

Recollections

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BFRG'S 2024 SALUTE TO VETERANS



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Disaster Response Aided by Burleson Kin



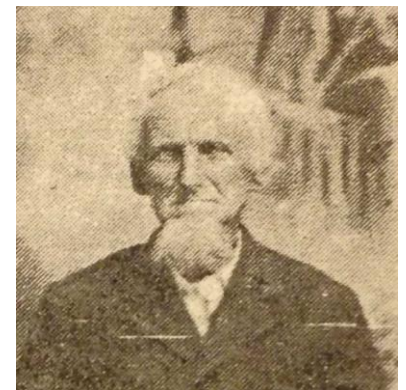
With so many of us worried sick about our hurricane stricken cousins in Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee, we felt some consolation they were safe. Soon after we took tremendous pride knowing our cousins were on the spot helping. We learned a group known as Men in Black Disaster Response Team had been in the Tampa, Florida area and were willing to return to western North Carolina to help. That outfit is run by cousin Troy Burleson. He's a resident of Lead Hill, Arkansas. Troy is the former police chief of Diamond City, Arkansas, current chief at Omaha, Arkansas, a former mayor in an area town and important in this story, a team leader in disaster response. Additionally, Burleson operates a training concern called Hard Target and teaches martial arts. He is a grand master in Tae kwon do karate, holding a 9th degree black belt.



Before heading to North Carolina, we had opportunity to speak on the phone. We learned we both had ancestors from the Cane Creek region of western NC like Thomas "Daunt" Burleson/Margaret Jane Greene. More specific to the NC-Arkansas relations was his direct line to Joseph Marvin Burleson. You'll recall

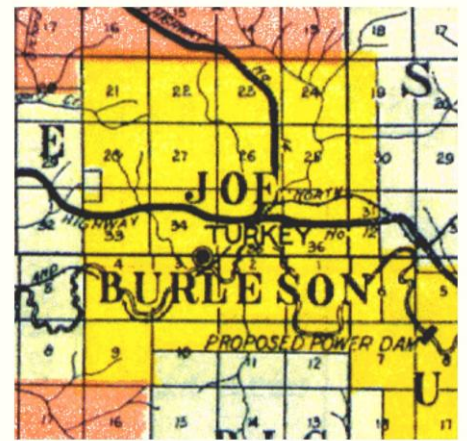


Joseph left North Carolina at the head of a wagon train for Arkansas. "Joe" was a crack shot, provided game for all members of the pioneers and gave assurances Indian attacks would be met with ferocity. On arrival in northern Arkansas, the pilgrims unanimously voted to name their new home Joe Burleson Township. Troy carries on that leadership and bravery.



For historic and nostalgic reasons Troy agreed to lead his group to the land of OUR ancestors. As this discussion went on, JD was leading a presentation on Troy's efforts at the local Stanly County BFRG reunion in Albemarle. Following brief discussions JD mounted his sturdy old truck to meet Troy. Fortunately for all we had cousin Melanie Forbes (Cook) already on site. This daughter of Gary Forbes-granddaughter of Elsie Marie Burleson was coordinating relief efforts in Spruce Pine. The three came up with work assignments, resupply points, meals and housing. There were massive amounts of help from many points of origin but we all take pride in what our cousins could do which was truly meaningful.

Township 18 N - Ranges 16 & 17 W

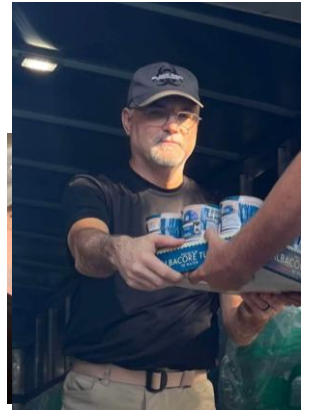


The entire Men in Black team augmented with the help of JD and Melanie worked tirelessly and without fanfare.



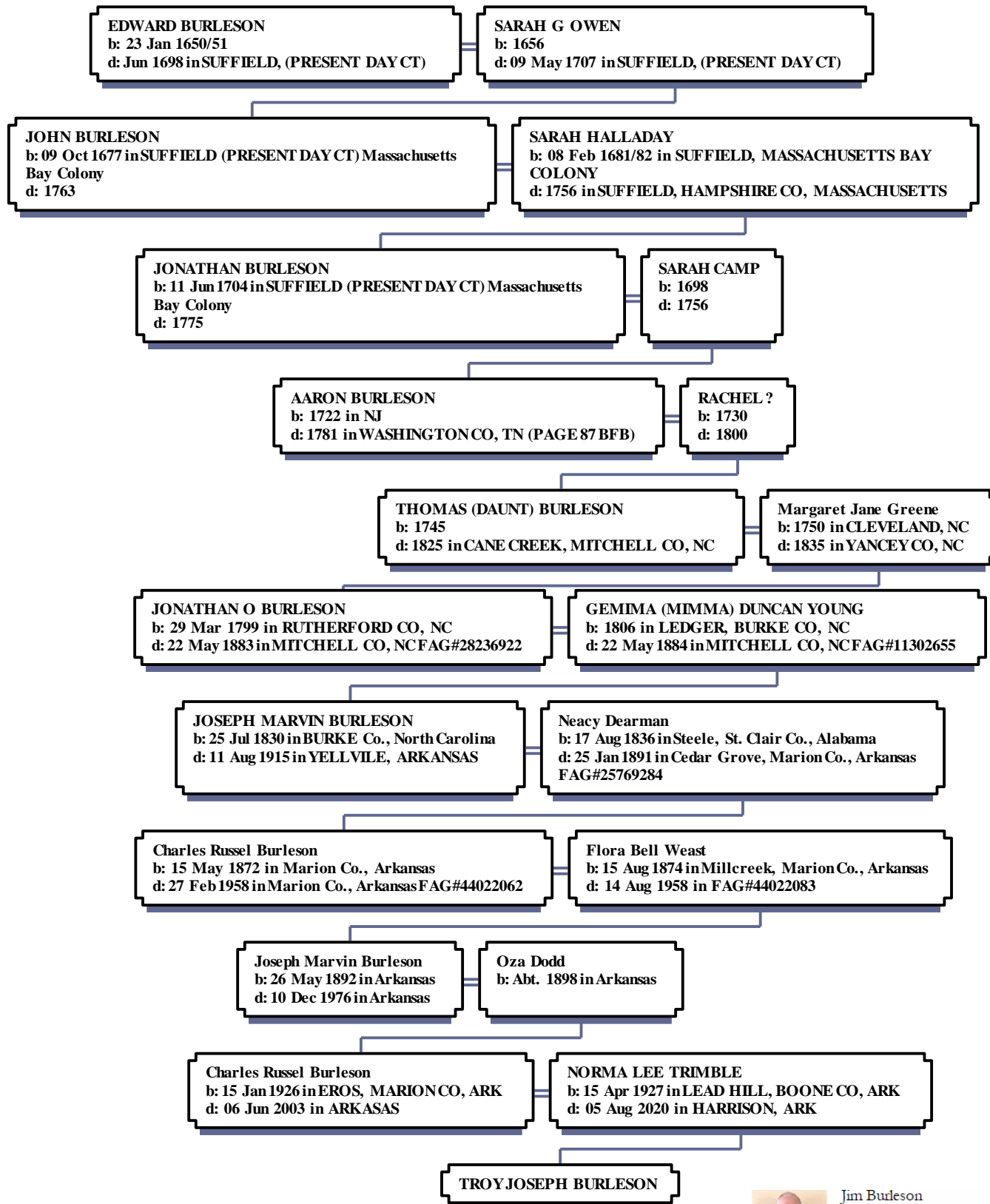
Troy is quick to point out their team's efforts are supported by individual donations and largely by Fresenius medical corporation. That company provides the overwhelming treatment for dialysis worldwide and prioritizes response for relief for disaster affected patients who will SURELY die without treatment and facilities to perform. JD witnessed a phenomenal amount of purchases funded by Fresenius. Special gratitude goes out to that company, JD, Melanie and the Men in Black. We're proud to be associated with you.







Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



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TEXAS JOURNEY

by Gerry Booth

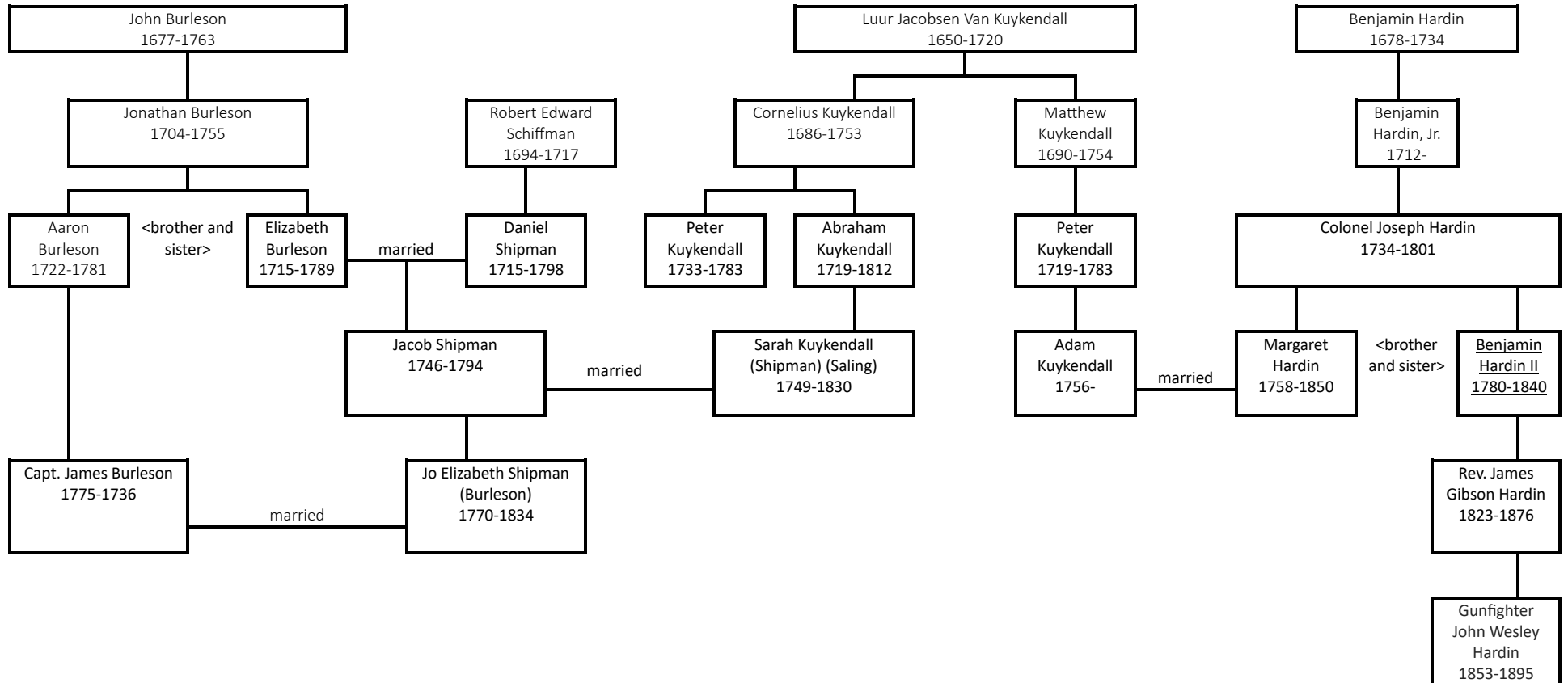
Headed to the Border

The journey is almost over. In fact, this is the penultimate article. I found so much information and the article was running so long, that I decided to divide it into two parts. This is the first part of the end. I did not find all the answers I wanted but what I did find is fascinating. I hope you enjoy it.

CORRECTION:

I found a mistake on the Kuykendall Relationship Chart in the article "Shipmans in the Carolinas and the First Texas Revolution." If you want to read this article, it is posted at <http://burlesonsbigtent.com>. Once you are on the home page, click on my picture to find the past articles.

The Kuykendall family had three brothers that married three sisters and they all named their children with the same names. My mistake was I had Abraham attached to the wrong father. Since I will be writing more about the Kuykendalls in this and the last article, I thought it important to correct the chart and place it here for your review. You will see I have added to the chart Cornelius Kuykendall, Abraham's father, and Peter (1733), Abraham's brother.





THIS MAP IS FROM 1839 WHICH IS LATER THAN THE TIME PERIOD DESCRIBED, BUT IT HAS THE 3 MAIN COMMUNITIES, NACOGDOCHES, JONESBORO, AND PECAN POINT, WHERE THERE WERE SETTLERS BEFORE AUSTIN'S COLONY.

1

BACKGROUND:

Anglo-Americans had been interested in Texas for years before Moses Austin applied for permission to colonize Texas. In 1804 the census indicated sixty-eight foreigners lived at Nacogdoches. Many of these were Americans who had not applied for Spanish citizenship.²

In addition to the area around Nacogdoches, there were settlements further north on the Red River in an area that later became Miller County in 1820. This area was under Mexican jurisdiction and United States jurisdiction.

Settlers in this area had mixed views about which government they favored. “From a law and order standpoint, they felt belonging to the [Arkansas] Territory would be a plus. However, from a land acquisition viewpoint, it would be easier to work with the Spanish, and later the Mexicans, obtaining new grants and settlements.”³

¹ “An Important Republic of Texas Map, ‘Map of Texas,’ New York, 1839,.” *Lot - AN IMPORTANT REPUBLIC OF TEXAS MAP, “Map of Texas,” NEW YORK, 1839*, www.simpsonalleries.com/auction-lot/an-important-republic-of-texas-map-map-of-texas_C5C4636B1A. Accessed 21 Aug. 2024.

² McDonald, Archie P. *Texas All Hail the Mighty State*, (Austin, Texas, Eakin Press, 1983), 42.

³ Steely, Skipper, *Six Months From Tennessee* (Wolfe City, Texas, Hennington Publishing Company, 1983), 101

In 1819, the Adams-Onís Treaty established the boundary line between the United States and Spain. The east boundary line of the Spanish Province of Texas was the Sabine River and the northern boundary was the Red River. The area north of the Red River and west of the Kiamichi River was designated as Indian Territory and all settlers in this area were illegal “squatters.”⁴

This Indian territory was given to the Choctaw Indians to push their nation further west and out of the expanding United States.

With the October 1820 Treaty of Doak's Stand, this Indian territory was located in the northern watershed of the Red River, and it comprised nearly thirteen million acres of land to compensate the Choctaw for their homelands in Mississippi.⁵ As a condition of this treaty, on May 16, 1819, Major William Bradford, the commander of Fort Smith, Arkansas Territory, started an expedition to evict the settlers

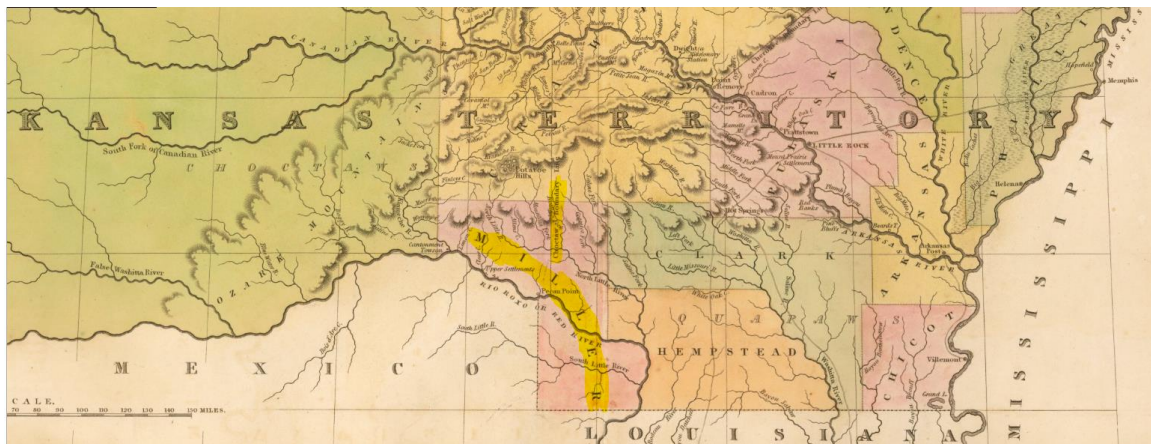
He found that most of the illegal settlers were in the process of growing crops when he made his visit. He ordered the settlers to leave but gave them until October so that they could harvest their crops to feed their families during the coming winter.

When the grace period ended in the fall of 1819, Major Bradford ordered Captain Robert L. Coomb, from Fort Jessup at Natchitoches, Louisiana, to evict all the remaining settlers west of the Kiamichi. Captain Coomb executed his orders by burning the homes and destroying crops. This action enraged the settlers.

A man who would soon play a role in the Shipmans’ journey was Martin Varner, one of the illegal settlers evicted from his land. After this incident, Martin Varner and the other evicted settlers crossed the Red River and joined their friends at Jonesborough (also called Jonesboro) on the south side of the Red River, in the Spanish Province of Texas. A short time later, on April 1, 1820, Arkansas Governor James Miller, signed an act creating Miller County, Arkansas Territory. The southern boundary of Miller County was not well defined and an indeterminate portion of northeast Texas was included.

With the Indians moving into the area, the county seat was moved to Jonesborough.

In 1821, the Miller County settlers wrote a memorial to the President of the United States presenting their eviction from the Indian Territory and requesting compensation for their losses. ... Some of the signers would soon migrate to Austin’s colony and become members of Austin’s “Old Three Hundred.”⁶



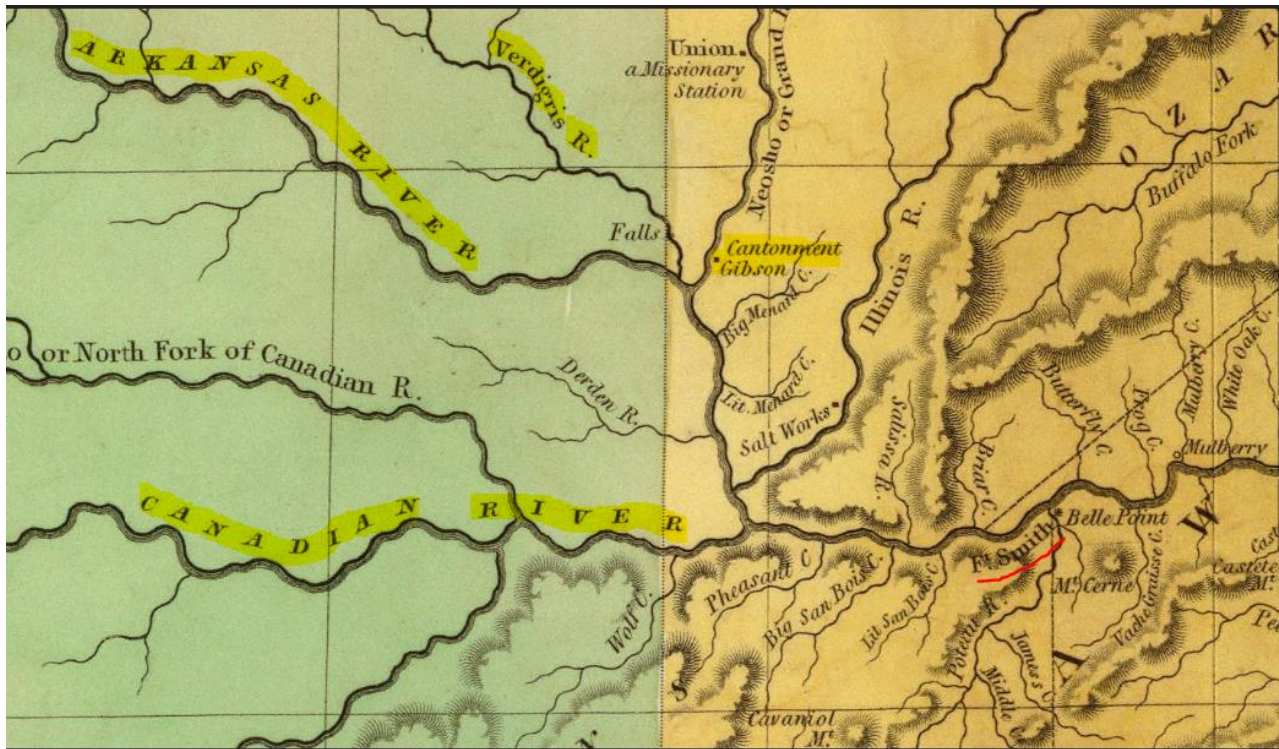
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⁴ Ramsey, Don. *Martin Varner: Texas Pioneer* (San Diego, California: www.Bookwarren.com, 2009), 34.

⁵ Everett, Dianna. “Pecan Point,” *The Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*, Published December 21, 2017 Accessed August 21, 2024, <https://www.okhistory.org/publications/enc/entry?entry=PE006>

⁶ Ramsey. *Martin Varner*, 36-37

⁷ Map of the State of Missouri and Territory of Arkansas 1826 https://www.raremaps.com/gallery/detail/57698/map-of-the-state-of-missouri-and-territory-of-arkansas-compl-finley?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR3Odm-JM_R7_DLx0VYXWtLYKp1FXwVXGvLJj24amSDRxIlnXosCP2K98_aem_AW6yOJKIPFfj09dYVdbgFBAtIWr6B7bfzvAJDaEyhuJ6cW8RtQbjFBEjPBF6ghkb_hcGuMwigtBYTseHT-iglyR



8

DANIEL'S ACCOUNT:

On Christmas day, 1821, we crossed the Arkansas at the mouth of the Verdigris river, there being some seeping springs on the east side which prevented the water from freezing, and we broke the ice on the west side, and got our wagons all over to a point on the beach between the two rivers, from there we rolled our wagons across the Arkansas river on the ice. The river being very low, we took our axes and cut the ice away, so that we drove all of our stock through the water and broken ice. We were in the water nearly all that day; got all over a little before dark, so as to get up the bank and go two or three hundred yards and find a camping place. Next morning we called all the force we could raise to help us cut a road through the bottom to the prairie; staying so long at the Glenn's old place, our friends who were following on our trail overtook us and aided in cutting this part of our road.

Is this a wagon train? Who are the friends"? In the last installment, the Shipmans held a meeting to decide the future of the trip. "The result was that Mr.[Reuben] Gage and his family were to go to Gasconade county; Mr. Harrell and family and two young men by the name of Jacob and George Nidever, and father and family to Arkansas."

⁸ Map of the State of Missouri and Territory of Arkansas 1826 https://www.raremaps.com/gallery/detail/57698/map-of-the-state-of-missouri-and-territory-of-arkansas-compl-finley?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR3Odm-JM_R7_DLx0VYXWTcLYKp1FXwVXGvLJjI24amSDRxIlnXosCP2K98_aem_AW6yOJKIPFfj09dYVdbgFBAtIWrm6B7bfzvAJDaEyhuJ6cW8RtQbjFBEjPBF6ghkb_hcGuMwigtBYTseHT-iglyR

When all in the prairie we made our start again and went down the Arkansas river, leaving it along on our left. Now about seventy-five miles to Fort Smith from where we crossed the river. My recollection is that we traveled the most of our time in a heavy forest country; it seemed to me that we found a considerable number of quite ugly creeks and branches, among which we found a little river called Canadian. At this stream we had considerable digging and chopping to do, and a great deal of hard work. They generally put me ahead and I being young and foolish was willing to risk myself for the sake of being first. It seemed like I had almost got to believe that I could almost go anywhere that my team could get through, up or down, and as I was ascending the bank of the Canadian river at the outcome, father, to assist me, took hold of my lead animal and as I went to make my first effort to rise the bank, he did not turn loose as soon as I wished him to in my hurry and excitement, and being quite anxious, I spoke to him in so hurried and abrupt a manner that I felt hurt at myself and felt bad all that evening about it, and in fact I have not fairly gotten over it yet, but I watched my opportunity so that when talking about it in his presence I brought up the subject in such a shape that I could express my feelings in such away that I suppose satisfied him. My recollection is that he said he did not notice it, but, believe me, gentle reader, I did.

One evening, about this time, father seemed a little anxious about finding and fixing a good camping place, a little earlier than common. I was old enough to have some idea what was the matter.

When we started from Missouri we had no idea of being all the winter on the way, so that accounts for being caught in such a scrape.

Lo and behold, next morning in calling the family roll there appeared to be one more member. (December 28th 1821), I had a beautiful little sister, whom I had never seen before that morning, and old Mrs. Harrell insisted on having the privilege of naming her, which was granted and she named her Lucetta. We staid at that place one day and the next morning mother told us to put her in the wagon and go ahead, which we did, and traveled a few miles further and came to a large creek called Samboys at this camp we stayed until the old Frenchman brought all of our horses, but one out of nine, and that one we never got. At this camp the twenty first anniversary of my birthday came along, which I enjoyed greatly by killing a very nice bear; it being the 20th of February, 1821. I was out hunting and came to a large pecan tree and I noticed mud on the bark of the tree, and when I went to camp told an old bear hunter by the name of Herrington, what I had seen, and he said there was a bear up in that tree. So we all went and cut down the tree, and in falling it split open and sure enough out rolled a large fat bear and our dogs flew in and caught it ere it had time to get away from the

tree, and they kept it so closely engaged that I ran up and put my old fashion rifle so near to its breast that it was powder-burnt, and then father being so well acquainted with the nature of a bear, ran up and gave it another shot, fearing it might hurt some of the dogs; so now we had another nice fat bear; I think this was the third or fourth bear we had killed since we started on our long and tedious western trip.

One day I was out hunting I suppose a mile or two from camp, going along looking very close for deer, and the first I knew there was a very large old buffalo, (I never had seen one before), but had seen many pictures and heard a great deal said about them, so I felt sure what it was. He was lying down with his head from me. Well, now I did not know how to shoot him in that position; he appeared to have no idea of any danger, lying perfectly still as far as I could see, except chewing his end. I stood there some time consulting with myself what I should do first, or how should I commence on him. At last I came to the conclusion that I would speak to him and tell him to get up, which I did. He did not seem to hear me. I spoke to him a second time a little louder; he then raised himself up, turned with his side square to me; I raised my rifle, took deliberate aim with my gun resting against the side of a tree. My gun flashed in the pan; he then turned so as to have his head and breast directly towards me; I kept myself pretty well hid behind a tree; I primed again; let him have the contents of my rifle in the sticking place; he wheeled off at the report of the gun and jumped several times, stopped and began to stagger; I thought he was going to fall. He stood there then with his head down for some time. I slipped around and shot him behind the shoulder, and I shot him nine times before he fell. I shot him two or three times about his head, but could not kill him, until he died from the effect, as I suppose, of the first shot. When examining him, found he was quite poor, so much so that I left him where found, or very near the same place, I did not think him worth taking care of.

I think between the twenty-fifth and the last of February the Harrell family began to talk about stopping on the Samboy creek on the west side and near the Arkansas river some distance above Fort Smith. We were told that we could not take our wagon across the mountains to Red River. When we started from Missouri our minds were on Arkansas for the time being, but ere we got there our idea was to go to Texas; but it seemed the Harrell family could not see the point so far ahead, so they concluded to stop. We were now compelled, not only to give away our wagon, but nearly all that we could not take on horseback for little or nothing, for under the circumstances we could not expect to get one half the value of any thing, for Harrell was all the chance we had to sell any thing to. I think he got a good wagon for thirty-five dollars, and as far as I know all the balance

thrown in the bargain, so as to be sure and give him a good trade. We bid each other adue forever, as we have never seen any of them since, except George Nidever. He quit them then and came with us to Texas.

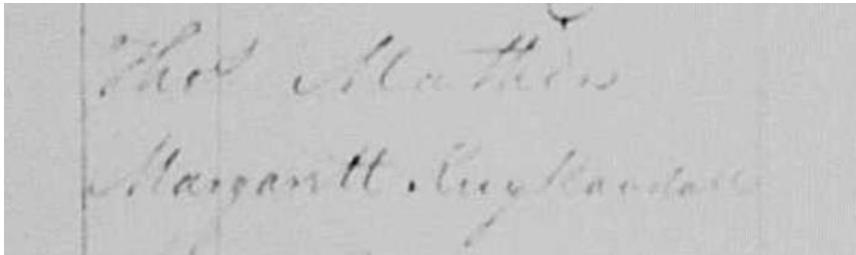
We started about the first of March on our not only lonely and more lonesome than ever, but rough and mountainous road. Our company had all wasted away to none but father and family and George Nidever.

This is the point where everyone else who had been traveling with or close to Moses went their way except for George Nidever. Even George's brother, Jacob went with the rest of the company. So now with the group parting ways, we get some information about who had been traveling with the Shipmans.

According to the book *Martin Varner — Texas Pioneer*, Moses Shipman's family and six other families the Nidevers, the Blevens, the Harrells, and three Mathers families traveled together to Arkansas.

In looking for evidence of the Mathers families to try to determine which Mathers were in Arkansas I found the 1830 US Census for Arkansas.

This is very hard to read but it says Thos Mathers and below is Margaret Kuykendall⁹.



Margarett Kuykendall and Thomas Mathers were living in Conway, Faulkner County in 1830 according to the US Census record. Often, I have read of the early settlers of Arkansas living in the Cadron settlement. The Cadron settlement was roughly five miles west of present-day Conway, now in Faulkner County, which was formed in 1873 from Conway and Pulaski counties. This area was a trading post on the Arkansas River. Many of the veterans of the War of 1812 were given the right to claim land there before grants were issued by the United States government.

One additional fact, in the book *Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas* in the chapter on Longevity of Pioneers, Margarett Kuykendall was listed as living in Conway County and being "from seventy to eighty," as well as Henry Siscoe. Is this one of our Siscoes? Another research project.

Margarett Jane Hardin Kuykendall (1763-1841) was the wife of **Adam Robert Kuykendall, Sr.** (1756-1828). Adam died two years before the 1830 census, so his wife Margarett was listed as the head of household on the census. Margarett is not listed again. It is presumed that she died between 1830 and 1840. Margarett's parents were **Colonel Joseph Abraham Hardin, III** (1734-1801) and **Jean E. Gibson Hardin** (1742-1817). Adam was the son of **Peter Kuykendall** (son of "Old Matthew") (1718-1783) and **Mary**, probably **Hampton Kuykendall** (1725—). Margarett and Adam had fourteen children. Seven lived past infancy. Of the seven, three of the grown sons went to Texas with Stephen F. Austin in 1821, and became members of the "Old Three Hundred."

Thomas Mathers (1790-1839) was listed on the 1830 census just above Margarett Kuykendall. This does not prove that Thomas was with Moses Shipman's wagon train, but he was a Mathers who settled in Arkansas before or around 1820. It is reasonable to assume that he encouraged other members of his family to move to Arkansas. Thomas did locate his land

⁹ "Thomas Mathers," *United States Census, 1830 (View Original Document)*, FamilySearch, Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYBC-932T?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AXHPX-DH9&action=view> .

warrant from his service in the War of 1812 at Pulaski County in 1820. The transcribed census record is for Faulkner County. Faulkner County was formed from parts of Conway and Pulaski counties in 1873. Thomas built a mill known as Cadron Mill.

