

Recollections

of the
Burleson Family Research Group

In this edition....

Burlesons in Agriculture

Issue 4 | September 2023 | Volume XXVI

USE OF GENETICS IN CURING PLANT DISEASE

By Dr. Paul Disco

WAYNE BURLESON, COMPOST EVANGELIST

By Jim Burleson



AGRICULTURE IN SARAH BURLESON GOWER'S LIFE

By Sarah Burleson Gower

A COWBOY COMES HOME TO CAROLINA

By Jim Burleson

Triple Cross Ranch's Family Story

By Carrie Anne Wilson Woolverton

Burleson “Compost Evangelist”



Wayne Burleson is a living hero from Montana. Born in the village of Absarokee in 1942 , he went on through education and experience to become creator of a lifestyle growing “nutrient dense” food for oneself and those unfortunate in need. Burleson is pictured delivering a lecture on “Gardening for Life” and receiving the nation’s 2017 Volunteer of the Year. He’s proven how to make valuable “black gold” compost for free to use in raised bed planters, arid sand, impermeable clay or any otherwise unsuitable soil. Further, teaching this methodology all over the world has earned him acclaim and the nickname in an African language,”Compost Evangelist.”



He graduated from Billings High School before moving on to Montana State University where he achieved Bachelor's and Master's Degrees-both in horticulture. He currently resides in Billings where he and wife Connie J. Drinkard (Burlison) maintain an abundantly productive garden. They're able to feed themselves AND deliver their excess to the Montana Rescue Mission, using Wayne's delivery bicycle.



Arriving routinely at the mission with his harvest, Burlison takes the time to coach willing residents to use his tactics to raise vegetables there. He's been pleasantly surprised to see his following swell in numbers. As residents leave for better circumstance, they are prepared to take what's practiced elsewhere. Wayne is using this experience to create a new project he and Connie hope to promote: Teaching the Homeless to Feed Themselves and Make Money from Their Efforts.



**THE COMPOST
EVANGELISTS**
Connie & Wayne

How to make GOOD Compost

- Simple Layering Steps
- . Bottom - Dry grass & dry leaves 6"
 - . Next Layer - green grass & leaves 6"
 - . Thin layer of good topsoil 1"
 - . Old livestock manure 3"
 - . Sprinkling of clean wood ash 1/4"
 - . Kitchen & garden waste layer 3"
 - . Top off with grass or leaves 4"
- Repeat all layers. Water like. Chop materials. Stir weekly.
Use only organic - add no harsh chemicals



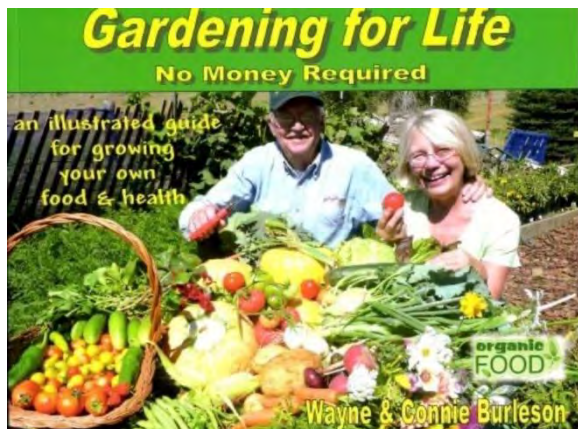
Connie and Wayne have REALLY TAKEN THEIR SHOW ON THE ROAD... the couple have visited over a dozen countries in Africa and South America instructing the impoverished their no cost techniques.



National and worldwide notoriety and acceptance of his program has earned Wayne an extremely important opportunity to speak as an international expert at October's TEDx forum.



Back home in Billings Wayne has begun mentoring trainers to train others "No Cost/No Dig Gardening." He says he's bursting with pride with the progress of his first successful gardening protégé. Armando Ramos, a former homeless individual came often to the shelter. He and Wayne talk in very practical terms how his life could turn around. Ramos, a recovering alcoholic is long sober, has become well versed in Burluson's teachings and now grows/delivers&sells his own vegetables.



BFRG will make every effort to make Burleson's October presentation available to you. Please stay tuned to the Cousining facebook page. Wayne encourages you all to view his YouTube videos; search simply by using his name or Gardening for Life. He and Connie published a how-to book by that same title-available on Amazon. If you're interested in Wayne's family line, see Jarren Burleson's story in this same issue- he's Wayne's grandpa.

Wayne's parting advice:

**“IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE YOUR MOOD-
CHANGE YOUR FOOD “**



Wayne Burleson YouTubes

Grid Seeding
Direct garden composting mid-winter
Gardening for your health
Celebrating Square Food Gardening in Malawi
Growing food in the snow
Shred leaves and greens

Harvesting carrots from a winter garden
How to grow healthy soils
Lazy man compost
Gardening 4 Life-
Guatemala
Solutions to hard soils



Jim Burleson
BFRG Research
jimbuleson8554@gmail.com

Use of Genetics in Curing Plant Disease



Our cousin, Dr. Paul Sisco, PhD has always been generous with time and effort to assisting extended family in sorting out a variety of HUMAN DNA related issues. On many occasions he has made presentations or submitted articles to BFRG. A retired plant geneticist, he now lives in Asheville, North Carolina. He has never hesitated to guide those of us from the complicated Burleson/Sisco/Gage/Shipman/Kuykendall extended family.

Much of this edition of Recollections has been devoted to agriculture. We asked him to give those of us curious about the intricacies of the scientific study. Please click on the two attached links to see details. American chestnut trees are all by extinct; can Paul and his colleagues restore them? Can their maize results translate to effective attack on blight and root rot? An additional link has been provided by the BFRG outlining DNA by Dr Sisco.

When I worked with corn I was doing genetic studies using corn as a model plant. The attached Moose and Sisco paper is one of those coming from that work. Steve Moose was one of my grad students. He's now a professor at the University of Illinois.

And with chestnut my main contribution has been to help discover the genes controlling resistance to a root rot disease for which Asian chestnut species have resistance but for which American and European chestnut species are completely susceptible. I've



Steve Moose
Professor
University of Illinois

attached a paper from a research project that I planned and raised the money for, as well as doing a lot of the work: Zhebentyayeva et al 2019. This root rot is a second disease of chestnut. The one people hear about most is chestnut blight, which is a fungal disease that attacks the bark, girdling the tree.



One of my most interesting experiences was getting to meet a Cornell grad who won a Nobel Prize – Barbara McClintock. I used one of her “transposable and controlling elements” to clone the gene described in the attached Moose and Sisco paper.



It is hoped utilizing the Maize Studies to crossover into Chestnut Disease control will give greater understanding to the scientific community. Below are two links we encourage you to read. It is technical in nature but important to even lay people.

http://www.bfrg.info/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/ZhebentyayevaJeffers-Resistance-to-P.cinnamomi-using-QTLs_2019.pdf

<http://www.bfrg.info/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Moose-and-Sisco-The-Plant-Cell-1994.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eiePDyMUzfl>

A Cowboy Comes Home to Carolina

by



Jim Burleson
BFRG Research
jimburlson8554@gmail.com

Dr. Logan Daniel Burleson, PhD, is a Western North Carolina man but seems just as at home in America's West. His love for farming, ranching and exploring are clear in his mannerisms and attire.



He's the newly appointed Director of Secondary and Career & Technical Education at Avery County Schools, a job that brought him HOME after a decade plus away for his education and work experience. Burleson attended elementary, middle school and graduated from Avery High School. Upon graduation he attended and received his Associates Degree at in Horticulture Technology at nearby Mayland Community College. He received a Trustees Award at Mayland and recalled attending an Appalachian Studies course there taught by fellow descendant of Thomas Burleson- Rhonda Gunter.



Logan moved on to North Carolina A&T State University,- Greensboro for his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. Those specialized in Soil Science and Agricultural Education. While going to school there Logan worked at gas stations, nurseries and the post office to get by.



Next Burleson took a position at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City as Assistant Director of Facilities in charge of grounds and landscaping for three years.

For the following five years Logan taught at the high school level in Sullivan and Hawkins Counties. While there he took on the additional roles of FFA advisor. He was a highly rated educator and extremely popular with his students. He was FFA school sponsor to the Washington D. C. FFA Leadership Conference and dozens of state/regional Ag related competitions.



Desiring advancement, Logan sought his Doctorate. He was accepted at West Texas A&M University in Canyon. He earned his keep there as a graduate assistant. After 2 & 1/2 years Burleson met with the Doctoral board to defend his dissertation on FFA/Agricultural Education. He was successful, his degree awarded, PhD in Agriculture and now we call him "Doctor Logan Burleson". He and the higher administration of Avery County were hand and glove... time to come home.



**HONORABLE DISCHARGE from
THE UNITED STATES ARMY**

To all whom it may concern:

This is to CERTIFY, That **Zeb Burleson 3279835 Private Ord Unassigned 4th Supply Co.**

The United States Army, as a testimonial of honest and faithful service, is hereby honorably discharged from the military service of the United States by reason of **E.T.S. Per W.D. Circular 106-123-18**

Said **Zeb Burleson** was born in **Senia** in the State of **N.C.**

When enlisted he was **22-8/12** years of age and by occupation a **Farmer**

He had **Blue** eyes, **Lt. Brown** hair, **Dark** complexion and was **7** feet **1 1/2** inches in height.

Given under my hand at **Camp Jackson, S.C.** this **26** day of **Feb'y** one thousand nine hundred and **Nineteen** **19** (Signed) **J.B. Horton Major Inf. USA Commanding.**

ENLISTMENT RECORD

Name **Zeb Burleson** Grade **Private**

Enlisted, or inducted, **June 26** 19**18** at **Newland, N.C.**

Serving in **First** enlistment period at date of discharge.

Prior service **None**

Noncommissioned officer **None**

Marksmanship, gunner qualification or rating **Not Qualified**

Horsemanship **Not Mounted**

Battles, engagements, skirmishes, expeditions **None**

Knowledge of any vocation **Farmer**

Wounds received in service **None**

Physical condition when discharged **Good**

Typhoid prophylaxis completed **July 15, 1918**

Paratyphoid prophylaxis completed **July 15, 1918**

Married or single **Single** Character **Excellent**

Remarks **Honest & Faithful**

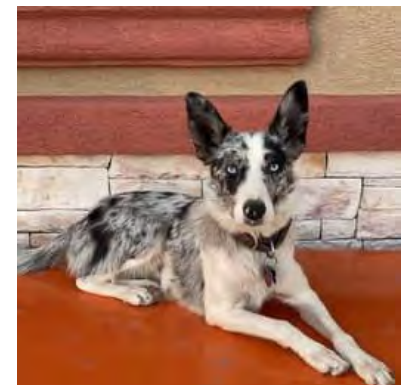
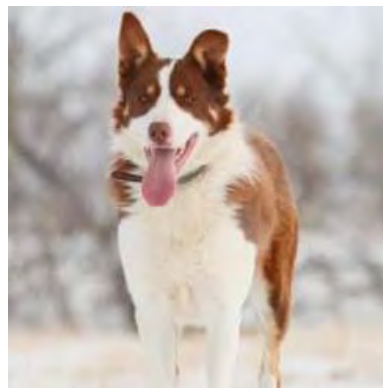
Signature of soldier **Zeb Burleson** (Signed) **J.E. Hughes**
Capt Inf. USA
Bn 156 DB Det of Casuals
Commanding

Filed and recorded **25 August** 19**49** **Grant Webb**
100-11-58-30559 Register of Deeds.

Logan was born in Crossnore, Avery County, NC to Patrick Todd Burleson and Rebecca Ann Daniels of the Newland area. While scouting for a farm and home to buy, Logan is living on his maternal grandfather's (Jack Conley Daniels) home. He mentioned several of his generational lines were all from Avery County. I replied, "Well you must know that county's most famous resident?" He interjected quickly that he had met NC State and NBA great Tommy Burleson. He added a bit the height gene fell on his family. He explained he is 6'1"; his father is 6'4"; his grandfather was 6'1" and his great grandfather Zeb Burleson was 7'1&1/2" according to his military release papers.



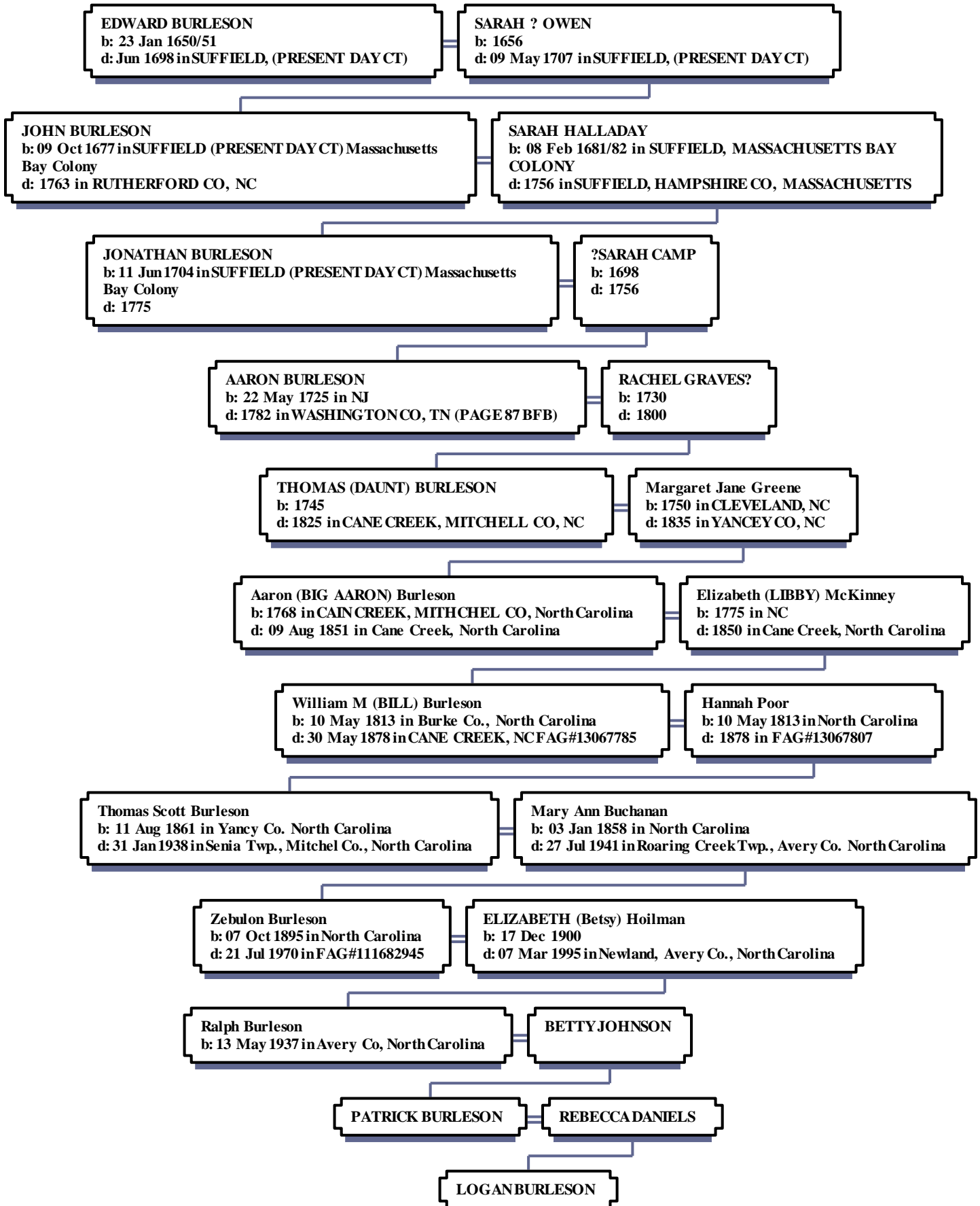
**Patrick Burleson
and 3 year old Lo-
gan**



Did we say breeding? Here are Logan's one month old pups.



Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON





Logan was kind enough to meet with cousins J D Burleson and Gary Dale Forbes in Newland for a follow up interview. He shared that he actively researched genealogy before he left home for advanced degrees. He frequented the Avery County Historical Museum then. Now that he's back, he's anxious to resume that search and has agreed, Saying..”I'm in” to be a researcher for BFRG. Many of his ancestors are buried in area cemeteries/ most notably Cane Creek. JD and Gary left him with a wish list and he's on it!

Logan was kind enough to supply pictures of while “Out West”.



Agriculture In My Life

by Sarah Burleson Gower

“Agriculture ... is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals & happiness”. - Thomas Jefferson 1787

My interest in agriculture began as a kid, growing up on a small farm in Unionville, VA, admiring my parents’ example of hard work and dedication to stewardship of their land and livestock. Together they built several small businesses from scratch, beginning with their own flock of suffolk ewes, and wholesale greenhouses, eventually adding a few cattle and a rabbit business.



Image 1. Aerial view of my parents’ farm where I grew up and now live with my family



Image 2. Me and my mom, (Sue Burleson) bottle feeding one of our baby lambs circa 1990

Both my parents came from agricultural and entrepreneurial households and ancestors. As a kid, my dad participated in livestock shows and passed that interest on to me. I began showing livestock at our county fair through our County’s 4H Club when I was 10 years old and showed and sold a project animal every year until I was 19. 4H began in the early 20th century as a method for funneling innovation and information about farming and homemaking practices back to families through their children. Early clubs focused on one subject such as growing corn or canning vegetables. Today, the 4H motto is “Making the Best Better” and in many areas is still agriculturally focused. However, it has also broadened to become a state-funded educational resource of diverse subjects for development of

all youth, rural and urban.

I would not trade the memories made and time spent with my parents in these pursuits for anything in the world. My 4H projects helped make paying for college possible for me, taught me responsibility and stewardship and grew in me a love and appreciation for farmers, especially those of the community



Image 3. Me, my dad (Ron Burleson) and my project lambs awaiting my time in the ring for my first 4H show in 1997



Image 4. Me in front of my Master’s project soybean test plots in Blacksburg, VA in 2009

that supported me and my peers. I grew up knowing I wanted to help make the job of the American farmer easier to accomplish.

My childhood experience in agriculture led me to pursue my BS and MS in Crop Science at Virginia Tech. In my masters work I was given the opportunity to work on discovery and testing of naturally occurring genetic mutation in soybean that contributed to a more digestible form of Phosphorus in the seed being ground for animal feeds. This was of potential interest to livestock farmers in watershed areas with phosphorus runoff concerns.

These degrees and experiences allowed me to enter a career in North Carolina in the crop improvement industry where I worked with leading Plant Breeders



Image 5. Magnifying glasses used for soybean crossing, ie hand pollination of soybean flowers (naturally self-pollinating species)

in genetic improvement of corn and soybean varieties; the goal of this work being to provide farmers with more efficient products to put in the ground. We studied and implemented improvement of yield traits, insect and disease resistance, as well as resistances to new and various herbicides. To me, this work was fascinating and fulfilling, knowing improvements we made could eventually help farmers provide more food for more people, with less resources and more ease and efficiency.



Image 6. Teaching the Cloverbud Club about soils using a soil profile.

After about a decade or so of growing and studying crops, we decided to focus on growing our own crop of youngins instead, and moved back to Virginia to pursue that with my family. Upon moving back, I have had the full-circle opportunity of leading my daughter’s 4H club and help to educate her and other county youth on the importance and intricacies of agriculture. I am proud and grateful to have had so many

opportunities to be involved in agriculture and now to help involve the next generation. Today, less than 2% of the United States workforce is employed in feeding 100% of it’s population. To continue to feed an ever-growing population, with ever-shrinking resources, these centuries old words from George Washington still ring true: “I know of no pursuit in which more zeal & important service can be rendered to any Country than by improving its agriculture – its breed of useful animals – and other branches of a husbandman’s cares.”

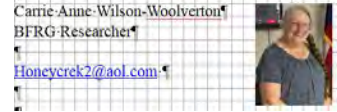


Image 7. My daughter Melanie with her first 4H project: 3 ducks in 2021

Introducing Texas Descendants of Aaron Burleson



by



6x Great Granddaughter of Aaron Burleson is Carrie Anne Wilson-Woolverton who was born in Oklahoma, now calls Texas home. Carrie's ancestors came to North America in the early 1600's, fought for the American Colonies, the United States, the Republic and State of Texas in every war including the American Revolution, French and Indian War, War of 1812, Texas Revolution, Battle of San Jacinto, Mexican-American War, War Between the States, WWI, WWII and the Korean War.

