

Recollections

of the
Burleson Family Research Group



Introducing the new Logo for our Burleson Family Research Group.

This Logo and the Migration Map are going to be made into a Challenge Coin.

This is the result of so many individuals adding their suggestions for over a year of hard work. We want to thank all of our researchers for their hard work.

For more information on the Burleson Family Research Group (BFRG) visit www.bfrg.info



For opportunities to meet and share Burleson connections, join and follow Burleson *Cousining* on Facebook

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From the Editor:



First of all let me wish you all a Happy Holiday. Secondly, let's congratulate ALL the terrific contributors to this edition of Recollections. It's another amazing issue offering Burleson and their kin a historical perspective, plenty of new stories of cousins and major milestones. We encourage everyone out there to send in your information to bfrginfo@gail.com. We can validate your family line, direct you to DNA assistance or follow up stories for you. If you have the skill or would enjoy helping, we need researchers, writers, genealogist (dna painters and triangulation), family authors, editors, bookkeeping, media craft and general remote office work. Our influx of information and members overflow. It's a good problem.

As of today, Cousining has grown to 758 followers in only its first year. That's two new each and every day! BFRG is expanding rapidly as well. Our last three Recollections newsletters have averaged over 100 pages and we're up to six issues this year. New family stories piled on the numerous ones we developed on this year's field trip to Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee. A number of you previous members of other family organizations joined our ranks. Welcome.

By our cover you can see "all new" is the operative term. Our new logo replaces the old historically inaccurate and obsolete armor helmet coat of arms. Our key researchers worked hard on its development. See our homepage to see the new logo and that our Burleson Heritage Publishing, Kindle-Direct Publishing and Amazon have affixed the new logo on each cover. It's been clearly identified the Burleson Puritans or other Separatists were in disfavor with the English Crown, never had a banner of heraldry or coat of arms. The jettisoned logo was researched by many exemplary Burleson researchers who presented openly it was "made up" and bore no credibility. Those Burlesons indicated despite being given accurate, the old guard "chose to believe" and continued its use. BFRG will not be a part of that myth.



Removed by BFRG
Effective 2023

Also NEW... books and more books. Expect soon the biography of William S. Burleson with the assistance of Bill's son Steve, an autobiography by Thomas Aaron Burleson, FBI agent retired, a Burleson Anthology collection from Susanne Hollyfield, several family biographies from Carrie Ann Woolverton and many more. If you have a family story you could develop into a book, BFRG has help available.

We'd like to give a tip of the cap to two gifted researcher/ writers this month. They are perennial contributors who gift us with their historical knowledge. They are Gerry Booth of Austin, Texas and David A. Burleson of Hartselle, Alabama. Thank you both so much.



Cousining contributors scour hundreds of sources and over one hundred more social media sites building their stories, careful to give credit and thanks to the sites. Our new style, methods and presentations are increasingly popular and emulated. As "imitation is the highest form of flattery" BFRG is VERY flattered. We suppose that's part of being the leader in Burleson & Kin history/genealogy forums.

Send your comments and questions to Cousining and stay with us. Tell all your family to follow us and to join BFRG, plenty-a-room... **it's a big tent!**



Winter on Shoal Creek

Corrections: I appreciate knowing that someone is reading my articles. Genealogy articles, I believe, are always open to correction. I like it when someone can correct or add information to what I have written. Susanne Bergum has found a date that needs to be corrected. I try to add dates behind people's names because so many people have the same name. Susanne who is directly related to the Lee's informed me of the information she has learned about the death date of Phoebe Lee Landers. Robert Abel Lee was Susanne's 4th great-grandfather; Isaac Burleson was her 3rd; and Rachel Lee who married Levi Verdin, was her 2nd great aunt. So she has done much more research about the Lees than I have. This is what she has learned about Phoebe's death:

In 1850, Phoebe (Lee) Landers is living with her brother, Isaac Lee. Likely helping to take care of Isaac's orphaned grandchildren who were returned from Missouri after the death of their father, Daniel.

In 1860, she is living in Township 45 Range 17, Moniteau, Missouri, USA with her son, H.(Hezekial) Landers and family. After that she disappears and there's no death record.

A more accurate identification of Phoebe Lee would have her dates listed as (1774 – after 1860).

Another correction. In searching for a good map to show the continuation of the Shipman journey, I found a map that placed Fort Russell, where Daniel Francisco (Gage) lived when he arrived in Illinois. In my placement of the fort in the last article, trying to follow the description of the location, I placed it east of Shoal Creek. This recently found map places Fort Russell west of Shoal Creek and closer to the Goshen area.

This makes a difference, but the family is still located relatively close to each other in Illinois. Who would have ever thought the road to Texas ran through Illinois?

One typo to correct. James Burleson Allard died in 1849, not 1949.

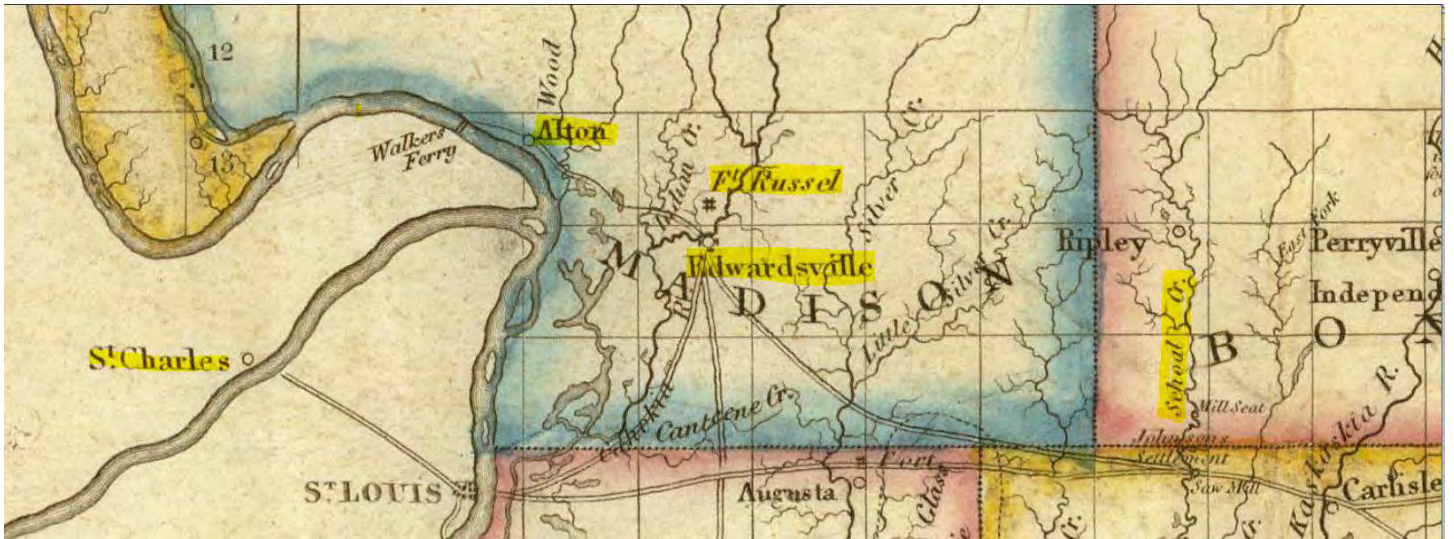


We left the Shipmans located on Shoal Creek in Illinois for the winter. Remember the Shipmans went to the Goshen settlement first then to Shoal Creek.

Daniel Shipman continues writing about his time in Illinois:

When there father gave a good horse for a small improvement on government land, a small log cabin and a little patch enclosed. Brother Edward and myself went to work, cleared and fenced about eight acres, cultivated, and made a tolerably good crop of corn and vegetables, making a living by our own exertions. In the first place mother bought a cow and calf, paid for them with what we called coverlen. Father, brother and myself paid for another cow, and with them and the help of our guns, and wild honey, we lived pretty well in the wilderness - - I say wilderness because ours was the outside house — — next to the Indians. We had many of the red skin rascals to visit us that Summer, such as Kickapoos, Patawatomies and Sioux; but they appeared to be quite friendly. That Summer I found forty three bee

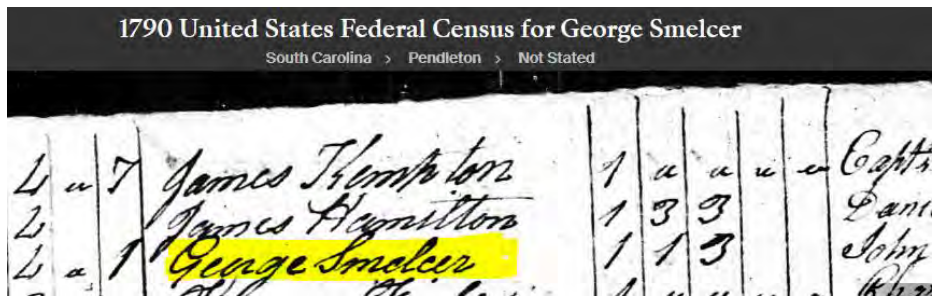
trees; brother and myself saved many bee hives, and father took the honey to St. Louis and bought necessities with the product for the family. In the fall father sold our bee-stands and made some others, and bought a bunch of cattle, and a small drove of hogs, with all of which we started in the fall, I think sometime in October.



1

When we left Shoal Creek, we traveled westward several days; passed through a little town called Edwardsville, then to the Mississippi river, at a place then called Smelser’s ferry, now Alton, Illinois, a large city, where the State penitentiary is now located. At the time we passed through, there was not a stick-a-miss, except what travelers had used in the way camping.

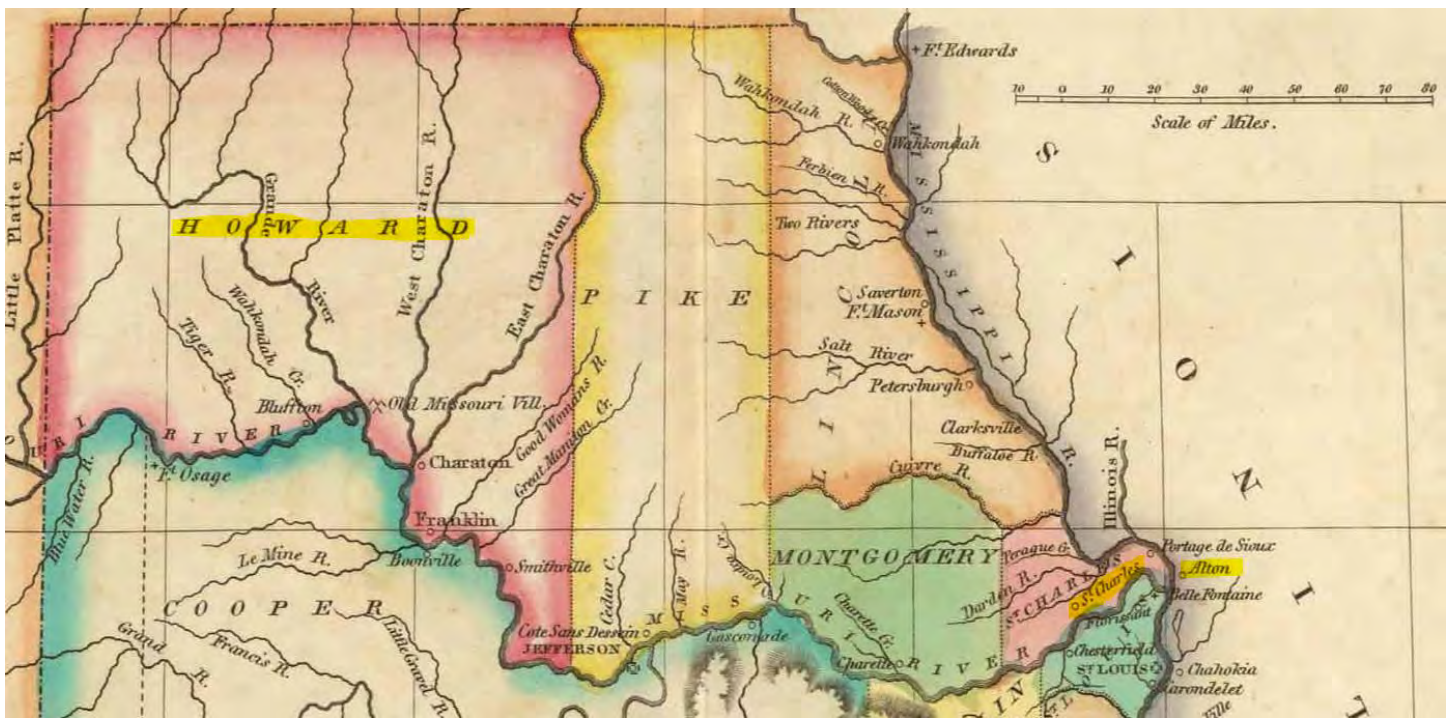
The ferry was owned by George Schmelzer² also spelled like Daniel wrote “Smelser” or sometimes “Smeltzer” or Smelcer” as seen on the 1790 US Census. George Schmelzer was born in the 1760s in Pennsylvania and died in 1829 in Missouri. He came from Pendleton County, South Carolina, the same area where Mary Robinson Shipman’s family lived.



I mention George Schmelzer because I could not help but wonder if Moses and Mary had known him from the times they lived in or near Pendleton County.

¹ John Melish, *Map of Illinois, 1820*
<https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/workspace/handleMediaPlayer;JSESSIONID=228167e7-a0fa-4757-b6ed-1c9414c1df4a?qvq=&trs=&mi=&lunaMediaId=RUMSEY~8~1~1961~130157>
² “We Relate” https://www.werelate.org/wiki/User:Schmelzer/George_Smeltzer_1760s_-_1829_Ferryman

When we were ferrying our cattle, they, having been driven but a short distance, were almost as fat as they could be, and nearly all others, of which there were a great many; as a great number of emigrants going westward at that time — — and their cattle being very thin and light, the boat could hold and carry almost as many as could stand in it. When we drove ours in, the ferryman took all in at one time, and it seemed like it was about all the boat could carry. When we got nearly across, the wind rose, and it looked very much like the boat might sink; and the ferryman would curse the d—n fat cattle, and wish they were all in h—I, but good luck happened to be on our side, and we got over safe, paid the ferryman, and set out again westward. It was not far to the city of St. Charles, and when in a short distance of the town, we met an old darky, and some of our company asked him how far it was to the town, he first looked one way and then the other and said: oh, massa! it is so near I can't tell you; and after taking a good hearty laugh at the poor old negro's funny way of expressing himself, we passed on through the town, and I do not recollect anything more worth writing, until we got to Howard county.



3

While the Shipmans were at the beginning of finding their new home, someone who had already migrated to Missouri and was completely settled and established was Moses Austin. By this time Moses had a lead mining business in Potosi, Missouri. Unfortunately during the War of 1812 England's control of the sea prevented long-distance water transport and even though lead was needed for bullets, the only way to move the lead was stopped and Austin's sales stopped. Money in Missouri disappeared and credit evaporated. Austin felt the economic collapse by December of 1812. In the summer

³ Henry Charles Carey and Isaac Lea, *Carey's 1822 Geographic, Historical and Statistical State Map of Missouri* (1822). <https://mapgeeks.org/missouri/#!fancybox/e2f58960/1822-Geographical-Historical-and-Statistical-Map-of-Missouri.jpg>

of 1813, Austin and a group of investors received the authority from the Territorial Legislature to organize the first bank in the Territory, the first bank west of the Mississippi, the Bank of St. Louis.

In November of 1814, the war was over and the price of lead soared. Austin made capital improvements to his business but the lead market turned around and prices fell back to normal. To add to this, the bank failed. In 1817, Moses Austin lost money heavily. He had to do something with his mine and he had to find a different way to make money.

Things were going very differently for the Shipmans.

I think we arrived at the old gentleman Burleson's⁴ about the middle of November, 1817 father; looked around a few days, and concluded to settle on a good piece of land on the east side of the Missouri river, thought to be government land; we went to work; built us a comfortable log house, split and hewed puncheons, and made a tolerably good floor. We split rails, fenced and cleared about fourteen acres of as good land, I think, as there is in the state of Missouri, or any other state in the Union. Cultivated it well; made a fine crop of corn, Irish potatoes and many other vegetables, and lived well for a new country.. Made our own salt, pork, milk, butter and raised chickens, and all such thing we needed, and was enjoying ourselves fine, in the way of good living, good society, and sociable neighbors. But it was not long until a land speculator came along and notified us that we were on his land. His name was Berry; he claimed under what was then called a "New Madrid" claim, which was quite numerous in that country at the time. These claims were granted to the sufferers, by the falling into the Mississippi river the city of New Madrid. The aforesaid Berry told father he might stay another year, and that he was going to lay off a town there, and that he would donate to him a block of lots, so as to include his house. The place is where the city of Glassgo now stands.



1836 Map – town named Chariton



1845 Map – town named changed to Glasgow

5 6

⁴ Daniel Shipman called Captain James Burleson, old gentleman Burleson.

⁵ Henry Schenck Tanner, *Tanner's 1836 State Map of Missouri* (1836). <https://mapgeeks.org/missouri/#!fancybox/fa05512b/1836-Map-of-Missouri.jpg>

⁶ Sidney Edwards Morse and Samue Breese, *Morse's 1845 State Map of Missouri* (1845). <https://mapgeeks.org/missouri/#!fancybox/51b232a5/1845-Map-of-Missouri.jpg>

We remained on the place about two years; the town was laid off, but no improvements made in the way of a town when we left. The second year we staid at the place, father, a young man by the name of Aaron Allard and myself concluded to go above a little river called Charataw, I think it is now called Chariton river, bee hunting, and each of us took two five gallon kegs, lashed them together with ropes, and threw them across our horses; we



rode upon the ropes between the kegs. It took us about three or four days to go and find, cut down, take out, and squeeze the honey out of the comb, fill our six kegs with honey, and then about a day and a half in go back home.

This" young man," Aaron Allard is probably the same Aaron Allard (1798-1865) I found on the Illinois map of land owners. He was Moses Shipman's second cousin. His mother was Mary "Polly" *Burleson* Allard.

Sometime the next winter father and three or four of his friends took a notion to go bear hunting, and at the same time looked for bee trees. It was near

the same place, where we went bee hunting. I was too small and young to take part in that hunt, and had too much work to do, so I did not go. I now do not recollect how many bears they killed, nor how much honey they

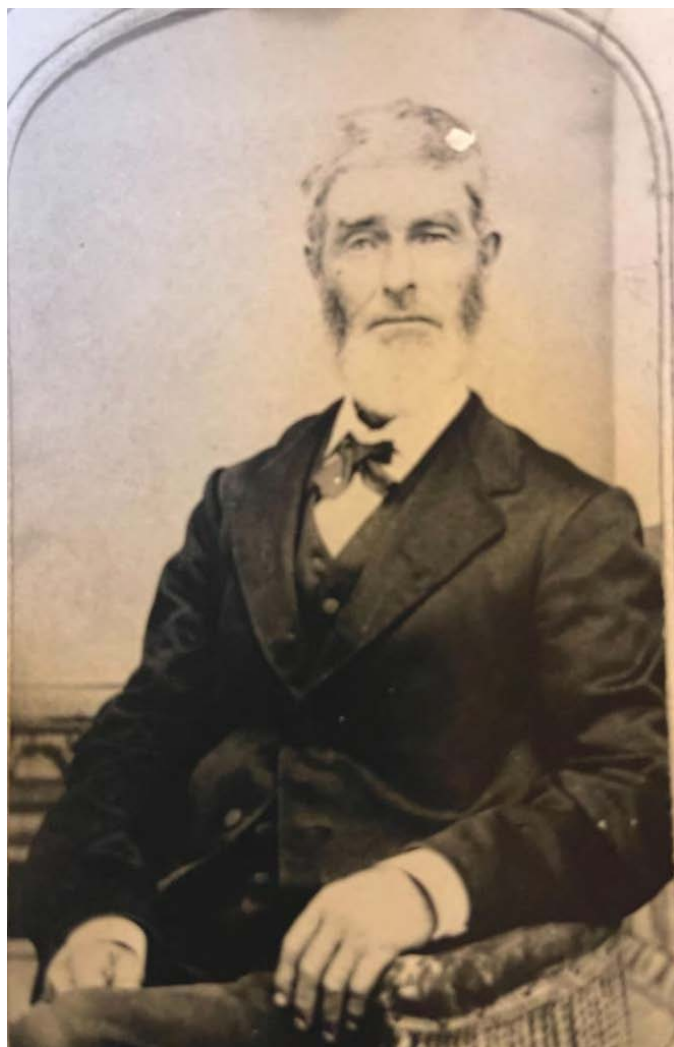
AARON HARDIN ALLARD

brought in, but they had as much as their horses were able to bring in, they brought their meat and honey, both in bear and deer skins, as fresh as they came off the carcass. The way they fixed the bear skins for carrying: they skinned the bear, leaving as little meat on the skin as possible, then trim the skin as round as convenient, so as to make it as even around the edge as possible, then cut off a lacing string, then, with a sharpe pointed knife, made holes all around the skin, and lace up all the skin, except a small place to put the meat or honey in, after all in, sew up the small place; manage at the same time to make it ballance. In case of a deer skin, they cased the skin like I did a rabbit skin when a boy; they turn the flesh side in, tie the skin of the legs and neck, when the meat or honey is all in and properly divided so as to ballance well, then sew up the back of the thighs, and put it on your horse, then get on top, and you are ready for traveling. Bear skins were not so much used as deer skins in the first settling of Texas, as they were in Missouri. The deer skins were frequently used that way in Texas.

Daniel was between 16 and 18 years old when these hunting trips occurred. It is obvious from the details he provides he was more interested in hunting than in genealogy, but I will continue to try to fill in the blanks in the next Texas Journey.

John Burleson Jr. (1812-1890)

From Alabama to Macoupin County, Illinois



The January-March 2023 issue of the “Recollections of the Burleson Family Research Group” includes Jim Burleson’s excellent article about John Burleson Jr. and some of his descendants. Today’s presentation is a follow-up to that article and will provide a list of resources for those interested in the line and some information on the early life of John Burleson Jr.

From the time he arrived in Illinois in 1827 until he died in 1890, the life of John Burleson Jr. is fairly well documented. See page 661 of Burleson Family Association Bulletin, May 1986 issue for family group sheet of John Burleson Jr. and his first wife, Elizabeth Gimlin (1819-1861) and page 794 of BFA Bulletin, May 1987 issue for family group sheet of John Burleson Jr. and his second wife, Elizabeth Smart (1829-1924.) What is not so well documented is John Jr’s life before his 1827 journey. Numerous gray areas exist in his ancestry and quite a bit of misinformation has surfaced in the past several years that only adds to the difficulty in researching this line. The lack of information on the lives of his father and mother has been a gray area not so easily brought to light.

John Burleson Sr. (circa 1768-1824) is one of the least documented sons of Aaron Burleson (circa 1726-1782). He is listed as one of the thirteen children in Aaron’s last will and testament written in 1781 in Sullivan

County, North Carolina (later Tennessee). He is shown as a minor child, however, his birth year can only be estimated based on the birth years of his younger brothers, Jonathan, Joseph and James. In March 1819 Anne Newport Royall wrote of her conversations with Joseph Burleson (1770-1849) while she was staying at his Inn in Moulton, Lawrence County Alabama. Joseph talked of an older brother “not yet fourteen” when their father was killed in 1782. This older brother would have been John, and if Joseph’s recollections were correct, the birth year of John can be estimated as 1768. Joseph Burleson’s interviews with Anne Royall can be found in the book, “Letters from Alabama 1817-1822”, by Anne Newport Royall.

The ancestries of the two wives of John Sr. are not known. For years histories have stated John Sr’s first wife was Abigail Adair, the sister of John Adair, an early governor of Kentucky. However, John Adair had no sister named Abigail. If the “Abigail” who married John Burleson Sr. was any close relation to Governor Adair, she would have had to been Abigail Moore the niece of Governor Adair. William and Mary Adair were the parents of Governor John Adair. One of their children was Betsy Adair who married John Moore. Included in their fifteen children was a daughter named Abigail who “maybe” became the wife of John Burleson Sr. This theory was held by Dr. Woody Werking and Edna Boyd, two early Burleson family researchers who relied on the book, “The Adair History & Genealogy” written by James Barnett Adair, MD, published in 1924. See page 1574, Burleson Family

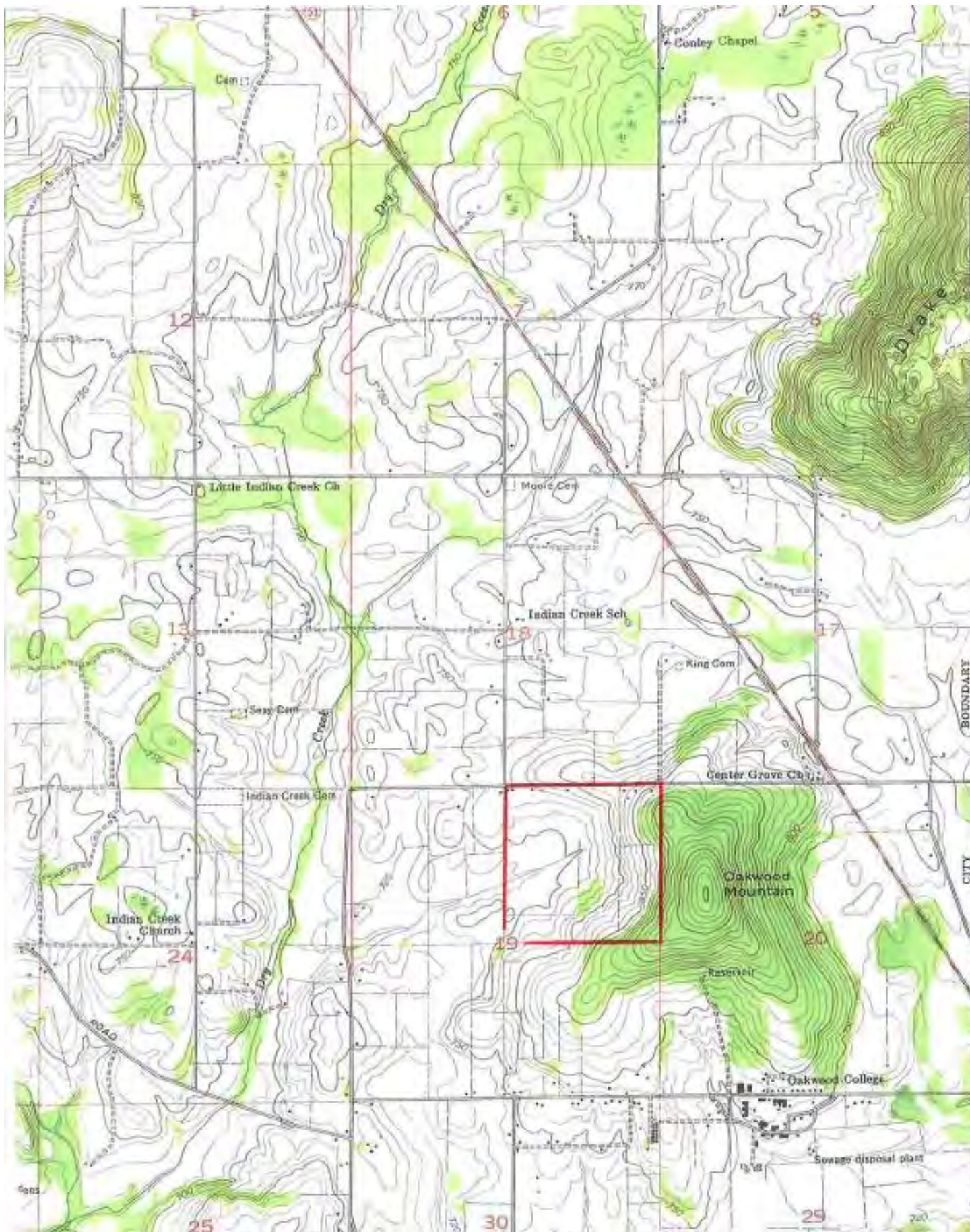
Association Bulletin, November 1991. John Sr. and Abigail had three children, Betsy, Jonathan and Aaron. Jonathan (1789-1866) is the best documented of the three. He became a large-scale planter in Morgan County, Alabama and his home "Westview" has been the cover image for the Burleson Family Association Bulletin since 1981.

