

Issue 3 – Volume XXVII

Recollections

June 2024

of the

Burleson Family Research Group

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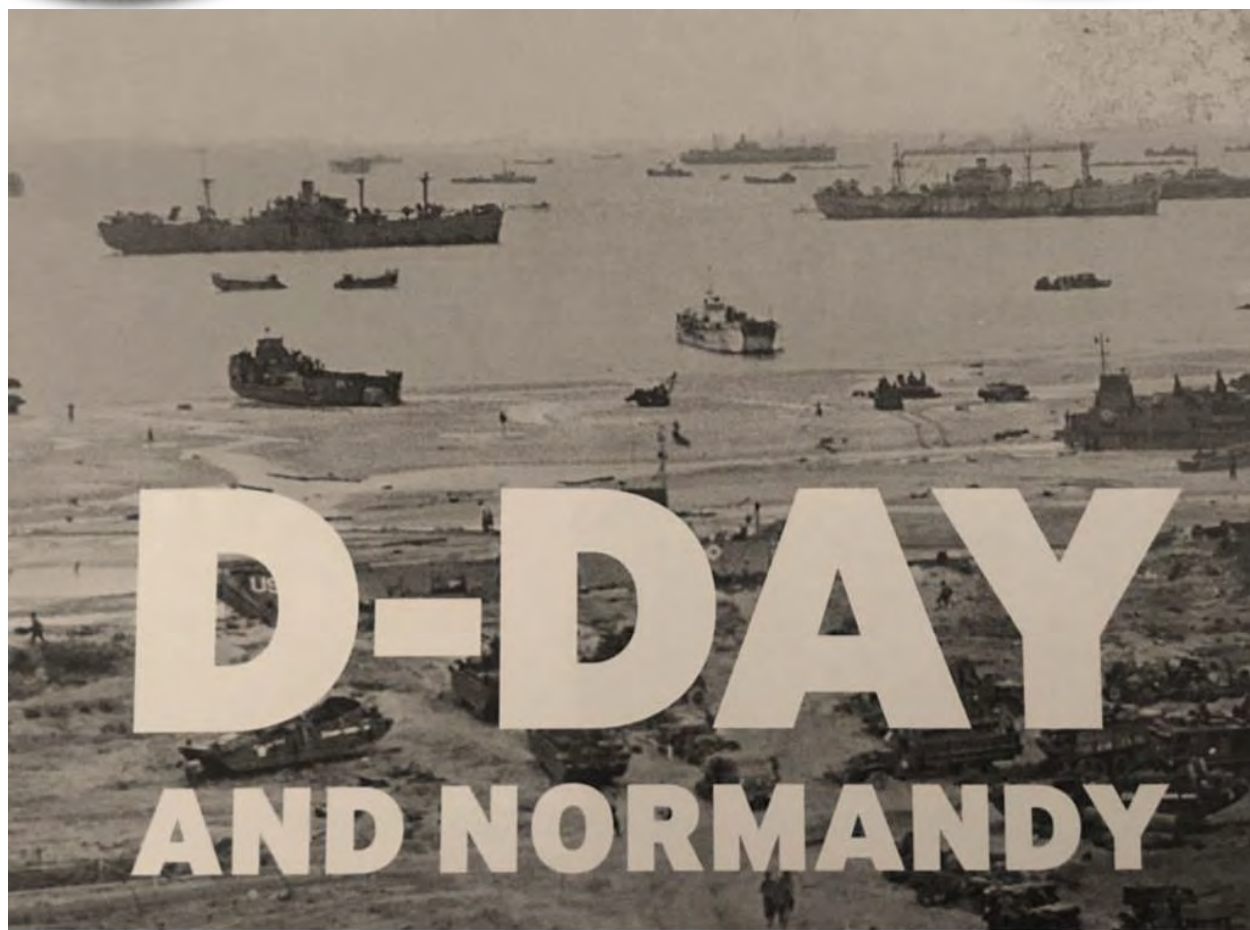


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From the Editor

A group of momentous occasions has come together. That merits a momentous edition of Recollections. Memorial Day, Mothers Day, BFRGs Field Trip and the 80th anniversary of D Day collided on the calendar. You're now reading the LARGEST Recollections EVER!

Our historic second field trip was an unmitigated success. Eighty four cousins were encountered as we crossed Texas. What amounted to a 5100 mile round trip for me in my little Kia included stop offs at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, National Cemetery in Chalmette, Louisiana, McCarley staging area for Gen. Sam Houston in Harris County, Texas, San Jacinto Battlefield, San Antonio's Alamo, Bastrop, Smithville, San Marcos, Austin, Lampasas, Matador, Texas ...ending in Santa Fe, New Mexico. A few dozen burial



grounds and museums were visited. We discovered, cleaned and honored. It was beautiful.

Author Ken Kesselus will republish the definitive biography of Gen. Edward Burleson soon and he's invited BFRG to assist in correcting factual errors made by Dr. Rufus Columbus Burleson and old family associations. The Daughters of the Republic of Texas going forward will become the BFRG repository for physical documents and artifacts. Digital archives at the Old Buncombe Library in Asheville, Carolina will augment the burlesonsbigtent unlimited storage. BFRG will lead a consortium of organizations to restore the ruins of Gen. Ed's cabin at Aquarena Springs...stay tuned. Our researchers have begun to locate abandoned unkempt Burleson & Cousins cemeteries for renewing declarations of existence, clean up, verification of burial to correct site, geographic positioning recording and high resolution color NON COPYRIGHT photography. Burleson entries in Find a Grave, et al have long been incorrect. We're on the hunt with fresh clues to locate even unmarked graves. Most gratifying is the swelling numbers of new cousin/researchers now contributing to the effort.

Join BFRG (just ten bucks), follow Cousining, get into the Burleson DNA Project by uploading kit results to the FREE gedMatch, get your family line validated in the FREE BFRG database, add your ancestors to the FREE BFRG working tree and keep in touch. JD



JD Burleson
BFRG Researcher
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High Flying Tribute to D Day



Jeremiah Burleson

The issue of this Recollections coincides with the 80th anniversary of “Operation Overlord” or D Day. June 6th WWII was at a critical turning point. Hitler’s forces were divided into two fronts, resupply of ammunition and war machines had slowed. A massive assault into Europe for a decisive push, driving the Reich’s army back into the interior of Germany. There Allied Forces could crush them. But where to begin the final attack? Secrecy was paramount, diversions were effected; D Day came... at Normandy, France.



Air cover for landings were deployed. The initial effort involved bombing airfields to minimize enemy response by air. Quickly after meant flying in a multitude of troops to parachute to various positions to flank the enemy and eliminate critical infrastructure that could facilitate counterattacks. The United States in conjunction with Allied countries will honor the actions and efforts made on D Day, celebrating the 80th anniversary in Normandy.

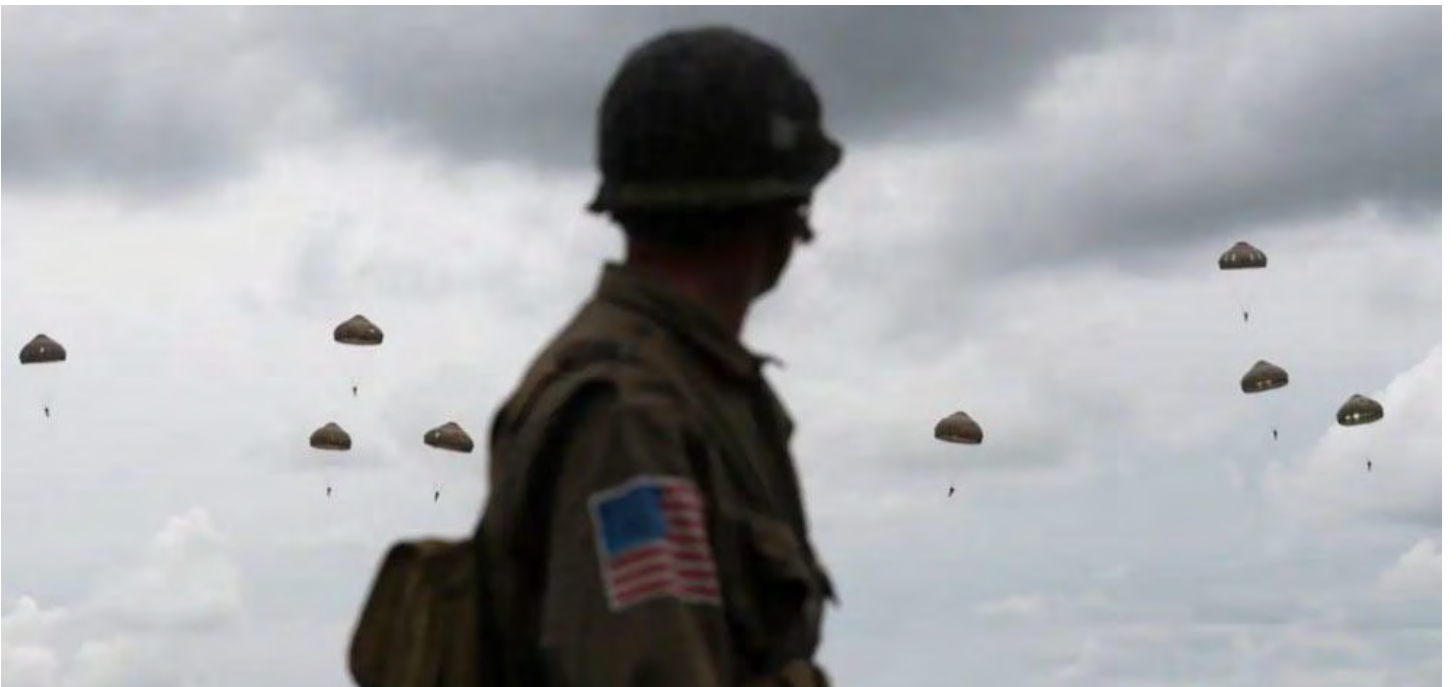


Major (Lt. Colonel select) Jeremiah Burleson from Palmer, Alaska has been chosen to participate in the re-enactment ceremonies. He will augment the New York Air National Guard by flying over Omaha Beach and nearby locales at Normandy. Twenty aircraft from U. S. bases in America and Germany will take part delivering parachuting troops there. They've been practicing there for a week. Burleson's crew, like their cohorts honored former Congressional Medal of Honor recipients to make the jumps during the rehearsals.



Major Burleson is married with one child, Irene and another expected in a few months. The soon to be Lt. Colonel enjoys flying, the military life and the healthy opportunity Alaska brings his young family. He is the son of Lt. Col. Dave Burleson USAF (retired) of Las Cruces, New Mexico. BFRG would like to congratulate Jeremiah on his promotion and selection to represent America at this momentous 80th Anniversary of D Day. Jeremiah took time between flights to tour the American Cemetery near Omaha beach. This Burleson officer will be flying over the American Memorial designed by the late Col. Joe Witt Burleson discussed in an article within.





NORMANDY CELEBRATES LIBERTY



ANNIVERSARY

OF D-DAY AND BATTLE OF NORMANDY

1944-2024



PROGRAMME ON-LINE



RÉGION
NORMANDIE



NORMANDY
TOURISM

Burleson Family Instrumental In Remembering Our Fallen Heroes

Memorial Day was declared a national holiday through an act of Congress in 1971, and its roots date back to the Civil War era. Unlike Veterans Day, which was established in 1926 (originally as “Armistice Day”) and honors all personnel who served in the Armed Forces of the United States, Memorial Day honors all military members who have died while serving in U.S. forces, in peace and war.

Unlike the current practice of repatriating fallen military members’ bodies to the United States, the logistics of promptly returning bodies to the U.S. that exist today simply did not exist prior to the 60’s. American dead in foreign wars, prior to Viet Nam, whose bodies were recovered, were buried in military cemeteries in the overseas areas where they fell.

One way America remembers its fallen heroes is via establishment, construction and maintaining/caring for American military cemeteries and memorials around the world. This responsibility falls on the American Battle Monuments Commission (AMBC), established by Congress in 1923, following World War I. There are 26 cemeteries and 31 memorials, monuments, and markers under the care of the ABMC, where more than 140,000 U.S. servicemen and servicewomen are interred at the cemeteries, and more than 94,000 missing in action, or lost or buried at sea are memorialized on cemetery “Walls of the Missing”.

A Burleson family member, COL Joe W. Burleson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a career Army officer who served in World War II, from Morgan County, Alabama, was instrumental in the construction of the 12 memorials in Europe that were built following World War II, as well as the Honolulu Memorial located at the National Memorial of the Pacific (commonly called the “Punchbowl”) in Hawaii.



COL Burleson served as Chief of Construction, American Battle Monuments Commission, Europe, and was responsible for oversight and supervision of the construction of the Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium; the Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial in England; the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial in England; the Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial in France; the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial in Italy; the Henri-Chappelle American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium; the Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial in France; the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial in the Netherlands; the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in France; the Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial in France; the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial in Italy; and, later, as stated, the Honolulu Memorial at the National Memorial of the Pacific.

Assigned at the European Headquarters of the AMBC in Paris, France, COL Burleson, led a large group of U.S. Army engineers, American and foreign contractors, and allied military engineers who established the cemeteries, built the memorials, and coordinated with military graves registration personnel to reintern American fallen from temporary graves across Europe into the newly-established permanent American military cemeteries.

Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial – France
Burials – 5,323
Missing In Action (MIA) – 463



Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial – England
Burials – 4,409 MIA – 498



Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial – England

Burials – 3,812 MIA – 5,127



Florence American Cemetery and Memorial – Italy

Burial – 4,402 MIA – 1,409



Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial – France
Burial – 5,255 MIA – 424



Henri-Chappelle American Cemetery and Memorial – Belgium
Burial – 7,992 MIA – 450



Lorraine American Cemetery and Memorial – France
Burial – 10,489 MIA – 444



Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial
Burial – 8,301 MIA – 1,722



Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial – France
Burial – 9,387 MIA – 1,557



Rhone American Cemetery and Memorial – France
Burial – 860 MIA – 294



Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial – Italy
Burial – 7,861 MIA – 3,095



National Memorial of the Pacific (“Punchbowl”) – Hawaii Honolulu Memorial
Dedicated to the 18,096 U.S. WWII soldiers missing from the Pacific,
8,200 missing from the Korean War, and 2,504 missing from the Viet Nam War.



During his time at the AMBC Headquarters in Paris, COL Burleson, his wife, Michelle, and their children lived in Paris, where Michelle was born and raised, and lived there during the German occupation during WWII. COL and Mrs. Burleson's son, COL Jean (John) Burleson, U.S. Army Retired, distinctly remembers one night, when he was a young child living in Paris, when his mother, Michelle, was whisked away in an ambulance in the middle of the night, taken to the airport, and medevac'd to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC. He remembers his grandparents (Michelle's parents), who also lived in Paris, taking him and his brothers and sister home with them, where they stayed for several months, while their mother remained in the hospital in America. Michelle had suffered a complete shutdown of her kidneys and was in critical condition when transported to Walter Reed, one of the few places in the United States who could deal with that critical medical issue, at that time. The prognosis for recovery was not good. After several days, COL Burleson received a telegram advising him that his wife, Michelle, had passed away. He immediately flew to the United States to bring Michelle home for burial in Paris. When he got to Walter Reed, he was advised that Michelle was alive. They had not been able to contact him enroute. He was told that Michelle had been declared dead after medical staff could not detect a pulse. She was moved to the hospital morgue to be prepped/embalmed for transport back to Paris when a morgue attendant noticed her eye twitch. He alerted medical personnel who were successful in reviving her. She stayed in the hospital for several months before finally being released and rejoining her family in Paris. She went on to live a full life, dying in 2018 at the age of 95.



