the pension claim. Dabney's affidavit stated Nelson had been born on his father's farm and that "we were boys together." Mattie's affidavit stated she knew Nelson was a few years older than herself and that she would be 70 years old next month. Nelson Fennoy died September 6, 1919, in his home in Flint. He was buried the next day in the Minor Hill Cemetery near his beloved first wife, Maria. Nelson's grave is unmarked. The cemetery is located about two miles west of where Nelson was born and reared. Today descendants of Nelson and Maria are scattered across the United States.

William Burleson was a younger brother to Nelson. He was born about 1840 and like his brother, Nelson grew up on the Burleson farm and was living there when the Civil War started. In an affidavit given in 1890, Jake Burleson, who had also lived on the Jonathan Burleson plantation, declared William Burleson had married Delilah Burleson-Jaggers (sometimes spelled 'Jaggars') on or about the 2nd day of October 1860 and they were married by John Tapscott, a Justice of the Peace. Tapscott lived about 3 miles northwest of the Burleson farm where the village of Flint would later be established. Delilah's parents were Burrell Burleson-Jaggers and Elizabeth 'Betsie' Burleson-Pate who lived on the Burleson farm. Based on census data, it appears Burrell was born in South Carolina and Elizabeth was born in Virginia, both born in about 1820. In an affidavit given in 1916, Delilah stated she had been born in 1841. Her death record states she was born in 1839.

Affidavits given years after the war contain erroneous information about William's enlistment date in the Union Army. Based on information contained in the military files of other Union soldiers, it appears William enlisted in Decatur, Alabama around the first of March 1864 and he was officially mustered into service at Pulaski, Tennessee around the middle of April 1864. He served as a private in Company "B", 2nd Regiment Iowa Infantry. Little is known about William's personal experiences while in the army. Later in this report the exploits of the 2nd Iowa will be discussed. William was honorably discharged in the Summer of 1865. He returned home to Delilah, where they are shown living on the Burleson farm in the 1866 Alabama State Census. Three children, two boys and one girl, all under the age of ten years, are shown living in their household. In the 1870 Federal Census, William and Delilah Burleson are shown living adjacent to Ann Burleson (circa 1806 -1878) the widow and second wife of Jonathan Burleson. Between the 1870 census and the 1880 census, William's family changed their surname to "Fennoy" just as his older brother Nelson had done in the late 1860's. During the same time period Delilah's parents changed their surname to "Jaggers." It is not known why the name "Jaggers" was chosen. William and Delilah had at least six children: Dennis, Hence, Mary Eliza, Harriet, William Thomas and Robert Lee. William Burleson died on or about the 12th day of February 1883 and was buried in Hartselle, Alabama possibly in the Hartselle Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery. In the 1890's Delilah applied for a widow's pension based on her late husband's service in the Union Army. On July 15, 1895, Dabney Burleson (1835-1912) gave a lengthy deposition to the Military Pension Office. He stated he had known William and Delilah "all their lives" and that "they were both raised up in our family." He stated that "William and Delilah were married a short time before the war and that they were young and neither of them had been married before." When asked to give a description of William around the time he enlisted, Dabney replied, "he was just about full grown probably 22 or 23 years old, about five feet and five or six inches tall and of a dark brown color." When asked how William spelled his name,

Dabney replied, "B-U-R-L-E-S-O-N. If he was enrolled any other way, it was incorrect. He was raised in our family and his name was the same as mine." Dabney went on to say that "Delilah has always been a hard-working woman and has had no children or lived with any man as his wife since her husband died." Delilah was approved for a widow's pension and drew it until she died. By 1900, Delilah owned a 128-acre farm located about three miles north of Hartselle adjoining the L & N Rail line. She eventually moved to Birmingham, Alabama and was living with one of her children when she died January 16, 1919. She was buried in Hartselle, Alabama. The name "Fennoy" was common in Morgan County for many years after the war. One of William and Delilah's grandsons, Leslie Fennoy, a son of Hence Fennoy, became a prominent citizen in Hartselle. He owned several pieces of real estate and owned and operated a store on the corner of Georgia Street and Bethel Street in northeast Hartselle. He was born in 1895 and lived well into his 90's. He loved raising and training hunting dogs and could often be found at First Monday Trade Day in Scottsboro, Alabama where he would buy, sell and trade dogs.

Living on the Burleson plantation by the 1840's were Anthony "Tony" Burleson and his wife Dorcas Burleson. They were the parents of Joseph and Jacob Burleson. In Freedman Bureau records from June 1869, Joseph stated he had four living brothers: Lawson, Rufus, Aaron and Jacob. He stated he had three deceased brothers however they were not named. He also stated he had four sisters: Lucy and Nelly, who were living with him, and Edna and Ann, one of whom was living in Memphis and the other living in Mississippi. It appears Joseph Burleson, born sometime between 1839 and 1841, was one of the older children. His younger brother, Jacob, was born in about 1842. Both Joseph and Jacob joined the Union Army in 1864.

Joseph Burleson (spelled Burlison in military records) served with Nelson Burleson in Co "T", 111th Regiment of the United States Colored Infantry. He, like Nelson, enlisted in Decatur on March 1, 1864. His military records show he originally enlisted as a private in Co. "T" of the 3rd Regiment Alabama Infantry African Descent. This regiment had its designation changed in June 1864 to the 111th Regiment. Joseph was captured along with Nelson Burleson at Sulphur Trestle on September 25, 1864, and was also sent to Mobile where he worked on Confederate fortifications. Joseph and Nelson were turned over to Federal authorities in May 1865 and sent to Memphis to rejoin their regiment. In an application for a military invalid pension in 1890, Joseph stated that while stationed in Murfreesboro, Tennessee during the summer of 1865, "I was seized with paralysis of my right side, and it has followed me to this day. I am drawn down to the ground with it and unconscious for hours at a time." Joseph was honorably discharged from the army in Nashville, Tennessee April 30, 1866. He returned to his home on the Jonathan Burleson farm and is shown living there in the 1870 Federal census with his wife, Amanda and five sons: Samuel, Silas, Terry, William and Aaron. By 1870 Joseph had changed his surname from "Burleson" to "Barker". The source of the name "Barker" is unknown. When Joseph opened an account with the Freedman's Bureau in June 1869, he was still using the surname "Burleson." Based on their children's ages, it appears Joseph and Amanda had married sometime prior to the start of the war. By 1873, Joseph and Amanda finally had a daughter; they named her Virginia. In the late 1870's Amanda died. Joseph remarried in August 1879. His bride was Sarah Johnson, the widow of Burrell Johnson. Sarah's maiden name was Stephenson. She had been a slave on the Arthur Stephenson (circa 1792-1858) farm. Her name was included on an 1858 inventory of slaves owned by Stephenson. In the 1880 Federal census, Joseph and Sarah Barker are shown living on the Burleson farm next door to Nelson Fennoy and his family.

In 1890, using the surname Burleson, Joseph applied for a military invalid pension based on the paralysis he suffered along with a partial loss of eyesight. On April 23, 1892, two friends of Joseph, John Jagers and Samuel McCulloch gave the following account in a general affidavit. They stated "We are both personally acquainted with Joseph Burleson having known him ever since the war. That one morning in the Fall of the year 1884 we were coming to Decatur and on the side of the road some two miles from his home, we saw Joseph Burleson stagger and fall to the ground. We came to him and found him in a hard fit. We put him in our wagon and brought him to his home. The fit was very bad and severe and lasted him for several hours. We have not seen him have any other fits, but it is understood in the neighborhood that he frequently has them. He is a poor man and is not able to do but little if any manual labor."

Joseph was eventually approved for a \$6.00 per month pension, which he was drawing when he died February 22, 1902. He is possibly buried in one of the many unmarked graves in the Minor Hill Cemetery. According to his death certificate, Jacob "Jake" Burleson was born April 11, 1842. He was reared on the Burleson plantation along with his brothers and sisters. Before the Civil War started, Jake married Jane Bean, probably from the Benjamin Bean plantation which was located a few miles northeast of the Burleson farm. Jake stated they were married with "consent of mistress." Jake enlisted in the Union Army April 1, 1864, in Decatur and was sent to

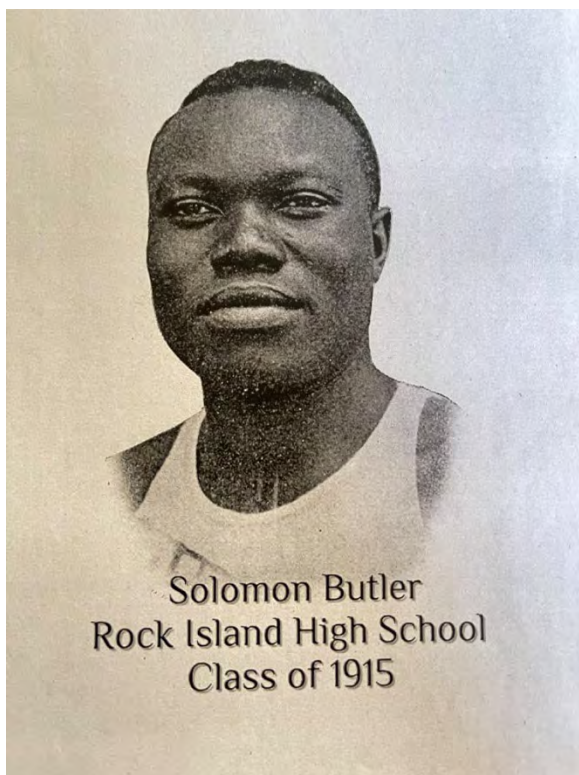
Pulaski, Tennessee where he was formally mustered in April 19, 1864. His service records have his name spelled as "Bullerson" for the most part but occasionally it was spelled "Bullison." His name is spelled "Burlison" in his pension record. He served in Company "C", 2nd Regiment Iowa Infantry. He served as an "under cook." There was one exception to his duty as an under cook. In June and July 1864, he served as a Division Teamster. In his pension application in 1890, Jake stated that "while in Company "C" and in the line of duty at Snake Creek Gap, in the State of Georgia in the middle of May 1864, I was wounded in the upper front part of my head or forehead, by shot from the enemy." He was conveyed by ambulance to a hospital in Rome, Georgia where he was treated for his wounds. Military records show Jake was honorably discharged from the army at Louisville, Kentucky July 12, 1865. He returned to his home on the Burleson farm and was living there with Jane when the 1870 Federal census was taken. Sometime before the 1870 census, Jake, like his brother Joseph, changed his surname to "Barker." He used the surnames "Barker" and "Burleson" interchangeably for the rest of his life. In affidavits made in the 1890's Jake stated his first wife, Jane died in February 1873. Morgan County marriages records show Jacob Burleson marrying Easter Orr November 29, 1877. They are shown living in Hartselle, Alabama when the 1880 Federal census was taken. His occupation was listed as farm labor and railroading. Easter died in Hartselle sometime in the 1890's. Jake eventually married a third time. Morgan County marriage records show Jake Barker marrying Caroline Rodgers, March 28, 1906. The ceremony was performed by Rev. John P.M. Woodall. Caroline "Callie" Rodgers was the widow of Frank Rodgers who died in October 1904 or 1905. Callie's maiden name was McDonald. According to Jake, he never had children with any of his three wives.