In September of 1823, he married **Mary Bently Mathers**, daughter of **George Bentley** (-1829). Mary's family came to the Arkansas Territory in 1819 and settled on the Arkansas River in the Pecannerie settlement.

Colonel Mathers served in the third territorial legislature from 1823 to 1825 and was clerk of Conway County from 1832 to 1836. He died at his home at Cadron Mills in 1839.^{10 11}

I am suggesting that further research of the Thomas Mathers family might result in determining who the three Mathers families who traveled with or close to Moses' family were.

According to Mrs. V. M. Nidever, in a comment in the Arkansas Genealogical Society publication:

Two of the Nidever sons, Jacob 20 and George 18, joined a wagon train from Missouri to the Red River. If they liked Arkansas they would come back for the rest of the family. Young Jacob Nidever took up land and in 1821 the rest of the family arrived.¹²

On Find-A-Grave, the memorial for **George Neidhoefer** (1772-1840), the father of Jacob and George, has an excerpt from George Nidever's book:

My brother Jacob sold his stock consisting of hogs and cattle, to the Choctaw and Cherokee Indians, at a good bargain, and settled down on a farm just below Fort Smith. The next year all of our family came down from Missouri and settled a few miles from Jacobs's place."¹³

Further proof of the Nidevers moving to Arkansas is found in the petition to the President of the United States from the citizens of Miller County, dated 1825.¹⁴ Jacob Nidever, George Nidever, Mark Nidever, Issac N. Charles (Charles Nidever) and Henry Nidever all signed the petition.

After the Nidevers had settled in Arkansas, one of George's sisters, Isabella Nidever (abt. 1805-1830) married one of the Harrells. Again from Mrs. V. M. Nidever, she said Nancy (but it should have been Isabella) married "a Captain Harrell who traveled with the wagon train from Missouri and then went on to Austin's colony south of the Brazos."¹⁵ In researching I found a military pension document that lists Isabel as the widow of Matison B. Harrell.¹⁶

0					(8-11-9)				
NAME OF SOLDIER:					Harrell, Matison B.				
NAME OF DEPENDENT:					Widow, Harrell, Isabel V. Minor,				
SERVICE:					B, 4 Ark, Milit. Inf.				
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED.					
1827, May 1-	Invalid, Widow, Minor,	653839		Ark.					
ATTORNEY:									
REMARKS:					A. N. 11-11				

¹⁰ "Col. Thomas Mathers" Find A Grave, Accessed August 21, 2024.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/220717149/thomas_mathers

¹¹ "Colonel Thomas Mathers," Arkansas History and Pioneers. Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~rgwomack/genealogy/arkansaspioneers.htm>

¹² "Saga of the Pioneers," The Arkansas Family Historian, Arkansas Genealogical Society, Inc., 167, Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://argensoc.org/wp-content/uploads/afh/AFH254Dec1987.pdf>

¹³ "George Neidhoefer," Find A Grave, Accessed August 21, 2024.

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/228158908/george_neidhoefer

¹⁴ Carter, Clarence Edwin, ed. *The Territorial Papers of the United States, Vol. 20, The Territory of Arkansas 1825-1829 Continued* (Washington, United States Government Printing Office, 1954) 139-142.

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/165923/?offset=0#page=143&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=mathers>

¹⁵ "Saga of the Pioneers" 167. <https://argensoc.org/wp-content/uploads/afh/AFH254Dec1987.pdf>

¹⁶ National Archives and Records Administration, "Matison Harrell," *U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934* (Provo, UT, Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000)

https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/4654/images/32959_032865-03239?pld=1441271

Daniel writes about the Harrells when his youngest sister was born at Christmas. In that description, he writes that Mr. and Mrs. Harrell had a son about his age named Joel. Daniel was born in 1801, so it is reasonable to assume that Joel was born about the same time. He also said that the Harrells had “three grown sons and one nearly so.” On the petition to the President of the United States from many of the citizens of Miller County in 1825 the names James, Joel, Isaac, Timothy, and Joshua Harrell are recorded just two lines above the Nidever signatures.¹⁷ Is this Mr. Harell and his four sons? On a delinquent tax list for Miller County in 1825, published in the *Arkansas Gazette*, May 30, 1826, I found the names Lydah Harrell, Joel Herrel, Timothy Herrell along with George and Jacob Nidever¹⁸. Could Lydah be Joel’s mother?

With those clues, I have found that there were two Joel Harrells that were about the right age. One was born in 1800 and the other in 1801. The 1801 Joel died in 1863 in Arkansas. The 1800 Joel middle name, Blue, died in 1853, in North Carolina.

I believe that **Joel Harrell** (1801-1863) is the Joel that Daniel knew. This Joel made his home in Arkansas. He married **Elizabeth Carter** (1805-1879) and he had four sons: **Isham Harrell** (1832-1893); **Thomas Harrell** (1836–); **John Harrell** (1840–); and **Samuel Harrell** (1844–).

On the 1850 Washington County, Illinois Township, Arkansas, US Census under the Joel Harrell household there are two extra people listed, Matilda Richardson, 50 years of age born in Tennessee, and a child named Elizabeth Sinclair, 5 years of age.¹⁹

22	18 48	Joel Harrell	49	M	"	1200	N.C.
23		Elizabeth "	45	f			Va.
24		Isham "	18	M	"		Ark.
25		Thomas "	14	M			"
26		John "	10	M			"
27		Samuel "	6	M			"
28		Matilda Richardson	50	f			Tenn
29		Elizabeth Sinclair	5	f			Ark.

The Sinclairs were part of our “big family.” I do not know why this Sinclair child is living with Joel Harrell. I do know that two of George Nidever’s brothers married two Sinclair sisters. **Aury Sinclair** (1805-1917) married **Mark Nidever** (1804-1830). **Naomi Sinclair** (ABT. 1809 – AFT. 1860) married **Henry Nidever** (1806-1847). The girls were the daughters of **Charles Sinclair** (1785-1855) and **Mary A. Havens** (1786-1860) and the granddaughters of **Charles Sinclair** (1717-1766).

If we go back to Virginia and find Charles Sinclair, the grandfather of Aury and Naomi, we will discover some interesting relationships and some possible motivations to move west. Many details of Charles’ life are missing. His date of birth and death are only an estimate. It is estimated that he was born between 1715 and 1720 assuming him to be a young man when he took a well-recorded journey to explore the Mississippi River. His date of death, 1766 is more accurate because his will was recorded June 5, 1766, and probated August 12, 1766. The parents of Charles Sinclair are not known. DNA has ruled out the possibility of his descending from Alexander Sinclair of Stafford County, Virginia who immigrated to America in 1698.

¹⁷ Carter, Clarence Edwin, ed. *The Territorial Papers of the United States*, 139-142.

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/165923/?offset=0#page=143&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=mathers>

¹⁸ Steely, Skipper, *Six Months From Tennessee*. 128

¹⁹ "Joel Harrell," *United States Census, 1850 (View Original Document)*, Ancestry. Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/8054/images/4191551-00269?pld=10041042>

Charles Sinclair, recorded as Charles "Sinckler" on the Map of the Forks of the James Community, lived south of the James River in Virginia. His neighbor to the north and across the river was John Salling, also known as John Peter Salling.²⁰

John Salling settled on the first Fork of the James River on July 6, 1741. He was one of the earliest settlers in the region. This John Salling or John Peter Salling (1704-1754) is one of the two brothers from whom the early Sallings in America descended. (*Texas Journey Article: "To Okaw"*). This John Peter Salling was the father of John Salling (1740-) and George Adam Saling (1736-1785). George Adam Saling was the father of George Saling (1770-1830), who married Jacob Shipman's widow, Sarah *Kuykendall* Shipman (1783-1830), also known as Old Aunt Saling.



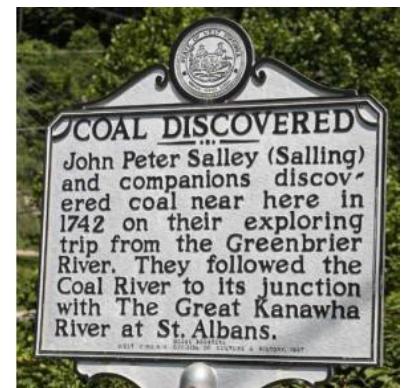
MAP OF THE FORKS OF THE JAMES COMMUNITY

Charles Sinclair, John Peter Salling, and John Poteet participated in an expedition organized by John Howard in 1742. Howard had been commissioned by the Governor to travel to the Mississippi River "to make Discovery of the Country."²¹ The men were captured by the French and suspected of being spies. They were imprisoned but were finally able to escape and return to Virginia in 1745.

In 1748 Charles had moved to the Rye Valley area and was living on the St. Clair Creek, a tributary of the Holston (Indian) River in Smyth County. This land had been granted to Colonel James Patton for colonization. Colonel John Buchanan was Patton's son-in-law and a surveyor. While Buchanan was camping on one of his surveying trips of this large grant, he was visited by Charles Sinclair who lived deep in the woods on this grant. Sinclair warned Buchanan that if he should encounter any wandering Indians to present himself as just a hunter and to not let them know he was a surveyor. If they should see his surveying equipment he would be in great danger. Sinclair made an agreement with Buchanan to be a guide of the surveyors in exchange for one thousand acres of land of his choosing. The land he chose in 1748 was patented in August 1753 and is still called Sinclair's Bottom.

Before 1750, Charles Sinclair moved to Reed Creek on the New River in present-day Wythe County. There were two areas of settlement on the New River, Reed Creek, and Draper's Meadow. Draper's Meadow was situated where the campus of Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia is today.

William Ingles (1728-1782) married **Mary Draper** (1732-1815) in the summer of 1750, and they had two sons **Thomas English Sr.** (1754-1756) and **George Draper Ingles** (1752-1756). They were living at Drapers Meadows along with Mary's mother, **Eleanor Hardin Draper** (1712-1755); Mary's brother, **John Draper** (1730-1824); and his wife, **Betty Robinson Draper** (1734-1774) and her son.



²⁰ Kegley, Fedrick Bittle, *Kegley's Virginia Frontier: the beginning of the Southwest, the Roanoke of colonial days, 1740-1783, with maps and illustrations* (Roanoke, Virginia: The Stone Press, 1938) 138. Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/402522/?page=1&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=#page=174&viewer=picture&o=info&n=0&q=>

²¹ Sinclair, Lynne, "Charles of Sinclair Bottom," *Sinclair Stories*, Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://sinclairpioneers.wordpress.com/charles-of-sinclair-bottom/>

(The name Ingles was also recorded as Inglis, English, and English).

In July 1755, during the French and Indian War, a small group of Shawnee Indian warriors attacked the Drapers Meadows settlement, killed at least five people, wounded at least one person, and burned the settlement. Among those killed were Mary's mother, Eleanor Draper; the baby of her sister-in-law, Bettie Robertson Draper, as well as Colonel James Patton and a neighbor, Caspar Barger.

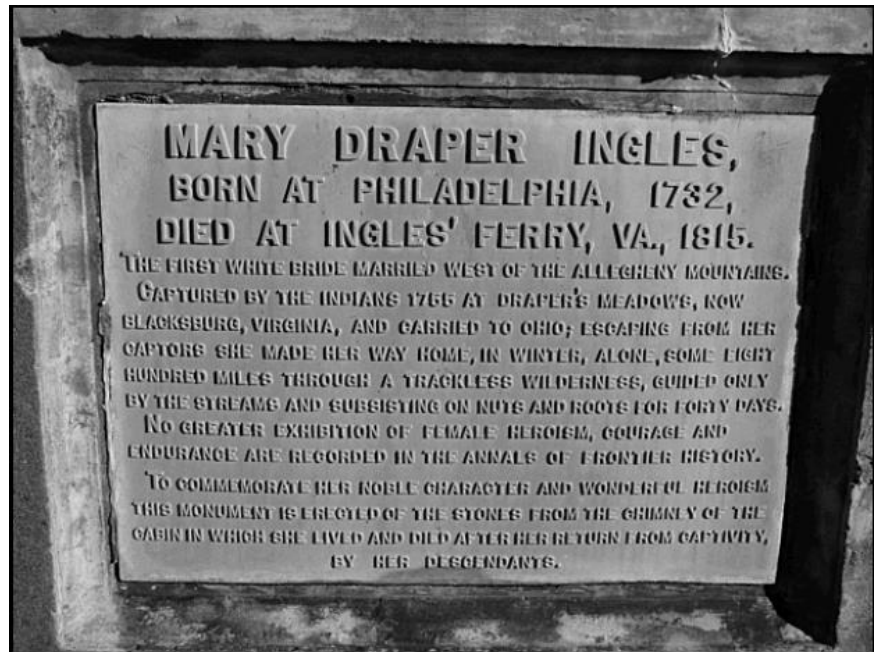
John Draper, husband of Bettie Draper and William Ingles were out working in the fields and not at the settlement at the time of the attack.

The Indians took five or six hostages back to their Shawnee village in Kentucky to live among the tribe. Among the captives were Mary, and her sons, Thomas, and George. Mary was able to escape at Big Bone Lick, now Boone County, Kentucky, and walked more than 800 miles across the Appalachian Mountains back to Fort Frederick. Mary was not able to get her children out with her.

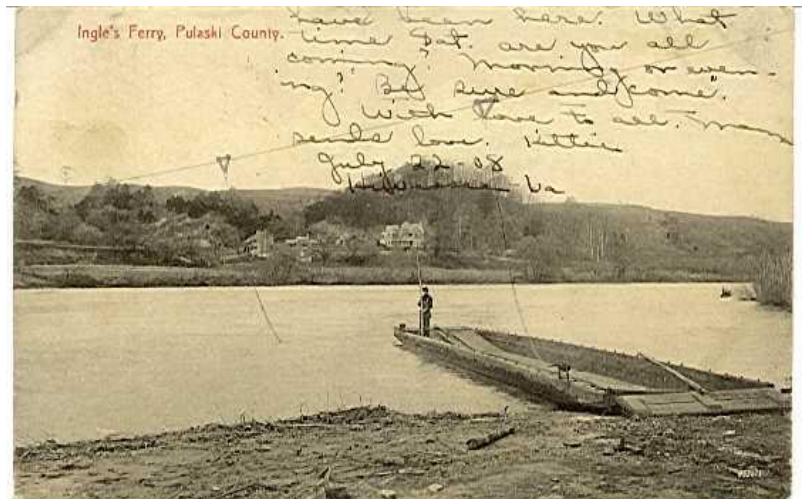
William and Mary's home was destroyed by the fire the Indians set. They bought new land and helped to build a blockhouse, which was later named Fort Frederick.

In February 1756, 140 Cherokee warriors allied with the British gathered at Dunkard's Bottom before joining the Sandy Creek Expedition. The Ingles abandoned their farm after only a few months and in June 1756 they relocated to Fort Vause, seeking protection from raids during the French and Indian War.²²

William spent a great deal of his time negotiating for the return of his sons. In 1768, Thomas Ingles, 17 years old was returned to Virginia. Their son George died in captivity. Mary's sister was also ransomed, 6 years after being taken.



ABOVE: INGLE'S TAVERN.



RIGHT: INGLE'S FERRY

William and Mary had four more children: Mary, Susannah, Rhoda, and John. The road to the ferry they established to cross the New River, known as the Ingles Ferry Road, became a main highway in the colonial years of this country. The

²² "Dunkard's Bottom, Virginia," Wikipedia, Modification June 1, 2024, Accessed August 21, 2024. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunkard%27s_Bottom,_Virginia

road later became a part of the Great Wagon Road and the Wilderness Road. In 1772 William applied for a license to operate a tavern which is still standing in Pulaski County today.²³

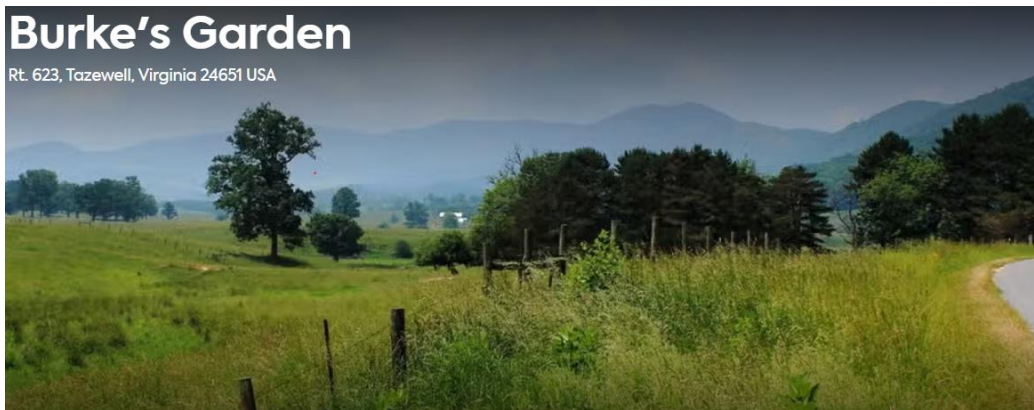
Mary's son Thomas who lived with the Indians for thirteen years was known as **Thomas English, Sr.** (1754-1829). He married **Jane Wicker** (1760-1842) and they had twelve children, six sons and six daughters.

When researching this information I found that on Find A Grave there were two "Thomas English" listings, and both had the same parents but the rest of the information about them was different. I found this entry which convinced me that I was following the correct Thomas English, the son of Mary *Draper* Ingles.

From the old family Bible, now in possession of the widow of Rev. John Wicker English, the following entry is taken:

Thomas English Sr. son of William and Bettie English was born October 13, 1754. Jane English, daughter of Robert and Hannah Wicker, was born May 27, 1760²⁴

Thomas and his wife Jane *Wicker* English experienced another ordeal with the Shawnee Indians in 1787. Thomas' family was living at Burk's Garden.



Thomas was away when a group of Shawnee Indians led by "Black Wolf" took Jane English and her children captive.

Mr. English returned, and as he was passionately devoted to his family, made every possible exertion to get a company to go in pursuit of the Indians. His movements were so rapid, that by sunset, the same day, he and his party were fairly in pursuit. Night came on; but still the frantic husband and his brave companions pushed on; they came up with the Indians at about eleven o'clock at night. One of the men, named Thomas Maxwell, had on a white hunting-shirt, which English desired him to pull off; telling him that he would become a mark for the Indians rifles. He refused to do so, and declared his willingness to die. As soon as the Indians found that the whites were in pursuit, they quickened their pace. English, who had been a prisoner among them, and speaking their language, bantered them to stop and fight him; all to no purpose, however, for as soon as they entered Maxwell's Gap they charged the Indians, who fired in return, upon the whites, doing no injury, however, to any except to Maxwell, whose white hunting-shirt had furnished a target amid the surrounding darkness. Hence the name of the gap in which this scene transpired.

The Indians, finding themselves pressed, killed one child, scalped another, and also Mrs. English.

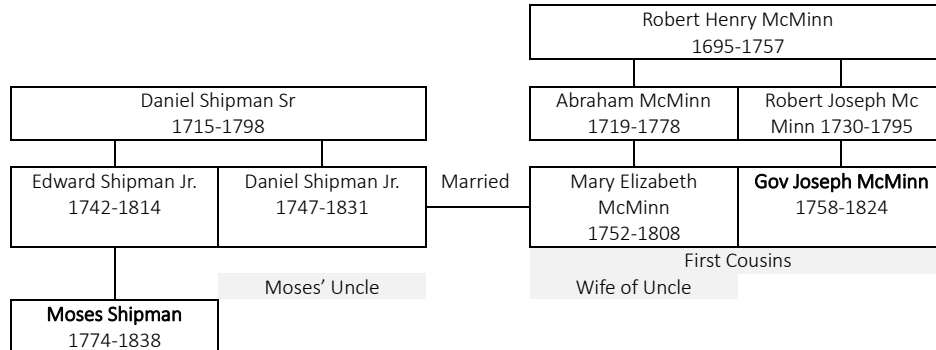
²³ "Ingles Ferry," *Wikipedia* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ingles_Ferry

²⁴ Clark, Pat B. *The History of Clarksville and Old Red River County*, (Dallas, Texas, Mathis, Van Nort & Co., 1937), 171. Accessed August 21, 2024. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/28211/images/dvm_LocHist012166-00106-1?ssrc=&backlabel=Return&pld=231

Mrs. English and her mangled child were brought back to William Wynn’s fort, where they received such attendance as was necessary. The child died the next day, but Mrs. English recovered, and raised a small family afterward.²⁵

One of Thomas’ six sons was named **John English** (1783-1827). John English married **Sinia Bellew** (1790-1841) on April 2, 1809, in Attakapas County in the Territory of Orleans, one of the twelve parishes formed after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. About 1818 or 1819, they moved to what is now Hempstead County, Arkansas Territory.

Leaving John English briefly, about this same time, another person dealing with Indians was the governor of Tennessee, **Joseph McMinn** (1758-1824). Governor McMinn was one of Moses Shipman’s distant relatives. According to my Ancestry tree, Joseph was the paternal first cousin of wife of uncle. This is the relationship:



During his time as governor, dealing with Native Americans was a major concern for a growing state filling with new settlers. Governor McMinn negotiated the treaty of July 8, 1817. “The object of this was to secure the removal of as many of the Cherokees as could be prevailed upon to go to lands upon the Arkansas River, where a portion of the tribe was already.”²⁶

Another treaty Governor McMinn successfully completed on October 19, 1818, was the Chickasaw Purchase Treaty or the Western Purchase which acquired the land that formed fourteen new counties in western Tennessee.

Governor McMinn worked to acquire more land for Tennessee and the settlers coming there. However, he was pushing the Native Americans to a section of the country that had inhabitants who claimed they owned the land, not the United States government. Many of those settlers of the Arkansas Territory who were pushed out of their homes later made their way to Texas.

Back to John English.

John was a merchant and a farmer in Hempstead County, Arkansas. He raised cotton and he introduced the cotton gin to that part of the country. He was a member of the House of Representatives in the First Territorial Legislature of Arkansas. His home which was built on the banks of Marlbrook Creek was used as the first courthouse of Hempstead County.

In a book of the Hempstead County court records titled, *Court of Common Pleas and Circuit Court, Hempstead County, Arkansas Territory*, the original court documents are transcribed.²⁷ On June 28, 1819, court was held in John English’s

²⁵ Summers, Lewis Preston, *Annals of Southwest Virginia 1769-1800*, (Kingsport, Tennessee, Kingsport Press, 1929) 1507-1508. Accessed August 21, 2024. https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/10533/images/dvm_LocHist000184-00791-1?pld

²⁶ Beard, William E. “Joseph McMinn, Tennessee’s Fourth Governor.” *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, 4, no. 2, (1945) 154–66, Accessed August 21, 2024. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45134366>

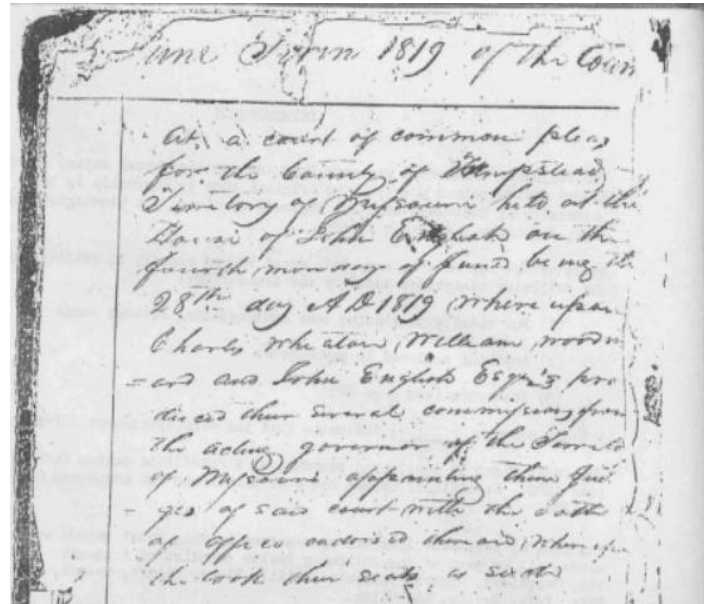
²⁷ *Court of Common Pleas and Circuit Court: Hempstead County Arkansas Territory 1819-1822*, trans. by The Hempstead County Genealogical Society Hope, Arkansas (FamilySearch International, 1990) ii-1. Accessed August 21, 2024.

home. The first order of business was for the court to proclaim a sheriff for Hempstead County and then to select a panel of grand jurors. In the record of the jurors chosen appears the name “Jos” (Joseph) English.

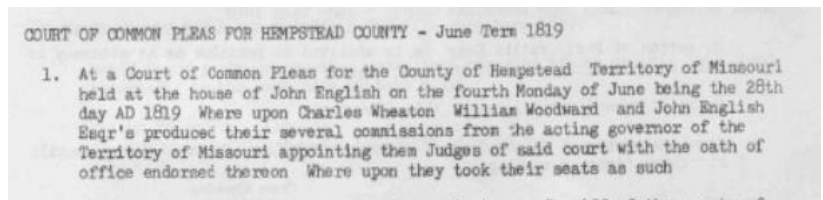
John English had a brother named Joseph. Possibly this “Jos” (Joseph) English is his brother. However, in item number forty-three of the court records, we find a juror named Bailey English. Bailey English’s father was Joseph English. The names are the same but they are two different people, but all we know are the names.



ABOVE: MARKER NEAR THE LOCATION OF JOHN ENGLISH’S HOUSE.



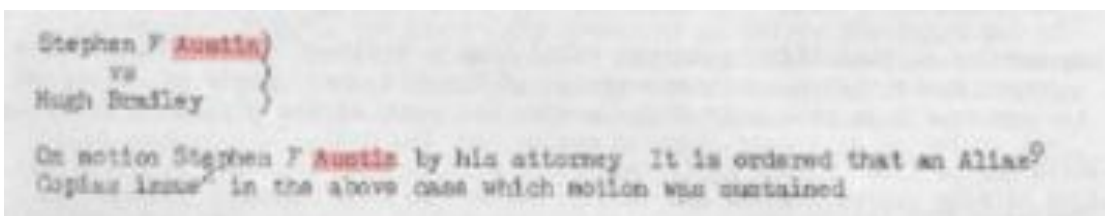
RIGHT: AN EXAMPLE OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD WITH THE TRANSCRIBED RECORD.



Bailey Anderson’s family migrated to Clear Creek on the north bank of the Red River about 1717. The family included **Bailey Anderson, Sr.** (1753-1840), and his wife **Mary Delilah Wyatt** (1756-1817). They had a daughter **Sarah Anderson** (1775-1834) who married **William Joseph “Joe” English** (1772-1836). Joe and Sarah had a son **Bailey Anderson English** (1793-1867) who was a juror at the Hempstead County Court which was in John English’s house. They also had twin daughters, **Minerva English** (1796-1842) and **Elizabeth Eveline English** (1796-1852). Elizabeth married **Martin Varner** (1785-1844).

Since John English’s brother Joe died in Missouri and William Joseph English has several records in the Arkansas Territory, I believe it is more likely that Joseph in the court records was William Joseph English.

Another court record of interest was a lawsuit brought by Stephen F. Austin, the future Father of Texas.



<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/819012/?page=6&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=english#page=7&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=>

²⁸ Court of Common Pleas and Circuit Court: 30. Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/819012/?offset=#page=36&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=austin>

Stephen F. Austin was still legally involved in Hempstead County as late as August 1820. A document, Stephen F. Austin v. Hugh Brady, was uncovered in research with Dr. Rex Strickland and given to the Washington Arkansas Archives (SARA), which told that a decision was granted to Austin and damages of \$2,000 were to be paid to him by Brady, if he could be found and returned to the court 'to be holden at the house of John English . . . on the fourth Monday in August.' (*Steely Papers*, Hempstead County Documents File).²⁹

"Austin established a plantation on Red river, resided in Hempstead county for a time and thence, in 1821 he went to New Orleans, where he joined his father, Moses Austin."³⁰ While he was in Hempstead, he lived in the town of Washington, just seven miles from where John English's house was. During the summer of 1820, he "was appointed judge of the circuit court, and held the summer term of court."³¹ The courts were abolished by the legislature in the fall and this prompted Stephen to move to New Orleans.

One more thing about the town of Washington, it had a famous blacksmith named James Black, who forged the original Bowie knives for Jim Bowie in the early 1830's.³²

One of John English's brothers, **Simeon English** (1798-1887) who was married to **Erina McFerron** (1814-1874), went to Arkansas to help with John's estate when he died in a terrible accident

His death was reported in the Arkansas Gazette on December 12, 1821:

Whilst engaged in tending his cotton gin, one of his hands was caught by the machinery; in endeavoring to extricate it, the other was caught, and both drawn in. Before assistance could be rendered, his arms were mangled in a most shocking manner. He survived the unfortunate accident only a few hours.³³

While Simeon English was handling his brother's estate, he bought some property in the area.

This area was known as the Marlbrook area, in Hempstead County in 1819. The following map shows the community with John English's first store.³⁴ North of his store is the location of the property owned by his brother, Simeon English. Just below Simeon's property is property owned by Hugh Blevins.

A Blevins family was traveling with the Shipmans. This Blevins family living in the Marlbrook area might be the family. Again, this may just be a starting point to identify the Blevins. More research is needed.



²⁹ Steely, Skipper, *Six Months From Tennessee*. 166.

³⁰ Hempstead, Fay, *Historical Review of Arkansas Its Commerce, Industry and Modern Affairs* (Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1911) 75. Accessed August 21, 2024.