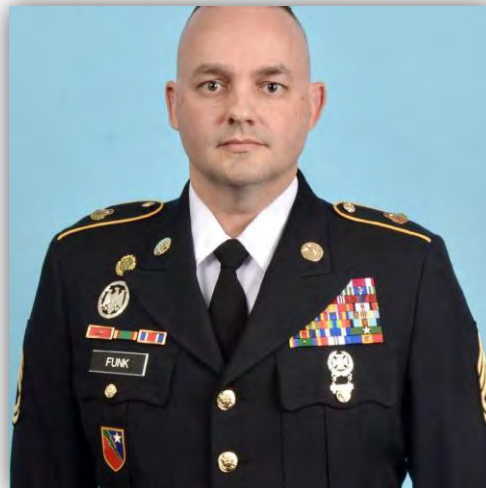
*Wenonah
Wilson
(Carrie's
mom), Carrie
Woolverton
and Chelsea
Roberts
(Carrie's
daughter)*



Introducing Texas Descendants of Aaron Burleson

Currently, her son-in-law, Clay Funk, serves in the Texas Army National Guard and is on his fifth tour of deployment at the Texas border. He has previously served in the US Marines and US Navy. Her grandson, Wade Hanks, served in the US Army.

Clay Funk



Triple Cross Ranches was established in Prairieville, Texas in 2006 when the beef cattle and hay farming operation of Woolverton Ranch and the performance horse operation of Honey Creek Farms were combined at the marriage of Ben Woolverton to Carrie Anne Wilson-Murphy in Kaufman and Van Zandt Counties. Their Triple Cross Ranches provides a sanctuary for abused and neglected horses. Ben and Carrie have four daughters (Amie, Katie, Beth and Chelsea), ten grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Ben is retired from agriculture sales and is a lifelong rancher and native Texan.

Ben and Carrie Woolverton



Introducing Texas Descendants of Aaron Burleson

Roberts Ranch was established in 2006 by daughter Chelsea Anne Murphy-Roberts. She raises Australian Cattle Dogs and Australian Shepherds for ranching endeavors. Fiddlestix Farms LLC was established by daughter Amie Woolverton-Height. Amie raises organic produce, quail eggs and meat as well as a variety of infused oils, butters, organic vegetables and offers classes on cooking for good health.

*Amie Height, Coltan and Beth Hanks,
Wade Height, Ella Height, Ben
Woolverton, Lily Height*



The three families represent 67+ years of farm and ranch production in Oklahoma and Texas. Carrying on the farming and ranching tradition are the grandchildren, Preston Kenneth Roberts, Payton Anne Roberts and Katie Paige Roberts. Payton has established her herd of registered Hereford cattle and market steers. She has competed on county and state levels in cattle shows with 4-H. Paige competes on the county and state levels in horse show judging in 4-H.

*Payton
Roberts
with market
steers she
raised*



Introducing Texas Descendants of Aaron Burleson

Preston Roberts – his favorite pastime: Gone Fishin’



Paige Roberts with a rescued mare



Preston, Payton and Paige are 15th generation American farmers. Their ancestors arrived in Massachusetts in 1629 and have been engaged in agriculture in this country for the past 394 years. They are 8x great grandchildren of Aaron Burleson.

Introducing Texas Descendants of Aaron Burleson

*Chelsea, Paige,
Payton and
Preston Roberts;
Carrie
Woolverton;
Katie Funk*



Triple Cross Ranches, Roberts Ranch and Fiddlestix Farms have all been recognized by the National Society Descendants of American Farmers as Certified American Farms. Ben is the Society's #1 Diamond American Farmer representing over 60 years of Feeding American Families.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
OUR 1ST
DIAMOND AWARDEE!**



**Marvin Benford "Ben"
Woolverton, Jr.
of
Mabank, TX
Born: 1949
Phalba, VanZandt Co., TX
Farming 66 years & 4th Generation Farmer**

Introducing Texas Descendants of Aaron Burleson

*Chelsea, Payton
and Paige
Roberts riding
rescued horses*



*Triple Cross Ranches
rescued gelding*



Introducing Texas Descendants of Aaron Burleson

*Triple Cross Ranches
rescued gelding*



The ranch is home to an abundance of wildlife including deer, wild hogs, raccoons, opossum, rabbits, cougar, bobcats, skunks, armadillos. The flock of over 250 Whistling Ducks spends their winters on the Golden Pond of Honey Creek.



Introducing Texas Descendants of Aaron Burleson

Carrie is a paralegal, entertainer, certified genealogist, rancher, genealogy librarian and lineage society registrar. She has compiled family history books on the Bell/Doan family, the Werrell/Harbert family, the Wilson/Bills family, the Bowers/Johnson/Skinner family, the Murphy/Seppie family, the White/Mobley family and the Hoover/Haynes family. Currently, she is compiling a book on the Woolverton family and a book on War of 1812 Veterans Buried in Van Zandt County, Texas. Carrie has located over 55 War of 1812 Veteran gravesites in Van Zandt County. The graves are being restored, refurbished and marked with medallions to remember their service for eternity.



Introducing Texas Descendants of Aaron Burleson

Ben and Carrie Woolverton



Carrie's Father Bill B. Wilson, Brother Robert Mark Wilson, Mother Wenonah Bell Wilson and Carrie Anne Wilson (a few years ago ...), Tecumseh, Oklahoma

Bill is 5x great grandson of Aaron Burleson and 4x great grandson of Capt. James Burleson Sr.



Introducing Texas Descendants of Aaron Burleson

Lineage societies to which Carrie belongs include the Dames of the Court of Honor, the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists, National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, First Families of Tennessee, National Society of the United States Daughters of 1812, The Daughters of the Republic of Texas, Society of Descendants of Antebellum Planters, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Descendants of Confederate Veterans, San Jacinto Descendants, Descendants of Texas Rangers, Gone to Texas Pioneers, Texas First Families, First Families of the Twin Territories in Oklahoma, Doan Family Association, Burleson Family Association, Burleson Family Research Group, Tipton Family Association, Continental Society of the Daughters of Indian Wars, National Society of Colonial Dames XVII Century and National Society Descendants of American Farmers.

*Carrie Woolverton
and Katie Funk*



Carrie is a Diplomatic Fellow of the Texas Genealogical College, manager of the Van Zandt County Library of Genealogy and Local History, registrar for the Neches River Chapter DAR, president of the James Pinckney Henderson Chapter DRT, registrar for the Jesse Miller Foster Chapter UDC, president of the Van Zandt County Genealogical Society, president of the Martins Hundred Chapter CDXVIIC, chaplain and secretary of the Jose Francisco Calahorra Chapter DAC and president of the Captain James Burleson Chapter USD1812. She is past president of the James Butler Bonham Chapter DRT. Carrie is an Admiral in the Texas Navy.

Introducing Texas Descendants of Aaron Burleson

Carrie portraying Jane Owen Wilson (daughter of Volley Burleson Owen), a Texas pioneer and settler.

Jane was a granddaughter, daughter and wife of War of 1812 Veterans and Veterans of the Republic of Texas – Captain James Burleson, Ezekiel Owen and Walker Beckett Wilson; a great granddaughter of Revolutionary War Veteran Aaron Burleson.



Carrie Woolverton, Chelsea, Payton, Preston and Paige Roberts, Ben Woolverton

Introducing Texas Descendants of Aaron Burleson

Together with her brother, Rob Wilson, Carrie has spent over 48 years locating the gravesites of ancestors and military veterans from the East Coast to Texas and everywhere in between, restoring and refurbishing monuments, providing replacement monuments to the graves where restoration is not possible and providing War of 1812 and Republic of Texas markers for veterans. Rob owns Red River Outpost Ranch near Ringgold, Texas and is an avid Burleson Family researcher. He has personally traipsed Bastrop County, Texas, searching for the lost gravesite of Capt. James Burleson Sr. Rob has provided maps indicating where Burleson property, homesteads and gravesites are located.

*Carrie and
brother Robert
Wilson DDS*



Carrie offers research tips on her Facebook page, *Family Tree Productions*, shares ranch life on her blog, *From My Kitchen Window*, and pays tribute to her ancestors' military service on her Facebook page, *Veteran's Daughter*.

She offers free genealogy workshops for introductory and advanced researchers and provides living history programs on Betsy Ross and Pioneer Jane Owen Wilson (Burleson descendant). You may contact Carrie at honeycrek2@aol.com.

Introducing Texas Descendants of Aaron Burleson

*Katie Funk with
Irish Gillan HC*



*Carrie and Payton riding rescued geldings - **Ride More ... Worry Less***

Happy Trails from the Family of Triple Cross Ranches, Texas USA

AARON BURLESON – LINEAGE SOCIETIES

Cousins,

When you are fortunate enough to be a descendant of Aaron Burleson (1722-1782), you are eligible for membership in an array of lineage societies and historically designated groups.

Aaron Burleson, born in North Carolina, died in Tennessee, was an active citizen, pioneer and frontiersman.

The achievements in his lifetime make him an approved and verified ancestor, including but not limited to, the following:

- National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
- Daughters of American Colonists (DAC)
- Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)
- National Society Descendants of American Farmers (NSDOAF)
- Continental Society Daughters of Indian Wars (CSDIW)
- First Families of North Carolina
- First Families of Tennessee

Descendants and family members who are eligible ancestors (but are not limited to) are as follows:

	Abraham Kuykendall	Jacob Shipman	Capt. James A. B. Burleson Sr.	Ezekiel Owen	Walker Beckett Wilson
DAC	X	X			
DAR	X	X			
Texas First Families			X		X
First Families of North Carolina	X	X	X		
First Families of Tennessee			X		
NSUS Daughters 1812			X	X	X
Grand Society 1812			X	X	X
NS Descendants of American Farmers			X	X	X
Daughters of the Republic of Texas			X		X
Sons of the			X		X

AARON BURLESON – LINEAGE SOCIETIES

Republic of Texas					
NS Dames of the Court of Honor			X		
Gone to Texas Pioneer				X	
United Daughters of the Confederacy					Texas Cavalry
Sons of the Confederacy					X
Descendants of Confederate Veterans					X
San Jacinto Descendants					X
Descendants of Mexican War Veterans					X

Grandsons eligible as approved ancestors for Descendants of Confederate Veterans, UDC and Sons of the Confederacy include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Aaron B. Burleson – Texas Cavalry
- Jonathan R. Burleson – Texas Cavalry
- John Burleson – Texas Infantry
- Hirsch Ezekiel Owen – Texas Cavalry
- Ezekiel Owen Jr. – Texas Cavalry
- John Shipman Burleson
- Newton Craft Wilson – Texas Infantry

All societies have websites which provide information on what is required to join and the manner in which to do so.

It's a good idea to contact the registrar of local society chapters who will help with applications and assembling the appropriate documentation.

Also, if you know of family members who have already been accepted into the society(ies) which interest you, ask if they will share their research information so you are not recreating the wheel with your application(s).

AARON BURLESON – LINEAGE SOCIETIES

PROVING MY LINEAGE

For most lineage societies, one must prove from themselves through each generation all the way to the patriot ancestor.

This means that every name, date and place for birth, marriage and death must be proven with documentation and evidence. Also, the links between generations must be proven.

Many societies have databases available online which provide ancestors whose service and criteria are already proven.

For instance, DAR offers information on descendants who are verified. If you are able to connect to one of the established descendants, then the remaining generations are already documented for you.

You may prove the linking generations by utilizing documentation and evidence.

Documentation and Evidence

Documentation is the written material which provides genealogical information.

Evidence is the part of a document which provides the answer to a genealogical question.

Original Records are documents which were originally recorded at the time of the event.

Derivative Records are documents which are not in the original form recorded at the time of the event.

Primary Evidence is the information that was recorded when the event occurred.

Secondary Evidence is the information regarding an event which occurred prior to the time the document was created.

Direct Evidence is primary or secondary evidence that states a specific date, place or relationship.

Indirect Evidence is primary or secondary evidence that implies but does not state a specific date, place or relationship.

The preferred Documentation is an Original Record with Primary and Direct Evidence.

Vital Records

Vital Records provide valuable information for documenting names, dates, relationships and places. However, one must be cautious about information which doesn't make sense or doesn't appropriately fit the logical progression of the family. All documents are only as factual as the person who provided the information. Thus, every researcher must examine the evidence found and understand that some "facts" may need to be verified with additional evidence.

AARON BURLESON – LINEAGE SOCIETIES

Records may contain differing levels of evidence, such as the following:

Birth Certificates

Primary Evidence – Child’s name, child’s date and place of birth, names of parents

Secondary Evidence – Parents’ dates and places of birth

Marriage Licenses and Certificates

Primary Evidence – Names of bride and groom, date and place of marriage

Secondary Evidence – Dates and places of bride and groom births; information about previous marriages, names of parents of bride and groom, dates and places of birth of parents

Death Certificates

Primary Evidence – Name of deceased, date and place of death, cause of death, place and date of burial

Secondary Evidence – Date and place of birth of deceased, names of parents of deceased, places of birth of parents of deceased

Where do I find the licenses and certificates?

Birth, marriage and death certificates (when available) may be found in the county courthouse. Counties differ in who keeps the records.

Mostly, the county clerk will be responsible for documentation. Sometimes it’s a county recorder or court clerk.

When the records needed are earlier than the county was formed and records were kept, the certificates may be found in church records, probate and deed records.

When linking generations prior to the time when county governments kept records, a good rule of thumb is to **Follow The Land**.

You will know from census and tax records if your ancestor owned land. If they owned land, it was passed on to the next person when the land owner died. There will be heirs who must sign the probate and deed records in order to transfer ownership of land.

Probate proceedings, wills, estate settlements, civil litigation and deed records are full of heirship information. Many times a family member will be required to file an affidavit of heirship which gives the marriage and parent/child relationships for the proceeding.

Death, marriage and burial records can also be obtained from funeral directors, cemeteries, churches, veterans records, social security records, probate and deed records.

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Newspaper obituaries, used with caution, are oftentimes the only source of information for births and/or deaths which occurred prior to government record-keeping or between census records.

Census Records

Census records give the researcher a place in time for which additional information may be found to fill in the ancestor's history. The census records, as a whole, are helpful but are not definitive sources for dates and names.

The census takers wrote down what they heard. Oftentimes, the information was provided by someone who may not have been able to read or write, may have been very young or very old, may have been whoever answered the door when the census taker arrived.

This provides the explanation for the variation in information from census to census for family members.

Following is a chart which gives the data which may be gleaned from the census records. Important military service was noted in the census years of 1840, 1890, 1910 and 1930.

Year	Name of Head of Household	Names of Family Members	Relationships Between Family Members	Dates of Birth of Family Members	Places of Birth of Family Members	Year of Marriage	Military Service	Year of Immigration
1790	X							
1800	X							
1810	X							
1820	X							
1830	X							
1840	X						X	
1850	X	X		X	X			
1860	X	X		X	X			
1870	X	X		X	X			
1880	X	X	X	X	X			
1890	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
1900	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
1910	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1920	X	X	X	X	X			X
1930	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1940	X	X	X	X	X			

AARON BURLESON – LINEAGE SOCIETIES

Linking Generations

1. Birth certificate and birth announcement – certificates provide the record on full name, date and place of birth and names of parents. Announcements provide information on family and location.
2. Marriage license and newspaper record – certificates provide the record on full names, date and place of marriage, witnesses who may be family members. Announcements provide information on family and location.
3. Divorce record – provides information on marriage date and place, children and their dates of birth and location.
4. Military record – provides information on service and family relations, possible information on spouse and dependents.
5. Pension record and bounty land applications – may provide bible records, marriage records, affidavits about family relationships, husband's date of death, widow's maiden name, other family members and relationships.
6. Baptismal record – provides information on full name, date of birth, parents and location.
7. School record – provides information on location and family.
8. Residences – gives clues where to look for public information and resources.
9. Bible record – provides information on births, marriages, deaths and baptisms.
10. Probate records – relate to the death of a person and the handling of the estate of the deceased and contain genealogical evidence about the decedent and their family. Most often, the heirs are the surviving spouse and children of the decedent.
 - a. Last Will and Testament – names heirs of decedent and family members
 - b. Estate Administration – provides property disbursed to heirs
 - c. Final Accounting and Distribution – names the heirs who received property from the estate
11. Land Records – deeds, grants, mortgages and other land records often mention the residence of the parties involved. Land records indicate neighboring property owners which may be indirect evidence to establish a relationship.
12. Cemetery Records – provide indirect evidence to establish a relationship.
13. Grave markers – may provide full name, maiden names, dates of birth and death.
14. Obituaries – may provide family information, birth and death information.
15. Census Records – provide family names, locations and neighboring property owners.

APPLICATION NOTES

Failure to follow the guidelines of the various societies may result in an application paper being returned to the applicant for revision.

The correct format for entering dates is: dd mmm yyyy. Ex: 1 Jan 1900 **NOT:** 1/Jan/1900 or 01/01/1900

The correct format for entering places is: city or township county state. Ex: Sullivan Sullivan Co IN - **NOT:** Sullivan Sullivan IN or Sullivan (Sullivan) IN or Sullivan/Sullivan/IN

AARON BURLESON – LINEAGE SOCIETIES

The application form must be printed on acid-free paper that is at least 25% rag content. Signatures should be in black acid-free ink. Pilot G-2 gel pens black ink are recommended.

Always avoid using ball point pens for signatures. The ink will not last and will fade out in a very short time.

It's an excellent plan to document your ancestor's service, residency, heritage and accomplishments by joining a lineage society. This is important for many reasons. In addition to honoring those who have paved the way for us to exist, we are recording their history in perpetuity.

We Are the Chosen

In each family, there is one who seems called to find the ancestors,
To put flesh on their bones and make them live again,
To tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.
Genealogy research is not a cold gathering of facts,
But instead, breathing life into all who have gone before.
We are the Chosen, the storytellers of the tribe.

Let us, before we die, gather up our heritage and offer it to our children.

I'm available for questions and help with your lineage society endeavors.

Kind regards,

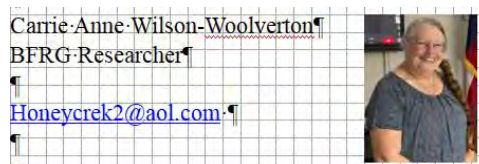
Carrie Anne Wilson-Woolverton

Genealogist, Historian, Living History Re-Enactor, Registrar, Author, No Stone Unturned

FB: Veteran's Daughter

FB: Family Tree Productions

by



Lyman Copeland Draper



Lyman Copeland Draper was born on 4 September 1815 in Evans, New York. He was a librarian and historian who lived in Madison, Wisconsin. Draper served as the first corresponding secretary for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and as Superintendent of Public Instruction of Wisconsin. He was a descendant of the Massachusetts settler James Draper (1618–1694).

Draper was a lifelong student of early American history. Hearing about the adventures of his grandfathers and father in the American Revolution and the War of 1812, he developed an interest in the history of those times. Draper made it his life's work to document and gather the stories of the history of the "heroes of the Revolution" in the South.

He was financially backed by his cousin's husband, Peter A. Remsen. Starting in 1838, Draper corresponded with early settlers in the Trans-Allegheny region during the 1700's. He began collecting and compiling first hand information about the veterans who fought in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the many hardships faced by the pioneers and the settlement of the west.

Draper met with and interviewed pioneers, veterans, and their children. He copied documents, clipped or transcribed articles from newspapers, wrote and received correspondence, and occasionally was given original documents for preservation. Draper copied maps and drew new ones in areas where none previously existed. By interviewing the children and the descendants of the settlers and pioneers, listening to their family war stories and recollections, he believed that he was on a mission to preserve important history that was already disappearing with each generation.

To bolster his work, Draper purchased parts of the collections of John Dabney Shane and Samuel J. Rea, historians who were working in the same time periods and places as himself.