In May 1890 Jake Burleson started the process to obtain a military invalid pension. In his July 1890 pension application he stated he was disabled in the following manner, to wit: "From gunshot to head causing severe attacks of Neuralgia lasting from the 1st of December to about the 1st of March each year." Jake was approved for a pension. In 1920, Jake filed paperwork to increase his pension. In an affidavit given in 1921, Callie Burleson stated that she had attended to Jake constantly for the past three years due to his head pain. Jake Burleson died January 31, 1931, when he was 88 years old and was buried in the Hartselle Missionary Baptist Church cemetery. A military gravestone showing his service in Company "C", 2nd Iowa Infantry marks his grave.

Benjamin "Ben" Burleson was reared on the Arthur Stephenson plantation just southwest of Decatur, Alabama. Ben is listed as under 21 years of age on the slave inventory prepared after Stephenson's death in 1858. Some records indicate he was born March 4, 1839. By 1860 he was living on the farm of William Byrd Burleson who in 1840 had married Minerva Stephenson, a daughter of Arthur Stephenson. It is not known how many of the Stephenson slaves moved to the Burleson farm. In a newspaper interview given by Ben in 1910, he stated he was living on the Burleson farm when the war started in 1861. His job was to look after the farm mules. Sometime in late 1863, he simply walked away from the farm and made his way to Decatur and joined the Union Army. Records indicate he enlisted November 22, 1863. The army shows his name as "Benjamin Bullison." Ben, like William Burleson, became part of Company "B", 2nd Regiment Iowa Infantry where he served as an "under cook." Company "B" was in northwest Georgia by May 1864 where they were present at the skirmish at Snake Creek Gap and a few days later were involved in the Battle of Resaca which is considered the first battle of the Atlanta Campaign. Later in May they fought at the engagement at Dallas, Georgia and later at the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. Late in August 1864 the 2nd Iowa fought in the Battle of Jonesborough which is considered the last battle of the Atlanta Campaign. From there they went with General Sherman as he burned and fought his way through Georgia. The 2nd Iowa fought at Savannah and later at the skirmish at Lynch Creek in South Carolina. Their last action was at the Battle of Bentonville, North Carolina in late March 1865. The war ended in April and the 2nd Iowa was sent to Washington D C where they took part in the Union victory parade along Pennsylvania Avenue. Benjamin Burleson was present at all the engagements mentioned above including the final victory parade. He was mustered out of the army in July 1865.



After the war Benjamin changed his surname to “Butler.” He knew of Union General Benjamin F. Butler



and liked the sound of the name. Ben moved to Memphis, Tennessee after the war and in 1887 he married Mary Elizabeth Wellings who was about 28 years younger than him. The first three of their five children were born in Memphis. Ben was evidently married before he wed Mary. Contained in his 1919 obituary is a statement mentioning a daughter named Minnie from a previous marriage. Racial unrest in Memphis in 1892 resulted in the lynching of three black businessmen. Because of this and continuing racial discrimination Ben moved his family to the Oklahoma Territory in 1894. They were living in Kingfisher, Oklahoma when their youngest son, Solomon Butler was born March 5, 1895. Still faced with racial discrimination, Ben moved his family to Wichita, Kansas in 1904. His final move was to Hutchinson, Kansas sometime prior to the 1910 census being taken. In Hutchinson, Ben opened a shoeshine and drink stand at the corner of Avenue B and Main Street across from the courthouse. Ben became a well-known and respected citizen. Part of his local fame was from his amazing “strawberry finish” drink, a summertime Hutchinson favorite. Ben died on either the first or second day of April 1919, and was buried in the Eastside Cemetery in Hutchinson. His grave is marked by a military gravestone which is inscribed: Benj. Butler, Co B, 2nd Ia. Inf.

In any discussion of Ben Butler, mention should be made of his youngest son, Solomon “Sol” Butler. By the time Solomon graduated from high school in 1915, some sports writers across the United States were calling him, “the greatest high school athlete in the world.” Solomon began his high school career in 1911. After some race related resistance, he was allowed to attend Hutchinson High School. While there he became a world class athlete. He starred on the basketball court and the football field however his greatest achievements were in track and field. By 1912 he was gaining regional fame. In a district track meet held at Sterling High School he won four individual events plus received the gold medal for highest number of individual points. In 1913 it was reported he had won 37 first place medals in track and field events held in Kansas. One school in Manhattan, Kansas where he had competed, refused to send him his first-place medals because he was black. In 1914 at a district track meet held in Pratt, Kansas, Sol won six individual events including the 50-yard dash, the 100-yard dash, the 220-yard dash, the running broad jump, the shot put and the 220-yard low hurdles. At this meet, Sol broke the interscholastic record in the 50-yard dash and tied the record in the 100-yard dash. In June 1914 after his Junior year, Sol took part in the Stagg meet, a major track and field event held in Chicago. Over 400 high school athletes from all over the United States participated. Sol won individual honors at the meet having won several events. Solomon transferred to Rock Island High School for his senior year. Rock Island is located in Illinois just across the Mississippi River from Davenport, Iowa. While there he continued to gain national prominence. In 1915, he earned the largest individual point total in the mid-west in track and field events and won several events at the national interscholastic track and field meet held in Chicago. After graduating in 1915, Sol attended Dubuque College (now University) in Dubuque, Iowa. While there he was quarterback of the football team and is given credit as the first black athlete to quarterback a college team for four successive years. During his college years he became one of the first black athletes to gain international fame. Only Jack Johnson, the heavy weight boxing champion from 1908-1915 received more press than Sol Butler. In 1919 he traveled to Paris, France where he participated in the Inter Allied Athletic Games. Sol won the running broad jump and came within half an inch of breaking the world record. During the U S Olympic trials held in Boston, Massachusetts in July 1920, Solomon broke the United States record for the running broad jump with a leap of 24 feet and 6 inches. He easily made the Olympic team but was injured in a practice meet just before the 1920 Olympic games and was not able to compete. After college, Solomon went on to become one of the first black players in the National Football League. He was so popular his old High School in Rock Island wrote a song about him. Solomon Butler died in Chicago December 1, 1954, and was buried in Wichita, Kansas.

Evidence suggests a sixth Burleson from Morgan County joined the Union Army. The 106th United States Colored Troops had been organized in Decatur and originally named the 4th Regiment Alabama Infantry African Descent but had been consolidated into the 106th USCT in May 1864. Andrew Jackson Burlison from Morgan County enlisted on July 1, 1864, and held the rank of “private.” He and most of his comrades were captured when Fort Henderson in Athens surrendered to General Forrest, September 24, 1864. Records show Burlison escaped and was later reported a deserter as of April 15, 1865. The only other record found is a pension application filing by a Jackson Burleson from Alabama on October 8, 1890. The filing shows him as a member of Company “B”, 106th U S Colored Infantry during the war. No evidence has been found to connect him to the Jonathan Burleson plantation. He does not show up after the war in any family records or census records. More research will be necessary to document his background.

As previously noted, some black Burleson families changed their surnames after the war. In addition to the names already mentioned, other surnames used were: Hamilton, Powell, Dickson, Strothers (or Strawthers) and Francis. Several of these families are shown living on the Burleson farm for several years after the war ended. Roby Adair Burleson (1845-1870) kept a diary for the year 1866. He was the only child of Jonathan Burleson and his second wife, Ann. Roby managed the Burleson farm after the war. In his diary he wrote of having written contracts with the “freed people” as black labor shifted from enslaved labor to a wage system. Many of the farm workers he writes about are the soldiers and their families included in this report.

It is unfortunate so little information is available to document the lives of the many black families who lived and worked on the Burleson farm in the years before, during and after the War Between the States. As time moves forward and more black families become interested in their history, maybe documentation and family stories will surface which can add to the rich history of their ancestors’ struggle and sacrifice to make a better world for all Americans.

David A. Burleson
February 24, 2023



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ARCHIVES AND COLLECTIONS

- Federal Census records for the years 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910 and 1920 for Morgan County Alabama.
Alabama State Census records for the year 1866
Federal Census records for the years 1880, 1900, 1910 and 1920 for Tennessee, Oklahoma and Kansas
Early deed, probate and estate files held by the Morgan County Archives in Decatur, Alabama
Pension claims of various Morgan County Union soldiers filed with the Bureau of Pensions, Department of the Interior, Washington D C

Freedman Bureau Bank records, 1865-1874, original data held by the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington DC

Burleson family research papers of Howard L. Burleson, compiled between 1934 and 1970, held in the private collection of David A. Burleson

JOURNALS AND ARTICLES

Towns, Peggy Allen, "106th United States Colored Troops", Compiled by Mrs. Towns and donated to the Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama on January 14, 2015

Burleson, Roby Adair, personal diary for the year 1866. Held in the historic document collection of the Morgan County Archives, Decatur, Alabama

"Burleson Family Association Bulletin" Vol. XVIII, No. 3, Winter 1998-1999, Helen Burleson Kelso, editor

"Burleson Family Association Bulletin" Vol. X, No. 3, November 1990, Helen Burleson Kelso, editor

Various articles in newspapers from Kansas, Illinois and Iowa relating to the history of Benjamin Butler and his son, Solomon Butler. Accessed through Newspapers.com

SPECIAL THANKS Dr. Wylheme H. Ragland, noted historian from Decatur, Alabama has provided a wealth of information to this writer over the past several years. His knowledge of local history and the materials he provided concerning black Union soldiers have proved invaluable in completing this report.

Major Milestones

Darlene Burleson Gosnell **1957 - 2023**

Darlene Burleson Gosnell passed away on April 1, 2023, at the age of 65, due to a heart condition and lung cancer. Darlene was born in Asheville on June 30, 1957. She is preceded in death by her parents, Ernest and Ruth Burleson; and two brothers, Ernest Jr. and Gregory.

Darlene is survived by her life partner, Richard Hughes; stepson, Dustin Hughes (Hannah); a sister, Linda Mobley (Frank); a brother, Gary Burleson; step-grandchildren, Breanna Gosnell, Ryan, Katie, Tyler, and Natalie Hughes; nephews, Scott Myers, Jeremy and Nick Burleson; and niece, Megan Burleson.

Darlene was a long-time member of the Marion Moose Lodge and was very active in many of their projects helping children. She enjoyed playing pool, fishing, hunting, and baking cakes for her friend's birthdays. She loved being around people and will be greatly missed by all.

A funeral service will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel of Beam Funeral Service with Pastor Bob Ritter officiating. The family will receive friends from 10:00 until 11:00 a.m. Burial will take place at 2:00 p.m. at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Candler.

In lieu of flowers, please consider sending a donation to the funeral home to pay for the funeral expenses at Beam Funeral Service, 2170 Rutherford Road, Marion, NC 28752.

To order [memorial trees](#) or send flowers to the family in memory of Darlene Burleson Gosnell, please visit our [flower store](#).



Darlene Burleson Gosnell Burleson Family Line is, Ernest & Ruth Carpenter Burleson. John Edwin & Etta Victoria Love Burleson, WILLIAM A & MARY (POPPIE) WEATHERMAN BURLESON, THOMAS & NANCY DAVIS BURLESON, THOMAS DAUNT) & MARGARET JANE GREENE BURLESON, AARON & RACHAEL BURLESON.(AARON & THOMAS ARE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS)



Carl David Burleson and Stan Hollified

Carl David Burleson, 64, of Morganton, passed away Wednesday, May 9, 2007, at Hospice of Rutherford County.

Mr. Burleson was born on Feb. 22, 1943, in Avery County to the late Edward Burleson Sr. and Lillian Shuffler Burleson.