In 1989, then Lieutenant Colonel Jean (John) Burleson, who was assigned as the Executive Officer to the Chief of Staff, Allied Forces Southern Europe (AFSOUTH), in Naples, Italy, visited the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery and Memorial in Nettuno, Italy with the Chief of Staff, to coordinate a planned visit to the cemetery on Memorial Day by President George H. W. Bush. They were met by an old, retired Army colonel, who was the AMBC's Superintendent of the cemetery and memorial. As introductions were made to the Superintendent, he asked LTC Burleson if he was related to COL Joe Burleson. LTC Burleson replied that he was his son and the Superintendent related that he had been the Project Engineer of the Sicily-Rome cemetery and memorial in the 1950's and had worked for COL Burleson. During lunch, the Superintendent told several stories about those days. He stated that he had also worked for COL Burleson during the construction of the Honolulu Memorial. He related that, when the huge marble panels with the engraved names of the fallen arrived in Hawaii from Italy, the names were carefully checked to ensure accuracy. One name on one of the panels was misspelled. He said that as discussion ensued about what to do about it – ignore it or fill and correct it – COL Burleson demanded that the entire panel be replaced from the same quarry and by the same engraver in Italy, so it would match the other panels. That was met with resistance, as the cost would be great and would result in a construction delay. COL Burleson would not be deterred, explaining that the military member had died for his country and that his country owed it to him and his family to get his name right on the memorial. The panel was replaced.

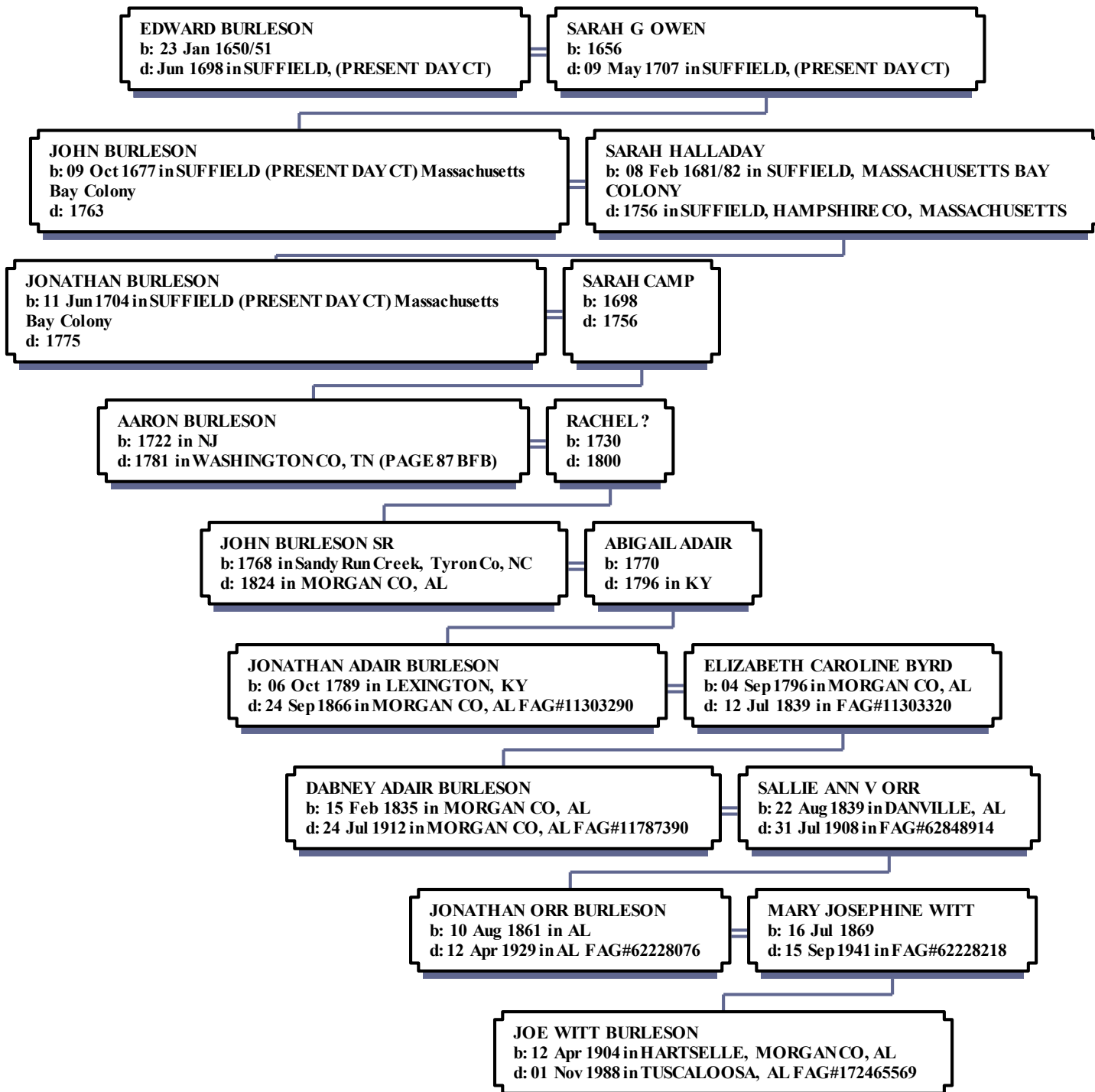


Col. Jean Forrest Burleson
USA retired/BFRG Researcher
Jburleson1804@comcast.net



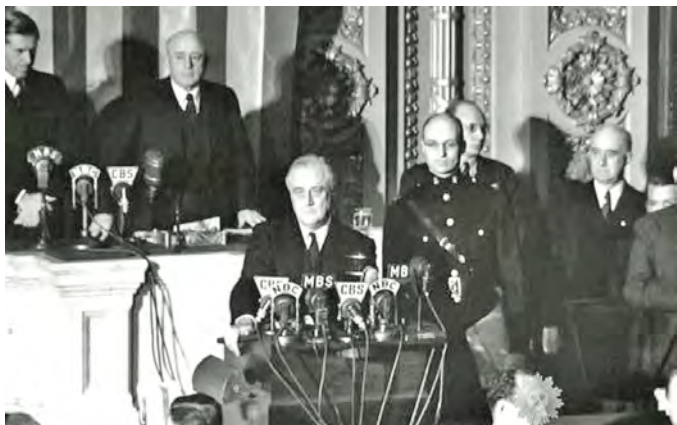
As Americans remember our servicemembers who died in their service to our country, remember the part the Burluson family played in keeping their memory alive in the memorials across the world.

Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



The Alpha α of World War II

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's address to Congress termed December 7, 1941 as a "Day of Infamy." We've all seen the newsreels and generally are aware of the attack on Pearl Harbor. BFRG would like to drill down to details in a more personal family story. Were you aware that the very FIRST AMERICAN CASUALTY in the WWII Pacific theater was a Burlison?



Weldon C Burlison

On (Date unknown. Being researched. See content integrity note below.) Corporal Burlison was declared a casualty of World War II. ★ He served with honor in the United States Army. ★ He is remembered by the people of North Carolina. ★ May his positive example inspire us. Working together towards peace, mutual respect, and equality for all.



Weldon C Burlison
World War II

Service Details

This Profile ID	503140
Service ID	6377063
Name	Weldon C Burlison
From	Yancey County, North Carolina
War	World War II
Service Branch	Army
Rank	Corporal
Casualty Type	KIA - Killed in Action
Notable Awards	★ Purple Heart

Commendations + Awards

PLEASE NOTE THIS MIGHT NOT BE A COMPLETE OR COMPLETELY ACCURATE ACCOUNTING. FOR SOME AWARDS WE USE PROBABILITIES BASED ON KNOWN SERVICE DETAILS.

- ★ World War II Victory Medal
- ★ Purple Heart
- ★ American Campaign Medal
- ★ Army Presidential Unit Citation
- ★ Army Good Conduct Medal



According to the State Archives of North Carolina and the Library of Congress, the initial casualty on Pearl Harbor Day was Weldon C. Burlison (Burlison) was killed in a strafing attack by Japanese "Zeroes" at the Barking Sands edge at Hickham Field, Hawaii. In the late evening of December 6th and wee hours of December 7th a large number of Boeing B 17 Flying Fortresses landed and were parked at the seaward edge of the in-progress Barking Sands Landing Field. No other landings were anticipated that morning. Burlison had just finished breakfast in the

mess hall. His fifty other comrades continued their meal. Weldon went out the flight line doorway to investigate the sound of plane engines. In less than a few steps out the door he took on two 7.7 mm (.303 in) machine gun rounds, killing him instantly. The last image poor Burleson saw was of a Zero like the below headed right at him. The following images show the aftermath he never witnessed.

A6M "Zero"

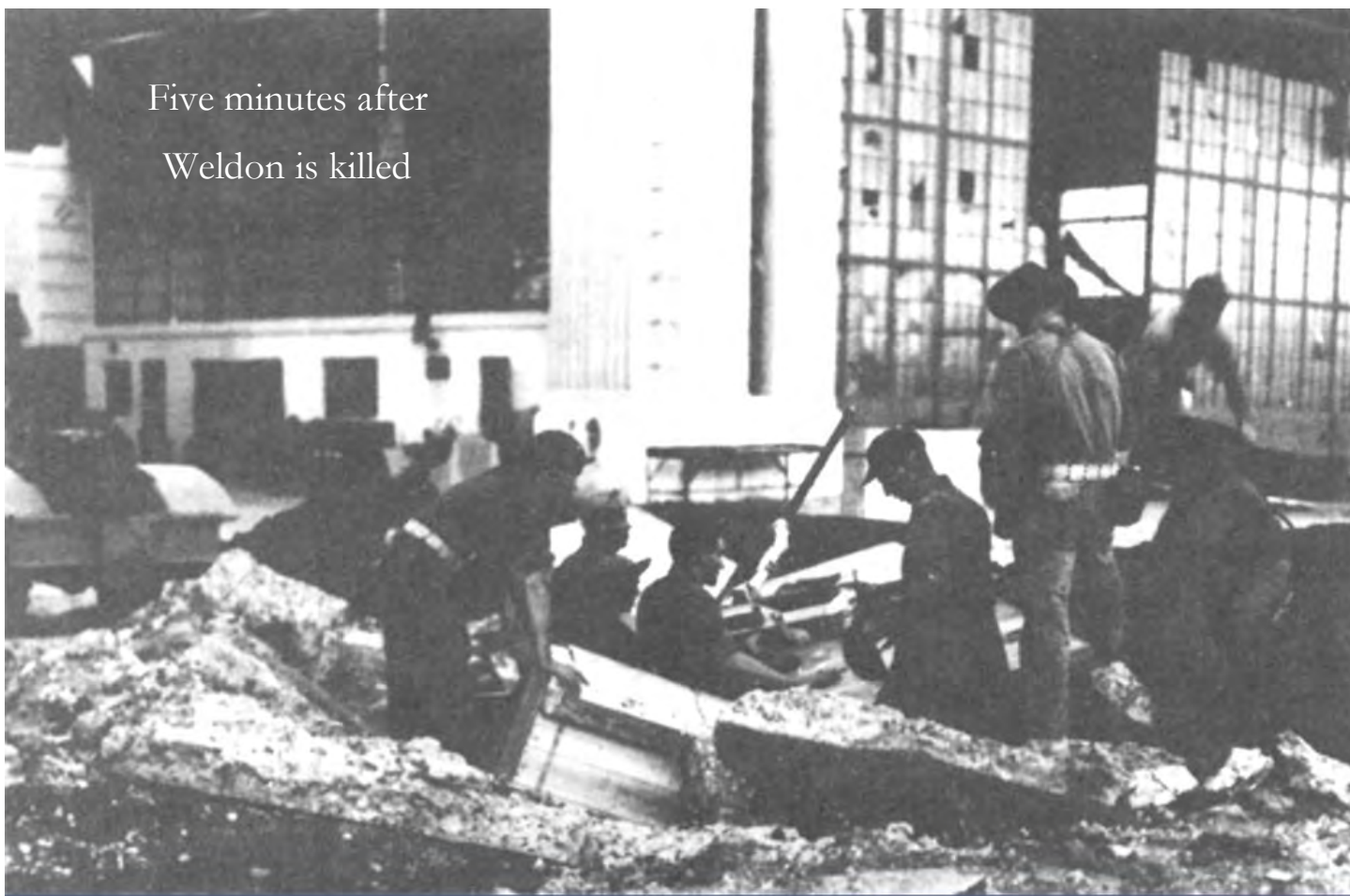


[Bennett Barking Sands Air Base.2A.pdf](#)



What the flight line looked like when Burleson went to sleep

Five minutes after
Weldon is killed





20 minutes after Burleson's death the Japanese made a second strafing run



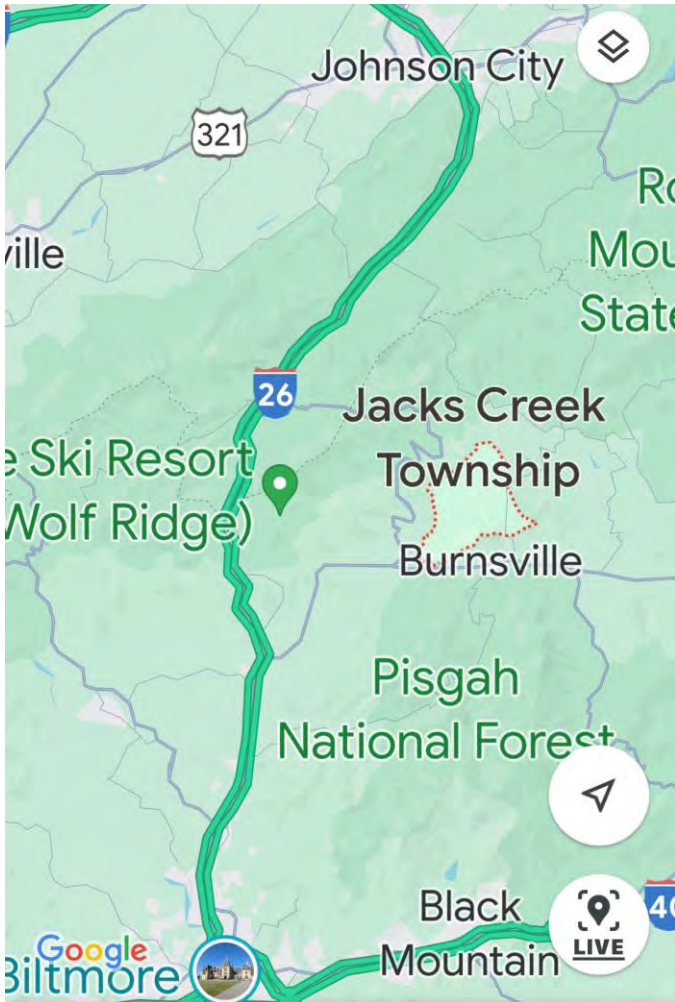
The preceding had to occur before the attacks on the battleships to be successful.



USS Arizona

30 minutes after Burleson's death

Forgive the excessive imagery of Hickham Air Base's destruction but our tribute to Memorial Day couples with a BURLESON as the first military casualty merits the drama. Weldon C. Burleson was born 25 November 1911 in Yancey County, North Carolina to Henry Wilburn and Minnie Bell Burleson. By 1920 the Burleson family were living in Jacks Creek Township in Yancey County where Henry worked as a farmer. Weldon attended the nearby Clearmont High School in Burnsville. He served in two branches of the military, first in Marines for four years and then following an honorable discharge, he reenlisted with the U.S. Army Air Corps.



Weldon's boyhood farm

Weldon attended Maryville College in Tennessee and enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps on August 16, 1934 serving for four years. He went through his basic training in the Headquarters Detachment at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island, South Carolina. As of November 1934, Burleson was stationed in the Marine Barracks at the Naval Yard in Boston, Massachusetts and remained there through September 1935. By October 1935, he was stationed with the sea school detachment at the Marine Barracks of the Norfolk Naval Yard in Portsmouth, Virginia. Just a few months later in January 1936, he was

serving as a private in a Marine Detachment aboard the USS Colorado (BB-45), the lead ship of the Colorado class of battleships which operated in the Pacific Ocean. In 1937, he served in numerous locations around the world and aboard a number of U.S. ships, including the USS Fairfax (DD-93), a Wickes class destroyer, which was assigned to the Special Service Squadron out of US Navy stations Coco Solo and Balboa in the Panama Canal Zone, in Panama between January and April 1937.