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/98887/?offset=0#page=106&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=austin>

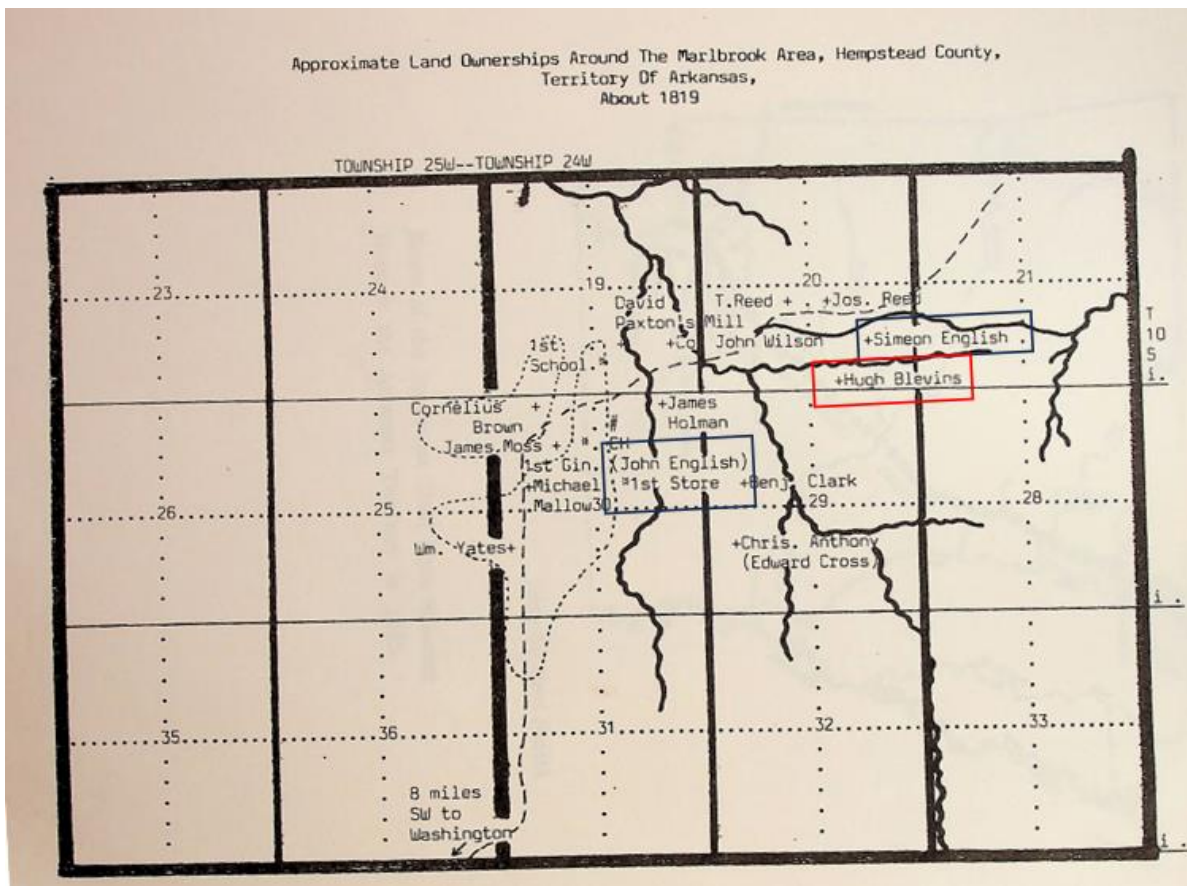
³¹ Hempstead, Fay, *Historical Review of Arkansas* 497.

<https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/viewer/98887/?offset=0#page=528&viewer=picture&o=search&n=0&q=austin>

³² Clift, Zoie, "Make a Stop at the Blacksmith Shop at Historic Washington State Park," Arkansas.com, Modified May 2021. Accessed August 21, 2024. <https://www.arkansas.com/articles/make-stop-blacksmith-shop-historic-washington-state-park>

³³ Steely, Skipper, *Six Months from Tennessee*, 160.

³⁴ Willis, Mrs. Bonita Stone, *blevinsarhistory*, Accessed August 21, 2024, <https://www.blevinsarhistory.com/places-events/area-maps>



The Marlbrook community shifted about two miles south and was later named Blevins, Arkansas in honor of Hugh Blevins.

A full description of Hugh Blevins' home is given in an Historical American Buildings Survey:

Arkansas became a part of the Missouri Territory prior to 1820, and territorial court was held in the neighborhood of Blevins. One of the pioneers was a man by the name of Blevins, and from the current history which I gathered, as a boy, this man, Blevins, constructed this old two story house which you possess sometime about 1820, and the house is built within 100 yards of this old Chihuahua Trail. In about 1831 or '32, President Andrew Jackson transported the Choctaw, Chickashaw and Seminole Indians from Memphis by way of this trail, and the Government improved this old Chickashaw Trail, and these Indians were transported by Military escort down this trail, and they passed by this Blevins residence, and went as far down the trail as Washington, and then turned west and went by Columbus and on into the southern portion of the Indian Territory. The name of this Chihuahua Trail was then changed to the Military Road, and was commonly designated as such until long after the Iron Mountain Railroad was built. This Trail became the most important trail in the State of Arkansas. A vast quantity of Indians passed down it with Military escort, and it was a mail route in that early day, evidently as early as 1830. The Blevins house became, as I gathered, a stage stand, and a resort for travelers going down this trail into Texas. The old settlers told me that David Crockett, on his way to Texas, was entertained in this Blevins home. It was not only a stage stand but a way side inn. I have read

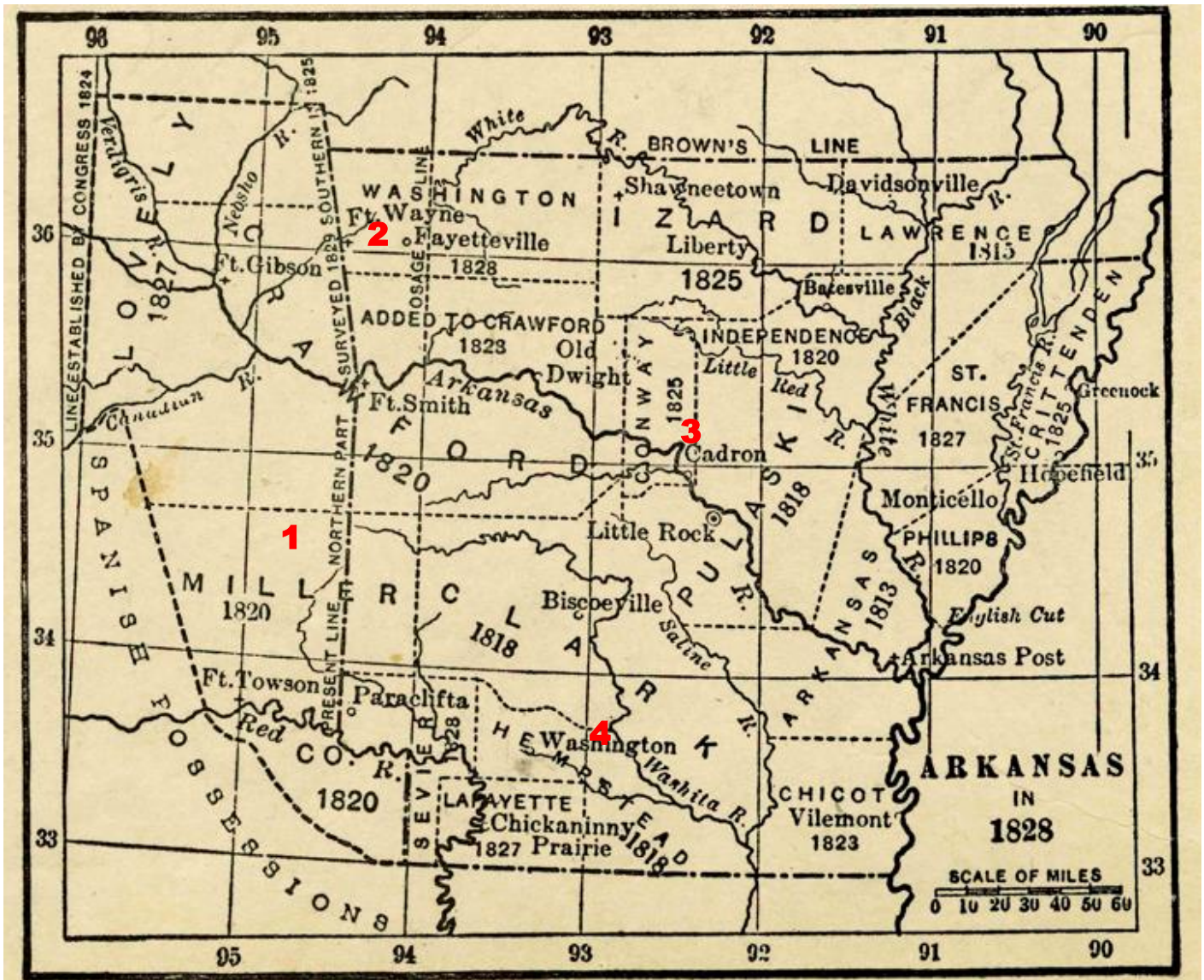


THE BLEVINS' HOUSE NEXT TO THE

in history where Sam Houston fomented the Texas revolution while sojourning in Hempstead County, Arkansas; that was about 1834.³⁵

Arkansas was the end of the journey for some of those who had traveled with the Shipmans. With the information discovered so far, we have a beginning of putting their story together. This map from 1828 gives an approximation of where the families stopped in Arkansas based on the previous information.

1. The Nidevers - stopped below Fort Smith signed petition 1825, in Miller County
2. The Harrells - Washington County -1830 census
3. The Mathers – Thomas Mathers and Margaret Kuykendall were living in Conway, Faulkner County-1820 census
4. The Blevins – Hempstead County – Architectural Survey document – 1820



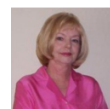
For the Shipmans, the journey continued.

³⁵ *Log Cabin Tavern, State Highway, Blevins, Hempstead County, AR*, Library of Congress, Source of information: Lawson L. Delony, Mrs. Charlean Moss Williams, A. H. Carrigan, and Laura Bishop, Accessed August 21, 2024, <https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/master/pnp/habshaer/ar/ar0000/ar0005/data/ar0005data.pdf>

Willow Dove Wheat was born July 29, 2023 in Longview, TX. Her birth evoked strong emotions as I immediately felt an instinctive love for her the first time I saw her just moments after her birth. She represents the continuation of family lineage, and I experience a sense of pride and joy when I am around her. Holding, cuddling, and playing with her creates profound bonding experiences that have fostered a close attachment between us. I want her to learn family traditions to deepen her connection with future generations long after I am gone. Our bond penetrates my soul on the deepest level. This poem is a lasting keepsake for Willow to cherish throughout her life and it serves as an expression of my love and heartfelt affection for her.

The Burleson Blues

Oh, where the sunsets gleam,
Two azure orbs hold every dream,
Reflecting skies in a tender gaze,
A dance of light in the twilight haze.
They sparkle like the stars above,
Whispers of laughter, warmth, and love,
With each glance, a story unfolds,
In those blue depths, a magic beholds.
Like morning glories kissed by the dew,
They capture hearts, both old and new,
A hint of mischief, a touch of grace,
In every look, a sweet embrace.
Oh, Burleson blue, so vibrant, so rare,
A canvas of feelings, a breath of air,
In the heart of us all, they shine so bright,
Two blue eyes glowing in the soft twilight.



Dr. Joan Burrow Strutton PhD
BFRG Research
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Burleson Women in the Service of Their Country – Part I

Viola May Burleson – World War I

“What makes the nurses of World War I gallant is that so many of them were able to bracket their encroaching horror, with its undercurrents of anger, depression, and numbing—and simply care for their patients. They were able to function as nurses in a nurses’ hell”.

Dr. Paul E. Stepansky, noted European Historian

“One need never tell me that women can’t do as much, stand as much, and be as brave as men.” –

Major Julia C. Stimson, 5th
Superintendent, Army Nurse Corps - WWI

The women who served in the Army Nurse Corps “rendered service ‘beyond expectations’ at a time when women were not even allowed to vote” in the U. S. –

Major Julia C. Stimson, 5th
Superintendent, Army Nurse Corps

“During the conflict that was placed before them, they not only gained the gratitude of many in their own generation but they proved, for the first time on a global scale, the enormous value of a woman’s contribution, paving the way for future generations of women to do the same.”– Kathryn J. Atwood, Women Heroes of World War I: 16 Remarkable Resisters, Soldiers, Spies, and Medics



The Burleson clan is well-represented in the number who served in The War To End All Wars. Records indicate hundreds of Burleson men served at home and abroad during the war. More than half of all the women who served in the armed forces in World War I—roughly 21,000—belonged to the Army Nurse Corps.¹ Preliminary research revealed only one Burleson woman having served in World War I. Echoing the sentiments of the nurses, doctors and historians above, this article is an overdue testament to a Burleson Family nurse and hero of World War I—Viola May Burleson. This article follows Viola’s and her colleagues’ collective WWI experiences, from recruitment and training through overseas deployment and wartime nursing operations in France and Germany.

¹ Women in the Army, Army Reserve. Retrieved on 15 July 2024, from <https://www.usar.army.mil/Women-in-the-Army/>.

Viola Mae (May) Burleson (Burlison)² was born on 7 July 1894 in Mount Vernon, Posey, County, Indiana, to Charles Henry Burleson (Burlison) (1875-1922) and Aleva (Leva) J. Shuck (1876-1905). In 1899, at age 5, Viola and her family, including 1-year-old brother Charlie, moved to Uniontown, Union County, Kentucky, where her father was a farmer.³ Viola's mother died a few years after the move, on 13 March 1905⁴. In 1910 as a teen, she was living in Driskill, Kentucky, with her brother, Charlie, and half-siblings Clarence and Dorothy (from her father's relationship with Margaret Gillen).⁵ Viola, having found her way back to Indiana, at age 23 enlisted in the U.S. Army Nursing Corps (Service No. 202-10 Reserve Nurse Corps) in Indianapolis on 7 September 1917.⁶



Army Nurse Corps recruitment poster

² Official documents use both spellings, Burleson and Burlison.

³ "United States Census, 1900", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9C3-LVJ> : Mon Jul 01 15:07:11 UTC 2024), Entry for Charlie Burlison and Levia Burlison, 1900.

⁴ Leva J. Burlison, Find a Grave. Retrieved on 14 July 14, 2024, from <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/106602853/leva-j-burlison>.

⁵ The 1910 U. S. Census lists Charles at Divorced. Levia died on 13 March 1905 and her grave marker inscription states "wife of C. H. Burlison." "United States Census, 1910", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M2XS-WJ8> : Sat Mar 09 08:39:22 UTC 2024), Entry for Charley Burlison and Viola Burlison, 1910.

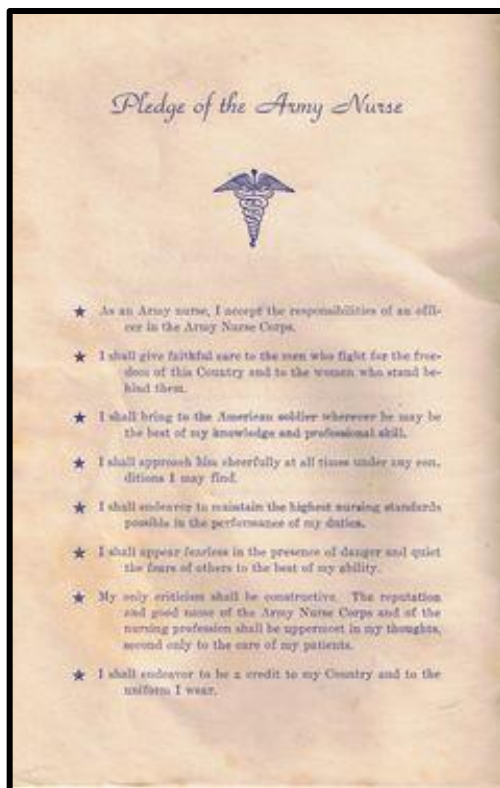
⁶ "United States, Veterans Administration Master Index, 1917-1940", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:7TFJ-NS3Z> : Sun Mar 10 11:19:45 UTC 2024), Entry for Viola Mae Burleson.



Army Nurse Corps Pin

The Army Nurse Corps was in existence for 16 years prior to the United States declaring war (est. February 2, 1901), and the Army Nurse Corps Reserve was added in 1916. Military nursing proved to be a unique and complex discipline, requiring resilience and adaptability during deployment, with knowledge of the military organization and lifestyle. This became acutely apparent during WWI with recruitment of large numbers of civilian nurses. The force of trained Army nurses increased from 403 at the beginning to 21,480, with over 9,000 deployed overseas. Qualifications of the Army nurses included female, white, unmarried, 25–35 years of age, 3-year commitment, and graduation from a civilian nurse training school.⁷

On 7 September, Viola took her oath as a member of the Army Nurse Corps.⁸



Pledge of an Army Nurse

- As an Army nurse, I accept the responsibilities of an officer in the Army Nurse Corps.
- I shall give faithful care to the men who fight for the freedom of this Country and to the women who stand behind them.
- I shall bring to the American soldier wherever he may be the best of my knowledge and professional skill.
- I shall approach him cheerfully at all times under any conditions I may find.
- I shall endeavor to maintain the highest nursing standards possible in the performance of my duties.
- I shall appear fearless in the presence of danger and quiet the fears of others to the best of my ability.
- My only criticism shall be constructive. The reputation and good name of the Army Nurse Corps and of the nursing profession shall be uppermost in my thoughts, second only to the care of my patients.
- I shall endeavor to be a credit to my Country and to the uniform I wear.

⁷ Talbot, Laura A., E. Jeffrey Metter and Heather King. History of the Military Nurse Corps and the 1918 Influenza Pandemic: Lessons for the 2019 Coronavirus Pandemic. National Library of Medicine. Retrieved on 14 July 14, 2024, from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7798950/>.

⁸ Pledge of an Army Nurse, Hoover Institution Library and Archives, Digital Collection. Retrieved on 15 July 15, 2024, from <https://digitalcollections.hoover.org/objects/35477/pledge-of-the-army-nurse-as-an-army-nurse-i-accept-the-res>.

The majority of the nurses who volunteered held responsible positions in the different lines of nursing activities, superintendents of training schools, supervisors, head surgical nurses, public health nurses and valuable private duty nurses alike gave up their work to serve with the Base Hospital without question of remuneration or position on the nursing staff.⁹

As to pay, Army Nurse Corps pay during Viola's period of service was \$40.00 per month and an additional \$10.00 each month for overseas duty—slightly above the pay rate for an Army Private. This was the same rate of pay as was fixed in 1899. On 9 July 1918, "The Nurse Corps (female) was redesignated the Army Nurse Corps (ANC) by the Army Reorganization Act of 1918. The 1918 act (40 Stat. 879) restricted appointments to women nurses. Base pay was increased to \$60 per month."¹⁰

Army Nurse Corps (ANC) selectees were appointed by the Surgeon General with the approval of the Secretary of War and nurses were not given military ranks at this time.¹¹ Viola Burleson was assigned and attended nursing training at U. S. Army Base Hospital 32 (i.e., Lilly Hospital).¹²

The origins of Base Hospital 32 can be found in a letter from Josiah K. Lilly, president of Eli Lilly & Company, to William Fortune, president of the Indianapolis Chapter of the American Red Cross, dated February 19, 1917. In this letter, Mr. Lilly offered \$25,000 to purchase equipment for a base hospital in memory of his grandfather, Indiana Civil War hero Colonel Eli Lilly, should the United States declare war. This hospital would be staffed by physicians, surgeons, and nurses from Indiana and would bear the Colonel's name.¹³

The American Red Cross played a significant role in organizing base hospitals.

Before the Army Medical Corps could implement any type of organization, however, the American Red Cross entered the scene. They contended that since the United States was not officially at war, they alone had responsibility for organizing and furnishing volunteer aid to the sick and wounded. After considerable negotiation, the two groups reached a compromise. The Red Cross would organize the base hospitals on a strictly military basis, and the

⁹ Ibid. pg. 22.

¹⁰ [Highlights in the History of the Army Nurse Corps: Chronology](https://history.army.mil/books/anc-highlights/chrono.htm). Retrieved on 17 July 2024, from <https://history.army.mil/books/anc-highlights/chrono.htm>.

¹¹ Vane, Elizabeth A. P. and Sanders Marble, Contributions of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in World War I. Army Nurse Corps Association. Retrieved on 14 July 2024, from <https://e-anca.org/History/Topics-in-ANC-History/Contributions-of-the-US-Army-Nurse-Corps-in-WWI>.

¹² Nursing News and Announcements, *The American Journal of Nursing*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Nov. 1917), pp. 149-171 (23 pages). Retrieved on 14 July 14, 2024, , p. 360. Retrieved on 14 July 14, 2024, from https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Trained_Nurse_and_Hospital_Review/RihMAQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Viola+May+%22Burleson%22+Army+Nursing+Corps&pg=RA2-PA360&printsec=frontcover.

¹³ Indiana WWI Centennial Commission. BASE HOSPITAL 32, Lilly Base Hospital, BY CONNOR MCBRIDE. <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/indiana-in-wwi-stories/2434-base-hospital-32.html>.

commissioned and enlisted men of the Army Medical Reserve Corps would provide the personnel.¹⁴

“By April 1917, the Red Cross had organized 33 base hospitals.”¹⁵ Base Hospital 32 was “funded largely through the contribution of Eli Lilly & Company, the Indianapolis chapter of the Red Cross, and the citizens of Indianapolis.”¹⁶

The staffing of Hospital 32 fell to the responsibility of Major Dr. Edmund D. Clark as the hospital director who oversaw training of the officers and enlisted that began at Fort Benjamin Harrison, northeast of Indianapolis on 1 September 1917.¹⁷ The nursing personnel of Base Hospital 32 were organized in Indianapolis during the spring and summer of 1917 by chief nurse, Florence J. Martin.¹⁸ *The Red Cross at Work* (1920), in addressing recruitment and recruits, notes Viola as being from Indianapolis though it is unclear if she was a member of City Hospital as many of the Base Hospital 32 nurses were.¹⁹

In their article, *Contributions of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in World War I*, Colonel Elizabeth A. P. Vane and Sanders Marble detailed the formation of base hospitals.

By May 1917, the War Department called upon the American Red Cross to mobilize six of these base hospitals for immediate shipment to France to serve with the British Expeditionary Forces. Thus U.S. military and Red Cross nurses arrived in France before the American combat troops of the American Expeditionary Forces.²⁰

Viola and her fellow Army Nurse Corps volunteers left Indianapolis on September 9th, 1917, “for New York where they were quartered in barracks at the Columbia War Hospital, drilling and adjusting to military life. They remained in New York for three weeks before moving on to Hoboken and later Ellis Island.”²¹ Training in Hoboken took place at St. Mary’s Hospital.²²

¹⁴ Munger, Diane Bingham, *Base Hospital 21 During World War I – 1914-1918* Base Hospital 21 and the Great War. Retrieved on 8 August 2024 from

<https://beckerexhibits.wustl.edu/gh21/ww1/index.htm#:~:text=By%20April%201917%2C%20the%20Red,Department%20in%20times%20of%20peace.>

¹⁵ Munger, Diane Bingham, *Base Hospital 21 During World War I – 1914-1918* Base Hospital 21 and the Great War. Retrieved on 8 August 2024 from

<https://beckerexhibits.wustl.edu/gh21/ww1/index.htm#:~:text=By%20April%201917%2C%20the%20Red,Department%20in%20times%20of%20peace.>

¹⁶ Indiana WWI Centennial Commission. BASE HOSPITAL 32, Lilly Base Hospital, BY CONNOR MCBRIDE. <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/indiana-in-wwi-stories/2434-base-hospital-32.html>.

¹⁷ Ibid.

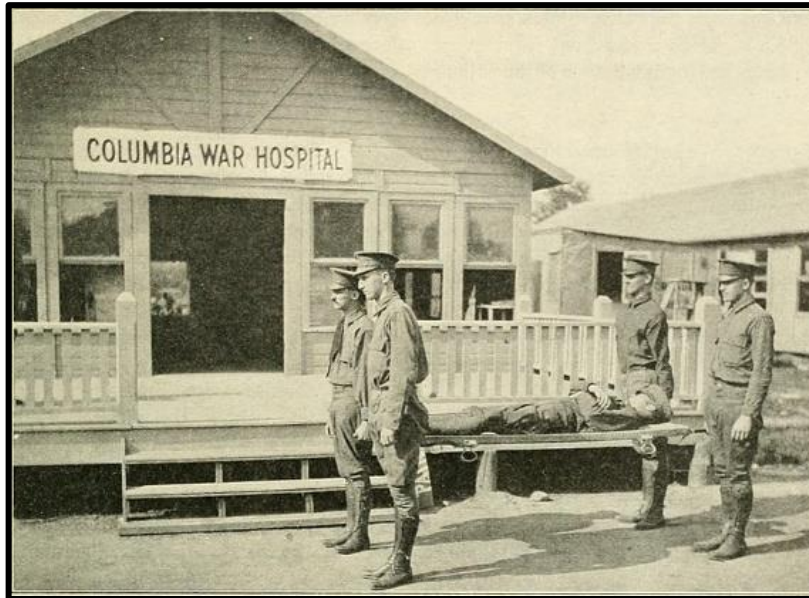
¹⁸ Cecile, Marie, and Anselm Chomel, *The Red Cross at Work*, Hollenbeck Press, Indianapolis (1920). P. 240

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Vane, Elizabeth A. P. and Sanders Marble, *Contributions of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in World War I*. Army Nurse Corps Association. Retrieved on 14 July 2024, from <https://e-anca.org/History/Topics-in-ANC-History/Contributions-of-the-US-Army-Nurse-Corps-in-WWI>.

²¹ Base Hospital 32. WWVets.com – WWVets.org. Retrieved on 14 July, from <https://wwwvets.org/base-hospital-32/>.

²² Ibid.



Columbia War Hospital, WWI

For the first three weeks the nurses were quartered at the newly established U. S. Army General Hospital (Columbia War Hospital), which was built to accommodate 1,500 American wounded when they would come from the European battlefields. Here the nurses received their first impressions of army life, the wooden barracks with rows of white beds, the shower baths, the mess line and bare tables, the two hours' drill each morning, and the grand rush into the city for uniforms and other equipment.²³

And then, "On the night of December 04, 1917, aboard the *SS George Washington*, a German ocean liner that had just recently been repurposed as a troop transport, the staff of Base Hospital 32 began their crossing of the Atlantic."²⁴ As no nurse could be assigned to overseas duty against their will, Viola is considered to have entered the war zone willingly.²⁵

²³ Hitz, Benjamin D., *A History of Base Hospital 32 [Including Unit R]*, Indianapolis, 1922.pg. 22.

²⁴ Indiana WWI Centennial Commission. BASE HOSPITAL 32, Lilly Base Hospital, BY CONNOR MCBRIDE. <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/indiana-in-wwi-stories/2434-base-hospital-32.html>.

²⁵ Vane, Elizabeth A. P. and Sanders Marble, *Contributions of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in World War I*. Army Nurse Corps Association. Retrieved on 14 July 2024, from <https://e-anca.org/History/Topics-in-ANC-History/Contributions-of-the-US-Army-Nurse-Corps-in-WWI>



Viola, rear row, far left, and fellow nurses of Base Hospital #32, Lilly Hospital, leaving for France 1917

Viola Burleson's assignment to Hospital 32 was announced in the November 1917 issue of *The American Journal of Nursing*.²⁶ She is also included in the *SS George Washington* passenger manifest.²⁷ Viola experienced the challenges of any Atlantic Ocean crossing during WWI—black-out conditions, German U-boat rumors, drills and vigils, and storms.²⁸ Benjamin D. Hitz, in his historical account, *A History of Base Hospital 32 [Including Unit R]* (1922) noted,

The days of December 16th and 17th will always stand out vividly in the memory of every person on the ship. The storm that met the *George Washington* as it approached the Bay of Biscay was one that even the oldest sailor in the convoy will never forget. Beginning on Sunday the 16th, with a heavy gale and a sinister sky, the storm increased steadily in violence for two days. As early as Sunday afternoon the sea was rising so high that even those on the upper decks were drenched. The ship heaved like a balloon, and the fantastic little destroyers were tossed about like toys, now poised, almost vertically on the crest of a mountain-high wave, then dashed down and often half submerged into a churning valley of the sea.²⁹

²⁶ Nursing News and Announcements, *The American Journal of Nursing*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Nov. 1917), pp. 149-171 (23 pages). Retrieved on 14 July 14, 2024, , p. 360. Retrieved on 14 July 14, 2024, from https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Trained_Nurse_and_Hospital_Review/RihMAQAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Viola+May+%22Burluson%22+Army+Nursing+Corps&pg=RA2-PA360&printsec=frontcover.

²⁷ 4 Dec 1917, Hoboken, NJ point of Embarkation, *George Washington*, Base Hospital #32. YS Army Transport Service Passenger List of Organizations and Casuals. Retrieved on 14 July 14, 2024, from <https://www.fold3.com/sub-image/620191015/burluson-viola-may-us-army-wwi-transport-service-passenger-lists-1918-1919>.

²⁸ Hitz, Benjamin D., *A History of Base Hospital 32 [Including Unit R]*, Indianapolis, 1922.pg. 22.

²⁹ *Ibid.* pg. 34.

NURSES OF BASE HOSPITAL #32

Boat #7 Starboard Side		Boat #9 Starboard Side	
Room	(1 F.J. MARTIN	Room	(1 Nellie Davis
✓ 131	(2 HAZEL ALKIRE	✓ 137	(2 Ruth Dillon
	(3 OLGA ANDERSON		(3 MAUD EBSIG
	(4 ELIZABETH BACHINGER	Room	(4 MARY FERGUSON
	(5 LILLIE BECK	✓ 139	
	(6 HAZEL BENNET		(5 ELSIE PEACOCK
	(7 MARTHA BERGER	Room	(6 EVELYN POTTER
	(8 MAY BERRY	✓ 127	
	(9 HELEN BIGGERT	Room	(7 TULLIE ROBERSON
Room	(10 NELLIE BIRCH	✓ 133	(8 NELLIE ROCK
✓ 145	(11 DIXIE BORDERS		(9 MARY A. SCALES
	(12 MARY BOWEN	Room	(10 IDA SCHOLER
	(13 BERTHA BOYLES	✓ 135	
	(14 MAY BURLESON		(11 HELEN THOMPSON
	(15 JULIA CLEMENTS	Room	(12 ADDIE THRELKELD
	(16 MAYME CLICKNER	141	
	(17 MARY MANGAN	Room	(13 MARY GLADYS GRIM
Room	(18 RUTH MC BEE	✓ 143	(14 L ICE HARVEY
✓ 147	(19 ALYS WEITENDORF		(15 MARY HOUSER
	(20 RUTH WRIGHT		(16 BIRDA HUNT
			(17 RUTH IKERD
Boat #8 Port Side		Boat #10 Port Side	
Room	(1 MARGARET MC COPPIN	Room	(1 EMMA BAILEY
132	(2 ELIZABETH MELVILLE	138	(2 JESSIE MAY ERWIN
	(3 ESTELLE MILLER		(3 SUSAN GENOLIN
	(4 JEANETTE MILLER	Room	(4 EDNA JUNE GRAY
	(5 JOHANNA MONTGOMERY	140	
	(6 EDNA MOWER		(5 MY PROSSER
	(7 MARY MULLEN	Room	(6 EBULAH FRUST
Room	(8 CLARA NEED	128	
146	(9 MAYME O CONNELL	Room	(7 ANNA MARIE ROHR
	(10 MARIE O KEEFFE	134	(8 ELEANOR RYAN
	(11 FLORINE OSTENZI		(9 MYRTLE SIMER
	(12 LENA LEE PAYNE	Room	(10 GOLDA SMITH
	(13 MARY BOSTWICK	136	
Room	(14 CHARLOTTE CATHCART	Room	(11 RUTH GAYLE TOTTEN
148	(15 GEORGIA FINLEY	142	(12 HERMINA WAGNER
	(16 GERALDINE FROST		(13 MARY KENNEDY
	(17 MARY HEROD	Room	(14 MARY F. KOCHMAN
	(18 GERTRUDE STEFFEN	144	(15 ALMA LANCASTER
			(16 BERTHA MAMAM

Viola May's room assignment on the SS George Washington

They landed at outside the harbor of Brest, France, as the ship was too large for the docks. After days of unloading, Base Hospital 32 left on Christmas Day by train and then on the 26th to their ultimate destination of Contréxeville.³⁰ "Contréxeville had been a summer resort, due to the reported medicinal properties of its springs, and had a number of the hotels and luxuries that one could expect of a resort town."³¹ As a summer resort village,

...its multiple hotels would make for adequate hospital buildings. Eight of these hotels were assigned to Base Hospital 32 and by the end of February, the hospital was up and operational, having quickly transformed the hotels into respectable medical facilities.³²

³⁰ Ibid. pg. 41-41.