He was a U.S. Army veteran and was a retired lieutenant with the Morganton Department of Public Safety with 27 years of service. Mr. Burleson was a member of the FOP, a lifetime member of the VFW Table Rock Post No. 5362, a member of the Morganton Redeveloping Committee from 1996 until 2000 and was involved with the original planning for the conversion of the Premier building into what is now Morganton City Hall. He was a member of Calvary Lutheran Church.

He is survived by his wife, Diane Hembree Burleson of the home; two sons, Eric David Burleson of Mansfield, Texas and Kevin W. Franklin and his wife, Tracy, of Morganton; three grandchildren, Wesley Franklin, Lauren Franklin and Natalie Franklin; one brother, Edward Burleson Jr. and his wife, Boots, of Newland; and two sisters, Lee Ann Bethke and her husband, Glenn, of Morganton and Laura Teston and her husband, Ed, of Sylvester, Ga.; and a number of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Lucille Riggs of Baltimore, Md. and Lois Clark of Drexel.

A celebration of his life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Calvary Lutheran Church, Morganton with the Rev. Michael Riley officiating.

Interment will follow in the Burleson Cemetery, Avery County.

The family will receive friends Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Friday at Heritage Funeral Service in Valdese.

Carl David Burleson's Family Line is: Edward & Lillian Shuffler Burleson, Robert Mitchell & Emaline Tolley Burleson, Wilson (WILT) & Frances Davis Burleson, Aaron (Big Aaron) & Elizabeth McKinney, THOMAS DAUNT) & MARGARET JANE GREENE BURLESON, AARON & RACHAEL BURLESON.(AARON & THOMAS ARE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS)

Jerry Ray Burleson

1951 - 2023

Jerry Ray Burleson, age 72, of Spruce Pine, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, February 7, 2023. Born January 21, 1951 in a log cabin in Avery County, he was the son of the late Clarence and Carrie Burleson. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Joann Buchanan and brother, David "Buddy" Burleson.

Jerry was a member of Altapass Baptist Church. He was known for his devotion and desire to attend service faithfully and his love for God. He enjoyed being outside and mowing the yard. His pride and joy were his grandkids; but, he was extremely proud and protective of his great-grandchildren, whom he called "his babies"

Left to cherish his memory is his love of forty-eight years; Linda Burleson, two beloved daughters; Amanda and husband, David Buchanan, Jenny and husband, Jason Millsaps, both of Spruce Pine; five grandchildren; Melissa and husband, Ryan Bryant, Tiffany Buchanan, Josh Buchanan, Dakota Millsaps, and Layton Millsaps; three great-grandchildren; Timothy, Raelynn and Mylan and one due in June. Several extended family members are also left to cherish his memory.

A time to support the family, share memories, and receive friends will be Thursday, February 9, 2023 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Webb Funeral Home. The funeral service will be held Friday, February 10, 2023 at 2:00 pm at Altapass Baptist Church with Dr. Marcus Benfield and Rev. Steve Williams officiating. Interment will be held in the McKinney Gap Cemetery.

The family would like to invite friends to visit and share memories at the home of Amanda and David Buchanan on Barney McKinney Road in Spruce Pine.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to; Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge, 236 Hospital Drive, Spruce Pine, NC 28777 www.hospiceblueridge.com or the local chapter of the Gideons, P.O. Box 611, Spruce Pine, NC 28777 www.gideons.org/donate

Words of comfort may be e-mailed to the family by going to our website; www.webbfh.com, selecting Jerry Burleson's name and then you may sign his guestbook. Webb Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements for Mr. Burleson and is honored to be serving the Burleson family. Mr. Burleson's obituary has also been posted on Facebook for viewing.

Jerry Burleson Family Line is, Clarence & Carrie Osborne Burleson, Sherman & Bettie Buchanan Burleson, Charles & Susan Burleson JR, Charles & Caroline Dean Burleson SR, Wilson (Wilt) & Frances Davis Burleson, Aaron (Big Aaron) & Elizabeth McKinney Burleson, Thomas (Daunt) & Margaret Jane Greene Burleson, Aaron & Rachel Burleson



Obituary for Tommy Richard Burleson

1943 - 2023

Tommy Richard Burleson, 79, passed away on Monday, February 13, 2023 in Monroe, North Carolina. Tommy was born on October 4, 1943 in Banner Elk, North Carolina.

Tommy proudly served his country as a member of the United States Army and was stationed in Germany. After leaving the Army, he pursued a career in the electrical industry and was a Division Manager with Duke Power.

Tommy enjoyed family and church time, yard work, bird watching, traveling and cooking. He also enjoyed spoiling his granddaughters and they were often deemed the “sparkle in his eyes”. His family will remember him for his unique character and someone that “broke the mold”.

Tommy was preceded in death by his parents, Bud Sparks and Cartha B. Burleson; son, John S. Burleson; brother, Bill Burleson; and sisters, Grace Burleson and Faye Biddix. He is survived by his wife, Kathy Burleson; son Jason Burleson and wife, Jitka, of Prague, Czech Republic and Michael Brown and wife, Erica; granddaughters, Julia and Ava Brown, all of Indian Land, South Carolina. He is also survived by his brothers, Danny Burleson and wife, Susan; and Bobby Burleson and wife Martha; sister Shirley Conley, and sister in law, Sue Burleson, all of Spruce Pine, North Carolina.



A funeral service will be held Thursday February 16, 2023 at Faith Baptist Church, Mint Hill, at 1:00pm. The family will receive friends and family from 11:30am until 1:00pm at the church prior to the service.

A visitation in Spruce Pine, North Carolina will be Friday, February 17, 2023 at Webb Funeral Home from 2:00pm-3:00pm with burial following the visitation at Liberty Hill Baptist Church Cemetery.

Ernest Harold Burleson

Ernest Harold Burleson, age 98, of Johnson City, went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at the Community Living Center of the Veterans Administration. A native of Caretta, West Virginia, he was a son of the late Millard and Alma Smith Burleson.

Mr. Burleson was a graduate of Science Hill High School, Milligan College, and East Tennessee State University. He was a World War II veteran serving in the US Navy. He was a member of the American Legion Post#24, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Destroyer Escort Sailors Association. Mr. Burleson retired from North American Rayon Corporation after 36 years as a Chemical Lab Technician. He had been an active member of Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church since 1932, where he was a member of the Munsey Brown Fellowship Class. An entertaining storyteller, he could recall minute details of early life in Johnson City often times throwing in a good dose of humor. Not only can he recall history, he lived it.



In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Pauline Chattaway; a brother, Harry C. Burleson. Survivors include a brother, Louis Burleson, Johnson City; two nieces, Bonnie Propes and husband Bob, Johnson City, Laura Phan and husband Duc, Ocala, FL; nephew, Eddie Burleson and wife Ressie, Piney Flats; great niece, Windy Porter and husband Dillon, Waynesboro, VA; great great nieces, Victoria Porter and Lauren Porter. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

The funeral service for Mr. Burleson will be conducted at 11:00 A.M. Saturday, December 12, 2015 in the sanctuary of Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church. The family will receive friends Saturday from 10:00 until 11:00 at the church. The graveside service and interment will be conducted following the funeral service at Monte Vista Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Holston Home for Children, P.O. Box 188, Greeneville, TN 37743, or Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church, 201 E. Market Street,

Johnson City, TN 37601. The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff of the V.A. Community Living Center who went over and beyond for Harold. Order Flowers Service Details Saturday, December 12th, 2015 11:00am, Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church Interment Details Monte Vista Memorial Park
Ernest Harold Burleson's Family Line is, Millar Burleson, Leonard Wilson Burleson, Wilson M & Mary Gouge Burleson, Jonathan O & Gemima Duncan Burleson, Thomas & Margaret Jane Greene Burleson, Aaron & Rachael Burleson

Melynda Lou Martin

1930 - 2023

Lou Martin, age 93, of Burleson Road in Plumtree passed away Saturday, March 25, 2023, at her home. Born on March 2, 1930 in Avery County, she was the daughter of the late Frank and Berdie Hamrick Burleson. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her husband, Robert Lee Martin who passed away in 2013.

Also preceding her in death were her brothers; Frank Richard Burleson, Al Burleson, Jim Burleson and her grandchildren; Brandon Biddix and Elizabeth Knowles. Lou was a member of the Crossnore Presbyterian Church and she sang in the church choir. She retired from the Avery County School system and spent thirty-five years as an educator. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and also sang in the High Country Chorale Choir.

Lou loved working with plants & flowers and had a green thumb. She also enjoyed sewing and working in crafts and had a collection of tiny, adorable items. She never missed an event of her family members, she enjoyed traveling, the doors of her house were always open for anyone, and she cared for the well-being of animals.

Left to cherish her memory are her children; Bill Martin of Charlotte; Susy Martin Crouch of Plumtree and Harold Crouch of Salisbury; Melynda Martin Pepple and husband, Doug of Newland; Cindy Martin of Durham and partner, Ben Knowles of Durham; and Robby Martin of Newland; twelve grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Lou Martin will be on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 2:00 pm at the Crossnore Presbyterian Church with Rev. Kathy Campbell officiating.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that memorial donations be made to; Robert Martin Scholarship Fund C/O Crossnore Communities of Caring {formerly Crossnore School}.

The family would like to extend a special 'Thank You' to Hospice and Palliative Care of the Blue Ridge, Life Care, The Green's, and the volunteers that helped with the care of Lou.

Words of comfort may be e-mailed to the family by going to our website; www.webbfh.com, selecting Lou Martin's name and then you may sign her guestbook. Webb Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements for Mrs. Martin and is honored to be serving the Martin family. Mrs. Martin's obituary has also been posted on Facebook for viewing.

Melynda Lou Burleson Martin, Burleson Family Line is: Robert Lee & Lucy Ann (Lou) Burleson, Frank & Bertie Hamrick Burleson, Charles Wesley & Olive English Burleson, Thomas J (Don) & Lydia Eliza Wiseman Burleson, Aaron (Big Aaron) & Elizabeth McKinney Burleson, THOMAS DAUNT) & MARGARET JANE GREENE BURLESON, AARON & RACHAEL BURLESON.(AARON & THOMAS ARE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR PATRIOTS)



RONALD BURLESON OBITUARY 1949 - 2023

BAKERSVILLE, NC - Ronald Burleson, age 74, of Bakersville, passed away, April 12th, 2023 at Mission Hospital in Asheville. He was preceded in death by his parents, the late Howard and Mary Burleson of Buladean and his older brother Robert Burleson of Spruce Pine.

Ronald was kind and strong, he attended Roan Mountain Baptist Church, enjoyed fishing and skeet shooting and was happiest at Unaka Rod and Gun Club.

Ronald is survived by his wife of 50 years, Cynthia Burleson. They have a daughter, Elizabeth Allen, and her husband David Allen of Asheville. Ronald is also survived by two brothers: Larry Burleson of Buladean and Garry Burleson of Kingsport.

Funeral Services will be held Saturday, April 15, 2023 at Henline Hughes Funeral Home. The family will receive friends from 2:00-3:00 with the funeral to follow. Pastor Russell McKinney will officiate the service. Burial will follow in Green Young Cemetery.

Published by Johnson City Press from Apr. 13 to Apr. 14, 2023.



REV RAYMOND EUGENE COOK

1941 - 2023

Rev. Raymond Eugene Cook of Rupert, WV went home to be with his Lord on April 11, 2023 at the age of 82. Gene was born in McDowell County, WV on March 4, 1941 to the late Carroll Raymond Cook and Blanche Faw Cook Wyatt.