History

United States

Name *USS Fairfax*

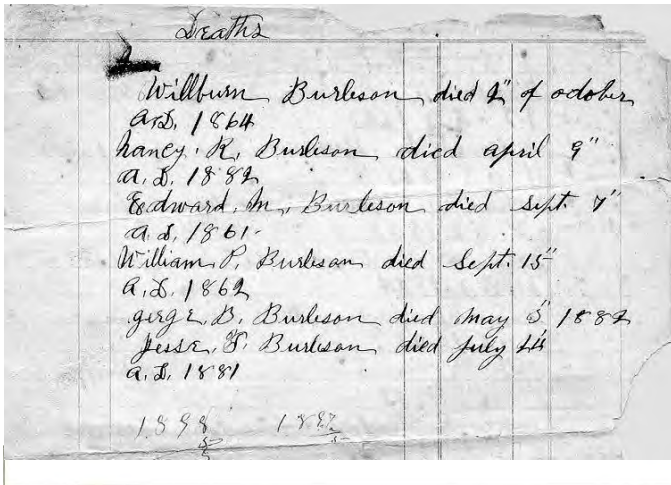


USS Colorado visiting New York City in 1932.

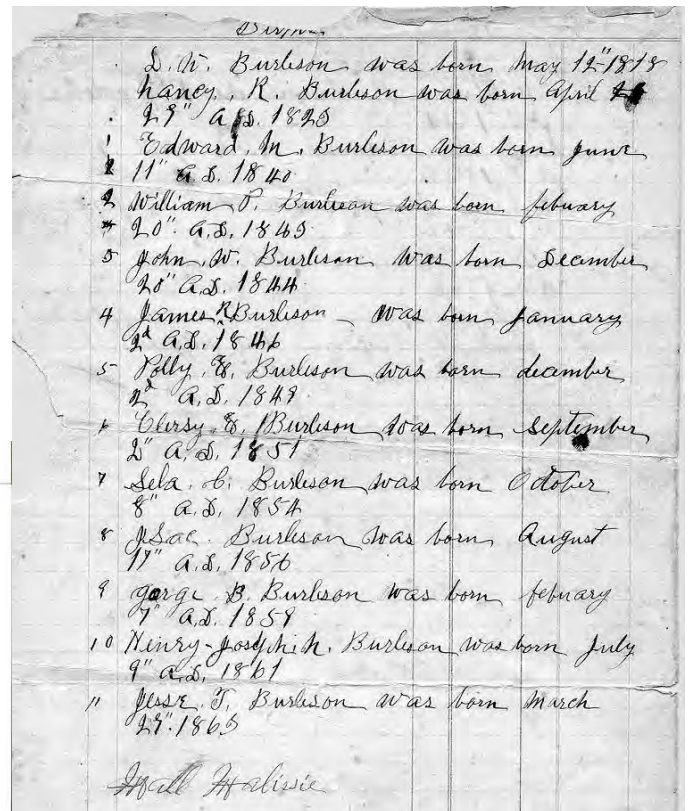
By 1940, Weldon reenlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps that assigned him primarily at Hickham Air Base. Weldon worked with his hands; he was more specifically tasked to construction crews. They built air fields, barracks, mess halls and hangars. He was billeted to the barracks near the very edge of Barking Sands section of Pearl Harbor- the 22nd Material Squadron. Quickly exiting the newest barracks he helped build was where Burleson met his death... again the absolute first death of a U.S. serviceman in WWII's war against Japan.

Weldon comes from one of the rare and mysterious Burleson/Burlison lines in North Carolina. It is a line ever confusing genealogists and even geneticists. Is he Burleson? Is he Sisco?

Edward Burleson 1781-1841 m. Matilda Jane McKissick 1780-1830 Pages from Edward Burleson's Bible



Page 1 of 2



The Last Will and Testament of Edward Burlison

Know all men by these presents that I, Edward Burlison, of the County of Buncombe, and Commonwealth of North Carolina, being sick of body, but of perfect mind and memory, and calling to mind the mortality of the body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make this and no other, my last will and testament viz:

First, and personally, I give my soul into the hands of the Almighty God that gave it to me and my body to the earth from whence it came to be buried in a decent form after the directions of my Executors, hereinafter named, not doubting but I shall receive the same at the general resurrection by the same Almighty power and, as touching such worldly goods or estate, wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with, give and disposed of in the means and form following viz:

2ndly, I give and bequeath unto my present and beloved wife, Polly Burlison and her heirs all of the Old McKissick tract of land from John Greenwoods land up to the tract of land that my son, Isaac Burlison lately lived on and also I give them one hundred dollars to be paid out of the balance of my property and all the household and kitchen furniture and one years provisions to be laid out by two disinterested men on the day of sale for her and all the family, and stock that remains with her.

3rdly, It is my will and desire that all the remainder of my real and personal estate be sold on a credit of twelve months and after paying all of my just debts out of the money, then the remainder to be equally divided between my first wife's children viz: Margaret Coats, Polly Dillingham, Isaac Burlison, Rebecca Carter, D. W. Burlison, Jane Williams, Jackson Burlison, Michael Shirley, Washington Burlison, Anderson Burlison and Elizabeth Burlison.

4thly, and I hereby ordain my worth friends and sons-in-law, Gabriel G. Coats and Edward Carter, Executors of this my last will and testament.

Daniel Wilburn Burlison 1818-1864 m. Nancy R. Wilson 1823-1882

Henry Joseph Nelson Burleson 1861-1933 m. Mary Jane Rathburn 1865-1930

Henry Wilburn Burleson 1885-1952 m. Minnie L. McCourry 1884-1975

Weldon C. Burleson 1911-1941

THE FORECAST
Warmer tonight
Clear - Tuesday
Snow Wednesday
Today ... 32 - Yesterday ... 30

THE BRIDGEPORT POST

HOME EDITION
Late Local and Wire News

VOL. LVIII. NO. 268 Leads in News, Advertising, Circulation BRIDGEPORT, CONN. MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1941 Bridgeport's Family Newspaper TWENTY EIGHT PAGES TWO SECTIONS TWO CENTS

CONGRESS VOTES WAR AGAINST JAPS AFTER FDR BARES BRUTAL ATTACKS

The President's Address to Members of Congress

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—(AP) The text of President Roosevelt's war message to Congress follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

Yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the secretary of War a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recalled that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been captured, torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine islands.

Last night the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has therefore, upon a surprise offensive against sleeping tranquility, attacked the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday's attack throughout the Pacific area. The people of the United States have already formed their opinion and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

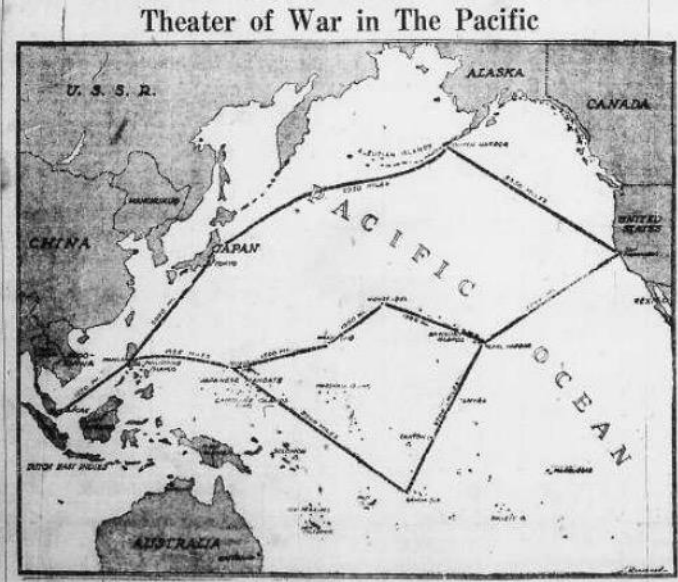
As commander in chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Always will we remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.

I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make very certain that the form of treachery shall never endanger us again.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.



This map shows, with distance in miles, the naval and military outposts of the United States in the Pacific. Early reports indicated attacks by Japanese bombers on Hawaii, the Philippines, Guam and on British bases in the Pacific.

U. S. CASUALTIES IN FIRST RAIDS PUT AT 3,000

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—(AP) The United States, through its Congress, declared war today on Japan.

Overwhelmingly, and with the greatest unity shown in many a day on Capitol Hill, the Senate and House backed up President Roosevelt's request for a war declaration with unprecedented speed. The Senate vote, first to be recorded, was 82 to 1.

The House vote was 388 to one, the lone dissenting vote being cast by Rep. Jeannette Rankin, of Montana.

The officially announced loss of two warships and 3,000 men dead and wounded in Japan's raid on Hawaii was fresh in the minds of the legislators.

The Senate and House had assembled together to hear President Roosevelt ask the declaration. They cheered him enthusiastically and then pushed the resolution through with not a moment's waste of time.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Great Britain formally declared war against Japan today as Imperial Tokyo headquarters claimed smashing naval and air victories over the United States and mighty forces of the U. S. fleet were reported combing the Pacific to seek battle with Japanese warships.

In London, the House of Commons cheered tumultuously as Prime Minister Winston Churchill, fulfilling his pledge of a month ago, invoked war against the Tokyo government, made allies of Thailand and Free China, and declared:

"Every preparation on our power has been made and we shall give a good account of ourselves."

"There is the closest accord with the powerful American naval and air forces and with the strong, efficient forces of the Netherlands East Indies."

Some observers believed it was possible that American warships had already met Japanese naval forces in battle somewhere between Hawaii and the Philippines.

One or more Japanese aircraft carriers, presumably escorted by strong naval formations, were reported to have engaged in the opening attack against Honolulu, and it seemed a conjecture that U. S. dreadnaughts were in hard pursuit, actual contact with the invaders.

While Japanese parachute troops were reported landing in the Philippines, Tokyo headquarters declared that two U. S. battleships had been sunk, four others damaged, two destroyers sunk and four heavy cruisers hit in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Simultaneously, Australia decided to declare war on Japan.

NAZIS SAY EDR 'HAS HIS WAR'

3,000 U.S. Dead, Wounded in Hawaii, Says President

BRITAIN JOINS U.S. IN JAP WAR

Spokesman Says 'Curse of World' Rests on Him

Army, Navy Fighting Since First Attack Roosevelt

Index to Today's Post

Acts Before American Declaration; Takes China

You may recall from a previous edition of Recollections that the last American casualty in WWII's European theater was Woody Lynn "Buddy" Burleson born 1916 in Vance County, Texas. These Burleson men were the first and last men killed in WWII..The Alpha and the Omega.



Jim Burleson
BFRG Researcher
Jimburleson8554@gmail.com

A Special Burleson Memorial Day Salute to Colonel Aaron Crowe Burleson

Distinguished Flying Cross



Type Military
Decoration

Awarded for "Heroism or
extraordinary
achievement
while
participating in
an aerial flight"

The conversation started as many do.... "Dad, have you ever heard of (name of your choice) Burleson?" This conversation was a little more unique in that it was accompanied by a photograph. And then another.

My son, Micah Burleson (Aaron Burleson, Thomas "Daunt" Burleson, Simeon Burleson, Nancy Burleson (Jacob Slagle), Charles Slagle, William Greene (Jane Slagle), Asa Burleson (Judah Greene), Hobert Burleson, Ned Burleson, David Burleson) and his wife Sara Cobble Burleson were at Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, where Micah was attending U.S. Air Force C-17 Loadmaster training. It is here that they came across these two pictures.

The Burleson clan has had its share of soldiers, marines, sailors, airmen, Coast Guardsmen, and guardians (i.e., U.S. Space Force). We have had family members serve in most every pre-colonial, colonial and national war, among all ranks privates to generals, all heroes serving proudly.

The Burlesons have not only served often but have served together. I have previously written about World War II hero Harry Lee Burleson of Avery County, North Carolina, whose five brothers (i.e., Jack, James, Frank, Yates, and Guy) also served in the military in all four branches, four in World War II and two in the Korean Conflict.ⁱ I wrote a tribute to Jim Sloan Burleson of Houston, Texas, a B-17 tail gunner and former POW in World War II whose two older brothers, John Alford Burleson and Joe Wallace Burleson were serving in World War II in the Pacific with the U. S. Navy and U. S. Marine Corps respectively.ⁱⁱ

The question from my son piqued my interest. As a retired Air Force officer with two sons currently in the Air Force, when researching family members, I am on alert when I run across Burlesons in the Air Force (i.e., and Army Air Corps and Army Air Forces). This was the case in researching Aaron Crowe "Burley" Burleson. Sure enough, Burley Burleson was in our Ancestry tree (4th cousin 3X removed). Upon further research, Burley Burleson enlisted, advanced in the ranks to Colonel, had a distinguished career and was equally successful in family and civilian life.



1- Oklahoma State Highway 62



2 - Micah and Sara Burleson

But something different in researching Colonel Burleson's records—a different dimension of military service stood out—Burley Burleson was a veteran of three wars—World War II, Korea and Vietnam. I had seen records for a handful of people who had served in all three wars, but this was the first relative I had noticed. Colonel Burleson was one of only 171,000 U. S. service members to see service in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.ⁱⁱⁱ This may seem like a lot but when viewed with the total number of those who served, a different picture forms: 16 million servicemen in WWII, 6.8 million in Korea and 2.7 million in Vietnam (i.e., 25.5 million total service members).^{iv} Just half of one percent (i.e., 0.6) of all these service members served in all three wars. A number of characteristics must align for this to occur, among them—long life, skill navigating multiple theaters of conflict, a long military career, a supportive family and devotion to country. Colonel Aaron “Burley” Burleson possessed them all. In this Memorial Day tribute, this article will briefly trace his four decades of service.

World War II

Burley, the only child of Aaron Burleson and Nannie Mae Munger, was born on 20 November 1920 in Lawton, Oklahoma. Following graduation from Lawton High School in 1938, Burley attended Cameron Junior College and on 2 June 1939, 18-year-old Burley enlisted in the Oklahoma National Guard.^v Burley had completed one year of college and was assigned to the Artillery Branch at the rank of Private. He advanced to Corporal, and at the time of his unit's (158th Field Artillery Band--clarinet) mobilization with the 45th Infantry Division on 16 September 1940, he achieved the rank of Sergeant.^{vi} His father, Aaron Burleson (1866-1940), sadly passed as Burley's military career was just beginning.^{vii}

From Cameron To Fort Sill



These six non-commissioned officers of the Cameron college national guard band, now a part of the 158th FA regiment of the 45th Division, are getting used to army life. Left to right, front row: Tech. Sgt. Julian Niemczyk, Fort Sill; St. Sgt. Paul Waddle, Lawton; Sgt. Homer Knowlton, Snyder, and Corp. Aaron Burleson, Lawton. Back row, left to right: Sgt. John Lindsey, Lawton; and Sgt. Jack Reed, Snyder.

3 - Corporal Aaron Burleson 158th FA Regiment, 45th Division. Front row far right



4 - Recruitment Poster

Burley wanted to fly. While in the Oklahoma Army National Guard, he applied and was selected as an Aviation Cadet candidate and assigned to a number of flight training bases including Kelly Field (Texas), Parks Air College (St. Louis, where he will meet his future wife), Coffeyville Army Air Field (Kansas) and the Gulf Coast Training Center at Pampa (Texas), known as the “Eagles’ Nest of the High Plains.”^{viii} Cadet Burleson underwent training on a range of aircraft in basic and transition flight training including the single engine BT-13, *Valiant*. Advanced twin engine training (i.e., AT-9 *Jeep*, AT-10 *Wichita*, and AT-17 *Bobcat*) was designed for those pilots designated for bomber units—his ultimate aircraft for WW II. His flight training occurred from 4 September 1942 through 15 April 1944—a lengthier period than normal as Cadet Burleson had suffered back injuries from a training accident in February 1943 in Coffeyville, Kansas.^{ix}

Flight training—ground and flying—was hazardous as evidenced by Cadet Burleson’s multiple broken vertebrae.