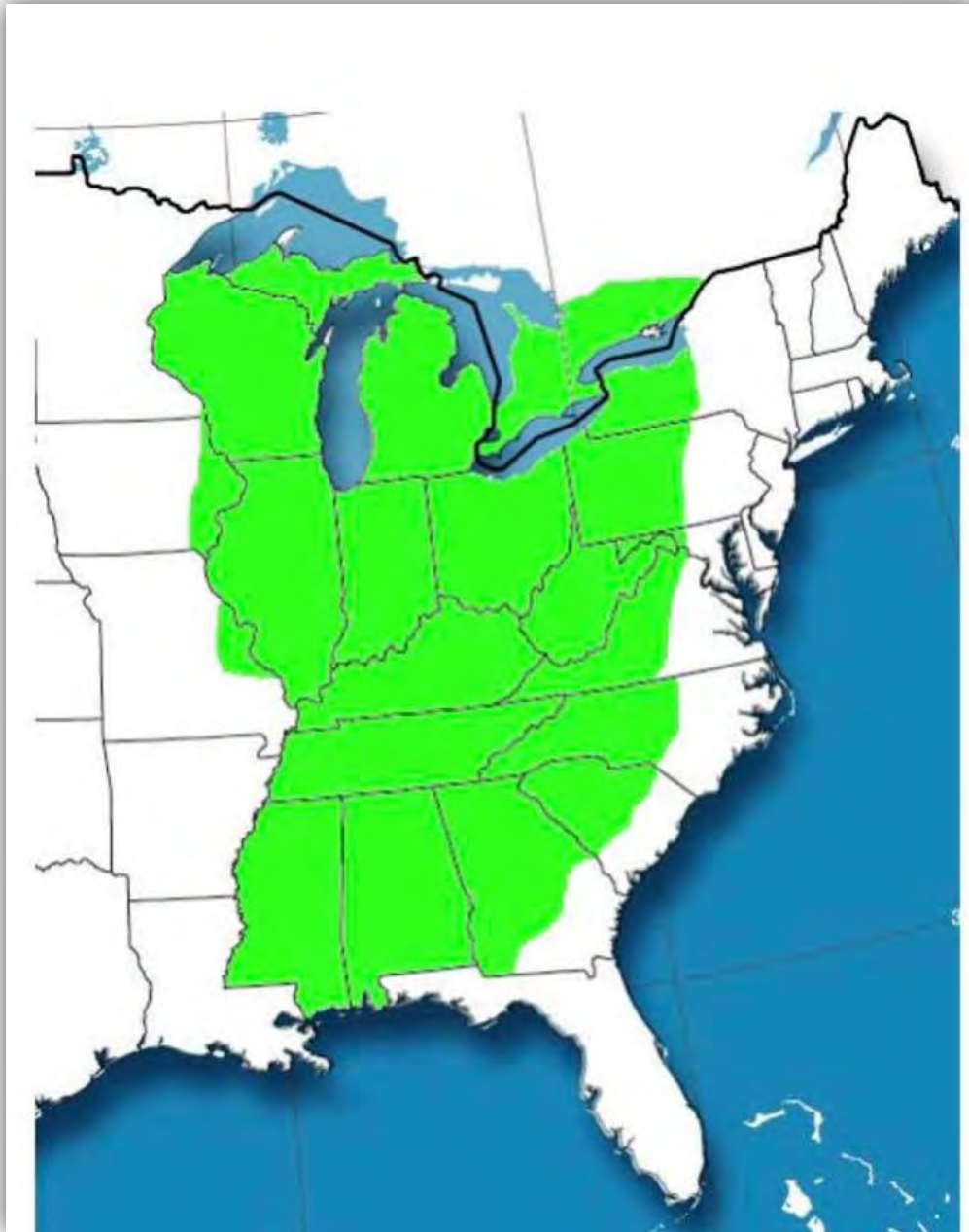
After Peter Remsen's death, Draper was had to find another source of income. He secured a position at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Draper continued to compile and categorize his collection of documents, records, maps, interviews, correspondence, memories and historical information into volumes of his work.

Lyman Copeland Draper

Draper traveled extensively to understand the territory which he memorialized. Draper documented, during his journeys, the Trans-Appalachian West.

Searching for the stories and the history, Draper explored Wisconsin, Illinois, parts of Iowa and Missouri, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, parts of New York and Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, parts of Georgia and South Carolina, parts of North Carolina and Virginia, West Virginia, parts of Maryland, the entire Ohio Valley and the Mississippi Valley in the United States, as well as parts of Ontario and Quebec in Canada.

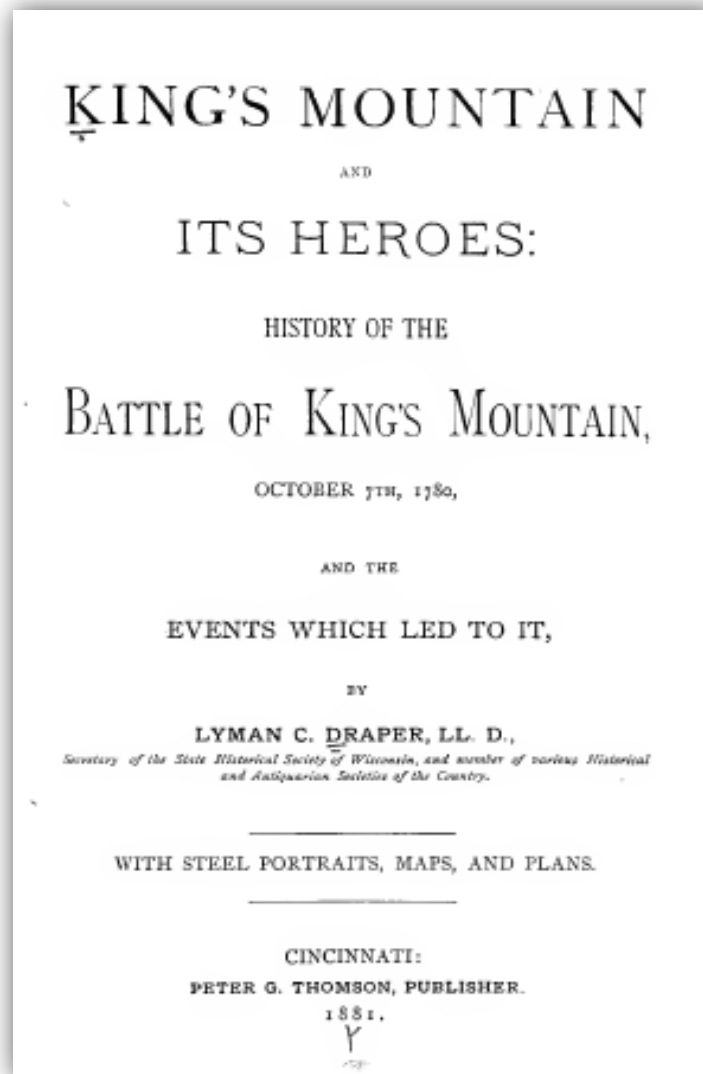
TRANS-ALLEGHENY WEST REGION



Lyman Copeland Draper

Draper's purpose in finding and collecting memories and historical events was to gain knowledge before it was completely forgotten. He planned to write a series of biographies on early settlers and document the Indian Wars in the Ohio River Valley. Draper never finished his biographies, but his correspondence with survivors of the time and their relatives provides the largest single first-hand account of the settlement and history of the expansive region.

He published 10 volumes of historical notes for the Wisconsin Historical Society. Draper authored *King's Mountain and Its Heroes: History of the Battle of King's Mountain 7 Oct 1780 and the events which led to it*. The 650-page work was published in 1881, which featured many of the early settlers. It is available to download for free online.



Draper was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1877. He died on August 26, 1891, in Madison, Wisconsin.

Lyman Copeland Draper – Carrie Anne Wilson-Woolverton

Lyman Copeland Draper



Draper willed his collection of manuscripts and documentation to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. After his death, the Society took possession of the Draper collection of papers. Reuben G. Thwaites oversaw making the Draper manuscripts available for public use. The Society organized Draper's arrangement of loose manuscripts into bound volumes.

THE DRAPER MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION

The Lyman Draper Manuscript Collection includes his extensive notes and correspondence as well as papers of a number of notable early Americans, collected by Lyman Draper, on the history of the Trans-Allegheny West. The Draper Collection comprises nearly 500 volumes of memorabilia and documentation.

The notable of the figures whose papers he collected include Joseph Brant, Daniel Boone, George Rogers Clark, Thomas S. Hinde, John Donelson, James Robertson, General Joseph Martin, and Simon Kenton.

Most information covers the time period from the 1740s through the 1810s between the French and Indian War and the War of 1812 (ca. 1755-1815). Major research libraries around the United States have microfilm of the collection. The microfilm is also available for purchase.

Military records and information are included in the Draper Manuscripts. The Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 are the primary focus including the actions which occurred in the West. Also included are Native American conflicts and westward explorations, such as the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

The bulk of the documentation is Draper's research notes, correspondence and handwritten reproductions made by Draper during his journeys. Included are correspondence, interview notes, maps drawn by Draper, extracts from newspapers and other published sources, muster rolls as well as transcripts of official documents and records

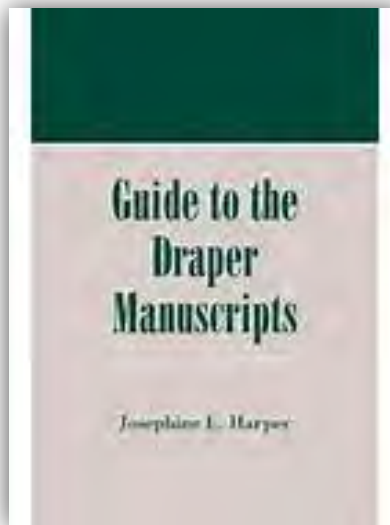
The Society staff organized the collection into 491 volumes divided into 50 series arranged by geographic area, subject and/or individual. The Society arranged the volumes into series, which were given a one or two letter pressmark (A through ZZ). These became the 491 volumes that are now known as the Draper Manuscript Collection.

Lyman Copeland Draper – Carrie Anne Wilson-Woolverton

Lyman Copeland Draper

The volumes were then microfilmed and made available to libraries and other institutions. An item can be found on film if the series, volume, and page number are known. However, sometimes the “page number” is actually an item number in that particular volume rather than the page number.

The best researcher’s tool used to access materials in the collection is Josephine Harper's book: "**Guide to the Draper Manuscripts**" which may be purchased online for about \$65.



Harper outlines the collection, provides an overview of each series within the collection with the contents of each volume of the series. She gives additional information about each volume in each series. She lists events and key names that are mentioned in it. Harper’s guide includes a general index of names and subjects found in her volume descriptions. The names provided in the index and descripts are not all encompassing. The researcher should keep in mind that many additional persons’ names are included in the manuscripts. It’s important to be aware of neighbors, family members, business partners, related and associated persons to enable the discovery of individuals included in the Draper manuscripts. The index lists the series and volume numbers where the name or subject can be found.

Four appendices complete Harper’s book. Appendix I is an index to the Revolutionary War Pension Applications found in the Draper Manuscripts. It lists the series and volume number where the individual’s papers can be found. Not every Revolutionary War Pension recipient is included because Draper did not contact all of them. Revolutionary War Pension records are now searchable in the Fold3.com database.

Appendix II contains a listing of additional personal data found in the manuscripts, including authors of signed publications, cartographers, correspondents and other writers who contributed and provided information to Draper, persons he interviewed and obituaries. The entries list the series and volume numbers of the reference.

Appendix III lists the more than 575 cartographic maps in the collection. The maps offer a sense of place that cannot easily be found elsewhere. Many were hand drawn by Draper. The index lists pressmark, volume, and page number.

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Lyman Copeland Draper

Appendix IV provides the reel list of the 1980 microfilm edition of the collection, the filming owned by the Society's Special Collections Department. The microfilm is available for purchase online.

The Wisconsin Historical Society has also produced the Calendar Series to assist in utilizing the large collection. The Calendar Series are named from the chronological order of the abstracts in the front of the Harper's book. Only the key names relative to the documents are listed in the index in Harper's book.

Calendars

- Series J - Calendar of the George Rogers Clark Papers (1979)
- Series U - Calendar of the Frontier Wars Papers (1977)
- Series CC - Calendar of the Kentucky Papers (1925)
- Series DD - Calendar of the Tennessee and King's Mountain Papers (1929)
- Series QQ - Calendar of the Preston and Virginia Papers (1915)
- Series SS - Calendar of the David Shepard Papers (1979) in same volume as Calendar of the Frontier Wars Papers
- Series TT - Calendar of the South Carolina Papers (1979) in same volume as Calendar of the Frontier Wars Papers
- Series UU - Calendar of South Carolina in the Revolution Miscellanies (1979) in same volume as Calendar of the Frontier Wars Papers
- Series VV - Calendar of the Thomas Sumter Papers (1979)
- Series XX – Tennessee Papers
- Series ZZ – Virginia Papers

To use the calendars, begin by searching the volume indexes. The page number in the index will refer you to the page number in the book for the name or event. Go to that page to read the abstract and find the citation in the manuscript indicating the series, volume, and page number where the item can be found.

All calendars are available in hard copy from:

McDowell Publications
11129 Pleasant Ridge Road
Utica, KY 42376
Phone: (502) 275-4075,
(Also available on microfiche from Chadwyck-Healey)

Transcriptions

Craig L. Heath transcribed and published several transcriptions of the Manuscript Series. Each of these transcriptions includes an every-name index. Many people find the transcriptions easier to read than the

Lyman Copeland Draper

handwritten manuscripts. The researcher should use the actual document with the transcription to avoid unintended transcriber errors. The transcriptions are available to purchase online. Transcriptions exist for:

- Series A George M. Bedinger Papers
- Series V Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina Papers
- Series Z Illinois Papers
- Series GG Mecklenburg Declaration⁴
- Series TT South Carolina Papers
- Series ZZ Virginia Papers (volumes 1-5 only)

Other transcriptions are available for parts of the Draper Manuscript Collection. Society Special Collections Department has the following:

- Series B *The Life of Daniel Boone* by Ted Franklin Belue
- 22 S 241—268 *Lyman C. Draper's Notes on His Interview with Samuel Boone* by George F. Doyle
- 6 S 19—241 *My Father, Daniel Boone* by Neal O. Hammon
- 21 U *Action at the Galudoghson* December 14 1742 by Jared C. Lobdell
- Various *Frontier Memories II* and *Frontier Memories III*⁵ by Dale Payne
- Series D *Border Forays and Adventures* by Robert Barton Puryear III

Indexes

Karen Mauer Green compiled an *Index to the Draper Manuscripts*:

Series NN, The Pittsburgh and Northwest Virginia Papers.

The index includes every name mentioned in the text. An introduction explains how to use the index for efficiently finding the documents in the original manuscripts.

Documentary Volumes

The Wisconsin Historical Society published five compilations of items extracted from the Draper Manuscripts. The items were selected to explain in chronological order some of the events of the Revolutionary War and the time immediately preceding it. The documentary volumes are available through:

Heritage Books, Inc.
1540 E. Pointer Ridge Place
Bowie, MD 20716

(Also available on microfiche from Chadwyck-Healey)

Compilations are also available by Reuben Gold Thwaites and Louise Phelps Kellogg:

- Documentary History of Dunmore's War, 1774 (1905)

Lyman Copeland Draper – Carrie Anne Wilson-Woolverton

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- The Revolution on the Upper Ohio, 1775-1777 (1908)
- Frontier Defense on the Upper Ohio, 1777-1778 (1912)

By Louise Phelps Kellogg:

- Frontier Advance on the Upper Ohio, 1778-1779 (1916)
- Frontier Retreat on the Upper Ohio, 1779-1781 (1917)

Each of these volumes contains an index of names. Finding a name in the index, a researcher can go to the page in the compilation. The page in the documentary will list the citation of the original document in the Draper Manuscripts.

Other authors have also compiled histories from the Draper Manuscripts. The patterns of indexing and citation vary with the individual author. Some of these works are:

Harry G. Enoch *Affair at Captina Creek. In Search of Morgan's Station and "the Last Indian Raid in Kentucky"*.

Louis Knott Koontz *The Virginia Frontier, 1754—1763*.

Jared C. Lobdell *Further Materials on Lewis Wetzel and the Upper Ohio Frontier. Indian Warfare in Western Pennsylvania and Northwest Virginia at the Time of the Revolution. Recollections of Lewis Bonnett, Jr. (1788-1850). The Bonnett and Wetzel Families.*

Edward P. McCullough *The Early History of Montgomery County, Kentucky.*

Dale Payne *Biographical Sketches of the Pioneers.*

Narratives of Pioneer Life and Border Warfare.

Darren R. Reid *Daniel Boone and Others on the Kentucky Frontier.*

Microfilm

The entire collection was microfilmed in 1949 and re-filmed in the 1970s. More than ninety libraries across the country have complete sets of the microfilm, and many will send individual reels on interlibrary loan.

The microfilm may also be purchased from:

Chadwyck-Healey Inc. (now part of ProQuest)

300 North Zeeb Road

PO Box 1346

Ann Arbor, MI 48106-1346.

Phone: 734-761-4700

Toll Free: 800-521-0600 ext. 2873 (Traditional Products Division)

Email: info@proquest.com

Website: www.proquest.com

Note: The calendars and documentaries are also available on microfilm.

The following libraries have complete microfilm sets of the Draper Manuscripts:

Lyman Copeland Draper – Carrie Anne Wilson-Woolverton

Lyman Copeland Draper

- **Alabama:** Birmingham Public Library (Birmingham); University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa); Auburn University (Auburn); Huntsville Public Library (Huntsville).
- **Arkansas:** University of Arkansas (Fayetteville).
- **California:** Huntington Library (San Marino); University of California (Berkeley); University of California, Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara); University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA); University of Southern California (Los Angeles); Carlsbad City Library (Carlsbad).
- **Colorado:** Denver Public Library (Denver).
- **District of Columbia:** Library of Congress (Washington); DAR Library (Washington).
- **Florida:** Florida State University (Tallahassee); Miami-Dade Public Library (Miami); University of Central Florida (Orlando).
- **Georgia:** Emory University (Atlanta); University of Georgia (Athens).
- **Illinois:** Illinois State Historical Library (Springfield); Northern Illinois University (DeKalb); Newberry Library (Chicago); University of Chicago (Chicago).
- **Indiana:** Ball State University (Muncie); Indiana State Library (Indianapolis); Indiana University (Bloomington); Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County (Fort Wayne); Purdue University (Lafayette); Vincennes Public Library (Vincennes).
- **Iowa:** State Historical Society of Iowa (Iowa City).
- **Kansas:** University of Kansas (Lawrence); Wichita Public Library (Wichita).
- **Kentucky:** Filson Club (Louisville); Kentucky Historical Society (Frankfort); Murray State University (Murray); Kentucky State Department of Libraries (Frankfort); University of Kentucky (Lexington); Eastern Kentucky University (Richmond); Western Kentucky University (Bowling Green).
- **Louisiana:** Alexandria Historical and Genealogical Library (Alexandria); Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge).
- **Massachusetts:** Harvard University (Cambridge); Boston Public Library (Boston).
- **Michigan:** Wayne State University (Detroit). • **Minnesota:** Minnesota Historical Society (St. Paul).
- **Mississippi:** Mississippi State Department of Archives and History (Jackson); University of Mississippi (University).
- **Missouri:** State Historical Society of Missouri (Columbia); Southwest Missouri State University (Springfield); Mid Continent Public Library (Independence); Truman State University (Kirksville).
- **Nebraska:** University of Nebraska (Lincoln).
- **New Jersey:** Princeton University (Princeton).