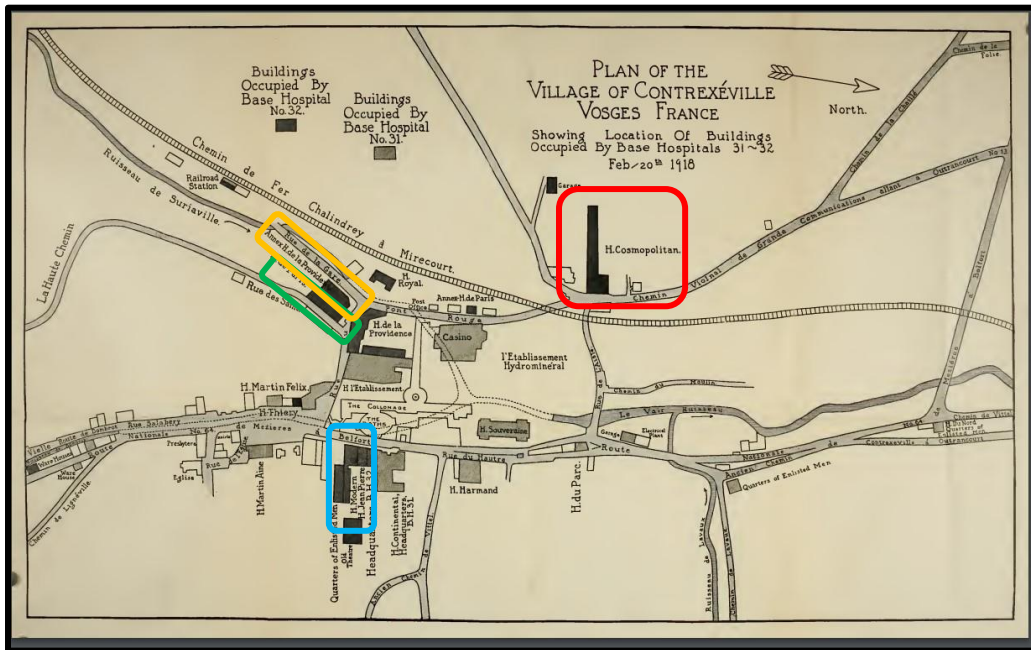
³¹ Indiana WWI Centennial Commission. BASE HOSPITAL 32, Lilly Base Hospital, BY CONNOR MCBRIDE. <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/indiana-in-wwi-stories/2434-base-hospital-32.html>.

³² Ibid.



Hospital 32, Lilly Hospital Staff and Nurses outside hotel entrance

Viola and her nurse colleagues from Base Hospital 32 would be quartered in one of these hotels, the Hotel Moderne.³³



Viola Burleson was assigned to Hospitals A, B, and C. Hotel Cosmopolitan - Hospital A, principal surgical building, outlined in red; Hotel Paris – Hospital B – overflow from A, convalescence, and minor surgical cases, outlined in green; Providence Annex – Hospital C – medical service, outlined in yellow. She was quartered in the Hotel Moderne, outlined in blue.

It was during the time of establishing Base Hospital 32 that one of Viola’s nurse colleagues, Lottie May Berry, died from pneumonia on 30 December 1917, said to have been the first American nurse to die on foreign soil during the war.³⁴

³³ Hitz, Benjamin D., *A History of Base Hospital 32 [Including Unit R], Indianapolis, 1922.* pg. 47.

³⁴ *Ibid.* pg. 52.

Vane and Marble detailed the varied duties of ANC nurses who,

...worked on surgical teams, hospital trains, hospital ships, and in all sorts of hospitals: field hospitals, mobile units, base hospitals, evacuation hospitals, camp hospitals and convalescent hospitals. The formula of nurses required for war time had stayed unchanged since the American Revolutionary War at one nurse for every ten hospital beds. At first, the Army estimated that 10,000 nurses would be needed, but by the end of March 1918 the surgeon general asked for 40,000 nurses.³⁵

On March 23, 1918, Base Hospital 32 received 350 wounded from the 42nd "Rainbow" Division, the majority suffering from burns as a result of exposure to mustard gas.¹⁵ Injuries from gas attacks were among the most common suffered by patients and treating them remained one of the most frequent and serious tasks of Lilly Base Hospital throughout the war. The hospital performed admirably during the first real test of its capabilities and as of June they had lost only two patients in their care.³⁶



Base (Lilly) Hospital staff

For those who had breathed in the mustard gas, the nurses at Base Hospital 32 helped devise a mixture of "guaiacol, camphor, menthol, oil of thyme and eucalyptus [that forced the patients to expectorate the inflammatory material]. Patients received immediate relief, [respirations were less labored so] ... healing was begun.³⁷



At left, WWI nurses in gas masks treat soldiers after a gas attack.

³⁵ Vane, Elizabeth A. P. and Sanders Marble, Contributions of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in World War I. Army Nurse Corps Association. Retrieved on 14 July 2024, from <https://e-anca.org/History/Topics-in-ANC-History/Contributions-of-the-US-Army-Nurse-Corps-in-WWI>

³⁶ ³⁶ Indiana WWI Centennial Commission. BASE HOSPITAL 32, Lilly Base Hospital, BY CONNOR MCBRIDE. <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/indiana-in-wwi-stories/2434-base-hospital-32.html>.

³⁷ Moore, Constance J., Army Nurses Care for Mustard Gas Patients During WWI Army Nurses Care for Mustard Gas Patients During WWI, Army Nurse Corps Association. Retrieved on 6 August 2024 from <https://e-anca.org/History/Topics-in-ANC-History/Mustard-WWI>.

Viola and the hospital staff changed their level and responsibility of care as the war changed.

The first hospital train arrived on March 26, 1918. From this time forward, "32's" operations were on a larger scale. Hospital trains arrived frequently, and during the period of the great drive the emergency capacity was sometimes taxed to its limits. Base hospitals, as a rule, received their patients from the evacuation hospitals just back of the lines, the evacuation hospitals, in turn, receiving them from field hospitals, where they had been given first aid. During emergencies, however, when evacuation hospitals were overflowing with wounded, Base Hospital 32, because of comparative proximity to the front, often received trainloads of patients direct from the dressing stations and field hospitals. At such time, "32" functioned really as an evacuation hospital, operating sometimes as many as forty cases daily and evacuating on hospital trains to bases farther back as soon as the patient could be moved.³⁸



American Wounded Soldiers Being Placed on a Hospital Train, 1918

Base hospitals were also called upon to provide teams for detached service to evacuation hospitals or field hospitals, where the need for medical personnel was even more desperate. Viola was detached from Base Hospital 32, which was in the process of standing up for duty, at Base Hospital 15, Chaumont, Haute Marne, France, from 29 December 1917 to 4 February 1918.

As the Allies stopped the German summer offensive and mounted a counterattack at Château-Thierry July 1918,

³⁸ Chomel, M. C. (1920). Red Cross Chapter at Work. United States: Hollenbeck Press. Pg 288.

Base Hospital 32 would see additional spikes in the number of incoming wounded. Over the course of June and July they received 2591 cases, primarily soldiers from the United States and France, with 513 patients being from the U.S. 26th Division alone, as well as 117 British troops and 12 German prisoners of war.³⁹



The hospital provided service to 9,698 soldiers during the war with only 118 deaths.

From their arrival, Viola and the other nurses' workload consistently surged with the war. Dr. Edmund E. Clark, the former Lieutenant Colonel and director of Base Hospital 32, recalled the challenge of the mounting number of wounded soldiers during his comments to graduating nurses at the Reid Memorial Hospital graduation in Indianapolis on 5 June 1919.

When Base Hospital 32 was established in December (1917) it had a capacity of 500 beds. Later it was made a 1,250-bed hospital, then 1,750, and in July, 2,150, and at the time it was made a 2,150-bed hospital exactly the same space was occupied when it had been a 500-bed hospital. Sacks of straw were used for the less severely injured men such as those who had their hands or feet injured. The most seriously injured were given the better bed.⁴⁰

Viola and the Base Hospital 32 nurses also played a critical role in the second wave (first wave was May 1918) of the Spanish Influenza epidemic that struck in 1918.

Records indicate that the Hospital treated 1,020 cases of influenza and of the 118 patients of Lilly Base Hospital that died, 50 would be as a result of influenza, making it one of the most deadly conditions the hospital faced.⁴¹

An estimated 18 million people around the globe lost their lives to the Spanish Influenza; among those were more than 200 Army nurses.⁴²

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ *The Richmond palladium and sun-telegram*. [volume] (Richmond, Ind.), 05 June 1919. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86058226/1919-06-05/ed-1/seq-11/>>

⁴¹ Ibid.

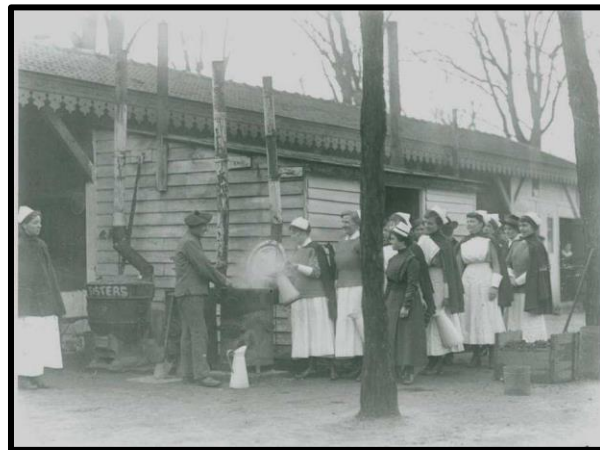
⁴² Army Nurse Corps. Retrieved on 15 July 15, 2024, from <https://www.army.mil/women/history/>.

In 1918 the hospital would serve as an evacuation unit, receiving patients from field hospitals, and preparing them for convalescent hospitals in the rear. The hospital closed on January 7, 1919, two months after the war ended.⁴³

Over its year of service, Base Hospital 32 would admit 8,506 Americans, 1,003 Allies, and 189 Germans totaling 9,698 admitted patients.²⁷ Among the many ailments treated, most common were the treatment of injuries from shrapnel and mustard gas, as well as influenza and diseases caused by the unsanitary conditions that plagued the trenches such as Vincent's angina, or 'trench mouth'.⁴⁴

Alongside their patients, Viola and the nurses of WWI faced considerable hazards in the performance of their duties.

Nurses would have been in close contact with patients suffering from communicable illnesses and would have been stationed in areas where such diseases were prevalent. Infectious diseases could spread from patient to nurse. In addition to pathogenic dangers nurses also fell ill from stress and strain. Psychological illnesses such as neurasthenia had a multitude of symptoms that impacted a nurse's ability to work. Symptoms such as headaches, insomnia, depression, and anxiety were all believed to have been caused by exhaustion.⁴⁵



Nurses in line for water at Base Hospital 21, Rouen, France.

Fortunately, Viola was able to take a break from the carnage following the Second Battle of the Marne (July-August 1918), the final German offensive of the war. She took leave for two weeks in Nice, France, from 26 September – 8 October 1918.⁴⁶

⁴³ Base Hospital 32. WWVets.com – WWVets.org. Retrieved on 14 July, from <https://wwvets.org/base-hospital-32/>.

⁴⁴ Indiana WWI Centennial Commission. BASE HOSPITAL 32, Lilly Base Hospital, BY CONNOR MCBRIDE. <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/indiana-in-wwi-stories/2434-base-hospital-32.html>

⁴⁵ Gwinnup, Amanda, Hazards of Nursing During the First World War 1914-1918. [The UKAHN Bulletin: ISSN 2049-9744](https://bulletin.ukahn.org/hazards-of-nursing-during-the-first-world-war-1914-1918/#:~:text=Nurses%20would%20have%20been%20in,relative%20safety%20during%20the%20war.), UK Association for the History of Nursing. Retrieved on 11 August 2024 from <https://bulletin.ukahn.org/hazards-of-nursing-during-the-first-world-war-1914-1918/#:~:text=Nurses%20would%20have%20been%20in,relative%20safety%20during%20the%20war.>

⁴⁶ Hitz, Benjamin D., A History of Base Hospital 32 [Including Unit R], Indianapolis, 1922.pg. 181.

Viola and the ANC nurses were recognized for their contributions as, “In the summer of 1918 the War department gave ANC members the authority to wear wound and service chevrons under the same conditions as officers, field clerks, and enlisted men.”⁴⁷ Also, “Nurses who served honorably in the Army Nurse Corps for a minimum of 15 days during a period of the war were entitled to the Victory “Button,” issued for wear in the lapel of civilian clothes.”⁴⁸ Nurses from Base Hospital 32 were awarded two service stripes for their service overseas and the insignia for the Lorraine Advance Sector.⁴⁹



At right, Base Hospital 32 nurse in uniform displaying service stripes (lower left sleeve) and insignia of the Lorraine Advance Sector (left shoulder)

At left, Bronze Victory button designed for wear on the lapel of civilian clothes. Awarded to all who served in the war between 1917 and 1918.



Viola May Burluson did not depart Europe with the rest of the nurses of Base Hospital 32. They departed aboard the *SS America* from Brest on March 3rd and arrived back in the United States at Hoboken, New Jersey, on March 13th.⁵⁰ Rather, Viola and a select other Base Hospital 32 nurses transferred to Germany.

The following nurses, who had expressed a preference to remain in the A. E. F., were transferred on January 13, 1919, and sent into Germany for duty with the Third Army: Olga Anderson, Grace Bell, Viola Burluson, Mary Grim, Birda Hunt, Johanna Montgomery, Florine Ostenzi, Elsie Peacock, Evelyn Potter, Anna Rohr, Ida Scholer and Hermina Wagner.⁵¹

⁴⁷ Victory! usgovcloudapi.net. Retrieved on 17 July 2024, from <https://medcoeckapwstorprd01.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/pfw-images/dbimages/ATC%20ch%206.pdf>.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Indiana WWI Centennial Commission. BASE HOSPITAL 32, Lilly Base Hospital, BY CONNOR MCBRIDE. <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/indiana-in-wwi-stories/2434-base-hospital-32.html>

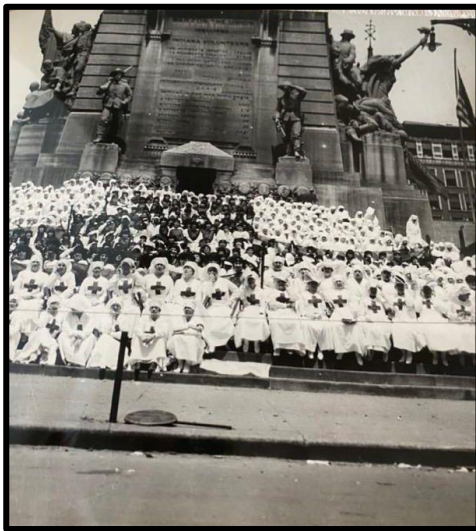
⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Hitz, Benjamin D., A History of Base Hospital 32 [Including Unit R], Indianapolis, 1922.pg. 213.

Four days after the armistice was signed, 15 November 1918, the Allied Expeditionary Forces established the U. S. Third Army as the American Army of Occupation in Germany. Third Army marched into Germany and established its headquarters in Koblenz.⁵² Viola's exact duty location was not discovered in the course of research, however,

Evacuation hospitals of the Third Army were finally located as follows: No. 3 and No. 12, 1,500 beds each, at West Trier; No. 7, 500 beds, at Prum; No. 4, 450 beds, No. 6, 600 beds, No. 2, 1,500 beds, No. 9, 1,000 beds, No. 14, 550 beds, at Coblenz; No. 8, 500 beds, at Mayen; No. 26, 1,000 beds, at Neuenahr.⁵³

Having completed her duties and with deactivation of Third Army, Viola departed Brest, France, on 9 June 1919 with nurses from Casual Nurse Detachment 35 aboard the *SS New Amsterdam*.⁵⁴



At left, Thousands of people lined the streets in Indianapolis on May 7, 1919, to welcome home Indiana's returning World War I soldiers. Women threw flowers in the path of soldiers marching up Meridian Street to the Circle, where a living Red Cross was formed on the steps of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

No US Army nurses died in WWI as a result of enemy action, though three were wounded by shellfire. Of the 272 nurse casualties, most died of disease (primarily tuberculosis, influenza, and pneumonia).⁵⁵ Viola Burleson endured the rigors and deprivations of war, serving in France and Germany in three different Army hospitals. She extended her stay to staff Third Army's Evacuation Hospitals. Viola May Burleson offered her own reflections of her service as an ANC nurse in WWI, stating her experience was,

⁵² Scott, R. Walker, The U.S. Third Army and the Advance to Koblenz, 7 November-17 December 1918, *Army History*, No. 32 (Fall 1994), pp. 28-33 (6 pages). <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26304249>.

⁵³ SECTION VII, AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY ACTIVITIES IN GERMANY, ITALY, NORTH RUSSIA, AND SIBERIA, CHAPTER XXXVIII, THE ADVANCE INTO GERMANY, THE THIRD ARMY, AMEDD Center of History and Heritage. Retrieved on 6 August 2024 from <https://achh.army.mil/history/book-wwi-fieldoperations-chapter38>.

⁵⁴ Viola M Burleson in the U.S., Army Transport Service Arriving and Departing Passenger Lists, 1910-1939. The National Archives at College Park; College Park, Maryland; Record Group Title: *Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General, 1774-1985*; Record Group Number: 92; Roll or Box Number: 224.

⁵⁵ Vane, Elizabeth A. P. and Sanders Marble, Contributions of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in World War I. Army Nurse Corps Association. Retrieved on 14 July 2024, from <https://e-anca.org/History/Topics-in-ANC-History/Contributions-of-the-US-Army-Nurse-Corps-in-WWI>

“A mixture of sadness, horror, and joy. Sadness that so many young men should have to go out to die before they really had a chance to live. The horror of seeing humanity slaughter each other. The joy of being young and able to do my bit.” Viola May Burleson

After her separation from the Army Nurse Corps, Viola May Burleson demonstrated an adventurous love of travel. She lived in Alaska (about 1922)⁵⁶, traveled to and lived in Hawaii for a year (1924-1925)⁵⁷, moved to San Francisco⁵⁸ where she married (1927)⁵⁹ and later divorced Benjamin Lawrence Polson (1889-1978), traveled to Mexico, Puerto Rico and Haiti (1956)⁶⁰, and eventually settled in Detroit, Michigan where her brother Charlie lived. She died on 9 August 1966 at the age of 72, and was buried with honors at Grandview Lawn Cemetery, Michigan.⁶¹ She was preceded in death by her younger half-brother Clarence (1953) and was survived by her brother Charlie and half-sister Dorothy.

Viola’s term of enlistment and time of wartime service (September 1917 – June 1919) exceeded most all WWI nurses and even many soldiers. Viola and “the nurses of WWI provided care beyond their original call of duty. Their contribution to the front lines, and at home, helped shape the unity and strength our country gained during the war.”⁶² Viola May Burleson Polson is a hero to her nation, profession and Burleson family.

⁵⁶ Death Notices, Detroit Free Press, 18 November 1922. Retrieved on 14 July 14, 2024, from <https://www.newspapers.com/image/1048464870/?match=1&terms=Viola%20M.%20Burleson>.

⁵⁷ Viola Burleson in the California, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1882-1959. Retrieved on 14 July 14, 2024, from The National Archives at Washington, D.C.; Washington, D.C.; *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving At San Francisco, California*; NAI Number: 4498993; Record Group Title: *Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787-2004*; Record Group Number: 85.

⁵⁸ Viola Polson in the U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995. Retrieved on 14 July 14, 2024, from Ancestry.com. *U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

⁵⁹ Benjamin Lawrence Polson and Viola Mae Burleson - Marriage Certificate. Retrieved on 14 July 14, 2024, from <https://www.ancestry.com/mediaui-viewer/collection/1030/tree/64284619/person/132581098082/media/969d30bd-bf1d-4209-a236-24395561facc?queryId=c23db005-2e6d-4044-9814-507f3f25c90c&phsrc=UsH2576&phstart=successSource>.

⁶⁰ Viola M Polson in the California, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1882-1959. The National Archives at Washington, D.C.; Washington, D.C.; *Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels and Airplanes Arriving At San Pedro, California.*; NAI Number: 2945735; Record Group Title: *Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787-2009*; Record Group Number: 85. *Viola M Polson in the Puerto Rico, U.S, Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1901-1962. The National Archives At Washington, D.C.; Washington, D.C.; Series Title: Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels and Airplanes Arriving At San Juan, Puerto Rico*; NAI Number: A4104; Record Group Title: *Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787-2004*; Record Group Number: 85

⁶¹ Viola Mae ? Burleson in the U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1861-1985. Retrieved on 14 July 14, 2024, from National Archives at St. Louis; St. Louis, MO, USA; *Applications for Headstones, 1/1/1925 - 6/30/1970*; NAID: 596118; Record Group Number: 92; Record Group Title: *Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General.*

⁶² Nursing and medicine in WWI, CEUfast.com. Retrieved on 3 August 2024 from <https://ceufast.com/blog/nursing-and-medicine-during-world-war-i>.



This article is an entry into researching and documenting Burleson women wartime contributions. A number of Burleson women served during wartime. Below are a few of what surely is a lengthy list. Readers are encouraged to forward the names of Burleson women who have served in wartime, with the goal of producing a more comprehensive article on their service.

- Maggie Viola “Via” Burleson was born to William Grover Burleson (1903-1979) and Nellie Jane Ratliff (1898-1941) on 29 August 1919 in Grundy, Buchanan County, Virginia. Seventeen-year-old William was railroad section hand and twenty-year-old Nellie kept house when Via was born.⁶³ After graduating from high school in Buchanan, Virginia, she was a typist in an office.⁶⁴ At age 23 and single she enlisted from civilian life in the U. S. Army as a Private in Richmond, Virginia, on 23 February 1943. Private Burleson Service No. A-308582) was assigned to the Women’s Army Corps in WWII where she served as an Army photographer.⁶⁵
- Gertie Alvertia Burleson was born on 28 March 1918 to Kope E Burleson and Lizzie Pearl Burleson in Albemarle, Stanly County, North Carolina. She attended Catholic University receiving a Bachelor’s of Science in Public Health in 1949; she gained 16-weeks of field experience in Rockville, Maryland.⁶⁶ She was appointed a 2LT in the Army Nurse Corps Reserves on 30 December 1941.⁶⁷ Gertie served as a nurse in the Army Nurse Corps in both the Korean and Vietnam Wars, retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.⁶⁸



⁶³ Virginia, Birth Records, 1864-2014.

⁶⁴ Three WACs from Virginia, The George C. Marshall Foundation. Retrieved on 15 July 2024, from <https://www.marshallfoundation.org/articles-and-features/three-wacs-from-virginia/>.

⁶⁵ Viola M Burleson in the [U.S., World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946](#). National Archives at College Park; College Park, Maryland, USA; *Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File, 1938-1946*; NAID: 1263923; Record Group Title: *Records of the National Archives and Records Administration, 1789-ca. 2007*; Record Group: 64; Box Number: 00061; Reel: 6

⁶⁶ *Montgomery County sentinel*. [volume] (Rockville, Md.), 10 Feb. 1949. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress. <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83016209/1949-02-10/ed-1/seq-5/>>

⁶⁷ Army Register. Retrieved on 4 August 2024 from <https://www.fold3.com/sub-image/303672409/burleson-gertie-alvertia-us-army-registers-1798-1969>.

⁶⁸ Army Register. Retrieved on 4 August 2024 from <https://www.fold3.com/sub-image/307429390/burleson-gertie-alvertia-us-army-registers-1798-1969>.

- Edna Bessie Burlson (1931-1965) was born in Georgia to Rufus Arvil Burlson (1892-1959) and Leila Bell Mulkey (1894-1974). As a Technician, TE-2, she served in the US Navy (1952-1956) during the Korean War.⁶⁹

Notes:

- There are conflicting details concerning Viola's father's date of birth. The 1880 census shows Charles Henry Burlson as being 9 years old. The 1900 census says his birth date was March 1872, and his death certificate states he was born 11 Feb 1875.⁷⁰
- The 1910 census, enumerated 18 April 1910, contains a "D" in the "single, married widowed, or divorced" column indicating that Viola's parents had divorced.⁷¹ Aleva died 5 weeks before the census was taken. Charles and Aleva could have divorced after the 1900 census and before Aleva's death in 1905. Charles and Margaret Gillian (1890-1941), were never married; the divorce indicated would not have been for that relationship. They had two children together, Clarence H. Burlson and Dorothy Lorraine Burlson. The 1920 census notes Charles still living in Uniontown, Kentucky, along with Clarence. Margaret and Dorothy do not appear on the record with Charles.⁷²
- The connection to Detroit for Viola and her father appears to be her younger brother Charles who was a conductor for the Department Street Railway, a position he held at least as early as 1930.⁷³

About the Author



David Burlson is a retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel, son of the late USAF Chief Master Sergeant Ned Garner Burlson, and father of the late USA Staff Sergeant Geoffrey Lance Burlson, USAF Major (Lieutenant Colonel select) Jeremiah Burlson currently stationed in Anchorage, Alaska, and USAF Staff Sergeant Micah Burlson currently stationed in Tacoma, Washington. Pictured here from July 2024 are Major Jeremiah Burlson, his wife Delaine Forbes Burlson, granddaughter of the late USA Lieutenant Colonel Barney Hubbard Forbes, and their daughter Irene Mary Burlson.

⁶⁹ Edna Bessie Burlson in the [U.S., Headstone Applications for Military Veterans, 1861-1985](#). National Archives at St. Louis; St. Louis, MO, USA; *Applications for Headstones, 1/1/1925 - 6/30/1970*; NAID: 596118; Record Group Number: 92; Record Group Title: *Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General*.

⁷⁰ "United States Census, 1900", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:M9C3-LVJ> : Mon Jul 01 15:07:11 UTC 2024), Entry for Charlie Burlison and Levia Burlison, 1900.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² "United States Census, 1920", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:MHPJ-LJH> : Fri Mar 08 04:39:52 UTC 2024), Entry for Charlie Burlison and Clarence Burlison, 1920.

⁷³ "Michigan, World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1940-1947", *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QPT3-XNSJ> : Sun Mar 10 11:45:37 UTC 2024), Entry for Charles Hampton Burlson and Department Street Railway, 16 February 1942.

Lineage:

Charles Henry Burleson (Burlison) (1875-1922) and Aleva J. Shuck (1876-1905).

Isaac Nelson Burlison (1848-1928) and Ellen Parks (1847- unknown)

Adam Hampton Burlison (1826-1914) and Aletha Ann Albright (1819-1895)

Aaron Burlison (1786-1866) and Elizabeth Hampton (1789-1874)

Aaron Burleson (1749-1783) and Volley Hogan (1750-1840)

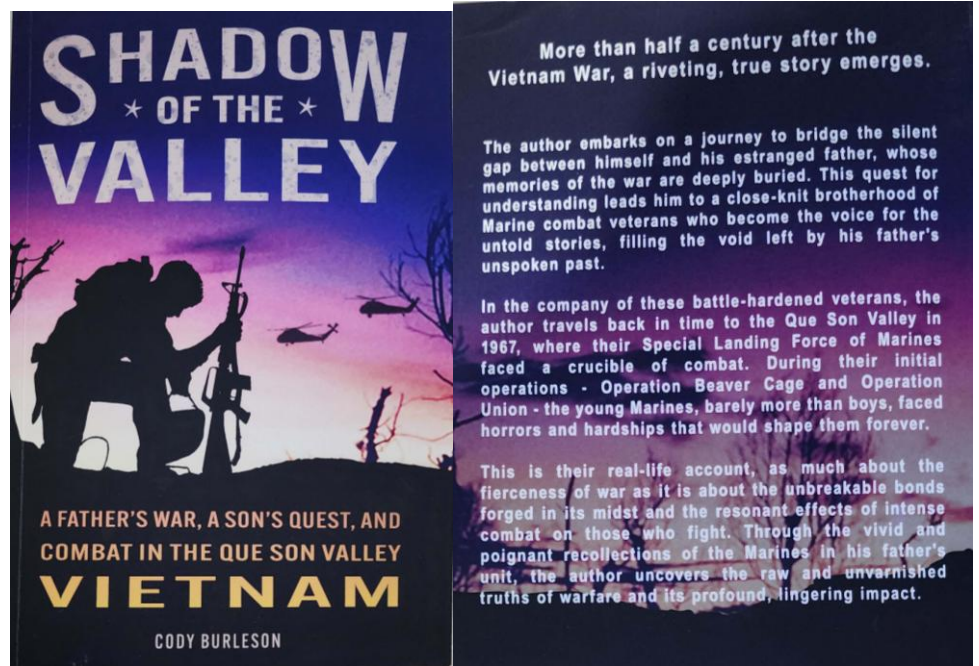
Aaron Burleson (1722-1781) and Rachel (last name unknown)

Cody Burleson on Alan Burleson, His Father



Alan Burleson shows for many Burleson reunions in North Carolina and Texas. Much more often he appears at a very different type of reunion... those dedicated to the survivors of “1/3”. That’s first of the third, a once large unit of Marines that served in the bloodiest period of the Vietnam War. The time and place was 1967’s “DMZ” We all recognize from movies and current affairs news that DMZ means demilitarized zone. But Alan and his comrades knew it as the “Dead Marine Zone.” In the early days following Alan’s service in Vietnam, another fierce battle would take place... the emotional struggle to keep his family’s survival.

Through Cody Burleson’s new book and his generous interview we learned the bitter and painful details of the two battles fought twelve thousand miles and years apart. Cody was two when his father and mother split. He would not see Alan again until he was nineteen. That seventeen year absence was laced with the bombardment of his mother’s constant reminder that Alan left when he was two and never tried to make contact, calling him simply “the a__hole.” Coupled with that was experiencing the physical and mental abuse of “Bill”, his stepfather. Cody couldn’t remember Alan at all in his childhood. At the urging of his sister, dead broke without prospects, Cody broke down and reunited with Alan in Florida. It came at an opportune moment that began healing and understanding. Alan wasn’t capable of explaining to Cody what happened to him in war or after- even today. Cody came in contact with Alan’s fellow unit marines; they were able to substantially fill in the explanation. Cody’s book tells the story of Alan through their eyes.





On the Bayfield

Jim Shipp (left) and Alan Burlison (right), on the USS Bayfield, 1967.

The 1/3 was to begin a 200+ battle in a thirteen month period that forever changed the participants. “Dead Marine Zone” was not a term used lightly. The many casualties suffered by this unit are listed with regularity in Burlison’s book. In 1967 the Marines occupied 14% of the manpower slots in Vietnam, however they sadly represented 25% of the casualties. One of the primary sources for battle descriptions was William V. Taylor, Jr., a fellow marine. Taylor wrote the foreword to Cody’s book and authored one of his own. They collaborated greatly on each other’s work.