“Over the course of the war, the US Army Air Forces suffered over 54,000 accidents

(flight training) in the continental United States. These accidents accounted for over 15,000 fatalities, the equivalent of a World War Two infantry division.”^x Two members of Burley’s Coffeyville Class 43-E perished in training.^{xi}



5 - BT-13 Valiant



6 - Cadet Burleson

Despite his injuries, Cadet Burleson completed his basic flight training on 15 April 1944 and on this same date, Burley was promoted to Second Lieutenant and called to active duty.^{xii} Immediately after graduation and while still in Pampa, Texas, he married Myra Hosch, to whom he would be married for 62 years.^{xiii} 2LT Burleson was then off to nine weeks of B-24 flight training. He and his crew received additional training at Mountain Home, Idaho, and then beginning in October 1944 he was assigned to Will Rogers Air Field in Oklahoma City.^{xiv} There, Burley flew B-24 aircraft that “had been specially modified for high altitude reconnaissance work. Using simulated combat conditions, aircrew honed their skills in advanced navigation, mapping, communication, and instrument flying.”^{xv}

The B-24, despite being the most numerous aircraft produced during the war (i.e., 19,000), the B-24 had an

ominous reputation—being called “the Flying Coffin.” Pilots stated the box shape was stiff and difficult to fly and, “With only a single point of exit and far from the majority of the crew, it was nearly impossible for them to leave in an emergency.”^{xvi}

Having cleared the rigors and dangers of flight training, he was assigned as a B-24 *Liberator* pilot in the Pacific Theater, 5th Army Air Force, 43rd Bombardment Group (Ken’s Men) and the 65th Bombardment Squadron.^{xvii} Being assigned to a squadron (i.e., 65th) named the “Lucky Dicers”, at least in name, appeared to be a good omen.



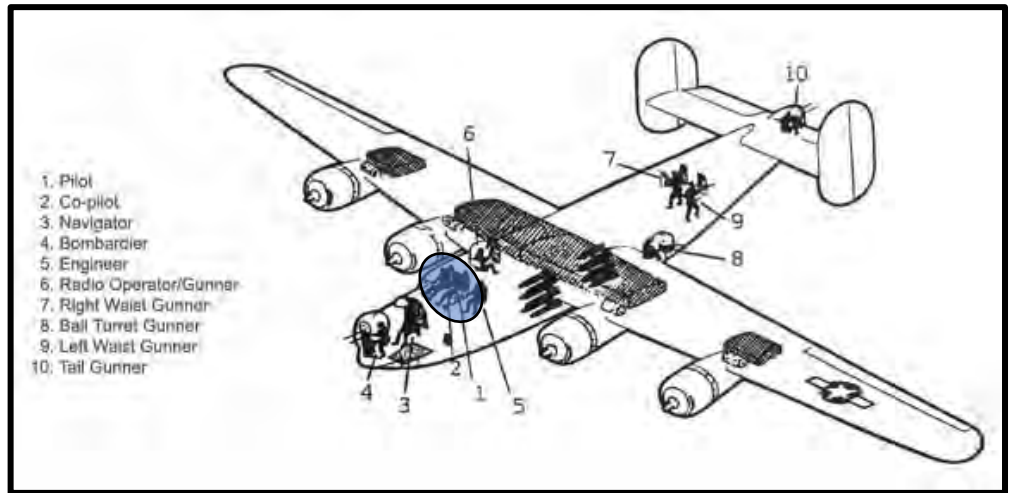
7 - LT Burleson's WWII Flight Jacket with embroidered B-24 "Ken's Men"



9 - 65th Bomb Squadron Logo - Leyte

8 - Crew of a B-24 Liberator. LT Burluson occupied the Pilot/Co-Pilot position (blue oval).

Burley joined the 65th Bomb Squadron in New Guinea (at Owi, Schouten Islands in April 1945) as part of the U.S. strategy of “island-hopping”—defeating the Japanese island by island, moving ever closer to enable bombing of mainland Japan.



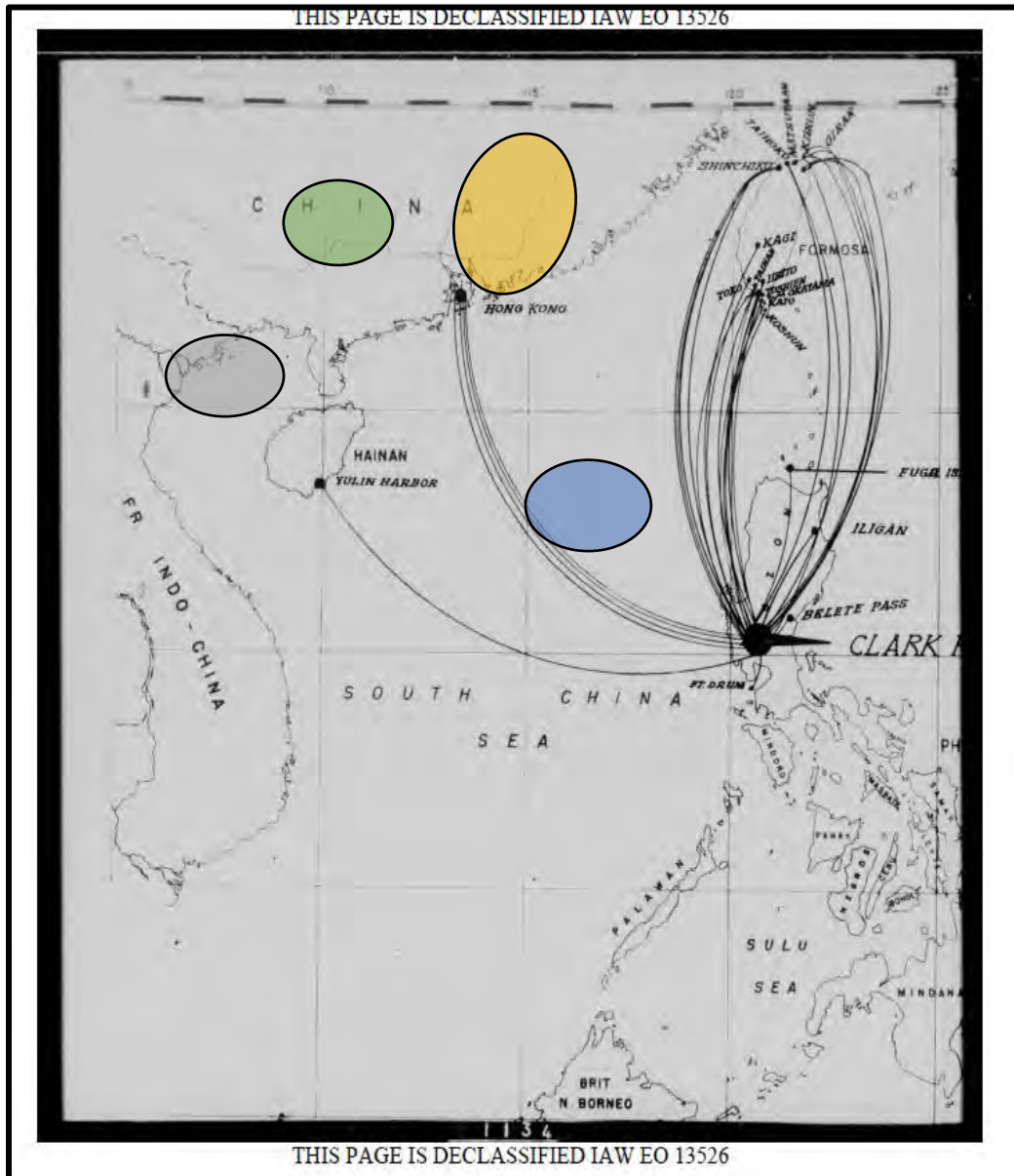
10 - LT Burluson's B-24, Ken's Men – Clark Field, Philippines

As a 23-year-old pilot, 2LT Burluson commanded a B-24 nicknamed “Ken’s Men.”^{xviii} He and his crew provided “support for ground forces and attacking airfields and installations in New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, Celebes, Halmahera, Yap, Palau, and the southern Philippines; and long-range raids against oil refineries on Ceram and Borneo.”^{xix}

11 - Crew of Ken's Men – LT Burluson, standing 3rd from left



After moving to the Tacloban Airfield, Leyte, Philippines, the group “attacked shipping along the Asiatic coast; struck industries, airfields, and installations in China and Formosa; and supported ground forces on Luzon.”^{xxx} Tainan Airfield, Formosa, had been used by the Japanese for the duration of the war which served as home base for Japanese AM62 Zero aircraft.^{xxi}



12 - 65th Bomb Squadron missions/targets - June 1945. Flights from Clark Field (blue oval) Philippines to Formosa (orange oval) and mainland China (Hainan in gray oval and Hong Kong in green oval). The arced lines indicate missions to the highlighted locations.

LT Burleson’s unit continued the island-hopping campaign going from Owi Schouten Islands, Indonesia, to Leyte, Philippines, and to Clark Field, Philippines, focusing on establishing bases to bomb mainland Japan. Formosa stood in the way of that goal. The missions to Formosa were among the most harrowing and deadly that Burley faced. The 43rd Bomb Group and his 65th Bomb Squadron experienced just such a grim encounter with the enemy in May 1945. The following description of the bravery of the 65th pilots was detailed in a post on the 43rd Bomb Group’s web site by participants in the mission:

Remember the 15

May 18, 1945, was an all too eventful day for the 65th Bomb Squadron, 43rd Bomb Group. Seven of its B-24s were sent to make up a third of a 21-plane raid with the 403rd and 64th Squadrons on Tainan Airdrome, located on Formosa (now Taiwan). Antiaircraft fire was heavy and accurate, and coming from both Tainan and the nearby Okayama Airdrome. Aircrews noticed two strange types of antiaircraft bursts. One looked like a gasoline fire bursting in midair, the other appeared to be a stream of fire trailed by smoke.

As the crews made their runs, 1/Lt. James J. Franklin's B-24 took a direct hit and exploded. All ten members of the crew as well as an observer were killed. To the right of Franklin was 1/Lt. Rudolph J. Cherkauer in B-24 #373, which felt the brunt of the explosion and ended up leaving Tainan with two hundred new holes and three wounded men aboard. The bombardier was knocked unconscious by the blast. Both port engines were smoking heavily, but the #2 was still capable of running at reduced power. It was enough to get them to the emergency field at Lingayen, Luzon. The three wounded crewmen were brought to the hospital and eventually recovered.

First Lieutenant Charles H. Wilt, another 65th Squadron pilot, finished his run and was hit in the #4 engine. To make matters worse, the #3 engine was running away and the smell of gas permeated the fuselage. Everyone on board knew they needed to bail out before their B-24 exploded, but they were warned against it by PBV crews standing by for rescues. By that point, Wilt's B-24 was 6000 feet above rough seas with 25-foot waves, which would make it harder for rescue crews to find the downed airmen. Still, the crew felt like everyone would have a better chance of survival if the men bailed out.

Unfortunately, they were also short on life jackets. Four of the 11 crewmen had to go without, including 2/Lt. Norbert C. Straeck, who volunteered because he was a strong swimmer. The other B-24 crews watched 11 parachutes open and only the men with the Mae Wests were rescued. Two men went under before they were fished out and two more disappeared. It was a tough day for the 65th Squadron, losing 15 men and two B-24s. A funeral for the 15 men, 1/Lt. James J. Franklin, 2/Lt. Frances J. Smith, 2/Lt. Darrell F. Hoffman, 2/Lt. John R. Duff, Cpl. Walter J. McKay, Jr., T/Sgt. Henry A. Cichy, T/Sgt. Francis J. Dougherty, S/Sgt. Lloyd B. Arie, S/Sgt. Frank D. Byrd, S/Sgt. Donald C. Gayle, S/Sgt. Sigmund J. Magiera, 2/Lt. Norbert C. Straeck, 2/Lt. Gabriel R. Levinson, Cpl. Walter J. Christensen and Cpl. Lehland Stauffer, was held on May 23rd at the 43rd's chapel.^{xxii}

Two weeks later, on 3 June 1945, fellow 65th Pilot Frank L. Chisman and his entire crew were killed after taking off for a mission to Formosa on a B-24 also called *Ken's Men/Barbra Jean*.^{xxiii} In this short two-week period Burley and his fellow 65th members experienced the loss of 25 crewmates and the loss of three B-24s. As a member of these critical missions, he would continue to experience loss and injury to fellow pilots, their crews, and his friends until the war's end.

Not all experiences were life-threatening. At a 2004 ceremony honoring Burley's military and civic contributions, he recalled one of his more light-hearted experiences fighting in the Pacific, ironically an experience following their successful completion of the Formose campaign.

While in Taipei one day a navigator came running down the street shouting that there were "Japs" on a building on base. Burley and his buddies immediately ran out ready to capture some Japanese soldiers.

When they arrived at the destination, the Americans began shouting, "Come out with your hands up!" Remarkably, understanding English, the enemy came out just as they were told. One enemy

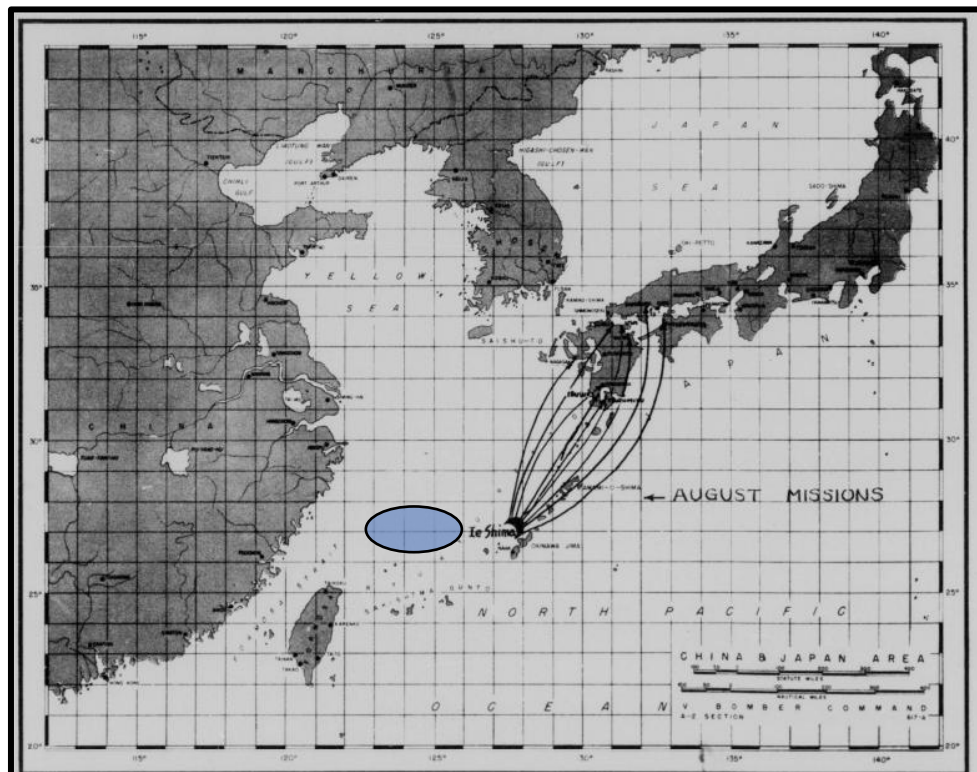
soldier who was much bigger than the others, was climbing onto the truck when he passed Burley and winked at him. In perfect English, the Japanese soldier turned to Burley and said, “So how are the Yankees doing this year?”

Burleson later discovered these Japanese soldiers has all been attending New York University when they were sent home to Japan and made to serve in the Japanese military to fight the Americans.”^{xxiv}



13 - LT Burleson in the Orient

The 43rd and 65th costly victories in Formosa enabled the units, in July 1945, to move to Ie Shima, Okinawa—and the opportunity to attack mainland Japan. The move occurred shortly before the Japanese surrender and his unit “conducted missions against airfields and railways in Japan and against shipping in the Inland Sea and the Sea of Japan.”^{xxv} In all, LT Burleson flew 8 combat missions before the end of hostilities. Post-Japanese surrender, newly promoted 1LT Burleson (31 August 1945) flew repatriated prisoners of war back to Manila, Philippines, and also served as an adjutant in the 43rd Bomb Group. Burley left the Pacific Theater for the United States in October 1945.^{xxvi}



14 - 65th Bomb Squadron missions/targets – August 1945. Flights from Ie Shima, Okinawa, to mainland Japan. Ie Shima highlighted in blue circle.