Gene married the love of his life, Priscilla Ann Lampert, on October 5, 1963 and together they built a full life that lasted nearly sixty years and included raising their two sons and serving in church congregations in WV. In addition to his parents, Gene was preceded in death by his son Robert Michael "Bob" Cook and two sisters, Shirley Cook (Henry) McBride and Winnie Constance Wyatt (Jerry) Rushbrook.

Gene worked as an electrician in the West Virginia coal mines and served his country as an E4 in the United States Marine Corp, taking him to Iceland and the Mediterranean for a time. While serving as a bi-vocational pastor, he also worked as a school bus driver.

Gene gave his life to the Lord as a young man and faithfully lived his life as a servant of the Lord, serving as Senior Pastor of Church of God congregations in Logan, Madison, Richwood, Ronceverte, and a two year interim at Cottle, as well as the Church of God Campground at Craigsville. After retiring from full-time ministry, he continued to fill pulpits and offer assistance to congregations in need of an interim pastor. He loved singing, listening to southern gospel music and the old hymns, and preaching. Some of the last notes on his desk were "I am a child of God" and "I'm so glad I'm a part of the family" and "Thank you Lord for saving my soul" and "He hears our prayer."

Left to cherish Gene's memory and live out his legacy is his faithful and loving wife, Priscilla. In his later years, she became his dedicated full-time caregiver and faithfully modeled the vows "for better or worse - in sickness and in health." She assured that he had the best quality of life she could give him. In addition to Priscilla, he will be deeply missed by his son Timothy (Gwen) Cook of Archdale, NC and daughter-in-law Melanie Forbes Cook of Mocksville, NC. PopPaw will be greatly missed by his grandchildren Jonathan and Carrie Cook of Mocksville, NC and Jake and Cole Cook and Hunter and Blake Sheets of Archdale, NC.

In addition, Gene leaves behind a very special sister-in-law Judy Lampert (Gary) Wingle and nieces and nephews Melissa, Christy, Angie, Ramona, Rebecca, Cecilia, Jane, Judy, and Jody. He will be missed by his many friends, fellow pastors, and the many church congregations he served.

The family would like to thank the medical team who cared for Gene, especially Rhonda Pennington, Tina Halterman, and Amanda Sorrells. We are also very thankful for Rev. Robert Hefner and his wife Dyan Hefner for

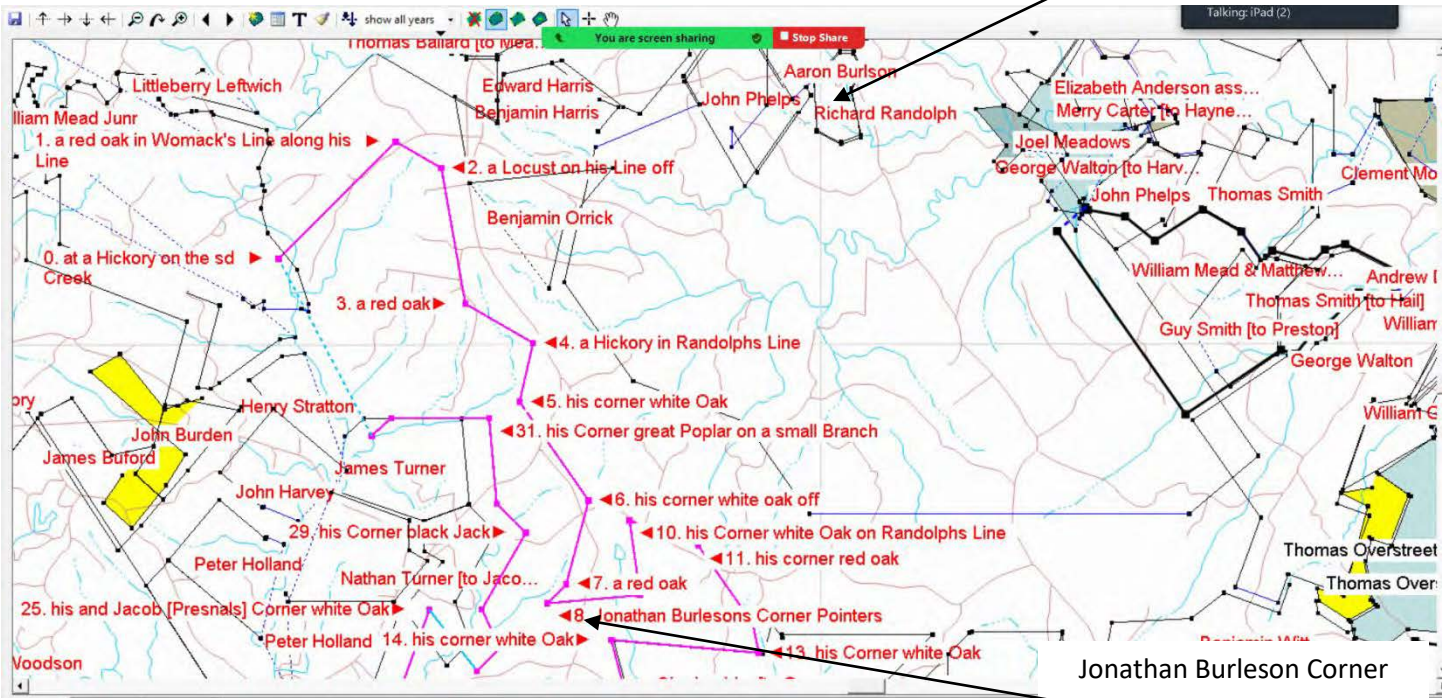


their incredible support and friendship for many years, as well as the Henning Church of God congregation. As Gene would often say, "I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God!"

A memorial service and celebration of Gene's life will be held at the Henning Church of God (3599 Vago Rd. Frankfort, WV) on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 2:00pm. The Cook family is being served by Wallace and Wallace Funeral Home of Lewisburg, WV.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." - Psalm 116:15

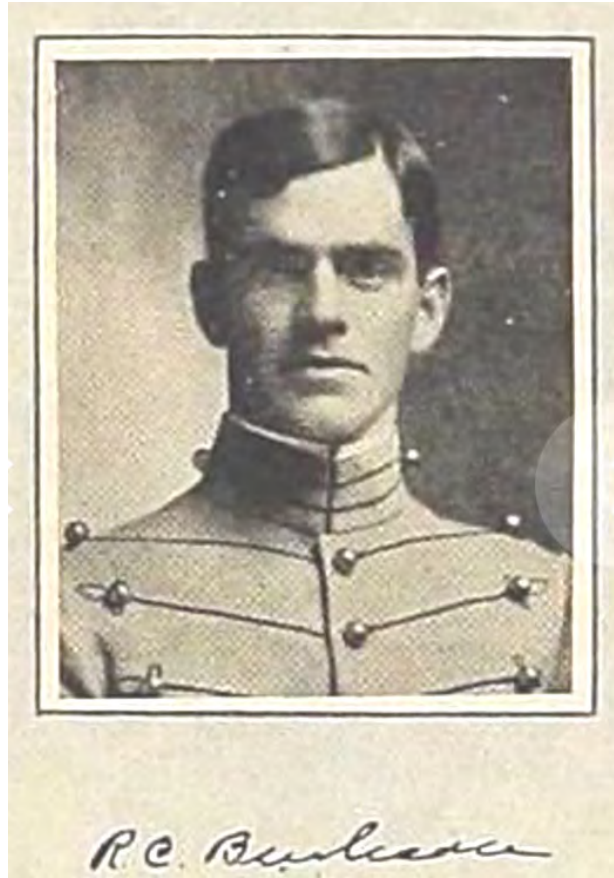
Aaron Burleson Land Grant
1749



One of our BFRD research team members, Sarah Gower has acquired a Deed Mapper application to utilize in advance of our field trip to Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee. The image shown depicts a small section of Bedford, Virginia, specifically the 147 acres owned once by Aaron Burleson 1725-1783. She's narrowed down the area from a several mile radius provided by our John Hoyle Burleson to less than half a mile. Using the known boundary lines of neighboring properties, Sarah will be able to digitally drop Aaron's lot between the others like a jigsaw puzzle piece. She's very close. Our team WILL walk the land of Aaron in two weeks! To our great delight, she's also located the nearby land owned by Aaron's father- Jonathan Burleson b. 1704. It shows his ownership of property (lower center on map) in 1773. Jonathan was 69 at the time. You can bet we'll inspect that acreage as well. Expect updates on Cousining the first week of May. Sarah has provided us with a level of detail that allows us to use F. A. N. (friends and neighbors) methodology. See if any neighbors' names are in your trees. We can use period maps to compare name changes throughout history. For instance, 1750 to 1865 focus can be made on Richard Callaway's parcel. He named a portion of his land "Boonsboro" after his friend, Daniel Boone. Callaway left this area with Boone to go to Boonsboro, Kentucky. Callaway was killed there by Shawnees in 1780...eerily similar to Aaron's killing in 1782? Finds like these allow us to drill deeper for movement of these pioneers and verify all their acquaintance



Colonel Richard "Dick" Coke Burleson , U. S. Army



Dick Burleson was born 29 January 1881 in San Saba, Texas to Leigh 1847-1927 and Bidly Anne Moore Burleson 1853-1932. In 1902 Dick was accepted into the United States Military Academy at West Point. He graduated in 1906 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army. In 1908 he wed the beautiful May Jane "Jennie or Mazie" Walker.

Burleson's military career progressed smartly as promotions and plum assignments stacked one after another. Marrying the socially prominent May seemed a natural fit. May or as he called her, Jennie, was the daughter of a judge and was well educated. She graduated from the prestigious New York School of Art known as the Chase School. As Dick gained assignment to Manila, Philippines, Jennie occupied her time as supervising principal of art in the Manila schools.



Colonel, 107th F.A., 28th Division.
Belgian Croix de Guerre.

"For meritorious and distinguished service throughout the Lys-Scheldt campaign in Belgium, October 31st to November 11th, 1918, during which the energetic and efficient exploitation of his regiment under all circumstances in direct support of the 181st Infantry Brigade to which attached, he afforded an inspiring example to all those associated with and under him."

Montenegrin Orde du Prince Danilo Ier (commandeur), by Royal Award of July 25, 1919. (Address: care of the Adjutant General of the Army, Washington, D. C.) Entered Military Academy from Texas.



Dick was a standout officer serving overseas during World War I. He received numerous awards in France and Belgium. Prior to that conflict, Jennie became obsessed with the women's right to vote movement. She took on leadership roles, once acting as Grand Marshal for the Suffragette Parade in Washington, D. C. Promotions continued for Dick despite receiving criticism from his superiors for his wife's activism. He drew high praise for his publication of "Aeroplane" in the 1925 "Field Artillery Journal." Dick intimated many times to Jennie and friends that he'd like to start a family. Jennie resisted, instead pressing on with her agenda. Often Dick complained to friends Jennie had berated and humiliated him in the company of other officers or wives. Having had enough, he filed for divorce which was granted in 1937. Dick began divorce proceedings as early as 1935 but the court denied him. He lost later on appeal. Once Jennie cross filed the action was granted after much argument. The divorce caused a deal of scandal as Dick claimed Jennie was cruel, off balance and harmed his career.