William V. Taylor Jr.

The language, scenery description and explanation of battle in both books reminds me of the presentation style of Stephen Ambrose of “Band of Brothers “ fame. I commented to Cody after seeing a dozen Vietnam War movies I felt an episodic work in Ambrose quality was long overdue. He agreed and quickly stated Taylor’s book might be the answer. Having just read Burlison’s “Shadow of the Valley” and Taylor’s “On Full Auto”, I think Cody is too humble. A collaboration of both could be epic.

The picture above with Alan and Shipp went unidentified for years until Cody clarified it for us. Jim Shipp was a great friend of Alan’s. He and a dozen fellow members of the 1st Battalion of the 3rd Marines special landing force “Alpha” helped tell Alan’s (and their) experiences. Cody refers to them almost as co-authors. Cody flows from wartime to stateside experiences in his book- so will I. Alan * volunteered for service in the Marines. The asterisk is there because the volunteer status was an alternative to jail meted out by a judge. As a teen Alan went with a buddy and his underage girlfriend across state lines into Louisiana on a liquor run. Upon appearance before the judge his ultimatum was clear, “join up or suffer the consequences.” Alan accepted the former. Following basic training, he was whisked away quickly to join in the big push near the DMZ.



1st Battalion, 3rd Marines (the Battalion Landing Team of Special Landing Force Alpha), Vietnam 1967

Photo by Bruce Axelrod



PFC Kenneth (Ken) Hicks in his Kapok life vest.



Marines loading onto a Mike boat from the USS Bayfield.
Photo from Marine veteran James Haight who said, "I always thought of 1st Battalion / 3rd Marines in Vietnam as the last of the old Corps because of going over the side, down the rope ladders."



James Haight and Kenneth Hicks provided much insight for the construction of the book. Departure from large ships onto smaller boats only to be taken away to a battle zone by helicopter must have ratcheted up stress levels to an extraordinary level.

The choppers dropped off loads of marines to the DMZ; please see the map section just right of Laos. Sounds of gunfire and mortars met them immediately. Corporal Jesse D. Hittson was on hand for the setup.



The DMZ was along the demarcation line between North and South Vietnam. Special Landing Force Alpha and its Battalion Landing Team of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines operated there and in I-Corps, the northernmost of the four South Vietnamese tactical zones.

Firefights were immediate; that meant the extraction of wounded or dead just as quickly. There was no time to dwell on the loss of brother marines/ no time to grieve or understand.

As wounded and dead were airlifted to larger ships, they were separated and brought up on different elevators... hospital crew never wanted a living marine to look over at another gurney to observe one their own dead. I never thought about that but that detail stayed with me. There are several like that in the book. Another that haunted me was the observance of one marine placed with the dead; he had a green waterproof poncho covering all but a portion of his face. Unable to speak, the wounded man could only cry. Tears flowing from his eyes were seen enabling him to escape the killed in action grouping. How can these scenes NOT be put onscreen?



UH-34 choppers return to the USS Okinawa at dusk after Operation Beaver Cage.

Inevitably, those killed at battlefield and those who later died of wounds were honored in all-to-often ceremonies on ship deck. This allowed short reflection time for those on ship. As for most of the 1/3, they were still jungle bound... no rest.



Aligned across the deck USS Okinawa (LPH-3) are helmets of those who gave their lives on Operation Beaver Cage and on Operation Union.

On went the battles, little period to mentally recover. It was incessant. After each incident, carefully named and chronicled, were the marines shuffled back into helicopters for a new conflict.



Photo by Bruce Axelrod



Finally, one of those helicopters took Alan and some of his surviving mates away to reload onto the big ship to go home. When Alan returned he was different and he he knew it. But he didn't know exactly how. He was unable to relate to his wife or his two young children. Before Cody's third birthday, Alan was gone...probably for good. Cody was too young to make sense of it. Cody's sister, Dawn was two years older than him. She knew she had a dad that was just gone and that he'd been in Vietnam. Dawn argued with their mother constantly; the tension with their new stepfather manifested into emotional as well as physical fights.

By her teen years, Dawn withdrew into drugs, sex and food to dangerous levels. Cody simply drew within himself. Bill berated him and treated him as though he was worthless.



After high school, Cody felt rudderless. No job...no money...no prospects. He traveled to San Marcos, Texas with a friend with an eye toward enrolling at Texas State University. The two got an apartment together. Two months later, the roommate announced he'd blown the next month's rent. Cody was basically stranded. He called Dawn for advice.

Dawn came to her "rock bottom" six years earlier. She found Alan and arranged to meet. In short, Dawn and Alan reconciled, coming to a new understanding. In the ensuing six years Dawn encouraged Cody to reach out to Alan. Cody declined... just not interested. But in his final desperation, he relented. The call was placed; Cody described the pickle he was in. Alan told him if he could just get to Florida, he could put Cody up until they could sort it all out. Cody barely scraped enough for bus ticket to Florida. On arrival, Cody was greeted by a smiling, almost "Zen-like" man. In the months that followed Alan was then able to clearly communicate his acute case of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Neither he nor any of his colleagues ever knew what PTSD was. There wasn't even a name for it in 1967. A half dozen years after the war, Alan began treatment, teaching him coping mechanisms. Counseling continued for quite awhile. Cody told me the troubles cost his dad decades of grief, loss of relationships with children and enough marriages to "rival Elizabeth Taylor." Through subsequent marriages Cody was able to acquire step siblings like Tai and Blake. You may recall BFRG wrote an article devoted to Blake in a New York "Iron Man" competition; we even carried it live on Cousining.





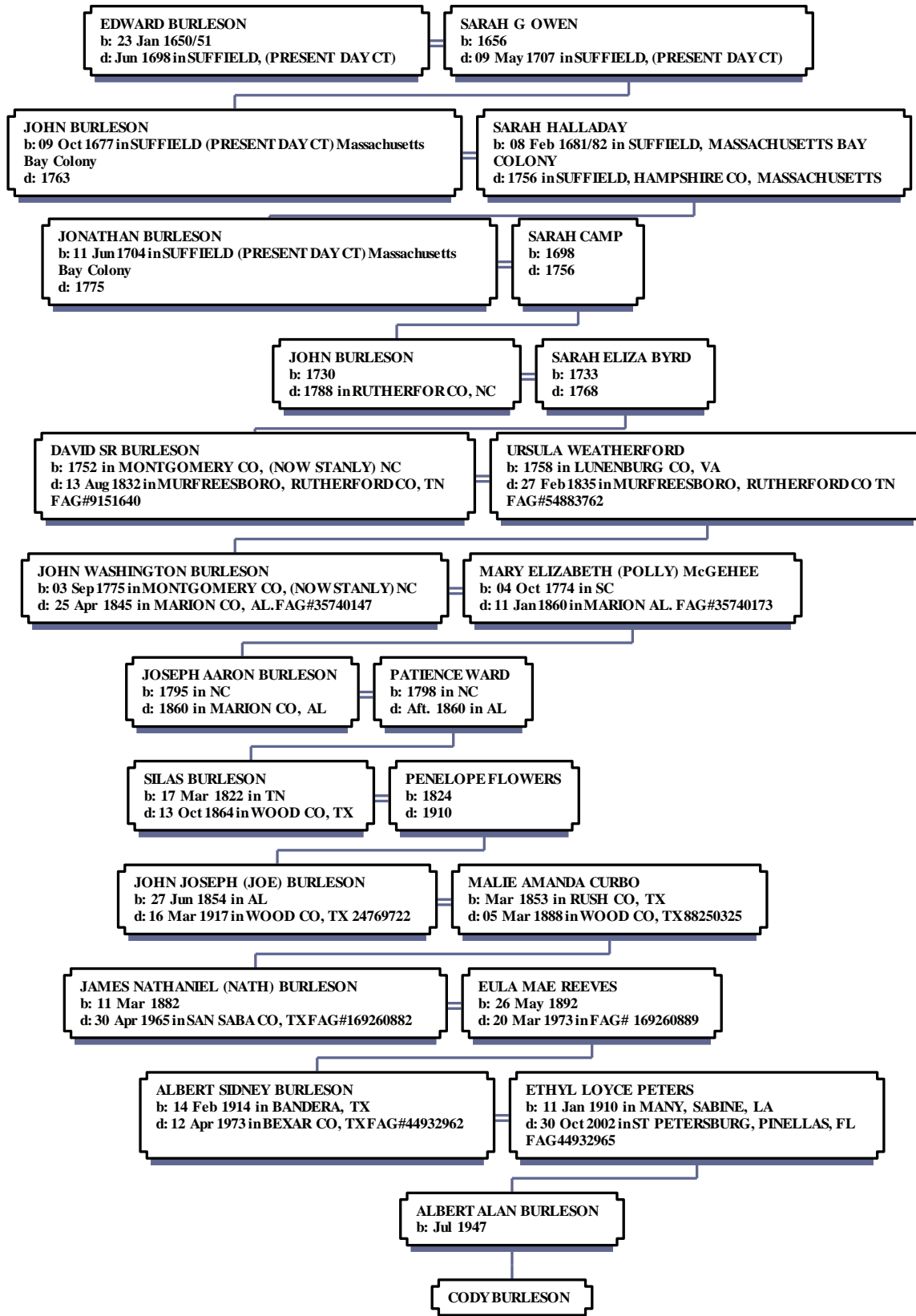
Shown are Cody's wife, Karlisa McKenney Bureson and sister Dawn Bureson. Not terribly long after Dawn passed away. Although she'd become drug free and slimmed to a healthy weight, the toll on the abuse of her body was lost. Doctors advised the family her heart just gave out. At Dawn's passing, Alan and Cody shared the event of spreading her ashes at sea. It took decades to finally arrive at a new peace for this Bureson family. The casualties of war and post war are remembered with great respect. With help and cooperation, Alan's won the family.



When asked for Alan's review of Shadow of the Valley, his response was: " I didn't think it would come to pass or live long enough to see it published but when he sent me the preface it was shock and awe. It took awhile to sink in how he put his own life story into mine...blown me away...then leading into the story he worked really hard on that book to get all the details still amazes me. He came to my reunions and interviewed the Marines to get their stories...and travel around the U.S to gain as many interviews as possible and double check the details and dates. Then one day I got word it was published and I ordered my copy right away. When I got it I just stared at it spellbound. I had to go to town...it hit me, my eyes watered up ...I had to pull over,I was completely overwhelmed. What we did ...our history and our stories won't be forgotten. They can be passed down for generations. I'm very proud of Cody for making this possible for me and my brother Marines although many are no longer with us. Their story has been told and will go on... for generations."



Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



Special thanks to Cody Burleson for allowing us use of excerpts and photographs from his book and family collection.



Jim Burleson

BFRG Research

jimburlison8554@gmail.com

JD Burleson's BFRG's Mini Field Trip

August 22 – 24 2024

This was one great trip, I drove to Murfreesboro, TN on Thursday the 22nd, arrived at the Stone River Battlefield just in time to get a map, so I spent 2 hours walking around the civil war battlefield.



Then on Friday I met with Alan Burleson and family at the site of David Burleson's old farm and cemetery.



JD, Cody, Tai, Alan and Blake



Karlisa, Cody, Tai, Alan and Blake



This was the entrance to the woods where we started looking for the cemetery. (35.91913, -86.48970)
We walked in, it took us about 15 minutes to find the cemetery.



Alan checking out his 5th great grandfather, and his kid's 6th





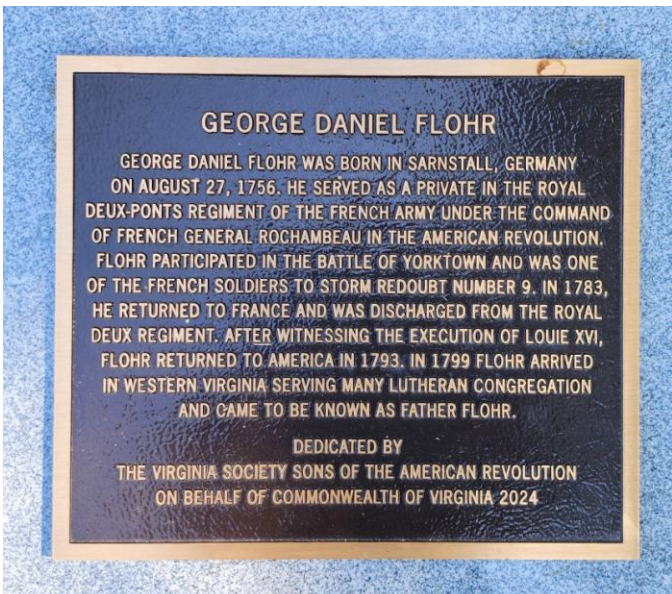
David Burlison Sr, notice they spelled his name Burlison, Isaac Burlison, David's son, they spelled his name Burlison, and Haskell Burlison, Isaac's son and David's grandson, they spelled his name Burlason.

We then went to Legend's Steakhouse and had a nice lunch, I really enjoyed meeting Alan again and loved meeting his family. Also check out the article Jim Burlison wrote about Cody and his book "Shadow of the Valley" about A Fathers War, A son's Quest, and Combat in the Que Son Valley, Vietnam, in this issue.



Alan, Karlisa, Cody, Tai, and Blake

I then drove to Jonesbough, TN and had dinner with Cousin Larry Dale and Sandy Gaddy Burleson, they are a most gracious host, where I spent the night. Saturday I went to Saints Johns Cemetery, Wytheville, VA for a grave marker ceremony for Rev George Daniel Flohr (1756-1826) A Minister and A Revolutionary War Patriot. Where I was a NC SAR representative in the Honor Guard.



JD Burleson
BFRG Researcher
bfrginfo@gmail.com

Major Milestones

BFRG's newest Great Grand Parents, Chester and Jeanne Burlson Stephens, would like to announce the arrival of our first great grandchild, Judith Elise Maxwell 07-26-2024 8 lbs 8 ozs Johnson City, Washington Co, TN, USA Daughter of Timothy and Anna Stephens Maxwell



Chester and Jeanne Burlson Stephens



Chad Elliot Stephens & Judith Elise Maxwell

Granddaughter of Chad Elliot and Lisa Taylor Stephens

Judith Elise Maxwell's Burlson Family Line, Timothy and Anna Stephens Maxwell, Chad Elliot and Lisa Taylor Stephens, Chester and Jeanne Burlson Stephens, Fred & Pauline Vaughn Burlson, Oscar Zebulon & Florence Young Burlson, Robert Zebulon & Frances (Frankie) Burlson, William & Rose A Huntley Burlson, Wilson (Wilt) & Frances (Franka) Davis Burlson, Aaron (Big Aaron) & Elizabeth (Libby) McKinney Burlson, Thomas (Daunt) & Margaret Jane Greene Burlson, Aaron & Rachel Burlson, Jonathan & Sarah Camp Burlson, John & Sarah Halladay Burlson, Edward & Sarah Owen.

Alice Lorene Underwood Scott 3 Aug 1927 – 20 May 2021

Lorene Underwood Scott of Albemarle passed away Thursday, May 20, 2021 at Atrium Health Cabarrus in Concord. Lorene was born August 3, 1927 in North Carolina to the late William Collie Underwood and the late Pearl Harwood Underwood. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Dwight Max Scott, her son, Kenneth Dwight Scott, and her brothers, Marvin J. Underwood and Vernon C. Underwood.

The family will receive friends from 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm, Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at Hartsell Funeral Home of Albemarle. The funeral service will follow at 2:00 pm at Hartsell Funeral Home Lefler Memorial Chapel, officiated by Pastor Stuart Noell. Burial will follow at the Stanly Gardens of Memory at 2001 East Main St., Albemarle.

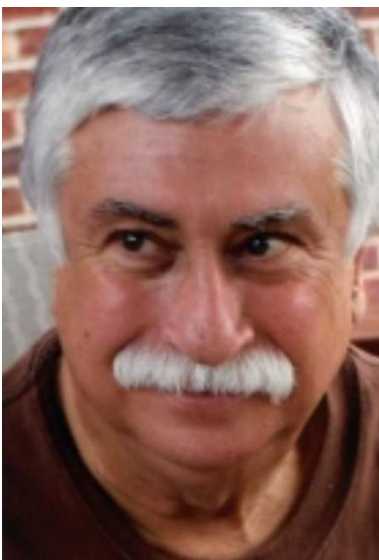
Survivors include daughter, Jo Scott of Albemarle, NC, daughter-in-law, Patricia Thomas Scott, grandsons, Eric Scott and Keith (Laura) Scott, great-grandson, Wyatt Scott, all of Concord, NC.

Lorene Underwood Scott's Bureson Family Line, Collie & Pearl Harwood Underwood, David Brantley & Renee Vanboy Harwooe, Davidson & Sarah Ann Sides Harwood, Howell & Celia Almond Harwood, Absalom & Martha Leath Harwood, Joseph III & Sarah Myrick Harwood, Captain Joseph II, & Anges Cocke Harwood, Thomas & Agnes Powell Cocke, LTC Richard & Temperance Baley Cocke, Cicely Baley.



Last week I was going thru the documentation from John Hoyle Bureson, to scan and document all of his research. Me (JD Bureson) and John Hoyle Bureson built the BFRG and he was life and soul of the local BFRG in Stanly County, NC for the first 25 years. Then we went international and now we have over 30 contributor's that are helping make the BFRG bigger and better than ever, with our introduction of **Cousining**. That obituary kind of just fell out of the file and made me realize that I haven't focused on all my cousins here in Stanly County, NC. Lorene is my 3rd cousin once removed and this line we are in goes back to Jamestowne Virginia, 1600. So I think I need to use our platform to inform all the Harwoods of their ancestry that will help them get in the Jamestowne Society.

Michael Dwayne Bureson



Michael Dwayne Bureson, 58 of Kannapolis passed away on February 5, 2011 at home in Rockwell. Micheal was born May 18, 1952 in Jascksonville, FL, son of the late Mr. Lowell Bureson and Blanche Troutman Bureson. He was a 1970 graduate of East Rowan High School and worked for Schaefer Interstate and Fuchs Systems as a Mechanical Designer. Micheal was of the Lutheran faith. He was a veteran of the US Army. Micheal loved riding motorcycles, going to the beach, listening to music and watching Sci-Fi Movies. In addition to his parents, Micheal is preceeded in death by his sister Bonnie McGinley and his brother Johnny Bureson. Micheal is survived by his companinon of 15 years, Betty Yates of Rockwell, nephew Ryan McGinley and wife Kelly of Raleigh, niece Misty Bureson of Rockwell and sister Becky Wilson of Rockwell. The funeral will be at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, February 9th at the Powles Funeral Home Chapel conducted by Elder Hector Chrest and burial will follow at St. James Lutheran Cemetery. The family will receive friends on Wednesday,

February 9th from 12:30 PM until 2:00 PM at Powles Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to Hospice and Palliative Care, 101 Hospice Lane, Winston-Salem, NC 27103. Powles Funeral Home is assisting.





Lowell Edward Burleson, 79, of Rockwell, died Saturday, Feb. 18, 2006, at his residence. Mr. Burleson was born on Sept. 23, 1926, in Stanly County to the late William Shellie Burleson and Tenie Vanhoy Burleson Wilburn. He was educated in the Rowan County Schools. Mr. Burleson is a retired U.S. Navy Veteran with 20 years of service and served during World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He worked for Fiber Industries, Daniels Construction Company and retired from Rockwell Radio and Electric as a plumber. Mr. Burleson was a member of the Cabul Masonic Lodge # 116 Green Cove Springs, Fla. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife Blanche Troutman Burleson, who died Sept. 13, 1998. Survivors include his sons Johnny Burleson of Rockwell

and Mike Burleson of Kannapolis; daughters Becky B. Wilson of Rockwell and Bonnie McGinley of Kannapolis; brothers Calvin Burleson of Gold Hill and Bill Burleson of Salisbury; sisters Jeanette Hall of Mooresville and Polly Laws of Rockwell; Grandchildren Misty Ann Burleson of Rockwell, Ryan McGinley of Raleigh; great-grandchildren Gerald McGinley and Erin McGinley of Raleigh. Service: Graveside Services 11 a.m. Tuesday, Brookhill Memorial Gardens, Rockwell conducted by Elizabeth Hyland, Chaplain at Lake Norman Medical Center. Military Graveside Rites will be conducted by the Rowan County Honor Guard. Visitation: 6-8 p.m. tonight at Powel's Funeral Home.

Michael Dwayne Burleson's Family Line is, Lowel & Blanche Troutman Burleson, Shellie & Tina Vanhoy Burleson, Eben & Dora Hopkins Burleson, Billie and Sarah Harwood Burleson, Isaac Jr. and Catherine, Castle Burleson, Isaac Sr. and Martha Clay Burleson (NC Soldier in American Revolution), John & Sarah Eliza Byrd Burleson, Jonathan & Sarah Camp Burleson, John & Sarah Halladay Burleson, Edward & Sarah Owen.



WADE DANIEL BURLESON SR.

Wade Daniel Burleson Sr., 72, of Lexington, passed away at his home surrounded by many who loved him on Thursday, July 28, 2022. He was born April 6, 1950, in Winston Salem, NC to the late Wade Burleson and Mildred Starnes Burleson. Wade worked as a machine operator for Phillip Morris. In his spare time, he enjoyed gardening and spending time with his grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was a member of Madison Heights Freewill Baptist Church.

In addition to his parents, Wade was preceded in death by a sister, Tammy Carol Gray and several brothers.

Wade is survived by his wife, Ruth Burleson of the home; a son, Wade Daniel Burleson Jr., (Susan) and a daughter, Corrinne Burleson (James); all of Lexington; eight grandchildren;

nine great grandchildren; brothers, James Edward, Joseph, and Barry Burleson; and sisters, Lynn Bowman, Janie Miller, Martha Hill and Ann Brandow; and a host of nephews and nieces.

A memorial service will be held At Madison Heights Freewill Baptist Church, 214 Andrew Sink Rd, Lexington, NC 27295, on Saturday August 13th, at 2:00pm.

Wade Burleson's Family Line, WADE DANIEL SR. & MILDRED STARNES BURLESON, SHEM & JANIE ALICE BURLESON, WILLIAM (BILLIE) & RHODA SPRINGER BURLESON, Isaac JR. and Catherine Castle Burleson, Isaac Sr. and Martha Clay Burleson (NC Soldier in American Revolution), JOHN & SARAH ELIZA BYRD BURLESON, Jonathan & Sarah Camp Burleson, John & Sarah Halladay Burleson, Edward & Sarah Owen.

Creed Donald Burleson, Sr.

July 31, 1936 — October 14, 2016

Creed Donald Burleson, Sr., age 80, of Marion went to be with the Lord Friday, October 14, 2016 at Memorial Campus in Asheville, North Carolina. Mr. Burleson was born on July 31, 1936 to the late Herbert and Viola Thomas Burleson.

Mr. Burleson was a retired veteran of the United States Navy where he proudly served four tours in Vietnam. Following his Naval career, he then served his county by working in the McDowell County School system for many years. Mr. "B" as he was affectionately known, worked as a counselor and substitute teacher.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife Peggy Sue Mashburn Burleson who passed away in 2012.

Left to cherish Mr. Burleson's memory are three sons, Creed Donald Burleson, Jr., Alan Scott Burleson and Kevin Shawn Burleson and wife Doris; one brother, Hubert Burleson; and also surviving are three granddaughters, Alex, Gabi and Anna; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A funeral service will be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at New Manna Baptist Church. The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment with full military honors by the United States Navy will follow at the Western Carolina State Veteran Cemetery in Black Mountain, North Carolina.



Creed Donald Burleson Sr Burleson Family Line, Herbert & Viola Thomas Burleson, William E & Jencie Buchanan, William D & Rose Huntley Burleson, Wilson (Wilt) & Frances Davis Burleson, Aaron (Big Aaron) & Elizabeth McKinney Burleson, Thomas (Daunt) & Margaret Jane Greene Burleson, Aaron & Rachel Burleson, Jonathan & Sarah Camp Burleson, John & Sarah Halladay Burleson, Edward & Sarah Owen.

Elaine Burleson

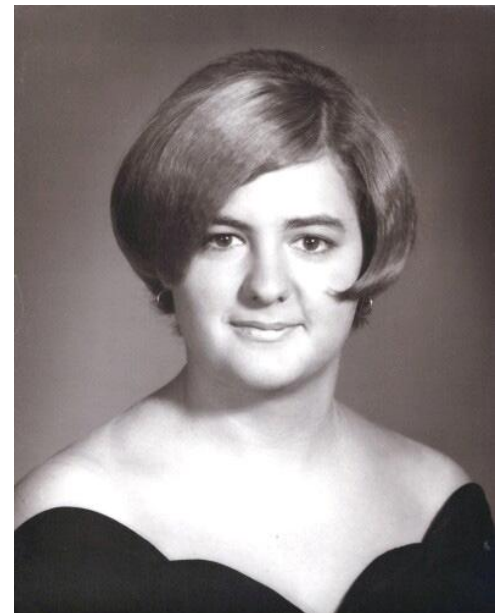
August 13, 1950 — July 22, 2024

Elaine Burleson, 73, of Johnson City, passed away unexpectedly on Monday afternoon, July 22, 2024, at the Johnson City Medical Center. She was surrounded by the comfort of her family. Elaine was the daughter of the late Jeraldine Kilekas.

She enjoyed spending time with her family and her beloved cat "Charlie". Elaine could always be found with a sweet tea in her hand. Elaine and her husband Mike owned and operated Quality Trophy in Johnson City for 34 years.

In addition to her mother, Elaine was preceded in death by her grandson, Chance Burleson. She is survived by her husband, Mike Burleson; daughter, Heather Burleson Griffith (Dawson O'Dell); son, Troy Burleson; grandchildren, Chloe and Caleb Griffith; and sister, Kathryn Stuckey (Bob). Elaine had 2 non biological children she called her own; Sarah Arrowood and Damien Hall. Maternal cousins include Cindy Ayers, Linda Ayers Smith, Gail Hicks, Jawina Fagan, Gary McCurry, Larry Ayers, Lynn Ayers-Ibrahim, Ronnie King, Donald King and Jimmy Ayers.

The Burleson family will honor Elaine's life with a Graveside Service on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at Roselawn Memorial Gardens in the Garden of the Last Supper beginning at 2 p.m. with Rev. Lenny Smith officiating.



Mary Frances Franklin

22 April 1926 – 11 June 2024

Mary Frances Franklin, 98 years old of Trinity, passed away peacefully in Trinity, TX, June 11, 2024. Mary was born April 22, 1926, in Donie, Texas. She was the daughter of Luther Oliver and Emma Delia Newsom.

Mary enjoyed the old school art of Quilting, she hand crafted many quilts for family and her friends. She was a great cook and loved being in the kitchen cooking for all to enjoy. She had a sharp mind and could quickly work a crossword puzzle and enjoyed the challenge of new puzzles. Fox News was her go to station on the television, keeping herself informed on what was going on in the world.

Mary is preceded in death by her husband Thomas A. Franklin, brother Ralph Newsom and her parents.

Mary is survived by son Garry Franklin and wife Robbie, daughter Deborah Watson; step-son Bobby Franklin four grandchildren Ryan Franklin and wife Ashley, Charles Goodwin and wife Kathy, Lenzy Hargrave, Clinton Watson and wife Esperanza: eight great-grandchildren Brianna, Calin, Easton, Aiden, Kiley, John, Eva, and Nolan: one brother Ray Newsom and wife Parthena, numerous other relatives also survive.



*Mary Frances Franklin's Burluson Family Line is, Luther Oliver & Emma Richardson Newsom, John & Prudy Bottoms Newsom, Eldridge & Eliza Self Bottoms, William & Elizabeth (Polly) Burluson Self, Moses & Edith (Edy) Hobson Burluson, **David Sr & Ursula Weatherford Burluson** (NC Soldier in American Revolution), Jonathan & Sarah Camp Burluson, John & Sarah Halladay Burluson, Edward & Sarah Owen.*

Don Ray Newsom

April 29, 1930 - July 1, 2024

Funeral services for Ray Newsom will be held on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Bowers Funeral Home in Teague. Bro. Robert McDougal will officiate. Interment will follow the services at Birdston Cemetery near Streetman. Visitation will be held on Wednesday, prior to the services, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Don Ray Newsom was born in Donie on April 29, 1930. He graduated from Wortham High School with the class of 1949, and entered into the U.S. Air Force where he served for four years including over one year stationed overseas and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal before his honorable discharge in 1954. He married Lois Steele on June 23, 1951, and shared over fifty-nine years of marriage together before being separated by her death on February 27, 2011. Mr. Newsom owned & operated a food service contracting business for the military for twenty-five years before working as a truck driver for J. B. Hunt for several years prior to his retirement. Ray returned to the workforce for the final time working for Freestone County. He enjoyed seeing and visiting with people on his county job and worked until the age of ninety-two. Ray married Parthena on February 10, 2018, and shared a brief but wonderful marriage together. Mr. Newsom enjoyed watching horse racing and listening to classic country music. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Donie.



He is survived by his wife, Parthena Newsom of Buffalo; two daughters, Nina Manor of Streetman and Jan Baker & husband David of Roanoke; five grandchildren, Roger Grube, Dan Grube & wife Heather, Brooklyn Baker Ross & husband Blake, Bryson Baker, and Lauren Baker; two great-grandchildren, John Henry Grube and Starla Grube; one step-son, Herbert Roach & wife Theresa & their children, Mandy Roach and Herbert Allen Roach, Jr.; one brother-in-law, Billy Steele; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Mr. Newsom was preceded in death by his parents, Luther & Emma Newsom; his wife, Lois Newsom, one brother, Ralph Newsom; one sister, Mary Frances Franklin; and one son-in-law, Elbert Manor.

Don Ray Newsom's Burleson Family Line is, *Luther Oliver & Emma Richardson Newsom, John & Prudy Bottoms Newsom, Eldridge & Eliza Self Bottoms, William & Elizabeth (Polly) Burleson Self, Moses & Edith (Edy) Hobson Burleson, David Sr & Ursula Weatherford Burleson (NC Soldier in American Revolution), Jonathan & Sarah Camp Burleson, John & Sarah Halladay Burleson, Edward & Sarah Owen.*

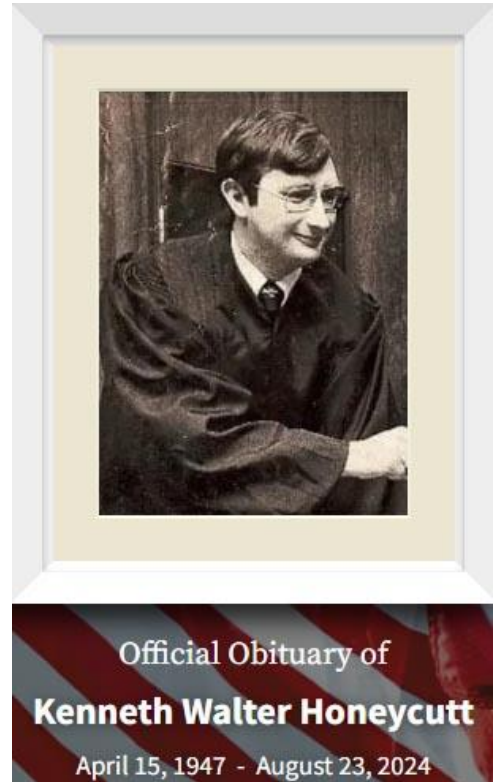
Kenneth Walter Honeycutt Obituary

Kenneth Walter Honeycutt, age 77, passed away on August 23, 2024, in Monroe, NC. He was born on April 15, 1947, to the late Arthur and Frankie Honeycutt. He is also preceded in death by a sister, Wanda Whitiker, and a brother, Elwood Honeycutt.