Korean War

The Korean War (1950-1953)

The end of the war saw friends and family gather, often to welcome discharged servicemen returning from overseas and to thank them for their wartime service. Burley and Myra attended just such a gathering in Lawton hosted by Mrs. Ruby Whitlock.^{xxvii} Unlike the millions of service members who chose to be discharged after the war, LT Burleson made the decision to stay in the service.^{xxviii}

1LT Burleson was assigned to Alaska. Hometown newspapers indicate he was assigned as an adjutant to the 43rd Bomb Group, his same parent group during World War II.^{xxix} This was possible as Alaska was used to retrograde wartime assets from the Pacific back to the United States and 43rd aircraft were routed through Alaska. Burley would have been well-suited to such a task. Burley was promoted to Captain on 16 July 1947 and was stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska. Burley Burleson piloted C-47 and C-54 aircraft in the Aleutian Islands.^{xxx} Alaska served as a stopover refueling and staging point on the Great Circle Route for support and supplies during the Korean conflict.

After an assignment in the 1922nd Airways and Communications Services at Maxwell AFB in Alabama, Captain Burleson reported to Pepperrell Air Force Base, Newfoundland, where he served as a Communications Officer and Adjutant. Captain Burleson was then assigned as a military personnel officer and in manpower management at the newly created (i.e., 1950) Northeast Air Command also based at Pepperrell Air Force Base.^{xxxi} Following the Korean conflict, the station mission was reduced, and on July 1, 1954, the station was declared surplus and deactivated.



15 - Captain Burleson in Alaska.

Cold War and Vietnam War

In 1954 he was assigned to special air mission operations in Washington, D.C. Major Burleson, promoted January 1956, flew advance trips around the world to make arrangements for presidential missions. In 1962 he served as special air mission officer in the Office of the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force. His duties included coordinating airlift support for the White House, the Office of the Secretary of

State, the Senate and the House of Representatives, and other executive offices and providing airlift for both United States and foreign dignitaries.^{xxxii} He piloted Prince Bernhart of the Netherlands and Princess Margaret of Great Britain.^{xxxiii} Major Burleson was awarded the Air Force Commendation medal for his performance as Project Officer for the Military Air Transport Service which flew USSR Premier Khrushchev during his 1959 tour of the United States.^{xxxiv} In all, he served four different administrations while assigned to the Pentagon for eight years.

16 - Major Burleson, third from left on ladder, and VC-137 DV transport crews.



17 - Lt Col Burleson was a frequent visitor to the White House, serving four administrations. Pictured with President Nixon, his wife, Myra, and daughter Debra.



Lt Col Burleson amassed over 3,000 flight hours at the helm of the VC-130 while assigned to special missions.

The VC-140B provided fast and economical travel for several US presidents. Whenever the president was aboard, it flew under the radio call sign Air Force One. Lyndon B. Johnson used JetStars extensively during his time both as vice president and president, and because of the aircraft's small size, he sometimes referred to them as "Air Force One Half." The aircraft on display carried Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan a number of times,

although it never served as the primary presidential aircraft. After 26 years of service, this JetStar was retired to the museum in July 1987.^{xxxv}



18 - VC-140B JetStar

After sixteen years in special air missions and in Washington D. C., Burleson became the Vice Commander of the 443d Military Airlift Wing at Altus AFB in 1970. The Vietnam War was still in full swing while Burleson commanded the 443d Air Base Group (Sept. 1, 1973, to June 27, 1974). Crews from Altus were in the Pacific providing essential cargo, supporting refueling operations and carrying troops back from the war, including one crew that brought back POW's.^{xxxvi}

His mother, Mae Burleson, passed away on 8 January 1974, having been a part of nearly his entire career. Colonel Burleson retired on 1 July 1974 after 35 years and 21 days of military service to his country.

Colonel Burleson amassed more than 7,700 flying hours as a command pilot in B-24, F-7 (reconnaissance version of the B-24), C-47, C-54, VC-140, C-131, and C-141 aircraft. He flew eight combat missions in the B-24 and F-7, and was awarded two Legion of Merit medals, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and numerous campaign ribbons.^{xxxvii}
xxxviii

When the decision to retire was made, Burley stated he had been advised to, “retire where your friends are. We said the first time we found the people we wanted to call our friends that is where we would retire. We have found that at Altus.”^{xxxix} Thus, following his retirement in Altus, Colonel Burleson began a distinguished and successful 30-year, second career in the community, serving on many boards and commissions, focusing on economic development of the city and the military base. He stated, “the reason he liked the job so much is because I learned it from my father.”^{xl} Burley emphasized the role of his father in guiding his decision to become engaged in local civil-military activities. His father, a Lawton, Oklahoma, judge, lawyer and longtime supporter of area military bases emphasized the need to “take care of our post.”^{xli} In 1997, Burley was awarded the first of only four USAF Pioneer Awards by Air Force General Lloyd Newton, Commander, Air Education and Training Command. “The Pioneer Award was established to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Air Force and was commissioned to recognize civic leaders who have distinguished themselves within the command.”^{xlii} Recognized for these community-military efforts, “In 2000, Building 52 at Altus AFB was dedicated as the “Colonel ‘Burley’ Burleson Consolidated Support Facility” in his honor.”^{xliii} Former U. S. Senator Nickles of Oklahoma offered a *Tribute to Colonel Aaron ‘Burley’ Burleson* before the U. S. Senate, which is recorded in the *Congressional Record*, S4297, 22 April 2004, in which he extolled Burley’s many contributions to Oklahoma and the nation.^{xliv} Additionally, in 2018 “a portion of Oklahoma Highway 62, the highway leading to Altus AFB, was designated as the “Colonel Aaron C. ‘Burley’ Burleson Memorial Highway.”^{xlv}

At right, distinguished members of the City of Altus and the State of Oklahoma stand beneath the Colonel Aaron C. “Burley” Burleson Memorial Highway sign.



Aaron C. Burleson was married to the former Myra Lucille Housch of Missouri. The couple had three children, Barbara Ann, Aaron Chris and Debra Mae. Burley passed away on 29 August 2011 at the age of 90. He and Myra are buried at Fort Sill National Cemetery.

The Burleson Family Research Group thanks Colonel Aaron C. Burleson and his family for their service to the nation on this 80th anniversary of Burley’s commissioning and award of his pilot’s wings.

Author’s Note:

- I would like to thank contributors to this article including Melissa A. Sims, USAF Historian, 97th Air Mobility Wing, Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, for sharing artifacts from their local archives, including records as well as photos of items on display of Colonel Burleson’s military career. Thanks also to Pamela J. Ives and Melissa Lahue, Research Division Chief, Air Force Historical Research Agency, for providing digital copies of the 43rd Bomb Group and 65th Bomb Squadron WWII histories.
- I was unable to locate the tail number for LT Burleson’s B-24 *Liberator*. Artifacts (i.e., flight jacket and photos) indicate the aircraft’s name was “Ken’s Men.” However, several aircraft in the 43rd Bomb Group

bore that name. A Ken's Men B-24 in the 65th Bomb Squadron also carried the name "Barbara Jean," painted on the right side of the nose. This aircraft, tail number 44-40980, was lost on 3 June 1945. Pilot Frank L. Chisman and his entire crew were killed after taking off for a mission to Formosa. Their plane was found shortly after on Mt. Arayat (3,867 feet high, East of Clark Field.)^{xlvi} Photos available of the Barbara Jean/Ken's Men crew do not include LT Burleson.

- Also, I have yet to identify LT Burleson's crew. 43rd Bomb Group and 65th Bomb Squadron monthly histories do not specifically identify aircraft or crews in their operational summaries or daily orders. Captain Harold G. Scroggins stated he flew as a member of LT Burleson's crew from May-November 1945.^{xlvii} Jim Cherkauer, fellow 65th Bomb Squadron pilot, recalled flying missions from Clark Field and Ie Shima with Burley.^{xlviii}
- Col Burley Burleson remained close with his 43rd Bomb Group and 65th Bomb Squadron mates as an active member of the 43rd Bomb Group Association, Inc. The Association plans and hosts annual reunions and publishes quarterly newsletters to keep members connected.

About the Author:



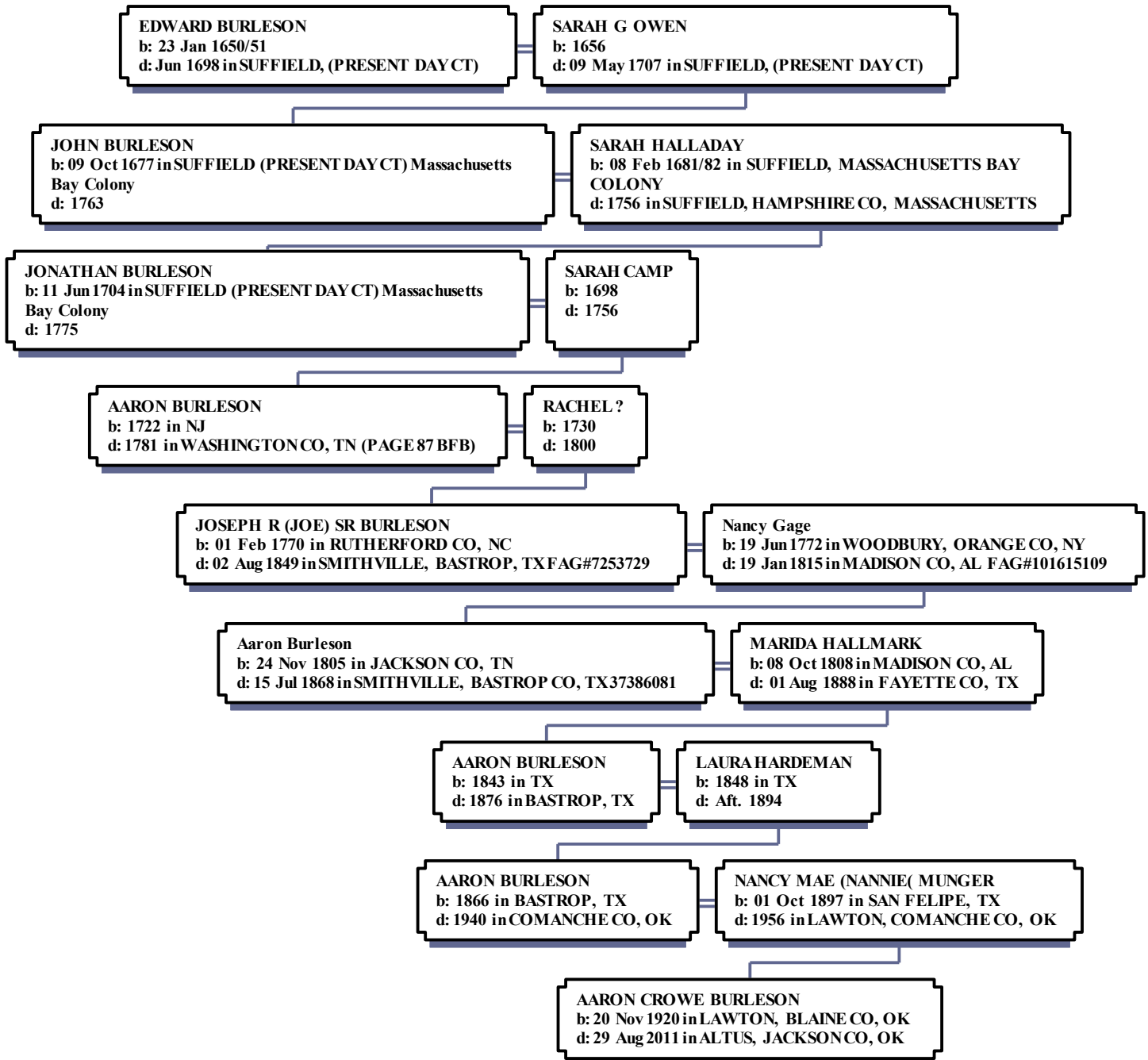
David Burleson is a retired USAF Lieutenant Colonel, son of the late USAF Chief Master Sergeant Ned Garner Burleson, and father of the late USA Staff Sergeant Geoffrey Lance Burleson, USAF Major (Lt Col select) Jeremiah Burleson currently stationed in Anchorage, Alaska, and USAF Staff Sergeant Micah Burleson currently stationed in Tacoma, Washington.

He is pictured here at the re-enlistment of his late son SGT Geoffrey L. Burleson.

Photo Credits:

- 1- From Micah and Sara Burleson
- 2- From Micah and Sara Burleson
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- 11- Melissa A. Sims, GS-11, USAF, Historian, 97th Air Mobility Wing.
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- 14- Air Force Historical Research Agency, Microfilm Roll A0558, filmed 11-15-72, SQ.-BOMB-65-HI, June 1945 – August 1945.
- 15- Air Force Historical Research Agency, Air Force Historical Research Agency, Microfilm Roll A0558, filmed 11-15-72, SQ.-BOMB-65-HI, June 1945 – August 1945.
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- 17- Melissa A. Sims, GS-11, USAF, Historian, 97th Air Mobility Wing.
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Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



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- ⁱⁱ Burlson, David, "A Hero To All" Burlson Family Association Bulletin, Vol XXIII, Fall/Winter 2022 pg. 4047
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- ^{xviii} While known as the "Lucky Dicers" several Liberators within the 43rd Bomb Group bore the moniker "Ken's Men" a tribute to 5th Air Force Commanding General George C. Kenny, which was applied to the nose area in either black or blue paint.
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- ^{xlii} Altus AFB History Connection: Col Aaron Burlson, provided by Melissa A. Sims, GS-11, USAF, Historian, 97th Air Mobility Wing. Colonel Burlson donated several items to the base that spanned his entire military career to include his WWII jacket and flight log, patches, and the flight suit he wore as the base commander here at Altus from 1973-1974. Those items have been moved to a new display inside the main lobby of Building 52 to better preserve those historic objects and to tell his story.
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- ^{xliiii} Altus AFB History Connection: Col Aaron Burlson, provided by Melissa A. Sims, GS-11, USAF, Historian, 97th Air Mobility Wing.
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- ^{xliiii} Altus AFB History Connection: Col Aaron Burlson, provided by Melissa A. Sims, GS-11, USAF, Historian, 97th Air Mobility Wing.