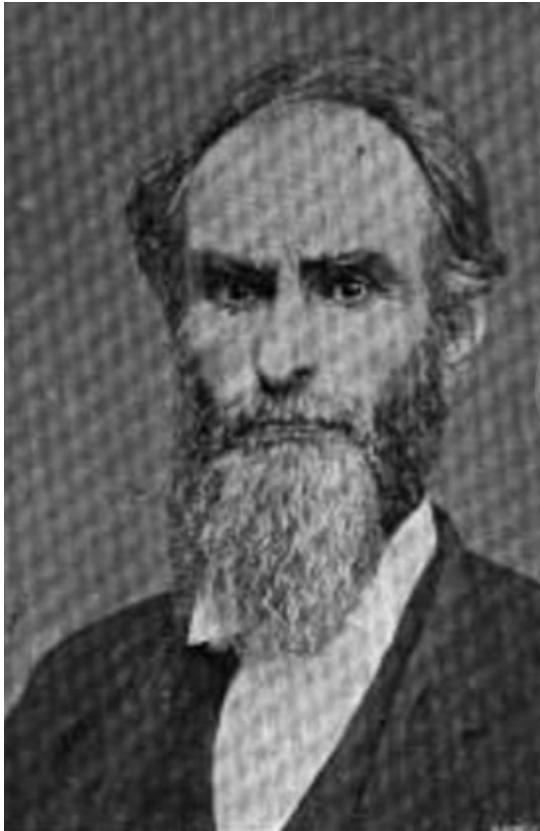


By the next year, Burleson remarried Isabelle Grady Riese Knowlton. Two years later (1940), Jennie made headlines again... this time for the murder of Dick's new wife Isabelle. Jennie followed Isabelle to a swanky restaurant in Columbia, South Carolina shooting her twice with a revolver. A jury found her guilty of voluntary manslaughter "by reason of insanity." Sentenced to twelve years, Jennie served but eight years- cut short by pressure on the governor by her longstanding friends in the Suffragette cause.

Dick Burleson married a third time to Ella Coleman Pendergast of Baltimore, Maryland. Burleson retired as a full colonel in the Army, also having served during WWII. He died 2 March 1960 in Baltimore. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

As mentioned earlier he was the son of Leigh Burleson 1848-1927 and Buddy Anne Moore 1853-1932; grandson of Richard Byrd Burleson 1822-1880 and Sarah Leigh 1829-1854; and great grandson of Jonathan Adair Burleson 1789-1866 and Elizabeth Caroline Byrd 1796-1839.





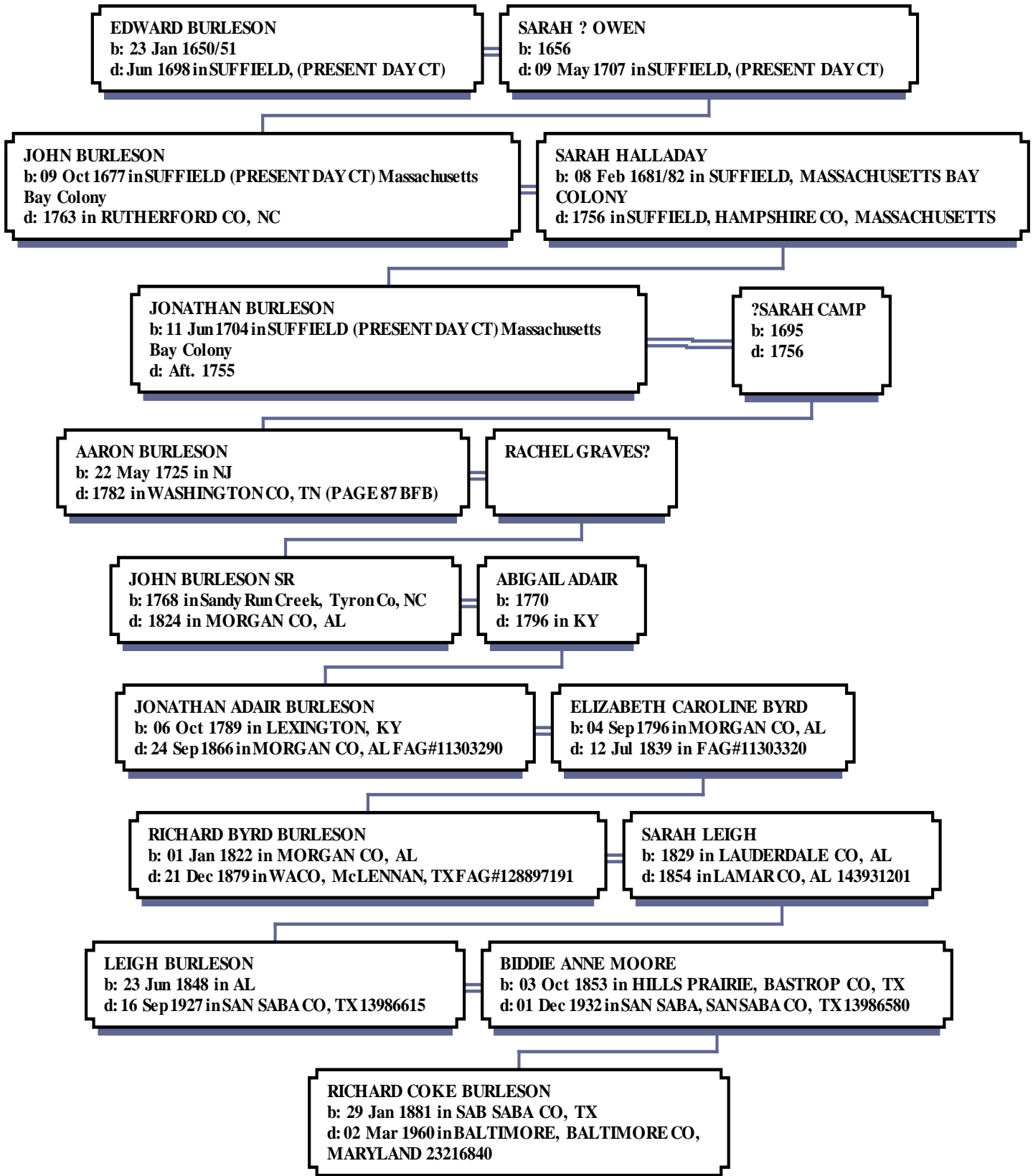
Marker of Jonathan Adair Burleson born October 06, 1789 died September 24, 1866. Location the Burleson Cemetery located in Decatur, Alabama near Flint City. Photo taken 10-24-2002.



JONATHAN BURLESON.

End notes: Wikipedia, Wikicommons media, Bains media public domain, the Barrett Family Tree site and Find a Grave

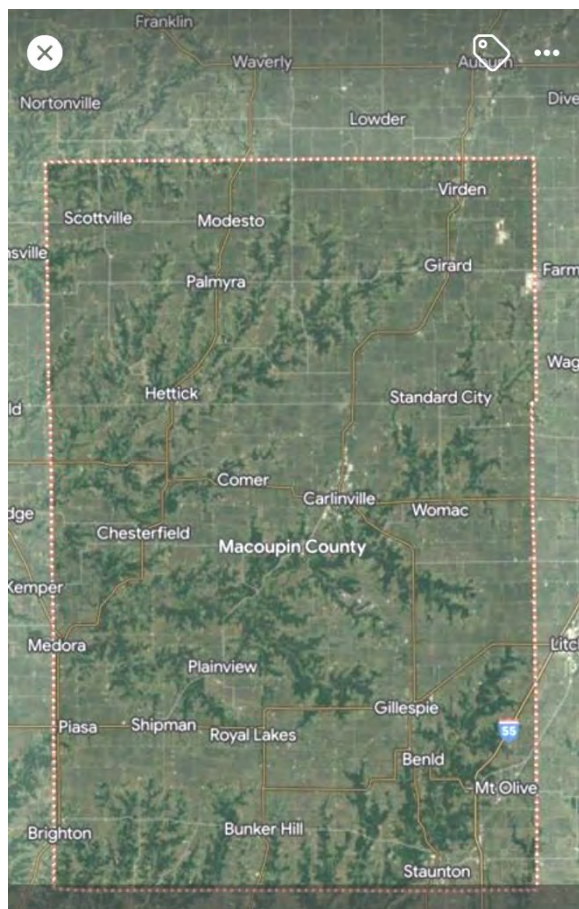
Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



The Burlesons of Macoupin, Illinois

Part One by: Jim Burleson

Most of us had not heard of this group until last summer. On a research field trip to Eddy County, (Carlsbad), New Mexico, I was joined by Renee Lorraine Burleson and her two sons Ryan Stratton and Jacob Sipes. Renee is a school teacher and coach at Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, some two hundred plus miles south of my Santa Fe home. Her sons were on a break from school themselves, desiring a temporary change of scenery. We enjoyed a group tour of the Burleson Seep and surrounding grounds, once the roost of Edward David Burleson, wife Alice Dora Dancer and their children.



We previously discussed the pioneer exploits of that family cluster, but Renee planted a seed too interesting to let go-her lineage traced back to Burlesons of Illinois. She put me in contact with her father Robert Burleson, aunts, and cousins. Here's a bit of their tale. This piece is intended as an introduction to this new cluster, hoping to give you a

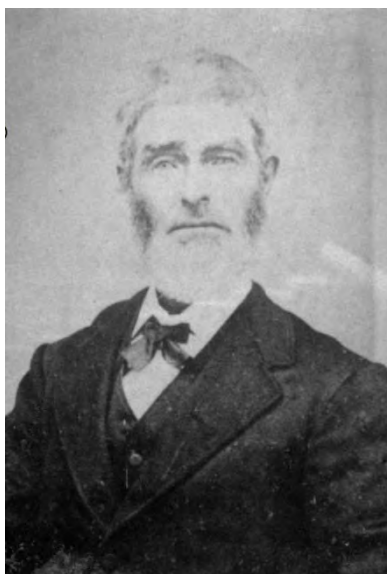
taste of further stories soon.

It begins in Huntsville, Madison, Alabama, home to John Burleson 1766, Sandy Run Settlement, North Carolina to 24 November 1924, Decatur, Morgan, Alabama. John was married to Mary "Polly" Hodges 1767 Huntsville, Madison, Alabama to 23 August 1847, Macoupin County, Illinois. This couple had several children to include John Burleson Jr., born 1 April 1812, Huntsville, Madison, Alabama- died 27 February 1890, Carlinville, Macoupin, Illinois. John had married Elizabeth Gilman and Elizabeth Smart.



SCOTTVILLE	MODESTO	NORTH OTTER	BRIDEL
SCOTTVILLE	NORTH PALMYRA		GRAND GIRARD
BARR	PALMYRA	SOUTH OTTER	NILWOOD
	SOUTH PALMYRA	STANDARD CITY	NEWWOOD
	HETTICK		
WESTERN MOUND	BIRD	CARLINVILLE	SHAW'S POINT
CHESTERFIELD			
CHESTERFIELD	POLK	BRUSHY MOUND	HONEY POINT
MEDORA			
SHIPMAN	HILLYARD	GILLESPIE	CAHOIGA
SHIPMAN	ROYAL LAKES		BENLD
BRIGHTON	BUNKER HILL	DORCHESTER	STANTON
BRIGHTON	BUNKER HILL		

In approximately 1827 John Burleson Jr. and half brother Seth Hodges traveled to Belleville, Illinois to establish farms. They brought with them the, now widowed, Mary “Polly” Hodges Burleson. Approximately six years later while the men of Belleville attended church an Indian raid took place at the nearby farms. A half a dozen women and children were killed, and the same number were abducted and taken away. Returning home, the men ascertained what had happened and determined the war party’s exit route. Several of the men gave chase and discovered their kin and the Indians in an area now known as Macoupin. These men included those named Good, Hodges, Love and Burleson. These white men and their colleagues routed the Indians killing all but one. The men discovered an additional woman from their group had been killed at that location. They returned with survivors telling all those in Belleville what had happened. The men also conveyed to that group what wonderful farmland they had seen at the rescue in Macoupin. In short order the town’s folk all agreed to pull up the stakes and move to Macoupin. There were several Indian attacks in that region during that decade. The “History of Macoupin County, Illinois” by the Honorable Charles A. Walker editor-1911 corroborates this account. It is believed to have occurred in or about 1840.