Kenneth is survived by his wife, Jane Walters Honeycutt, son, David Honeycutt (Janet), daughter, Julia Price (Richard), sister, Vicki Smith, brothers, Rick Honeycutt, Rodney Honeycutt, and Scott Honeycutt, and four grandchildren, Anakin Honeycutt, Walt Honeycutt, Jack Wheeler, and Lilly Wheeler.

A celebration of his life will be held at 1:00 PM on Thursday, August 29, 2024, in the Chapel of Gordon Funeral Service. The family will receive friends from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM on Wednesday, August 28, 2024, at Gordon Funeral Service and Crematory, 1904 Lancaster Ave. Monroe, NC 28112.

Kenneth's Burleson Family Line is, Arthur & Frankie Christy Honeycutt, Noah & Lucinda Tucker Honeycutt, William & Lyda Carolina Burleson Tucker, John Wesley & Sarah Page Burleson, Joseph & Nancy Rogers Burleson, Isaac Sr. and Martha Clay Burleson (NC Soldier in American Revolution), John & Sarah Eliza Byrd Burleson, Jonathan & Sarah Camp Burleson, John & Sarah Halladay Burleson, Edward & Sarah Owen.



Our brand new Burleson



Jim Burleson's brother Dave's son [Jeremiah Burleson](#) and [Delaine Burleson](#) were blessed with 8 lbs. 10 oz. 21" David Charles Burleson this morning. Congratulations guys and thanks for our brand new Burleson. Dave Burleson is a BFRG Research, and contributor to our Recollections Newsletter.

David Charles Burleson Family Line, Jeremiah & Delaine Forbes Burleson, Dave & Tanya Burleson,

Ned & Mary Dupre Burleson, Holbert & Edna Wiseman Burleson, Asa (ACE) & Judie Greene, James Glascock & Emaline Weatherman.



Welcome to the world, Irene Mary Burleson



Introducing David Charles Burleson.

David is named after two great men in our lives. My father, David Burleson, and Delaine Burleson's father, Charles Forbes, have always been there for us. There was never a question that when we knew he was going to be a boy, that he would be named after them.

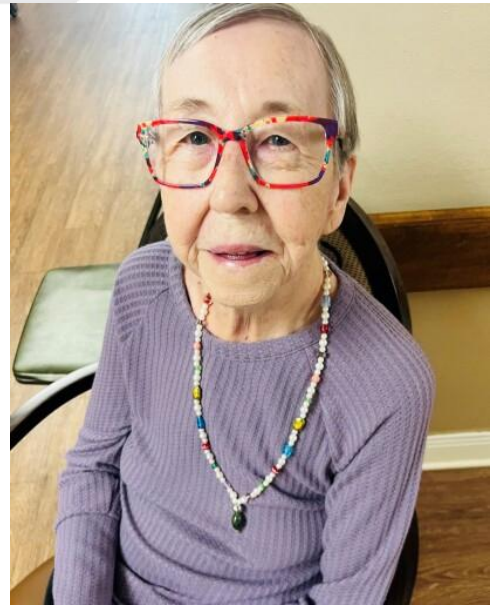
Delaine and David are both healthy and doing well. Now we'll see what Irene thinks of her little brother 🥰 🥰

Phyllis Webb Burleson

01 August 1940 – 30 September 2024

Phyllis Webb Burleson, age 84, went to be with the Lord Sept 30, 2024. She was born in Marion, NC to the late Rev Roy & Easter Plemmons Webb on August 1, 1940. She was preceded in death by her parents, 2 sisters and 7 brothers. Surviving are daughters, Lisa Micol and Julie Burleson-Tucker, three precious grandchildren, Spencer Micol, Kaitlyn Vance and Kyndyl Collins and 2 great-grandchildren, Finley & Lua Micol.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at 3pm Saturday, October 5, 2024, at Hayworth-Miller Rural Hall. Visitation will follow after the service.



In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Hurricane Relief Fund in mom's hometown.

Phyllis' Burleson Family Line is thru her husband, Roy Boyce Burleson, Clayton & Alma Lindsay Burleson, William & Jencie Buchanan Burleson, William Davis & Rose Huntley Burleson, Wilson (Wilt) & Frances Davis Burleson, Aaron (Big Aaron) & Elizabeth McKinney Burleson, Thomas (Daunt) & Margaret Greene Burleson, Aaron & Rachel Burleson (Patriot in American Revolution)

Obituary for Lois Lee Burleson 29 April 1929 – 13 September 2024

Lois Lee Burleson was born April 29, 1929 in Marion County, AL. She passed away from this life at the age of 95, September 13th at Lakeland Community Hospital in Haleyville, AL. She was a lifelong resident of Haleyville and retired from the Haleyville Textile. She was also a member of Ninth Avenue Church of Christ.

Her visitation will be Wednesday September 18, 2024 from 12:00NOON - 2:00PM at Pinkard Funeral Home in Haleyville, AL. Funeral service at 2:00PM in the chapel, with Vance Hutton officiating. Burial in Winston Memorial Cemetery.

She is survived by her son, Donnie Burleson (Joan); sister, Ruth Osborne; grandsons, John Walker Burleson (Leslie) and Conner Burleson (Jaci); great grandchildren, Brayden Burleson and Harper Burleson.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Homer and Core Lee and her husband, Hextor Burleson.

*Lois Lee's Burleson Family Line is thru her husband Hextor Burleson, Walker W & Allma Addison Burleson, Steve & Elizabeth (Betty) Haley Burleson, David & Susan Flowers Burleson, Hilkiah & Penelope Pope Burleson, **David Sr & Ursula Weatherford Burleson** (NC Soldier in American Revolution), Jonathan & Sarah Camp Burleson, John & Sarah Halladay Burleson, Edward & Sarah Owen*

Lela Rae Mays Shotts 1930 – 28 September 2024

Lela Rae Shotts, age 94, passed away peacefully and surrounded by family at UAB hospital on September 28, 2024.

Lela Rae was an elementary school teacher in Marion County for 38 years. She taught Sunday School until she was 90 years old and afterward she taught her great grandchildren about the love of Christ until the last weeks of her life. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Ruble Shotts, parents Clint and Lois Mays, and brother Garland Mays. She is survived by her daughter Rebecca Cheryl Wood and husband Steve, granddaughter Sarah Purswell and husband Jody, and great-grandchildren Grace and Henry Purswell.

Visitation will be at First Baptist Church of Hamilton Alabama on Monday September 30, 2024 at 10:30 am with funeral to follow at 11:00 am.

Lela Rae Shotts always loved Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child and in lieu of flowers, she has asked for donations to Operation Christmas Child through First Baptist Church of Hamilton Alabama or through the Samaritan's Purse website at <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/.../operation-christmas...> Marion County Funeral Home assisted the family.

*Lela Rae May Shotts Burleson Family Line, Clint & Lois Mae Pollard Mays, Joel & Julia Ann Burleson Mays, Anderson & Mary Morrow Burleson, Aaron D & Louisa (Fannie) Bates Burleson, John Washington & Mary (Polly) McGehee Burleson, **David Sr & Ursula Weatherford Burleson** (NC Soldier in American Revolution), Jonathan & Sarah Camp Burleson, John & Sarah Halladay Burleson, Edward & Sarah Owen*



Bobbie Nell Burleson Efird

Bobbie Nell Burleson Efird, 93, of Albemarle, passed away Thursday, February 22, 2024, surrounded by her loved ones.

Bobbie Nell was born and raised in the Endy community of Stanly County. She was always proud and often told her children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren that she was a charter member of the Beta club. She was valedictorian of her high school class and a good basketball player. However, her and husband Kenneth's greatest passion and dedication was serving the Lord at St. Martin's Lutheran Church. They both loved and served with their church family as long as they were able. Bobbie Nell loved the Lord and she lived her faith every day. She was an amazing woman who left a positive impact on every life she touched.



Bobbie was born October 5, 1930, in Stanly County to the late Clyde N. Burleson, Sr. and the late Phronie Lee Morgan Burleson. She was also preceded in death by her beloved husband of 70 years, James Kenneth Efird; infant son, David Neal Efird; and siblings, Dillion Burleson, Audrey Faulkenbury, Joyce Burleson, and Evelyn Clark. Bobbie is survived by sons, Kevin (Nina) Efird, Dr. Randy (Lee Ann) Efird, and Bruce (Gayla) Efird; nine grandchildren, Matthew (Rachel) Efird, Levi (Mandy) Efird, Kyle (Nichole) Efird, Ben Efird, Caleb (Katie) Efird, Will (Elaina) Efird, Campbell Efird, Victoria (Jake) McCrary, and Alexandra (Andrew) Foster; fourteen great-grandchildren; brother, Clyde N. Burleson, Jr.; and sister, Marie (Carlton) Skipper.

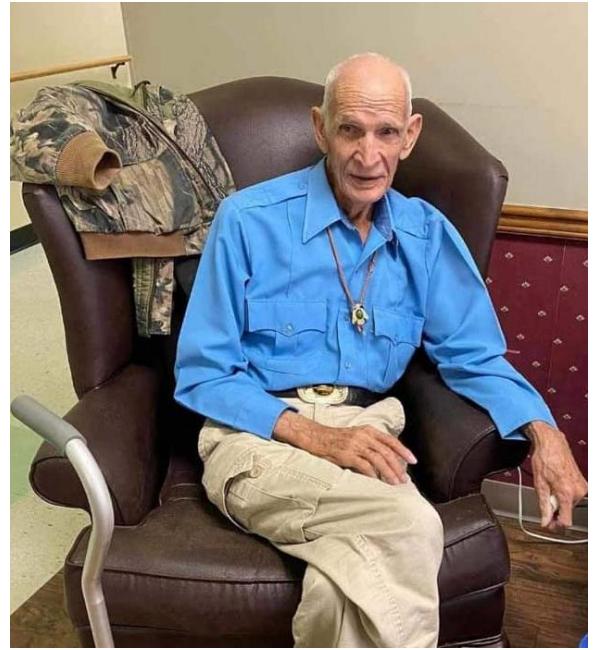
The family will receive friends from 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm, Sunday, February 25, 2024 at St. Martin's Lutheran Church. The funeral service will follow on Sunday at 3:00 pm at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Albemarle officiated by Rev. Phil Thorsen. Burial will immediately follow at the St. Martin's Lutheran Church Cemetery at 16592 St. Martin Rd, Albemarle, NC.

Bobbie Burleson Efird, Burleson Family Line, Clyde & Phronie Morgan Burleson, Gus & Isabel Whitley Burleson, William & Margaret Hatley Burleson, Billie and Sarah Harwood Burleson, Isaac and Catherine Castle Burleson, Isaac and Martha Clay Burleson (NC Soldier in American Revolution)



By Debbie Wise Denton

This is what I came up with. Hopefully there is something you can use. Feel free to change what you wish. Carl Lewis Lusk was born in Plumtree, North Carolina February 18, 1926. At a young age, he graduated from Crossnore School. Carl enlisted in the Navy from Feb 1944 to June 1946 as an aviation metal smith. He later graduated from Brevard College. He married Etta Pittman of Roaring Creek, North Carolina, May 30, 1952.



Carl and Etta loved to travel making their home in Arizona, California and eventually settling in Clear Lake, Washington where they worked for Northern State Hospital until it's closing in 1974. Since Carl was one of the few people at the Northern State Hospital, he was given the job of doctor. The hospital closed in 1973 and Carl and Etta once again fed their love of travel by signing up as a Camper Host at camp grounds across the county. They late returned to Spruce Pine, North Carolina where they lived out their lives.

Carl was proceeded in death by his parents an wife, his twin sister, Carol Lee Gunter, and siblings Lena Lusk Johnson, Opal Lusk Burleson, William Lusk, Nellie Lusk Young and half siblings, Ivor Lusk, Frank Lusk and Ted Buddy Wise. Carl's niece, Debbie Wise Denton, describes her Aunt and Uncle as her favorite. They always made her feel special and treated her to special trips to the beach or Seattle.

Center. Carl used to collect rocks and shine them, presenting his niece with fancy necklaces and racelets he had crafted. Etta was referred to as "Aunt Kay" by her Washington State nieces and nephews. She was the one who taught Debbie to sew and helped foster Debbie's love of dolls. Aunt Kay had a large doll from her childhood. If Debbie was really careful, she was allowed to hold the treasured doll. This doll now holds a special spot in niece Debbie's china hut, alongside an old truck that Carl used to ride down the hill in Plumtree while his father worked for the Vance family.

Carl had enough energy for two people and rarely sat down for long. Well into his 90's he could be found mowing the lawns of others in his neighborhood. He did not like going into the homes of others and preferred to visit outside. Carl and Kay had a way of making everyone feel like they were their favorites. They just loved on everyone.

Carl loved McDonalds and would eat their most mornings until his eyesight made it necessary for him to quit driving. Mitchell County Senior Center would pick him up and take him to the Center each day for lunch. Carl wouldn't accept a free ride though and insisted on being given a job in order to pay back what he received. Carl's nephew, Richard Gunter was dedicated to his Uncle an made sure that Carl had what he needed. His kindness and generosity ensured that his Uncle could remain at home until the day he died.

Carl L Lusk, Burleson Family Line is, Nellis C & Jencie (Jenny) Burleson, John F & Emaline (Emma) Weatherman/Burleson Hall, William A & Mary (Poppy) Weatherman Burleson, Thomas & Nancy Davis Burleson Jr., Thomas (Daunt) & Margaret Jane Greene Burleson, Aaron & Rachel Burleson (Patriot in American Revolution)



Beverly Berry Stowe Obituary

Gastonia, North Carolina

Beverly Berry Stowe of Gastonia, a South Carolina native and Ashley High School graduate who supported the ministry of her husband Rev. Dr. Joe Stowe at Southern Presbyterian churches in the Carolinas for 40 years and became the denomination's leading expert on preschool Christian education, then devoted herself to family, church, and community through 30 years as a widow, died peacefully on October 13 at her longtime home in Covenant Village under the care of Carolina Caring (formerly Gaston Hospice). She was 93. The Stoves served Williamston Presbyterian Church in South Carolina; Central Steele Creek Presbyterian Church in Mecklenburg County; First Presbyterian Church in Mooresville, N.C.; First Presbyterian Church in Monroe, N.C.; and First Presbyterian Church in Myrtle Beach, S.C., before retiring to Gaston County in 1983 to establish 18-acre Just-A-Mere Farm. The first year, they planted and harvested five acres of okra. Joe remained active in interim ministry while

Beverly, who had led conference presentations on preschool Christian education at the Montreat assembly grounds, taught in Presbyterian Weekday School at First Presbyterian in Gastonia. She moved to Covenant Village in 2004.

Frances Beverly Berry was born on July 12, 1931, in Newberry, S.C., to James Matthew Berry and Emily Hester Berry. They moved to Gastonia while she was in school, where she met Joe. They married at Philadelphus Presbyterian Church in Red Springs, N.C., on August 28, 1949, then lived in Due West, S.C., while he attended Erskine Theological Seminary. When he died in 1994, she established the PWS Fund in his memory to support the Presbyterian Weekday School at First Presbyterian in Gastonia. She was also preceded in death by her younger brother, James; her son, Dr. William B. Stowe; and her granddaughter, Rachael Stowe. They had three children, Dr. William B. Stowe (Tollie), Marie Stowe of Myrtle Beach, and Gene Stowe of Monroe; eight grandchildren, Marc Stowe, Matt Stowe, Josh Stowe, Michael Stowe (Megan), Hannah Stowe, Charity Stowe, Emily Kronewitter (Sean), and Rachael Stowe (Dr. Jeff Show); 11 great-grandchildren, Caroline Stowe, Molly, Emma, Callan, and Pippin Stowe Show, Dylan Stowe, Xander Stowe, Kaiden, Nora, Dax, and Levi Rae Kronewitter; and numerous nieces and nephews, including Sherry and Mike Stacy of Gastonia.

A committal service will be at 12:30 p.m. Thursday at Steele Creek Presbyterian Church at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, 15000 York Rd, Charlotte, with a memorial service at 2 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church Chapel, 1621 E. Garrison Blvd., Gastonia. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church PWS Fund.

Obituary for Lois Lee Burleson

Lois Lee Burleson was born April 29, 1929 in Marion County, AL. She passed away from this life at the age of 95, September 13th at Lakeland Community Hospital in Haleyville, AL. She was a lifelong resident of Haleyville and retired from the Haleyville Textile. She was also a member of Ninth Avenue Church of Christ.

Her visitation will be Wednesday September 18, 2024 from 12:00NOON - 2:00PM at Pinkard Funeral Home in Haleyville, AL. Funeral



service at 2:00PM in the chapel, with Vance Hutton officiating. Burial in Winston Memorial Cemetery.

She is survived by her son, Donnie Burleson (Joan); sister, Ruth Osborne; grandsons, John Walker Burleson (Leslie) and Conner Burleson (Jaci); great grandchildren, Brayden Burleson and Harper Burleson. She was preceded in death by her parents, Homer and Core Lee and her husband, Hextor Burleson.



*Lois Lee Burleson's Family Line is thru her husband Hextor Burleson, Walker W & Allma Addison Burleson, John (Steve) & Elizabeth Haley Burleson, David J & Susan Flowers Burleson, Hilkiab & Penelope Pope Burleson, **David Sr & Ursula Weatherford Burleson** (NC Soldier in American Revolution), Jonathan & Sarah Camp Burleson, John & Sarah Halladay Burleson, Edward & Sarah Owen*

Willow Dove Wheat was born July 29, 2023 in Longview, TX. Her birth evoked strong emotions as I immediately felt an instinctive love for her the first time I saw her just moments after her birth. She represents the continuation of family lineage, and I experience a sense of pride and joy when I am around her. Holding, cuddling, and playing with her creates profound bonding experiences that have fostered a close attachment between us. I want her to learn family traditions to deepen her connection with future generations long after I am gone. Our bond penetrates my soul on the deepest level. This poem is a lasting keepsake for Willow to cherish throughout her life and it serves as an expression of my love and heartfelt affection for her.

Joan Burrow Strutton

The Burleson Blues

Oh, where the sunsets gleam,
Two azure orbs hold every dream,
Reflecting skies in a tender gaze,
A dance of light in the twilight haze.

They sparkle like the stars above,
Whispers of laughter, warmth, and love,
With each glance, a story unfolds,
In those blue depths, a magic beholds.

Like morning glories kissed by the dew,
They capture hearts, both old and new,
A hint of mischief, a touch of grace,
In every look, a sweet embrace.

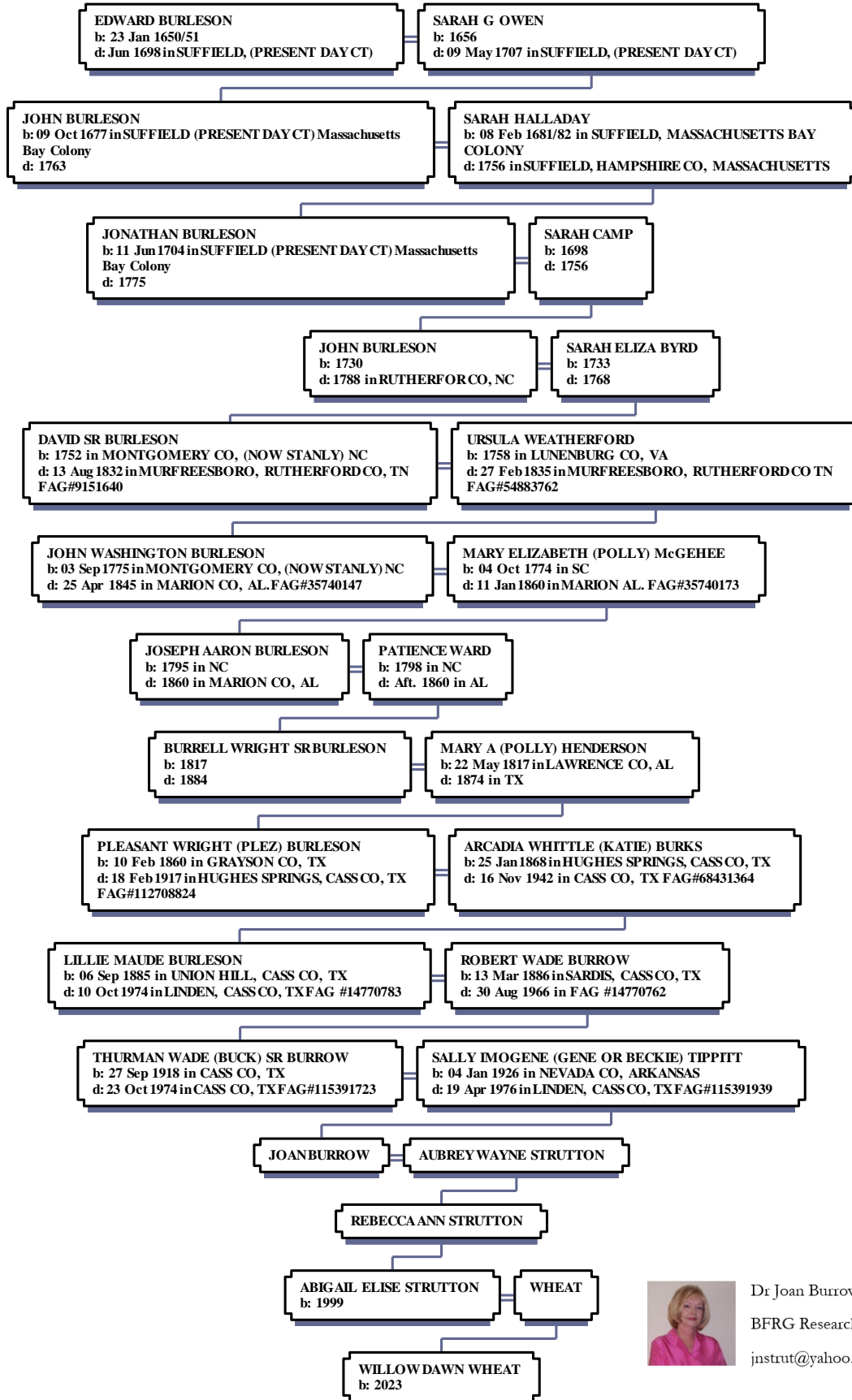
Oh, Burleson blue, so vibrant, so rare,
A canvas of feelings, a breath of air,
In the heart of us all, they shine so bright,
Two blue eyes glowing in the soft twilight



Willow Dove

We want to thank Joan Burrow Strutton our BFRG Contributor for this beautiful poem and her beautiful great granddaughter.

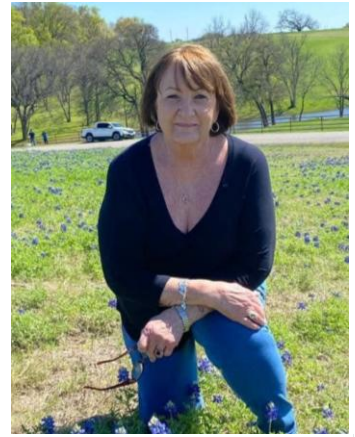
Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



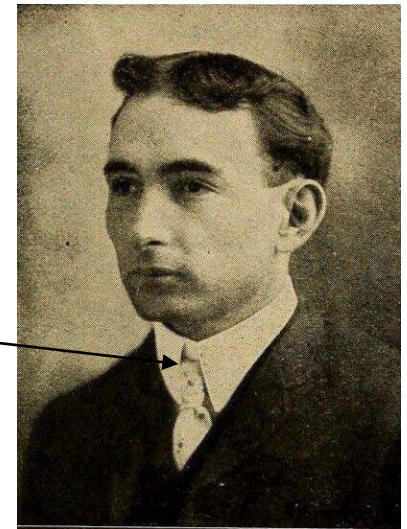
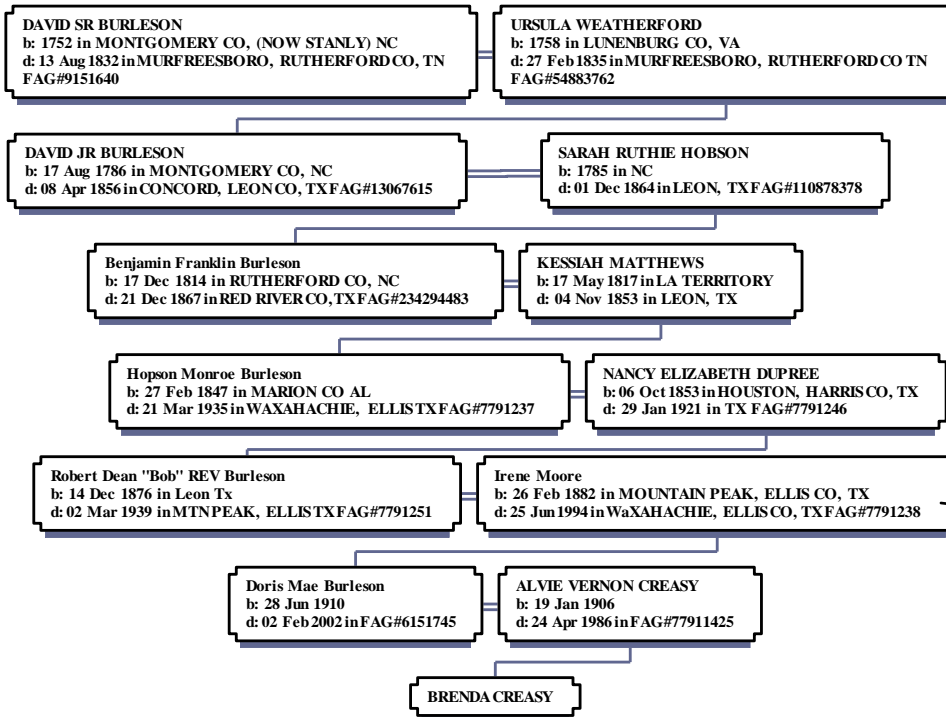
Dr Joan Burrow Strutton PhD
BFRG Research
jnstrut@yahoo.com

Old Obituaries

We want to welcome a new cousin to our BFRG Family. Meet Brenda K. Lowe of the Waxahachie Burleson cluster in Texas. When we were adding her to our database we discover several old obituaries in her Burleson Family Line that we were not aware of.



Direct Descendants of DAVID SR BURLESON



R. D. BURLESON.

Brenda's Grandparents

ROBERT DEAN "BOB" REV⁹ BURLESON (*HOPSON MONROE*⁸, *BENJAMIN FRANKLIN*⁷, *DAVID JR*⁶, *DAVID SR*⁵, *JOHN*⁴, *JONATHAN*³, *JOHN*², *EDWARD*¹) was born 14 Dec 1876 in Leon Tx, and died 02 Mar 1939 in MTN PEAK, ELLIS TX FAG#7791251. He married IRENE MOORE 16 Nov 1900 in Ellis Tx. She was born 26 Feb 1882 in MOUNTAIN PEAK, ELLIS CO, TX, and died 25 Jun 1994 in WAXAHACHIE, ELLIS CO, TX FAG#7791238



Robert Dean Burleson, teacher and composer ; born at Buffalo, Texas, Dec. 14th, 187*ℓ* ; began the study of music in 1889, and graduated in 1898, receiving his diploma at the Mansfield, Texas, session of the S. N. M. I., taught by A. J. Showalter and Edwin Moore ; began teaching in 1896 ; his first compositions were published in 1898, in "Lamp and Light" and "Song-Land Messenger No. 2 ;" is one of the Associate authors of "Hymns of Glory," the sales of which, in the first year of its publication, have exceeded that of any other one book ever issued by a southern publisher outside of the large denominational publishing houses ; married Miss Irene Moore in 1903 ; is especially gifted as an organist, and is in every way well equipped for doing great good in his chosen profession ; his address is Italy, Texas.

Rev Robert & Irene Moore Burleson had 3 children serving in WWII.



NANCY (NANNIE) EMMA BURLESON, b. 01 Aug 1915; d. 12 Mar 2002, FAG#7791249.

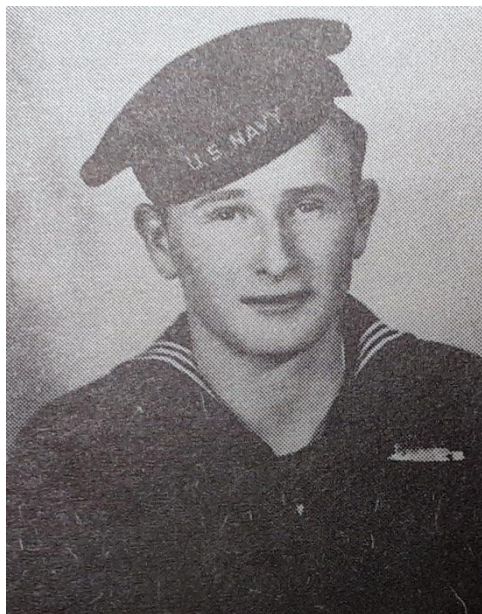
More About NANCY (NANNIE) EMMA BURLESON:
Burial: MOUNTAIN PEAK CEMETERY, ELLIS CO, TX
Military service: US NAVY WWII



JOE BAILEY¹⁰ BURLESON (*ROBERT DEAN "BOB" REV*⁹, *HOPSON MONROE*⁸, *BENJAMIN FRANKLIN*⁷, *DAVID JR*⁶, *DAVID SR*⁵, *JOHN*⁴, *JONATHAN*³, *JOHN*², *EDWARD*¹) was born 30 Jul 1920 in ELLIS CO, TX, and died 12 Apr 1985 in ELLIS CO, TX FAG#7791240. He married PANSY IRENE LYBRAND. She was born 03 Oct 1924, and died 27 Nov 1981 in FAG#7791250.



Burial: MOUNTAIN PEAK CEMETERY, ELLIS CO, TX
Military service: US NAVY WWII



LUTHER MOORE BURLESON, b. 21 Feb 1926; d. 03 Feb 2002, FAG#100834875; m. MARGARET INEZ JOHNSON; b. 31 Jul 1926, REAGOR SPRINGS, ELLIS CO, TX; d. 26 Jun 2012, WAXAHACHIE, ELLIS CO, TX.