The family history of John Sr's second wife, Mary "Polly" Hodges (DOB unknown-1847) is no clearer than his first wife's. Her maiden-name is not known. By her first marriage to a Mr. Hodges, she had at least one son, Seth Hodges (circa 1788-1841). After the death of her first husband, she married John Burleson Sr. whose first wife had died circa 1796. The date and place of their marriage are unknown as well as the number and names of all their children. Unfortunately, neither John Sr. nor Mary could read or write, and few records exist of their time together. No family bible has been found and to my knowledge no accurate record of the names and birth dates of all their children has been discovered. In recent years the myth that John Burleson Senior had the middle name of "Crawford" has taken root and only confuses the issue. John did not have a middle name.

One of the older children of John Sr. and Mary was a daughter "Temperance". She married Levi Taylor (circa 1792-1861) in Madison County, Alabama in 1816. During their life together, they lived in Madison County, Alabama, Morgan County, Alabama, Marion County, Alabama, Fayette County, Alabama and Nacogdoches County, Texas. Based on federal census records for the years 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860 and 1870, one can find the birth year for Temperance varying from 1796 to 1798 to 1800. Her place of birth varies from North Carolina to Kentucky to Tennessee. So, you can see, even the records available are confusing.

Verified information on John Burleson Sr. and his wife, Mary, after their marriage in the 1790's is limited. What we do know is they did live in Kentucky until the early 1800's and then moved to Tennessee. They lived in what was then west Tennessee (now middle Tennessee) until about 1807. In either 1807 or 1808 they moved to northern Alabama, then a part of the Mississippi Territory. John Sr., and his brothers, Joseph and James settled along Limestone Creek in what later became Limestone County. Madison County, which had been formed in 1808, was located east of the Limestone Creek area. The land west of Madison County was still claimed by the Chickasaw Indian tribe in the early 1800's. This resulted in the Burleson's and about two hundred other families being considered "intruders" on Indian lands. In the 1960's a copy of the original list of Intruders living in various locations in Limestone County was obtained from the National Archives from their Cherokee Indian Agency files. Included in the list are the families of John, Joseph and James who are shown living along Limestone Creek on 29 May 1809. By late June 1809, federal troops forced all intruders off Chickasaw lands. It appears John and his family moved to Madison County. However, by the summer of 1810, most of the families, including the John and James Burleson families, had moved back onto Chickasaw lands. On 5 September 1810, a petition signed by 450 intruders was sent to President James Madison. See the 1938 books, "The Territorial Papers of the United States: Mississippi, Volumes V and VI" edited by Clarence Edwin Carter. The petition, which requested the intruders be allowed to stay on Chickasaw lands, included the names of James Burleson, John Burleson and John's son, Jonathan Burleson. But again, they were not allowed to stay as federal troops forced the families off the land and back to Madison County. There, John and his family stayed until about 1817.

General Land Office records verify John Burleson filing to purchase from the government the NE1/4 of Section 19, Township 3 South, Range 1 West, Madison County, Alabama. The quarter section contained 158.60 acres and is located in west central Madison County. Today, the city of Huntsville has grown to include this property. John filed for the purchase on 24 February 1812, a little more than a month before the birth of John Burleson Jr. on 1 April 1812. As with most land purchases in those days, John financed the sale. He paid the \$317.20 purchase price plus interest in four installments with the last being made 13 February 1816. The patent for the tract was issued on 15 April 1816. When he filed to purchase the land in 1812, the land office agent in Huntsville spelled his last name "Burlesson". When the patent was issued in Washington D C in 1816, John's last name was spelled "Burlison".



John Burleson Jr. was a little over a year old when the Creek Indian War started in the late summer of 1813. His father, John Sr. joined Colonel Peter Perkins' 7th Regiment of the Madison County Militia. John Sr. served in the militia from 14 November 1813, until his enlistment period ended 20 December 1813. His military record along with the records of the other eight Burleson relatives who served in the 7th Regiment are preserved on microfilm located in the Huntsville-Madison County Library in Huntsville, Alabama. Note: Mary's son by her first marriage, Seth Hodges, served as a corporal in the 7th Regiment. Located in the Dyas Collection at the Tennessee State Library & Archives in Nashville, Tennessee is information showing John Burleson Sr. and his two brothers, Joseph and James receiving payment in 1815 for use of their wagons for carrying supplies to General Andrew Jackson's army during the Creek War. Beyond that I have not found any information concerning John Burleson Senior's activities during the war.

After the war John Sr., and his family continued to live in Madison County until early 1817. Deed records show John Sr. selling his Madison County farm in two tracts. (See BFA Bulletin, May 1993 issue, Page 1831.) On 10 December 1816, John and Mary Burleson sold 84 acres of their farm to William Phillips. Deed is recorded in Deed Book C, page 3. On 29 March 1817, John and Mary sold the remaining 73.5 acres to John Austin. The conveyance is recorded in Deed Book C, page 51 of Madison County, Alabama deed records.

Soon after selling his farm, John moved his family south across the Tennessee River into what became Cotaco County (name changed to Morgan County in 1821.) He settled his family near the town of Somerville which became the county seat in 1818. Somerville is located in central Morgan County about six miles south of the Tennessee River. On 14 September 1818, county court records list John Burleson as one of seven road jurors appointed to approve the route of a proposed road to extend northern from Somerville to Crabbe's Ferry on the Tennessee River. Book 1 of the Cotaco County Court records from 1818 to 1823 contain this appointment. The same volume contains three other road work appointments for John Sr., the last being done on 7 May 1821. These early court records can be found at the Morgan County Archives in Decatur, Alabama.

In 1821, John moved his family to the Wolftown area in west central Morgan County, less than one mile east of the Morgan-Lawrence County line. In July 1818, Joseph Inman filed to purchase from the government a quarter section of land described as the NE1/4 of Section 19, Township 6 South and Range 5 West. He financed the sale and made payments until 5 September 1821, when John Burleson was assigned Inman's interest in the East1/2 of the approximate 160-acre tract. The west half of the quarter section was relinquished back to the government at that time. Information for this transaction can be found in Tract Book records of the General Land Office of the Bureau of Land Management found online at: gloreCORDS.blm.gov. John and his family, including John Jr., were living on this farm when John Sr. died in 1824. John's date of death is unknown as is his burial place. Some researchers use the date 27 November 1824, as John's death date, however, that is the date John and Mary's oldest son, James Burleson (1803-1856) filed a petition with the Probate Judge of Morgan County to settle John's estate. John Sr. possibly died several weeks before the petition was filed. See page 921 of BFA Bulletin, February 1988 issue for the Orphans Court records pertaining to the settlement of John Sr's estate. On 27 November 1824, the court appointed John's widow, Mary Burleson, as guardian of her two minor children, Thomas Burleson and John Burleson. This is the only reference found to date which mentions John Jr's time in Morgan County. NOTE: the 1820 federal census, which could have provided information on the John Sr. family, was lost. The Orphans Court records are also the only known reference to the son, Thomas. What became of him after 1824 is unknown. On 31 December 1824 the court appointed Jonathan Burleson (1789-1866), Griggs Putman and John Putman as commissioners with instructions to sell the real estate of John Burleson Sr. James Burleson purchased his father's 80 acres as of 28 February 1825. John had financed the purchase of the farm in 1821, therefore title to the land was still held by the federal government. James received the purchase certificate for the 80 acres and on 12 March 1825, he assigned (sold) the certificate to Charles Royer who completed payment on the tract and was issued the patent 25 July 1825.

Mary and some of her children, including John Jr. moved from Alabama to Tennessee in either 1825 or 1826. It is speculated she lived in Tennessee for at least one year before moving to Illinois in 1827, however, the

exact dates are unknown. Until recently, it was not known where in Tennessee, Mary and her children moved after leaving Alabama. It is now known Mary and her family moved to Hardeman County, Tennessee and lived there until the final move to Illinois. Several Burleson family members were living in Hardeman County by the time Mary arrived. Aaron Burleson (13 July 1791-23 August 1828) had brought his family to Hardeman County from Lawrence County, Alabama in the early 1820's. See page 3470 of BFA Bulletin, Spring 2013 issue for the family bible record of Aaron and his wife, Rebecca Burleson. Aaron was the son of John Burleson Sr. and his first wife, Abigail, therefore he was a half-brother of John Jr. John Burleson Sr's brother James Burleson (1775-1836) and his family were also living in Hardeman County at that time. See page 389 of BFA Bulletin, August 1984 issue for start of history and family group sheet for James Burleson. Hardeman County is located in southwest Tennessee about forty miles east of Memphis and about a hundred miles northwest of the Morgan-Lawrence County areas in Alabama where these Burleson families moved from. In 1818, the Chickasaw Indian tribe ceded most of the land in what became west Tennessee to the United States government. Hardeman County was officially organized in 1823, however, several white families were living there by that time.

The proof Mary and her family lived in Hardeman County comes from a letter written by Edward Blakely Burleson (28 July 1838-8 March 1917) to John Burleson Jr. in answer to a letter John Jr sent to Bastrop County, Texas in early September 1877. The letter is so entertaining and informative it has been decided to include the entire letter in this article. My file contains only a transcribed copy of the letter sent to Howard Lamar Burleson (1892-1970) by Mary Sweetman, BFA #15 in the early 1960's. Mary was the great granddaughter of John Burleson Jr. The letter has been lying unread in my files since 1976. Without my research for this article, it would probably still be unread. As you read the letter keep in mind, original spellings have been kept intact.

The State of Texas
County of Bastrop
Sept. 16, A. D. 1877

Mr. John Burleson
Of Carlinville, Macoupin, Ill.

Dear Uncle,

Not knowing the relationship that exists between you and myself, and your age, you will pardon a strange relation for addressing you thus, as Uncle. However, this makes no difference for I have never heard of one of the name that pretends to deny the relationship

Uncle, I see from your letter that you have been in Ill. for fifty years, and was originally from the same Coty. and State as my ancestors, Haweman (Hardeman) Co., Tenn. My father left there in 1832 with an older brother, Edward Burleson, better known in Texas as Gen Ed Burleson, the great Indian fighter. The Uncle Ed has been dead since 1852. There were of my grandfathers family quite a no. of children. I will attempt to acquaint you as nearly as I can with their names. Grandfathers name was James, decd. (deceased) who is buried upon Texas soil. His oldest daughter was Sarah, decd., m. (married) a man by the name of Robert Thrasher, decd. 2. Volley married Ezekial Owens 3. Mary m. a Taylor (Martin) 4. Edward m. Sarah Owens, 5. James decd. 6. Jacob killed by Indians in Texas 7. Jonathan who is my father and lives close to me. 8. Aaron, who lives at Webberville, Travis Co. 9. There was John decd., who was older than father.

I believe, Uncle, that I have mentioned all of my family. You will notice that there are but three left. Yes, there is one more, Joseph, who is the oldest brother. He was still living the last account, making four left. All those who are decd. are buried beneath Texas soil, except Sarah who went to Ark. one year ago to visit her sons and died there in her 80th year. Of myself, Uncle, I am a native Texian, was born where the town of Bastrop now stands in the year 1838, and what little education I am in possession of was obtained here under many disadvantageous circumstances. I live on the bank of the Colorado River and am professionally a farmer. Uncle your letter of the 7th inst., to Aaron Burleson, is the one I am attempting to answer now, there being no Aaron now living in this county, and your letter being placed in my box, I feel it my duty to answer, then forward it to Uncle Aaron at Webberville, Travis Co. Texas. There was another Aaron in this county, an old man, but he has been dead for 7 or 8

years. He was a cousin to my father and a son of old Uncle Joe, who came to this county in the early days. Really there is a large connection in this state and county, but I am not prepared to trace their genealogy to your satisfaction. There is quite a large family of Burleson in Leon Co. Texas. Those are the families of Isaac, Joshua and Grum..... Burleson. Their postoffice is Jewett. There is also another family at Waco, Texas. Those are Rufus and Richard Burleson, both Baptist Preachers. In fact they are scattered from the Red River on the north to the Rio Grande on the south. Well Uncle, I have given you all the information that I am in possession of, in and about the Burlesons, excepting that, I can say this, that there are all grades, kinds, professions, cliques and ?..... among them. Some are ministers, some doctors, merchants, farmers, and many are drunken, worthless men.

But, enough on this subject. I will now do my best to inform you relative to this country, soil, products etc. I will commence and give you the best description I can from memory, not having a map for a guide. Well commencing at Barey (possibly Bowie) on the Red River thence southeast to Travis County, on the Colorado River, all the country east and north of these two points might, I suppose be timbered and sandy soil interspersed with prairie and black soil and vicie versy – between the same two points, but above, say NW and SW for some distance, is considered prairie country with dark rich silt, and from the Colorado River S-SW and SE is termed as prairie country with fine lands, yet more or less subject to droth (drought).

As to the value of lands, they are unusually low at this time, all together owing to the unusual hard times, as we term it, or rather the scarsety of money. Land in the American Valley of the Colorado River, below Austin the Capitol, are worth from ten to fifty dollars per acre, altogether owing to the locality, but equally as good land situated on creeks can be had for from five to ten dollars per acre improved. The unimproved for from three to eight dollars. Remember this is the heart of the farming country. Bastrop county is considered one among the best farming counties in the state, adapted to a greater variety of products than any other, because we have both classes of soil. Nevertheless, we have poor crops this year on account of Grasshoppers in the spring. We have corn in abundance that cannot be disposed of at 25 cents a bushel. Oats yield 75 to 80 bushel per acres, worth 20 cents. Barley 50 cents, Cotton nine and a half cents to ten cents per lb. Bacon retailed at 11 cts. Sogrum 25 cts. a gallon. All other things that a farmer produces in proportion. You see instantly, why the farmer sings out hard times, because his products are low. Yet, it is human nature not to be satisfied with well doing.

The average yield of wheat per acre is 10 to 30 bu. per acre and is worth 75 cents to one dollar per bushel. There will be more grain around this fall and next spring than ever before in this country. Enough about the Colorado, its advantages and disadvantages. We will now hop to west and northwest Texas. Here we have some fine lands and cheap. This land can be had for one to two dollars per acre, owing to situation and improvements, though this year that part of the state has failed. I suppose on account of frost in June that killed the early corn in the silk and tassle. Our cropping season commences in March and planting up to May 1st and make good crops. Lands rent in many ways, some for cash from 3 to 5 dollars per acre. Some for 1 bale of cotton for ten acres. Some 1/3 and 1/4. Some 1/2 and 1/2. Stock horses are low, but mules in good demand. Texas cows and calves 10 to 13 dollars, beef brisk, hogs moderate, Mexican sheep low, graded fair good round prices. And for native musquit (mesquite) crops for graising purposes, the world can't beat it.

I have, in my weak way, delt out to you all the information that I am capable of doing at present, unless you wish to know something more which will be imparted on recpt. of letter from you or your family. I would not advise a man of your age to break-up and take such a burden on your shoulders as you would have to take to move to Texas, without it is to better the position of your family, though I feel more than satisfied that your family would better their condition by hunting new country. There was a man that lived with me last year from your state and he tells me that he can do better here than there. I also conversed with another today and he makes about the same statement. He says we have the deepest and best soil that he ever saw.

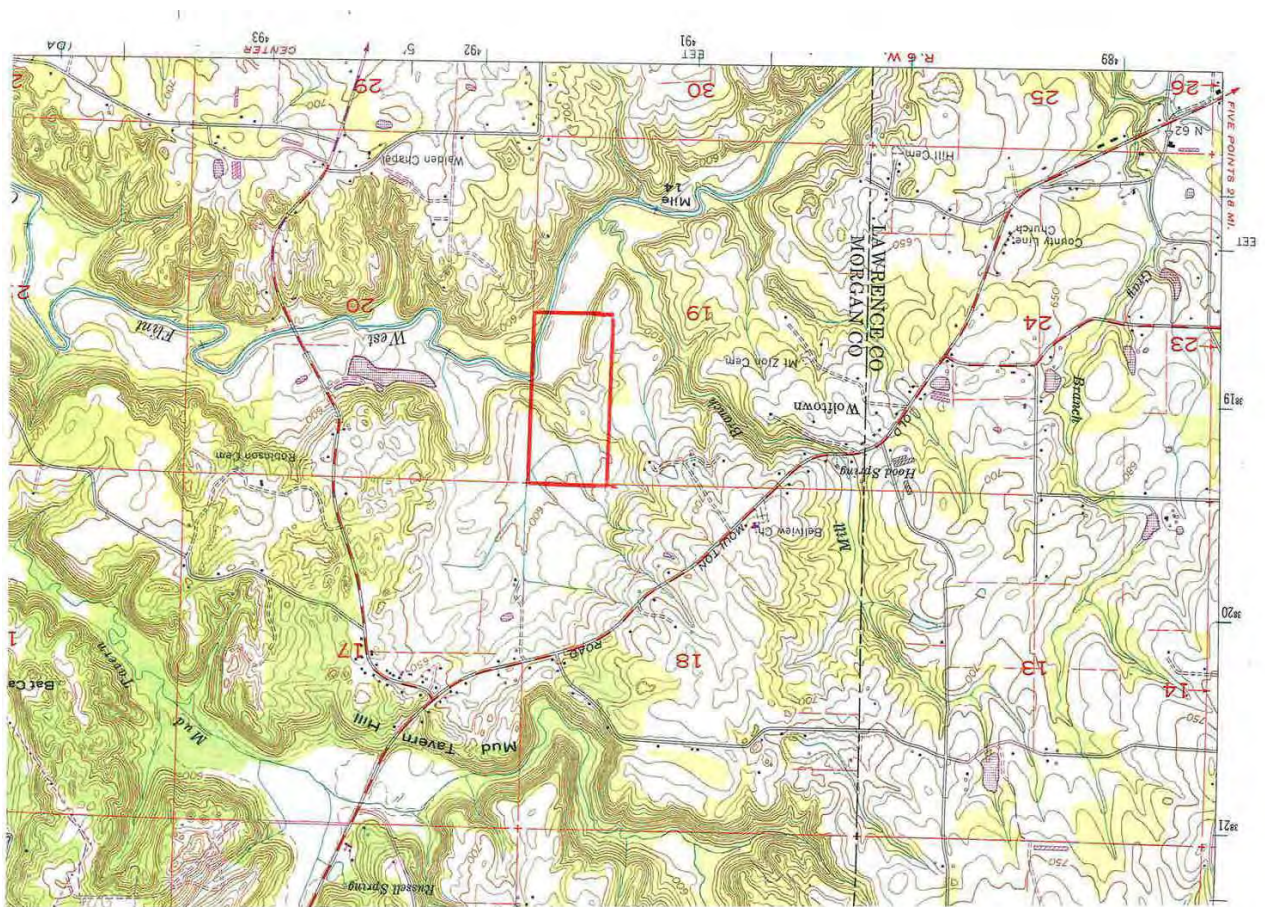
With this I close, promising to give you or your family all the information that I can by answering all interagatories that you may wish to ask, hoping to here from you soon, I subscribe myself - - -

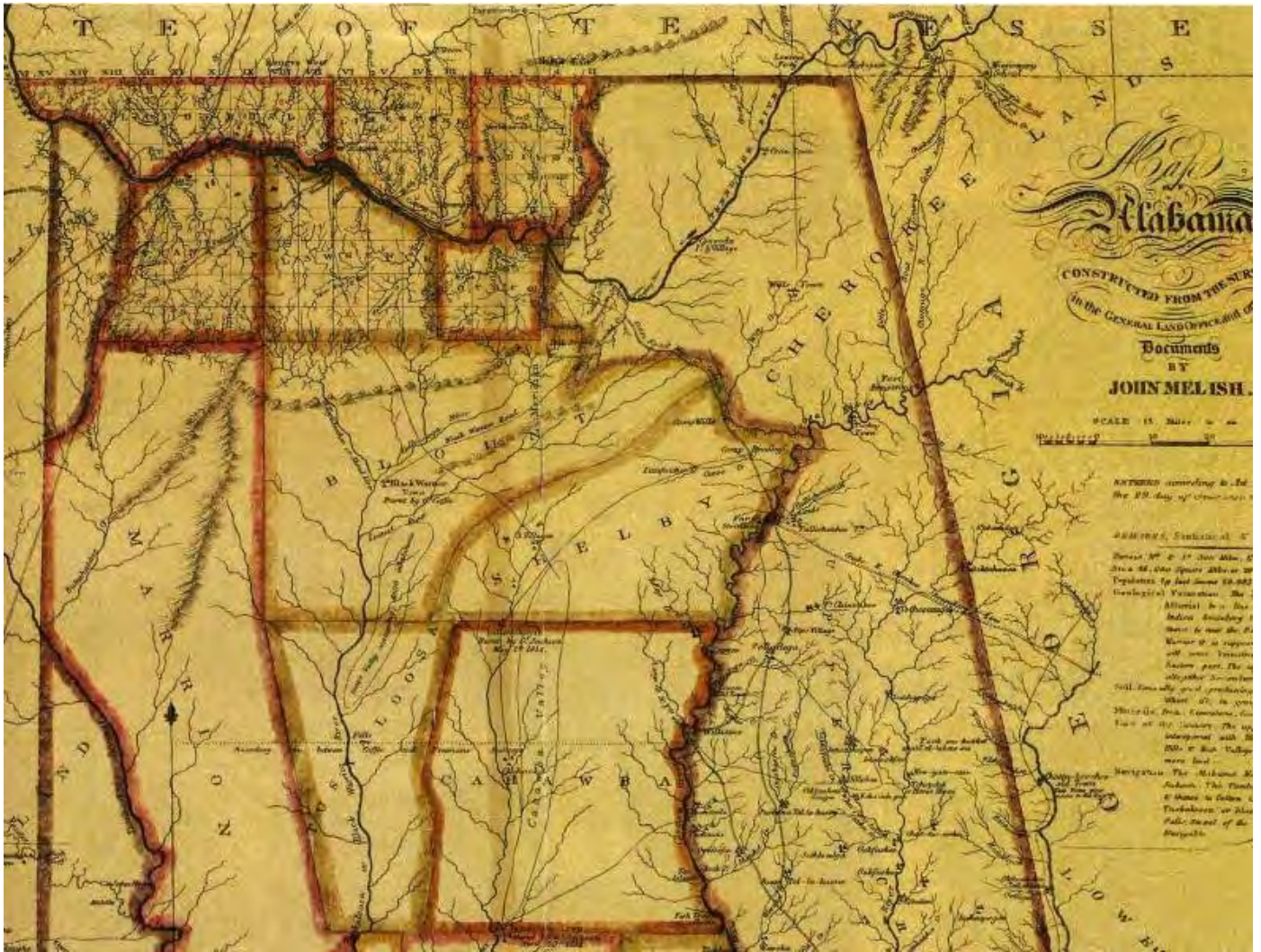
Ed B. Burleson

After this first letter, John Jr. and his daughter, Sarah E. Burleson became pen pals with Ed B. Other letters from Ed B. can be found beginning on page 573 of BFA Bulletin, November 1985 issue. Based on these later letters, it appears John Jr. in early 1878, decided against a move to Texas. Sarah Elizabeth Burleson (9 December 1865 – 23 December 1941) was the oldest of the two children of John Jr. and his second wife, Elizabeth Smart, who had been widowed twice by the Thomas brothers before her marriage to John Jr. in early 1865. Sarah Elizabeth Burleson had one sibling, a brother, Seth Henry Burleson (1867-1960). Sarah E. married 18 March 1884 to Charles Casper Pearson Drury. They had six children, one of whom was Sue Francis Drury born 20 May 1891. Sue was married three times, first to Richard Roberts, second to Henry Cornelius and third to Dr. James W. Dollin. By Sue's second marriage, she had one child, Mary Elizabeth Cornelius. Mary married a Sweetman. It is because of Mary Sweetman, we have the Ed B. Burleson letters. Her grandmother, Sarah Elizabeth Drury, saved the letters and by the early 1960's Mary was in possession of them. Mary began corresponding with my uncle and noted family genealogist Howard Burleson in the early 1960's and sent him transcribed copies of some of the letters. Both Mary Sweetman and Howard Burleson were Great-Great Grandchildren of John Burleson Sr. After my Uncle Howard died in 1970, his widow, Nell Masterson Burleson gave copies to me in 1976. Mary Sweetman became an early member of the Burleson Family Association in 1981 and contributed generously her information on the John Burleson Jr. family. Hopefully, her research papers have survived with other family members.

As you can determine from the above article, information on the early years of John Burleson Jr, and his parents is limited. As more research is undertaken, I trust new information can be discovered which will assist us in having a better understanding of the history of not just this branch, but all the branches of our Burleson Family.

David A. Burleson
November 8, 2023





David A Burleson
BFRG Researcher

davidburleson1959@gmail.com

Major Milestones

ALEXANDER PAUL BASS JR.

Paul Bass, Jr. - age 93 of Knoxville, went to be with the Lord on November 12, 2020. Paul was born in High Rock, North Carolina in 1927. He later resided in Lenoir City, Oak Ridge, and Knoxville, Tennessee. At the age of 17, Paul served in World War II, in the United States Navy, in the 141st Naval Construction Battalion at Marshal Islands. After World War II, Paul married his high school mate on the 4th of July. Paul earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Tennessee Technological University. Paul was a member of Central United Methodist Church in Lenoir City, Trinity United Methodist Church in Oak Ridge, and Cokesbury United Methodist Church in Knoxville. He enjoyed hunting and fishing tremendously. Paul spent his entire career also serving his country, working for Union Carbide and Martin Marietta, under the U. S. Department of Energy, and served in numerous management positions related to the production of nuclear weapons and system design. Paul personally worked very closely with both Pentagon officials and the U. S. Department of Energy in the authorization of specific nuclear weapons components such that he was able to manage weapons production and delivery at the Y-12 Nuclear Defense Complex in Oak Ridge. Paul also served on the Board of Directors for the Oak Ridge Hospital. He was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather. Those that knew him best quickly learned that he was a loving friend and a caring mentor for life. Paul was preceded most recently in death by his grandson, Steven Bass II; wife, Evelyn Boyd Bass; father and mother, Paul Bass, Sr. and Jerome Burluson Bass. Paul is survived by his sister, Ruby Bass, sons, Paul Bass, III of Tullahoma, David Bass and Steve Bass of Knoxville; grandchildren, Alexandria of Knoxville, Claire, Lyndsay and Whitney of Tullahoma, and nine great-grandchildren. The family would like to thank Click Funeral Home of Lenoir City for their long-term family friendship and first class services. Friends may come by the funeral home on Sunday, November 15th between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. to pay their respects. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Monday, November 16th at Click Funeral Home. Burial will follow in the Lenoir City Cemetery. Military honors will be conducted by the Loudon Co. Veterans Honor Guard. Click Funeral Home, 109 Walnut Street, Lenoir City is in charge of arrangements.



Evelyn Boyd Bass - age 85 of Knoxville, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday morning, March 25, 2015 at Little Creek Sanitarium. Evelyn played the piano at Central United Methodist Church, prior to moving and being a member at Trinity United Methodist Church in Oak Ridge where she sang in the choir. Upon her last move to Knoxville, Evelyn was a member at Cokesbury United Methodist Church. Evelyn was a homemaker and raised three sons, while also the owner of a custom drapery business. She volunteered as a Gray Lady for the Oak Ridge Hospital. Evelyn later worked in the furniture business for many years before retiring. She was a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother. Evelyn was preceded in death by her parents, Jefferson King (J. K.) Boyd and Belle Dunlap Boyd; sisters, Mary Lynn Boyd and Marie Boyd, all of Lenoir City. She is survived by her husband of 67 years, Alexander Paul Bass, Jr.; sons: Dr. Alexander Paul Bass, III of Tullahoma, J. David, Bass, and Steven Bass

both of Knoxville; five grandchildren, Claire, Lyndsay, and Whitney of Tullahoma, Alex and Steven Bass, II of Knoxville and eight great grandchildren. The family will receive friends from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday, March 27th at Click Funeral Home in Lenoir City. A Celebration of Life will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday in the Click Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow in the Lenoir City Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. The family is very grateful to the staff of Little Creek Sanitarium for their loving care of Evelyn. Click Funeral Home, Lenoir City is in charge of arrangements. www.clickfuneralhome.com

Meeting for Descendants of Ebin and Dora Burleson

Sunday Afternoon May 19th, 2002

The BFRG has compiled a rough draft of our book of Ebin and Dora Burleson's descendants. It will be the fourth book in our series documenting each Burleson line that descends from Isaac Burleson Sr. When we recently found out that Paul and Evelyn Bass were coming from Knoxville, TN for a visit, we hurriedly arranged a meeting to get together as many of Ebin's descendants as possible. Paul is a grandson of Ebin. This would be a good opportunity to show our rough draft of Ebin's book to his descendants and hopefully to add missing and additional information. Hilda Burleson Snuggs, who is a driving force in the BFRG, invited us to meet in her mother, Lena Burleson's, farmhouse. This was very convenient because it was right across the street from Ebin and Dora's farm.