Ichabod Burleson, Union Soldier from Lenawee

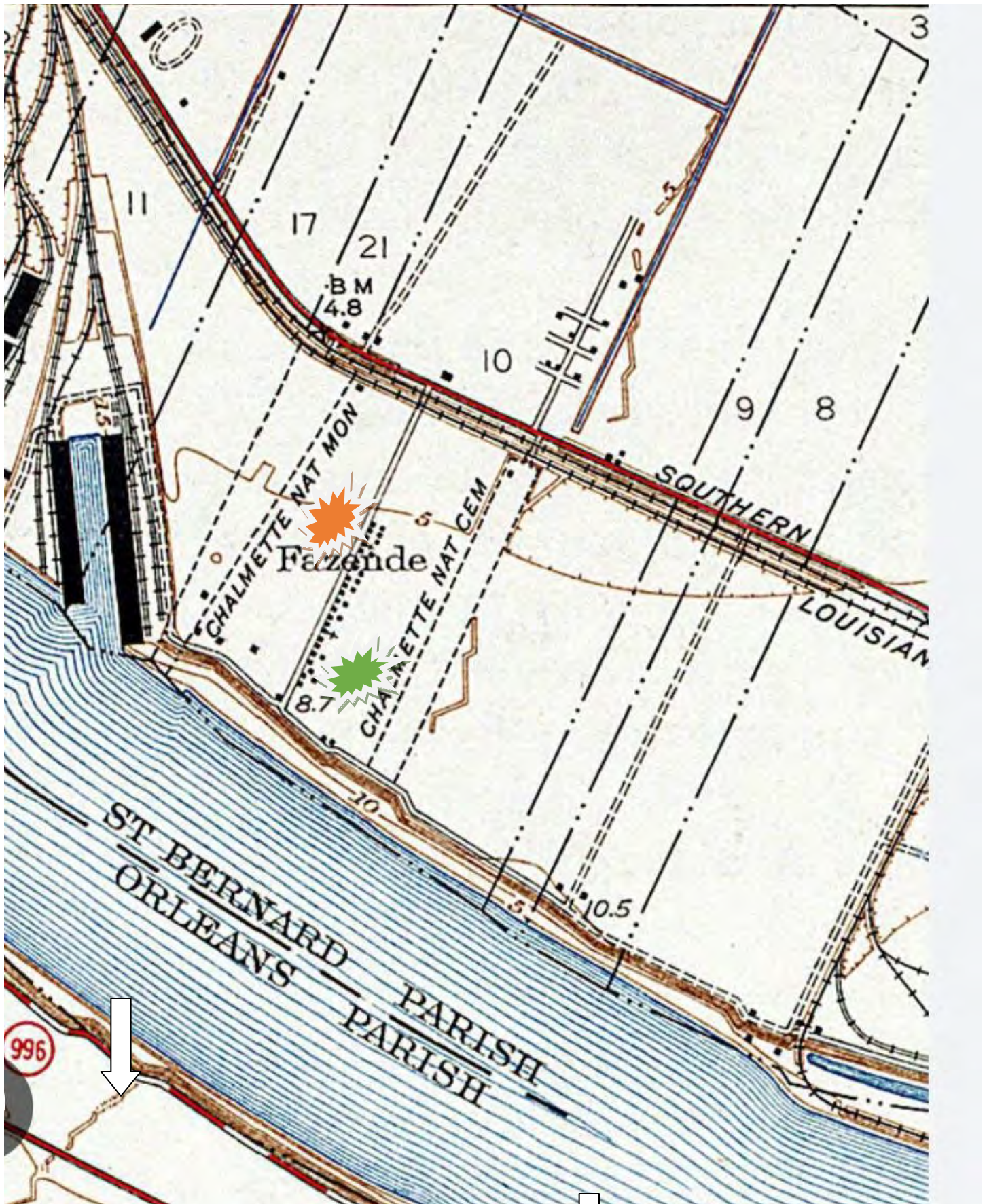


But wait... the story's about Ichabod; did someone get his name wrong? Well, actually everyone did. This edition is largely devoted to chronicling the BFRG field trip AND honoring Memorial Day. We hope this article addresses both. Editor, JD Burleson began earlier than most on the trek. He left his Thomasville, North Carolina home on April 24th arriving a few hours east of New Orleans. A quick jaunt toward the Big Easy, the next morning found JD at the National Cemetery at Chalmette, Louisiana. He was afforded a gentleman guide and two seasoned National Park Ranger/historians. The intent was to discover any veteran Burlesons of the War of 1812 buried there. None were found in the onsite database. However, one and only one Burleson grave was found in a separate section of the grounds known for Civil War casualties.



The marker shown atop this article is found near the latter day roadway, a grouping added in the 1860s. The man in that plot is listed as Jehebuck Burleson of Michigan stone #5636. Burleson was shot near the wording on the river map marked “Fazande”. Mortally wounded, he was carried to a hospital tent close to the “8.7” just below Fazande on the map. It's unknown how long it took for Burleson to pass but we do know he died 15 August 1862 inside the St. James General Hospital in New Orleans. It is likely he was shot on the 12th, died on the 15th but not listed as mustered out until the 20th. Burleson’s cause of death was listed as vulnus sclopeterarium (bacterial infection from gunshot). Let's travel back about a year to where and when Jehebuck was Ichabod Burleson of Macon, Lewanee County, Michigan. The below three maps should allow you to narrow to our subject's origins. Macon lies in the northeast corner of Lenawee County, rich farmland where he plied that very trade.

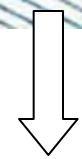




Burlson Shot



Medical Tents



Road to New Orleans Hospital

The names: Ichabod Burleson was born in 1842, Macon, Michigan to Job Burleson 1808-1881 and Amy Arnold (Burleson) 1813-1859. They had a modest farm where they raised Ichabod and his siblings Eliza, Jeremiah M., Timothy J., Charles, Stephen, Catherine and Rosette. He was born "Ichabod" and was always known as such until he joined the Union Army. Military documents indicate he was variously called Ichabod, Ichabod C., Ekebert Burlason and Jehefuck Burleson. Times were tumultuous and record keeping obviously iffy. You can see the error-filled referrals of this man as Jehefuck until we track him to his true identity, "Ichabod".



Photo added by [Barbara Arceneaux](#)

Jehefuck Burleson

BIRTH unknown

DEATH unknown

BURIAL [Chalmette National Cemetery](#)
Chalmette, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, USA [Add to Map](#)

PLOT Section 70, Grave 5636

MEMORIAL ID 32431135 · [View Source](#)



Want to get involved? [Click here.](#)

[Report a problem](#)

Detail Source

Name Jehefuck Burleson

Cemetery Chalmette National Cemetery

Burial or Cremation Place Chalmette, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, United States of America

Jehefuck Burleson

in the U.S., National Cemetery Interment Control Forms, 1928-1962

Interment in the <u>Chalmette, La.</u> National Cemetery										
To—The Quartermaster General, Washington, D. C.										
NAME		BANK	COMFORT	MILITARY OR VETERAN			REASON OF SPECIAL WAR SERVICE			
First	Last	Number	State	Branch	Grade	Regt.	Service	Grade No.	Remarks	
Burleson, Jehefuck		-	F	S	11th	-				
DATE OF DEATH		DATE OF INTERMENT		GRAVE MARK		SERVICES				
Month	Day	Year	Month	Day	Year	Section	Grave No.	Title of discharge and number of Previous Certificates, Endorsements, etc.		
-	-	-	-	-	-		5636	Original place of burial Cypress Grove, La.		
Shipping point for headstones:										

24 MICHIGAN VOLUNTEERS, 1861-1865

Hudson, La., and Spanish Fort, Ala. Discharged at New Orleans, La., July 22, 1865. Present residence, Buchanan, Mich.

Burch, Luman, or Lyman. Enlisted in company B, Sixth Infantry, Feb. 1, 1864, at Nankin, for 3 years, age 18. Mustered Feb. 2, 1864. Died of disease at Natchez, Miss., Nov. 5, 1864.

Burdett, Korlice, Blissfield. Enlisted in company F, Sixth Infantry, Dec. 25, 1863, at Blissfield, for 3 years, age 33. Mustered Jan. 8, 1864. Mustered out at New Orleans, La., Aug. 20, 1865.

Burgess, Oscar S. Enlisted in company E, Sixth Infantry, April 26, 1864, at Kalamazoo, for 3 years, age 21. Mustered April 26, 1864. Mustered out at New Orleans, La., Aug. 20, 1865.

Burgess, William H. Enlisted in company C, Sixth Infantry, Feb. 25, 1864, at Battle Creek, for 3 years, age 22. Mustered Feb. 27, 1864. Discharged for disability at St. Louis, Mo., May 18, 1865.

Burgess, William J. (Veteran), Parma. Enlisted in company I, Sixth Infantry, Aug. 3, 1861, at Albion, for 3 years, age 23. Mustered Aug. 20, 1861. Corporal Nov. 1, 1862. Sergeant Jan. 1, 1864. Re-enlisted Feb. 1, 1864, at Port Hudson, La. Mustered Feb. 22, 1864. First Sergeant, Nov. 2, 1864. Discharged to accept promotion Jan. 19, 1865. Commissioned Second Lieutenant, Aug. 12, 1864. Mustered Jan. 20, 1865. Mustered out at New Orleans, La., Aug. 20, 1865.

Burke, John, Berrien County. Enlisted in company B, Sixth Infantry, as Musician, Aug. 9, 1861, at St. Joseph, for 3 years, age 30. Mustered Aug. 20, 1861. Transferred to Band, Sept. 1, 1861. Discharged at New Orleans, La., Sept. 20, 1862.

Burleson, Ichabod, Lenawee County. Enlisted in company F, Sixth Infantry, Aug. 17, 1861, at Saline, for 3 years, age 20. Mustered Aug. 20, 1861. Died of disease at New Orleans, La., Aug. 15, 1862.

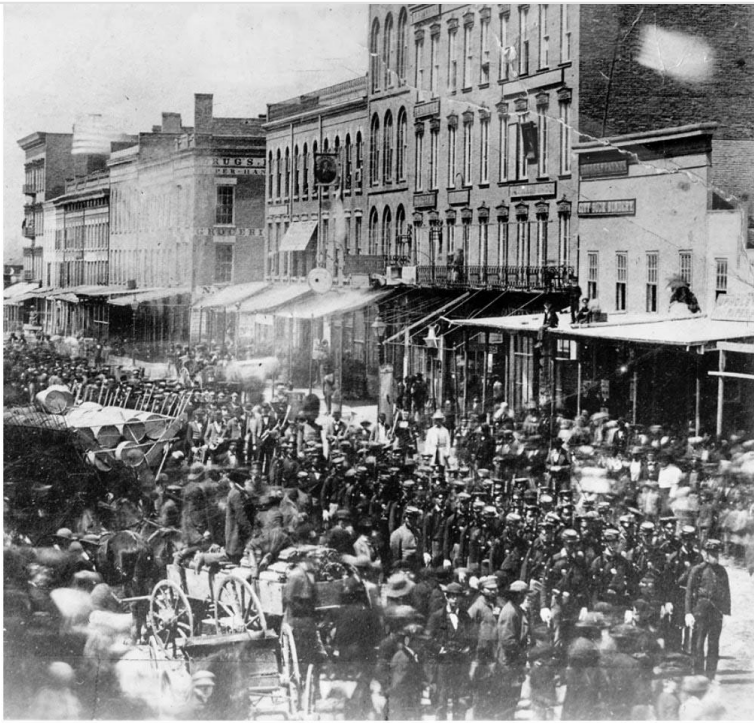
... Enlisted in company A, Sixth Infantry,

Ichabod Burlison in the U.S., Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865

[Compare details](#)

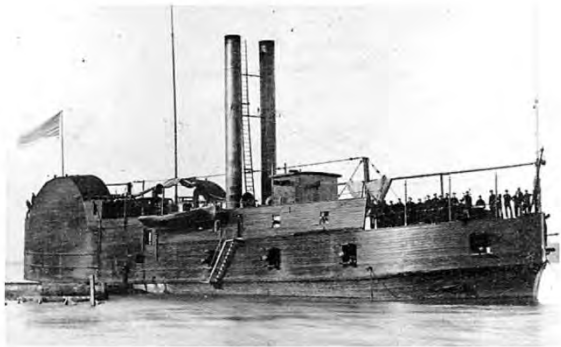
Name	Ichabod Burlison
Side	Union
Regiment/State/Origin	Michigan
Regiment	6th Regiment, Michigan Heavy Artillery
Company	F
Rank In	Private
Rank Out	Private
Alternate Name	Ichabod/Burleson
Film Number	M545 roll 6

News of the mounting war came quickly to Michigan where a groundswell of Union patriotism appeared. Enlistments from every corner of the state evolved into early sign ups. Training commenced across the area in mostly categories of infantry, heavy artillery and light artillery. Ichabod enlisted in the Spring of 1861. His training in light artillery took place in Lenawee County's center at Adrian. The Michigan unit's numbered 1 thru 18. Ichabod served with the sixth. All of the Michiganders were ordered to be shipped to Washington D.C. They were delivered by a long succession of trains, arriving at nearby Baltimore, Maryland. A group of these units were deployed to a battle at Malvern Hills, Virginia. Ironically, it was a site JD and I had visited just a year ago.



In June 1861, the Adrian Cadets, fresh from training at Camp Williams in Adrian, marched down East Maumee Street before boarding a train to take them to the battlefield. The cadets paused long enough to have that moment captured by a photographer. *The Daily Telegram*

The freshly minted Michigan 6th left Virginia aboard large troop ships sailing from the Atlantic coast to a Gulf of Mexico port in Mississippi. From there they marched to the mouth of the Mississippi River near Chalmette. Nearing that river, auxiliary units like Ichabod's 6th light artillery were escorted by iron clads and retrofitted gun boats. Fierce resistance met these Yankee soldiers there. Eight officers and 53 enlisted were killed on the first day of the skirmish including Ichabod.



USS *Conestoga*, a converted gunboat that served on the Mississippi River.



Word of his death arrived very slowly to his family due to the series of naming foul ups. Today Ichabod is recognized by his hometown folk with a monument in Macon. Other local sons from the area accompany his name.



Photo added by [Carl Hancock](#)

Ichabod Burleson ▼

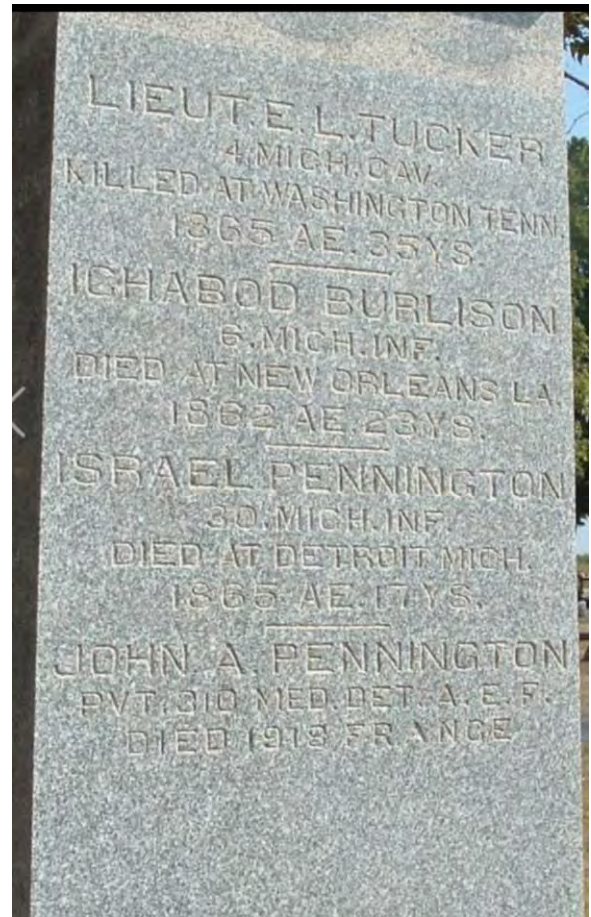
BIRTH 1839
Michigan, USA

DEATH 15 Aug 1862 (aged 22–23)
New Orleans, Orleans Parish,
Louisiana, USA

MONUMENT [Macon Cemetery](#)
Macon, Lenawee County, [Add to Map](#)
Michigan, USA

PLOT War Memorial, Macon Village Cem.