According to U.S. GenWeb, contributed by Marita Gladson: Seth Thomas Hodges was born 26 October 1788 in Alabama. He died 18 June 1841 Macoupin, Illinois and was buried in Oak Hill cemetery, South Palmyra, Illinois. He had served in the Mississippi territory Militia from September 1813 to December 1813 and the West Tennessee Militia, January 1814 to May 1814 under the command of General Andrew Jackson. Hodges was married to Mary Abigail Jefferson. This military service is also substantiated in the National Archives-petitions for pension.

During Hodges’ travels, he partnered with John Love. They both hunted and planted crops in the spring of 1814, Tennessee. After two seasons, these men brought their families to Macoupin, Illinois. In 1827 Hodges went to Alabama to pick up his mother Mary “Polly” Hodges Burleson, his half-brother John Burleson Jr. and family to relocate them to Illinois. BFRG researcher and cousin, David A. Burleson “Decatur Dave” reports a find in Mary’s bible a notation of this same escort with additional information she had stopped over for a short time at an unidentified location in Tennessee (more to come). The Macoupin, Illinois Burleson’s and the BFRG research team will explore further details of this migration in the next edition of “The Recollections”.



Left: Robert Leroy Burleson Sr with wife Roumiana Dimova

Center: Cecil Laurel (Cletus) Burleson

Right: Seth Henry Burleson

Jumping forward to the present day, we'd like to introduce you to the Macoupin descendants. As mentioned before, Renee Lorraine Burleson, our new contact, has two sons. Jacob Sipes and Ryan Stratton. Renee has a sister, Lynda Marie Burleson Groneman and brother, Robert Burleson Jr. They are the children of Capt. Robert Leroy Burleson, USAF ret. Robert was born 21 January 1945 Carlinville, Illinois and is living. Their mother, Robert's ex-wife, is Nadine Lorraine Marshall born 1950, Iona, Illinois and is living with Robert Jr. in Tennessee. Robert Sr. remarried Roumiana Dimova and they live in Las Vegas, Nevada where he owns a pool service company. Robert Sr. was the son of Cecil Laurel "Cletus" Burleson 1920-2014 of Illinois and Mildred Elizabeth Rezeneck of Carlinville to 2009. Cecil was son to Guy Califax Burleson 20 February 1891, Brushy Mound, Illinois to 7 December 1976, Carlinville, Macoupin, Illinois and Florence Adella Rhodes 3 April 1797, Rushy Mound, Macoupin, Illinois. Guy was son to Seth Henry Burleson 20 August 1867, Carlinville, Macoupin, Illinois to 1 June 1960, Alton, Madison, Illinois and Augusta Louise Rehr 1 January 1871, Carlinville, Macoupin, Illinois to 7 March 1922 Alton, Madison, Illinois. Seth is believed to have been named for John Burleson Jr's half-brother, Seth Thomas Hodges. This Seth was son to John Burleson Jr. and Elizabeth Smart mentioned above.



An additional contributor to this continued story is Diana Joan Burleson 1955-living. She is married to James "Jim" Fuld. She is the daughter of Howard Aloysius Burleson from 8 February 1917, Iowa to 2 May 2016, Carlinville, Macoupin, Illinois and Dorothy I Pitman 1923, Chesterfield Township, Macoupin, Illinois to 1984 Chesterfield Township, Macoupin, Illinois. Howard was also the son of Guy Califax Burleson.

Soon we will be joined by additional contributions of Cousin Patricia Alsop Hernandez. Anecdotes from Robert Sr's brothers, Larry and Dean will appear in the next issue. We look forward to the continued genealogy of the Macoupin Burleson's. This new and fascinating ranch is exciting to the BFRG. If any of you readers have information relating to this group, please contact us on our Facebook page "Cousining".



Patricia (Alsop) Hernandez and her husband, Randall Hernandez. Pat is daughter of Mary Alsop and granddaughter of Guy C. Burleson.

Future Macoupin Cousins coming next Recollections

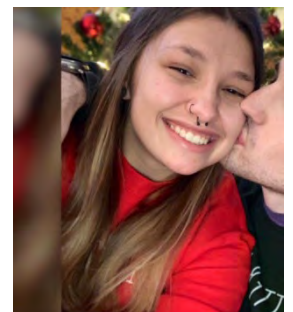


The bride is Donna Rose (Burleson) Graf-Blow, daughter of Armin Dale Burleson, who is the son of Howard Aloysius Burleson and the grandson of Guy C. Burleson. Her husband is Curtis Blow. The kids are, from left to right: Austin Graf, Emily Blow, Destin Blow, Alexander Graf, Emily Graf. Picture was taken about 16 years ago.

Lexi Burleson is the daughter of Gregory Burleson, granddaughter of Larry Burleson, great-granddaughter to Howard Burleson, and great-great granddaughter of Guy C. Burleson.



Robert Burleson, son of Bob Burleson. And Renee's brother. His wife is Ashton.



Direct Descendants of JOHN BURLESON

JOHN BURLESON b: 09 Oct 1677 in SUFFIELD (PRESENT DAY CT) Massachusetts Bay Colony d: 1763 in RUTHERFORD CO, NC	SARAH HALLADAY b: 08 Feb 1681/82 in SUFFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY d: 1756 in SUFFIELD, HAMPSHIRE CO, MASSACHUSETTS
--	--

JONATHAN BURLESON b: 11 Jun 1704 in SUFFIELD (PRESENT DAY CT) Massachusetts Bay Colony d: Aft. 1755	? SARAH CAMP b: 1695 d: 1756
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AARON BURLESON b: 22 May 1725 in NJ d: 1782 in WASHINGTON CO, TN (PAGE 87 BFB)	RACHEL GRAVES?
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JOHN BURLESON SR b: 1768 in Sandy Run Creek, Tyron Co, NC d: 1824 in MORGAN CO, AL	MARY HODGES b: 1770
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JOHN JR BURLESON b: 01 Apr 1812 in HUNTSVILLE, MADISON CO, AL d: 27 Feb 1890 in CARLINVILLE, MACOUPIN CO, ILLINOIS FAG#135994263	ELIZABETH (ELIZA) SMART b: 19 Oct 1829 in TROY, MADISON CO, ILLINOIS d: 26 Apr 1924 in EAST ST LOUIS, ST CLAIR CO, ILLINOIS
--	--

SETH HENRY BURLESON b: 20 Aug 1867 in CARLINVILLE, MACOUPIN CO, IL d: 01 Jun 1960 in ALTON, MADISON CO, IL FAG#24555926	AUGUSTA L REIHER b: 01 Jan 1871 in CARLINVILLE, MACOUPIN CO, IL d: 07 Mar 1922 in ALTON, MADISON CO, IL FAG#24555913
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1	GUY CALIFAX BURLESON b: 1891 d: 1976	FLORENCE A RHODES b: 1897 d: 1957
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CECIL LAUREL (CLETUS) BURLESON b: 1920 d: 2014	MILDRED E REZENECK b: 1923 d: 2000
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ROBERT LEROY BURLESON b: 1945

RENEE LORRANINE BURLESON

2	GUY CALIFAX BURLESON b: 1891 d: 1976	FLORENCE A RHODES b: 1897 d: 1957
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HOWARD A BURLESON b: 1917 d: 2016	DOROTHY I PITMAN b: 1923 d: 1984
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DIANA JOAN BURLESON b: 1955

3	GUY CALIFAX BURLESON b: 1891 d: 1976	FLORENCE A RHODES b: 1897 d: 1957
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MARY D BURELSON b: 1924 d: 1996	JOSEPH G ALSOP b: 1920 d: 1995
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PATRICIA ALSOP

TEXAS JOURNEY

by Gerry Booth

To Franklin County, Tennessee

After my last article, I had a few comments. I love when people share more information with me so that I can fill in more of the details of this story. Susanne Bergum, who has contributed much to this story, and who has researched the Lees extensively, inserted this additional information printed in bold:

“Before we continue our story with the facts, I must first correct an error in my last article. I wrote that Jacob Francisco, Sr. was ordered to be part of a road crew, in Lincoln County, Tennessee on August 30, 1810. (Lincoln County was created in 1809 from parts of Bedford County, Tennessee). This was incorrect. It was Jacob Francisco, Jr. who was ordered to be on the road crew. Jacob, Jr. was 22 in 1810, while his father was about 55 years old with a drinking problem. According to Shirley Wicker Hendrix, who was a researcher of the Francisco family, Jacob and Rebecca’s daughter, **Hannah, was married to Daniel Lee who had a sister named Phoebe who was married to Christopher Landers. About 1809 or 1810, after her husband’s death, Phoebe moved to Bedford County, Tennessee where Christopher Landers had a land grant.**”

Susanne then added the following:

The Daniel LEE (noted above) is brother to Isaac Burleson LEE and to Phoebe LEE Landers, three of many children of Robert Abel LEE and Anna Hannah Shipman (daughter of Daniel Shipman & Elizabeth Burleson). Isaac Burleson LEE is my 3 x’s great grandfather and he is buried here in Warren County, Kentucky.

Here’s a bit more information on Phoebe and the land in Tennessee.

Deed Book "BB", Page 257. 10 Jan 1831. Abel Landers to Landers. Both of Bedford County, Tennessee. Abel Landers conveyed to Pheby Landers land in Bedford County, on waters of Shipmans Creek. Borders George Doherty’s survey, Pheby Landers is trustee for Sarah Ann (Landers) Nutt wife of Daniel Nutt and Pheby's daughter. Sarah Ann Nutt is to use and occupy land for her natural life. Witness: John McMullen and William Shipman. Reg: 26 Mar 1831. Husband is David not Daniel.

Abel Landers is Sara Ann (Landers) Nutt’s brother and he is married to Sara Shipman, daughter of Daniel Shipman, Jr. By 1859, I have him in Hood County., Texas after spending some time in Missouri. He died in Hood County, Texas in 1873.

Phoebe LEE Landers was already in Bedford, Tennessee by 1807 when Sara Ann (Landers) Nutt was born there. Phoebe’s husband, Christopher Landers, died in Bedford, Tennessee before 1814.