We want to thank Hilda, Ted, J. Brice, and Johnny for allowing us to use their mother's farmhouse. Notice the oval picture in the background, it is the wedding photo of their parents, Klone Roy and Lena Lowder Burleson. There is a great deal of history just waiting to be told about this family. Their line goes back from Klone Roy, R. Hurley, Isaac, Billie, Isaac Jr. and Isaac Sr. We are planning a book on Isaac in the near future.



Ruby Bass, Mildred Honeycutt, Lowell, Billy, Calvin Burleson, and Paul Bass

I received this letter from Paul Bass Jr. Everyone remembers him as Junior.

Evelyn and I sincerely thank you and the other Burleson relatives for the gathering on May 19th. Meeting at Lena's home place made the occasion extra special for me. J. Brice, Ted, Johnny, and Hilda were very kind to invite the group to meet at Lena's. While the time together was so short many memories of long ago were kindled. As we visited Ebin and Dora's home site, Johnny

asked me if I remembered the day we were hunting down on the creek, behind the "Little House" where the large poplar tree stood. That time in 1940 came back as if it was only yesterday. Johnny probably remembered the occasion because of a new 12 gauge automatic shotgun with a polychoke on the barrel that my father had just given to me. I still have the gun with much of the blueing worn off due to the many days that I have taken it hunting. The gun still remains one of my prized possessions.

As we toured Ebin and Dora's home site, I could see the large pile of wood freshly cut ready to use in the kitchen wood cooking stove. The wood was always piled in the fall just beyond the chicken house that stood next to the large **Oak Tree** that still stands to this day. The one remaining out building, which stood just beyond the Scupindine Arbor and large iron pot, was often filled with freshly picked cotton. When corn was harvested it would

be piled in a tall, wide row all the way from the huge fig tree to the barn. Then neighbors would gather together to help shuck the corn. Also in the same manner of working together, one wheat threshing machine would go from one farm to another harvesting the wheat with the help of adjoining neighbors. Well, so much for the memories of the good old days. Thank goodness we don't have to hoe and pick cotton today as it was done in Ebin's day.



As you can see we had a good number, and I believe everyone had a good time remembering and learning about the history of our family.



Only Building remaining



Calvin and his son Gary Burleson
At Isaac Burleson Sr. Grave Site

*Calvin, Shellie, Ebin,
Billie, Isaac Jr. & Isaacs Sr*

Lowell and his son Mike Burleson
*Lowell, Shellie, Ebin,
Billie, Isaac Jr. & Isaac Sr.*



ALEXANDER PAUL BASS JR's Burleson Family Line is: ALEXANDER PAUL & ATTIE JEROME BURLESON BASS SR, Ebin and Dora Hopkins Burleson, Isaac JR. and Catherine Castle Burleson, Isaac Sr. and Martha Clay Burleson (NC Soldier in American Revolution)

This is a little different for Major Milestones, but we just found out about the passing of Jr. Bass and it brought back great memories when I first met Paul Jr. (he is my father's first cousin) and he was very valuable in my learning great stories of my father's early life. When we discovered he was coming to Stanly County for a visit we put together a quick reunion for him to meet all the cousins here.

JESSICA LYNN FORREST AND DAVID RYAN McINTYRE

Happy 10th Anniversary to my beautiful granddaughter, (Sue Burleson Forrest) Jessica, and her husband, Ryan! May God bless you both with many more wonderful years together! ❤️❤️



Jessica Forrest, Burleson Family Line is: David and Beverly Lambert Forrest, Michael & Sue Burleson Forrest, James (Jay) and Ruby Whitley Burleson, Allen Lee and Lucy Jane Herlocker Burleson, Howell & Judith Burris Burleson, Billie and Sarah Harwood Burleson, Isaac Jr. and Catherine Castle Burleson, Isaac Sr. and Martha Clay Burleson (NC Soldier in American Revolution)

DANNY LEE BURLESON 1947 -- 2023



Danny Lee Burleson, 76, of Morganton, NC, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, December 21, 2023. Born in Avery County, NC on August 9, 1947, he was the son of the late Grover Olin Burleson and Sylva Phillips Burleson.

Danny retired from the NC Department of Corrections. He enjoyed watching westerns and anything in nature, including feeding the deer in his yard. Danny was very particular about his yard the care of his rose bushes. He loved spending time with his family and friends.

Danny is survived by his children, Sherry Lynn Burleson and Danny Lee Burleson, Jr.; granddaughter, Dakota Lee Burleson; sister, Lena Sue Andrews; and a number of nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Danny was preceded in death by his wife, Kathy Denise Wilson Burleson; and nine brothers and sisters, Betty Lingerfelt, Loretta Cate, Hobert Burleson, Lois Johnson, Gene Burleson, Jewel Burleson, and Dale Burleson.

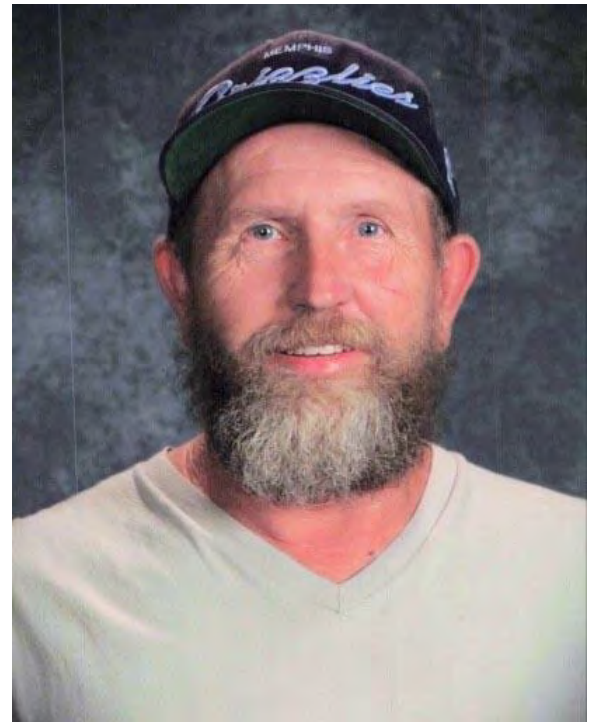
Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements

Danny Burleson Family Line: Grover & Sylvia Phillips Burleson, Burgain & Jane Pritchard Burleson, Milton & Elizabeth Cuthbertson Burleson, Wilson (Wilt) & Frankie Davis Burleson, Aaron (Big Aaron) & Elizabeth McKinney Burleson, Thomas (Daunt) & Jane Greene Burleson, Aaron & Rachel Burleson. (NC Soldier in American Revolution)

Kerry Lee Burleson April 26, 1960 — November 11, 2023

Kerry Lee Burleson age 63 of Waynesboro, TN passed from this life on November 11, 2023 with his wife of 43 years by his side. He was born April 26, 1960 in Lawrenceburg, TN. He was a former employee of the Wayne County School system for 27 years and a member of County Line Church. He is preceded in death by his parents, Charles Sr. and Emma Burleson; brothers, Anthony, Richard and Alvie Burleson, Charles (Martha) Burleson, Curtis Burleson; sisters, Amy Burleson, Glenda (Jesse) Juarez, Karren Haddock, and Angie Skelton. He is survived by his wife, Linda Burleson; two sons, David (Mandy) and Kerry Lynn (Magen); daughter, Mercedes Kelley (James) of Pell City, AL; seven grandchildren; and six brothers and sisters.

Interment will follow at Worley Cemetery.



Kerry Lee Burleson Family Line: Charles (Howard) & Emma Cummings Burleson Sr., Willie & Lillie Hicks Burleson, William & Ella Bumpass Burleson Jr., William & Nancy Burleson Sr., John & Matilda Greenway Burleson, William & Sarah Self Burleson, David & Ursula Weatherford Burleson. (NC Soldier in American Revolution)

Larry Don Burleson

SEPTEMBER 14, 1943 - JANUARY 4, 2023

Larry Don Burleson, age 79, of Rogers, Texas passed away on Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at Scott and White Hospital in Temple. Larry was born on September 14, 1943 in Belton, Texas to Troy Roy Burleson and DeAlva Bell-Burleson.

Larry was an active member of Davilla Assembly of God Church, he also attended Church at Temple of Praise Church in Cameron, TX, because to Larry you could never have too much church. One of Larry's favorite things to do was to sing with the Temple of Praise Band. Larry didn't just have a song in his heart, he would share his gift with any and everyone. He loved the Lord, that was for sure. Larry started driving a truck in and around Houston area when he was 15 years old, he continued in the trucking industry and driving a truck all over the USA for 54 years before he retired. Larry served in the United States Army as an M.P. and served in Vietnam War. Larry enjoyed hunting and fishing and would wet a hook anytime he got a chance.

Larry is preceded in death by his wife Areable Ann Douglas-Burleson, parents, Troy Roy Burleson and DeAlva Faye Bell-Burleson, step-dad, Billy J. Golden, step-mom, JoAnn Burleson, stepson, Michael Joe Drake, sister, Faye Beth Burleson-McLaughlin

He is survived by his daughters, Donna Louise Burleson-Yates and husband Dennis of Montgomery, son, Donny Burleson and wife Charleen of Richmond, TX, stepson, Tommey Drake and wife Debby of Warsaw, MO, stepdaughters, Sherrye Ann Wilson of Trinity, TX, Kathy Lynn Wilson and husband Jerry of Belton, TX, Debbie Jo Hitt and husband Randy of Belton, TX, brothers, Tommy Burleson and wife Lynda of Troy, TX, Ricky Burleson and wife Debbie of Temple, TX, Randy Burleson and wife JoAnn of Wallisville, TX, sister, Kelly Burleson-Sheppard and husband Sean of Montgomery, TX, brother in law, Joseph McLaughlin of Magnolia, TX, daughter in law, Phyllis Drake of Belton, TX, 30 grandchildren, 61 great-grandchildren and 15 great-great grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Nathan Powell, Mikey Drake, Tim Burleson, Trox Burleson, Lonnie Watts and Johnny Watts.

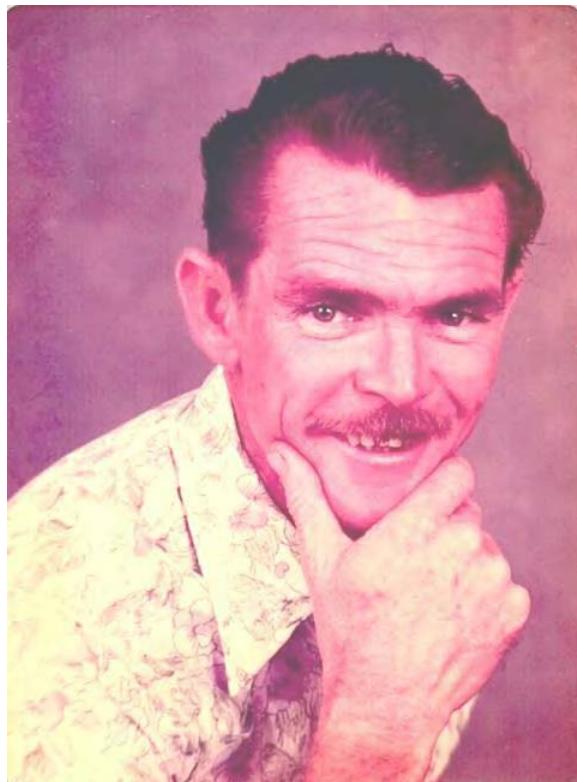
A visitation for Larry will be held Monday, January 9, 2023 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Crawford-Bowers Funeral Home, Temple, TX. Funeral services will held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 11:00 AM, Temple, TX. Burial will follow at McDowell Cemetery, Belton, TX. Pastor Randal Holtzclaw will be officiating.

Larry Don Burleson Family Line: Trox Roy & Joan Gibbs Burleson, Trox Oliver & Lena Exchberger Burleson, John & Penelope Williams Burleson, James & Elizabeth Burleson Burleson, John (Hopping John) & Margaret (Peggy) Pride Burleson, Joseph R (Joe) & Nancy Gage Burleson Sr., Aaron & Rachel Burleson. (NC Soldier in American Revolution)

Robert Burleson Obituary 1942 - 2023

Robert "Bob" Burleson, 81, a native of Baton Rouge, LA and a resident of Greenwell Springs, LA passed away on November 30, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. Bob proudly served his country in the U.S. Army and is a former reserve deputy for the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office. Bob retired after 38 years in the mechanical department at ExxonMobil Refinery.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Nola Ashford



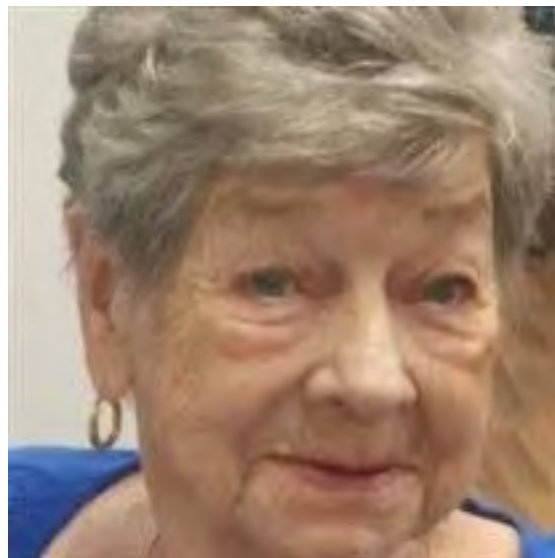
Burleson; daughter, Kelli Jumper (David); son, Jody Burleson (Jan); grandsons, Troy Burleson (Paige), Trey Burleson (Emily) and Matthew Jumper; great grandson, Graham Oliver Burleson; sister in laws, Kathy Burleson and Tinker Burleson; and a host of nieces and nephews. Bob is preceded in death by his parents, Ellington and Fannie Mae Grimes Burleson; and brothers, Gene Burleson and Larry Burleson.

The family would like to thank the staff at Golden Age Rehabilitation Center in Denham Springs for the loving care given to Bob. In lieu of flowers, the family ask that donations be made to the Baton Rouge Food Bank. Relatives and friends are invited to join the family, at Resthaven Funeral Home, 11817 Jefferson Highway in Baton Rouge on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, from 9:00 AM until the funeral service at 11:00 AM. Graveside service with military honors will follow in Resthaven Gardens of Memory.

Robert Burleson Family Line: Robert Dorn & Anne Elizabeth Hemphill Burleson, Edward & Margaret Dorn Burleson, Jonathan R & Nancy Blakey Burleson, James (Capt) B & Elizabeth Shipman Burleson, Aaron & Rachel Burleson (NC Soldier in American Revolution)

Beulah Burleson 1942 -- 2023

Beulah Burleson, age 81, of Amalene Drive in Spruce Pine, the Franklinton community, passed away Friday, December 8, 2023 at her home. Born on January 4, 1942 in Avery County, she was the daughter of the late Elbridge and Etta Dellinger Buchanan. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her husband, Doug Burleson, her grandson, Lance Douglas Lewis, her brothers; Marvin Buchanan, Clinton Buchanan, Lawrence Buchanan and Ted Buchanan; her sisters-in-law; Sandra Buchanan, Martha Buchanan, Grace Buchanan, and Lucille Buchanan and her nephew; Marvin Buchanan, Jr.



Beulah was a member of the Henson Creek Baptist Church. She was a homemaker and enjoyed working in her yard and flowers. She became a C.N.A. in her later years before retiring. She loved her family and always enjoyed lots of laughs. She will be missed by all who loved and knew her.

Left to cherish her memory is her daughters; Lana Lewis of Micaville and Marinda Burleson of Spruce Pine; her son; Marc Burleson of Atlanta, GA; two sisters; Patsy Bowman and husband Frank and Doris Grindstaff and husband, Gary all of Newland; grandsons; Jeremy Burleson, Caleb Lewis, Kyle Forbes and wife, Jessica, Ryan Forbes and wife, Crystal, and Dylan Forbes and wife, Christina; great granddaughter; Addison Forbes; great grandsons; Silas Forbes, James Forbes and Walker Forbes; her sister-in-law and friend; Marie Buchanan; several nephews and one niece; special friends; Jo Ann McKinney Buchanan, Ronnie Buchanan, and Grady Byrd.

The family would like to extend a 'Special Thank You' to Beulah's beloved grandson and caregiver, Jeremy Burleson, all of the staff of Life Care in Banner Elk and to Terry and Tammy Buchanan for their care of Beulah. A memorial Service will be on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 1:00 pm at the Henson Creek Baptist Church with the Rev. Lonnie McClellan officiating.

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

Beulah's Burleson Family Line is thru her husband Douglas Burleson, Landon (Cotton & Thelma Pitman Burleson, Asa Sylvester & Judie Greene Burleson, Emaline Burleson.

Mildred Lynn Burleson Bowman

27 Dec 1956 – 27 Nov 2023

Mildred Lynn Burleson Bowman, passed away peacefully at her home in Davidson County, North Carolina, on November 27, 2023. Lynn was born on December 27, 1956, to Wade Daniel and Mildred Elizabeth Starnes Burleson in Forsyth County, North Carolina.



A funeral service to honor her memory will be held at Davidson Funeral Home in Winston-Salem on Friday, December 1, at 11:00 AM. Family and friends are invited to pay their respects during the visitation from 10:00 to 11:00 AM before the service.

Lynn was a devoted member of the Church of Latter-Day Saints and had a fulfilling career as a shift leader at Owens-Illinois. She was preceded in death by her parents, and she is survived by her loving daughters, Candace Carvallo (Raul) of Lexington and Ashley Nicole Bowman of Lexington.

Lynn is also survived by her brothers Barry Burleson (Cindy) of Linwood, Joe Burleson of Lexington, and sisters Janie Miller (Jeff) of Thomasville and Martha Hill of Lexington. Lynn will be fondly remembered by her seven grandchildren: Nicolas Bowman, Sarah Walters, Aidan Walters, Kiersten Thrift, Cameron Thrift, Enzo Carvallo, and Penelope Drager. Her warm spirit, dedication to family, and contributions to her community will be dearly missed. Davidson Funeral Home – Winston Salem Chapel is assisting the Bowman family.

Mildred Burleson Family Line: Wade Daniel & Mildred Starnes Burleson Sr., Shem & Jane Alice Burleson Burleson, Billie and Rhoda Springer Burleson, Isaac and Catherine Castle Burleson, Isaac and Martha Clay Burleson (NC Soldier in American Revolution)



A Burleson Surprise

I found Tom Burleson only 25 miles away from my home. Our first contact came about during our May field trip which included Johnson City, TN. As we posted our progress each day, a post regarding searching for the burial spot of Aaron Burleson 1725 – 1781 caught Tom's eye. Our response was to agree to speak later. We soon found out about Tom's background and interest in Burleson genealogy.

Thomas "Tom" Aaron Burleson was born 28 June 1941 in Avery County, North Carolina to Robert Aaron Burleson 1903-1944 and Virginia "Virgie" Leigh Shell 1904-1967. His father, called Aaron, was a businessman who owned a buslines and used car lot during WWII. Tom says he was known for his good looks and business success, but he was also an alcoholic which caused the family considerable embarrassment. Tom's constructed memory by the accounts his mother gave, where that Aaron was a classic chronic alcoholic which was a leading cause of his

death at age 44. Tom's memories of his dad are scant as he passed when Tom was but three. Recalling his mom, Virgie, is more pleasant; she was a genteel southern belle, accomplished businesswoman, and devoted to her children. She was also a gifted pianist.



Aaron and Virgie Burleson



Aaron, age 20 sitting on a 1923
Durant in Minneapolis, NC



Virgie took great care of Tom and his brothers, Eddie, Bob, and Jim. Virgie was an excellent businesswoman and owed several rental properties and a very successful restaurant. When the children were young, Presbyterian Christian Educators came into the Roan Mountain area setting up Sunday Schools and offering religious education. Virgie admired their mission and convinced the rest of her family to join the Presbyterian Church. They became founding members of the Presbyterian Church in Roan Mountain where she played the piano.



By twelve years old Tom had been influenced by his mother's loving care and her encouragement to appreciate music. That same year he was equally impressed by the beauty and charm he saw in schoolmate who had recently moved into the community, Peggy Lowe. By the eighth grade, Tom said he was already in love... they have been married for 62 years.

Tom began to play trumpet in the fourth grade. In high school, he continued to play trumpet and was selected by the band director to be the drum major. He also began to take private music lessons at East Tennessee State College. Tom played trumpet through college in the band and orchestra.



Tom and Peggy graduated from Cloudland High School in Roan Mountain, Tennessee in 1959. Tom went to East Tennessee State College and Peggy took a job at the Pentagon as the private secretary for an Air Force and Army Colonel for the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the Atomic Weapons Employment Group

East Tennessee State University



Tom lacked direction when he went away to college and did not know what he wanted to do with his life. He liked music and was pretty good at it so, he decided to major in music. But after two years, he made the decision that while he enjoyed music, that was not what he wanted to do with his life. He enjoyed studying History and changed his major to History. East Tennessee State College was a Land Grant College and Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) was mandatory for the first two years. Tom liked ROTC and since there was a strong likelihood that he was going to be drafted, he decided to take the last two years and upon graduation take a commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Army. During his last two years a friend was majoring in Speech and Hearing Therapy and Tom became interested in Audiology. Undergraduate degrees were not available in Audiology, but Tom took all the undergraduate courses and the department chair developed several research projects that he was conducting to include course credit to help Tom prepare for graduate school in Audiology. Tom enjoyed college and continued his interest in music. As an upperclassman he was involved and popular at ETSU. His college annual shows he participated in band, pledged two fraternities, was a Major in ROTC and Vice President of the Junior Class. Tom was a member of the first graduating class from what became East Tennessee State University with majors in History and Psychology and a minor in Music. Upon graduating in 1963, Tom was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army Infantry. Tom and Peggy were married in March, 1962.

US ARMY 1963-1967



Tom as CO of "B" Company



Promotion to First Lieutenant

On the day he graduated from ETSU, Tom was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army Infantry and was assigned to Ft. Benning, Georgia for the Infantry Officer's Basic Course. After a few weeks Peggy was able to join him. While at Fort Benning, Tom was accepted to attend Fixed Wing Flight Training at Ft Rucker, Alabama but was temporarily assigned to Fort Knox, KY until a class opening was available. Their son Aaron Faine was born April 28, 1964 at Ft. Knox. Tom was transferred to Fort Rucker in June 1964 and started flight training. After initial training, he dropped out of flight school and was assigned to Company B, 5th Battalion, 31st Infantry at Fort Rucker. Tom quickly became the Executive Officer and then became Company Commander. The Vietnam War was beginning to heat up and casualties were increasing. Fort Rucker was centrally located in the middle of the



deep south and Tom's company was regularly ordered to provide military honors for deceased soldiers. Jim Crow laws were pervasive across the south and Blacks were not allowed to eat or stay in public restaurants and hotels. Some of the burial details were a couple of days duration, so this was a logistics problem which Tom worked through with his white and black soldiers. However, on several occasions, because the burial details were always racially mixed the family of the deceased soldier would not allow the Black soldiers to participate. Tom's orders were if the Black soldiers could not participate, no one would participate. The irony of this tragedy is the deceased soldier served shoulder to shoulder with Black comrades in Arms, died fought and died alongside them and would have been honored to have been buried by them. A tragic racial story that few people ever knew about. Tom's Army career was going well, and he was promoted to Captain with only 33 months on active duty.

In 1966, Tom received a Branch transfer from the Infantry to Military Intelligence and was transferred to Fort Holabird, Maryland to attend specialized Intelligence training. Tom, Peggy and two-year old Aaron, rented a cute little apartment and settled in for a relaxing school assignment. Toward the end of his courses, Tom received orders for Vietnam to be an assistant G-2 (Intelligence staff officer) for the 1st Aviation Brigade in Saigon. However, three days before leaving, his orders were changed to Ft. Campbell, Ky to be the Commanding Officer (Special Agent In Charge) of the 111th Military Intelligence Field Office. Tom regularly met with other Federal Intelligence Agencies, among them the FBI. When the Army had a case involving civilians, the FBI had to be informed and vice versa. So, meetings with FBI Agents were an almost daily occurrence, often involving lunch. Over the ensuing months, Tom became disenchanted with the job which he saw as a "glorified office manager." The FBI was always on the hunt for Army Officers, particularly with an Intelligence background. It didn't take long to make the decision to leave the Army and join the FBI.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
1968-1994



Tom and Peggy moved back to Roan Mountain for a few months where their son, Thomas Brent, was born in Banner Elk, NC, on April 25, 1968. On June 19, 1968, Tom reported for duty at FBI headquarters to begin four months of intensive training at Quantico and FBI Headquarters.



New Agent's Class #12 June 1968

Tom is front row right of Agent in light colored suit.

After training school Peggy, Tom, Aaron, and Thomas Brent headed off to their first FBI assignment in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and settled in for the winter, which came soon. First Office Agents are closely supervised and are pretty much expected to stay out of trouble. FBI management, like the Army, does not make suggestions, they give orders. For Agents who had just left the military, many fresh out of the jungles of Viet Nam, the discipline of the FBI was no problem, for Agents, coming from a civilian environment, the transition to a disciplined environment proved more difficult. Tom's first office was uneventful. However, in the summer of 1968, congress passed the "Omnibus Crime Bill and Safe Streets Act" which gave the FBI legal authority to use electronic

eavesdropping techniques in criminal cases, particularly aimed at Organized Crime. Large offices where Organized Crime was rampant were built up with new Agents and in July 1969, Tom was transferred to Newark, NJ where he was assigned to an Organized Crime Squad investigating the five New York/New Jersey families. Most of Tom's work focused on the Don Carlo Gambino family. The objective of these investigations was to start at the bottom rung of the ladder with bookmakers and numbers runners and develop enough probable cause to get a Title III warrant and conduct an electronic surveillance. Shutting down these operations, choked off the money to run other illegal operations like loan sharking. Tom was successful in obtaining the second, third and fourth legal wiretaps in the United States and made a case that resulted in numerous arrests and convictions. This pattern became the regular form of business.

Growing up in Roan Mountain in the mountains of East Tennessee, Tom had always been around guns and his four years in the Army only increased his familiarity. Firearms training in the FBI is taken very seriously and shooting a "possible" is a rare and coveted accomplishment. In his second year in the Bureau, Tom was fortunate to shoot his first possible. Because of his firearms expertise, Tom was chosen and trained at Quantico to be a firearms and defensive tactics instructor.



Because he had some flight training in the Army, Tom was approached by two Agents who were former military helicopter pilots and asked if he would help with an aerial surveillance, not to fly but direct the cars on the ground. At that time the FBI did not have a flying program, but some of the large offices, like New York and Newark were using experienced military pilots to conduct surveillance in difficult urban areas. Tom assisted on the flight and was hooked. He had voluntarily dropped out of Army Fixed Wing flight school and that mistake had plagued him for years. The two pilots were Certified Flight Instructors and Instrument Flight Instructors. Tom began to fly and take instruction from these two pilots and also signed up for flight training at a local airport. It took two weeks to get his Private Pilots License and the GI bill thereafter paid for his Commercial, Instrument, Multi-Engine and Airline Transport flight ratings. The photo shows Tom flying the first aircraft the FBI ever owned over New York Harbor just above the Statue of Liberty. Tom was one of the first Pilots in Command in the FBI and with a small group at FBI headquarters, designed and implemented the Aviation program for the FBI.



On August 19, 1974, Tom and Peggy were blessed with the birth of a daughter, Jennifer Leigh.