Lyman Copeland Draper

- **New York:** New York Public Library (New York).
- **New Mexico:** University of New Mexico (Albuquerque).
- **North Carolina:** Duke University (Durham) and the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill); each hold about half the series, a planned acquisition which together constitutes a complete set; Charlotte Public Library (Charlotte). The Draper Manuscripts: Additional Resources 2
- **Ohio:** Ohio University (Athens); Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County (Cincinnati); Western Reserve Historical Society (Cleveland); Ohio Historical Society (Columbus); Wright State University (Dayton); Bowling Green State University.
- **Oklahoma:** University of Oklahoma (Norman); Oklahoma State University (Stillwater); Tulsa CityCounty Library (Tulsa)
- **Pennsylvania:** East Stroudsburg University (East Stroudsburg); Mansfield University (Mansfield); David Library of the American Revolution (Washington Crossing).
- **South Carolina:** South Carolina Department of Archives and History (Columbia); Winthrop College (Rock Hill).
- **Tennessee:** Memphis-Shelby County Public Library (Memphis); Memphis State University (Memphis); Tennessee State Library and Archives (Nashville); Knox County Public Library (Knoxville); University of Tennessee (Knoxville); East Tennessee State University (Johnson City); Tennessee Technological University (Cookeville).
- **Texas:** Dallas Public Library (Dallas); Clayton Library (Houston); Rice University (Houston); San Antonio Public Library; West Texas State University (Canyon).
- **Utah:** Family History Library (Salt Lake City); Heritage Quest/American Genealogical Lending Library (Bountiful); University of Utah (Salt Lake City).
- **Virginia:** Virginia State Archives (Richmond); Virginia State Library (Richmond); Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Blacksburg); University of Virginia (Charlottesville); Washington and Lee University (Lexington); College of William and Mary (Williamsburg).
- **Washington:** Central Washington State (Ellensburg).
- **West Virginia:** Marshall University (Huntington); West Virginia Institute of Technology (Montgomery); West Virginia University (Morgantown); Surveyor of Lands of Berkeley County (Martinsburg).
- **Wisconsin:** Wisconsin Historical Society (Madison); University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Milwaukee).
- **Canada:** University of New Brunswick (Fredericton)

Lyman Copeland Draper

Strategies for Finding your Ancestors

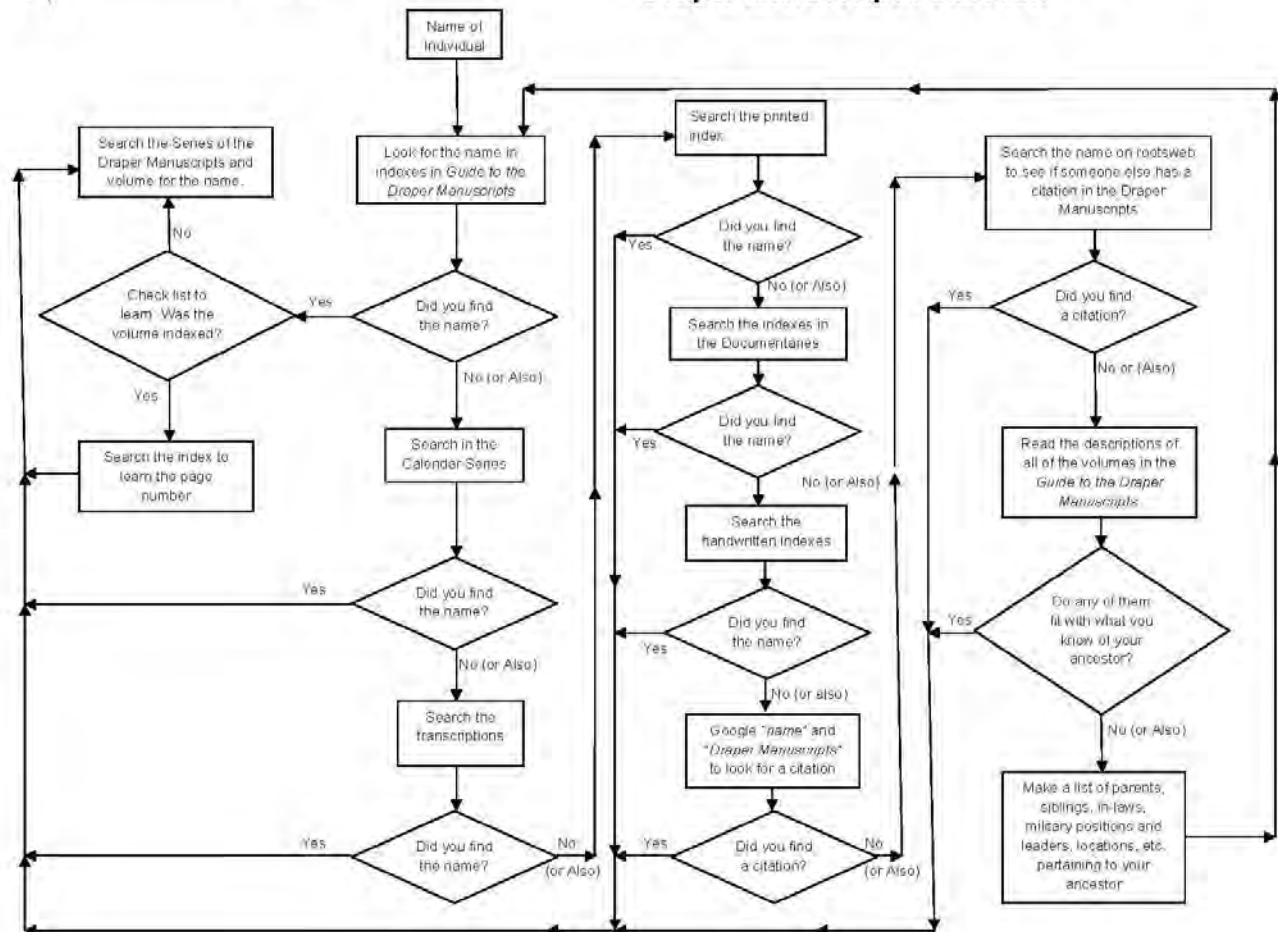
Exhaust all reasonable possibilities. The flow chart, prepared by the St. Louis County Library, is one example of a process to follow as you move through the various resources. It will guide you through a process of searching for your ancestors in the Draper Manuscript Collection. The Draper Manuscripts are not an easy resource to use.

With planning and persistence, however, they do not have to be an insurmountable challenge.



St. Louis County Library
www.slcil.org

How to Search for Your Ancestor in the Draper Manuscript Collection



What Will You Find?

Draper, in addition to recording history himself, requested that individuals write down their recollections and send them to him. He received a multitude of personal correspondence from family members, descendants, friends, neighbors and others who knew the stories and recollections from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the adventures of the settlers, pioneers and long hunters through the Trans-Allegheny West Region.

Here are some gems that you may find about your ancestors and relatives:

Lyman Copeland Draper – Carrie Anne Wilson-Woolverton

Lyman Copeland Draper

Memos - about The Long Hunters.

Haywood says, the larger part had gone to the settlements for supplies - 3 left to take care of the camp - that Indians came & robb^d the camp & destroyed the peltry, took two of the grand prisoners, & one (Hughes - probably David Hughes, instead of David Pinch) escaped.

Wickliffe says a part of the Long Hunters, never returned home.

Barbee says ^{about} ~~a part~~ ^{Ch. S. Siding & 24 others} broke off & returned home - & 2 were taken at the camp & never after heard of. ^{camp was robbed night Columbia} ~~Ch. S. Siding & 24 others~~ ^{1500 deer skins}

Marshall says there were originally "ab^t 40 stout hunters" - who upon returning, kill^d by Indians - were reduced to 9, of whom Ch. Knox was one: Notes on Ky by Knox, Seaggs & 7 others

Briggs says ^{while} Knox, Dysart & others were out hunting, their camp ~~was~~ ^{was} robb^d of skins & horses. - lives, no date.

McCormick says Knox, Dysart, W. Miller & others, had station camp on water, of Green River - 1500 deer skins - ~~at~~ ^{uncov^d} by bears & spoiled.

Originally "about 40 stout hunters."

^{about} ending of 24 ret ^d	25-
bleed ^d & Pinch ret^d	2-
left at camp	3-
<u>Knox</u> & 8 others	9
	39-

Spilman & McM ~~say~~ ^{say} the Long Hunters, camp was robb^d.

Dysart says the camp was visited &

Lyman Copeland Draper

That after the 40 hunters got into Ky, being
this party got tired of it, broke off & returned to
the settlements: 14 remained - 5 at camp, & 9
exploring: That 2 of the guard went to the settle-
ments, & the camp was attacked, & 2 of the
^{remaining} 3 taken - the other escaped to the settlements:
That the 9 returned - found their horses abt. 20 miles
off at a lick: That of these 9, Knory, Doyant,
Scagg, Miller, & Drake, Wm. Parker, Wm. Harmon

Haywood says it was in the fall the long hunters started
on their hunt - made their winter camp & skin house
on Russell's Creek - that Russell got lost (to this Doyant connects)
winter rather severe - in Feb. the main body returned to the
settlements - abt. Apr. camp robbed - I say April, as Haywood
says the man who escaped met the returning hunters in Russell's
valley, & they came out to Ky, & reached the camp in May - found
the dogs there in a wild state - & that they kept on to the
French Lick region.

Length of Long Hunt: Wickliffe says 12 months - Doyant 11 - Sawille
9 - & Haywood something less - & Barber 2 years. About 11 months
I sh. say was the probable period of their absence of Knory &
his companions.

Lyman Copeland Draper

Year of Song Hunters Trip. - Marshall Nicholiffe, on authority
 but believe's Aug 1770
 of Col. Knox, since the year 1770 - Mr. Doyart says 1769 or 70; but
 on Ky says 1769 - Haywood says 1771, in the fall: I take it for
 granted it was in the fall they started, & I think it was in
 1770 - such was Col. Knox's statement, & he was a man of much
 intelligence. In Haywood, p. 75^{re} it is said (on authority of
 John Rains, as I have been reliably informed), that Rains,
 Mauseo, John Baker, Jo. Drake & others went in June
 1769 on a hunting trip to Cumberland Gap, thence over Cumberland
 river into Western Tenn. - a part of the party returned in
 Apr 1770: The rest (as Draper) - Mauseo, Baker & others
 descended the Cumberland to Natchez - Haywood (Rains
 authority) says, in 1770, & Mauseo said in 1769: Haywood says
 Mauseo was sick at Natchez from May till Nov - then went
 home to New River by land via Georgia: I presume Mauseo may
 have left Rains party in latter part of 69, & did not probably
 remain so long sick as represented: that he got back to
 New River in time to go out - as did Baker & Drake,
 in the fall of 1770 - for Baker returned from Natchez with
 Mauseo. Both Rains & Mauseo's chronology show
 conclusively to my mind, that Drake, Mauseo & Baker
 were hunting in West Tenn. from June 1769 till into
 1770; & as they were part of the Song Hunters, it follows
 that the Song Hunters could not have gone out
 in the fall of 1769.

From Boone's narrative it appears that he & his brother
 explored the ^{Cumberland} Green River country in the fall of 1770 & probably
 during winter, & ret. home ^{to the} March 1771. Col. Mauseo told
 both Col. Geo. Smith & E. P. Conwell of Tenn., that on that trip to
 the Green river he encountered Daniel Boone; & Mr. Leavill's
 letter says that his grandfather Wm. Miller, one of the Song Hunters, used
 to say they met Boone, ^{in Col. P. Boone's letter in 1766} this must have been in the

Lyman Copeland Draper

They all readily agreed to the proposition so they put their packs into the Skinhouse fastened them up to keep the Warmin from destroying any of them and thence a day when all was to be back to the Station Camp, when they returned they found their all destroyed the Indians had been there had carryed off all they could and had cut and destroyed what they could not take away then a consultation took place they could not think of going home empty finding they still had plenty of powder and lead it was unanimously agreed that they would renew their hunt accordingly they hunted then in good earnest untill they made up their loads of skins they started for home all safe after an absence of eleven Months they all arrived at home in good health living all that time on wild meat alone without bread or salt I have often heard my Father say he never had enjoyed such uninterrupted good health ^{in his life} I have heard as he did the whole time of this hunt the whole party enjoyed good health none of the party was sick one

Lyman Copeland Draper

more of the party was sick one
man had a spell of Rheumatism in his knee which
prevented him from hunting for a little while
I have heard my father say that himself and one of his
comrades was out hunting they came across a buffalo
path that was much traveled they concluded to
follow it and see where it went to accordingly they
went on until their path increased until it got
to be a big road finally they come to the place
that had attracted them they got on the top of
a little knob where they could see all over the field
they was Buffalo Elk Bear deer and wild turkeys
it was impossible to tell the number but they thought
there was severall thousands all of a sudden they
took a fright and run off making a noise
resembling thunder they then went into the
lick and found that the animals had eat away
small hills many places there was holes in the
ground where a Buffalo could go entirely in

Lyman Copeland Draper

60³ Another ^{incident} incident happened to him one day as he was hunting alone he came to where there was two large trees which grew from one coat they had fell different directions which made a passway between the coats of the trees it being in his course he thought he would go through the opening just as he got into the narrow pass he met a large Bear they were so close together before the discovery each other that neither could retreat. The Bear instantly raised on his hind feet and layed hold of ^{him} ~~my~~ ^{Lyman} with both paws he being very strong and frightened he made a powerfull push against the bear that throwed him back on his back taking a part of his coat with him. The bear instantly raised to his feet stand and eyed him untill he raised his gun and shot him the Bear fell and he was relieved from his fright, I think it was in the year 1775 he married and settled on little holdstain about ten miles from Abingdon the Revolutionary war broke out the next year he took part with the whigs and was on

Lyman Copeland Draper

... year in each year with the whigs and was an
active he was appointed captain of a militia company
Served several campaigns was wounded in the battle
of Kings Mountain which made him a cripple for life
rendering his left hand nearly useless he was promoted
to Major and afterwards to Colonel which office he held
a long time he was appointed a justice of the peace and
served one ^{one term as high Sheriff of the County and} year in the Legislature of Virginia he was
naturally a warm hearted man (as the Irish generally are) he
not deny a friend a favour which was in his power to do
he was called on frequently to go security which hardly
would deny at length he endorsed for two Merchants who
failed and left him a large sum to pay not being able
to raise the money otherwise he was compelled to sell his
land where he lived out of the wreck he saved enough
to pay for 1500 acres of poor land in Kentucky Limestone
he moved with his family a wife & 6 children (3 sons &
3 daughters) and settled on his land in Kentucky in the year
of 1803 where he lived ~~until the year~~ in obscurity until
his death which happened in the year 1817

... on his land in Kentucky in the
of 1803 where he lived ~~until the year~~ in obscurity until
his death which happened in the year 1817

Happy hunting!

Carrie Anne Wilson-Woolverton
BFRG Researcher

Honeycrek2@aol.com



Lyman Copeland Draper – Carrie Anne Wilson-Woolverton

Burleson Cousins Bring History to Life by



BFRGs own JD Burleson dedicated a day out of his August to participate in a Fire Lock and Black Powder safety training with the Over Mountain Victory Trail Association. That group presents live action portrayals of Colonial soldiers making their way to key locations to resist British forces during the Revolutionary War. Ultimately that culminated in the Battle at Kings Mountain, an epic conflict that was a turning point in that struggle. These modern day re-enactors help over 25,000 elementary school students gain understanding of the rigors experienced during that historic period. They are also involved in educational presentations at state and national parks. JD was singled out to add a week to his service with the group to help with youth presentations in Virginia. The “Trail” makes stops in Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee. In addition to training such as this, “storytelling” is an integral portion of their training.



Two other BFRG researchers involve themselves in live portrayals of historic characters. Susanne Hollyfield as Volley Burleson Owen and Carrie Anne Woolverton as Jane Owen McDaniel are brought to life at various Burleson reunions and genealogy forums. Those characters were daughter and granddaughter of General Edward Murray Burleson, frontiersman, military leader and vice president of the Republic of Texas.



Search for Burleson Cemetery

By: JD Burleson

We (JD and Larry Burleson, Gary Forbes) of the BFRG have made four trips to Bakersville, Mitchell County, NC looking for information and whereabouts of the grave for Thomas (Daunt)& Margaret Jane Greene Burleson. Finding this cemetery on our own proved impossible.

Then with the help of cousins on our “Cousining” facebook page we finally found it. First we contacted Dr Rev Branton Burleson, originally from Bat Cave, NC, now living in Asheville. (BRANTON DR REV¹¹ BURLESON (FRANK LEONARD¹⁰, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (FRANK)⁹, GENERAL SHERMAN⁸, THOMAS B⁷, JAMES⁶, THOMAS (DAUNT)⁵, AARON⁴, JONATHAN³, JOHN², EDWARD¹) was born 1978, and LIVING. He married JESSICA GODWIN. She was born 1984, and LIVING).



He was scheduled to meet us in Hawk, NC at Cain Creek Cemetery. He had a scheduling problem, and he gave us the phone number for his uncle Howard Burleson, who we went to see, he was mowing his yard and was kind enough to stop and talk with us. He was able to tell the approximate location. He said that the cemetery was next to an old chicken house and but that land mark was long gone. The chicken house belonged to Roe Woody, Bruce’s father.

Because the cemetery was on private property and back in the woods we started knocking on doors and finally were able to find the owner of the property the cemetery was on, but he wasn’t home. We did find out that his father was Bruce Woody, so we had to go find him. He was very helpful and took us to the cemetery.

1270 Staggerweed Road, Hawk, Mitchell Co, NC, July 15, 2023
Larry Burleson, Gary Forbes with JD Burleson



There was a Thomas Burleson’s marker here, but it was a stone for Thomas Daunt Burleson’s grandson and wife.

Bruce told us that when he was 10 his family moved here, 60 years ago. He had a grandmother who told many stories about the cemetery and another cemetery where the slaves were buried. She told to always be respectful of these were Hallowed Grounds. She related an story about an uncle of his that removed all the field stones that marked the graves and replaced them with wooden cross, he thought that was best. Well the wooden crosses are gone and all that is left the grass area in the back of the cemetery. Bruce said there were at least 25 stone in the grass area and many more back in the wood line.

Bruce pointed to 4 land marks, peaks and said that all the area between them was Thomas “Daunt” Burleson’s original land grant, and all the area now belongs to descendants of him. This land was never sold it was passed down to his descendants.

We are hoping with further research and possibly help from cousins in the area we will discover who the unmarked graves belong to.

This picture taken years ago, got it off of Find A Grave,

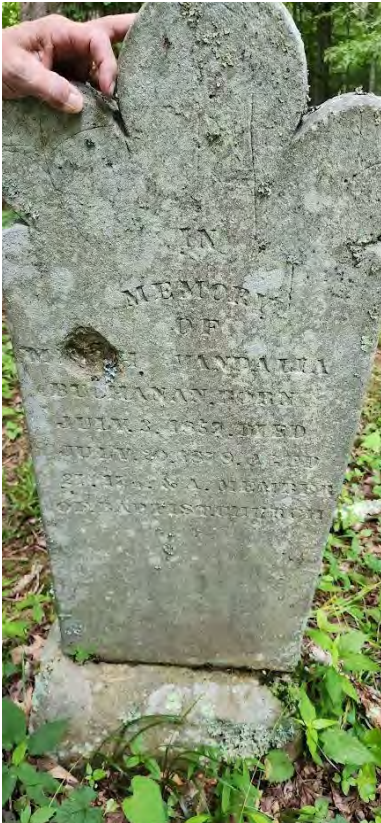
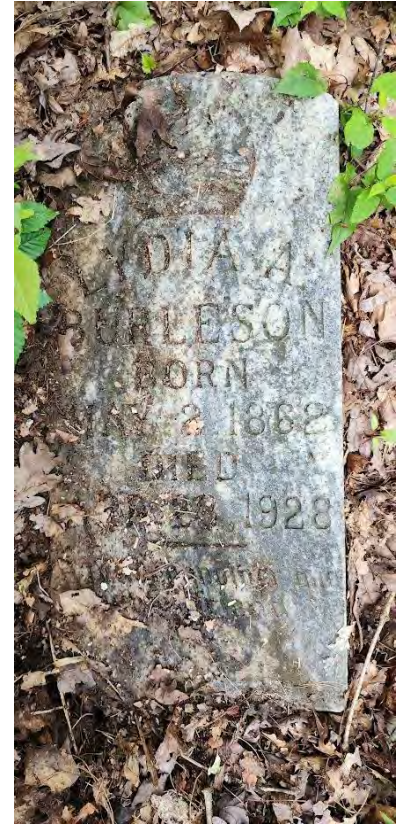
and this Picture taken Saturday July, 15, 2023



THOMAS JEFFERSON (DON)⁷ BURLESON (*AARON (BIG AARON)⁶, THOMAS (DAUNT)⁵, AARON⁴, JONATHAN³, JOHN², EDWARD¹*) was born 09 Apr 1809 in Cane Creek, Mitchell Co., North Carolina, and died 01 Feb 1896 in North Carolina FAG#11304373. He married (1) SUSANNAH HANNAH MASTERS. She was born 1815, and died 1893. He married (2) ? Abt. 1836. He married (3) LYDIA ELIZA WISEMAN 1839. She was born 05 May 1820 in Burke Co., North Carolina, and died 31 Dec 1916 in Cane Creek, Mitchell Co., North Carolina FAG#11304382.



WILLIAM C.⁸ BURLESON
 (THOMAS JEFFERSON (DON)⁷,
 AARON (BIG AARON)⁶,
 THOMAS (DAUNT)⁵, AARON⁴,
 JONATHAN³, JOHN², EDWARD¹)
 was born 20 Feb 1852 in Yancy Co.
 North Carolina, and died 26 Feb
 1939 in Cane Creek, Mitchell Co.,
 NC FAG#13399383. He married
 LYDIA ADALAIDE MCKINNEY
 20 Aug 1880 in Mitchell Co, North
 Carolina. She was born 02 May 1862
 in North Carolina, and died 28 Apr
 1928 in Cane Creek, Mitchell Co.,
 NC 13399400.



Mirah died soon after the birth of her son Jeff.

MIRAH VASDALIA⁸ BURLESON (THOMAS JEFFERSON (DON)⁷,
 AARON (BIG AARON)⁶, THOMAS (DAUNT)⁵, AARON⁴, JONATHAN³, JOHN²,
 EDWARD¹) was born 03 Jul 1857 in North Carolina, and died 20 Jul 1878 in
 North Carolina FAG#140647269. She married WILLIAM AARON BUCHANAN
 17 Oct 1873 in Mitchell Co, North Carolina. He was born 03 Mar 1853 in
 North Carolina, and died 03 Apr 1930 in FAG#44451279.