More About LUTHER MOORE BURLESON:
Burial: WAXAHACHIE CITY CEMETERY, WAXAHACHIE, ELLIS CO, TX
Military service: US NAVY WWII



Brenda's Parents

DORIS MAE¹⁰ BURLESON (ROBERT DEAN "BOB" REV⁹, HOPSON MONROE⁸, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN⁷, DAVID JR⁶, DAVID SR⁵, JOHN⁴, JONATHAN³, JOHN², EDWARD¹) was born 28 Jun 1910, and died 02 Feb 2002 in FAG#6151745. She married ALVIE VERNON CREAMY. He was born 19 Jan 1906, and died 24 Apr 1986 in FAG#77911425.

DALLAS MORNING NEWS, Dallas TX, 3 February 2002

CREASY, DORIS MAE, age 91, born June 28, 1910 passed away February 2, 2002. She was a Homemaker and a member of the Northside Baptist Church and also a resident of Garland for 25 years and a resident of Waxahachie for 33 years and was the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. R.D. BURLESON.

She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Jerry and Carolyn CREAMY of Garland; daughter and sons-in-law, Jean and Harold JACOBS of Canton; Mary Ann and Gene WILKERSON of Richardson; and Brenda LOWE of Gilmer; brother, Luther BURLESON of Waxahachie; three sisters, Nannie BURLESON and Mildred MASSAD both of Corpus Christi, Mary ASSAD of Houston; ten grandchildren, twenty two great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by husband, A.V. CREAMY.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m February 4, 2002 at Northside Baptist Church with Rev. Larry Silvey and Rev. Virgil Porter officiating. Interment to follow 4:00 pm at Mountain Peak Cemetery in Mountain Peak, TX. Family will receive friends from 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Williams Funeral directors. Memorials may be made to Texas Baptist Home in Waxahachie. Williams Funeral Directors Family Owned and Operated Since 1885 716 Main St. Garland TX 972-276-5000

More About DORIS MAE BURLESON & ALVIE VERNON CREAMY:

Burial: MOUNTAIN PEAK CEMETERY, ELLIS CO, TX

Children of DORIS BURLESON and ALVIE CREAMY are:

- i. JERRY¹¹ CREAMY, m. CAROLYN.
- ii. JEAN CREAMY.
- iii. MARY ANN CREAMY.
- iv. BRENDA CREAMY, m. LOWE.



The Doodler and Son's Strange Legacy



Here's a tale of two Burlesons, father and son, stemming from the well-known group from Waxahachie, Texas. To say they're colorful would be a nod to their artistic natures. The "strange" from the title might be better classified as "estranged." I came into contact with the younger completely by chance. At an appointment at Eye Associates Optometry a clipboard carrying medical assistant called out, "James Burleson, you're next." I stood up as did another man. She looked bewildered as did we. She clarified, "James R. Burleson;" I said that was me. She told the other he was to meet another doctor downstairs. Before we separated at the lobby I got his number while thinking "two James Burlesons in Santa Fe, a town short on Burlesons?" An afternoon call set up a lunch a few days later.



The conversation began focusing on James William "Bill" Burleson, now a resident of Santa Fe. Originally from Amarillo, he moved several times as a young man as an itinerant carpenter. Time passed, Bill earned a college degree then added a teaching certificate in Colorado. During those years he had many long term relationships- none resulted in marriage; none produced children. Now 77, he lives in a cul-de-sac style retirement community. An avocation Bill turned passion for him was art. His media was photographic and painting. His style is western in keeping with his dwellings of Texas, Banff Canada, Colorado and New Mexico.

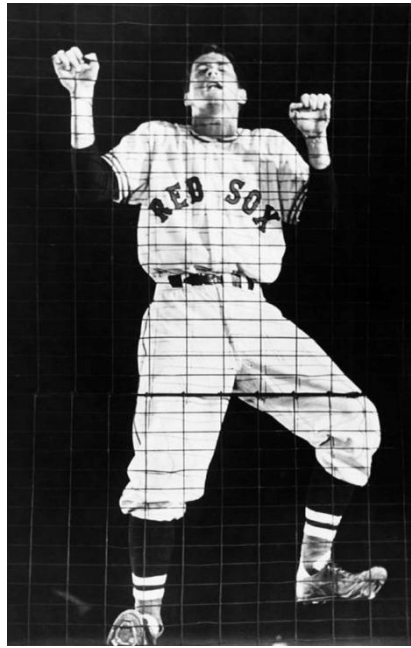


Bill showed up for our meeting armed with large envelopes filled with documents and pictures. It was all he had left of his father's memory. I had to swear I'd return them after scanning; his Aunt Rita Burleson (Bryan) "stole" most of his father's collection and never returned them. This triggered his dad's temper- he never forgave or spoke to her again. That temper was a recurring issue in his father's life.



Bill's parents were Thomas "Tommy" Monroe Burleson and Joyce Greer. Thomas was born 21 March 1914 in Tarrant County, Texas to James Oliver Burleson and Mattie Berthel Eskridge. He passed 22 March 1997 Ft. Worth, Tarrant, Texas. Tommy married Joyce, a woman from Eastland, Texas who went on to become a teacher during the marriage. Tommy's childhood was uneventful save suffering malaria which left him with recurring bouts of incoherent and stupor. He excelled at sports, especially baseball. After high school, Tommy was given contracts to play minor league professional baseball in Texas. He was an excellent third baseman but his career was cut short after a few out of control incidents of on field rage? In fact, his outbursts were very similar to the tantrums exhibited by major leaguer Jimmy Piersall, made famous in the film, "Fear Strikes Out." Piersall and

Burleson were triggered by fan heckling that prompted physical lashing back. Burleson was let go following his antics. Bill attributed his father's problems as a mental imbalance causing him to be a "rage-aholic". Such behavior was repeated during Bill's childhood but did not manifest it as physical abuse.



Jimmy Piersall



Piersall in 1953.



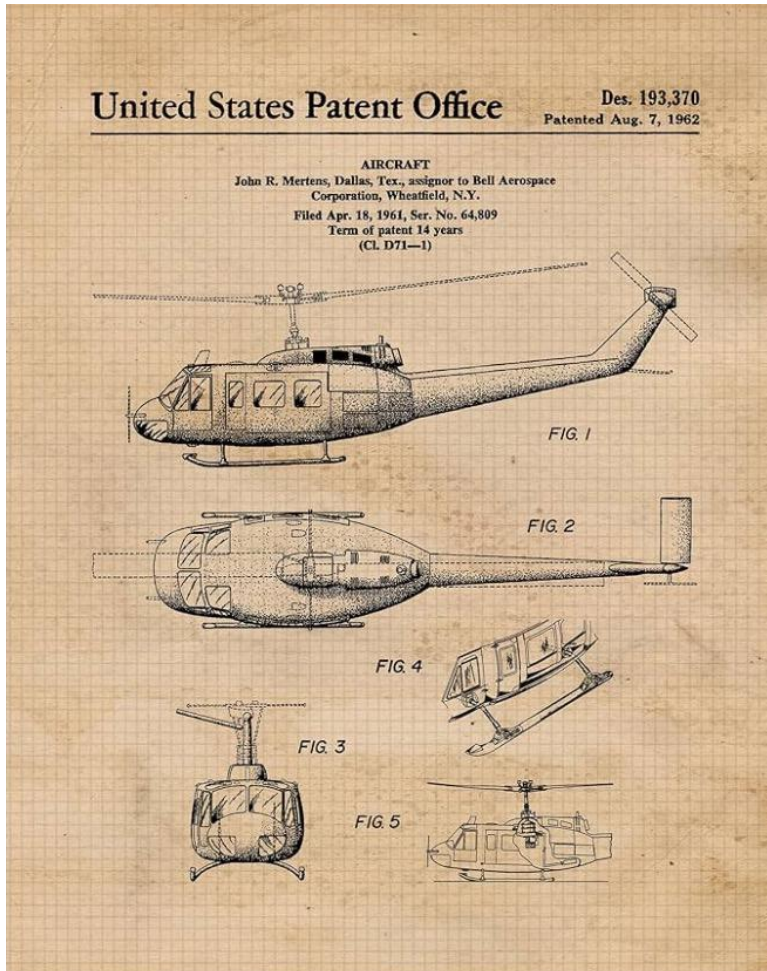
As WWII played out in history, in 1942 Tommy took his part. He enlisted in the Navy and was assigned to mine sweeping duty off shore in lagoons near Japan. He was assigned to the inaugural crew of the YMS 265. Minesweepers of that size were not named like larger ships. It put to port after assembly to Oregon's coast before deployment to the Pacific theater. The

ship was 136' long and 24.5' wide accommodating a crew of twenty. Off the Japanese coast Tommy fell into a stupor and a non-com tried to stir him. Tommy blindly threw a punch at the crew mate. No charges were preferred as Burleson's condition was easily identified as mental. He was transported to a Northern California psychiatric hospital. After a thirty day recovery period he was honorably discharged.



The "265" had patrolled the Japanese coast following the Hiroshima bombing. It was dry docked after Japan's surrender and sold as surplus in 1947. The 265 was named and passed through the hands of a few fishing related concerns off Washington State's coast. Tommy's disposition post war was to return to the Ft. Worth area. He began

a family with Joyce and took employment with the Bell Helicopter plant as an evening shift parts inspector. The job provided an adequate living and considerable free time on the job. At the plant, Tommy took up doodling with multi-colored pens. It became a non-stop manic compulsion. The minute one page filled he began another. The images were peculiar mosaics of shapes that included wheels and cogs seen at the helicopter facility. Bill said his father's art numbered in the three to four thousand images. While Tommy was alive the art had no market but near his life's end some galleries took notice as some critical praise generated. Its style is so different from traditional styles it is termed "fugitive art." As the pieces began to sell, they were fetching \$300-800. The total inventory has not all been located but Bill showed me what he was able to salvage. Life at home as Bill grew up was strained. His father was distant from his children. Occasional "rage aholic" outbursts continued. When Tommy was at peace, no real conversations evolved.



ART
Tales of a Grown-up's Doodles and Lines

BY GRACE DEWEY
Columbia Daily Star

The world of Thomas Hartman is a world of lines and doodles. It is a world of lines and doodles that are not just lines and doodles, but lines and doodles that are a part of a man's life. It is a world of lines and doodles that are a part of a man's life. It is a world of lines and doodles that are a part of a man's life.

GO SEE IT!
Thomas Hartman's Doodles
Lubin Bell Gallery
111 R. 20th St.
Tel. 9-74-24

...the artist, the process of doodling...
...the artist, the process of doodling...
...the artist, the process of doodling...



JUN 05, 2008 - JUL 25, 2008

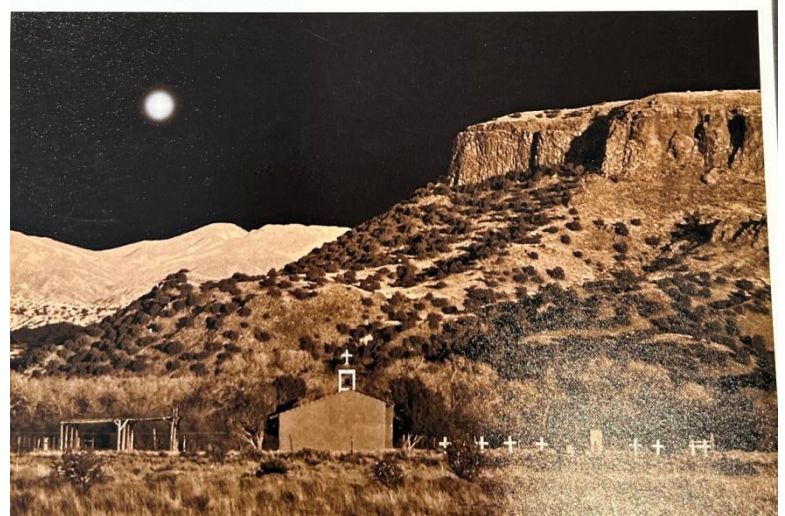
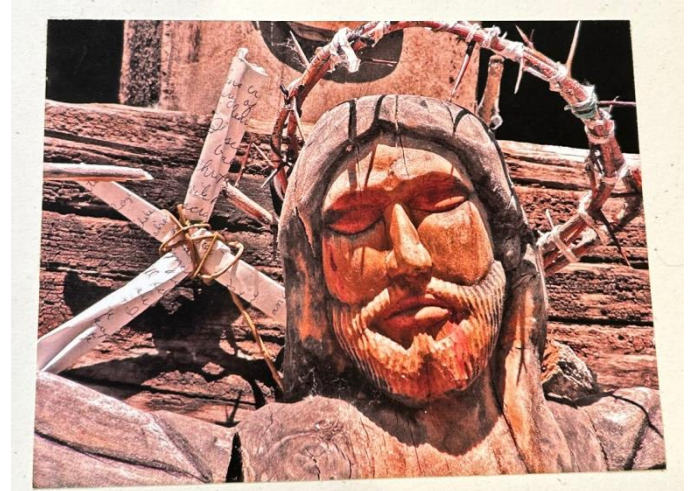
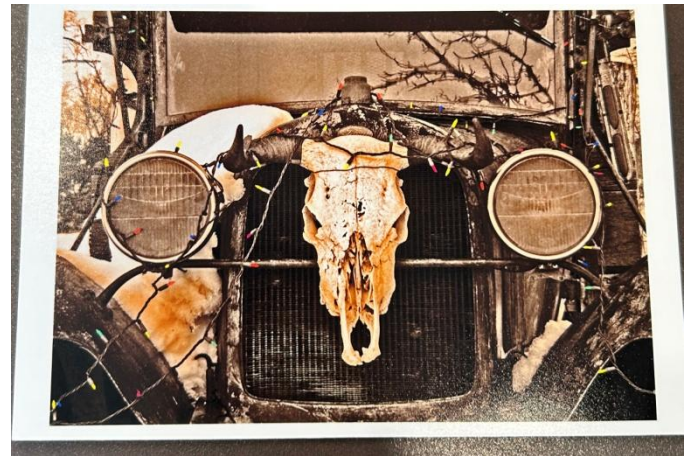
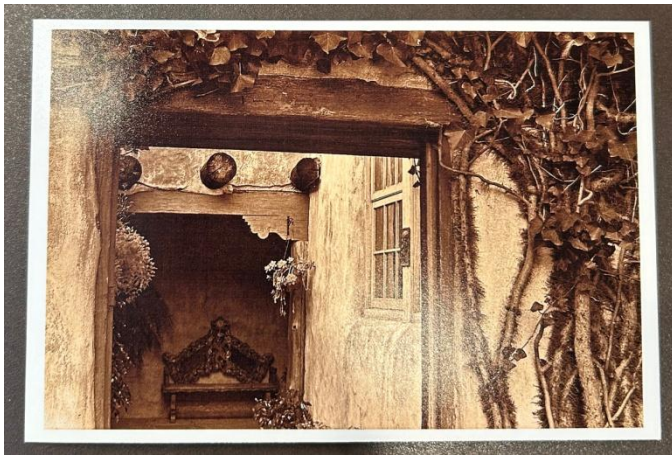


Untitled (machine), 1972
Inks on paper
17 x 14"
TB 35

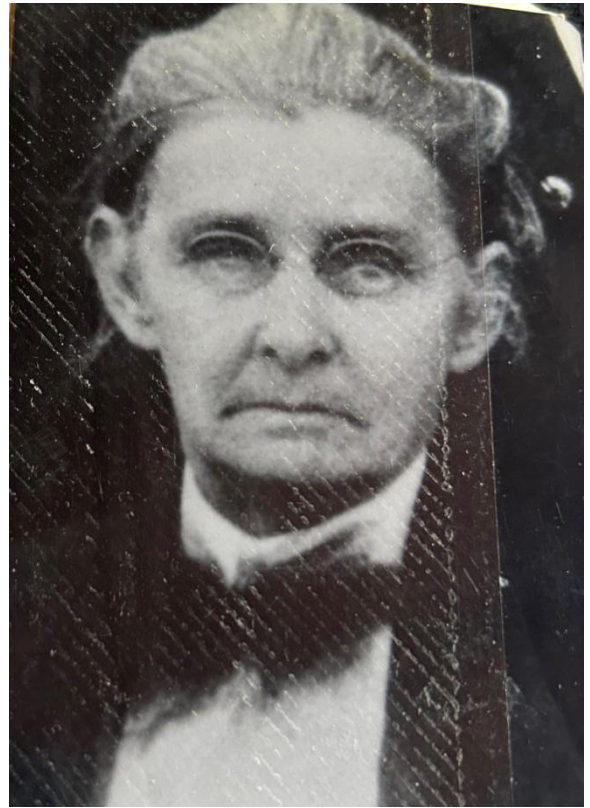
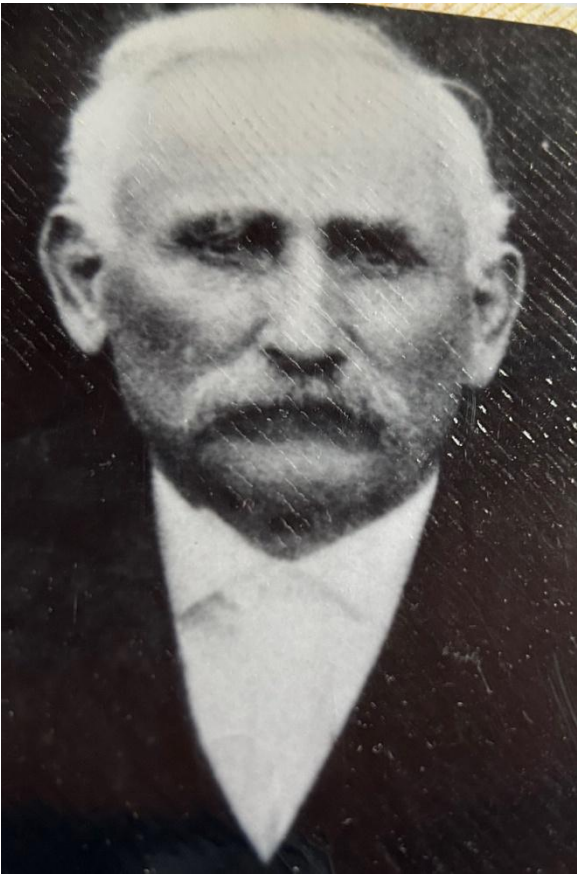
This will be the second one-person exhibition at Luise Ross Gallery of works on paper by Thomas Burleson (1914-1997), a self-taught artist from Texas who produced a substantial body of brilliantly colored works during a thirty-year period. Much of the work was done while the artist was employed as a shipping inspector at Lockheed Missiles and Space Company in California, and during his retirement.



The most recent interview of Bill took place at his apartment. He shared more oh his and his father's art pieces. I asked about a guitar in the living room. He said as a young man he'd played in a rock band. He now composes and plays blues music. A year ago Bill was in an awful car accident that left him with chronic pain. He's besieged with lawsuits related to the accident and his own care is insufficient. He's getting by but yeah... he sings the blues. Below are the works of Bill:



Here are a few of Bill's family members:



James Oliver & Mattie Berthel Eskridge Burleson



The Ft. Worth/Waxahachie Burlesons

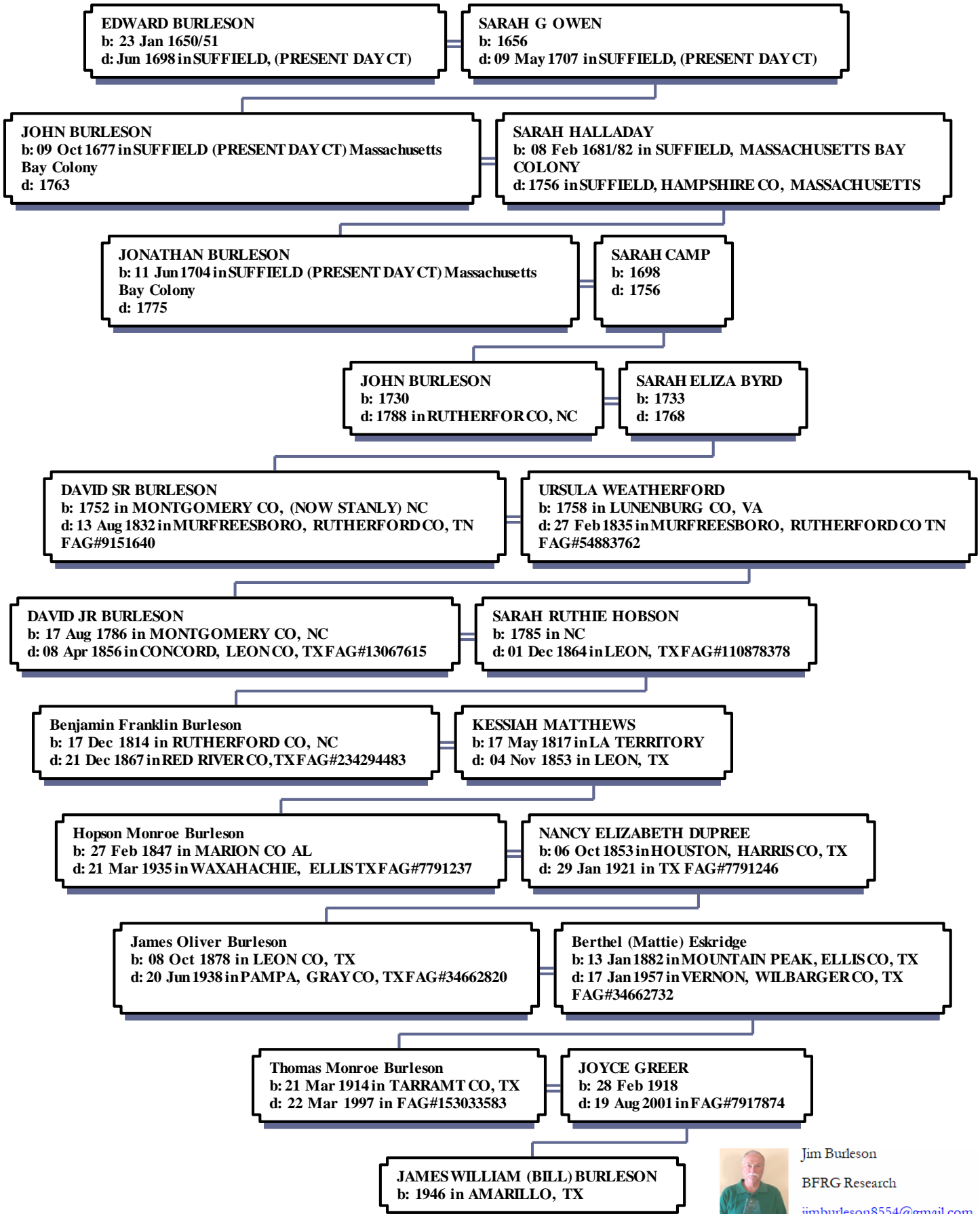


Hopson Monroe Burleson

Stuff happens in every family including Burlesons. Bill hurts but is struggling through. This is not a cautionary tale but is an example that bears retrospection... what could have been with identification and treatment. As for me, I found a new cousin-now friend, a Burleson in my own back yard. I think about Bill often.



Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



Jim Burleson
BFRG Research
jimburlison8554@gmail.com

Does the Burleson Land Hide Art or the Art of Deception?



In the continued exploration into the life of Pete Burleson, the much-storied lawman in the New Mexico Territory, we were led to the land he, his wife Mary and her father, Orson Kelsey Chittenden acquired in Old Lincoln County. This chapter was not to be of posses or gunfights. Rather, it was about art created and art deftly stolen by fraud. The greater Burleson saga never strays far from fighting crime or the glory of fine art.

In the decades from 1870 to 1920 Pete and Mary Chittenden Burleson transacted a dozen properties. Let us focus on a one hundred acre tract Burleson and his father in law O.K. Chittenden purchased in San Patricio, Lincoln County , New Mexico. It lay in a verdant valley outside Ruidoso. There the family slowly grew a very successful orchard producing crop after crop of their unique pearmain apples. You'll see much more of these apples in other articles.

To the land we now focus. Long after the passing of the Burlesons and close kin, the San Patricio orchard was passed through several hands. By the mid 20th century to the present this same site was obtained by giants in the art world, Peter Hurd and his wife, Henriett Wyeth. Hurd, his wife Henriett and her famous brother Andrew were all three pupils of her father renown illustrator N. C. Wyeth.



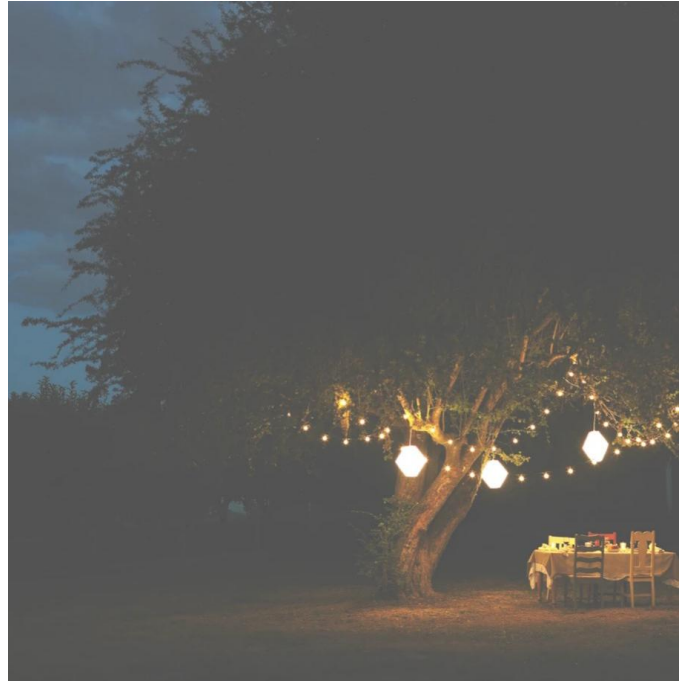
Their art pieces are displayed and marketed in the Peter Hurd Gallery/Winery located on the center of the old Burleson orchard. You can see the gallery is nestled nicely surrounded by fruit trees. Samplers of the apple wine selections are treated to the orchard view.





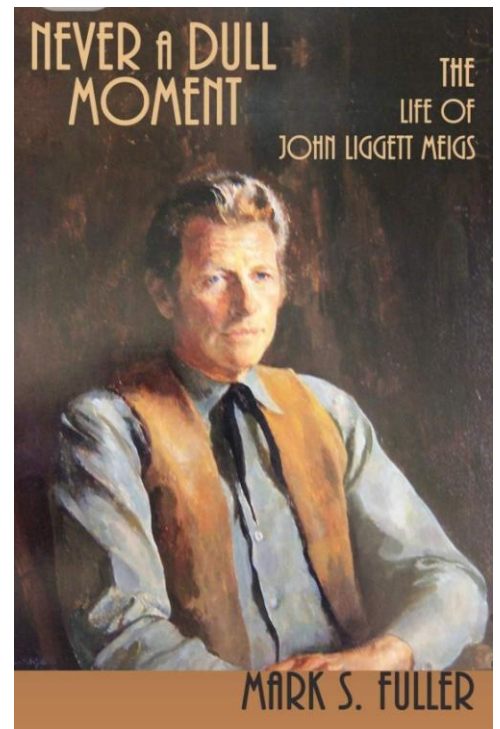
The four artists' work rotated in and out of the gallery as items were produced and sold. As time passed a Hurd son was born, Michael. He too took up the paint brush in hand, continuing the family craft. Michael, near eighty toiled away in his studio behind the gallery as we visited.

Other concerns also occupy the old Burleson land- St. Jude's Catholic Church (donated) and The San Patricio Orchards wedding center.



Theresa Kennedy is the proprietor of the wedding center. Her acquisition of the land includes a chapel that's been restored for nuptials AND the old home/art house of John Liggett Meigs. Meigs enjoyed some artistic noteriety on his own but his abilities drifted towards the buying and selling of paintings, mostly for others.

Photograph of John Meigs, courtesy of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library at Texas Tech University. Meigs assisted Peter Hurd in painting a mural at the university in 1954.



Meigs took his San Patricio friends' artwork and later more paintings of artists he met through the Hurds on consignment or as their agent. He was to market the art collecting a commission on each. He was charming, the life of every party... never lacking an invitation. His contacts grew and his stock to sell. Months and years passed, no money made way to artists, excuses and stalls followed. Paintings disappeared, questions were unanswered. Meigs and his cadre of talent died away. Now, this humble retired lawman with a historian brother (Dave) conducting research on Pete Burleson have been caught on the radar of local artists and their families. They now believe Meigs stole, copied and otherwise disposed of artwork without ever compensating the creator. Meigs is thought to have given records of land and art ownership to the Archives of New Mexico State University and art pieces to the storage facilities of the Las Cruces Archdiocese. As we scour these new offices for land transfers of Burleson, our new art contacts have requested we add theft investigation to our mission.



This is far afield from history/genealogy but it's too intriguing to let lay. The potential culprit and most of the victims are dead. Prosecution is not the notion of the victim. They have great doubt as to the recovery of monies. Location of heirloom artwork is the goal. The crimes almost all were initiated on the Burleson orchard. We have the background, the contacts and most importantly...we've been specifically ASKED. What would Pete do? We're not the usual family history forum...well, yeah...there's that.

For your entertainment and appreciation here are some pieces:



NC Wyeth bowl and bottle



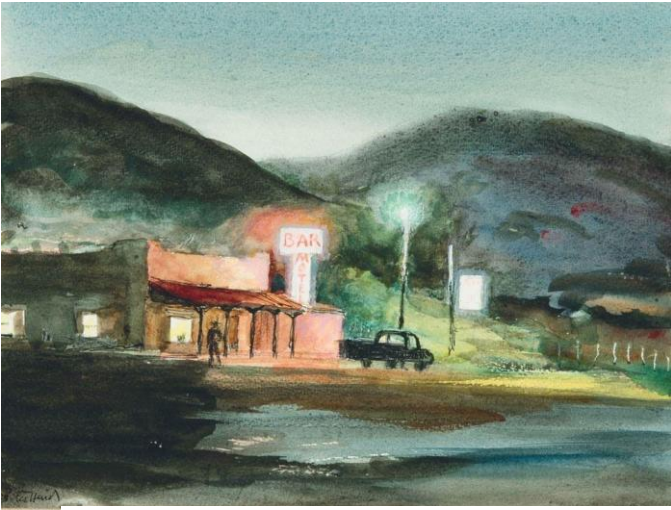
Andrew Wyeth church



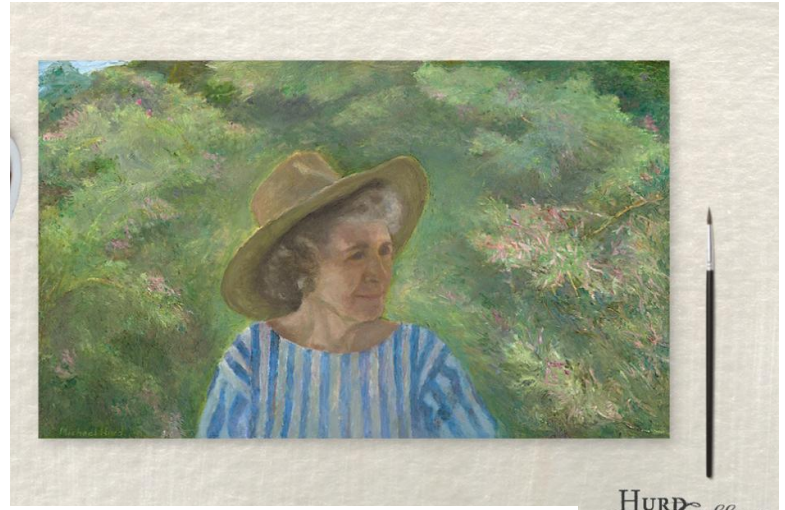
Henriett Wyeth Hurd flowers

Diocese of Las Cruces

**Cathedral of the Immaculate Heart
of Mary**



Peter Hurd bar

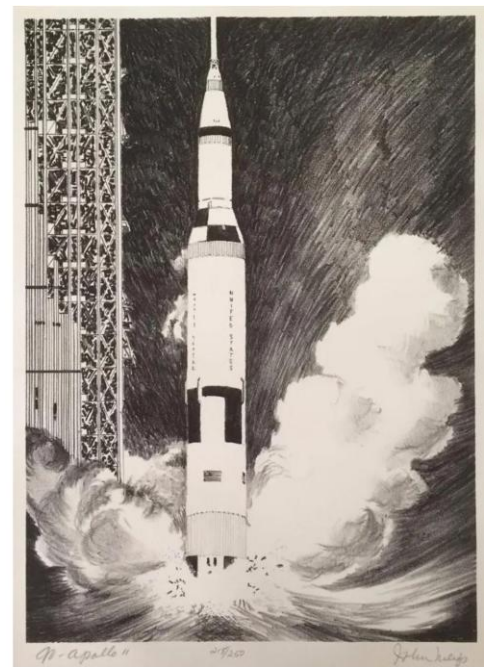


Henriett Wyeth Hurd flowers

HURD
LA RINCONADA
Gallery
Fine Arts & Collectibles



John Meigs farmhouse



John Liggett Meigs, American, 1916-2003. Go-Apollo 11. Lithograph, 1969. Museum Purchase, 2019.159. Photo courtesy of FWMoA.

