

Sunday Afternoon With Lena Burleson

By J.D. Burleson

On a Sunday afternoon in July 1997 a group met at the Lena Burleson's house in Albemarle. She was going to show us Burleson Cemetery #1 near her farm and tell us about the headstones. The group included;

Lena Burleson (wife of Klou Roy)
Johnny Paul Burleson (Lena's son)
John H. Burleson
Karol (my wife) and myself (JD Burleson)
Sheila Breese (our daughter)
Tyler and Adam Breese (Sheila's sons)
Wesley Burleson (our son)
Don and Mary Burleson Eudy
(they take care of the Cemetery)

From Lena's home we drove about ¼ mile to the old burial place. It was very hot and humid but we had a good time anyway. The rolling hills of the farm were beautiful. Herds of cattle dotted the hills in the distance and the cattle mooing occasionally was the only sound that broke the peace and quiet. It is beautiful country there.

The burial place there is Burleson Cemetery #1 located on 1242 Burleson Road near the old home place of R. Hurley Burleson. It was part of Joshua Hearne's home place. Joshua was Mary Ann Hearne Burleson's father. Isaac Burleson (May 20, 1842 – April 8, 1910) and Mary Ann Hearne Burleson (Feb 15, 1841 – Nov 11, 1897) are both buried here. Joshua Hearne's wife, Nancy Almond Hearne, gave 50 acres of land for the City Hall in Albemarle.

Mary Lou Burleson Eudy loaned me four pictures to copy:

- (1) Isaac Burleson
- (2) Isaac and Mary Ann's family
- (3) Hurley Burleson
- (4) Hurley Burleson's family reunion.

Lena told us several stories about the cemetery and surrounding area. She pointed out the headstone for "C. Tebe Burleson". Lena said this was a terrible loss. Tebe had one child named Thurman, BFA #261. Her husband Brady N. Burleson was in the service when she was expecting her second child. Her doctors assured her it would be safe to have the baby at home. After 30 hours of labor they realized there were complications but it was too late. Both Tebe and the baby died.

They are buried together in the same grave.



Here is an interesting update to this story. While visiting with Virginia Burleson (Cecil's Widow) she told me more about Brady Burleson. Brady Burleson is Cecil's brother, and Brady later married, Ceceilia Marie Gotthold, and they had one son, Garth Burleyson. Virginia gave me Garth's address, he lives in Silver Springs, Maryland. I wrote and requested some information on his family and I received a letter from him last week. This is what I added to my computer, GARTH⁵ BURLEYSON (*BRADY NASH⁴ BURLESON, JONAH CURDY³, DOVIE, JOSEPH, ISAAC JR., ISAAC SR.*) was born June 25, 1927 in Washington, DC. He married CAROLINE MAY WEIMER March 19, 1955 in WASHINGTON, DC, daughter of GALEN WEIMER and MAGDALINE FUNKHOUSER. She was born November 7, 1930 in Washington, DC.

Children of GARTH BURLEYSON and CAROLINE WEIMER are:

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 - i. GREGG PAUL⁶ BURLEYSON, b. March 10, 1957, Washington, DC.
 - ii. ERIC TIMOTHY BURLEYSON, b. August 1, 1958, Washington, DC; m. KIRSTEN WEIBLEN, February 28, 2001, ROMNEY, W. VA.
 - iii. DALE STEPHEN BURLEYSON, b. June 26, 1963, Washington, DC; m. MARGARET (MEGAN) FRANCIS BLACK; b. GERMANY.

Generation No. 2

2. GREGG PAUL⁶ BURLEYSON (*GARTH⁵, BRADY NASH⁴ BURLESON, JONAH CURDY³*) was born March 10, 1957 in Washington, DC. He married JOAN ELIZABETH WILLIAMS June 4, 1983 in SILVER SPRINGS, MD, daughter of DR. WILLIAMS and MARGARET. She was born in Washington, DC. Children of GREGG BURLEYSON and JOAN WILLIAMS are:

- i. SHEILEY CATHRYN⁷ BURLEYSON, b. March 27, 1986, AUGUSTA, GA.
- ii. JENNIFER ROBIN BURLEYSON, b. April 30, 1989, BALTIMORE, MD.

Lena pointed to some oak trees down in a valley. She said there was a gum spring located there. An eagle lived in the group of trees. When it got injured some men came there and caught it. Lena was told it was taken to Washington. Some time later Lena visited Washington. She went to the Museum and saw a large eagle mounted for display. The sign below it read “caught in North Carolina”. She believes it is the same eagle.

Lena showed us where Hurley Burleson’s home place was. The trees are still standing but the house has long been gone. She told about the slave auctions held there. There was a large rock where the slave would stand while buyers bid on him. Lena said she was told of a time they were auctioning a women, who had a little baby. When the mother was auctioned off the slave buyer did not purchase her baby. They carried the women away screaming, leaving her infant behind. Her screams were heard until she was too far away. Cemetery records posted in BFB page 434 list 6 or 7 slave graves there. One name was “Dan D. Red”.

One headstone said “Twin sons of K.E. & L.P Burleson (Kope and Pearl Hahn Burleson) July 5, 1919. The twins infant boys were born without a skull. The babies cried for two whole days. Since the babies could not survive without a skull, the family prayed for their death to come soon to end the poor baby’s horrible pain and suffering. They died two days after their birth.



There was one row of gravestones that contained eight small diamond-shaped headstones in a line. Lena told us an interesting story about the eight stones in a row.



When a certain lady found she was expecting a baby she claimed the father of her child was Isaac’s son Fred. But he refused to marry the woman and instead married a lady named Lizzie. The mother of the lady who was expecting became very angry when Fred refused to marry her daughter. The angry mother vowed she would have revenge on Fred. She allegedly cast a spell or curse on Fred and Lizzie. She said that none of their children would live as long as she was alive herself. Fred and Lizzie buried eight children in a row until finally the old women who had cursed them died. After her death their next five children lived to old age.

It was a very interesting day. The children found some of the old stories fascinating too.