Children of MIRAH BURLESON and WILLIAM BUCHANAN are:

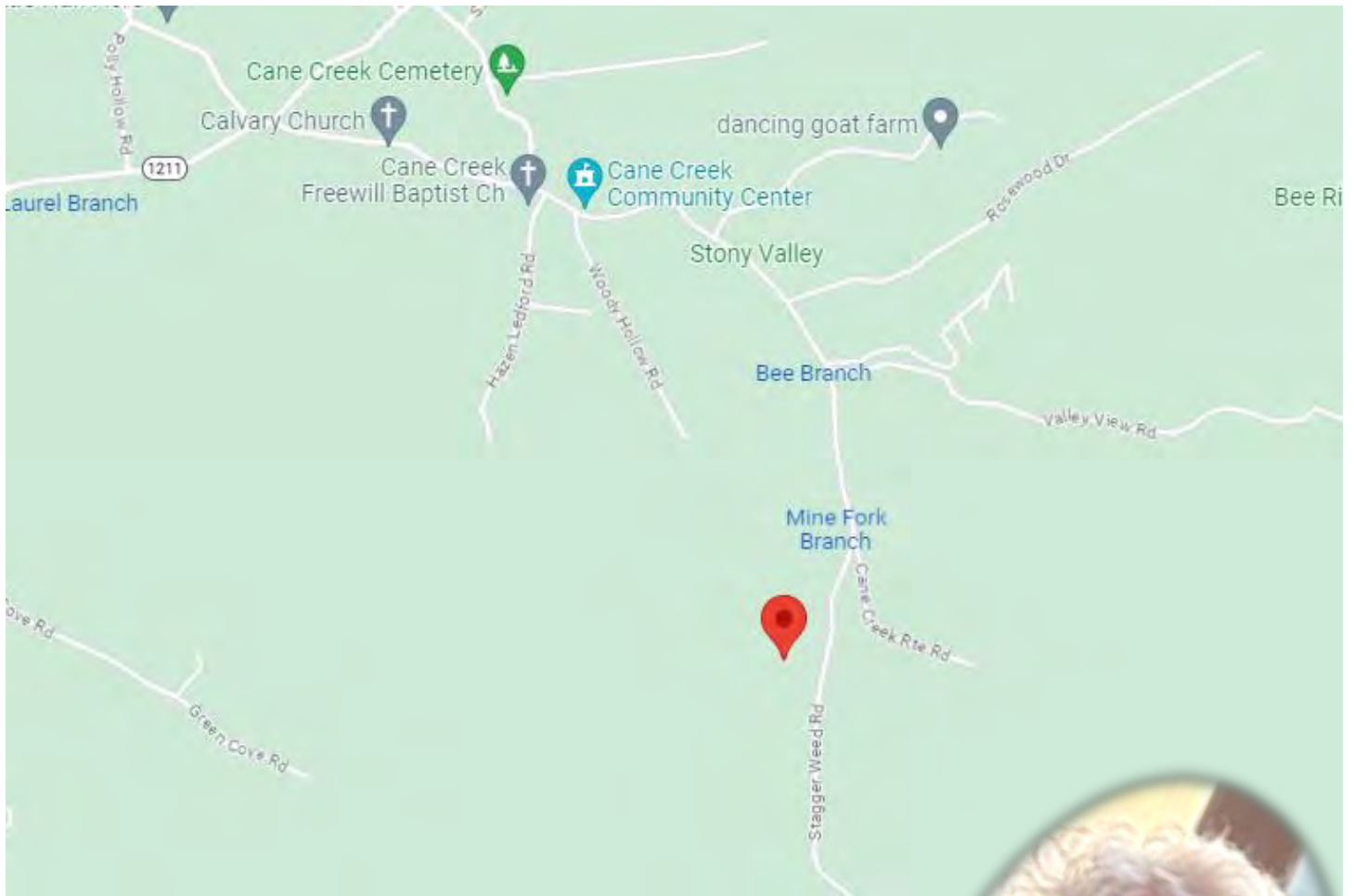
- i. ANNA⁹
 BUCHANAN, b. 13 Jan 1873,
 North Carolina.
- ii. ELMORE
 BUCHANAN, b. Sep 1873,
 North Carolina; d. 25 Jul 1905;
 m. HARRIETT GREENE; b.
 1874; d. 1956.
- iii Jeff Buchanan,
 b 1878



WILLIAM AARON BUCHANAN:
 Burial: PITTMAN CEMETERY, Spear, Avery Co, North
 Carolina

WILLIAM M (BILL)⁷ BURLESON (*AARON (BIG AARON)*)⁶, *THOMAS (DAUNT)*⁵, *AARON*⁴, *JONATHAN*³, *JOHN*², *EDWARD*¹) was born 10 May 1813 in Burke Co., North Carolina, and died 30 May 1878 in CANE CREEK, NC FAG#13067785. He married HANNAH POOR. She was born 10 May 1813 in North Carolina, and died 1878 in FAG#13067807.





Special Thanks goes to Cousin Rhonda Gunter, (descendant of Thomas “Daunt” & Margaret Jane Greene Burleson) of the Mitchell County Historical Society for all her help over the last 4 years that we have been researching. When Jim Burleson first started looking for his great grandfather, Asa Sylvester Burleson, it was Rhonda that that provided a family tree that got him started on this great adventure.



Special Thanks goes to Marsha Biddix office manager of the Mitchell County Historical Society, for all her help over the last 4 years that we have been researching this part of North Carolina. Marsha Biddix lives in Spruce Pine with her husband, David, and children Amanda, James and Olivia.

Both assist the board of directors with various projects in its mission to preserve Mitchell County’s heritage.



This historic property in Mitchell County, NC is one that offers continued promise for additional finds. The area along the tree line just past the stone closest to the dog is believed to be full of unmarked graves of 18th and 19th century members of the family of Thomas Daunt Burleson. At one point crude field stones marked individual burials. Those stones were removed over time and replaced with wooden crosses. The natural time and weather events caused decay of the wood; they are all gone and grown over.

Grant and other land records strongly indicate this is the likely final resting spots for Thomas & Margaret Jane. Many other close family, more distant family and slaves of other area residents are said to be there.

Our team will revisit this land many times very soon. The cooperation of current owner, Bruce Woody is greatly appreciated. Over the centuries this land was passed down and/or purchased by Burleson, Greene and Woody families. Using land records, modern mapping techniques, stopping neighbors on riding lawn mowers and even chasing anecdotal stories of “graves near a chicken house”, the BFRG will stop at nothing to find the whereabouts of our ancestors.



JD Burleson
BFRG Researcher
bfrginfo@gmail.com

GOING HOME: AN ADVENTURE IN ENGLAND

Genetic Repatriation

London

This journey began on Iceland Air from Seattle to London. I was delighted to see that we flew North of night, as the sun does not set this time of year at this latitude!



There was the landmark dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, the seat of the Bishop of London! My 11th great grandfather, John Aylmer (1521-1594), was one of those Bishops. When the church was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, my 8th great-grandfather Salvatore Musco (1624-1715) was a stonecutter in Sicily. Musco went to England to work with Sir Christopher Wren to rebuild the Cathedral. His daughter married an Englishman and they came to the Colonies.

I no longer felt alone.

My goal on this trip was not to convert money to pounds, but to tap-pay with credit card as Brits do, and to use trains and coaches for transportation, also as Brits do. I did not need coinage, and only needed one taxi!

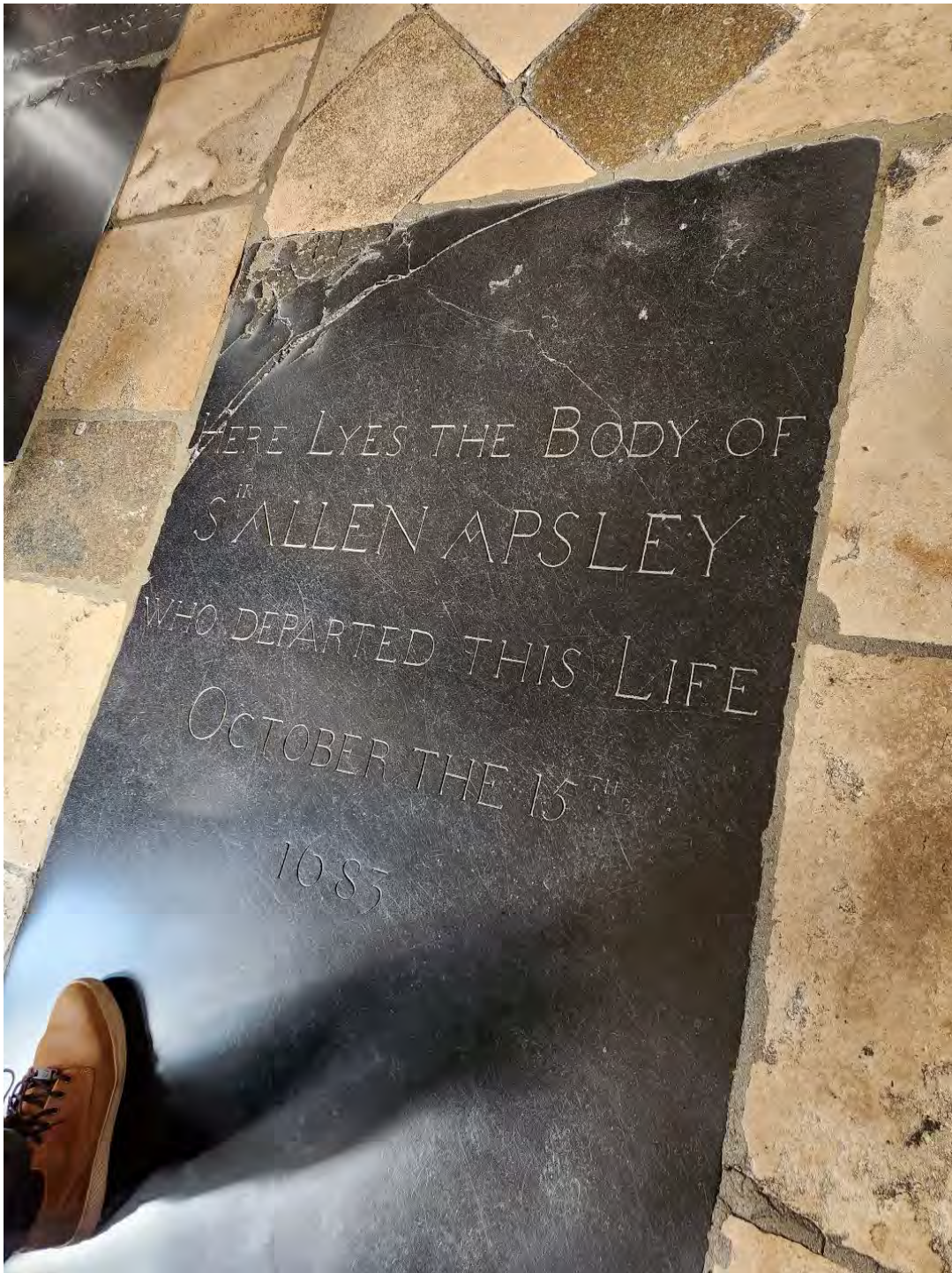
Upon arrival in London, I found my hotel and learned my room was eighty (80) steps UP (and I was pulling 45 pounds of luggage). It was tiny, perhaps once an attic closet. Looking out its window, though, I had to laugh.



Adventurous on day two, I figured out how to take a bus to central London to go to Westminster Abbey. I was hoping to snag a verger tour that would go to more selected places than the regular tours did. Luckily, there was one ticket left!



I was especially interested to see the Apsley graves, four there in the Abbey. I had followed my maternal lines in my ancestry tree (my mother, her mother, her mother, and so on) and came to my 8th great-grandmother Lucy Apsley, born in the Tower of London (1620-1681) because her father Allen was Lieutenant of the Tower. The Apsley family strongly supported Charles I. Lucy was precocious, fluent in several languages, but married John Hutchinson, a regicide, who signed the death warrant for King Charles I. She published four books. I actually found one on amazon.com, a short biography of her life and a history of her husband (1615-1664) who was locked away for his deeds and died in a damp dungeon. What family dynamics! (Fast forward: Hutchinsons were such an influential family, King Charles II offered Lucy's grandson, Dr. Charles Hutchinson, 35,000 acres in South Carolina if he would pack up and get out of England. The good doctor did just that and was the first physician in Charleston.)



This Allen Apsley is the brother of my 8th grandmother Lucy.

The tour included visiting the tombs and effigies of Edward I (1239-1307) and his Queen Eleanor or Castille, ancient grandparents of mine. It was a lot to comprehend how long ago that was, and what parade of descendants had come to see them in a thousand years. I was truly boggled as I had difficulty figuring out the bus back to the hotel. I got off way too early and had miles to walk along Hyde Park!

Ligon Family and Kindred Association

A trip five years in the planning, the Ligon Family and Kindred Association (a documented lineage group) undertook their pilgrimage to Madresfield Court in Great Malvern, UK. With member cousins on both sides of the pond, the English Lygons invite their American Ligon cousins to visit their ancient home site every ten years. Some in this group have been multiple times! Covid delayed this event until summer, 2023. My first and second cousins, Sharon and Aaron, joined me for these few days. We three worked for two and a half years on our Jamestown application for this never-before-proven line to this gateway ancestor Rev. Edward Foliott, Ligon descendant.



Madresfield Court is a moated stately home which has been in the Lygon family for nearly 900 years and is currently home to the 29th generation of that family. My 11th great-grandfather, William Lygon (about 1512-1567), is the great-grandfather of Rev. Edward Foliott, my Jamestown ancestor, and also of the early VA Governor William Berkeley. However, I am triple related to him: twice through daughter Katherine's offspring and once more through his son Hugh. The ancestral line goes directly through William the Conqueror, the Barons of the Magna Carta, and Charlemagne, crowned in the year 800.

As the four busses of cousins pulled up at Madresfield, the master of the house rushed out and shook everyone's hand, saying, "Hello, I'm John. Come on inside!" The staff was lined up as the group went in (just as you have seen in the movies), and the family was also in a receiving line to greet us and ask us questions about our names and where we came from. There were about one hundred of Americans and about fifty-five of English cousins. They showed us many rooms in that immense home, where one family still resides. Over the next couple of days, they would intermingle easily with us and engage in extended conversations at lunch, on tours, and at our formal dinner. Very friendly, they honestly seemed like our cousins! It was heartwarming to feel so connected.



We all had lunch there in a huge tent. One of the Lygons sat with our three-cousin group and we enjoyed lively conversation about his work and the state of the world. We felt so at home.

On Sunday, we all went to St. Leonard's for church, where the family had gone for generations. One of Lygons' frequent visitors was Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934), the musician and composer. (He is widely known for Pomp and Circumstance, played for every class of graduates as they file in for diplomas.) His music was selected for part of the service, The Enigma Variations. The rector commented that he had never conducted a service where everyone in the congregation was related!





When the services were over, the American Lygons planted a tree in the churchyard for the English cousins.

It was just a short trip through the rolling country to Berkeley Castle.

The imposing structure was the last home of Edward II, held there as a political captive and mysteriously murdered in 1327. The Berkeley family was prominent and powerful, cousins to Lygons, whose descendant William Berkeley was the Colonial Governor of Virginia. (During his tenure as Governor was Bacon's Rebellion, an armed rebellion by Virginia settlers took place from 1676 to 1677. It was led by Nathaniel Bacon against Governor William Berkeley, after Berkeley refused Bacon's request to drive Native Americans out of Virginia. Following Bacon's Rebellion, Berkeley ordered the first execution of an American martyr, Thomas Hansford, for his part in the rebellion. Thomas's father John was my 8th great-grandfather.)

Cousins killing cousins.

That evening, the English Lygons hosted a formal farewell dinner for our final evening together. There were two at each table to further "getting to know all about you." The warmest of feelings and good will for all.



On My Own

I left this group and struck out on my own agenda. By train, I went cross country to the Dales.



For several years, I'd watched the PBS serial movie *All Creatures Great and Small*, filmed in Grassington, Yorkshire (aka Darrowby in the movie). By train, I loved seeing the geography change, watching the Brits in their daily routines, and observing in general their lifestyle and manner. Having read, and loved, the veterinarian James Harriott's book, of the same name as the series (several times!), visiting the Dales was compelling to me. I come from a rural island and could not wait to visit this bucolic place. Many of my ancestors came from Yorkshire.





This is exactly what the movie shows every episode. The vet clinic's path to the pub!

After a night at a delightful and quaint B&B, I was off to the north again, across the Dales and Fells to Durham, UK, the northern site of Viking invasions and massive wars. I have long wanted to see Durham Cathedral, the best example of Norman architecture in the world, and I was going to stay in Durham Castle! (It has housed University of Durham since 1837, and every summer has a few student rooms to let. Aha, I had one.)



The Castle and Cathedral are a World Heritage Site.

Through the Porter's Gate, across the green, up 40 steps to my room in the castle. I wondered about all who had come here, fought here, died here since 1072. I cannot imagine that time so long ago. Yes, it rained cats and dogs!

My room is in there somewhere. Don't let the hoards in! The large windows to the right of the door are in the Great Hall. There seemed to be few limits on where I could go! How about getting lost?





At the other end of this hall were twenty-six suits of armor along the end wall. How many dinners here, how many deals done over the twelve hundreds of years?

Across the green was the very famous Durham Cathedral that I'd studied in college. What a magnificent space!

I went to evening vespers to hear the organ and choir in that voluminous space of sandstone.



Here I'm in such awe of this ancient space. No words.



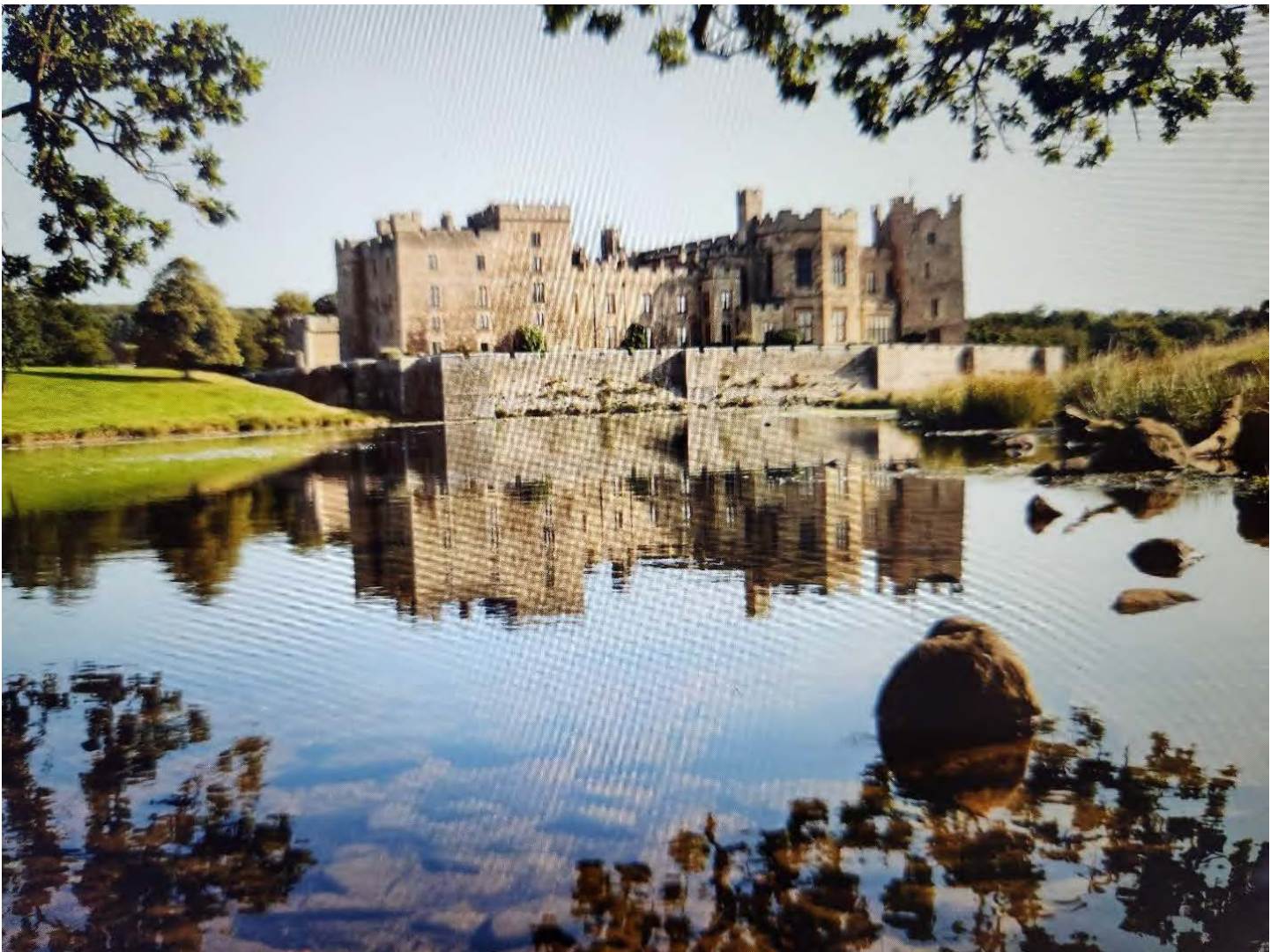
My long-ago great grandfather John Neville (1328-1388) is entombed a few feet away.