While their time living in New Jersey was fun and rewarding, they always wanted to come South to be closer to family. In the Spring of 1978, Tom was offered the position of Chief Pilot for the Charlotte, NC office of the FBI. Tom and Peggy came to Charlotte and built a new Williamsburg Brick Colonial house in the Stonehaven Community in Southeast Charlotte and settled in for what they hoped would be their last move. As usual, Peggy decorated her new home with exquisite taste, got the children settled in school and Tom went to work. Initially, Tom did a lot of flying but over the years gradually cut back on flying and took on some new challenges supervising the Bank Robbery and Fugitive Squad and then transferring to the White Collar Crime Squad were in 1996 he took on the challenge of developing what became known as the Environmental Crimes Program for the FBI which involved travelling to other field offices and troubleshooting for offices developing their own Environmental Crimes cases. This work evolved into teaching courses at the FBI Academy at Quantico and the Department of Justice in the unique techniques involved in investigating complex Environmental Crimes. With the passage of the "North American Free Trade Act" or NAFTA, Tom began teaching the Environmental Crimes law system used in the United States to Federal Prosecutors from Mexico and Canada. Below is a newspaper clipping of one of Tom's cases in North Carolina.



Tom is pictured in the Great Hall of Justice with the Assistant Attorney General for the Environmental Crimes Section on the left and the Special Agent in Charge of the Charlotte Division of the FBI. Tom was being recognized for his outstanding work in combating Environmental Crime in the United States.



In 1993, Tom was conducting a class in New Orleans for the American Environmental Bar Association. Following the class, He was approached by several of the attorneys in the class. They asked if he had considered retiring from the FBI and going into private practice supporting Environmental Investigations. They indicated they would provided all the work he could handle as a consultant for their law firms and their clients.

Tom was 52 and the FBI required mandatory retirement at age 55. had been in long enough and his salary was such that he could not benefit by staying longer in the FBI, so he retired on January 1, 1994, and opened Burleson and Associates, Environmental Investigations.

Retirement

After retiring from the FBI, Tom opened Burleson and Associates, an Environmental Consulting business which he ran for about a year. A friend with an Environment Engineering Firm enticed him to partner with his firm and he did. Most of their clients were law firms from across the country representing insurance companies that were facing paying claims in which their clients were being accused of polluting the environment around their plants. Some of the cases were very large, the last case Tom worked on was for Lloyds of London, or the London Markets, who were potentially liable for claims between five hundred million to as much as a billion dollars in claims. Tom decided he had worked enough and retired for the final time. Tom and Peggy built a home at 4,000 ft. on the side of Roan Mountain and in November 1997 moved from Charlotte to Roan Mountain. The first winter in Roan Mountain they had 109 inches of total accumulation of snow with temperatures regularly dipping to -10 degrees. That was their last full winter in Roan Mountain. They built a home in New Smyrna Beach, Florida and thereafter divided their time between their two homes.

Living the Good Life

Thomas Aaron Burleson and Peggy Ann Lowe Burleson were blessed with two sons and a daughter. Aaron Faine Burleson born 1964 in Ft. Knox, Kentucky is a graduate of Appalachian State University, and w the owner of Spokesmedia a media consulting and advertising company in Boone, where he resides in Boone, NC with his wife, Sheila. The have two sons Connor and Nolan. The Reverend Dr. Thomas Brent Burleson, born 1966 Banner Elk, NC. is a graduate of University of North Carolina has two masters degrees from Princeton and a Doctor of Ministry from Union Theological Seminary. Thom is the minister at Parkway Presbyterian Church, Winston Salem, NC, Thom and wife Jo have two children, Baylen and Sarah. Jennifer Leigh Burleson Ratlidge, born 1972 at Edison, New Jersey. Jennifer is another Appalachian State University Graduate with undergraduate degrees in English and Education and a master's degree in Reading. She is a retired teacher and currently works as an orthopedic surgery scheduler. Jennifer has two children, Cooper and Grace.



The Burleson family about 1990 in Charlotte

Aaron and Thom in the back and Jennifer in front.

Tom has always enjoyed painting and is shown below with some of his early efforts at an art show in New Jersey.



Thom



Aaron



e

Jennifer



A view of the Appalachian Trail across Roan Mountain

When Thom accepted the call to be the minister at Parkway Presbyterian Church in Winston Salem, the organ needed to be rebuilt. The pulpit did not fit the new surround and was too large. Tom volunteered to build a new pulpit in the cabinet shop at River Landing. This is the result.



Shelving Rock Encampment

In 2006, Tom and his son, Aaron, bought the property known as the Shelving Rock Encampment, where the Overmountain Men camped the first night of their famous march to Kings Mountain. For years our readers have seen pictures of this important scene in Revolutionary War history. It's where colonials paused to rest and shelter their precious gunpowder during a torrential storm (trust in God and keep your powder dry). The Burleson's hosted many years of re-enactor/educator events. Tom submitted the application to the Tennessee Historical Society to place the site on the Tennessee Register of Historic Places. Tennessee in turn submitted the request to the National Park Service and the site was made a United States National Historic Site. It's a beautiful and historic site and a place to pause and reflect on the realities of the War for Independence.



OVTA Celebration

Shelving Rock Encampment

General Thomas Wilder Family circa 1880



Tom and Peggy are living out their happy retirement at River Landing, a retirement community in Colfax, North Carolina. They play golf often at their course. Tom has agreed to utilize his investigative skill as a researcher for BFRG. His dedication to separating facts from speculation is most welcome. His first area of interest is to clarify, if possible, the facts surrounding the death of Aaron Burleson in 1781-1782. Fresh trained eyes on this one can only help.

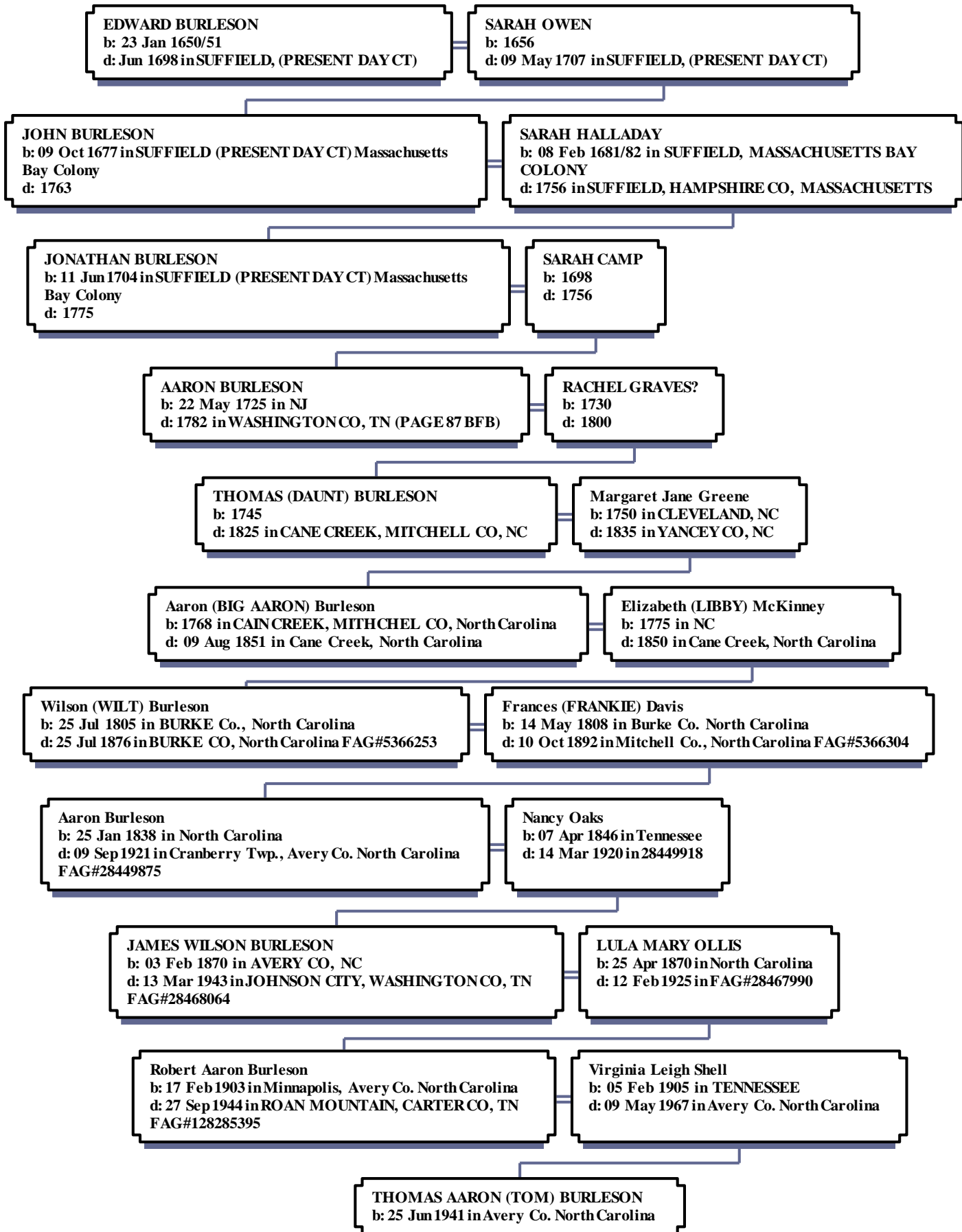


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Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



The Secrets Held Below Cherokee Lake

Practically all of the early Tennessee pioneer history is under Cherokee Lake in Granger County, TN at the site of historic Bean Station. A historical monument on Clinch Mountain marks the site where William Bean and his descendants established Bean Station below.



William Bean is recognized as the first European white settler in Tennessee when he moved his family outside of modern day Johnson City, TN in 1769. This area eventually became the Watauga settlement in 1772. Watauga would soon be home to other pioneer families including Bean allied families Burleson and Russell.

Watauga was the site where William Bean's wife, Lydia Russell Bean, would be captured by Indians and ultimately saved through the efforts of the peaceful Cherokee leader Nancy Ward. It was one of the sites where the Overmountain Men mustered on their way to battle the Red Coats at King's Mountain and claim a decisive victory. Also, the long hunters traveled through this area on their way to hunting expeditions in Kentucky and other wilderness destinations.



BFRG's Jimmy Don Russell descends from John Russell and Henrietta "Dolly" Burlison



In 1940, before the Holston River was dammed and Cherokee Lake created, the historic Bean Station tavern was destroyed by fire before it could be relocated to higher ground. Today, **the tavern site and battlefield still lie beneath the lake.**

Jimmy is also a descendant of the John Russell, William Russell and Jesse Bean that served with Colonials at Kings Mountain.

It was on a long hunt with close friend Daniel Boone in 1775, that William Bean and Boone went through the gap in the Clinch Mountains and surveyed for the first time the area that would be Bean Station. Bean went on to serve in the Revolutionary War and later was awarded 3,000 acres in the area that he once surveyed with Boone.

Bean built a 4 room cabin that served as a home for his family and also an inn and a tavern for passing long hunters and trappers. The inn was called many names including Bean's Cabin, Bean's Crossroads and Bean's Station.

The sons of Bean built the area into a frontier outpost in the 1780's. The settlement was situated on the newly built Wilderness Road, which follows roughly US 25 East, and the Great Warrior's Path, which follows roughly US Highway 11. The strategic location of Bean Station made it an important site for frontier traffic. The famous Bean Station Tavern was built at the crossroads of the town in 1814. It had 40 rooms, a ballroom and a wine cellar.



It was said to be the largest tavern between Washington DC and New Orleans. The tavern hosted many famous guests which included John Sevier, Henry Clay, William Blount and Presidents Andrew Jackson, Andrew Johnson and James Knox Polk, and the notorious James Gang to name a few.

Tales of the Tavern include:

President Andrew Jackson: Jackson was passing through Bean Station as he had a lunch date with the owner of the tavern, Captain Bell. Upon arriving at the tavern, he saw one of his political opponents standing on the porch of the inn. Jackson sent for Captain Bell and told him to give Mrs. Bell his regrets for he was not going to be able to keep their lunch date. He remarked, "It would be a shame for the President of the United States to be killed or to kill someone." So he went his way.

David (Davy) Crockett: In his youth, Crockett travelled through Bean Station to find work and to court his future wife, Polly Finley. As a young man, he began to distinguish himself as a hunter and needing a good gun, he looked to Jesse Bean, a famous gunsmith to provide such a rifle. In 1812, Crockett would move his family

and follow Jesse Bean to Franklin County where he was mustered for service in the Creek War.

Nancy Hanks Lincoln: A young family was passing through Bean Station on their way to Kentucky. Needing food and shelter, Nancy, the wife, agreed to cook for the inn for 3 months while her husband and young son assisted in other chores. About 10 months later being settled in Kentucky, Nancy gives birth to a boy they name Abraham.

Jesse and Frank James: A group of exhausted riders on the run arrive at Bean Station Tavern. Two of the desperados go inside and demand a room. They ignore the inhospitable innkeeper and snatch the key to the only room available leaving the rest of the their men to sleep on the floor. The next morning after a hearty breakfast, they gallop off to Rogersville leaving the remaining apprehensive guests shaking in their boots. Years pass and it is revealed that the riders that night were members of the James Gang and they had stopped in Bean Station to throw the Virginia lawmen off their trail into thinking they were headed to Kentucky and on home to Missouri.

In 1886 a fire on Christmas night destroyed most of the Bean Station Tavern but part of the historic structure was saved. In 1941, the Tennessee Valley Authority claimed the land which held practically all of the early Tennessee pioneer history.

Where as the early buffalo found the land suitable for grazing and blazed a trail through the gap. Where as the Native Indians found the land suitable for game hunting and developed the trail. Where as the early pioneers found the land suitable for settlements and perfected the trail. Where as Civil War generals found the land a strategic venue for battle. The TVA found the land suitable for a land reservoir. Today, if you wished to explore Bean Station, you would need a snorkel or scuba gear for all the early pioneer historical sites are at the bottom of Cherokee Lake.

Location of Bean Station in Grainger and Hawkins counties in Tennessee



Sources: Wikipedia, Grainger County History....

Stories That Need To Be Told by Ken Coffey
William Bean Pioneer of Tennessee and His Descendants
By Jamie Ault Grady



Jimmy Don Russell

BFRG Research

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JIM BURLESON OF SOCORRO, NEW MEXICO: YOU OUGHTA BE IN PICTURES



Born James William Burleson on 28 January 1974 to Robert "Lee" Burleson and Sandra Ann Simpson. He grew up in a military family, prone to move around frequently but largely in Texas. You might say his folks are mostly Lindale or Tyler, Texas people.



Today the 49 year old Burleson is extremely busy as a movie producer, director, actor and stuntman. Additionally, he runs the Val Verde Historic Hotel in Socorro. Layer on that his marriage to Myriah Martinez(Burleson) and being the father of seven children.



Jim moved to Socorro as a teenager in 1990. Attending Socorro High School until graduation in 1992. He considered himself a “straight C” student and was disinclined to continue schooling into college. Instead he followed his father’s footsteps, enlisting in the Air Force. He was injured in training and separated from service. He found himself back in Socorro going from job to job, largely in the food service industry. A move into management of restaurants seemed logical; he managed Pizza Huts and Dominoes in New Mexico, elsewhere in the southwest- reaching as far east as High Point, North Carolina. He grew weary of this type employment enjoying his hobbies much more than work. These hobbies included gaming and comics. Back in Socorro he forged a path to earning money opening a gaming/card business selling Pokemon and the like at the height of their popularity. He was a success; Burleson was the highest grossing distributor of those cards. He took the profits to purchase a strip mall in town. He added a furniture store to his card business. All was well until a fire consumed his small structure- both

businesses were destroyed. Struggles with his insurance company delayed payment benefit for four years. Jim took to several “side hustles”.

One of his new side hustles was an entrée into promoting mixed martial arts,



boxing and other cage fights. Some success in this (forgive me) arena allowed Burleson to invest in an old interest comics and collectable fairs. He began a local Comic Con which propelled into a huge Albuquerque Comic Con. Comic Cons are huge trade fairs for comics, movies about comic characters and all their related collectables. Jim has promoted some of the best.



But it was cage fights that provided Burleson his next career twist. A movie production company had heard of his involvement in the sport. They requested he help them cast “a cage fight crowd” for several fight scenes in a proposed film. Jim responded with a quick fix bound to provide realism. He had a real cage fight scheduled soon. Why not film several of the matches? The company bit – it proved a cheap, effective fix. Word spread Jim Burleson was “a go-to-guy.” Other film companies called on him to be a line producer or casting director.



Jim stuck around the sets of many film productions, meeting professionals in different roles. He watched; he learned. His connections soon landed him jobs acting, performing stunts, line producing, directing and ultimately producing. His reputation in the industry is a man that can take your proposal, fit a location and a budget quickly. New Mexico is a leader among states facilitating movies because of 330+ days sunshine, dozens of sound studios, scenery void of buildings or power lines, a savvy workforce and huge tax incentives for production. Burleson's familiarity with these facets keeps his phone ringing. Jim has performed in a variety of positions in several dozen movies. He's held key positions in twelve different movies in the past twelve months. This same knowledge base is useful when he encourages companies to film in New Mexico.



renovated it at a low point when it was in disrepair. Now renovated, the Val Verde greets guests, hosts many weddings, haunted house events, allows for charity bazaars and the occasional political rally- you see Burleson recently ran for mayor, losing by a mere two hundred votes. JD and I hope to stay there this spring. Room 26 hosted a young Elizabeth Taylor when she was married to Socorro native, Conrad Hilton- mogul of the Hilton corporation.

In all the mix of activity, Jim purchased the Historic Val Verde Hotel in Socorro. Built in 1919, it projects the style and gravity so common in that New Mexico was new to statehood. It still offers overnight rooms, has some dedicated office space and in a pinch- is available for movie scenes. He



Conrad Hilton and Liz Taylor



Jim's dad, "Lee" served over twenty years in the Air Force, specializing as an intelligence/security enlisted man. He retired as a senior master sergeant. Upon completion of military service he took his security background to White Sands Missile Range then the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, both in southern New Mexico. Re-retiring, Lee and Sandra spend their days in Tyler, Texas.



His grandfather, Robert Lee Burleson, Jr. 1923-1999 had been a Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army Air Corps., transitioning to the Air Force. One story Lee related was of his dad flying over Germany in a WWII mission during which an anti-aircraft round hit his plane from below. A piece of shrapnel penetrated his floor striking his foot. Landing safely with his crew, his superior officer wrote him up for a Purple Heart for injuries during battle. Robert declined the award feeling it wasn't warranted given he knew so many maimed or blinded.



Sally Jo Matthews



Robert Lee Burleson Sr.



Edith Olain Randolph.



Robert Ezekiel Burleson



Lena Elizabeth Green



Burleson Grocery Store
 Circa 1930's
 Tyler, Texas

Back to the movies:

Jim's movie and television credits are too numerous to capture. Here's some highlights...

Producer for Lion's Gate, Sony, Plymouth Blvd., Bungalow Films and Black Entertainment Television (BET). He's appeared in two episodes of Breaking Bad. He was line producer for six movies. Been part of Terminator Salvation and True Spirit .More recently he proposed or assisted in five westerns: Justice, Gunslinger, Ed Masters, Two Sinners and a Mule and Deadman's Hand.

Jim offered the following examples from his Inyernet Movie Database (IMDb) profile:



Dead Man's Hand

★ 3.8

Jake
2023



Cop vs. Killer

★ 6.1

James Wilson
2023



The Rodeo Thief

★ 3.6

Kyle Carson
2020



The Girlfriend Experience

★ 7.0 TV Series

Stuart
3 episodes 2017



Hell or High Water

★ 7.6

Dealer
2016



Gunslingers

★ 7.6 TV Series

Pat Garrett · Ed Masterson
3 episodes 2014–2015



The Messengers

★ 6.3 TV Series

Rehab Counselor
1 episode 2015



Manhattan

★ 7.7 TV Series

Sed Worker
1 episode 2014



The Night Shift

★ 7.4 TV Series

EMT #1 Victor
1 episode 2014



Force of Execution

★ 4.3

Guard #2
2013



Sitter

Short
Officer J. Bosley
2013



Vegas

★ 7.3 TV Series

Mechanic (uncredited)
1 episode 2012



Untitled Allan Loeb Project

★ 5.1 TV Movie

Eddie Elkins
2011



Love Ranch

★ 5.6

John (uncredited)
2010



In Plain Sight

★ 7.4 TV Series

Salesman
1 episode 2010

Upcoming · 2



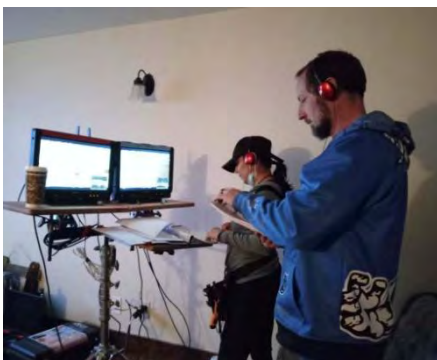
Night of Blood

producer
Post-production



Hell Catchers

producer
Pre-production

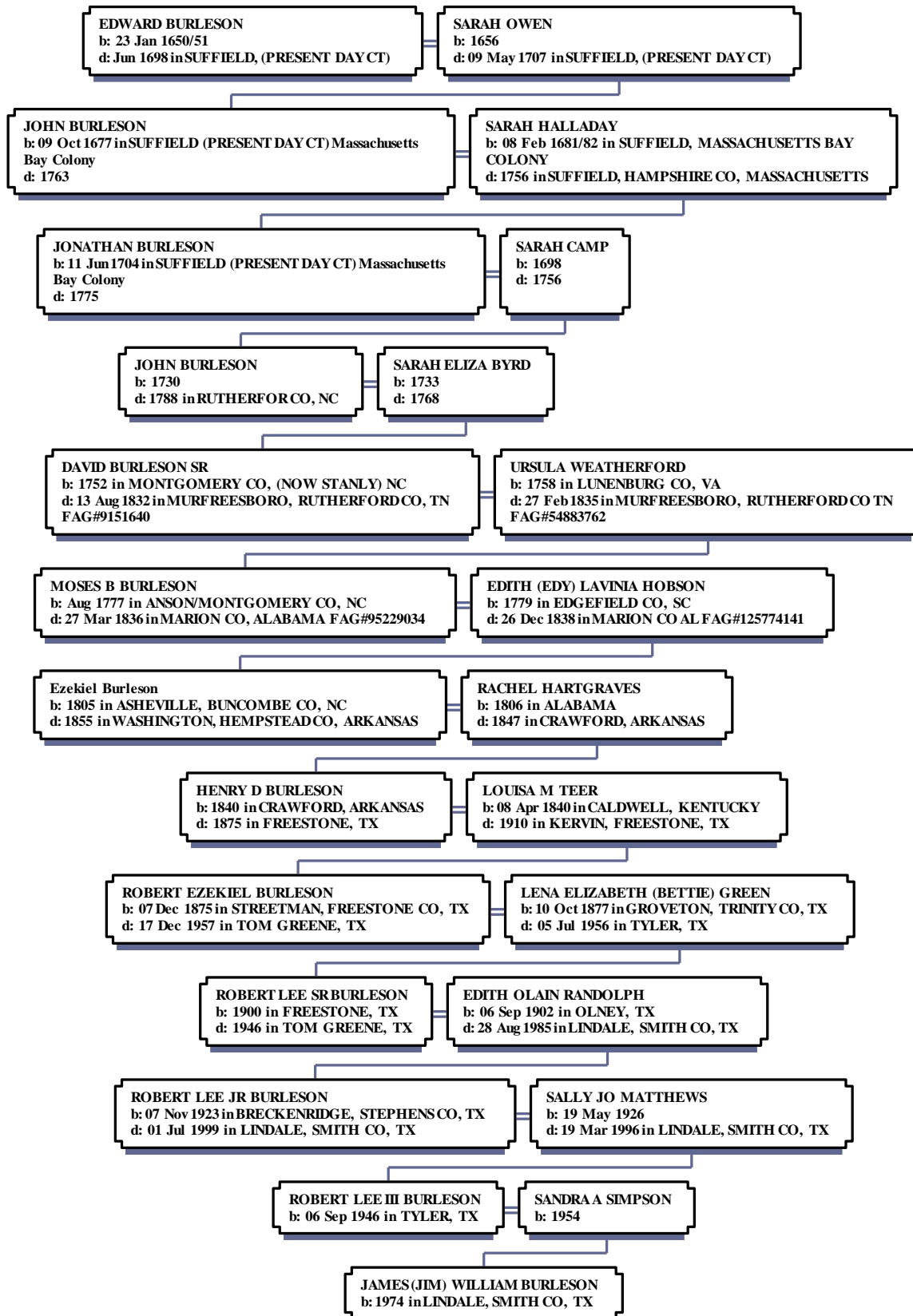


There's always that actor you see consistently getting his screen time in movies and commercials. New Mexico native Jim Burselon is truly becoming one of those actors. Catching the acting bug at a young age, Burselon explains where his love of acting came from. "I love being the center of attention, ever since I was young. Playing a role and being someone else is exciting." The experience of filmmaking, on so many levels, has been one of pure enjoyment for Burselon.

Comic Con (Comic Convention)



Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



Sources: El Defensor Chieftain, Albuquerque Journal, nmenterains.com, IMDb



Jim Burleson

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Concert Ready: Susanne Hollyfield



In the past Recollections you were informed of Susanne's upcoming performance at New York City's Carnegie Hall. Pictured above at the Texas State Capitol, she is a descendant of Captain James Burleson/Volley Owen. She's also been a valued fellow researcher on our BFRG field trips. The Whidbey Island resident participated with her more local chorale near Seattle. She takes ferries often to what she terms "going to America" for practice and performances. Susanne's recent Christmas concert included Handel's Messiah. Composed in 1741 by George Friderick Handel, lyrics were added by Charles Jennens. It's an English language oratorio first presented 13 April 1742 in Dublin. A year later it received terrific reviews in London and quickly became a classic. Jennens compiled the lyrics from the King James Bible and Coverdale Psalter according to Wikipedia. Susanne kindly provided BFRG with a video of their practice. Click on the link below to get into the Christmas mood. "Although this song is more closely associated with Easter, a great many of us fold it in with our Christmas carols."

<https://www.facebook.com/EverettChorale/videos/736489787816061/>



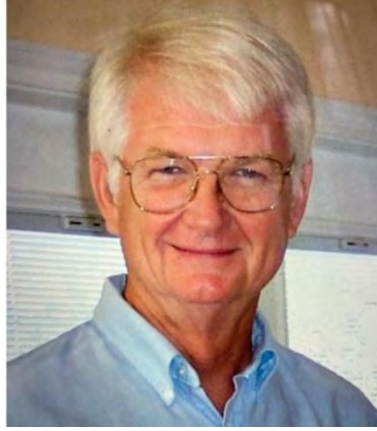
Jim Burleson

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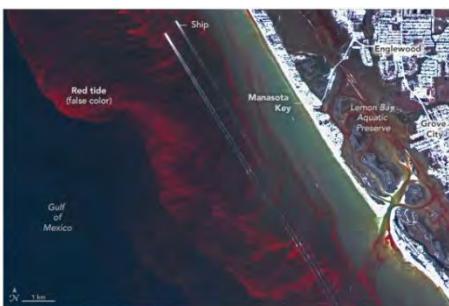
Cheska Burleson is the only child of the late Terry and Cynthia Burleson of Austin, Texas. You may recall our last Recollections profiled Terry and his water fowl art.



Born in 1985, Cheska excelled in school graduating from Austin's Anderson High School, having already accrued enough college credits via advanced placement testing and classes completed while in high school to be rated a junior when entering the University of Texas. She bypassed her Master's Degree temporarily to attend the University of South Florida where an award of a PhD in Chemical Oceanography resulted. It wasn't all book work for Cheska as a child; from age four thru eighteen she was an avid figure skater- competing throughout Texas and regionally.



Much of her study working for her PhD and afterwards centered on researching the medicinal potential of biological growth in the ocean. Some of her work concentrated on the effects of the "red tide" on sea life in the area and possible uses by man if harvested. The algae & fungi associated have been devastating when it rolls in.