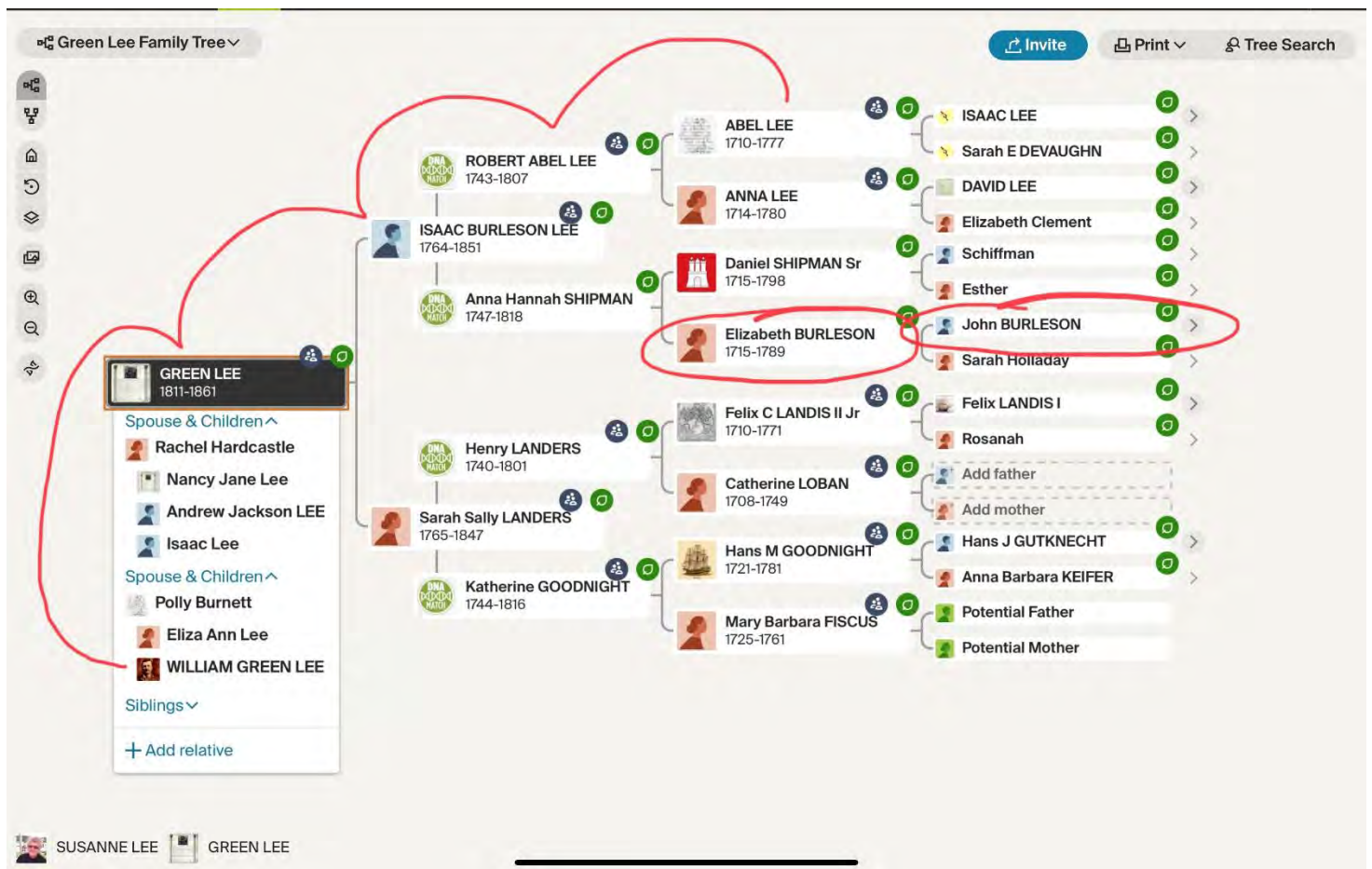
By 1850, Phoebe is back in Warren County., Kentucky living with her widowed brother who has guardianship of his grandchildren. In 1860, at age 87 she is living with son, Hezekial, and his family, in Missouri.

And just to throw a wrench in the proverbial monkey works - I found this deed. Might have just been some record clean up as Henry died in 1801.

Page 379. 5 May 1836. Christopher Landers to Abel Landers, both of Bedford County., Tennessee, land of which Henry Landers, deceased, was in possession of at his death. 12 ½ acres, land now in the possession of Abel Landers, John Landers and others and located on waters of

Thompsons Creek. Christopher Landers is holding the land as the legatees of Henry Landis, deceased.
Witness: Jacob Shipman, Isam Adoris and Benjamin Kimbro. Reg: 23 Jul 1836.

Susanne included a pedigree chart which helps to place all these names in the proper places.



Meandering Alert! If you read the names on this chart, you will find the name of Katherine Goodnight who married Henry Landers. Susanne Bergum is related to Charles Goodnight, the inventor of the chuckwagon and the partner of Oliver Loving, who helped him establish the Goodnight - Loving Trail for cattle drives. The television series "*Lonesome Dove*" was loosely based on these men.

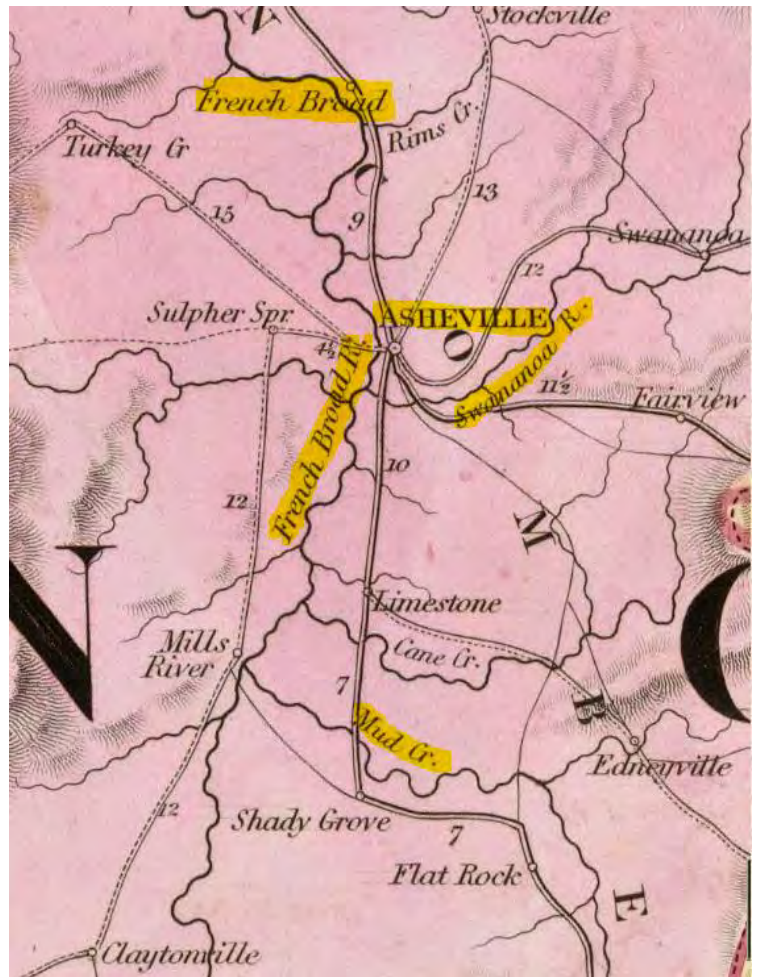
I had another email from Susanne Hollyfield. She informed me that the Spruells and the Phelps seemed to have traveled together and intermarried. Then they married into the Hollyfields.

I am learning so much about my family by writing this series of articles and from the information I have received from those of you who are following along. If you have some information about the family, no matter how much or how little, when we put it together, we get a better picture of who our family was. Most people think of two to maybe four surnames with their family, our mother's maiden name (which is also her father's surname) and our grandmother's surname and our father's surname, and his mother's surname and that is about it. I do know a few people who think they only have their father's surname, but in truth, we have hundreds of surnames in our families. But the most amazing thing I have found is how these people with all these surnames bonded together and braved a new world.

We left the Shipmans somewhere near Ashville, North Carolina, in the fall of 1814. Daniel Shipman who wrote the account of the Shipman's journey referred to Asheville as "Buncombe court house." Asheville was established in 1792 or 1794 by John Burton. It was originally called Morristown to honor Robert Morris, who was a signer of the Declaration of

Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the United States Constitution, and for his service as the Superintendent of Finance of the United States he became known as the “Financier of the Revolution.” Then the county seat of Buncombe County became known as Buncombe Courthouse. In 1797 the town became incorporated and the name was changed to Asheville to honor the governor of North Carolina in the 1790s, Samuel Ashe. Daniel wrote the account more than fifty years later when Asheville was called Asheville, but he used the older name, Buncombe Courthouse for the town. In 1800, this growing community had a population of 38.

The French Broad River flows through Asheville where one of its major tributaries, the Swannanoa River begins. The French Broad flows in a northward semicircle. It starts in the southern part of North Carolina west of Rosman in Transylvania County, flowing northeast, then turning north to Asheville, and finally flowing to the northwest toward Tennessee. Between Asheville and the Tennessee state line, the average fall of the river is between 16 and 30 feet per mile due to narrow channels and steep gorges.¹

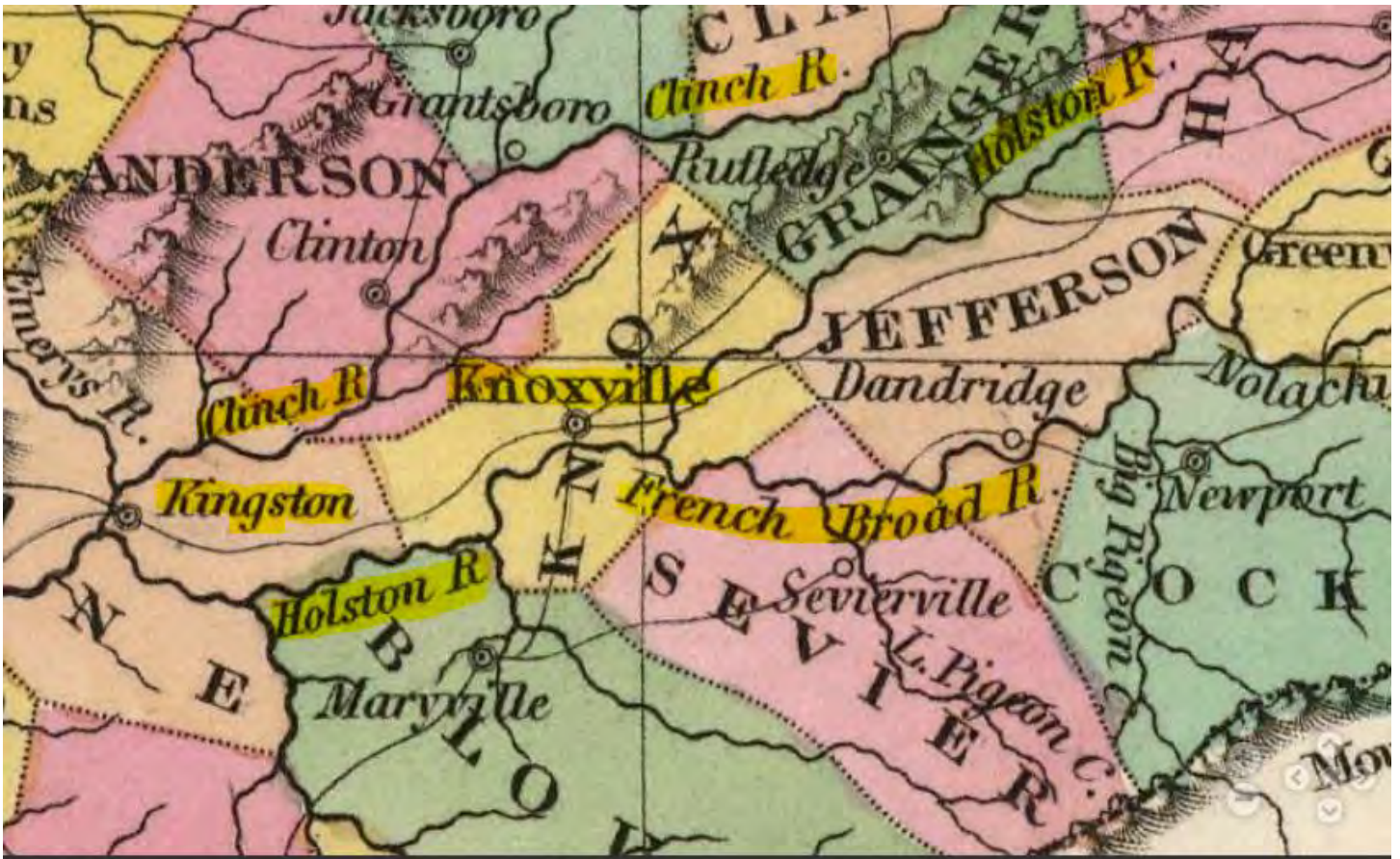


Our Trip

In the fall, sold our crop and started towards Tennessee on the 14th of October, in the same year [1814]. We went down French Broad river, crossed Mud creek, and from there to what was then called Buncombe court house, now Ashville. Passed right on through, went down the river, sometimes along and sometimes under the bluff, almost at the water’s edge. Passed under bluffs and tremendous high cliffs of rocks, which seem to me now as if they were from one to two hundred feet high, and very much colored with smoke from travelers’ camp fires. Again we would strike across and sometimes go up some ugly ridges. We came to a large creek or small river called Swanano, in the valley of which I saw the greatest quantity of the finest cedar timber that I had ever seen.