The Nevilles and Percys were wealthy and powerful northern families, with castles and land. Rivals, they eventually combined to produce future kings and queens of England.

I so wanted to see where he lived, in the castle he owned.

Out across the countryside about 30 miles from Durham, Raby Castle loomed through driving rain! It is one of the most impressive and intact castles in the world. The outer walls are from 11th century. The family lost it to Queen Elizabeth I in the 1569 Northern Uprising.

Again, there seemed to be quite a bit of leeway where one could explore. For a few minutes, I did get *very* turned around in its maze of hallways, kitchens, and so many rooms. It is huge! I wondered if Great Grandpa John Neville actually walked it all in its entirety. After all, he owned nearby Brancepeth Castle also, and who knows what else?





As I looked over this corner of defense, I thought over the wars and people that struggled here. Angst on both sides of troops advancing and troops defending. The cries, anguish, blood, now lost in history and green grass. Impending rain here heightening a sense of urgency.

What stories remain untold?

Now it was time to get to Newcastle for a flight to London to connect with reality again, and fly home.

Reflections

These destinations were on my bucket list after working on my ancestry tree for a decade and a half. I found the places quite personal to me. I wanted to see what my ancestors saw, walk where they walked, hear what they heard. I wanted to learn more of their trials and their stories. I did feel it was a repatriation of DNA.

I have been reading [Albion's Seed, Four British Folkways in America](#) by David Hackett Fischer. You can look up a review of it in [amazon.com](#) to understand the premise of the author that makes so much sense to me. The old country came with our ancestors to these shores. Some remains today. I needed to see the old country.

Although you have read through my own family lines, YOU have stories in your family lines too. Every one of us has ancestors that lived in the 1500s, 1300s, and way beyond, back in time. ***They successfully ensured that you would be here reading this today!*** I encourage each of you to find those stories of your own ancestors. You will find a world of history in their efforts. You will find surprises you cannot imagine, tragedies and monumental achievements, and little things that made a difference in their day. If you take your tree back about twelve generations, you will have over four thousand grandmas and grandpas! What were they doing?

Many records may be incomplete or missing. Explore a different line in that case. Your own story waits for you to find it. You will have to look for proofs and documentation along the way. There are lots of erroneous trees "out there" that seem desperately wanting to connect to somebody in particular, maybe famous or somehow desirable. You really have to do your own documentation.

As I also come from a long line of Hills, I found a book a few years ago, [From a Prince to a Slave](#) by Webster Gregg. The White Hills and the Black Hills have been brought together in central Texas by this history. The Burleson Family Research Group (BFRG) is pursuing this avenue in reaching out to our present- day black cousins.

You may find family associations to help you along the way as I did with the Ligon Family. (BFRG is another one too!) That is more validation of your own work and discovery, and can be so rewarding on its own.

I wish you well on your journey. You can reach out to us at BFRG for assistance or direction. Your results can be very rewarding when you get to the Old World and see what a difference your ancestors made!

Good luck to you all!

Susanne Hollyfield **BFRG**
Langley, WA
August 2023

hollyfield@whidbey.com



Descendants of William Carolina Burleson, Sr.



William Carolina Burleson, known as W.C. Sr., was born in Hillsboro, Newton County, Mississippi to Nathaniel Marion and Mary Louisa Walters Burleson on July 27, 1855. He was the first-born son in marriage but unknown to his descendants that he had an older brother born out of wedlock, Pete Burleson, who was raised by other family members before his adventure west.



Pete Burleson, 1847-1925, twice sheriff of Colfax County, friend of John and Clay Allison. Courtesy Sandra Sabourin.

W.C. married Miranda Eugenia Gardner of Georgia on December 31, 1874 in Decatur, Mississippi. In their first year of marriage, they welcomed their first child Nathaniel Marion, namesake grandfather N.M., on Oct 12, 1875. Sometime over the next two years W.C. and Eugenie traveled to Texas with the Gardner family. By September 1877, they had arrived in Van Zandt, Texas where Eugenie gave birth to their second son, William Carolina, namesake father W.C., on September 29, 1877. W.C. had many talents, however; he supported his family as a mule trader, blacksmith, and farmer. Over the next several years W.C. and Eugenie continued to travel across Texas giving birth to three more children; George Lafayette, namesake half-brother George and stepfather Lafayette, born on April 29, 1880, in Falls County, Texas, Harriet Elizabeth, born September 25, 1882, in Eddy, McLennon County, Texas and James Chancellor, namesake Uncle J.C, born on September 1, 1885, in Coryell, Texas. William and Eugenie spent most of their final days near their family. W.C. Sr. died on January 2, 1917, in Clyde, Callahan County, Texas, leaving his property to his wife Eugenie and his son W.C. Jr., executor of his will. W.C. Sr. is buried in Clyde Cemetery, Clyde, Texas where he lived at the time of his death. After his death Eugenie moved to Tuscola, Taylor County, Texas to live with W.C. Jr. and his wife Leona where she lived the remainder of her life. She died on March 11, 1940, of Arteriosclerosis and is buried in Tuscola Cemetery, Tuscola, Texas, where many of her descendants will follow.



William Carolina Burleson, Jr.



WILLIAM CAROLINA BURLESON, JR.

William Carolina Burleson Jr., known as Will, was born on September 29, 1877, in Van Zandt, Texas. Will grew up and followed in his father's footsteps. He dabbled in many things; however, he began his life as a mule trader and farmer. On August 8, 1897, Will married Mamie Leona Preston near Clifton, Texas. After farming for a year with her parents the couple moved to Dublin, Texas, where he specialized in shoeing racehorses.



THE BURLESON HOME IN OPLIN, TEXAS

Will and Leona welcomed their first son, Clarence Arthur, on June 16, 1898. Four years later they added a daughter Alma Lee, born July 4, 1902. Shortly before moving, Will and Leona welcomed their third child James Alton, born on September 7, 1904. They lived on a farm near Clifton until 1905, when they moved north of Oplin. While in Oplin they welcomed three more children, Tessie Loraine on Jan 7, 1907, Asenith on November 16, 1909, and Kenneth Homer on December 29, 1911. While visiting family their seventh child Beatrice Vondall was born in Clyde on June 18, 1914. In 1916, Will and Leona moved to Tuscola, Taylor County, Texas to a farm owned by T.P. Powell, east of Tuscola. On January 2, 1917, Leona gave birth to her eighth and final child, Marguerite Allene, in Tuscola. They later bought a farm east of where they had been living in Tuscola.

Will loved his chewing tobacco. He would harness his mule and head to the field, working long days with few breaks. One day he stopped, and Jenny, the mule, emptied her bladder down the front of his overalls. He threatened his son Authur, who witnessed the mishap, that he better not tell anyone. The funny thing is, Will kept his tobacco in the pocket of his overalls. Arthur said, "all the way to the field there was chewing tobacco spat out." Seems Jenny added a new flavor to Will's chew. Most farmers had one payday a year once the cotton was harvested. Therefore, Will diversified his farming and grew cotton, maize, wheat, and oats, as well as raised chickens, turkeys, cattle, and hogs.

Will was known for showing his true heart to strangers. One winter a wagon pulled up to the farm with a widow and her children looking for someplace to get out of the weather. Well, the Burleson home was bursting out full of children. Will informed her there was an empty house down the road. Will sent one of the boys to show her the way. Will then went into the smokehouse and gathered meat and Leona sacked up dry goods; flour, sugar, and other things the widow might need. The other boys loaded up firewood into the wagon and took all the goods to the widow and her children. The family stayed warm and fed the rest of the winter. People truly took care of each other back then. Will had his caring side, but he was also a man not to mess with. One day he caught his brother-in-law Jim Thurman, a womanizer, hitting on Leona. Will ran Jim out of town and took care of his sister-in-law Ninnah. Will's caring for his family did not stop there. Will took in his brother George's children, Dorothy and

Lonnie, for a time as well. Will and Leona only shared about six weeks together alone in their house as a married couple. They were always taking care of the family.

Will and Leona were a very progressive couple. They had one of the first Delco Systems in the county that supplied electricity to the house. They were among the first to have water piped into the house as well. As the family grew, so did the garden and the house, plus everyone worked on the farm. As soon as the older children were old enough to know what a weed was and could aim a hoe, they were put to work in the garden or cotton patch. In 1940, their daughter Tessie died of Syphilis. They fought and won custody of her son Don Vickery from her husband and his parents, as he was ill as well. In 1947, Will and Leona sold the farm and moved to the city of Tuscola. The Burleson's were all members of the Tuscola First Baptist Church. Leona died on May 1, 1949, of liver cancer and was buried near her mother in Tuscola Cemetery. Will continued to raise his grandson Don, while working as a carpenter and plumber after retiring from farming. When the First Baptist Church was remodeled, Will helped build the steeple. Leona's funeral was the first held in the new church. Will continued to contribute to the community and served as Constable for many years. Alton finally convinced him to retire as Constable and let a younger man take the job. Will was only 80 when he retired. Once retired, he continued to support his family. He and an old maid schoolteacher were sponsors for his grandson Don's Senior trip to Mexico and Galveston. He never slowed down.



He spent his widowed years joining his children on vacations. Wanda Sue remembers him joining them on vacation to San Marcos Aquarium. He rode the glass bottom boat but would not ride the submarine. He went to Galveston and enjoyed fishing in the Gulf of Mexico and swimming and playing in the surf. The next year they went to Brownwood Lake. One day, everyone but Will was in the cabin when suddenly everyone heard a splash.

They ran to the dock, where they found Will dog paddling around the corner heading to the bank. After that he wore a lifejacket when he was on the deck. On one trip to visit Alton's family, Will noticed the peach trees were full of peaches. Will woke by 7am and began picking peaches. Vivian told him he did not need to pick them, however he replied, "I want to go home in the near future and I'm not leaving until the peaches are processed, canned, or frozen."

As a big family man, Will would have many potlucks. The men would sit at the tables, the children on the back porch and the women stood in the kitchen. Through all the adventures Will had with his family, he also had his routines. Every



THE W. C. BURLESON, JR FAMILY
FRONT ROW: TOTS, HOMER, ALLENE
BACK ROW: TESSIE ALTON ALMA WILL, ARTHUR
LEONA

morning he would have a hot toddy and a beer around 5pm every night. All the family knew that there better be a cold beer in the fridge when Will reached for it. So, if anyone drank his beer they better replace it. If his blood pressure got too high he would get nose bleeds. No one wanted to upset him. Later in his life Will would go deer hunting. If the weather were mild he would just wear a windbreaker, but if he did not get his deer he would continue into the colder weather until he got his doe. One year he almost got pneumonia because he would not give up.

Will was also a modest man and believed the basic values of life. On one visit to Alton's, he was able to see Wanda Sue's formal dress she was making. While Vivian was pinning the hem, Will told Wanda Sue that "I will give you twenty dollars for material if you will put a collar on the dress." A beautiful dress with modesty for a young lady.

In 1969, Will fell and broke his leg at the young age of 91, and would never walk again and could no longer live alone. He moved to the nursing home in Baird, Texas to be near his children. To keep Will comfortable, the doctor prescribed a hot toddy in the morning, however he slept most of the day so they would just color the water instead, so he thought he got a drink. On April 18, 1970, Will died of Myocardial Infarction due to Arteriosclerosis and was later buried next to his wife Leona in Tuscola Cemetery.

Clarence Arthur Burleson

Clarence Arthur, known as Arthur, moved his family to Baird, Texas, where he served as Water Superintendent for the city for 31 years before his retirement in 1971. Arthur was highly active in the Baird community serving as a charter member of the West Texas Water Association and Baird Lions Club. He was active in the First Baptist Church of Baird and volunteered with the Baird Meals on Wheels Program and the Baird Senior Citizens Nutrition Center. Arthur married Mattie Ammelia Maschek on Feb 15, 1919. Arthur and Mattie had four children; Nina Mae born Jan 21, 1920 (married Clarence Charles Hamilton), Clarence Arthur Jr. born November 30, 1921, and died May 9, 1944, during World War II in Belgium, Helen Lee born November 20, 1923 (married Albert Vernon Curtis Jr.) and Forest Leon, known as Sonny, born November 29, 1929 (married 1st Katie Swafford and 2nd Barbara Ooley). Mattie died on July 29, 1940, and was buried at Tuscola Cemetery. Arthur later married Vernon Lucille Yeager on December 4, 1944, adding two stepchildren, Gene and Glenda, who he helped raise as one of his own. Clarence lived a long life, dying at the age of 90 on December 31, 1988, of natural causes and was buried alongside his second wife Vernon in Ross Cemetery in Baird Texas.



CLARENCE ARTHUR BURLESON
VERNON LUCILLE ROBerson YEAGER BURLESON



Alma Lee Burleson Williams

Alma Lee married Dewey Williams on March 24, 1920. Alma always had a huge garden and large chicken house with several chickens. She canned her vegetables and got fruit for her jelly from berry farms. Being the oldest of daughter of Will and Leona she was seen as the matriarch after Leona death. Alma and Dewey had two children, Inez Aletha born August 16, 1921 (married Thomas A Tucker) and Bobby Dee born February 20, 1927.

Alma died on June 15, 1983, and was buried alongside her husband Dewey in Tuscola cemetery. On August 16, 2021, the city of Abilene celebrated Inez as she turned 100. She still currently lives in a small cottage alongside her daughter.

James Alton Burleson

James Alton, known as Al, grew up helping on the family farm before graduating from Jim Ned High School in Tuscola, Texas. During those times students spent 11 years in school, however since he was responsible for transporting his younger siblings to school his father Will decided it was too hard on the mule to make multiple trips to town and that Al should continue to educate himself by attending a 12th year. After graduating Al began to work as a teller at Tuscola Bank. On August 8, 1926, Al married Vivian Iola Dickenson at the home of Rev. William C. Ashford. The couple had planned to elope however, their plans were discovered and unbeknownst to them many friends and relatives traveled to Abilene to witness the ceremony. Al and Vivian welcomed their first child James Alton Jr., namesake J.A, on December 7, 1929, in Tuscola at the home of her parents D.D. Dickenson. Al worked for West Texas Utilities and lived and worked in San Angelo, Shamrock, and Childress, Texas. While in Childress Vivian gave birth to her second son Billy Carroll on June 17, 1931, and a few years later her third son Dale Dudley, namesake grandfather DD Dickenson born on Mar 25, 1936.



During World War II, Al and Vivian both worked as accountants for the company building Ft. Hood Army Post. Following the war, Al went to work for Burton-Lingo Lumber company in Tuscola and Vivian worked at Tuscola Bank. Then on July 3, 1945, Al and Vivian were granted a surprise when she gave birth to her daughter Wanda Sue. The family moved to Monahans, Texas and was assistant manager for Burton-Lingo Lumber Company. Shortly after the graduation of James Jr. the family moved to Odessa, Texas. Al to a new job as assistant manager of the local lumber yard and they lived in company housing. Odessa was known for bad hailstorms, therefore Al and his son's put plywood over broken windows before heading to work to be available to help others needing something to cover their broken windows and take care of repairs from the storms. Al would keep the lumber yard open all night to accommodate the needs of the locals. They would bring in glass by the railway cars to repair windows that were broken and temporarily boarded up. They lived in Odessa for three years and then transferred to the Ft. Stockton lumber yard where he became manager. To support the community, Al would keep unsaleable lumber available to use for floats and decorations at no charge.

Alton was active in Lion's International, the Masons, the Chamber of Commerce and also oversaw the local Water Carnival. Al and Vivian actively volunteered in their children's affairs including acting as chaperone for their son Dale's class during his junior and senior year. Many believed Dale was the perfect son because he was always taking his little sister Wanda Sue with him on his nightly activities. However, people did not realize that Vivian was helping Al at the lumber yard on the accounting books and if Dale wanted to use the car, he had to watch his sister.

Al became a traveling salesman for Sweetwater Sash and Door wholesale, one of two employees taken by the new company in Sweetwater, Texas, so the family packed up and moved again. By this time, James and Bill were on their own and Dale was attending New Mexico A&M, therefore it was only Al, Vivian, and Wanda Sue. Al was not the typical salesman, if the lumberyard was busy he put down his bag and waited on customers. If another salesman was there before him he went around the business to see what they might need. He went out on jobs and measured windows for a contractor. He always made sure that the customers had the correct materials and what

they needed to be successful. When Al went on vacation, the VP of the company would oversee Al's customers, however his customers were very loyal and told him that they would wait for Al to return. While in Sweetwater, Al was gone four nights a week, therefore they quickly moved to Odessa. Al and Vivian bought their first house in Odessa, but it did not last. A year later the president of BLC told Al he was moving to Abilene because he promised Vivian to get her back near her parents, Dee and Pearl Dickenson. They purchased their final home on 33rd street in Abilene where they watched Wanda Sue graduate high school and begin her life.

Al and Vivian spent a lot of time in their home where the door was always open to family and friends. They had a big garden in their backyard and to help them grow, Al had a well put in. Al's backyard was a little oasis, and when he put up a fence the neighborhood complained because the little oasis was no longer visible to the passing neighbors as they drove by. They canned the vegetables and made jellies with the fruit. Wanda Sue would call from her home in Maryland asking how to make their jams, however, Vivian's and Al's instructions were vague, and her jams were never the same.

Al retired at the Age of 80 because he wanted to allow more time for traveling, unfortunately Vivian had a stroke and this, limited their explorations. They eventually moved to Tomball, Texas to be near their son James in an independent living facility. Al began to have heart and kidney failure and was hospitalized and scheduled for surgery. Wanda Sue flew to Houston to be with him and as Wanda Sue entered his hospital room the machine showed his breathing and heartbeat. She leaned over, gave Al a kiss and said, "dad, I'm here," then looked up at the machine and it flatlined. James Alton died on January 7, 1994, in Tomball, Texas, before being buried near his parents in Tuscola Cemetery in Tuscola, Texas.

Al loved to fish and hunt, especially fly fishing. When several people were hunting above the allway, he would only let them shot once in case they got too many birds, so when the game warden came by he could say I shot two.

Al was a special son-in-law. When Vivian's mother broke her hip, she was in the hospital for over 6 weeks. Every morning between 7am and 7:30 am, Al stopped by to see her. He held the tray and got the washcloth and towel so she could clean her face; then handed her cold cream and something to wipe it off. Then came her rouge, powder, and lipstick. He helped her get all dolled up for the day. When a nurse told her what a wonderful son he was because he was so helpful, Pearl would say, "That's my son-in-law!" She was proud of him.

Al taught his grandson George and John how to somersault front and back. At 68 years old he would demonstrate how to do it, showing that if an old man could do it, so could they. When he visited his daughter Wanda Sue's family at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, during a horse show, he got up early and would voluntarily open the snack bar for breakfast. He made fried egg sandwich with bacon or sausage. Everyone loved him because this was the only breakfast sold. The competition started no later than 8:30 so a lot of people missed breakfast.

He believed children should respect and mind their elders. He would ask them to do something, then he would tell them, and if that did not do it, his belt would come off. It was a small leather 1/2 - 2/3 inch wide. He only popped them once, that was all it took. All the cousins knew not to get in trouble.

Tessie Loraine Burleson Vickrey

Tessie was Al's favorite sister. They were remarkably close. Tessie was born on January 7, 1907, in Oplin, Texas. Tessie married Horace Gordon Vickrey in June 1925. Tessie and her husband Horace died at a young age. Horace was a cheat and brought a disease home and quickly spread it to Tessie. Tessie, who longed for children, was told that if she were to have children the disease would spread quickly. She became pregnant and had her son Don Wallace. Her disease quickly spread, and she died an early death. Tessie died on February 22, 1940, of Syphilis and was buried in Tuscola Cemetery near her grandmothers. Will and Leona fought and won custody of Tessie's son Don and raised him to be a respectable man of the community.