February 26, 2023



Toxic algae blooms called red tide pollute water, damage marine ecosystems and emit noxious fumes. Image: Flickr User AJC1

By Space Coast Daily // October 31, 2015



Red tide is a naturally occurring, higher-than-normal concentration of microscopic algae. (Wall Street OTC Image)

Burleson's study led her to a desire to apply her oceanographic findings to applying them to humans. Out of order for most, she entered the prestigious medical powerhouse Johns Hopkins University where she gathered a master's degree. Armed with a fist full of degrees, Cheska applied her education by taking a position with Abbott Laboratories. She's been able to flex her skills at Chromatography, Mass Spectrometry, Liquid Chromatography, Sample Preparation, Analytical Chemistry Instruments Utilization, Spectrometry, Extraction, High Performance Liquid Chromatography, Analytical Method Development and Chemical Analysis. The latter brings her to current duties: overseeing Abbott Laboratories Drug Testing Division (as in detection of the presence of drugs of abuse).



Currently her job allows her to work remotely from her home in St. Petersburg, Florida. She's married to chiropractor Samuel Richards and they have a five month old son named Everett Duke Richards.



Cheska and Sam Richards

In the National Institute of Health you can find articles by Dr. Burleson including topics like the “Pathological effects of cyanobacteria on sea fans in southeast Florida.” National Academy of Sciences holds her writings on “Osmotic stress does not trigger brevetoxin production in the dinoflagellate *Karenia brevis*” and “Production of Bioactive Secondary Metabolites by Florida Harmful Bloom Dinoflagellates *Karenia brevis* and *Pryodinium bahamense*.” A little lost? Let's just be glad Cheska has a handle on it and will continue to improve all our lives.

Cheska Burleson

(born approximately 1983)

Chemist and oceanographer

Cheska Burleson earned a PhD in Chemical Oceanography from The University of South Florida. Her research focused on the production of toxins by algae blooms commonly known as *red tide*. Cheska entered college for her undergraduate studies at the age of seventeen with enough credits to be classified as a junior. At that time she was also a competitive figure skater.



Acknowledgements:

Flickr

National Institute of Health

WikiCommons

Wall Street OTC Image

NASA Earth Observatory

DR. Cheska Lee Burleson-Richards
and Family

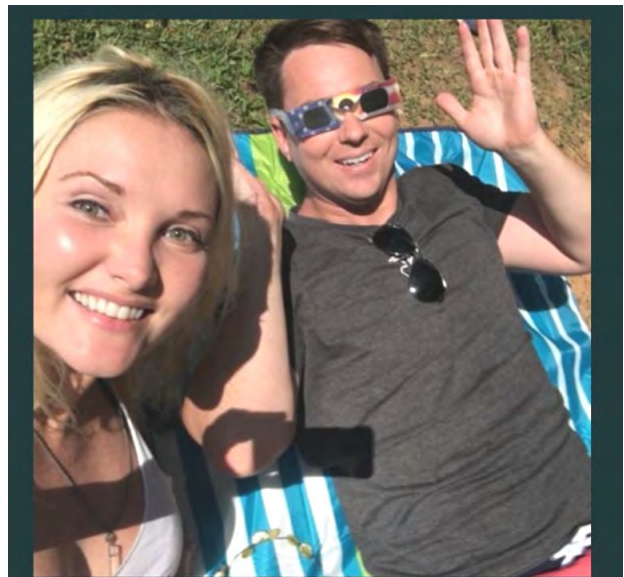
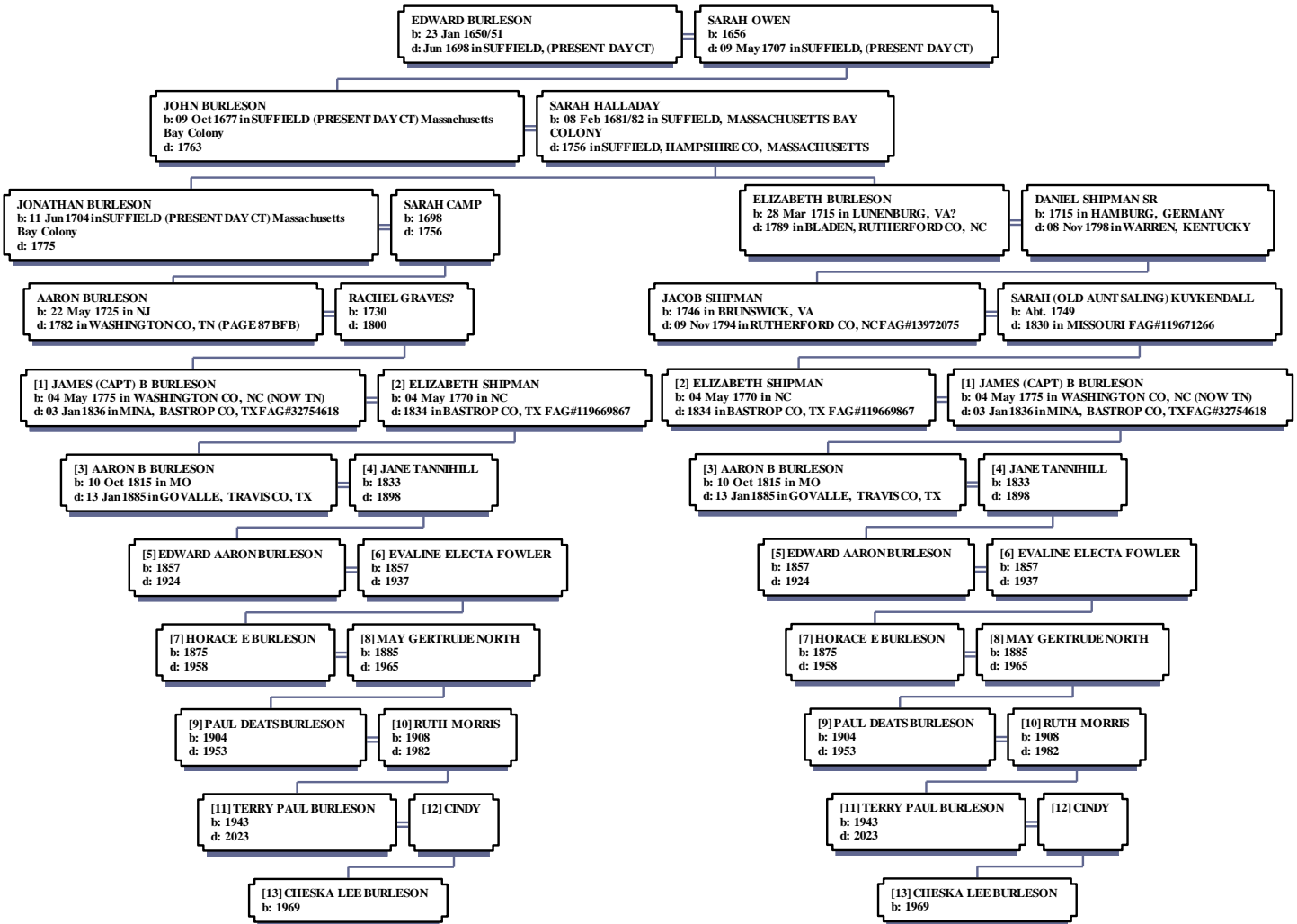


Jim Burleson

BFRG Research

jimburlson8554@gmail.com

Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



We got engaged when
visiting the path of the full
solar eclipse !!!

Everett Duke Richards



Terry and Cheska



Aubrey Randolph "Randy" Burleson, Restaurateur



Randy Burleson is a proud Tennessee Vol, graduating there with a Master's in Business Administration. He remained in his hometown of Knoxville using his education and self drive to open restaurant after restaurant each a financial success. He now owns twenty three that stretch into all east Tennessee. Married to wife Melissa relatively late in life, their new pride is daughter Aubrey Jaye. Randy, himself is from a long line of Burleson Tennesseans. His father and grandfather were Normal Edison Burleson Jr. and Sr.

Normal Edison Burleson Jr.



Hands on participation and leading by example play larger in his success. He clocks in every day in one of his businesses. As things get busy he's often seen bussing tables of serving drinks. As his success mounted Burleson branched out to open a fish market, real estate development and is currently busy with a large group bent on constructing a new stadium in Knoxville. That project requires the complete restoration of a depressed neighborhood. Over half of his eateries bear his first name, "Aubrey's". If you've lived or visited anywhere in east Tennessee, you likely saw one of his Aubrey's restaurants; also he owns others operating under other titles as their fare is different. Some of his businesses were acquired in Bankruptcy Court as the only company willing to sink money in them as turnarounds. One of the distressed places sat on a hill that was overrun with the hard to battle, kudzu. It had gotten to the point it encroached on the building. His solution: borrow a dozen goats from a farmer. The animals made short work of the growth so renovations could commence. The cure caught the attention of the press and neighbors. It made for development of loyal fans.

Aubrey's

sunspot
where tie-dyes and neckties unite



BISTRO  **BY THE TRACKS**



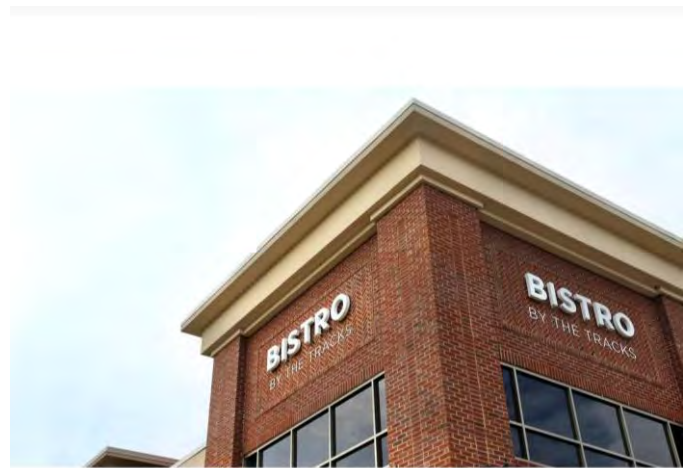
FIELDHOUSE
SOCIAL



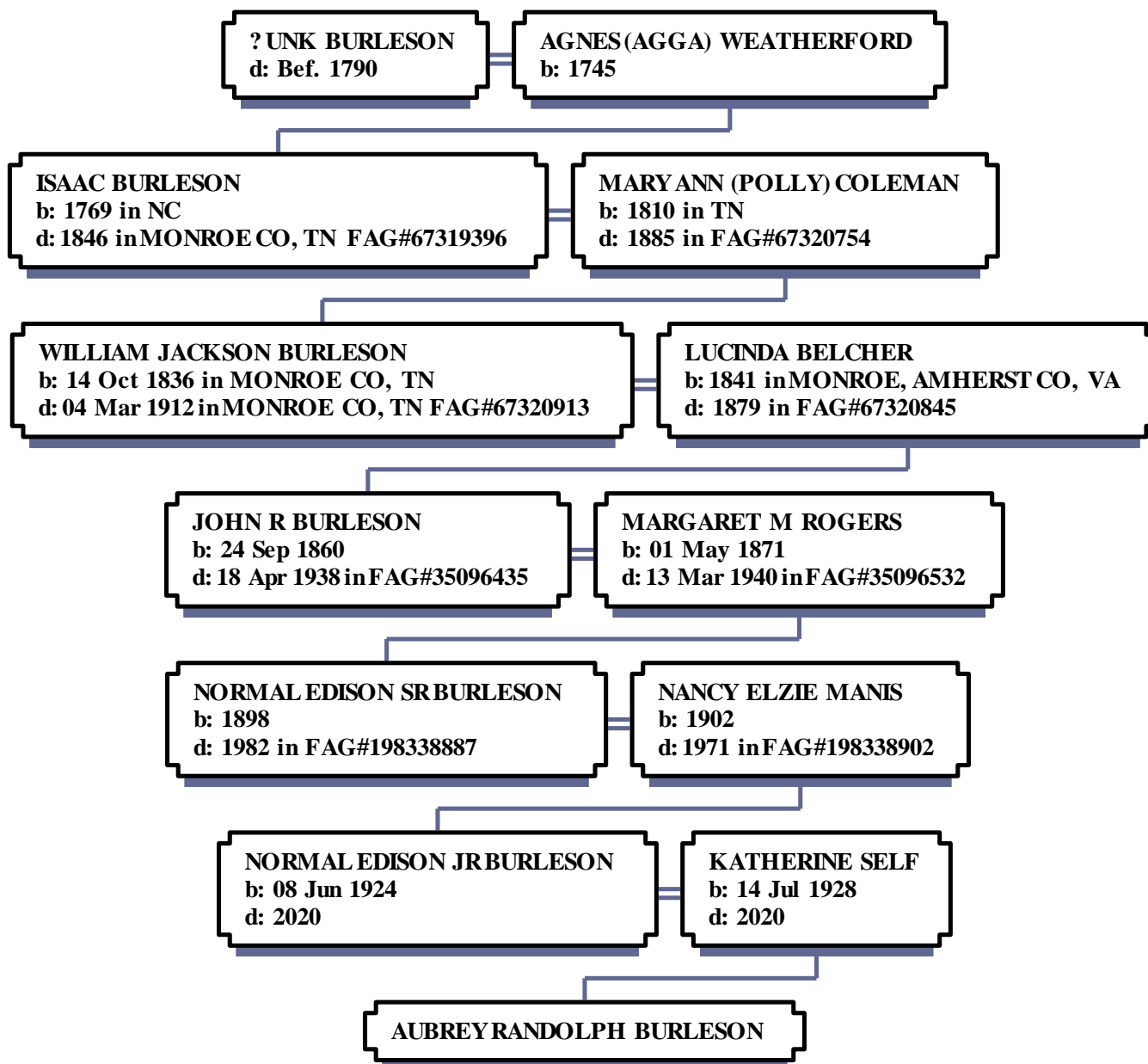
Burleson furthered the popularity of his establishments by championing almost every non-profit in the area. Pancake breakfasts, etc. for cheerleading, soccer, band , volleyball and the like for all school systems benefited. The investment in the community paid off. Families of the kids will go nowhere else. With a reputation for cleanliness, excellence in service, Randy has added the tactic of hiring nationally acclaimed chefs to take on high end places. He's taken enthusiasm of area sports fans to a new level...the week University of Tennessee versus the University of Florida Gators his fresh fish shop advertises "Gator-hater week" offering specials on barbecued alligator. Burleson has been known to take his enthusiasm into politics. We discovered in one election cycle he felt an entire mayor and council were "do nothings". He funded opponents to every incumbent- regardless of political affiliation.



Here's a gallery of photographs of Randy Burleson and his restaurant scenes:



Direct Descendants of ? UNK BURLESON



Acknowledgements:

Find A Grave

City View Magazine

Inside Knoxville

Knoxnews

Cityview TV



Jim Burleson

BFRG Researcher

jimburleson8554@gmail.com

So...What's a Social Inventor?

Better Ask Dr. Winslow Burleson- He is One



Dr. Winslow "Win" Scott Burleson, PhD explains it's making Human Computer Interaction natural, effective and normal. It's moving Learning Sciences practical and a habit for those who need it most. Lastly, it's using his skills in Health Science Design. How did Win get to be such a social inventor? Nurture? Nature? Well...for young Doctor Burleson it was both- he has it all. He was born to the late Dr. Noel David Burleson, PhD. 1931-2017 and Dr. Nan Temple "Pippa" Robinson 1937-2023, the influential couple of Cos Cob, Connecticut.



Dr Noel David Burleson, PhD



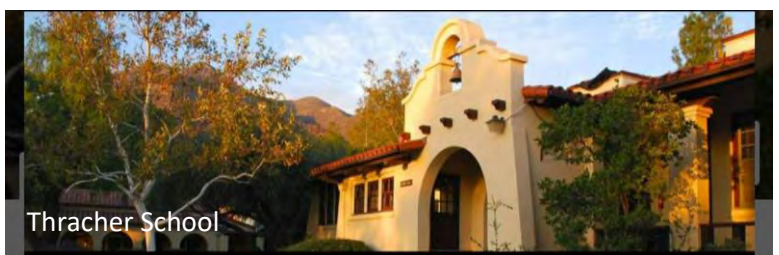
Nan Temple Robinson, LL.M.

More will come in this article about his family but much much more in a subsequent Recollections. First let's focus on how you build a social inventor. Win grew up in an idyllic setting in Cos Cob, Connecticut. In his formative years his family lived in Paris as his father represented the United States in abating world hunger with UNESCO. Upon returning he went to area private school. In Cos Cob he matriculated through the ranks of Boy Scouts. He earned his Eagle Scout by performing charity work and scientific study in Nepal. His latter high school years were spent at the prestigious boarding school "Thracher School at Ojai, California.

Greenwich Time			PHOTOGRAPHY ASSIGNMENT		
PHOTO SPECIFICATIONS	DAY	TIME	EARLIEST	LATEST	PRINT DEADLINE
	3/19/88				
NAME <u>Winslow Burleson</u>			SINGLE PICTURE <input type="checkbox"/>		LAYOUT <input type="checkbox"/>
ADDRESS <u>179 Valley Rd</u>			SUBJECT <u>Winslow Burleson leaves for Nepal Sunday. He will be doing work there to earn his Eagle Scout badge</u>		
TOWN <u>Cos Cob</u>					
PHONE <u>622-1990</u>					
FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS ONLY WINSLOW BURLESON, in his backyard.					
PHOTOGRAPHER <u>MEL GRPER</u>		ASSIGNED BY <u>[Signature]</u>			
REPORTER <u>[Signature]</u>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WILL BE PRESENT <input type="checkbox"/> WILL NOT BE PRESENT		DELIVER TO <u>City</u>	

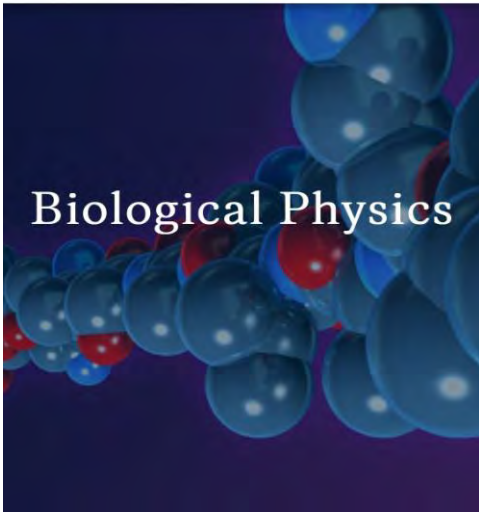
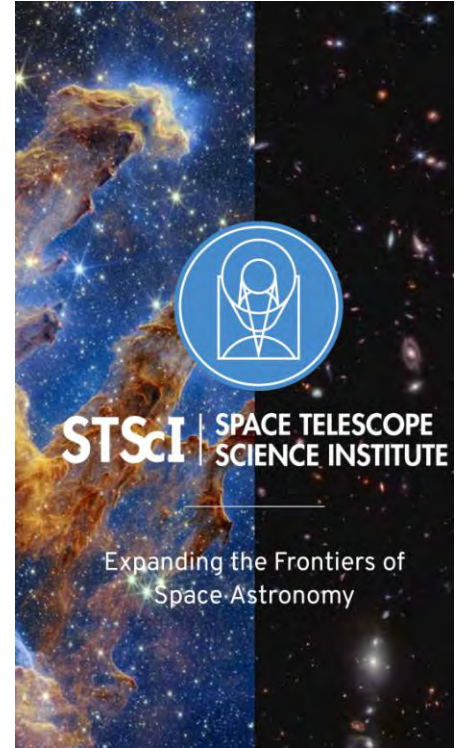


1988 Press Photo Eagle Scout hopeful Winslow Burleson in his Cos Cob backyard



Thracher School

Burleson excelled at Thracher, especially in science. He was accepted into Rice University where he earned his bachelor's degree in Bio-Physics. Next he tackled Product Design at Stanford University where he garnered an Engineering Master's Degree. Topping his academic career is his PhD from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) specializing in Media Laboratory Design. To augment his education with experience, Win was an investigator of binary asteroids at the Space Telescope Science Institute, Design Engineer at IBM Almaden Research Lab, Media Arts Collaborator at Streb and Experimentalist at the SETI Institute.



Place: MIT Media Lab



Win took his massive skill set to New York University's Rory Myers School of Nursing where he served as Associate Professor. He taught among other topics , Motivation in Learning with use of human/computer interactions. Additionally he led their research team in creation of devices to aid doctors, nurses and other care givers training devices, emergency room tools and other inventions easing the need for health care personnel presence. NYU was benefited with over \$3 million for the studies. The end products included a human replica with many sensory leads kept in the ER or NICU as medical care is administered. This is especially important in cases where the patient is unable to communicate such as infants. Another breakthrough invention is the "Smart Dresser". It's a device with a smart phone, camera, laptop, dresser drawers, red/green light display. It's monitored by a caregiver remotely. After an extremely thorough amassing of data and trainable routines, the patient can begin his or her hygiene and dressing regimen with visual cues to stop or proceed dependent on success at every step of the process. This tool has received tremendous praise for its applications for dementia and autism patients.



Associate professor at New York University Winslow Burleson gave a Human-Computer Interaction seminar lecture on motivational environments. (credit: Abhinav Gautam/)



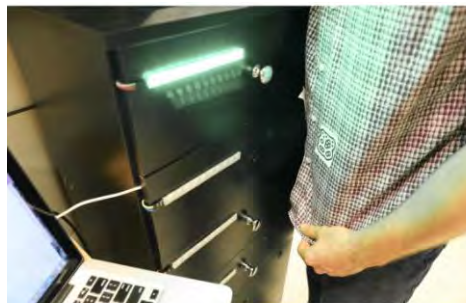
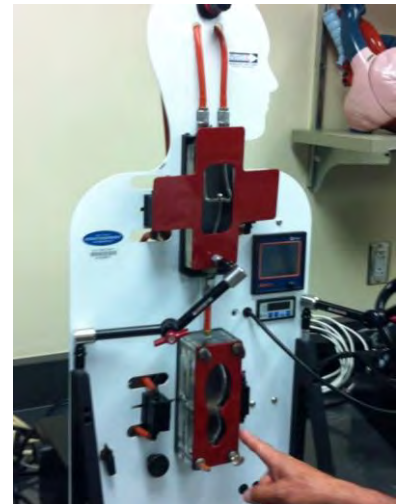
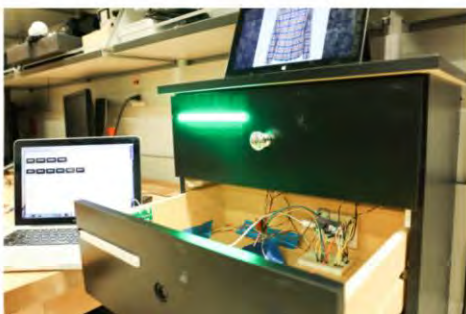
Nursing students dissect a simulation training robot with Professor Winslow Burleson in the NYU-X Lab as they explore STEM innovation in health, technology, and education.

NYU-X LAB

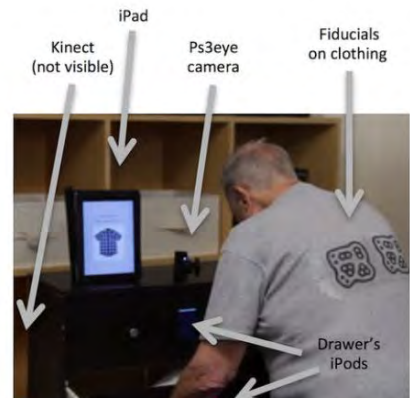
AND THE FUTURE OF STEM-NURSING

Prof. Winslow Burleson named distinguished member of the American Association for Computing Machinery

"Smart" dresser prototype guides people with dementia in getting dressed



1/2 The DRESS dresser reads the barcode on a test subject's shirt Sapna Parikh/New York University



Dr. Winslow Scott Bursleson, PhD has been the recipient of Time Magazine's inventor of the year twice. He holds eleven patents, two more are in process having "cleared the disclosure process." Each of his inventions has been designed to make life easier for the user and all associated with its use. He has moved on from New York having held important research posts until now he finds himself in Tucson, Arizona. He's now an Assistant Professor at University of Arizona and researching living outside land based situations. Specifically, how to people effectively exist under sea or in space. His laboratory is the twenty-one foot deep Olympic sized pool inside The Biosphere. It's hoped applications will be utilized by NASA and oceanographic efforts to reverse damage to earth's coral reefs.



While researching Win, I noticed so many of his images included seascapes. He told me he grew up on the waters of the Atlantic and has always been drawn to the water. As an infant, his parents placed him in swimming pools or the ocean even before he could walk. The natural progression of interests as he grew were swimming, fishing, boating, surfing, wind surfing and scuba diving. In college he joined other collegians in a seven week sailing trip.



Again, Win is the son of Dr. Noel David ,PhD -Anthropology at Harvard and Dr. Nan Temple Robinson (Burlson),International Law and Diplomacy at University of North Carolina and brother to Elizabeth Burlson, LL.M. London School of Economics in International Law. She is a Fulbright Senior Specialist and represents the U.S. in analysis of the Paris Climate Accords. These three formed the Burlson Institute which continues to further the cause of reducing world hunger, racial or sex discrimination and poverty. A follow up article is currently being prepared for next Recollections..."**The Burlsons of Cos Cog, Connecticut.**"



Beyond Win's parents are a string of ministers to include grandfather Rev. Theodore Mann Burlson 1902-1955 m. Katherine Ruth Hebbert 1900-1976; great grandfather Rev. Edward Welles Burlson 1872-1961 m. Alice Miriam Wilcox 1873-1924; and great great grandfather Rev. Bishop Solomon Steven's Burlson 1833-1897 m. Flora Abigail Pomeroy 1833-1924. Win's favorite story about Grandfather Theodore is that he'd delivered a sermon devoted to "cleanliness is next to Godliness." A little later he went home and appropriately began to wash his car in his front yard. A parishioner drove past and began to goad the minister over working on the Sabbath saying,"You should at least do that in the backyard." Rev. Burlson, quipped,"It's Sunday in the backyard too."



Solomon Stevens Burleson, Rev

Sources:

Find A Grave
Wikipedia Commons
Wikipedia
Flickr
nyu.edu
UofA.edu
Time Magazine



Jim Burleson

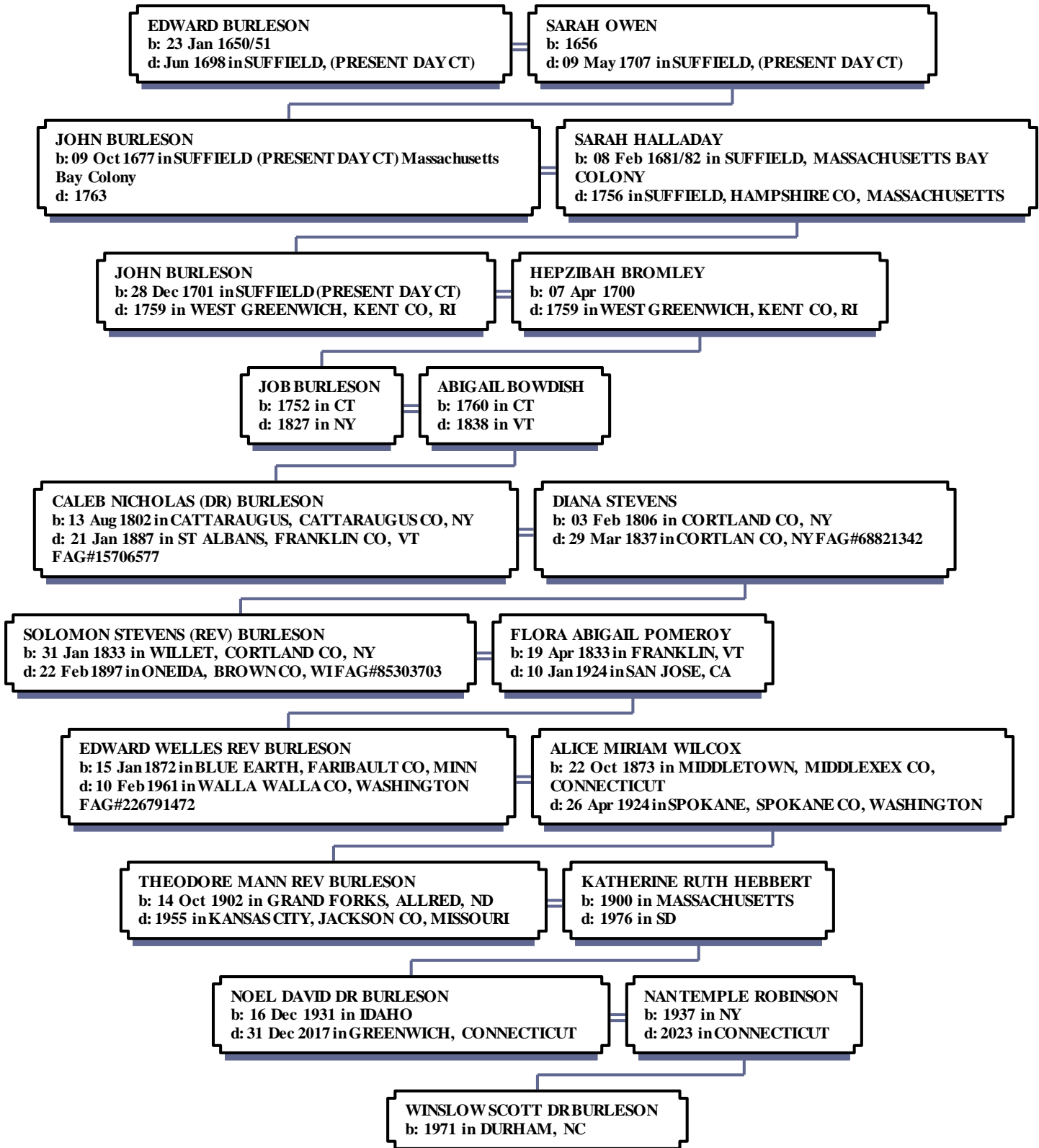
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THE MOTHER AND HER CHILDREN

Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



From Diplomacy to Dance: Edward C. Burleson

Edward Burleson, Foreign Service Officer

American
Embassy
Manila,
Philippines



Ed Burleson was born and reared in Houston, Texas. He went to Bellaire High School and then to the University of Houston, where he earned a Bachelor's degree in mathematics. He then took a slightly different direction and earned a a Master's degree in modern dance from the University of New Mexico.