¹ [This is an 1839 map by David H. Burr. <https://ashevillejunction.com/the-several-lives-of-west-asheville-part-i-sulphur-springs-as-proto-land-of-the-sky-1827-1861/>]



[Carey's 1822 Geographical, Historical and Statistical State Map of Tennessee https://mapgeeks.org/tennessee/#Careys_1822_Geographical_Historical_and_Statistical_State_Map_of_Tennessee]

After a short distance we struck the hills of Holston river, and crossed it. By this time we were in the state of Tennessee. We left Knoxville about fifteen miles to our right; came to a little town called Kingston, on a small river called Clinch, and soon came to a steep hill, and I being wagon-scutcher, had a chunk with a limb on one side to



hold to, and going up one of the steep places, and placing the scutch under the wheel, the limb caught one of my fingers between it and a rock and squeezed the nail off. I think it would be reasonable to suppose that a boy about my size had quite a sore finger.

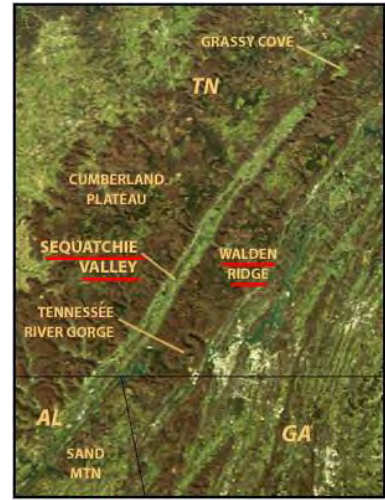
After we had got over the mountain to the starting down place, it seemed to me to be one of the steepest I had ever seen a wagon go up or down, but father had very good horses to hold back, and we got down with very little trouble. Leaving Walden's ridge², we struck off through the valley called

²https://www.google.com/search?gs_ssp=eJz4tLP1TcwMssyMjczYPOSLE_MSUnNUy9WKMpMSU9VKMkDAIc1CU8&q=walden%27s+ridge+tn&og=walden%27s+ridg&aqs=chrome.1.0i20i263i355i512j46i20i263i512j69i57j0i512j46i175i199i512j0i512j0i20i263i512j46i175i199i512j3.8897j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:81b130e5,vid:Q7jhrAW-HQY Video of jeeps crossing Walden Ridge in recent times.

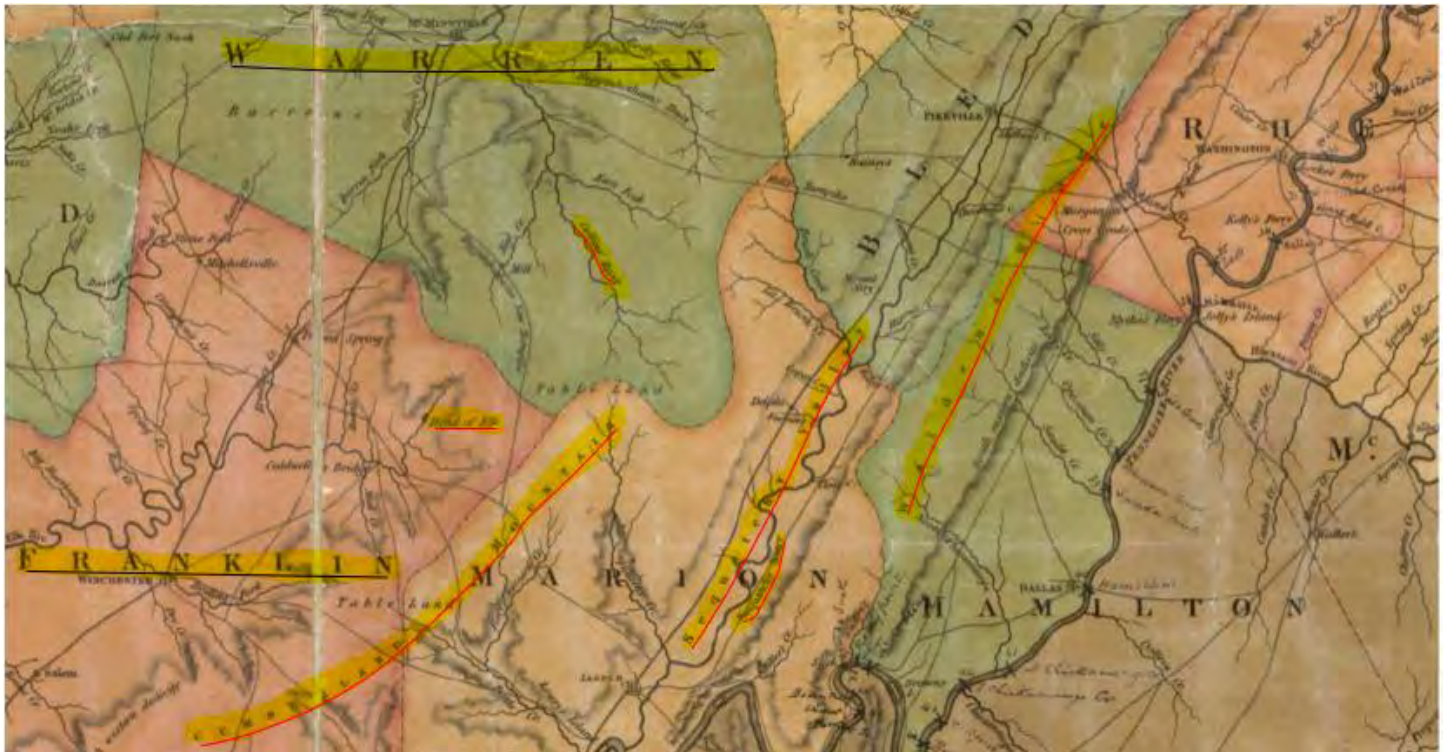
Sequatchie. In a short distance we came to the Sequatchie river, which, on account of the rain that had just fallen, we had the river to ferry.

[The Sequatchie Valley lies between Walden's Ridge to the east and the Cumberland Mountains to the west. The valley is about 4 miles wide and 75 miles long with the Sequatchie River running through it.]

About the time all were over a gentleman came to father and proposed to buy his wagon, offering him \$100 specie for it. Ready money in hand being quite tempting, father and mother, after consulting with each other, concluded to take him at his proposition, so they closed the bargain, and the money was paid and the wagon delivered. Father procured a room to stow away what we could not carry on horseback; packed up and started again two miles to and two more up the Cumberland mountain. Made the trip that night. Next day started again twenty-two miles across the mountain, then down another, or the same, which was about as bad as any we had met with. When down that, we came to and crossed a little stream called Collins' river. It appeared to me like we turned a little to the left and shaped our course more to the west. Leaving the mountain along on our left, went down through Warren county and into Franklin. There, father bought a tract of land in the barrens, on Bradley creek, said to be the head branch of Elk river.



NASA satellite image showing Tennessee's Sequatchie Valley and the Cumberland Plateau (image source: Aqua satellite, MODIS sensor).



[A map of Tennessee taken from survey, Matthew Rhea, 1832
<https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3960.tr000180/?st=image&r=0.46,0.255,0.182,0.105,0> You may want to enlarge this image on your computer to see the details better.]

The next thing was go to work and build a house before we went back after our furniture. That done, father and I started back with another wagon, which had been procured for that purpose. Now in the dead of winter, snow and ice, and the ground frozen, we had a very bad time. We got back on the day

of Jackson's victory at New Orleans, (January 8th, 1815). We went to work, rented a field, made a tolerable good crop. The next was to make a field of our own at home. Father not being a very stout man, and so much of other business to attend to, he and mother put my eldest brother and myself to making rails and grubbing up the hickory stool grubs that grew in the rich barrens of Tennessee. We went to work, my brother to chopping rail timber, and I to splitting the rails. He was about thirteen years old, and I about fifteen. That summer, fall and winter we made rails, grubbed the ground and put in about twelve acres. We cultivated the same field we rented the previous year.

This same season a relative of ours by the name of James Burleson [1775-1836], father of our Texas hero (Edward Burleson [1798-1851,]) living near the Tennessee river, opposite the Cherokee Nation at that time, he and his two sons Edward [1798-1851,]) and Joseph [1800-1877], and his son-in-law Robert Thrasher [1787-1851, husband of Sarah Jane Burleson 1795-1874], went across the river and rented some ground from the Indians aiming to make a large crop and I suppose did. In the fall, in their settlement they had a difficulty with the Indians, about their crop. It seems that they got into a general fight.

The old gentleman Burleson had given his son Edward a very fine pony and saddle, and he had what we then called holster pistols in holsters on the pommel of his saddle. Being on his pony at the commencement of the fight, and two Indians to one white man generally throughout the melee, both upon Thrasher and the old gentleman, and two squaws upon Joseph, seeing the two red skin rascals were in a likely way to hurt his father, I reckon, on purpose, charged up and let the Indians have the contents of both pistols which fully did the work for them both. It appears that this brought all hands loose, and the Burlesons knowing they could not fight a nation, consequently, could not stay in peace and safety any longer, left immediately, determining to go to Missouri.

Two of them, Edward and Joseph, came to our house in Franklin county and persuaded father to go with them....

.....to be continued

Moses Shipman was Captain James' 1st cousin 1x removed. Interestingly, Captain James' first wife, Jo Elizabeth *Shipman* Burleson (1770 – 1834) was Moses Shipman's paternal 1st cousin. Jo Elizabeth was the daughter of Jacob Shipman and Moses was the son of Jacob's brother Edward Shipman, therefore they were first cousins. And more confusing is the fact that Moses Shipman is the 1st cousin 1x removed to Captain James' children, Edward, Joseph, and Sarah Jane. The Shipmans have an extra generation that the Burlesons don't have resulting in Moses having the same relationship with James as he has with James' children but not with James's wife, Jo Elizabeth.