Asenith Burleson Grant Pruitt

Asenith was born on November 16, 1909, in Oplin, Texas and married Harvey Henry Grant on December 10, 1927, in Abilene, Texas. On November 14, 1928, Asenith gave birth to her daughter Eloise in Lawn, Texas. Asenith and Harvey's marriage was short. Will brought Asenith home, after Harvey's abuse and neglect. On June 15, 1938, Asenith married Conley Love Pruitt in Baird, Texas. Asenith was highly active in the community where she lived her life until her death on November 14, 2009, five days before her 100th birthday. The community was planning a birthday bash, but instead it became a day to celebrate her life and contributions to the Baird community.



Kenneth Homer Burleson

Kenneth Homer was born Dec 29, 1911, in Oplin, Texas. He married Cleon Hayes on July 24, 1936, in Memphis, Texas, where they raised their children Jerry Don, born September 13, 1946, and Judy, born March 28, 1950. Kenneth supported his family as a car's salesman. Kenneth died on October 14, 1978, of Odcell Lung cancer and was buried in Memphis Cemetery, Memphis, Texas.



Beatrice Vondell Burleson Dees

Beatrice Vondell, known as Tots, was born June 18, 1914, in Clyde, Texas. She married James Vaudie Dees on Dec 24, 1939, in Abilene, Texas. They had two children; Lavanda Sue, born April 28, 1943, and James Vaudie, Jr. on October 10, 1944. Tots was a beautician and devoted fisherman. She would fish all the time if she could. She had no sense of smell or taste but was an outstanding cook. She made the best macaroni and cheese. Tots died on November 29, 1933, in Abilene, Texas, of stomach cancer. She was buried next to her husband James in Tuscola Cemetery, in Tuscola, Texas.



Margueritte Allene Burleson Smith Carnahan

Margueritte Allene was born January 2, 1917, in Tuscola, Texas as the last child of Will and Leona. Allene married Franklin Jefferson Smith on September 29, 1938, in Aspermont, Texas. They had three children: Betty Flo, born September 25, 1939, in Stamford, Texas, Sandra Lynn, born and died on November 8, 1940; she was buried in Tuscola, Texas near many family members. Franklin Jefferson Smith, Jr. was born on January 24, 1944, in Snyder, Texas. Franklin Sr. served in World War II. Unfortunately, Franklin served as a Private in Company I 22nd Infantry Regiment 4th Infantry Division. He was killed in action in Germany during the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest in an area west of Grosshau. He was originally buried aside his fallen brother in Henry-Chapelle Cemetery, Eupen, Belgium before being brought home by his family. As a widow with two young children Allene, married again on February 5, 1948, in Electra, Texas, to Willis Lawrence Carnohan. Allene worked as an accountant most of her life and then went into banking. Allene lived between Tye and Merle before moving to Plains, Texas. Allene died of Colon Cancer in Lubbock, Texas and was buried near her parents in Tuscola Cemetery.

Wanda Sue Burluson (Berk)

and her late husband Clarence
George Berk.



Jennifer Jeanine Berk (Haney)



by

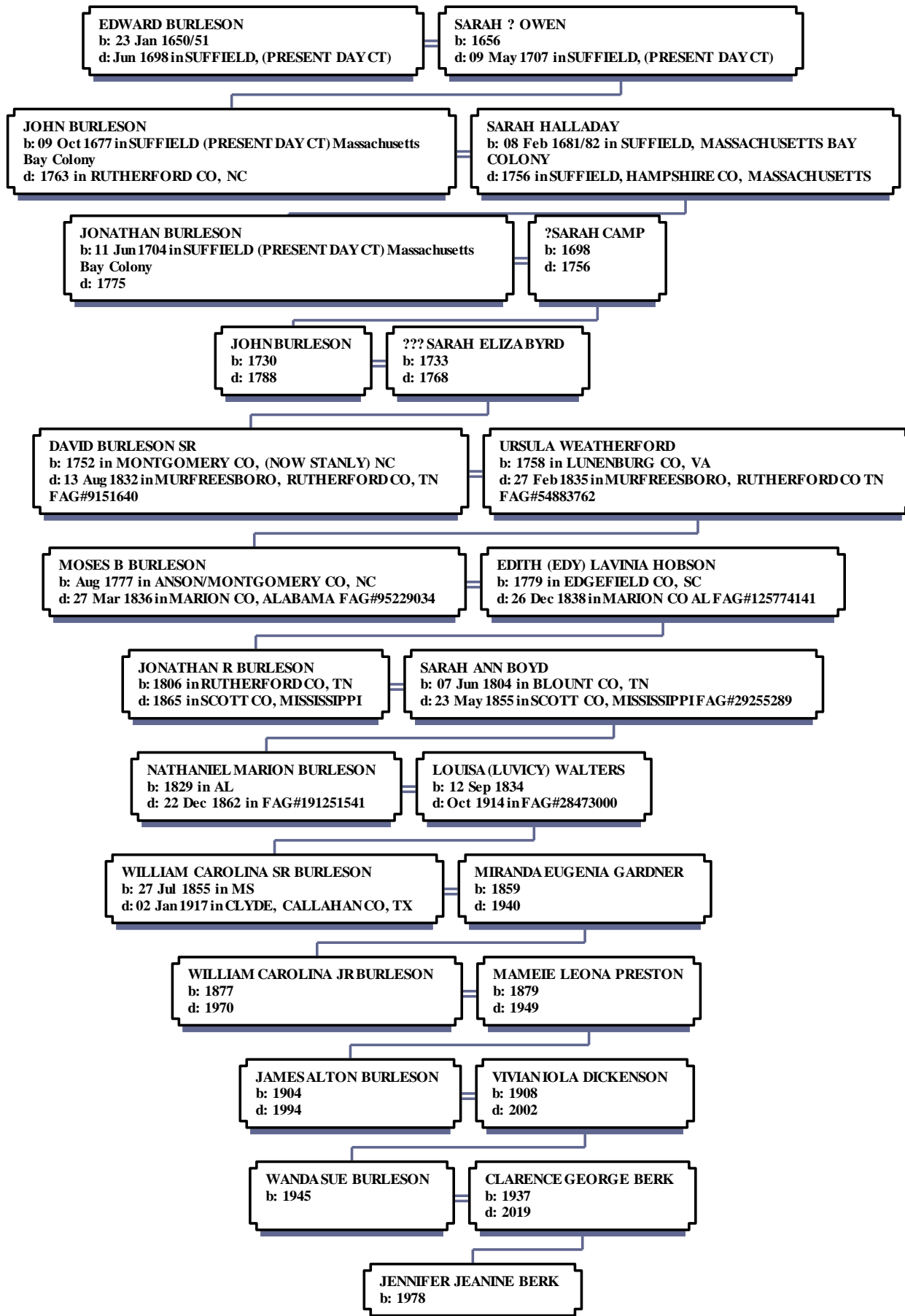


Jennifer Jeanine Berk (Haney)

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Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



Source Citations

The photos provided were originals provided by Wanda Sue scanned by Jennifer Haney. Most documents were originally researched and printed at the Abilene library by Vivian Burleson before passing all documentation to daughter Wanda Sue.

- Berk, W.S. 2023. *William Carolina Burleson Sr. and Miranda Eugenia Gardner 1897.*
- Haney, J.J. 2023. *Headstone of William Carolina Burleson Sr.*
- Berk, W.S. 2023. *W.C. Burleson Sr. and M.E. Gardner Rites of Matrimony.*
- Berk, W.S. 2023. *W.C. Burleson Sr. Application for Probate.*
- Berk, W.S. 2023. *W.C. Burleson Sr. Probate Court of Callahan County.*
- Berk, W.S. 2023. *W.C. Burleson Sr. Last Will and Testament.*
- Berk, W.S. 2023. *William Carolina Burleson Jr. Children in 1937 family reunion.*
- Berk, W.S. 2023. *William Carolina Burleson Jr. home in Oplin, Texas.*
- Berk, W.S. 2023. *William Carolina Burleson Jr. 90th birthday celebration.*
- Berk, W.S. 2023. *William Carolina Burleson Jr. and Mamie Leona Preston Wedding Photo 1897.*
- Berk, W.S. 2023. *William Carolina Burleson Jr. and Mamie Leona circa 1920s.*
- Haney J.J. 2023. *William Carolina Burleson Jr. and Mamie Leona Headstone, Tuscola Cemetery, Tuscola, Texas.*
- Haney J.J. 2023. *William Carolina Burleson Jr. and Mamie Leona Preston Marriage License.*
- Berk, W.S. 2023. *Clarence Arthur Burleson and Vernon Lucille Roberson Yeager Burleson. Circa 1940s.*
- Berk, W.S. 2023. *Alma Burleson and Dewey Williams, circa. 1920.*
- Berk, W.S. 2023. *James Alton and Vivian Iola Burleson, circa 1986.*
- Berk, W.S. 2023. *Asenith Burleson Grant Pruitt, circa 1990s.*
- Burleson J.D. 2023. *Kenneth Homer Burleson.*
- Berk, W.S. 2023. *Beatrice Vondall Burleson, circa 1970.*
- Berk, W.S. 2023. *Marguerite Allene Burleson Smith Carnahan, circa 1937.*

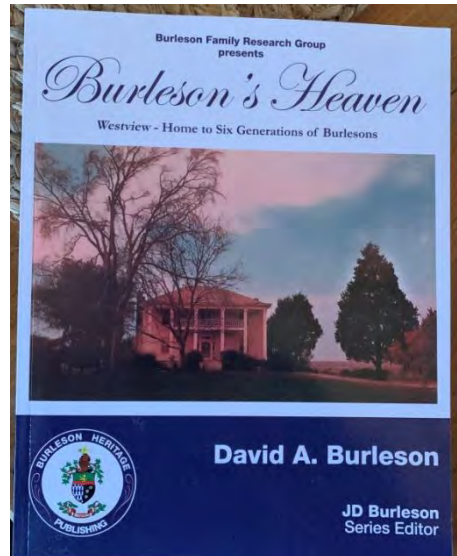
“I graduated from Butler Community College in 2001 with a degree in Business Administration. I then proceeded to earn a Bachelors Degree in History and Master Degree in Teaching from Cameron University. I recently returned to pursue a Masters in History from Fort Hays State University and am on track to graduate May 2024. I then to pursue a Doctorate in the near future.”

David A Burleson

Our “Decatur Dave” is actually a resident of Hartselle, Alabama. His historic home, Westview is known to many of you as “Burleson Heaven” which was published in book form by Burleson Heritage Publishing. Dave has been remarkably busy this summer repainting the mansion and tackling the trim work necessary for the grounds.

Dave will be back with us next issue as he enlightens us on the “Life and Travels of John Burleson Jr. which included excursions into Illinois. He will also deliver an article on brother, James Burleson who remained in Alabama.

He and wife, Anne recently were blessed with new granddaughter, Florence. She is the daughter of Forrest & Erin also of the Decatur area.



It is difficult to see from the pristine view capture on the cover of Burlesons Heaven just how hard it is to stay ahead of the upkeep of the grounds. Dave has his hands full with the ongoing chores required.

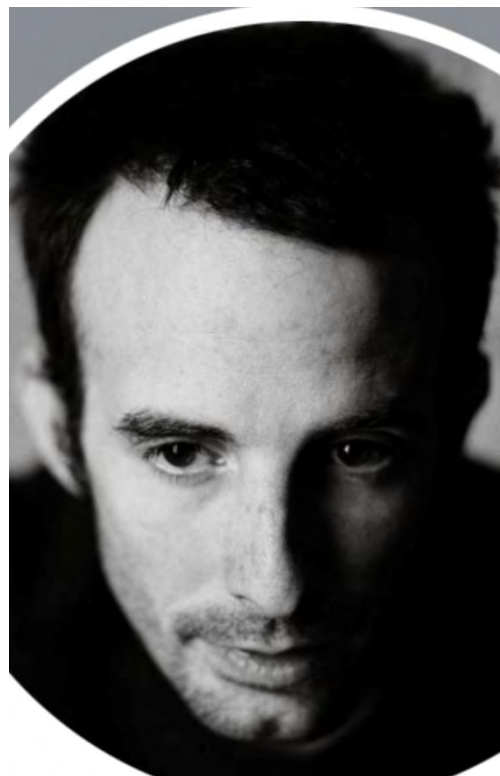
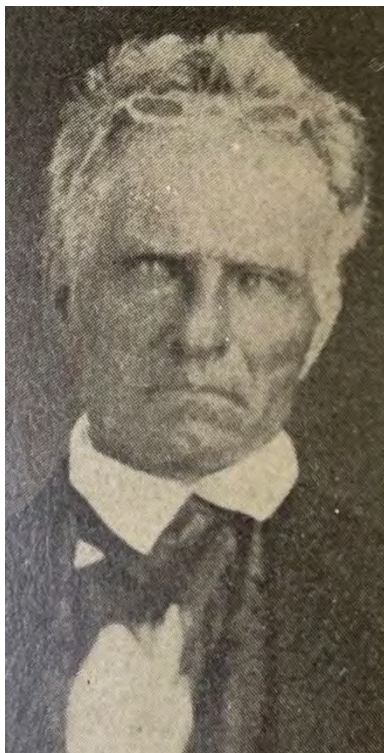


Born 7/19/23

7 lbs. & 15 oz.

19 inches long

So many of you Burlesons have been observed over the years as having a long, straight almost stern looking nose. We have heard of certain branches as having the “Burleson Ears”. Dave as identified an oft recurring trait of a dimpled chin in his group. Below you again see baby Florence alongside Dave’s great great great grandfather, Jonathan Burleson, Dave’s son Forrest, brother William Forrest, and his nephew Jay. What do you think?



Jay Burleson, pictured lower right, will be featured in October’s Recollections. He produces and directs horror films.

by



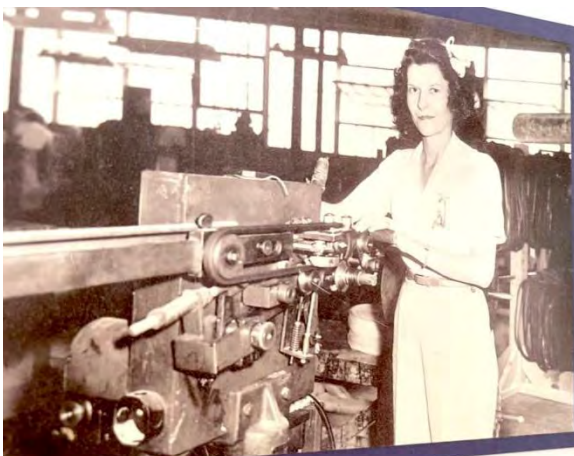
Jim Burleson
BFRG Research
jimburleson8554@gmail.com

Chasing Down A Father

With the help of a BFRG “Adoption Angel”



Hello, Burleson cousins! Oh! – how I love being able to say those words! I AM A BURLESON! Some of you may have read my previous story about how I researched and found my biological mother. I was adopted and for 49 long years, I didn’t know any of my true parentage. After half a century of waiting, I found my mother and met her in person for the first, and only time. Her name was Hazel Leatherwood and unfortunately, she wasn’t willing to tell me the name of my father no matter how much I pleaded.



She told me that her father, John Marion Leatherwood had her swear on a stack of Bibles that she would NEVER speak his name and that her baby (me) was also never coming home with her. If she had even attempted to bring me home, spoken his name or referred to my father again, she would be shunned and an outcast from the family. So even after her father had long since passed, she was still unwilling to share this with me. In addition, my mother was adamant that I would never reach out to the half-siblings I now knew about, five siblings! On that day, I agreed to

honor her wishes, but as time went on, and she soon after passed away, I did in fact call them and meet them all. They accepted me immediately and we have grown very close over the past 25 years. They too, were very curious about who my father might be. The mountains of North Carolina hold many secrets, but someone had to know something!



Back Row: Uncle Guy, Aunt Alma, Mother, Aunt Maude,
Aunt Ruth, Uncle Harold

Front Row: Her Parents~ John and Elba Leatherwood

There were certainly some rumors we were able to dig up but nothing concrete. I had literally nothing to go on, not even one solid clue or suspicion. I was very disheartened but accepted it might be a mystery I might not ever know until I met him in the heavens someday.

As wonderful as it was to finally have half the puzzle, I wasn't content. In 2016, I decided that I might learn something from entering my DNA into the Ancestry.com registry. I wasn't overly optimistic about my chances considering I only had half a tree from the Leatherwood matriarchy-side, but I felt, nothing ventured, nothing gained! I yearned to see the pathway of my lineage unfold on both sides of my family trees. For someone who is adopted and feels sort of like a lonely soul on a deserted island, finally discovering your heritage and roots is a bit like the forbidden fruit – you just want more! I hoped that there might be one small thread to pull that would bring me closer to my father, to all of you!



Eloise Thornton

1st - 2nd Cousin

463 cM | 7% shared DNA

Parent 1's side

[Public linked tree](#)

149 People

Common ancestor

My hopes for the Ancestry group were of course to fill in more gaps on my Leatherwood tree but my biggest desire was to find any relations on my paternal side. It didn't take long for me to realize that I was totally clueless in my endeavor as technology becomes a bit of a headache when you are hitting your 70's and 80's. 😊 I worked on the Leatherwood tree for several years and gradually built the history going back into the 1700's.

In 2020, when the pandemic went global and I was faced with the difficulties of my husband's cancer, I was homebound and not very enthusiastically pursuing the Ancestry angle. My husband Tom was in hospice care, and I had many stressors happening at a stressful and sad times. It was during these hardships that I received my very first contact from the Burleson tree. Jim Burleson had called, and he was eagerly trying to tell me that he believed we might be cousins. Due to my high level of anxiety at the time, I didn't really hear him out and I hung up on him. So sorry about that Jim! But Jim is dogged in his genealogy pursuits, as I'm sure many of you already know. Jim phoned me back as he wasn't giving up, and he intimated to me that he was researcher for the Burleson Family Research Group and he wanted to help me learn how my DNA tied into the Burleson DNA because according to Ancestry, we were cousins related by blood. And he wanted to help for no charge! I relented and said, ok, let's do this!



Eloise (at 6 month)



BFRG's Jim Burleson



Debbie Wise Denton
BFRG's Adoption Angel

I quickly learned that Jim is a man of his word. He contacted other members in the Research Group, and they all went to work, fastidiously looking for the name of my father. Just who was he?!? In short order, they had concluded that Jim is my 1st cousin once removed and so was his brother, Dave. This was getting exciting! In no time, they validated who my paternal Grandfather was – none other than Asa Burleson. He and his wife Juda Green Burleson had 6 sons. Was one of these men my father? Jim and the Research Group went into overdrive trying to pin down which brother was my father. I was coming into faith and belief that the mystery would be solved. Finally!





Yes, Eloise is one of the many descendants of Emaline Bathsheba Weatherman Burleson who are sprinkled liberally throughout Appalachia.

In the meantime, Jim convinced me that I simply MUST attend the upcoming Burleson family reunion in Charlotte NC in 2021. Yes! I agreed to attend, that was my home State! Close to my departure, I received a call from the ever-so-eager Jim – he was almost jumping through the phone and could barely contain his excitement. I will never forget his words, “Eloise, we traced him down! We are pretty certain that we have him!” His name? Yes, my father now has a name – he is Harry Milton Burleson. I could hardly believe my ears and after waiting 70 odd years, I now knew the man who fathered me. It was, to say the least, momentous and remarkable and fulfilling to my soul, heart, and mind.



So, I attended that reunion and was joined by my son Jay and his wife Jodi. Jim was waiting for me when we walked into that reunion, and I sat down to hear all the details of his and the Research Group’s work. Jim, JD, Dave Burleson and Debbie Wise Denton told me how they pieced everything together and how they landed on their conclusion, that yes, Harry Burleson, son of Asa Burleson, was my father.

I owe Jim and the researchers my utmost gratitude and thanks. To offer this selfless contribution of their time and resources to help me find my roots at long last will be a debt I can never repay – though I know they wouldn’t want one red cent! I have such a fulfillment being able to say that I have two parents that I can trace back through the Burleson and Leatherwood trees. I am your kin Burleson family, and you...you are mine! I can’t think of any better outcome than that!