Edward C. Burleson of Silver Springs, Maryland is a high level Foreign Service Official with the United States State Department. Originally from Houston, he graduated from its Bellaire High School and remained close to home attending the University of Houston. Edward excelled at mathematics which was his major. He was intrigued with the artful aspects of dance and drifted westward to Albuquerque's University of New Mexico School of dance where he earned a master's degree in modern dance. But his interests strayed from math and home. He chose to explore more of the world entering foreign service in the realm of diplomats

United States Department of State



Seal of the Department of State

University of Houston



Since joining the State Department in 2008, Edward has served in the Phillipines, Japan and now in Washington, D.C. In Manila, Burlson oversaw the immigrant Visa section in the Consular training and interview process which pertained to 20,000 Filipino applicants. After adjudicating thousands of cases he was assigned to managing the communications for the Ambassador and Deputy Chief of Mission. For six months he worked directly for Ambassador Kenney.



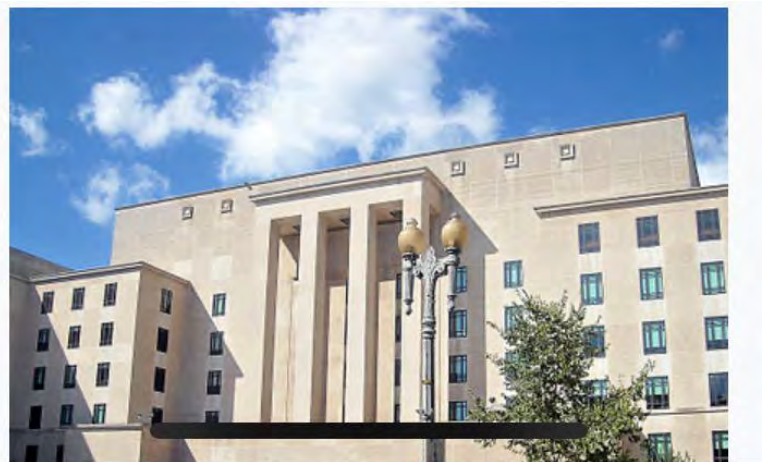
From there he went on to duties in Japan.

Fluent in Spanish and Japanese, Burlson left his university settings to begin life abroad in Japan. His parents were both educators so he followed their lead by teaching mathematics and English as a second language to Japanese students for three years. The following seven years he devoted his time to instructional design and later Director of Product Development for EduNeering, Inc. This was a firm focused on e-learning federal regulations in pharmaceutical, healthcare and energy. Drifting back to government work, Edward returned to Houston to serve the Consulate General of Japan as Special Assistant to the Consulate General.

Currently assigned to Washington D.C.'s State Department, Burlson has found the time and energy to feed his other passion- dance. He is a partner, promoter and chairman of the board of ClancyWorks, a modern dance company famous for performing around the globe. Edward is married with two college age daughters. A follow up article on Edward's entire Burlson family will appear in a subsequent Recollections.



Flag of the Department of State



Born in Houston 1969 Ed has an older sister, Kathleen Elizabeth Burleson born in 1966. Ed and his late father took 23&me tests and will be sharing with Denise Sproed soon. Ed followed up his University of Houston bachelor's degree in mathematics with entry into the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. There he studied modern dance primarily under the direction of Bill Evans. He was in numerous productions at UNM, one which took him to Japan.

Burleson met his future wife Namiko Ishizu at an "International Friendship Center" while he was appearing in Japan. Namiko was a volunteer teacher helping non- Japanese learn their language. They became engaged in Japan but married in Houston. Also while in Japan, a fellow student, Adrienne Clancy. They became lifelong friends. Clancy opened several dance companies in the US, the first being in Silver Springs, Maryland. For over a decade Ed has partnered and presided over its board.

Stateside assignments in Washington DC included Executive Office at the East Asian Pacific desk and more recently for nine months learning Spanish. Ed's foreign assignments in positions of consular, political, economic, logistics , public affairs and management at :

Manila, Philippines, Tokyo, Japan



The Hague, Netherlands



Chennai, India




Kabul, Afghanistan



And currently at the Embassy in Mexico City

SAVE THE DATE
AUG 1-3



ClancyWorks
Dance Company

DETI 2023

DANCE EDUCATORS TEACHING INSTITUTE



HIGHER EDUCATION

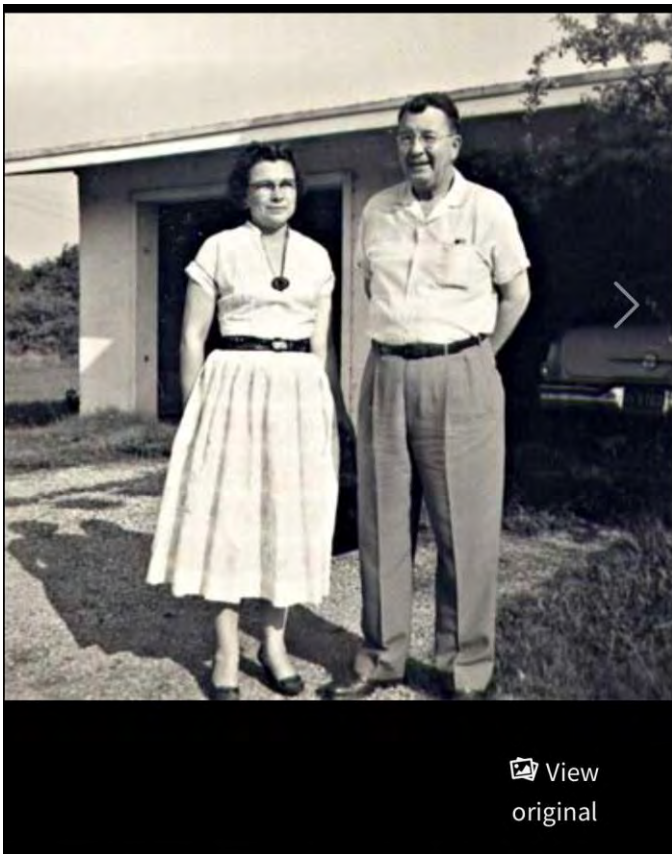




DR JESSE ISAAC BURLESON



Ed with his mother, BIRDIE B GUNN

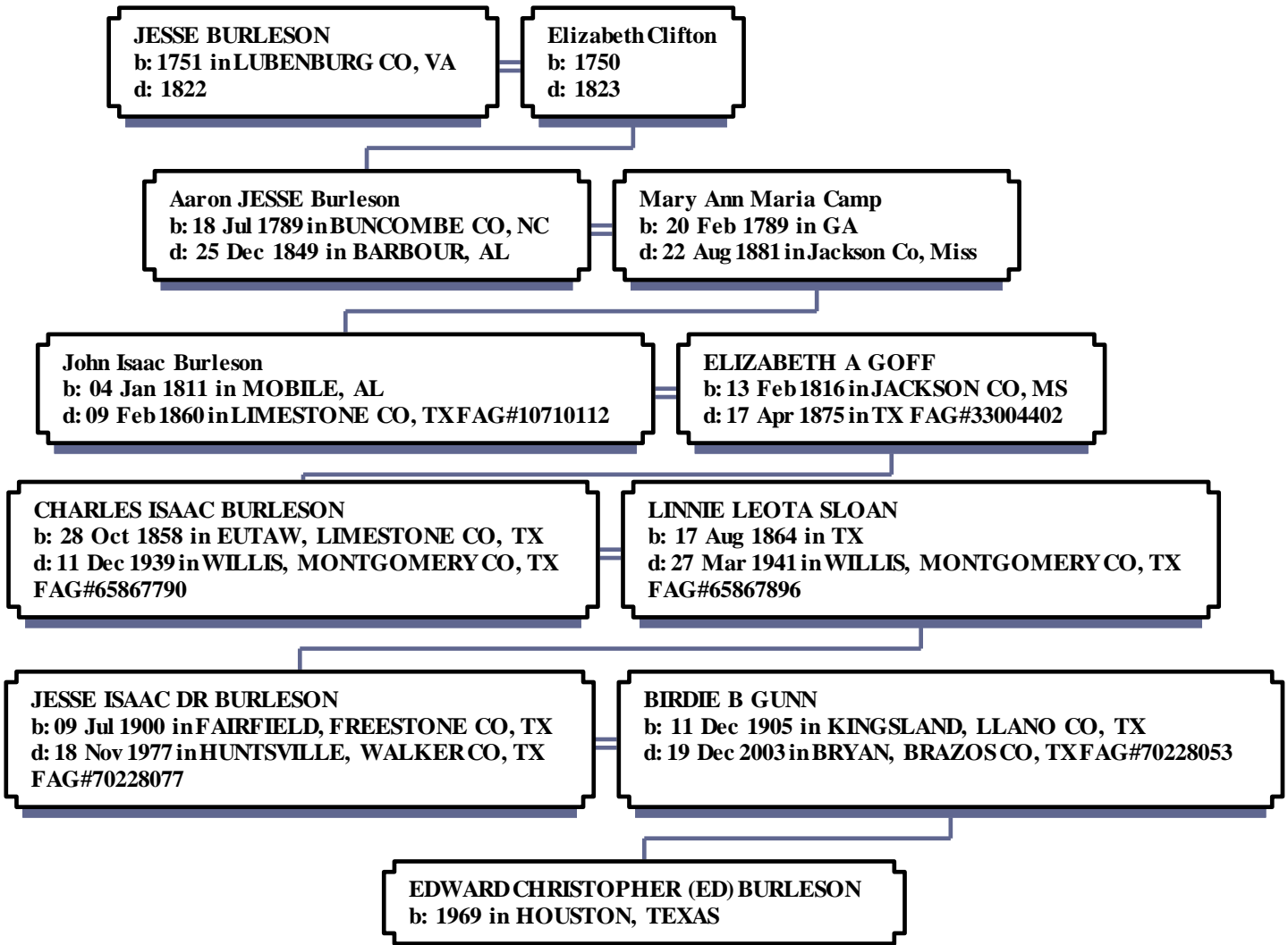


Birdie B. Gunn Burleson & Jesse I. Burleson



Charles Isaac Burleson in Limestone County, Texas

Direct Descendants of JESSE BURLESON



Acknowledgements:

U.S. State Department

University of Houston-Honors College

ClancyWorks, Inc.

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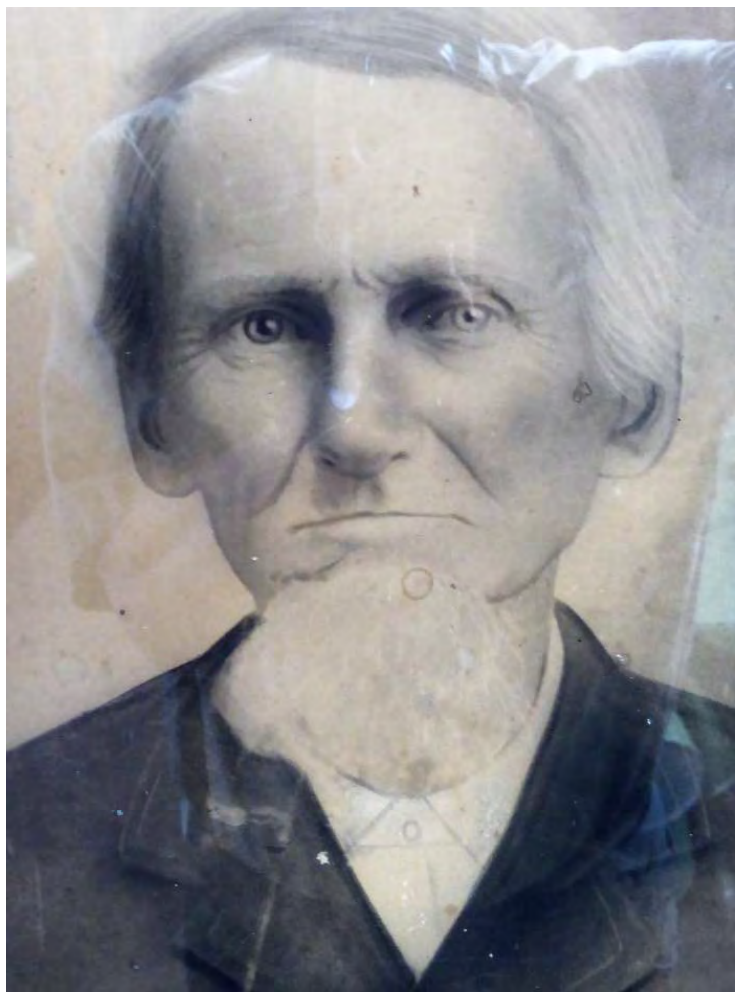
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jimburlson8554@gmail.com

Where Everybody Knows Your Name:

Joe Burleson

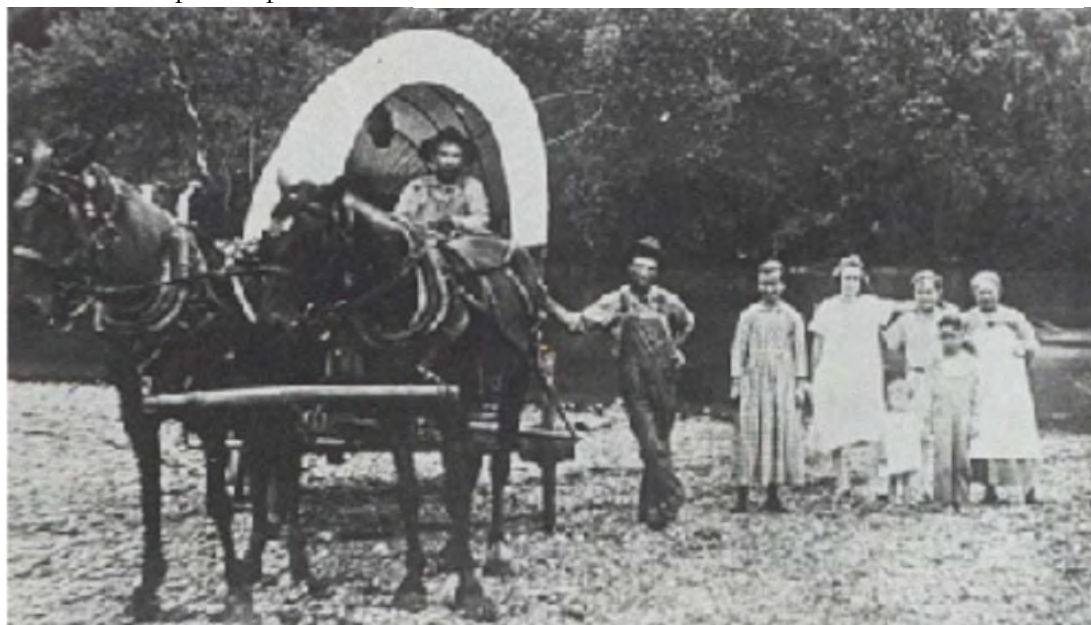
Joseph “Joe” Marvin Burleson, born 25 July, 1830 in Burke County, North Carolina to Jonathan O. Burleson and Gemima Young Duncan(Dunkin). He was given a treasured rifle while still a boy; he became a crack shot and accomplished hunter. At eighteen he learned of a band of western NC families including some of his aunts, uncles and cousins planned to move to Arkansas. He quickly made it known he would join them. As the forty or so wagons formed a train, Joe announced loudly that if he owed anyone in Burke anything, they needed to make it known now as he was “never coming back here again.” No problems or threats are known involving Joe, so the statement is unexplained.



Many of the men in the wagon train had seen and heard Burleson’s yell stop a wagon. These same men knew of his skill with his 1840 percussion Kentucky rifle. They proposed he ride horseback just ahead of the train so as to be ready to hunt on behalf of the entire group. Joe swiftly accepted. As a matter of fact, he fed the entire train with the meat each day. As the trip progressed the other men kept Burleson in supply of ammunition and powder. After the months of travel from western NC to northeast Arkansas, Burleson received repeated praise for protecting his neighbors and providing for them.



They all settled into Marion County in an area known as Cedar Creek. The new settlers unanimously agreed to grant Joe several acres for his service. Not long after they ceased calling the community by Cedar Creek, choosing informally “Joe Burleson Township.”



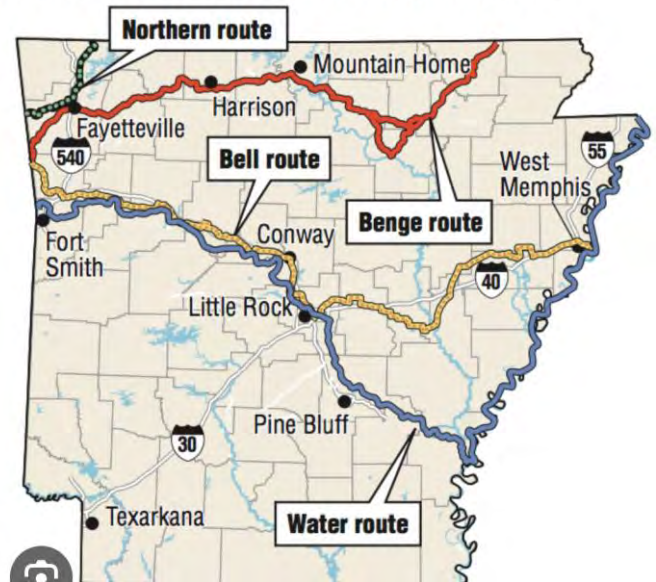


The Bell Route through Village Creek State Park in Arkansas was studied for addition to the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail
NPS Credit

The journey out of Appalachia through the Ozarks was arduous but a little less than pioneering. Their path followed what was a buffalo trace, then an Indian travel way to what eighteen years prior, the infamous Trail of Tears. Many westward travelers used that route repeatedly. Joe's group used the branch that crossed Missouri to northwest Arkansas.



Trail of Tears in Arkansas



9 TRAVEL STATES

TRAIL OF TEARS

The forced relocation during the 1830s of Eastern Woodlands Indians of the Southeast region of the United States to Indian Territory west of the Mississippi River.

SUPPORTED BY U.S. PRESIDENT **ANDREW JACKSON** CONGRESS PASSED THE **INDIAN REMOVAL ACT OF 1830**

MAJOR 5 TRIBAL NATIONS

- CHEROKEE
- CREEK
- CHICKASAW
- CHOCTAW
- SEMINOLE

5045 MILES OF TRAILS OVER LAND AND WATER

A REMOVAL CAMPS
After being forcibly removed from their homes in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and North Carolina, most Cherokee are moved into 11 removal camps—10 in Tennessee and one in Alabama. There they await the start of an 800-mile journey.

B **ROSS'S LANDING**
June 6 - 17, 1838
Near present-day Chattanooga, Tennessee, three detachments are forced to leave their homeland for Indian Territory.

C **WANN'S PLANTATION**
September 1838
At present-day Wolfcreek, Tennessee, two detachments totaling 1,642 Cherokee leave for Indian Territory.

D **BELLE FERRY**
In Meigs County, Tennessee, nine detachments with more than 9,000 Indians cross the Tennessee River.

E **BLYTHE FERRY**
In Meigs County, Tennessee, nine detachments with more than 9,000 Indians cross the Tennessee River.

F **DEAD-WHITELEY ROUTE**
Cherokee removals from Ross's Landing and Fort Cass include four water routes that prove to be punishing for the Indians: 3,183 depart but only 2,273 arrive at Mrs. Webber's Plantation, Fort Coffee, Lee's Creek, and Illinois Campground.

G **TAYLOR ROUTE**
October 11, 1838
John Bell of the Treaty Party leads 660 Cherokee from Fort Cass to present-day Evansville, Arkansas.

H **TAHQUAH, OKLAHOMA**
October 19, 1841
The Cherokee National Council designates Tahquah as the capital of the Cherokee Nation.

I **WATER DETACHMENTS**
Cherokee removals from Ross's Landing and Fort Cass include four water routes that prove to be punishing for the Indians: 3,183 depart but only 2,273 arrive at Mrs. Webber's Plantation, Fort Coffee, Lee's Creek, and Illinois Campground.

J **TRAIL'S END**
March 24, 1839
The last detachment arrives in Indian Territory. The Cherokee are promised subsistence rations through March 1, 1840, in compliance with the Treaty of New Echota.

Source: National Park Service
© Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.



Joe Burleson proved successful as a farmer, trapper and hunter in his new environment. Three years after arriving in “his township”, he met the sixteen year old Neacy Dearman. She'd been in the county since age twelve. Neacy was born 17 August 1836 in Steele, St. Clair, Alabama to Gillium Dearman 1814-1842 and Luhany Brown 1817-1880. As Neacy's father died in Mississippi when she was but six years, she came with her mother and other family members to a close by area of Marion County, Arkansas. On 16 April 1852 Neacy and Joe were wed.

The couple produced six sons and four daughters twenty-three years: Not all lived to adulthood.

A.M. Burleson 1855-1855 , Ann Burleson 1855-1855 , William Jasper "Jap" Burleson 1856-1937 , Rachael C. Burleson 1859-1931 , Joseph A. Burleson 1861-1876 , Fannie Dorcas Burleson 1865-? , John Roland Burleson 1868-1935 , Charles Russell 1872-1958 , James Harvey Burleson 1875-1953 and Molly Belle Burleson 1875-1961.

With their earnings over the years, Joe and Neacy shared their good fortune by donating an acre of their land and seed money for a community church. In 1891 Neacy and a female friend walked to see how a new area mill worked. During the tour, Neacy's dress became entangled with mill gears. She was pulled into the machinery where she met a "grizzly death." A year after Neacy's tragic loss Joe remarried. At 61 he married the 54 year old Rebecca Thompson ; they had no children together.

In 1905 the grateful northwest Arkansas village completed the process with Marion County and the State of Arkansas to formally rename Cerar Creek to Joe Burleson Township. The village has never exceeded a population over 1,000. Dawn Moffet, Marion County Clerk said no Burleson currently resides in Joe Burleson Township but many are spread elsewhere in the county. Many descendants of Joe and Neacy can be found in Pulaski County (Little Rock). Joe and Neacy are buried in the George's Creek Cemetery, Yellville, Marion County, Arkansas.



A FRIGHFUL ACCIDENT

Last Saturday one of the most frightful accidents occurred in Blythe township that has ever occurred in that vicinity. Mrs. "Jo" Burlison and another lady went over to McAfee's cotton gin. They were looking over the gin and Mrs. Burlison, who was an elderly lady, in stepping over the line shaft got her dress caught on the shaft in some way. In a moment her clothes were wound up and she was being carried around the shaft with frightful rapidity and with fatal results, as the shaft was near the ground. Both her legs were broken in several places and she was frightfully mangled. She died that evening. Mrs. Burlison was a christian lady, respected and loved by all who knew her. Her heart broken husband, and children, and other relatives have the sincere sympathy of their many friends in their terrible bereavement. "In the midst of life we are in the presence of death."