Apollo 11

In a recent conversation with cousin Thomas Aaron Burleson of North Carolina, he mention purchasing a print by Andrew Wyeth in the Hurd Gallery. This image is titled "Liberty Launch".



Jim Burleson

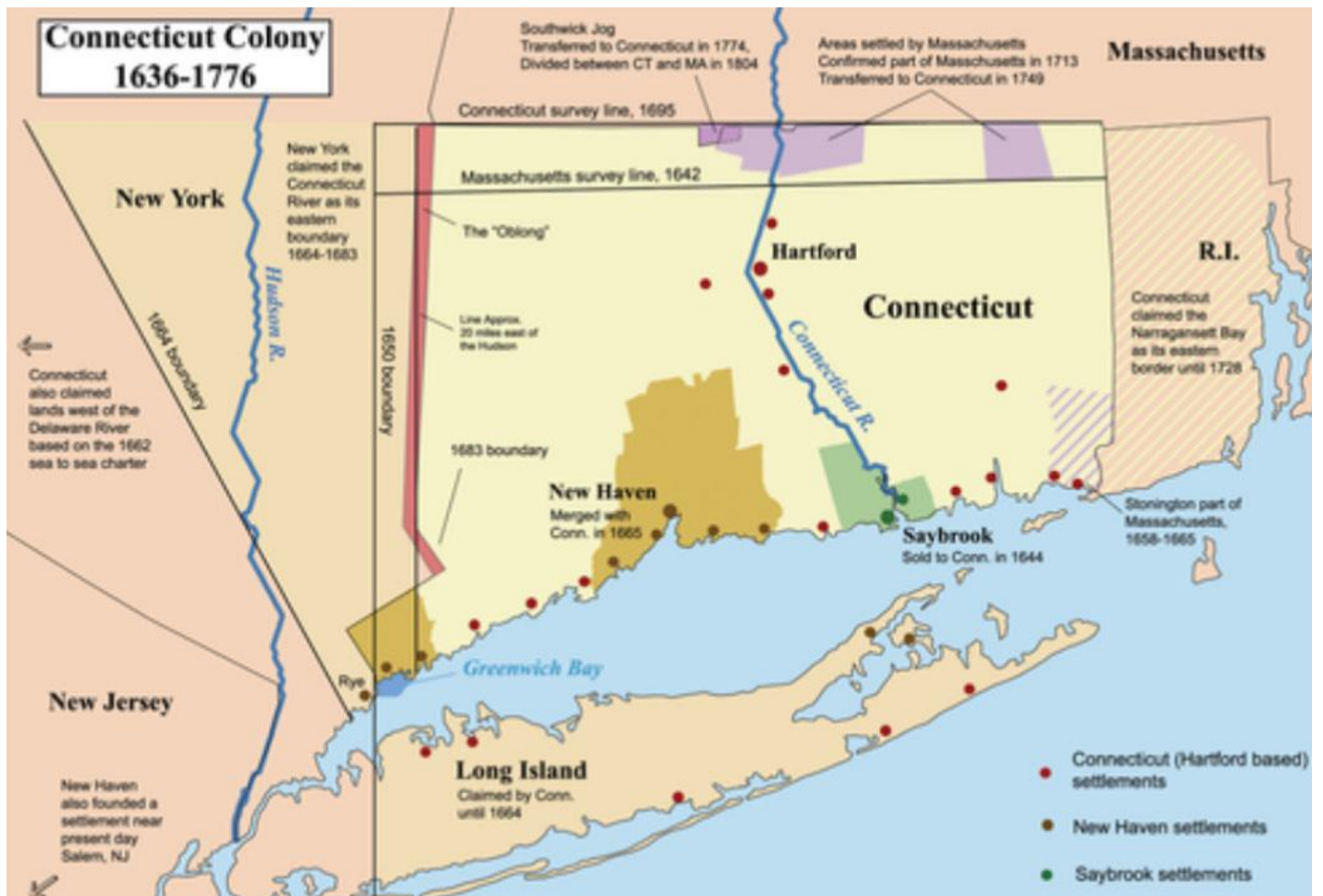
BFRG Research

jimburleson8554@gmail.com

How Do You Like Them Apples?



Those of you who've followed the lives of Sheriff Pete Burleson 1847-1925 and Mary Chittenden (Burleson) 1862-1938 know they were married 21 July 1878 in Trinidad, Las Animas, Colorado in what was Colfax County, New Mexico Territory. Mary was born in Boone, Missouri, one of the many "Daniel Boone" pioneer fortifications trailing west from Virginia to Missouri. The adventure minded followed Ol' Dan'l from Lunenburg, Virginia to Watauga, North Carolina into Tennessee, Kentucky and even Missouri based on his promises of land free of Indian attack. These boasts were believed in the early days by Richard Calloway and later, in this case, by Mary's father-Orson Kelsey Chittenden. Orson was the tenth Crittenden who descended from William Chittenden 1594 Hawkhurst, Turnbridge Wells district of Kent, England who died 1661 at Guilford, New Haven Colony, British Colonial America (now Connecticut).



William crossed the Atlantic, then the short leg over the Long Island seaway to the mouth of the Connecticut River. The landing was "Old Saybrook", the birthplace of Orson Kelsey Chittenden. Before William's emigration to the New World, he'd spent a decade collecting, drying and storing APPLE SEEDS. His orchards prospered in the fertile land and climate of Kent, England. Reports of Saybrook's conditions being similar to Kent proved true. Please note on the above map the green shaded area surrounding Saybrook's opening to the Connecticut River. Nine generations before Orson, Chittendens grew apples. These nine generations STAYED in that green mapped region. Orson heard the Boone promises; he was first of his name to venture westward, making it to Boone, Missouri and ultimately to Lincoln, New Mexico Territory. Now follow the blue Connecticut River north to where the two nn portion of the word Connecticut...that's where the first three generations of Burselons lived...SUFFIELD.... Less than thirty miles. William Chittenden and Edward Burselon, first Americans in their families were contemporaries.



As a young man Orson stopped for a few years in Boone, Missouri where he met then married Mary Elizabeth June Searcy. Eventually he loaded up Mary his wife, Mary his daughter and other Searcy in laws into a covered wagon. Their destination? The New Mexico Territory. Onboard? Apple seeds. Orson's daughter Mary met Pete Burselon in Colfax County; just after her sixteenth birthday she married Pete. Pete followed Orson's footsteps as Sheriff. Their lawman days are recorded in the Burselon Heritage Publishing release of "The Man Who Tamed Cimarron ; The Wild and Unruly Life of Pete Burselon." Having emerged from the Colfax County War in heroic fashion, the Burselons and Chittendens moved south to Lincoln County, New Mexico making certain to bring along an ample supply of apple seeds. Before settling late in life at their home in the town of Lincoln, they planted a very profitable orchard in another section of Lincoln County...San Patricio.

San Patricio, New Mexico

Unincorporated community



The decades to unwind saw Orson to expand his orchard properties to San Juan County near present day Farmington. Burleson opened exporting his

apple crop to Indian Reservations and military outposts throughout America's southwest. Rail cars fully loaded with pearmain apples made their way to several destinations including

Lampasas, Texas mentioned to Pete's biography. The apple industry in Northwest and Southeast New Mexico grew to moderate success well into the 1960s utilizing Orson & Pete's methods.



By 1925 Pete Burleson and Orson Chittenden had passed on. Their descendants

chose different paths...none took interest in apples. By the 1950s their produce rights were sold off to a corporation solely owned by the White Mountain Apache tribe. In the early 1970s San Juan /Four Corners apple operations were acquired by the Navajo Agricultural Project Industry (NAPI – also the leading provider of potatoes for Lays Corp.) The orchards of Lincoln County-San Patricio were purchased by the Catholic Church as a retreat for the Benedictine Order. Apples still grow wild and the ghost town features can still be visited.



Why “pear mains”? They are not really attractive but the description below explains: its sugar content and consistent water content keeps them rich, delicious and best of all- bruise/rot resistant . They can remain fresh once picked for up to five months...perfect for long train rides to Indian reserves or cavalry outposts.



This medium-sized apple is brown-russeted with a crimson patch on the sun-facing side. There is pink-silver tinge to the russet scale. Flesh, yellowish, crisp, juicy, rich, and sugary, partaking of the flavor of the Ribston Pippin. It comes into use in November, and will continue till March. Good keeper; excellent bearer. Ripens late. Zone 6. The Claygate Pearmain is both disease and scab resistant.

We were recently pleased to discover the old Bureson San Patricio Orchard is presently occupied by the wedding center owned by Theresa Kennedy. Even better, three of the original Pearmain trees planted over 120 years ago remain alive and are producing. Kennedy has agreed to cooperate with Capitan High School, NM State University Agricultural Extension and the BFRG in biologically replicating Pearmain Trees.



Santa Fe County
Cooperative Extension
Service
Helping Put Knowledge to Work



When One Mary “Polly” is Really Two

by *Patricia Hernandez*

One key tenet in Genealogy research is to verify information using multiple sources and to re-evaluate when additional conflicting information is found.

My 3rd grand grandmother is known on a number of websites – Ancestry, Find-A-Grave, FamilySearch, as Mary “Polly”, either MNU, Hodges or Burleson. She is often confused on those same websites with another Mary “Polly” Burleson, who was actually born a Burleson and then married twice.

These two women are often merged into one person. They were born and died in about the same timeframe and they were each married twice, with about the same number of children. However, that is where the similarities end. Except, in each case, given their sex and the timeframe in which they were raised, we know more about their husbands and children than we know about them.

Unfortunately, I have very little in the way of specific citations, beyond what is noted on the above three sources, to support the timelines of their lives.

First, I'll begin with Mary “Polly” Burleson, who was the daughter of Return Burleson (b 15 Jan 1740) and Mary Colleton, widow of Charles Greene.

Mary “Polly” first married Jedidiah Fuller (1761 – 1793) in Vermont in 1784. I could not locate any original documentation – only information on Find-A-Grave and Ancestry. With Jedidiah, she had three children, John, Mary and Hasadiah. She then married Stoughton “Stoton” Willis Jr (1768 – 1847) in Washington, New York. Stoton was the son of Stoughton Willis and Mary Monk. Stoton is listed as living in the 1800 – 1840 census in Hampton, Washington, New York. (2) – (6)

Stoton and Mary “Polly” Burleson had seven children – Stoton, Sally, Nathan, Betsey Eliza, David, Abigail and Azariah.

Mary Burleson Fuller Willis died in Hampton, Washington, New York on 23 Aug 1847. Her Find-A-Grave memorial is #28107918. (1) There is nothing incorrect about Mary Burleson Fuller Willis' Find-A-Grave memorial. The problem is that people confuse Mary MNU Hodges Burleson and refer to the wrong memorial.

Mary Burleson Fuller Willis was most likely born in Connecticut and died in New York. She was never documented as living outside of the Northeast.

Mary “Polly” MNU was most likely born about 1770 somewhere in the Southeast, maybe Tennessee or North Carolina? I could not find any details about her family. Her first appearance is when she marries Joseph Hodges (1750-1790) in about 1786 in Tennessee. Joseph Hodges was the son of Joseph Hodges Sr and Elizabeth Reeves. He is shown as living in Sampson, North Carolina in 1784 and in the 1790 Census. In the 1790 Census, it shows two males under 16 living in his household and one women of an unspecified age. (7) These two boys are most likely Joseph Hodges and Seth Thomas Hodges. There is nothing to show when and where Joseph Hodges died – just that he does not appear after the 1790 Census.

Mary “Polly” Hodges, then marries John Burleson Sr. (1763 – 1824) before 1794. John was the son of Aaron Burleson and Rachel MNU. He was previously married to Abigail Adair Moore

(1767 – 1793) with whom he had three children – Elizabeth, Jonathan Adair and Aaron. In 1790, John is living in Rutherford, North Carolina with his wife and two of his three children, as Aaron wasn't born until after 1790. (8)

John and Mary “Polly” had seven children together – Temperance Jane, Rachel, Thomas, James Calvin, Jane, Joseph and John Jr.

John Sr. died in Lawrence County, Alabama in 1824. Mary “Polly” moved to Green County, Illinois with her son from her first marriage, Seth Thomas and his family and also with John Jr. and his family. She was most likely living with Seth Thomas in the 1830 Census in Macoupin, Illinois, as noted with a hashmark in the females between 50 and 59 column. (9) She is not noted as living with him in the 1840 Census and I could not find her noted in any other relatives' home. Also, she is not noted in a legal notice posted after her son Seth Thomas' passing in 1841. The notice is to Seth's wife, Mary, and his children. (10)

I could not find any note about her obituary or a gravesite, although it seems likely that she died in Macoupin County, Illinois.

Mary “Polly” MNU was never in the Northeast area of the United States. She is completely unrelated to the Bureson family in that area.

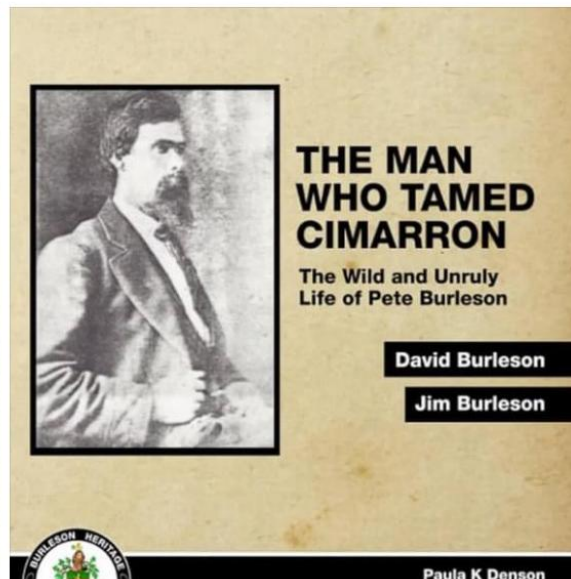
I am still searching for her maiden name and when she died, and where she is buried. I know, however, that she did not pass away on 23 Aug 1847 in Washington County, New York.

- (1) <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/28107918/mary-willis>
- (2) Year: 1800; Census Place: Hampton, Washington, New York; Series: M32; Roll: 26; Page: 288; Image: 281; Family History Library Film: 193714
- (3) Year: 1810; Census Place: Hampton, Washington, New York; Roll: 30; Page: 426; Image: Nym252_30-0330; FHL Roll: 0181384
- (4) Fourth Census of the United States, 1820; Census Place: Hampton, Washington, New York; Page: 125A; NARA Roll: M33_76; Image: 243
- (5) Year: 1830; Census Place: Hampton, Washington, New York; Series: M19; Roll: 111; Page: 277; Family History Library Film: 0017171
- (6) Year: 1840; Census Place: Hampton, Washington, New York; Roll: 348; Page: 192; Family History Library Film: 0017209
- (7) Year: 1790; Census Place: Sampson, North Carolina; Series: M637; Roll: 7; Page: 127; Image: 419; Family History Library Film: 0568147
- (8) Year: 1790; Census Place: Rutherford, North Carolina; Series: M637; Roll: 7; Page: 147; Image: 92; Family History Library Film: 0568147
- (9) Year: 1830; Census Place: Macoupin, Illinois; Series: M19; Roll: 23; Page: 213; Family History Library Film: 0007648
- (10) https://www.newspapers.com/clip/149869347/alton-weekly-telegraph-82742/?xid=637&_gl=1*n0tl13*_gcl_au*MjEyMTQ1NTgzNy4xNzE5ODYwOTcx*_ga*ODY1Njc5NTgyLjE3MTk4NjA5Nzg.*_ga_4QT8FMEX30*NWY5YzNiOWItMTI4Ni00OTI5LWI3OWYtM2NkNDY2NzhiMjA3LjE0LjEuMTcyMDIwNDcyNS40OS4wLjA.*_ga_LMK6K2LSJH*NWY5YzNiOWItMTI4Ni00OTI5LWI3OWYtM2NkNDY2NzhiMjA3LjE15NS4xLjE3MjAyMDQ3MjIuMC4wLjA

New Mexico State Archives Honored

“The Man Who Tamed Cimarron” Pete Burleson

The New Mexico State Archives honored my brother Dave and me with their public display of the Pete Burleson biography and related memorabilia. Now they've identified it as one of their four top archived items for the state. The chief archivist supplies each archivist with a "reference" copy "for its accurate record of Territorial history notations." Risking looking a gift horse in the mouth, I asked why we earned their esteem. She said, "Three things... documentation, documentation, documentation." We're bursting.





Brylie, Jacque and Dave Burleson



Jim Burleson

Casting aside all humility, the BFRG announced that *The Man Who Tamed Cimarron: The Wild and Unruly Life of Pete Burleson* is the darling of the New Mexico State Archives. It enjoys a lengthy display in the Archives lobby with staging props the staff drew from a true shootout scene. More recently the state issued its annual report that the Burleson Heritage Publication was one of four prized holdings at the State Archives and State Library. The chief archivist issued a copy for each archivist as a reference for research into the state's Territorial period



JD Burleson
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STATE RECORDS CENTER AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION OF PUBLIC RECORDS FY22 ~ ANNUAL REPORT



"Log footbridge and headgate on ditch, Acequia Madre, Santa Fe, NM"
Bergere Family Photograph Collection, Image No. 23426,
Courtesy of the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives



Historic St. James Hotel to Reopen



Inside red rectangle is where the original structure existed with the sheriff's "office"



Cimarron Jail

Fans of western hero, Sheriff Pete Burleson of the 1870s-1880s Cimarron, New Mexico Territory are joyful this week over the news that after its brief closure, the St. James Hotel will reopen soon under new ownership. This group is experienced in operating western history rich hotels in Dodge City and the like.

Burleson and his deputies posted themselves on the wooden deck porch behind the wooden pickets as the informal sheriff's office. It was a position that allowed clear view of the old jail and afforded an opportunity to see who was coming into town. Quick appraisal of the entering patrons was needed as this hotel attracted more than average celebrities and outlaws. "Who are you? State your business" was the regular greeting. Noted visitors included William H. Bonney, Frank James, Wild Bill Cody, Annie Oakley, Clay Allison, Davy John Crockett, Black Jack Ketchum would mix with law abiding luminaries such as Frederic Remington, Elfego Baca and a host of governors.

BFRG has been fortunate enough to glean many documents and artifacts relating to Burleson's administration during the bloody Colfax County War. This includes details of the 20+ shootings within. We were additionally proud of our small role in keeping the iconic location alive. It's in keeping with our new additional role of activism such as the ongoing effort to restore the Edward Burleson cabin in Aquarena Springs, Texas. Congratulations and welcome to our new friends from Kansas. Below you can see the press announcement. Come on out; we'll meet you there for a shot of "the good stuff."



The Enchanted Circle News is at Historic St. James Hotel & Saloon. · Follow

11h · 🌐

For Immediate Release

November 3, 2024

Saving The Saint James, one Family's mission to Revitalize a

New Mexico Icon

Father Daughter Duo, Alyse & Chad Mantz alongside their team at M Vacation Properties Revitalizes the Legendary St. James Hotel in Cimarron, NM— Reopening This Iconic Destination to Adventure Seekers and History Enthusiasts

The Historic St. James Hotel in Cimarron, NM, Set to Reopen, Inviting Travelers to Experience Authentic Western History with Modern Hospitality

CIMARRON, NM—The legendary St. James Hotel, a cornerstone of the Old West, is set to reopen under the dynamic leadership of Chad and Alyse Mantz, a father-daughter duo residing in New Mexico tapping back into their Kansas roots and heritage. This revival promises a captivating mix of history, adventure, and a culinary experience that is sure to become a must-visit destination in New Mexico, appealing to travelers, foodies, and history enthusiasts alike. The renowned St. James Hotel, an iconic landmark of Wild West history and a central point on the famed Santa Fe Trail, will bring a unique perspective and connection to the Old West to their vision of historic hospitality. Their passion for preserving history combined with answering the call for "memory-driven" travel, positions the St. James to offer an unparalleled experience for those seeking authentic, immersive adventures in the American Southwest.

Preserving Legends and Legacy

Since its establishment in 1872, the St. James Hotel has welcomed Wild West icons such as Jesse James, Wyatt Earp, and Buffalo Bill Cody, and remains a living

testament to the grit and charm of Cimarron, known as the "Gateway to the Enchanted Circle." With their background near Dodge City and Fort Larned on the Santa Fe Trail, Chad and Alyse bring a personal connection to the rich, storied past of the Old West. To them, the St. James is more than a business—it's a chance to continue the legacy of the region's history.

A New Dining Experience to Rival the Old West

One of the most exciting aspects of the St. James revival is the reopening of its beloved bar and restaurant, now featuring the culinary expertise of Bila Conchas. This isn't just any saloon; it's a true "watering hole" for adventurers, a place to trade stories, and experience flavors that transport guests south of the border. The bar will feature New Mexico's finest craft brews and creative cocktails, celebrating local flavors and traditions, making it an authentic gathering spot in the spirit of the Old West.

The new restaurant will serve up Authentic Mexican cuisine with a twist. Sourcing vegetables and ingredients from local farms and adding distinctive spices and recipes, Bila Conchas brings a taste of

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Mexico's vibrant culinary culture to the St. James. The menu will feature signature dishes like sizzling fajitas, house-made tamales, and enchiladas topped with rich, smoky sauces, offering a fiesta of flavors that's sure to capture the attention of food lovers from across the country. Every plate is crafted with authenticity and heart, drawing from family recipes and using the freshest local produce.

Cimarron: Gateway to the Enchanted Circle

Cimarron is proudly known as the "Gateway to the Enchanted Circle." a scenic route famed for its

Enchanted Circle, the St. James Hotel is more than just a place to stay—it's an invitation to experience the history, flavor, and rugged charm of the Old West. The current owner, Bob Funk Sr. and the Funk family have been caretakers of the iconic hotel since 2009, and the reopening under Chad and Alyse Mantz will carry the family's love for the Western lifestyle into the future. Under their stewardship, this historic hotel and its renowned bar and restaurant are poised to reclaim their legacy as New Mexico's premier destination for adventure, hospitality, and unforgettable dining. For more information, or to make a reservation and be among the first to experience this iconic landmark, please contact:

Contact Information:

St. James Hotel

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M Vacation Media Contact

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Burleson Heritage Publishing

We at the Burleson Family Research Group (BFRG) are very pleased with all our books and many different authors. These books are all available at <https://www.bfrg.info>

For the whole story, buy the book from [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com)

Burleson Family Research Group \$19.95 USD / \$25.95 CAN

BFRG'S Recollections Volume XXV & XXVI

Recollections of the Burleson Family Research Group

Burleson Cousining

by JD Burleson & Jim Burleson

JD Burleson Series Editor

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

JD Burleson was born December 1, 1948 Durham County, North Carolina. He graduated from East Durham High School in 1968 and joined the US Army where he spent 1969 in Vietnam as a military policeman. After graduating from Central Texas College, JD was a Professor of Law Enforcement. JD served ten years on active duty and joined the US Army Reserve, in the 10th Division Infantry Training, retiring after a total of 27 years duty. JD began looking into his ancestors in 1993 and has spent over 30 years researching and documenting the great Burleson Heritage. He helped found the Burleson Family Research Group and, along with many other Burleson researchers, have published 12 books on the descendants of Isaac Burleson. He is also on the Board of Directors.

Jim Burleson is a retired New Mexico lawman having served over 25 years in a variety of capacities. He's been a jailman, detective, supervisor, state academy administrator and police chief, copying his career as cabinet secretary of the New Mexico State Corrections Department. After retiring, Jim was selected as executive director of the New Mexico Sheriffs and Police Association. Like Dave, he is a graduate of New Mexico State University and majored in Police Science (BS), Criminology (MA).

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THE MAN WHO TAMED CIMARRON
The Wild and Unruly Life of Pete Burleson

David Burleson
Jim Burleson

Paula K. Denson Editor

About the authors:

David Burleson is a retired U.S. Air Force officer, having served 20 years, with 10 of those years abroad. He is also a retired professor of History from Florida A&M Community College of New Mexico State University, where he served as an instructor, department chair, dean, and assistant vice president for 10 years. Jim is a graduate of New Mexico State University and New University European Studies. He holds his license in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Jim Burleson is a retired New Mexico lawman having served over 20 years in a variety of capacities. He's been jailman, detective, supervisor, state academy administrator and police chief, copying his career as cabinet secretary of the New Mexico State Corrections Department. After retiring, Jim was selected as executive director of the New Mexico Sheriffs and Police Association. Like Dave, he is a graduate of New Mexico State University and majored in Police Science (BS), Criminology (MA). He is presently with the title of "Man of the Week" on "Who's Who" magazine. He is one of the world's best speakers. There will be no doubt, he is a man to be heard about. Jim Burleson and Jim have some very interesting stories to tell. Criminology (MA).

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A STUDY OF EARLY BURLESON HISTORY
The Study of the First Burlesons Through the American Revolution

John Hoyle Burleson

JD Burleson Series Editor

About the author:

John Hoyle Burleson has been interested in his ancestry since being named the heir of his grandfather, he will see both Dale & Hoyt of that name.

The interest he turned into a hobby that has taken more than 20 years of his life. He has researched and written about the life of the great Burleson Family. He has researched, written, and published a book on the life of the Burleson Family. He is also a long time member of the Burleson Family Association and is presently on the Board of Directors of that National group. He has researched and compiled many articles in the BFRG. He is a founding member of the Burleson Family Research Group, Inc. of South Carolina that has met monthly since 1993 and publishes Family books.

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Burleson Family Heritage
Researching the Origins of the Burleson Clan

Donald K. Burleson
JD Burleson Series Editor

About the author:

Donald K. Burleson is a retired U.S. Air Force officer, having served 20 years, with 10 of those years abroad. He is also a retired professor of History from Florida A&M Community College of New Mexico State University, where he served as an instructor, department chair, dean, and assistant vice president for 10 years. Jim is a graduate of New Mexico State University and New University European Studies. He holds his license in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

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Isaac Burleson Senior
A True North Carolina Patriot

JD Burleson

About the author:

JD Burleson has been interested in his ancestry since being named the heir of his grandfather, he will see both Dale & Hoyt of that name.

The interest he turned into a hobby that has taken more than 20 years of his life. He has researched and written about the life of the great Burleson Family. He has researched, written, and published a book on the life of the Burleson Family. He is also a long time member of the Burleson Family Association and is presently on the Board of Directors of that National group. He has researched and compiled many articles in the BFRG. He is a founding member of the Burleson Family Research Group, Inc. of South Carolina that has met monthly since 1993 and publishes Family books.

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John Wesley Burleson
An Orphan's Ascent From Poverty to Prosperity

JD Burleson & Donald K. Burleson
JD Burleson Series Editor

About the author:

John Wesley Burleson was a remarkable man. Orphaned at a young age, he rose from poverty to become a successful businessman and philanthropist. His story is a testament to the power of hard work and determination. This book tells the story of his life, from his early years in poverty to his later years of prosperity and philanthropy. It is a story of a man who overcame all odds and became a legend in his own right.

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FINDING BURLESON
A Girl's Story of Survival Through Her Dad

April Burleson
JD Burleson Series Editor

About the author:

April Burleson is a young woman who has spent her life searching for her father. Her story is one of resilience and hope. She shares her journey from childhood to adulthood, as she uncovers the truth about her father's disappearance. This book is a powerful reminder of the strength of the human spirit and the importance of family.

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Ulysses Shakespeare Burleson
Standy County, North Carolina's Earliest School Teacher

JD Burleson
JD Burleson Series Editor

About the author:

Ulysses Shakespeare Burleson was a pioneer in education. He was the first teacher in Standy County, North Carolina, and his work laid the foundation for the public school system. This book tells the story of his life, from his early years in the classroom to his later years of leadership in education. It is a story of a man who dedicated his life to the betterment of his community.

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Jesse Craft Wilson & Lena Marie Bills

by Carrie Anne Wilson Woolverton
JD Burleson Series Editor

About the author:

Carrie Anne Wilson Woolverton is a descendant of Jesse Craft Wilson and Lena Marie Bills. She has spent her life researching their family history and has written this book to share their story with others. This book is a beautiful tribute to two remarkable people who lived in the heart of the South.

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Vernie Burleson's Story

by Louise (Linda) Burleson
JD Burleson Series Editor

About the author:

Louise (Linda) Burleson is the daughter of Vernie Burleson. She has spent her life researching her father's life and has written this book to share his story with others. This book is a beautiful tribute to a man who lived a life of adventure and discovery.

Burleson Family Research Group \$19.95 USD / \$25.95 CAN

Burleson's Heaven
Memories - Home to the Descendants of Burleson

David A. Burleson
JD Burleson Series Editor

About the author:

David A. Burleson is a descendant of the Burleson family. He has spent his life researching his family history and has written this book to share their story with others. This book is a beautiful tribute to the Burleson family and their home in Heaven.

Burleson Family Research Group \$19.95 USD / \$25.95 CAN

James Vespasian Burleson
A North Carolina Entrepreneur

Donald K. Burleson
JD Burleson Series Editor

About the author:

James Vespasian Burleson was a successful entrepreneur in North Carolina. He built a large business and was a prominent figure in his community. This book tells the story of his life, from his early years in business to his later years of success. It is a story of a man who achieved greatness through hard work and determination.