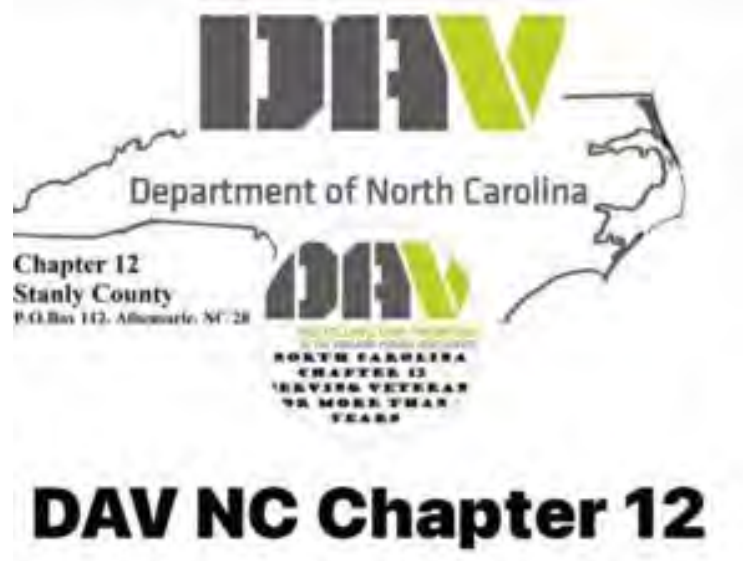
Post Notes:



Eloise with her biological mother Hazel Leatherwood



Eloise and her late husband Tom Thornton



1st Cousin Ila Gail Burleson McFalls will meet Eloise for the first time October 8th at the BFRG Reunion in Albemarle, NC. They will be hosted by JD Burleson and accompanied by cousins Gary Dale & Joan Forbes.

by



Eloise Burleson Thornton
BFRG Researcher

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Staff Sergeant Jarren Robert Burleson, USMC

by



Six months ago I received a message, followed by a phone call from Danielle Deodath in a fairly routine manner. She got my name from the Burleson Family Research Group's Cousining page. She explained she was newly engaged to a Marine, a Burleson and she wanted his family line researched (not unusual). Then she spiced it up a bit; she'd like it all done as a surprise for his birthday (that was intriguing). It took only a few days so I called the cell phone she'd given me.



The search had been a little unique as this Burleson was from a Northern branch AND he was from Billings, Montana... not my everyday query. Danielle had stressed the need for quiet discretion as her desire for surprise was key. The number given was correct but a man answered. Not wanting to jeopardize her secret I stuttered and stammered a bit. Here was a male answering his girl's cell and



it was from a a strange man with a a strange call number. After what seemed like an interminable silence, I heard the man and a woman laughing loudly. SHE said , "It's okay Jim, I told him." Relieved, I began to relate his line. The Marine was Staff Sergeant Jarren Burleson, assigned at the time in New York.

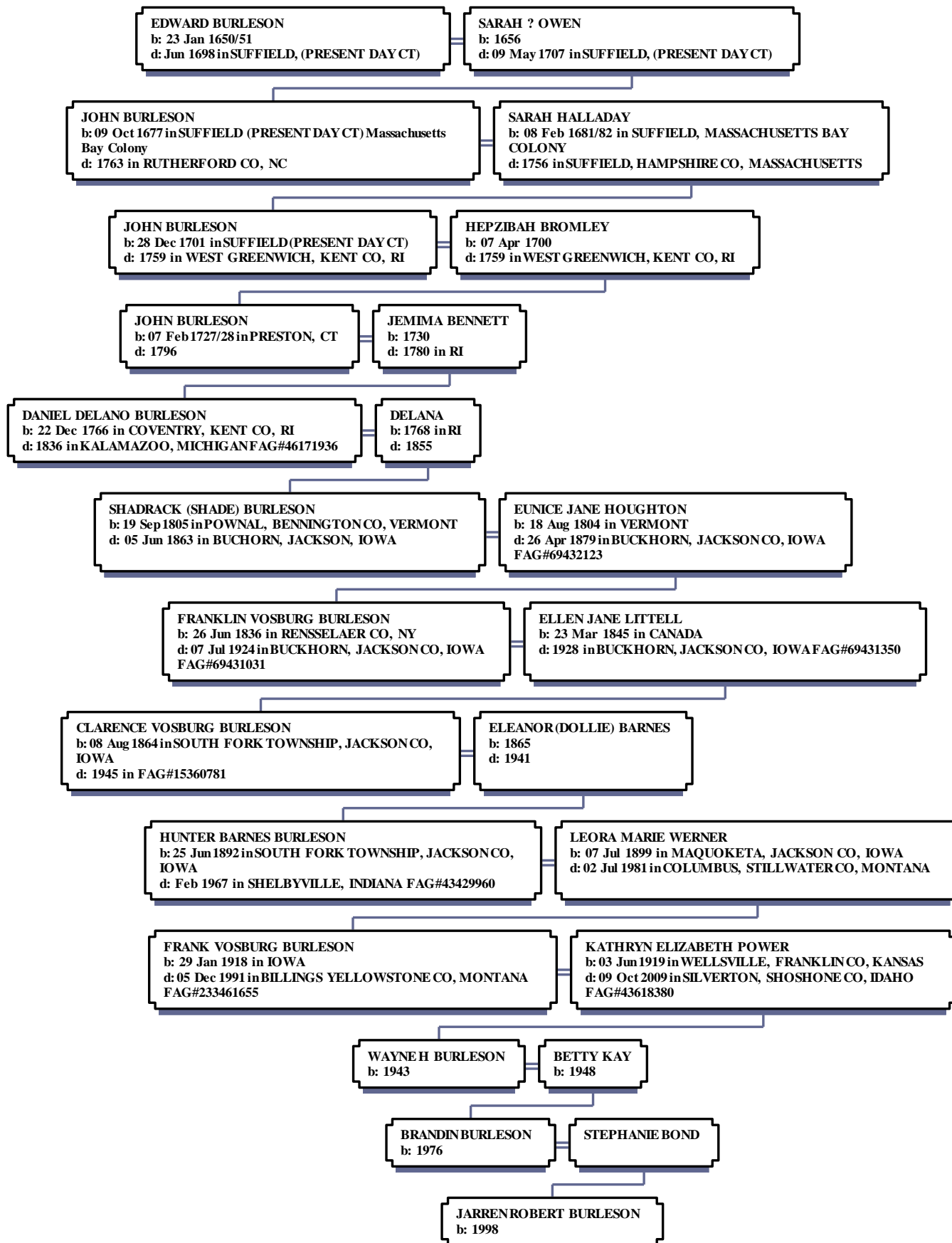


Jarren went in to explain that he was attending college while serving as he had been given tentative acceptance to Officers Candidate School. College was a branch of Penn State. Further, he told me of his early life and family in Billings, Montana. Another secret: now Jarren went in to tell me to please continue his family search BUT without alerting his folks back home. He and Danielle were headed to get married secretly in a civil ceremony. They'd do a traditional marriage later In returning to Montana. I gave Jarren his Burleson line; he was grateful and hoped for further information on any military ancestors.

His upbringing in Montana was idyllic- loving school and outdoor activities amply provided by the Montana landscape. Growing up his father Brandin David Burleson and grandfather Wayne Hunter Burleson were primary models for Jarren.



Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



*This is the same family line as Wayne Hunter Burleson, his grandfather – featured in this issue

Danielle and Jarren were wed June 24,2023 and a full celebration was held in Montana. Burleson was recently confirmed for attendance in OCS; he'll promote to Lieutenant soon.



Since Jarren's youth he has remained active and fit. He has evolved into a bright , educated, patriotic family man.



Blake Burleson: Iron Man – Iron Will



by  Jim Burleson
BFRG Research
jimburluson531@gmail.com

Blake is a part time intelligence analyst for his U. S. Army National Guard unit- the 2107th Cavalry located in Hamilton, Ohio. This Armory position allows him to pursue an Electrical Engineering degree at nearby Ohio State University. Prior to acceptance at OSU he labored through basic college requirements at four different community colleges. His full time job at Amazon systems control pays the bills.

Burleson was born 23 short years ago in Tampa, Florida to Alan Burleson and Carolyn Brooker . High School in Florida gave Blake opportunities to take part in swimming and MMA competitions. Entering OSU he felt he finally fell into a group he enjoyed.



A Catholic fraternity bunch of pals really supported Blake’s desire to compete in marathons. He completed two. He’d always excelled at swimming and now knew he had the determination to add bicycling to his regimen. He felt he was under-performing on the bike... he needed to think. He’d always been introspective and self critical.



Making the firm decision to take on an” Iron Man” triathlon, he pitched it to his girlfriend, dad and pals. They enthusiastically were all in. The Lake Placid Iron Man was chosen- considered to be the toughest and most prestigious. The date... July 23rd. Blake and entourage made way from around the country to converge on Lake Placid, a beautiful background in mid-summer. That upstate locale is certainly better known for hosting Winter Olympics. It looked so different.



5:30am local Blake donned a new and very different uniform.



An Iron Man competition consists of a 2.4 mile swim followed by a 112 mile bicycle ride with a full 26.22 mile running marathon. It's a total of 140.6 miles and is considered one of the most grueling events in athletics. The swim went well... still felt good. The bike leg was as bad or worse than Blake anticipated. It nearly broke his spirit a half dozen times. Each spell of fatigue and weakness, Blake told himself, "Just one more mile." It got him through- he recovered mentally and willed his body to obey. With the bicycle portion done, at last running. It was painful too but not like that bike. On he went. Alan and friends posted themselves at positions conducive to seeing him, encouraging him. Alan gave us at BFRG ahead of time a site to follow the competition live on YouTube. Only on BFRG, right? The "Wide World of Cousining." Blake knew along the route he was nowhere near the leaders. He just wanted to finish, to conquer the course, his body. He finished! No, not in the top half but well within the second group.



Burleson said the competition taught him much about his determination. He said when facing a tough challenge he just has to tell himself, "One more mile" and he'll get through. BFRG applauds Blake and share his father's and friend's pride. We asked Blake how his recovery was. His recovery was good. First couple of days were tough with the overall soreness but right arch was really jacked up. After about five days he was feeling better but any form of cardio ached after a couple of minutes. All good now 100%. When asked would you do it again, he said it has been a long time coming. "Ever since I moved from Florida to start a career and go off on my own I been intrigued by hard things. There's something to be said about challenging my mind and body to push past my limits and redefine what being healthy and active looks like in my family. I am grateful for the opportunity to do things like this and will continue to reach for new heights.."



Major Milestones

John Morgan July 19, 1946 — June 29, 2023

John Charles Morgan, 76, Miami, OK passed away at his home surrounded by his loving wife and family June 29, 2023 at 2:40pm.

John Charles Morgan was born July 19, 1946 in The Dalles, OR the son of John and Olive (Brooks) Morgan. John graduated from WyEast High School, Hood River, OR, in 1965. After graduating from High School, he joined the Army - National Guard. John served his country for 6 years. At the age of 19 he began to drive log trucks and continued to drive the rest of his life. He eventually established JHM Trucking in 1995 where he worked until he retired.

He loved the outdoors, loved working with his hands, motorcycles and restoring old tractors and trucks. He attended Wayside Assembly of God in Wyandotte, OK.

John Charles Morgan married Hazel (Burlson) in May 18, 1973 in Wyandotte, OK and she survives.

Additional survivors include; one son Jason Morgan and wife Beth, Bainville, MT; one daughter Jeana Morgan Goff and husband Clayton, Bainville, MT; One brother, Paul Morgan, Wyandotte, OK; grandchildren; Isaac Goff, Audra Goff and Emmett Morgan.

John was preceded in death by his parents John and Olive Morgan.

Funeral Services will be held at 10:00am July 7, 2023 at the Wayside Assembly Of God with Pastor Danny Burlson officiating. Burial will be in the Wyandotte Cemetery with Stoney Burlson, Mike Payton, Darrell Robinson, Ray Hart, Clayton Goff and Jason Morgan serving as pallbearers. Honorable Pallbearers will be Paul Morgan.



Our newest BURLESON

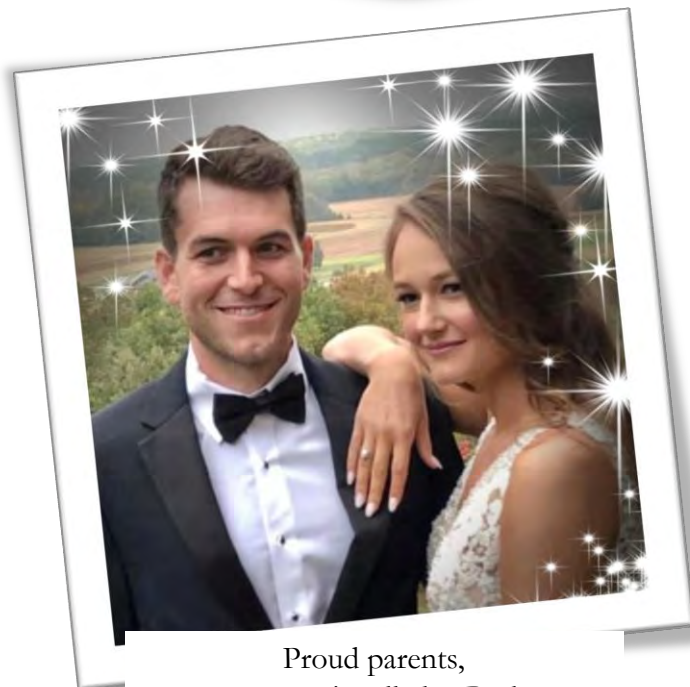


David and Anne Burleson were recently blessed with, and would like to announce the arrival of their first Granddaughter, Florence Burleson born 7-19-23, coming in at 7 pounds 15 ounces. Florence, Father, Forrest and Mother Erin Elledge Burleson are all doing fine.

Several of our members may know David A Burleson, he is one of the founding Fathers of the BFA, our sister Organization, and he is BFA#2.



David and his family in front of their home (Westview)



Proud parents,
Forrest & Erin Elledge Burleson

Florence Burleson's family line is, , Forrest & Erin Elledge, David A. & Anne Howard Burleson, Forrest Emory & Mary Ballew Burleson, Jonathan Orr & Mary Witt Burleson, Dabney & Sallie Orr Burleson, Jonathan A & Elizabeth Byrd, John Burleson Sr & Abigail Adair Burleson, Aaron & Rachel Burleson

Sue Burleson Forrest

Long time member of the BFRG
So Proud of her grandkids

So proud of my great-grandson, Max, he won the NC State Championship last weekend and the VA State Championship the weekend before.



Max Forrest, Burleson Family Line is Brantley and Elizabeth Smith Forrest, Michael and Tonda Herick Forrest, Michael and Sue Burleson Forrest, Jay and Ruby Whitley Burleson, Allen & Lucy Herlocker Burleson, Howell and Judie Burris Burleson, Billie and



Sarah Harwood Burleson, Isaac Jr. and Catherine Castle Burleson, Isaac Sr. and Martha Clay Burleson (NC Soldier in American Revolution)

Happy, Happy 1st Birthday to my beautiful great-granddaughter, Claire Elizabeth!

Claire is the great granddaughter of Sue Burleson Forrest, born to Michael and Elizabeth Smith Burleson on August 23, 2022 in Stanly County, NC

Claire Elizabeth Forrest, Burleson Family Line is Brantley and Elizabeth Smith Forrest, Michael and Tonda Herick Forrest, Michael and Sue Burleson Forrest, Jay and Ruby Whitley Burleson, Allen & Lucy Herlocker Burleson, Howell and Judie Burris Burleson, Billie and Sarah Harwood Burleson, Isaac Jr. and Catherine Castle Burleson, Isaac Sr. and Martha Clay Burleson (NC Soldier in American Revolution)



Branson Forrest was one of the six boys from the 8U spring team to make the Top Gun all-star teams. Branson is the son of Logan Forrest, Celeste and Ryan Laton. He is the great-grandson of Sue Burleson Forrest. (photo by Celeste Laton)

Branson Forrest was one of six boys from the 8U spring team to make the Top Gun all star team. Branson is the great grandson of Sue Burleson Forrest

Branson Forrest, Burleson Family Line is Logan Forrest, Michael and Tonda Herick Forrest, Michael and Sue Burleson Forrest, Jay and Ruby Whitley Burleson, Allen & Lucy Herlocker Burleson, Howell and Judie Burris Burleson, Billie and Sarah Harwood Burleson, Isaac Jr. and Catherine Castle Burleson, Isaac Sr. and Martha Clay Burleson (NC Soldier in American Revolution)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEuTCT55FVI>

This is an article posted by [Brontë Wittpenn Historic Black Austin: Our Story](#) Ron Collins is a Burleson Cousin who we feel did a great job on this video.

Another wonderful person I've been honored to get to know is [Ron Collins](#) and his granddaughter Kiya. I met Ron when I was driving around looking for farmland surrounded by housing developments for a story about growth in Austin. I was very fortunate to find Ron and learn about his incredible family history and his love for the land and his granddaughter.

Here is the video I produced for the Austin American-Statesman.

Steven and Beth Roberts Burleson

Celebrating 47 years of marriage bliss

Happy 47th Anniversary to my beautiful wife!



WILLIAM STEVEN¹³ BURLESON (*WILLIAM SIDNEY*¹², *EBEN LUTHER*¹¹, *SEABORN B*¹⁰, *JAMES FRANKLIN*⁹, *SEABORN ISALAH*⁸, *AARON*⁷, *JESSE*⁶, *AARON (OF GA)*⁵), was born Mar 1954. He married BETH A ROBERTS.

Phillip and Jaclyn Britt Price are the proud parents and would like to announce the birth of:

Oakley Raine Price, born 8-11-2023. 7 lbs, 11 oz, 19.5

Oakley is the great granddaughter of John Hoyle Burleson



Oakley Raine, Burleson Family Line is Phillip and Jaclyn Britt Price, Robert and Terri Burleson Britt, John Hoyle and Jackie Sinclair Burleson, Absalom Taft and Margaret Hatley Burleson, John F and ada Efird Burleson, Absalom and Sarah Sides Burleson, Billie and Sarah Harwood Burleson, Isaac Jr. and Catherine Castle Burleson, Isaac Sr. and Martha Clay Burleson (NC Soldier in American Revolution)

Obituary for John Hoyle Burleson 1947 -- 2023

John Hoyle Burleson, 76, of Albemarle passed away on August 26, 2023, in his home. His funeral service will be at 3 PM on Tuesday, August 29, 2023, at Pine Grove Methodist Church. Burial will follow in the Pine Grove Methodist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 6 until 8 PM on Monday evening at Stanly Funeral and Cremation Care of Albemarle.

Born January 3, 1947, in Stanly County, NC he was the son of the late Absalom Taft Burleson and Margaret Irene Hatley Burleson. He was a retired cabinet setter and a member of Pine Grove Methodist Church.

Mr. Burleson was preceded in death by his first wife, Jackie Sue Sinclair Burleson. He is survived by his second wife Nancy L. Gedney Burleson, children Terri Suzanne Britt (Tommy) of Albemarle and Daniel Sinclair Burleson (Casey) of Stanfield, stepchildren Eric Woodward (Stacie) of Concord, Jeffrey Woodward (Candace) of Salisbury, and Sarah Woodward of Ocoee, FL, siblings Shearon Burleson (Ruth) of Mt. Pleasant, Ellen Kuhn of Albemarle, Reid Burleson of Albemarle, grandchildren Haley Britt, Jaclyn Price (Phillip), Jacob Burleson, and Luke Burleson, step grandchildren Kort Woodward, Alita Woodward, Samantha Woodward, Annabelle Woodward, James Coyle, Ben Woodward, Hope Woodward, and Veronica Horton, and two great-grandchildren Phoenix Britt and Oakley Price.

John grew up in the Endy area with his family, four brothers and two sisters. His early life in a rural community contributed to his love of family and the outdoors. Along with his brothers, he developed an appreciation of hunting, shooting, woodworking, and cars. Following high school, John completed basic training and became a member of the Army National Guard. He served for 22 years and officially retired in 1988 with a rank of Sergeant First Class. His military duties included becoming a M1 Abram tank commander.

In his later life, Mr. Burleson turned his interests more towards history and genealogy. John spent multiple hours researching his family history, as well as the histories of many of the families in and around Stanly County. He was a founding member of the Burleson Family Research Group, as well as member of the Burleson Family Association. He was also a member of the Stanly County Genealogical Society and the Sons of the American Revolution. John even authored his own book entitled *A Study of the Early Burleson History: From Our Family Beginnings in America* which was published in 2020.

John's Burleson Family line Absalom Taft and Margaret Hatley Burleson, John F and ada Efird Burleson, Absalom and Sarah Sides Burleson, Billie and Sarah Harwood Burleson, Isaac Jr. and Catherine Castle Burleson, Isaac Sr. and Martha Clay Burleson (NC Soldier in American Revolution)