Acknowledgements:

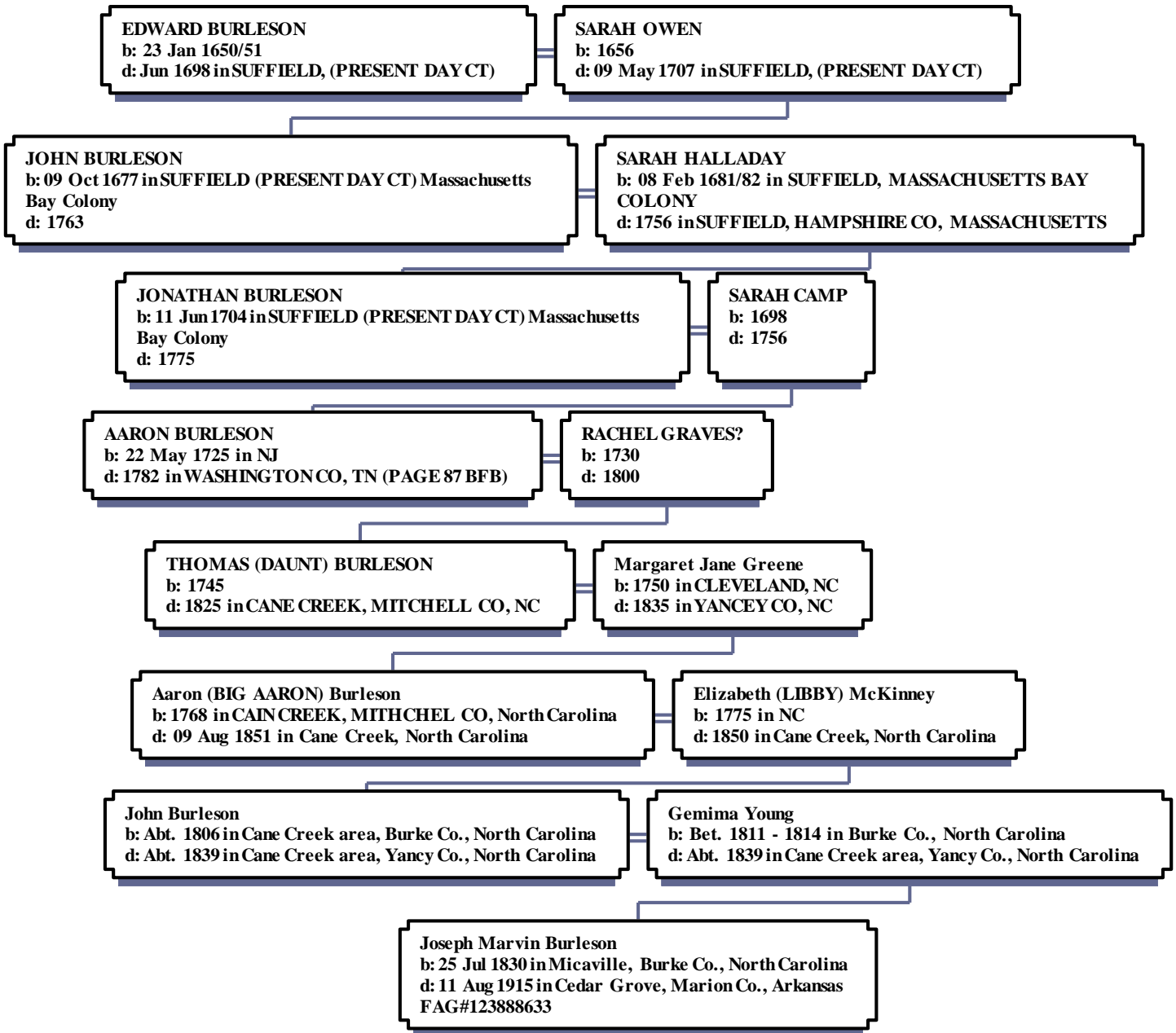
Find A Grave
Carolina Dutchman
Kyle Nelson Clonts
Marion County Clerks Office, Arkansas
Kelly Dulany
Bonny Lyn Fairchild
Marianne Flahant
Arkansas County Marriages 1837-1957
Jean Jones -Georges Creek Cemetery
Early Settlers of Joe Burlison Township
Northwest Arkansas Democrat
Marion County Heritage Society-Jeanna Parker
Houghton

My Genealogy Hound
Trail of Tears Corridor Association
Arkansas State Parks
National Park Service
Britannica.com
Native American Heritage in Arkansas
Arkansasencyclopedia.com
Mitchell County Historical Museum-NC

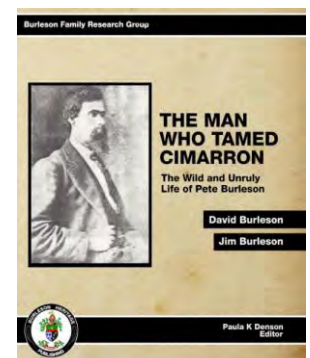
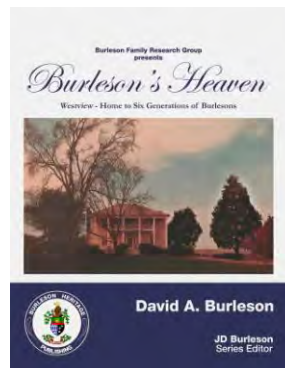
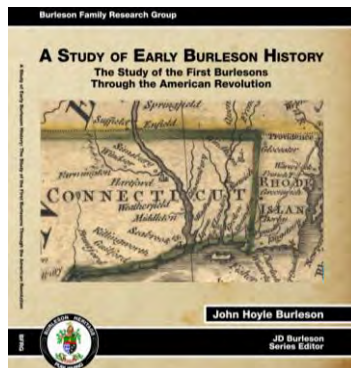
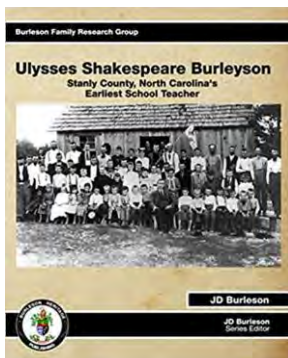


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Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



BFRG would like to remind you to check out our full list of History/Biographies from Burleson Heritage Publishing. Google <https://www.bfrg.info/>, Here are some examples



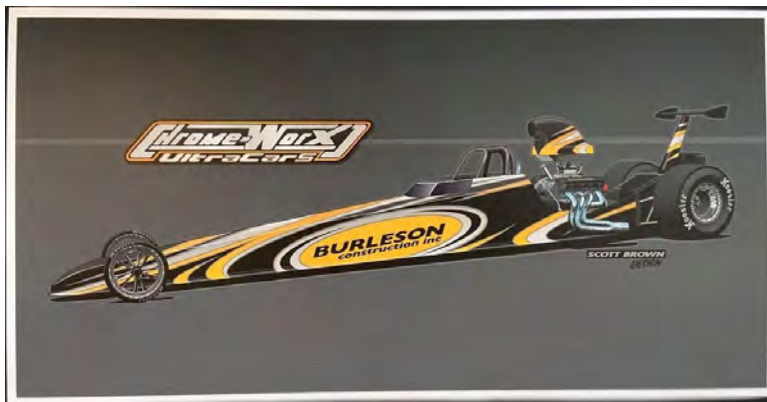
Burleson...at 200 Miles an Hour



Donny Burleson

President

Donny Burleson is the president of Burleson Construction on Missouri City, Texas- just outside Houston. It's a quite successful company primarily concentrated on commercial development. Steel girder slant design predominates their output. Their forward thinking designs for urban and suburban communities keeps growing their company. A significant contributor to company success is their director of marketing, Donny 's wife, University of Houston grad-Charleen Burleson.



As fast as Donny's Monday through Friday job keeps him moving, his weekend activities are even faster. He straps in a drag race car. His entry doubles as his corporate logo. The black and yellow "Burleson Construction Inc" becomes a blur in just a few seconds. He and his team are as successful at racing as building with regular five figure payouts each weekend.



Donny is the son of the late Larry Don Burleson 14 September 1943 Belton, Texas to 4 January 2023 Belton, Texas and Areable Ann Douglas-Burleson 27 October 1937 Bell, Texas to 27 March 1992 Bell, Texas. Some of Donny's appreciation for high powered internal combustion engines comes from his dad. Larry began driving big trucks in the Houston area at age fifteen. For over fifty years he continued driving big rigs across the country, before he retired. As a young man he served in the United States Army as an M.P. He did one tour in Vietnam.

Larry Don Burleson

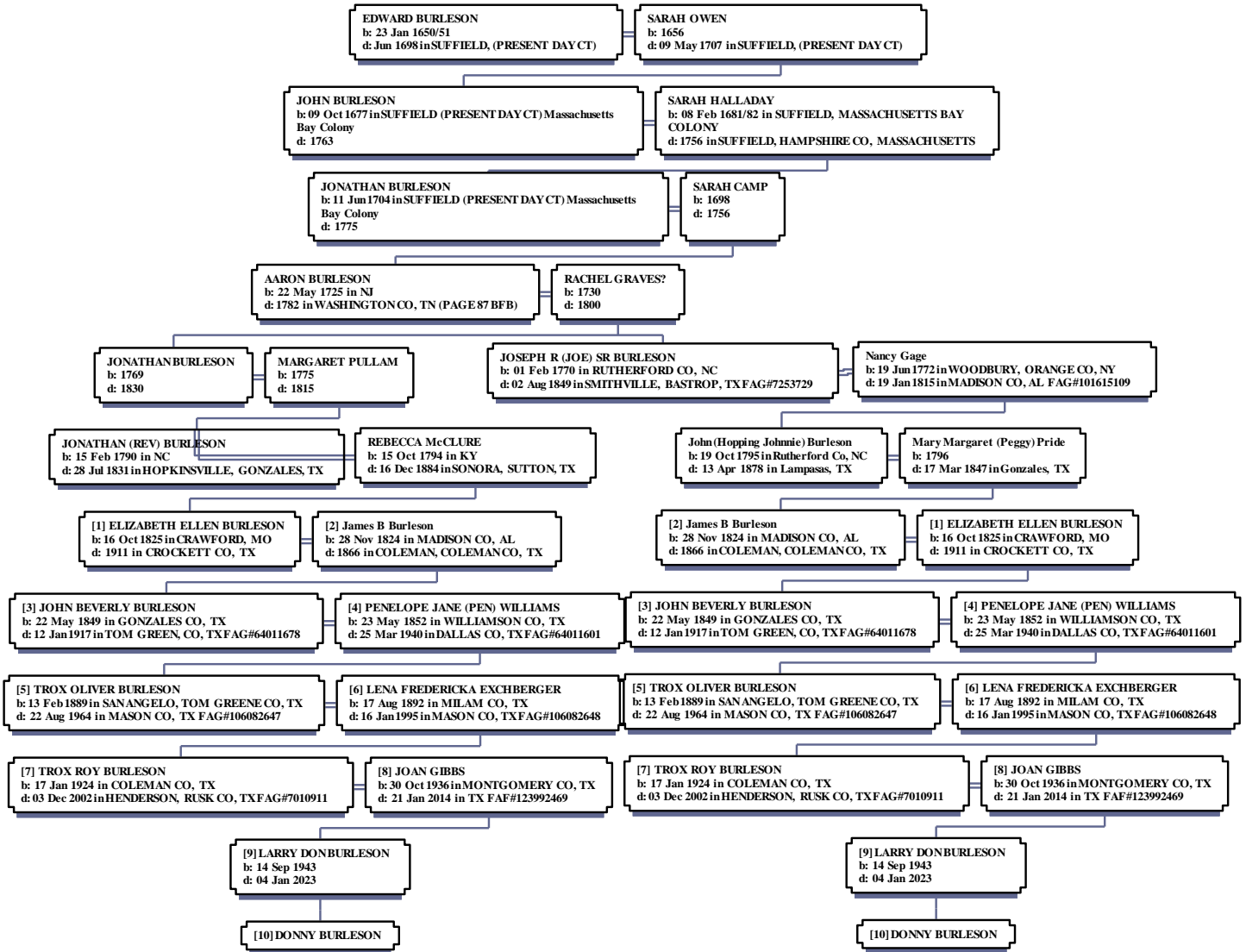
SEPTEMBER 14, 1943 - JANUARY 4, 2023



BFRG sends best wishes to Donny and Charleen in their racing and construction pursuits.



Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



Jim Burleson
BFRG Research
jimburlson8554@gmail.com

Burleson Ties to "The Southern Gentleman"

(Son of Della Burleson)

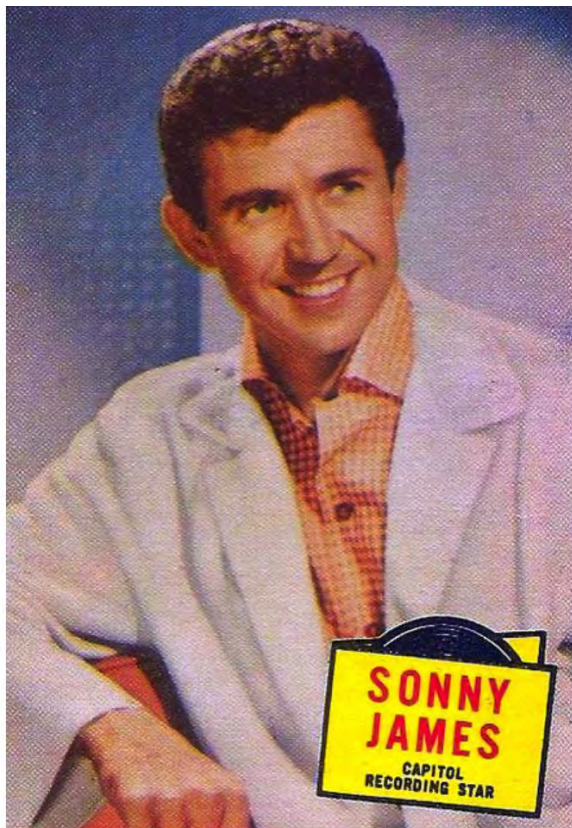


Born James "Jimmie" Hugh Loden in Hackleburg, Alabama 1 May 1928, Sonny James started a humble farm life with parents. His dad Archie Lee "Pop" Loden and mother Della Burleson worked hard on their 300 acre farm just outside town. As rest allowed James and his sister, Thelme Lee Loden used the time to learn musical instruments. As early as age three, James was a gifted singer and mandolin player. At age five, James played with his family in a radio audition under the stage name-"Sonny Boy." He was five.

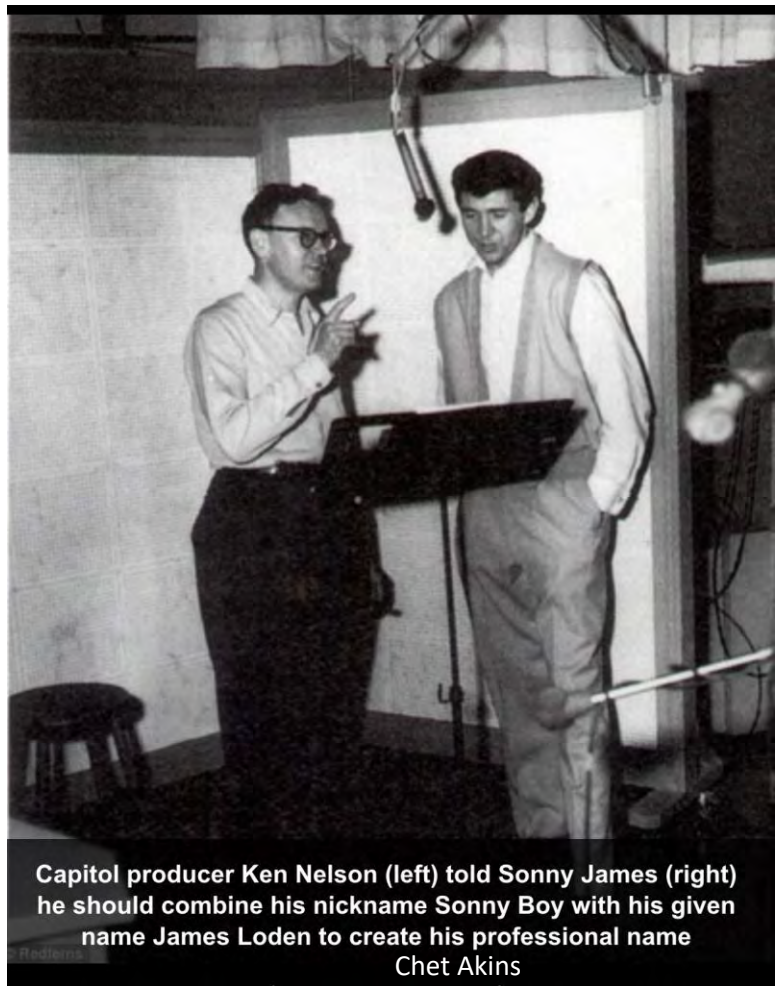


Soon after, the Lodens "took in" a young girl named Ruby Palmer. Now a fivesome, the group billed themselves as Sonny Loden and the Southerners. The audition had gone well. They were offered a regular Saturday slot on "Muscle Shoals, Alabama" on WNRA radio station. Soon they were appearing in theaters, auditoriums and school houses. Archie felt the group was polished enough to perform full time. He leased out their farm as he booked them into daily radio slots throughout Alabama, Tennessee and Arkansas. By 1949 Thelma and Ruby married in West Memphis, Arkansas in a double ceremony. Both gals left the musical group. James took on a guitarist role for a regional band.

Now, "Sonny", he was a member of the National Guard. Come 1950, he and his unit were activated to serve in Korea. Following his deployment, he returned to Nashville to pursue a musicians life. To save money he found a roommate. That man was CHET ATKINS. He had roomed with Atkins and his wife in Raleigh before the war when they worked at the same radio station. After meals, Chet and Sonny played each other their songs. Chet thought Sonny ready for recording. He escorted Sonny to a Nashville studio to meet studio executive Ken Nelson. Nelson was quite impressed with Sonny Boy Loden as a musician but thought his name utterly forgettable. He suggested Loden become "Sonny James." They had an accord.

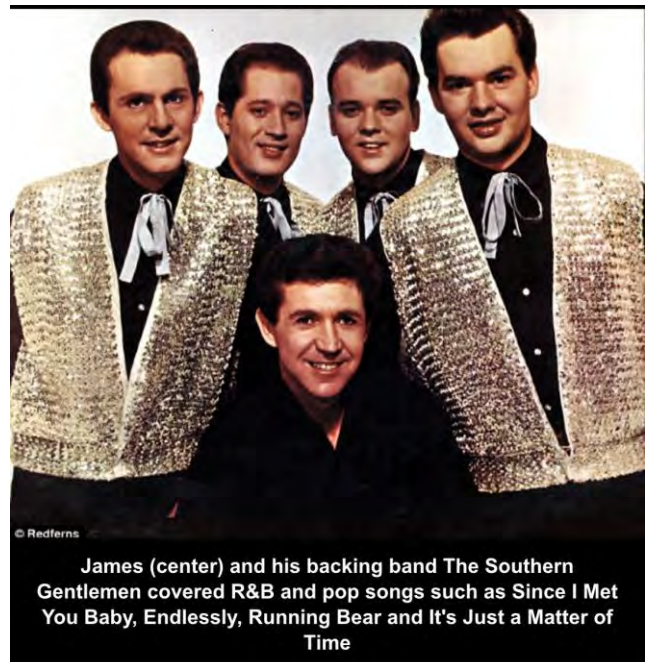


James in 1957



Capitol producer Ken Nelson (left) told Sonny James (right) he should combine his nickname Sonny Boy with his given name James Loden to create his professional name Chet Atkins

“Sonny James” was progressing well in concerts and on the record charts through 1955 as a solo artist. His big breakthrough came when he released a song he wrote “Young Love.” That hit sold three million copies, earned him a huge company contract and made Sonny James a household name. His next string of hits extended to 72 chart hits, 20 of which were number ones. His music was accepted by country and mainstream audiences.



James (center) and his backing band The Southern Gentlemen covered R&B and pop songs such as Since I Met You Baby, Endlessly, Running Bear and It's Just a Matter of Time

In 1962 James was a regular on Nashville's Grand Ole Opry. From 1964 to 1972 he was a dominant force in country music. In that time he hired a solid talent group to accompany him; he named them the "Southern Gentlemen." It was entirely natural the worldwide industry now considered him ... Sonny James, the Southern Gentleman. It stuck and he embraced it. James began dressing the part.



In 1957 Sonny had married Doris Shrode in Dallas, Texas. It was a great marriage although the couple had no children. It was a death toll we part relationship. They traveled everywhere but set roots in 1984 in Nashville. James returned often to Hackleburg, Alabama for as many celebrations he could.

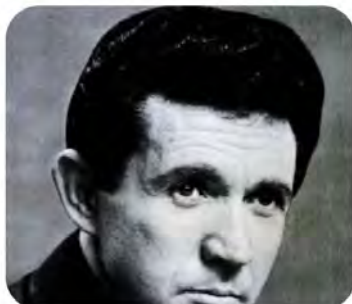
On 22 February 2016 Sonny James passed away in Nashville, Tennessee at the age of 87. He died of natural causes and is laid to rest at Cedar Tree Cemetery in Hackleburg, Alabama.

Prior to James passing he was awarded a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and Country Music Hall of Fame. By 1973, James expanded his experience becoming a producer for talents like Marie Osmond. He led her to a number one hit, "Paper Roses." He once had a string of sixteen number one hits that included, "Need You, Here Comes Honey Again and Is It Wrong(For Loving You)". James appeared in dozens of television shows and movies.



Sonny James - Hollywood...

★ Hollywood Walk o... ⋮



Sonny James - Wikipedia

W Wikipedia ⋮



Discogs
Sonny James - 200 Years Of ...



Discogs
Sonny James - Young Love (1...



eBay



Sonny James
Sonny James Album Covers S...



Sponsored
Sonny James/kathy Dee:
The Southern Gentleman...
\$12.00
eBay
Media: Vinyl



Album Art Exchange
Album Art Exchange - Behind ...



The Ed Sullivan Show



Donny & Marie



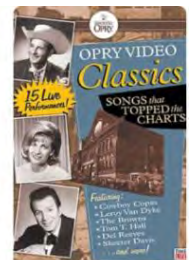
Nashville Rebel



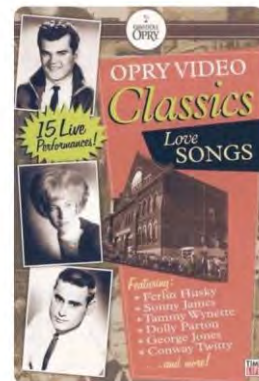
American Bandstand



Las Vegas Hillbillies



Opry Video Classics: Songs



Hillbillies in a Haunted House

Opry Video Classics: Love Songs

Sonny James , again, was the son of Della Burleson, originally from Marion, Alabama. She is buried in the same Cedar Tree Cemetery in Hackleburg as her son. Della was daughter to James Franklin Burleson 1859-1935 of Marion, AL. Her grandfather was Thomas Joseph Burleson 1837-1897, a Marion, Alabama veteran of the Civil War (Capt. J. M. Underwood's Company-5th Alabama Cavalry). Sonny James' line passes through Hillkiah Burleson 1786-1856 to David Burleson 1755-2832 and Ursula Weatherford 1758-1835.



Thomas Joseph Burleson



Jim Burleson

BFRG Research

jimburleson8554@gmail.com



JD Burleson

BFRG Researcher

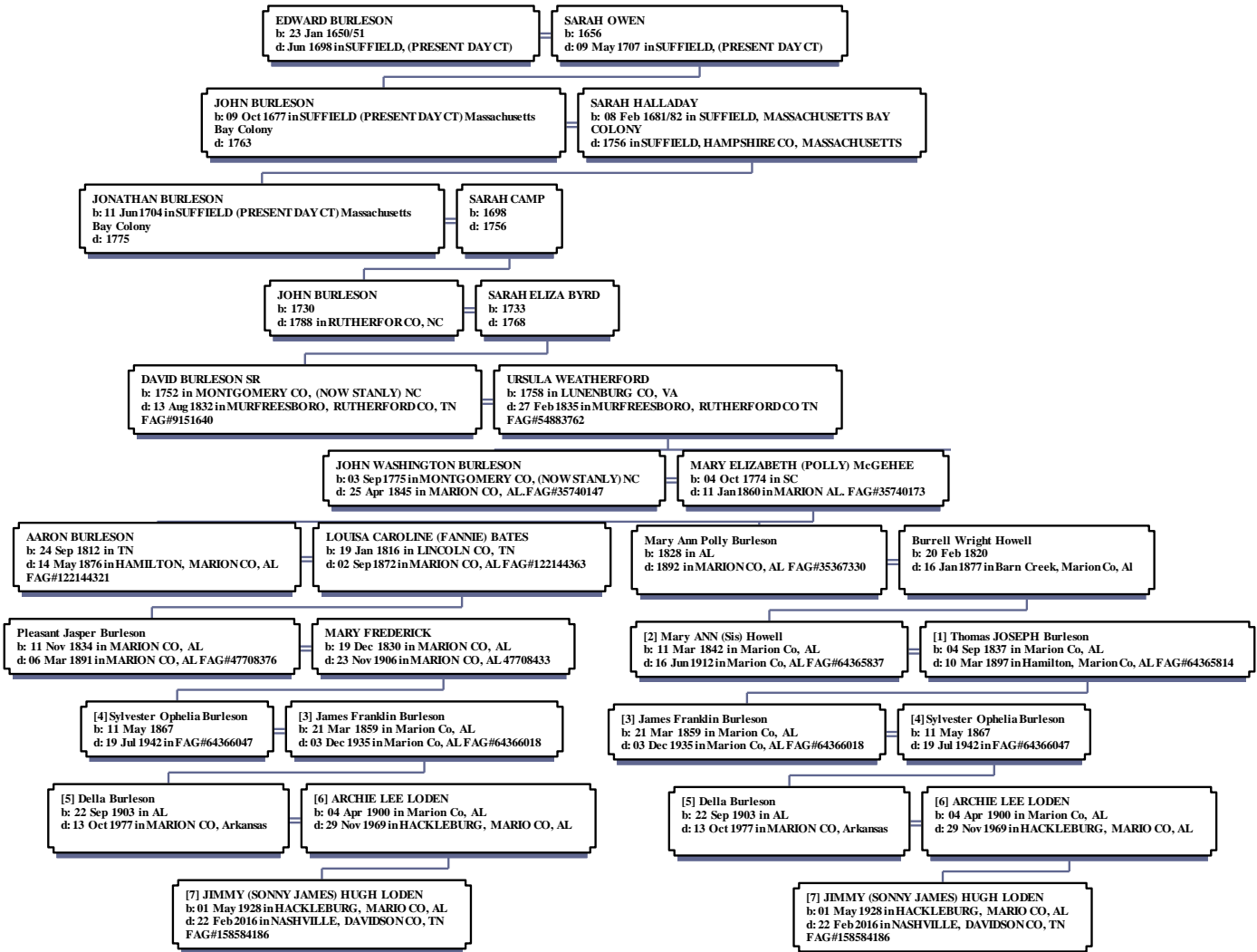
bfrginfo@gmail.com

Sources:

- Wikipedia
- Wikimedia commons
- Countryweekly.com
- Nashville Tennessean
- Capitol Records
- Find a Grave

Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON

ect Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



Listless? Look to Lists to Liven Up

Many of us over the years have seen the several spellings or versions of “Burleson.” We've seen Burlison, Burlinson, Barles and Burleston in many documents and trees. Habit, poor chronicling by census takers, inability to read and write explain much of the variation. Recently we learned from Arthur Sikes, president of the Suffield Historical Society in Connecticut that early Burlesons were educated but chose spellings on documents even by mood. But we've always taken solace in the knowledge we were really ALL FAMILY. We tried to dig a little deeper into other Burleson surname mutations and where “we” appear. We observed a few lists generated by “Surnam.es” in cooperation by Family Finder and iGENEA published in 2023.

The fact that there was no unified spelling for the surname Burleson when the first surnames were formed allows us to find many surnames similar to Burleson.

We recognized only a few on the list of 40 names similar to Burleson:

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Burleyson | 13. Borles | 23. Berls | 32. Burlage |
| 2. Burlison | 14. Bariles | 24. Borlasca | 33. Burlaka |
| 3. Burles | 15. Barlas | 25. Borlase | 34. Burlock |
| 4. Burless | 16. Barlass | 26. Bourlez | 35. Barales |
| 5. Barles | 17. Barleycorn | 27. Briles | 36. Berlusconi |
| 6. Berles | 18. Barloco | 28. Brulles | 37. Brlek |
| 7. Berloso | 19. Barlog | 29. Bryles | 38. Burlak |
| 8. Burleigh | 20. Barlos | 30. Burlac | 39. Berlus |
| 9. Burlakow | 21. Berlioz | 31. Burlacu | 40. Barlis |
| 10. Bourles | 22. Berloz | | |
| 11. Burlakov | | | |
| 12. Burlekas | | | |

The more obvious spelling we see in England is “Burlinson.” According to Surenam.es that spelling appears in families in these locations. The second chart reflects the presence of “Burleson” by country. Note the absence of Australia and the huge increase of Burleson in the Caribbean.

Countries with additional Burlinson on the planet

1.  England (514)
2.  United States (144)
3.  Australia (47)
4.  Scotland (11)
5.  Wales (2)
6.  New Zealand (2)
7.  Spain (1)
8.  France (1)
9.  Japan (1)
10.  Poland (1)
11.  Singapore (1)

Nations with additional Burleson on the planet

1.  United States (17246)
2.  Suriname (271)
3.  Netherlands (118)
4.  Aruba (23)
5.  Canada (23)
6.  Dominican Republic (23)
7.  England (7)
8.  Germany (4)
9.  India (3)
10.  Panama (2)
11.  Philippines (2)
12.  Puerto Rico (2)



Observing Burlinson atop England, United States and Australia came as no surprise but in the same type 2023 chart for “Burleson”, England came in 7th with only seven Burleson families

and Australia didn't appear. To our surprise, Burleson families in six of the top dozen countries are Caribbean. The second and third most appearing Burleson families are in Suriname and the Netherlands. Further, the families in the six countries in the top twelve are of African and Dutch descent. Three such Burlesons in these countries correspond with BFRG; they are Teersa Burleson, Lucretia Burleson and Felix Burleson.

We are following up on this revelation with the Ambassador of Suriname to the European Union in The Hague- Netherlands. She is H.E. (Her Excellency) Sieglien Odetta Ria BURLESON!
*See related article. Are you still listless?

H.E. SIEGLIEN BURLESON

Suriname



Acknowledgements:

Wikimedia Commons

Suriname Ministry of Trade,
Industry and Tourism

Family Finder

Surnam.es

iGENEA



Jim Burleson

BFRG Researcher

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Jean (John) Forrest Burleson



Colonel (US Army, Retired) Jean Forrest Michel Burleson (hereafter referred to as “John” – “Jean” is French for “John”) was born on March 1, 1949 at Fort Benning, Georgia to Lieutenant Colonel (at the time), US Army, Joe Witt Burleson (from Hartselle, Alabama) and Michelle Gabrielle LeReguier (from Paris, France). Shortly after John’s birth, Lt Col Burleson was assigned to Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe in Paris, France, and John spent most of his earlier years growing up in Paris. When his mother, Michelle, became critically ill with renal failure and was medically evacuated from Paris to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, John and his brothers and sister were sent to live with their aunts, Lilly and Clara, at one of the Burleson family homes in Hartselle, while their father remained in France. When he was in the 6th grade, his family reunited and, after his last assignment as Post Commander of Fort Polk, Louisiana, then-Colonel Burleson retired from the Army and relocated the family to Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

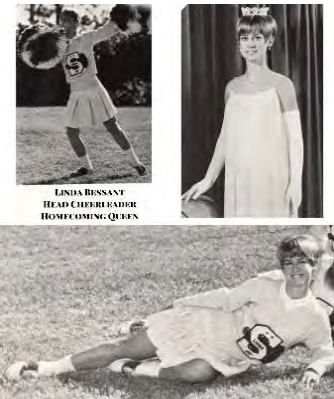
John graduated from Tuscaloosa High School in 1967 and enrolled in the University of Alabama, where he graduated from in 1971 and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Infantry, US Army. While at Alabama, he met his future wife, Linda Gay Bessant, from Phenix City, Alabama, who was also a student at the university. They were married on June 6, 1971, a few days after graduation. John says that he had “realized every teenage boy’s dream” in that he had married the high school head cheerleader and homecoming queen. While at Alabama, Linda was the “Army ROTC Sweetheart”.



LT John and Linda Burleson



Linda – Univ of Alabama Army ROTC Sweetheart



LINDA BESSANT
HEAD CHEERLEADER
HOMECOMING QUEEN

After a short honeymoon, John and Linda began their life together at Fort Benning, where John attended the Infantry Officers Basic Course, Airborne (paratrooper) School, and Ranger School. Upon graduation, they were assigned to Heilbronn, Germany, where John was assigned to an Infantry battalion with the primary mission of the security of the nuclear-capable Pershing missile field sites and war-time launch locations. After three years in Germany, John was once again assigned to Fort Benning, where he was assigned to the Ranger Department and, later, attended the Infantry Officers Advanced Course (IOAC). Due to an injury he had sustained in Germany, he was deemed medically unqualified to be in the Infantry and, while still in the Advanced Course, was branch-transferred from Infantry to Military Police. Upon graduation from IOAC, John had to attend the Military Police Officers Advanced Course at Fort McClellan, Alabama. Upon completion, he returned to Fort Benning, where he was assigned to the Provost Marshal Office as the Military Police Operations Officer and, later, as the Commander, 988th Military Police Company, a unit of the 16th Military Police Brigade, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Following the assignment at Fort Benning, John was assigned to successive assignments of increasing responsibility, to include Chief, Military Police Investigations and, later, Chief, Military Police Operations, US Support Command, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Instructor, Army ROTC, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs; Military Police Operations Officer, Deputy Provost Marshal, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, NC; Executive Officer, 503rd Military Police Battalion, Ft. Bragg, NC (and OPERATION JUST CAUSE, Grenada); Operations Officer, Headquarters Command, Allied Forces, Southern Europe (AFSOUTH), Naples, Italy; Commander, US Army Element, AFSOUTH; Executive Officer for the Chief of Staff; AFSOUTH; Commander, 716th Military Police Battalion, Fort Riley, KS and OPERATION DESERT STORM; Secretary of the General Staff, 1st Infantry Division, Ft Riley; Deputy Provost Marshal, US Army Europe (Mannheim, Germany); Commander, 8th Military Police Brigade and Provost Marshal, 8th US Army and US Forces Korea (Seoul, South Korea); and Provost Marshal, US Central Command (McDill AFB, Tampa, FL).

NOTE: While in Saudi Arabia for OPERATION DESERT STORM, John was assigned as the Joint Task Force Commander for OPERATION EASTERN EXIT, the non-permissive evacuation, under fire, of the US Embassy in Mogadishu, Somalia. After successfully accomplishing that mission, he returned to command his battalion in DESERT STORM.



LtCol Jean (John) Burleson, Commander, 716th Military Police Battalion, in Saudi Arabia during OPERATION DESERT STORM, with President George Bush and GEN Norman Schwartzkopf.



COL Jean (John) F. Burleson

COL Burleson's education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing from the University of Alabama; Masters in Public Administration from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania; Masters in Strategic Studies from the Army War College; and Certificates for course work in Financial Management from Cornell University; Labor Negotiations from Harvard University; Traffic Accident Investigation from the Traffic Institute at Northwestern University; FBI Hostage Negotiations Course; and the Secret Service Personal Protection Course. In addition, he is a graduate of the Infantry Officers Basic and Advanced Courses; Military Police Officers Advanced Course; Army Command and General Staff College; Armed Forces Staff College; Army War College; Airborne Course; Ranger School; and the French Commando Course.

His military awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal; Legion of Merit (2); Bronze Star; Joint Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal (3); Army Commendation Medal (2); Joint Service Achievement Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Expeditionary Medal; Humanitarian Service Medal; United Nations Service Medal; Overseas Service Medal (5); National Defense Service Medal; several overseas campaign medals; Expert Infantry Badge; Senior Parachutist Badge; Ranger Tab; French Commando Badge; and Gold German Military Proficiency Badge.



John and Linda, Korea 1997



Linda with North Korean
Soldier in Panmunjom

In December 1999, John received a “job offer he could not turn down” from Wackenhut Services, Inc. (WSI), a subsidiary of The Wackenhut Corporation (TWC) that performed all their government contracts. WSI was the largest provider of para-military security services to the US Government, with thousands of para-military security force personnel across the United States and overseas who provided security for government facilities, sites, installations, and other critical national security assets. He retired from the Army in January 2000 and his first assignment with WSI was a Director of Safety, Performance Assurance/Testing, and Nuclear Control and Accountability at the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration (DOE/NNSA) Nevada Test Site in the Las Vegas area.

In September 2000, after only 8 months in Nevada, John was assigned as Senior Vice President, WSI, and Deputy General Manager of the Protective Force contract for the DOE/NNSA nuclear weapons complex in Oak Ridge Tennessee, one of the Manhattan Project sites of WWII, where the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima was built. The Oak Ridge complex included the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (called X-10 in the Manhattan Project days), where the world’s first nuclear reactor was located, and where research was conducted to make the world’s first uranium-based nuclear weapon; East Tennessee Technology Park (called K-25 in the Manhattan Project days), where raw uranium was processed into weapons-grade highly enriched uranium by thousands of centrifuges; Y-12 National Security Complex, the nuclear weapons manufacturing facility and, today, the nation’s storehouse of weapons-grade nuclear material, where nuclear weapons are refurbished, and the provider of nuclear fuel for the US Navy; and the DOE Oak Ridge Headquarters Complex. In Oak Ridge, John’s primary responsibility was command, control, and supervision of the more than 1,500 para-military security force personnel providing security for the critical facilities and material in the Oak Ridge sites. In March 2003, John was assigned as the Senior Vice President and General Manager, WSI-Oak Ridge and was responsible for the Protective Force, Training Facility, Information Security, Cyber Security, Personnel Security, Performance Testing, Labor Relations with six unions, and all headquarters functions of Human Resources, Finance and Accounting, Safety, Logistics, etc.



Protective Force Members – WSI-Oak Ridge

In December 2010, John was promoted to Senior Vice President, WSI and Executive General Manager, DOE/NNSA Operations, and moved to Augusta, Georgia. In that capacity he was responsible for all the WSI DOE and NNSA contracts across the country, which included Oak Ridge, Nevada Test Site; Savannah River Site (Aiken, SC); Hanford, Washington; Sandia, California; Los Alamos, NM; Tonopah, NV; and the DOE/NNSA training facility in New Mexico; as well as the DOE Strategic Petroleum Reserve sites in Louisiana and Texas. During this time, The Wackenhut Corporation was sold to G4S, the largest security company in the world and WSI was renamed G4S Government Solutions (G4S-GS).

While in Oak Ridge, John was very involved in community/charitable organizations. He was President of the Oak Ridge Chapter, American Red Cross Board, United Way of Anderson County, TN Board, and on the Oak Ridge/Knoxville Boards of Make-A-Wish, Heart Fund, Aid to Appalachia, and Childrens Museum, and a volunteer in several other organizations and community activities. He also served as the President of the Governor’s Tennessee Labor-Management Foundation, on the Boards of the Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), and the Oak Ridge Leadership and East Tennessee Leadership organizations. He was twice selected as the Volunteer of the Year for the 13-county East Tennessee region and was presented with every award given by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. He still volunteers as a Disaster Response Team member and supervisor with the American Red Cross in Tuscaloosa, which covers eight counties in West Alabama.



John and Linda, as Elvis and Madonna at a United Way fundraiser in Oak Ridge



John and Linda’s Grandchildren
Hunter, Savannah, Tristan, Taylor
with Jake, Lady, Bentley

In 2015, John was promoted to President, G4S Integrated Services (G4S-IS), a subsidiary of G4S-GS, with headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas and San Diego, California. G4S-IS primary lines of work were management of military installations (primarily overseas); construction of government buildings/facilities; maintenance/management of government fleets; and maintenance/management of federal buildings. John had agreed to take that position upon the retirement of the former President, for a maximum of two years, and

commute between Augusta, Georgia and Fort Worth, going home to Augusta on weekends, as the lines of work for that company were outside John's expertise, security. That allowed G4S-GS to do a search for a permanent President. In the interim, while John was at G4S-IS, G4S sold G4S-GS to an investment group because of issues that had arisen over a foreign entity (G4S, a British corporation) owning a company that was so heavily involved in the security of our country's most critical national security assets. G4S-Government Solutions was renamed Centerra and G4S-Integrated Services was renamed Centerra-Integrated Services (Centerra-IS).

At the end of the two-year agreement, John was assigned to the Centerra headquarters (Palm Beach Gardens, FL) as Senior Vice President, Operations, working in Augusta, Georgia, and responsible for all federal security contracts, which included the Federal Protective Force contracts in Washington DC and across the country, that provided security for federal buildings, IRS and Social Security offices, FEMA facilities, court houses, etc.

In 2018, Centerra was sold to Constellis (owner of Blackwater/Xi, Triple Canopy, and other para-military organizations), in Reston, Virginia, and John decided to retire, rather than move to the DC area, which he had managed to avoid his entire military career. John and Linda remained in Augusta, GA, until they decided, in 2022, to build their retirement home in Tuscaloosa, AL and live close to one of their sons and his family. John and Linda have two sons, John and Sean, and four grandchildren.



John and Tonya Burleson

John, his wife, Tonya, and son, Hunter (17) live in Tuscaloosa. Their daughter, Taylor (23) a graduate of the University of Alabama, works for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in Portland, Maine and will be moving to a new position with DHS in Boston, MA, in January. John, who attended Kansas State University, works for the City of Tuscaloosa, after having spent 25 years as a Loss Prevention Manager for WalMart. Tonya is a registered nurse and works for a private clinic in Tuscaloosa.



Sean, and his wife, Heather, live in Lebanon, Tennessee (Nashville area) with their two children, Savannah (6) and Tristan (3). Sean, who attended the University of Alabama and University of South Florida, served as a US Army Military Police Captain who deployed four times to GITMO, Iraq and Afghanistan, is currently an executive with the Amazon Corporation. Heather is a Physicians Assistant and owns/operates her own clinic in the Nashville area.



Sean in Afghanistan

Sean and John Burleson at Sean's Commissioning



As mentioned at the beginning of this article, Jean's (John) parents were COL Joe W. and Michelle G. Burleson. Joe was the son of Jonathan Orr Burleson and the former Mary Josephine Witt. Jonathan was the son of Dabney Burleson and his grandfather was Jonathan Aaron Burleson, who, in 1841, built "Westview", the prominent plantation home that still stands today on Burleson Mountain in Morgan County Alabama. The home has been owned and occupied by members of the Burleson family ever since.

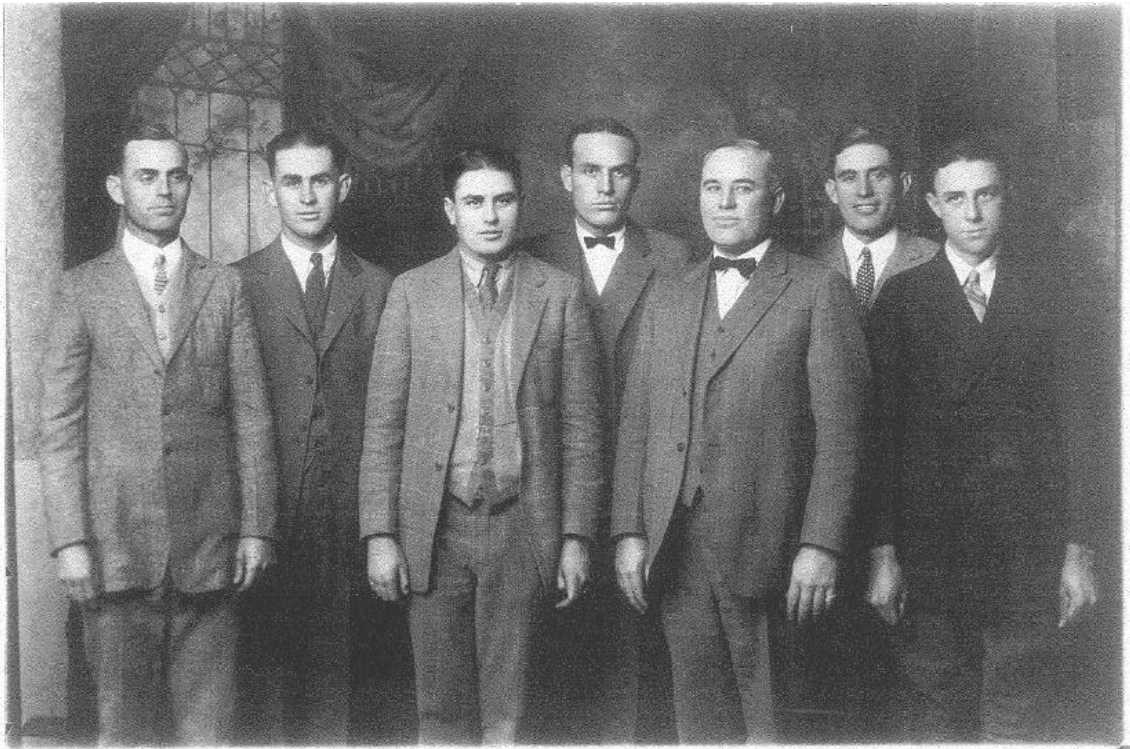


Jonathan and Mary Burleson



Westview Plantation

Jonathan and Mary had four daughters (Lilly, Clara, Vera, and Katherine) and nine sons (Clarence, Richard, Howard, Forrest, Jonathan, Robert, Joe, Spencer, and Albert). Clarence and Albert died in infancy. Richard, Howard, Robert, Joe, and Spencer were engineers. Forrest was a well-known and highly respected educator. Jonathan was a professional baseball player and umpire, who later served as the Mayor of Hartselle, AL for 12 years. Both Richard and Forrest were long-time members of the Alabama Legislature.



The Burleson Brothers
Robert, Howard, Joe, Jonathan, Richard, Forrest, Spencer

Richard, Joe, and Spencer all served as officers in the Army National Guard, with Richard serving as an active duty Captain on General Pershing's AEF staff in Europe during WWI. Joe and Spencer entered active duty a year before Pearl Harbor. Spencer left active duty after being permanently disabled due to a battlefield injury in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations. Joe was initially assigned in Alaska, where he served as a company commander, regimental staff officer, and post commander, before being assigned to the European Theater of Operations as a Combat Engineer Group Commander and served in Europe throughout the war. After the war, Joe elected to remain on active duty. When he retired, Joe had 40 years of military service in the National Guard, Army Reserve, and Regular Army.

Following WWII, Joe served in various assignments commensurate with his branch and rank, being assigned all over the country, as well as in Germany and France. For four years, he was detailed on a special assignment with the American Battle Monuments Commission, headquartered in Paris, France, where he served as Officer-in-Charge of Construction. In this assignment, he supervised the construction of all the World War II military memorials in Italy, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Holland, England, San Francisco, and Honolulu.



COL Joe Burleson, SCARWAF



While in Paris, following the war, he met, fell in love with, and married the former Michelle Gabrielle LeReguier, who was 23 years his junior. Upon returning to the United States with his "war bride", who spoke no English, she settled into Westview Plantation with Burleson family members while Joe was assigned to the Special Category Army Reassigned with the Air Force (SCARWAF) and traveled across the United States as a Engineer Group Commander tasked with constructing Air Force bases (which had just be established from the Army Air Corps). While at Westview, Michelle learned English and assimilated into the American lifestyle and society.

There are a great many funny stories about Michelle's early years in America; far too many to recount in this article. One concerns their train trip from New York, where they first arrived in the United States, to Alabama. While on the train, she told Joe, several times, to be sure to let her know when the train crossed into Alabama. Upon arriving in Alabama, Joe told Michelle that they were in Alabama. Michelle immediately got up, took off her stocking and shoes, put them in her suitcase, and sat back down. Joe, upon seeing this, asked her what she was doing, to which she replied that she just wanted to "fit in" when she met his family. Joe realized that the only thing she had ever seen or heard about Alabama in France was that people in Alabama were poor and ran around barefooted. He assured her that she did not have to be barefooted to fit in. She was in for a big surprise when she arrived in Morgan County and was greeted by family members in fine attire, expensive cars, servants, and huge plantation houses.

Joe and Michelle had four children; Gerard LeReguier, Kiska Josephine Genvieve, Jean Forrest Michel, and Michel Gilbert. In addition, Joe had a son by his first wife, Lucille, Richard Byrd.

Gerard was born in Decatur/Morgan County, Alabama in 1947. He graduated from the University of Alabama with a Bachelors Degree in Physics and a Masters Degree in Chemical Engineering. After a brief stint on active duty in the Air Force, he worked as a chemical engineer at Toole Army Depot, Utah. Following his career at Toole, he moved back to Tuscaloosa and died in February 2023.

Kiska, who was named after an island in Alaska (Joe had liked that name when he was assigned in Alaska), was born in 1948 at Ft. Meade, Maryland. She graduated from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, with a Masters Degree in Nursing. She was an Air Force flight nurse and resigned her commission as a Major, when her husband, Rick, an Air Force psychologist left active duty. She taught nursing at the University of Southern Mississippi, and was the Nursing Administrator at the VA Hospital in Denver, Colorado. She and her husband live in Denver, Colorado. They have one daughter, Andrea, and a granddaughter, Lauren, who also live in Denver.

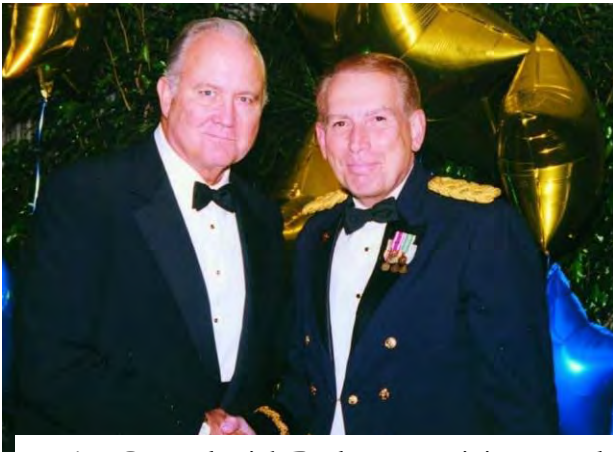
Jean (John) was born at Ft. Benning, Georgia in 1949, and his background has been thoroughly covered above.

Michel was born in Bordeaux, France in 1953. Joe and Michelle were stationed in Frankfurt Germany. As Michelle got close to the expected delivery date, she was taken to the US military hospital in Bordeaux, France, where Michel was born. Michelle, being French and having lived in Paris, as a teenager, during the occupation by the Nazis, she refused to have "a German baby". Michel graduated from the University of Alabama with a degree in Accounting. He served on active duty as an Artillery officer, leaving the Army as a Captain and, later, working for the Humana Corporation in various positions, to include CFO of hospitals, recruiting physicians, hospital administrator, etc. in Virginia, Alabama, Nevada, Louisiana, and California. He and his wife, Diana, live in Slidell, LA, and they have one daughter, Kristan, who also lives in Slidell.

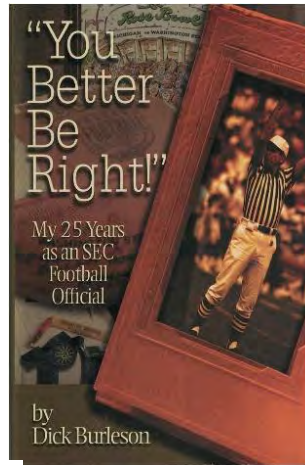
Richard (Dick), Joe's son from his first marriage, was born in Blount County, Alabama in 1940. Although he grew up living with his mother and grandmother in Alabama, he was very much part of Joe and Michelle's family as well. Michelle considered him her son and welcomed him into her family. He graduated from Georgia Tech with a



degree in Civil Engineering. He served on active duty in the Corps of Engineers and left active duty when his ROTC commitment was up. He worked for Chicago Bridge and Iron, one of the largest engineering firms in the United States, at their Birmingham (Alabama) Operations. He rose to the position of Executive Vice President before he retired. Richard stayed in the Army Reserve and rose to the rank of Major General and commanded the largest Army Reserve Command in the Army. He is the 23rd American to receive the Spirit of America's Audie Murphy Patriotism Award, which was presented to him by General Norman Schwartzkopf. Richard was also a Southeastern Conference Football Official for 25 years. He served as President of the SEC Football Officials and, upon leaving officiating on the field, served in the SEC Command Center, conducting reviews of officials' calls on the field and evaluating the performance of officials. He is still active with the SEC and is a highly sought-after speaker for various organizations, conferences, etc. He has been inducted into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame and was in the inaugural class of the Alabama Sports Officials Hall of Fame. Richard wrote a best-selling book, "You Better Be Right", about his 25 years as an SEC Football Official.



Major General Dick Burleson receiving award from General (Retired) Norman Schwartzkopf



Dick Burleson at the 1998 College Football Championship Game at the Rose Bowl with Carol Burnette, Grand Marshal

Although Dick has a great deal of SEC football memorabilia, one of his favorites is a picture that was taken at an Alabama football game that shows him refereeing the game and Bear Bryant on the sideline. What makes that picture so special is the backstory about it. Bear Bryant died on January 26, 1983 in Tuscaloosa. A few days after his death, Dick received a large envelope in the mail that contained the photo. The photo showed Bear and Dick, as mentioned, and an Alabama player running down the field, holding the football in the crook of one arm, unprotected. Bear had signed the photo with the notation, "To Dick Burleson, a man who's with you - sincerely, Paul 'Bear' Bryant". Attached to the picture was a note written by Bear to Dick that said, "People have asked me why I decided to retire. Look at that player, he's holding the ball like a watermelon".



Some time later, Dick ran into Bear Bryant's longtime secretary and asked her if she remembered Bear sending him the photo. She replied that she did and stated that she remembered everything about the day he sent it. She stated that, on that day, as Bear Bryant was leaving his office to go home, he handed her the picture and asked her to send it to Dick. She looked at it and laughed, put it in an envelope addressed to Dick and put it in the outgoing mail. Bear walked out of the office, went home, and died later that night. She said that photo and note were the last things Bear had signed before his death.

COL Joe Bureson retired from the Army in 1960 and he and his family moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He joined an engineering firm as a partner and was in charge of the construction of several buildings and facilities on the campus of the University of Alabama, including the expansion and renovation of the main library; construction of Bryant Hall, the athletic dormitory; and the first two expansions of Bryant-Denny Stadium. In the course of the projects at Bryant Hall and Bryant-Denny Stadium, he became a close friend of legendary Alabama football coach, Paul "Bear" Bryant. In Richard's book, "You Better Be Right", he recounts a couple of funny stories about that relationship.

Richard (Dick) related that prior to each game, the referees are required to meet with the coaches to go over things related to the game. The first time he met with Bear Bryant, as he was finishing up an getting ready to leave, Bear said, "Hey, Dick... You know that I am a good friend of your dad", to which Dick replied that he was aware of that. Dick stated that was a routine comment every time he met with Bear Bryant before a game and that, "the bigger the game, the bigger a friend he was with my dad".

One of the chapters in Dick's book, titled "Michelle Meets the Bear", recounts the story about the first time Michelle met Bear Bryant. Michelle, who, as previously stated, was French. She knew nothing at all about American football, however, living in Tuscaloosa, the home of the Alabama Crimson Tide, she certainly knew who Bear Bryant was, even though she had never met him. Shortly after Joe started working on construction projects at the university, she asked him why she had never met him, since he was Joe's friend. Joe told her that he had no idea she even knew who he was, but that he would introduce her to him. Joe stated that he and Bear lunched together a couple of times a week and that he would arrange for her to join him. On the day she was going to meet them for lunch, it was decided that she would pick them up at the university and go to a local restaurant. Bear and Joe were standing on a corner waiting for her when she came flying around the corner. It had been raining earlier in the day and, as she pulled up where they were standing, she hit a mud puddle, splashed water and soaked Joe and the Bear. Michelle was very embarrassed and apologized profusely. Bear hugged her and asked her, "Young lady, do you think I have never had mud splashed on me before." After lunch, Bear gave her one of his signature hats as a memento of the lunch they had together. That hat is now in the possession of her grandson, John, who is an avid collector of Alabama sports memorabilia, and is one of his prize possessions. He has pictures of Bear Bryant in that hat, on the shoulders of his players after winning the Sugar Bowl.

Michelle had so many stories she could tell about having four small children and being an Army wife. For example, one can just imagine the stories about crossing the Atlantic Ocean, on ocean liners, eight times, with four small children in tow.

As previously stated, Michelle lived in Paris during the Nazi occupation. During that time, she frequently went without eating and lacked many of the things people simply take for granted. When she got married and had kids, she swore that her kids would never lack for anything. Her whole life was her kids and she did anything and everything she could for them. She always was the "neighborhood mom". Kids naturally flocked to her house, where they knew there would always be snacks, toys, games, etc., as well as, if they needed them, new clothes and shoes. Michelle was in great demand, as her kids got older, to chaperone school dances, trips, and other functions. They knew that she would always join in the fun and would allow them to do just about anything, as long as it was not illegal or immoral. That is where she drew the line. Michelle would take groups of kids to rock concerts, movies,

etc., and was even known to “roll/tp” yards with them, even providing the toilet paper. If somebody needed an adult to confide in, cry on their shoulder, or get them out of a jam without their parents knowing, Michelle was the one they always called.

Because on the age difference between Joe and Michelle (23 years), Joe often referred to her as “one of the kids”, a title she earned because of her total involvement with her kids and their friends.

Michelle’s favorite car was a Thunderbird and she typically got a new one every year or so. When John graduated from high school, he got a new Thunderbird as a graduation gift. Joe had ordered two ... a black one for John and a white one for Michelle. When the cars came in, John told Michelle that his was faster. She argued that they were the same, except for the colors, but John continued to insist that his was faster and told her that he could prove it. A new interstate highway had just been completed between Tuscaloosa and Birmingham (68 miles). Although it was finished, it had not been officially opened and traffic was not allowed on it (though it was already being used by some). John and Michelle agreed to race to Birmingham and back, on the not-yet-opened interstate highway. John won the race and Michelle immediately complained to Joe that John’s car was faster than hers. Joe assured her that they were the exact same car, except for the color, and she told him about the race. He almost had a heart attack and asked her if she realized what would happen if the police had caught a mother and son racing on a closed highway. Her response was, “Well, you would just have to come get us out of jail”. She wanted to challenge John to another race, but thought better of it.

She was also an avid volunteer. She was active in the March of Dimes, Heart Fund, Cancer Fund, etc. She also volunteered in a soup kitchen, making sandwiches and soup for needy people, and volunteered at the Tuscaloosa Veterans Administration Hospital, teaching French to the patients, many of whom were WWII veterans who had served in France. Several had French wives and she formed a French Club that included not only the French wives of the patients, but other French women in the community. She was also a Cub Scout Pack Leader and Brownie Troop Leader.

Michelle was a very trusting person and, as such, it was easy to prank her, which Joe and her kids delighted in. Joe sent her to the store on several occasions to get “elbow grease” and the like, which the store clerks would sometimes play along with, tell her they were out, and send her to another store. On more than one occasion, when she went downtown shopping, John would take her spare car keys, follow her, and, when she was in a store, move her car a block or so away. When she finished shopping, she could not find her car where she thought she had parked it, found it someplace else, and thought she was losing her mind. On one occasion, she called the police and reported her car stolen, only for them to find it a couple of blocks away, thinking she had just forgotten where she parked.

Joe and Michelle were an active, fun-loving couple who were married for over forty years. Joe died in 1989 at the age of 86. Michelle died in 2018 at the age of 92.



Michelle Burleson with an award from the Boy Scouts of America



Jean (John) Forrest Burleson
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Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON