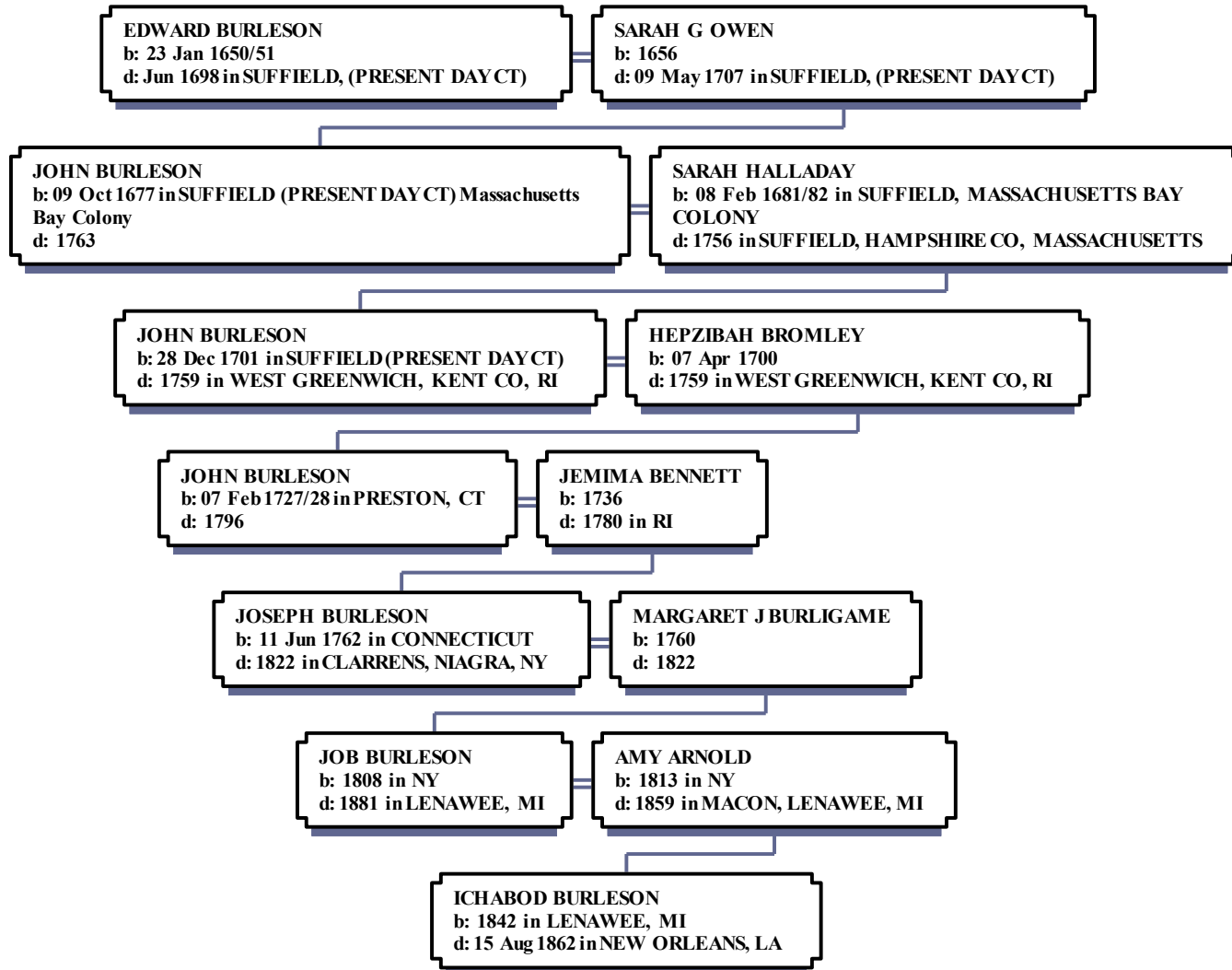
MEMORIAL ID 5844147 · [View Source](#)



BFRG would like to recognize Cousining contributor Brent Nimmo and Nicole Cogley of the Lewanee District Library for their assistance in clearing this interesting case. Should you journey to New Orleans or Michigan, look up the helpful folks there.



Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



Sources:

Wikipedia and Wikicommons images
 Library of Congress
 Texas History Online
 Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Michigan(1863)
 Find a Grave
 National Park Service
 Chalmette National Cemetery
 Quartermaster General, Washington D.C,
 Daily Telegram, Michigan
 National Archives
 Lenawee District Library



Jim Burleson
 BFRG Researcher
 Jimburleson8554@gmail.com

Thurman Wade (Buck) Burrow: Duty and Devotion



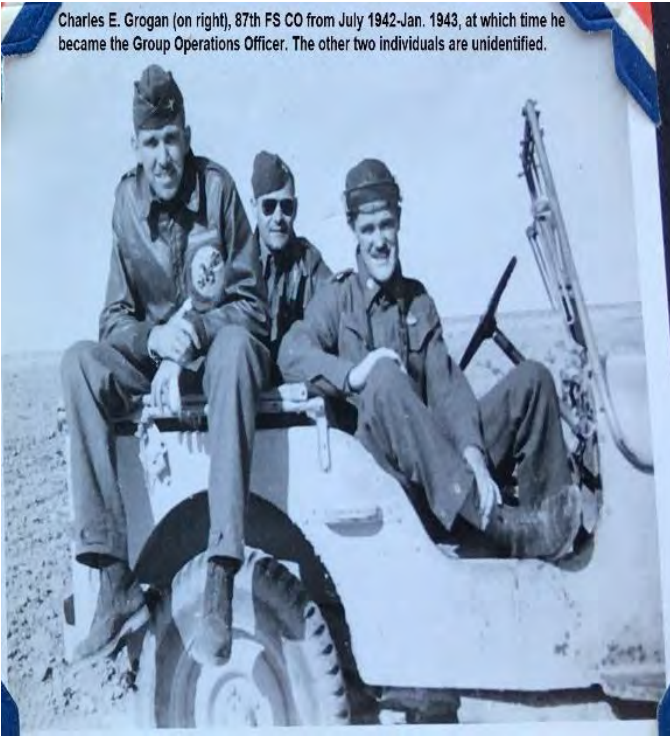
Thurman Burrow, born to Lillie Maude Burleson Burrow and Robert Wade Burrow of Linden, Texas, embodied a legacy of service and resilience. Fondly known as Buck (1918-1974), he traversed the tumultuous landscapes of World War II as a stalwart member of the 87th Fighter Squadron, affectionately dubbed the "Skeeters," within the esteemed 79th Fighter Group. Holding the rank of sergeant, Buck's expertise as a mechanic and crew chief propelled the squadron to remarkable success, distinguishing it as one of the United States Army Air Forces' most formidable units. Amidst the crucible of the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, his dedication and skill contributed significantly to the squadron's achievements. Captured in poignant snapshots, Buck's presence, epitomized by his figure in the left of the frame, radiates a quiet strength amidst the camaraderie of his fellow servicemen. In the second image, he stands resolute at the heart of his squadron, a testament to his unwavering commitment and valor in the face of adversity.



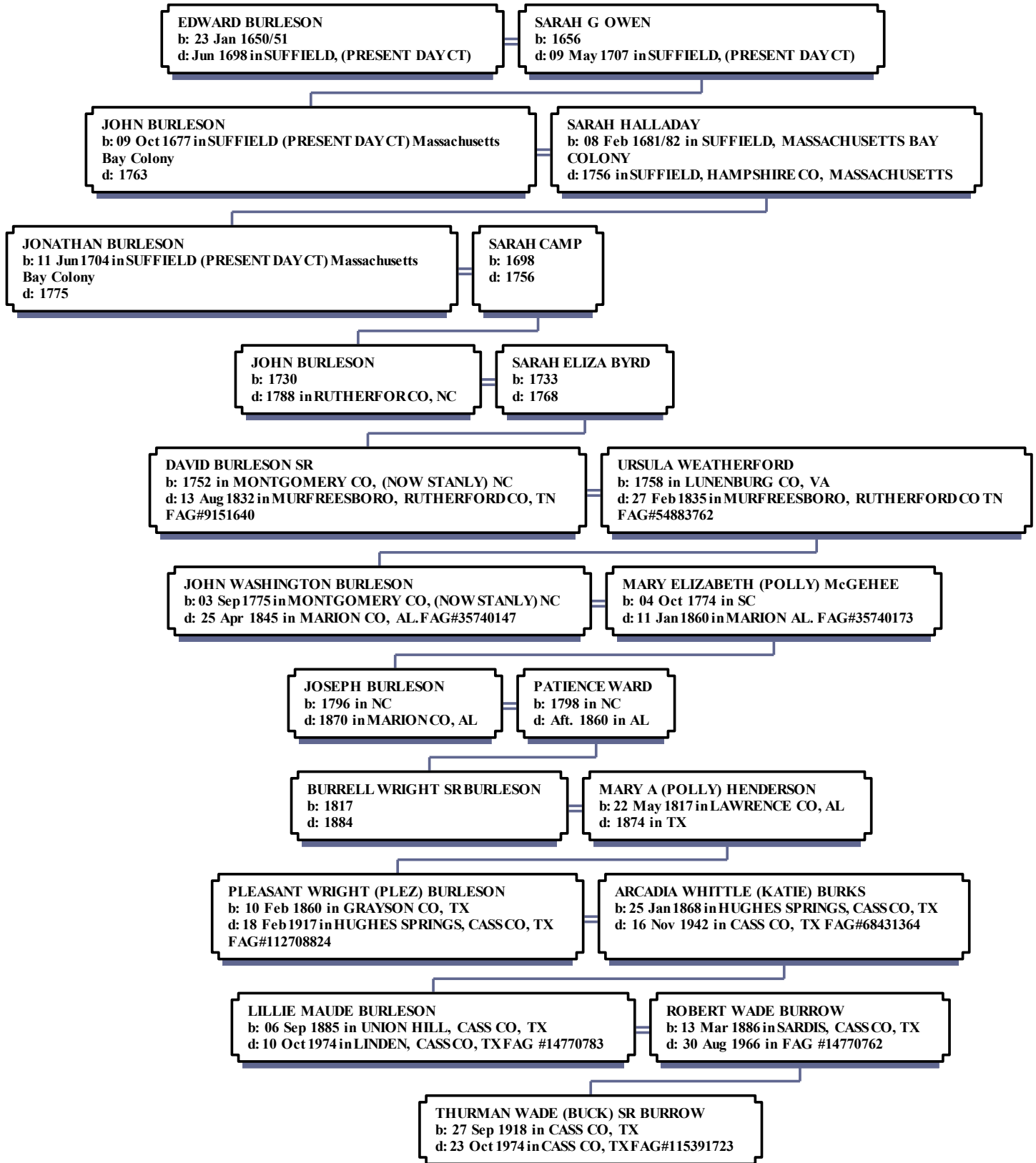
The third picture reveals the melodies of brotherhood as three soldiers harmonize with the spirit of solidarity. Buck, his fingers deftly dancing across the keys of an accordion, infuses the air with notes of resilience and unity. Standing beside him, his steadfast companion Rocco occupies the center; their bond forged in the crucible of shared experiences and unwavering loyalty. Together, they embody the enduring camaraderie that sustains soldiers through the trials of war. As the final testament to their service, the official Army photo captures Buck's indomitable spirit, a symbol of dedication and sacrifice immortalized in the annals of history.



Charles E. Grogan (on right), 87th FS CO from July 1942-Jan. 1943, at which time he became the Group Operations Officer. The other two individuals are unidentified.



Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



Dr Joan Burrow Strutton PhD

BFRG Research

jnstrut@yahoo.com

Isaac Burleson 1795-1865, War of 1812

Isaac Burleson (1795–1865) was born near Anson County, North Carolina, to David Burleson Sr. and his wife, Ursula Weatherford Burleson. He came to the Wilkinson's Crossroads district with his parents before 1809. He served in Captain Thomas Jones's Company, 1st Tennessee Mounted Infantry Regiment during the War of 1812. Burleson Lane, located off the Old Nashville Pike, was named for their family as they settled in the area.



Remembering this Anson County, North Carolina veteran of the War of 1812 is timely given the Memorial Day celebrations. He was born 17 October 1795 to David Burlison, Sr. and Ursula Weatherford. He married first Frances "Fanny" Morton on 22 March 1818, well after his service in the War of 1812.

← Isaac Burlison



Names of Parties	Date of Marriage
✓ Person: John & Caroline Smith	Oct. 4, 1857 ✓
✓ Burlison: Isaac & Fanny Morton	March 17 1818 ✓

Burks, Willis to Lucinda Blakely	Issued Feb. 1, 1834	William Ledbetter, surety
	Solemn. Blank	Blank
Burlison, Hilkey to Penelope Pope	Issued Sept. 22, 1810	Ezekiel Pope, surety
	solemn. Blank	Blank
Burlison, Joseph to Patience Ward	Issued Jan. 7, 1817	Blank
	Solemn. Apr. 4, 1817 by	David Gordon
Burlison, David to Ruthy Hobson	Issued Mar. 8, 1819	Blank
	Solemn. Mar. 11, 1819 by	Peyton Smith
Burlison, Isaac to Fanny Morton	Issued Mar. 17, 1818	Thos. G. Watkins, surety
	Solemn. Mar. 22, 1818 by	John Fulton, J.P.

Burlison (many times written as Burlison) lived in Rutherford, Tennessee. You may recall the often changing state lines in the 1800s North Carolina/Tennessee. He died on 24 January 1865 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee at the age of 69. He lies in rest at the Burlison Cemetery, Williamsburg, Rutherford, Tennessee. Another Isaac Burlison with an incorrect birth year is buried nearby; don't be confused. We can help. Contact bfrginfo@gmail.com. Many of you descend from this Isaac; send us your stories. BFRG would appreciate fresh photos of this Cemetery and family stones.

WAR DEPARTMENT
O. O. M. C. Form No. 288
Approved Aug. 12, 1913
Revised July 15, 1929

APPLICATION FOR A GRAVE

PLEASE MAKE OUT AND RETURN IN DUPLICATE

War 1812

Name	Rank	Company	U. S. Regiment, State Organization	Date of Death
Burlison Isaac	Private	Capt. Thomas Jones' Com- pany 1st Reg. (Dyer's) Mounted Gunnery Tennessee Volunteers		January 24, 1865
Name of Cemetery	Location— City		State	If World War Veteran— Division
Burlison	Murfreesboro, Tenn.		Tenn.	

TO BE SHIPPED TO: Haskell Burlison Talley of Murfreesboro, Tennessee
(Name of consignee) (Give town, county, and State)

POST OFFICE ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE: Murfreesboro, Tennessee

DO NOT WRITE HERE

This application is for the UNMARKED grave of a soldier. It is understood the stone will be furnished and delivered at the railroad station or disembark landing above indicated, at Government expense, freight prepaid, and agreed to be promptly removed and set up at private expense.

Ordered: SYRACAUGA, ALA. AUG 5 1932

From: 459193

Shipped: 10-12-32

Address: Murfreesboro, Tennessee Date: July 11, 1932

*Stones must not be requested for any grave at which a private stone, monument, or other permanent marker is already erected or is to be erected.
†State whether soldier, sailor, marine, Army nurse, etc.

3-2024



PVT Isaac Burleson

BIRTH 17 Oct 1795
Montgomery County, North Carolina,
USA

DEATH 24 Jan 1865 (aged 69)
Sunnyside, Rutherford County,
Tennessee, USA

BURIAL [Burleson Cemetery](#)
Sunnyside, Rutherford
County, Tennessee, USA [Add](#)
[to Map](#)

MEMORIAL ID 9151642 · [View Source](#)

We'd like to thank contributor Annette "Swag" Rowland for this reminder. Sources include Find a Grave, Wikipedia, US Census and the Rutherford County Illustrated: Leaders in Progress

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in *Wilkinson & Road District* **in the County of** *Rutherford* **State** *of Tennessee* **enumerated by me, on the** *16th* **day of** *Oct* **1850.** *W.H. Mason* **Ass't Marshal** *35*

1	2	3	DESCRIPTION.			7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Age	Sex	White, Black, or Mulatto							
		<i>Mary Wilkinson</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>Tn</i>	<i>1</i>			
		<i>Wm Wilkinson</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>M</i>				<i>Tn</i>	<i>1</i>			
		<i>Geo Wilkinson</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>M</i>				<i>Tn</i>	<i>1</i>			
		<i>Jos R House</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>M</i>				<i>Tn</i>				
		<i>Mary C House</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>Tn</i>				
		<i>Ambrose House</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>M</i>				<i>Tn</i>	<i>1</i>			
<i>84</i>	<i>584</i>	<i>Stephen C Wright</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Shoe Maker</i>		<i>Tn</i>				
		<i>Mary Wright</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>Tn</i>				
		<i>Martha C Wright</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>Tn</i>				
		<i>Jos W Wright</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>M</i>				<i>Tn</i>				
<i>85</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>Benja Marable</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Farmer</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>Tn</i>				
		<i>Lucy B Marable</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>Tn</i>				
<i>86</i>	<i>586</i>	<i>Isaac Burleson</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Farmer</i>	<i>7,000</i>	<i>Tn</i>				
		<i>Francis Burleson</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>Tn</i>				
		<i>Thos Brashears</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Shoe Maker</i>		<i>Tn</i>				
		<i>Frances Soap</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>Tn</i>	<i>1</i>			
<i>87</i>	<i>587</i>	<i>Julia Spillway</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>F</i>				<i>Tn</i>				

McCarley Farm Revisited



For most of us who participated in the 2024 BFRG Field Trip, it involved 2 or 3 days of stops. I know mine expanded to 13 days. Our editor and cousin JD Burleson devoted **TWENTY** days. All said and done, he traveled about 5,100 miles in his exploration of Burlesons living and dead. Much of JD's journey was spent alone in his little KIA. Arriving at the target location, he stopped at a farm house to gain directions. A man answering the door told JD you're here. That current owner of the farm showed JD he was only 100 yards from the marker.

Armed with directions from BFRG contributor/cousin Camilla Mitchell, JD was able to get a fix on the Samuel McCarley Farm. You may recall her excellent article on this important staging area for the assault on San Jacinto. As many as 50 Burleson and cousins (we later learned) were present on the farm and later the battle, including Placido McCarley, a Burleson in-law.



Erected 1993 by Texas Historical Commission. (Marker Number **10726**.)

Topics. This historical marker is listed in these topic lists: [Settlements & Settlers](#) • [War, Texas Independence](#). A significant historical date for this entry is April 15, 1836.

Location. 30° 4.18' N, 95° 48.424' W. Marker is near Hockley, Texas, in Harris County. It is in Spring Creek Ranch. Marker is at the intersection of Waller-Tomball Road (Farm to Market Road 2920) and A J Foyt Road, on the right when traveling west on Waller-Tomball Road. [Touch for map.](#) Marker is in this post office area: Hockley TX 77447, United States of America. [Touch for directions.](#)

Camp at McCarley's Home
Camp Sixteen of the San Jacinto Campaign
April 15, 1836

April 15: **Camp at McCarley's Home**. Historical Marker is titled "Samuel McCarley Homesite, Texas Army Camp-April 15, 1836" and is located at the intersection of FM 2920 (Waller-Tomball Road) and A. J. Foyt Road, in Harris County (Dunn & Turley marker).

McCarley, Samuel, Homesite
Marker Title: Samuel McCarley Homesite
Address:
City: Houston
County: Harris
Year Marker Erected: 1993
Designations: na
Marker Location: FM 2920 and A. J. Foyt Rd., about 9 mi. west of Tomball
Marker Text: Texas Army Camp - April 15, 1836 Samuel McCarley (1775-1838), his wife Celia (1794-1873), and their ten children settled near here on Spring Creek in 1831. By 1836 the McCarley home was located on a well-traveled road linking Washington-on-the-Brazos (30 mi. NW) with Harrisburg (40 mi. SE). Their neighbor, Abraham Roberts, lived about three miles east at a fork in the road. One fork led east to the Trinity River and the other southeast to Harrisburg. On April 15, 1836, the Texas army led by General Sam Houston left camp near the Brazos River and marched east, arriving here at dusk. Overnight, Houston's 1100 hungry soldiers consumed cattle, corn, and bacon belonging to the McCarleys and burned about 4,000 of their fence rails for fuel. According to post-war accounts, many in the Texas army strongly suspected that Houston was unwilling to engage the Mexican army, known to be advancing toward Harrisburg. On April 16, however, Houston and the Texas soldiers took the Harrisburg Road at the fork and on April 21 defeated the Mexican army at the Battle of San Jacinto to win Texas independence. Samuel McCarley died in 1838 and in 1858 the state of Texas awarded his widow, Celia, \$460 as compensation for damages caused by the Texas army. Sam Houston Bicentennial 1793-1993



Inscription. Samuel McCarley (1775-1838), his wife Celia (1794-1873), and their ten children settled near here on Spring Creek in 1831. By 1836 the McCarley home was located on a well-traveled road linking Washington-on-the-Brazos (30 mi. NW) with Harrisburg (40 mi. SE). Their neighbor, Abraham Roberts, lived about three miles east at a fork in the road. One fork led east to the Trinity River and the other southeast to Harrisburg.

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Above you see a farmer's eye view and a bird's eye view of the farm today. It is now utilized primarily for the production of sorghum and hay. So ended day 3 of the field trip. Next stop: San Jacinto.



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Day Three: San Jacinto




JD approached the LaPorte, Harris County, Texas area later called San Jacinto by car. The evening before the historic battle, General Sam Houston's men walked steadily to the area Gen. Santa Anna's regulars were digging trenches. The Texians just let them dig, did and dig. Houston's group stayed on their side of the hill resting after their March from Samuel McCarley's farm. The Texians slept as the Mexicans toiled away at their fixed fortification. Houston's troops slept in much of the morning. General Edward Burleson sent his best spy, Erastus "Deaf" Smith to a small bridge to destroy it. It would be the only escape path for the Mexicans. The Texians' moveable twin cannon were moved quickly to flank Santa Anna. The Mexicans were either still sleeping or lethargic. Santa Anna fumed all night, anxious to rebound from the severe loss the Mexicans suffered at the Siege of Bexar. Gen. Burleson soundly crushed Gen. Cos there. It was a personal humiliation for Santa Anna; Cos was his brother in law. Quietly the Texians waded through the tall grass to stage their attack. Burleson and fifty of his Burleson, McCarley, Sparks and Wilson cousins & neighbors readied for battle. Burleson led from the center...it was a near perfect attack, lasting only 18 minutes.



General Burleson is believed to have carried two small pistols into the fray. The very same he'd used to kill two marauding Indians in Buncombe, North Carolina when he was young. As a man, he was known to carry the Twin handguns draped over his saddle. One of them survived and is carefully curated at the San Jacinto Battlefield Museum. It was presented to JD for the photo OP of a Burleson holding a Burleson relic. The experienced staff of Librarian Lisa Struthers and Curator Cecelia Abad came in on their day off to greet special guests: Burleson descendants.





Cecelia had pre-prepared biographies on Edward, Jonathan and Aaron Burleson for our researchers. She also retrieved bios on other Burleson cousins, Stephen Franklin Sparks, Placido McCarley, Walker Wilson and scores of other relatives we've only recently learned were in the battle.


Menu

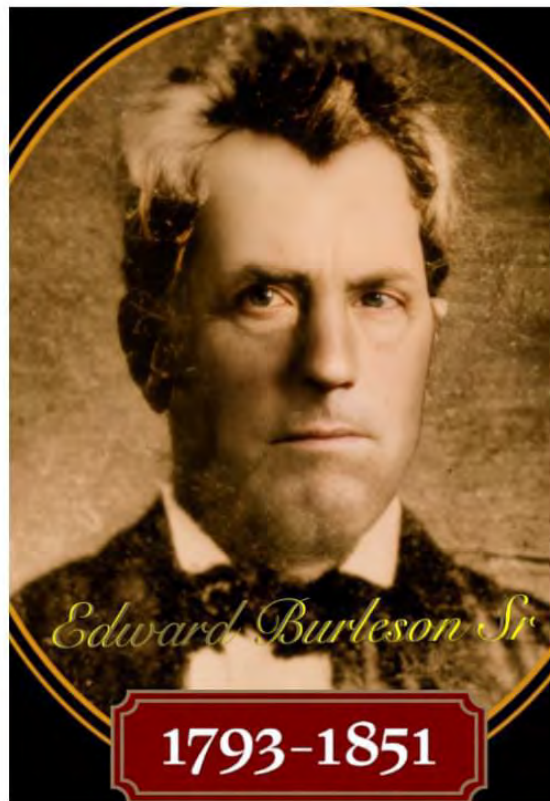
Wilson, Walker

(1801 Nov 17 - 1876 Sep 8)

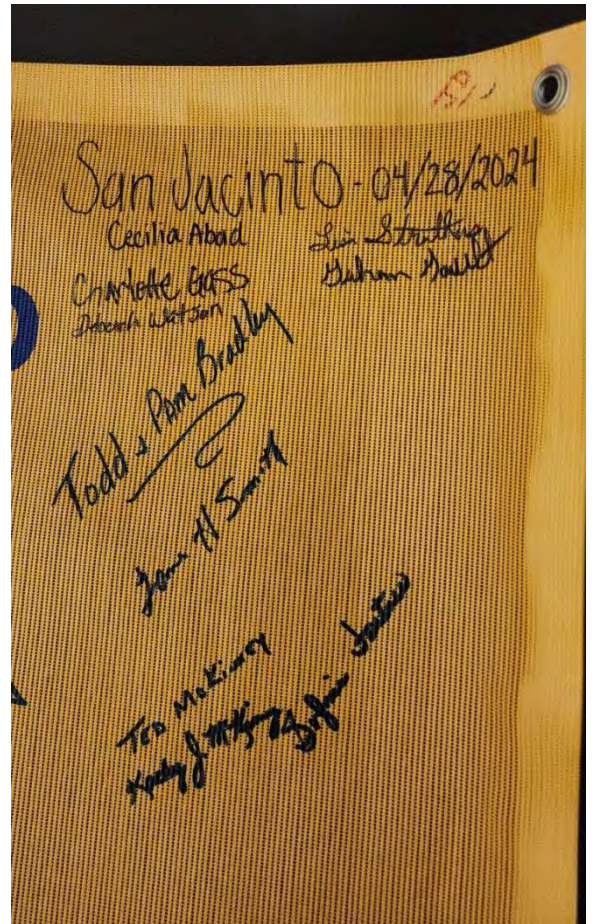
◀ [VETERAN BIOS](#)

 **TEXIAN**
 **LOCATION: PARTICIPANT**

The Kemp Sketch



- Immediate Family**
-  **Sarah Griffin Burleson**
wife
 -  **Maj. Edward Burleson**
son
 -  **Joseph Rogers Burleson**
son
 -  **Grace B. Burleson**
daughter
 -  **David Crockett Burleson**
son
 -  **Elizabeth Shipman Sneed**
daughter
 -  **John Burleson**
son
 -  **Mary Jane Stevenson**
daughter
 -  **Jo Elizabeth Burleson**
mother
 -  **Capt. James B. Burleson, I**
father
 -  **Volley Ann Owen**
sister
 -  **Abigail Burleson**
sister



Three Burleson descendants joined JD for the tour. They included Graham Gault, Charlotte Gass and Deborah Watson. Their contributions that day and in the next week would be crucial.



The experience at San Jacinto was much appreciated and added to the team building.


Graham Pascal Gault born 1981 Austin, Texas is a descendant of Captain James Burleson 1775-1836, husband of Elizabeth Shipman. The ancestors between them are Rachel Burleson 1803-1873> Nancy.

Lenora Rogers 1834-1897> Benjamin T. Gault 1866-1914> Thomas Smith Gault 1889-1978> Lafayette


Paul Gault 1930-2004> Mark Edward Gault 1954-2023.

Gregory was Charlotte's grandfather and her line recent line is under review.




 **Johnathon Marion or Lamaron Burleson**
1860-1933
Son of Nathaniel Burleson


▼

 **Vicie Burleson**
1885-1929
Daughter of Johnathon Marion or Lamaron Burleson

▼

 **Jakie Roy Gass**
1925-1986
Son of Vicie Burleson

▼

 **Gregory Lynn Gass**
1947-
Child of Jakie Roy Gass



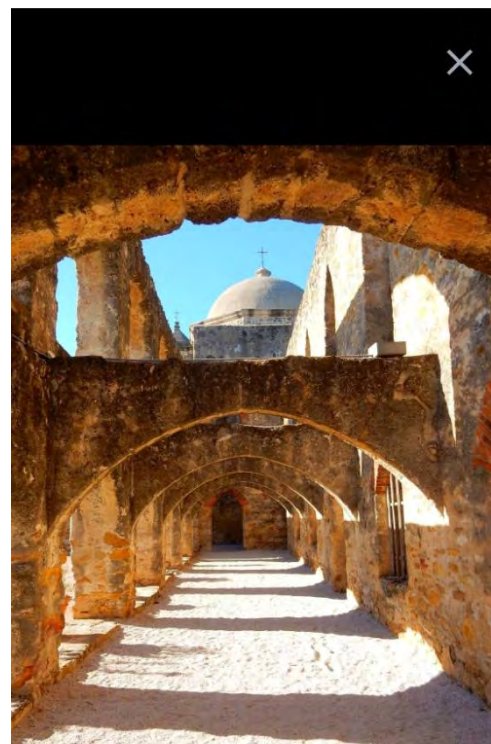
Jim Burleson
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BFRG Field Trip Days Four and Five

April 29th was largely a travel day for most of our pilgrims. JD picked Susanne and me at the airport, carting us to Pleasanton's Quillan House-our home for four nights. We were met by cousin Camilla Allen Mitchell and her son Mikel Allen. After a terrific meal we had a lengthy discussion on our connections.



April 30th or JD's day five we took in the largest Spanish Mission, the San Jose' y San Miguel de Aguayo. It has served alternately as Church and secular center in the 1720s to 1830s. Today it's a historic site administered by the National Park Service. In the 1930s the Works Projects Administration (WPA) restored it to its former best self. Whether run by the Catholic Church or the military of Mexico, it functioned as an indoctrination facility to make indigenous more European.



Curious to us was the naming of the “Rose Window” which had no trace of the name Rose or the coloration. It is presumed by Park rangers to be after St. Rose of Lima. Another oddity was the allowance of two room apartments for indigenous equipped with a sleeping room and cooking fireplace room. The quarters were more luxurious in comparison to the barracks of the time.



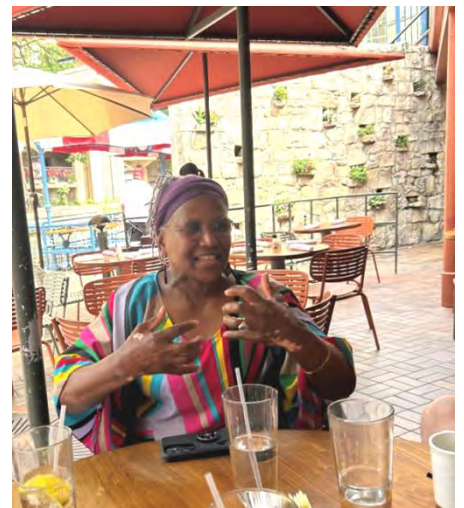
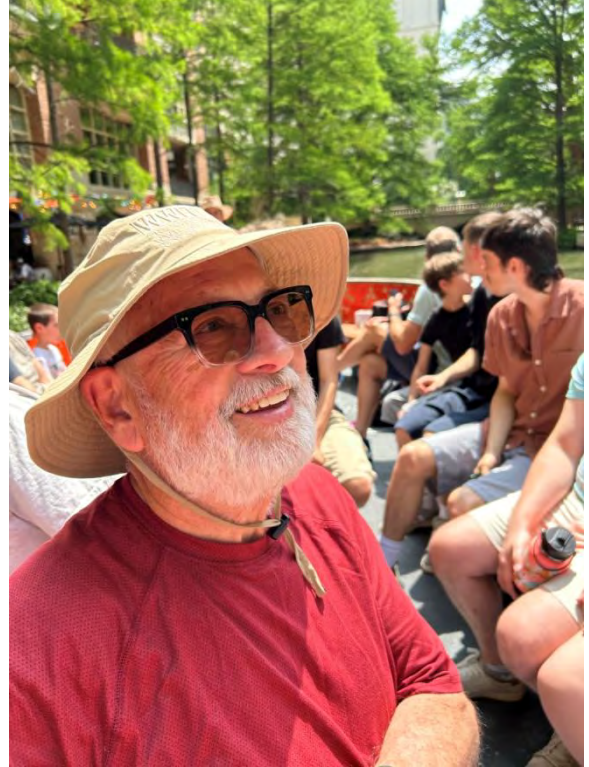
The overall impression of the facilities were “immense and insurmountable power.”



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Day Five April 30th continued:

The River Walk quickly became a River Ride as we floated thru downtown with a gondola pilot/stand up comedian. The peaceful voyage ended at a restaurant where very pretty cousins met us. Local cousin Rose Marie Burleson Sewell, Patricia Hernandez of Dallas and Diana Fuld of Missouri met JD, Susanne and me for a riverside lunch.

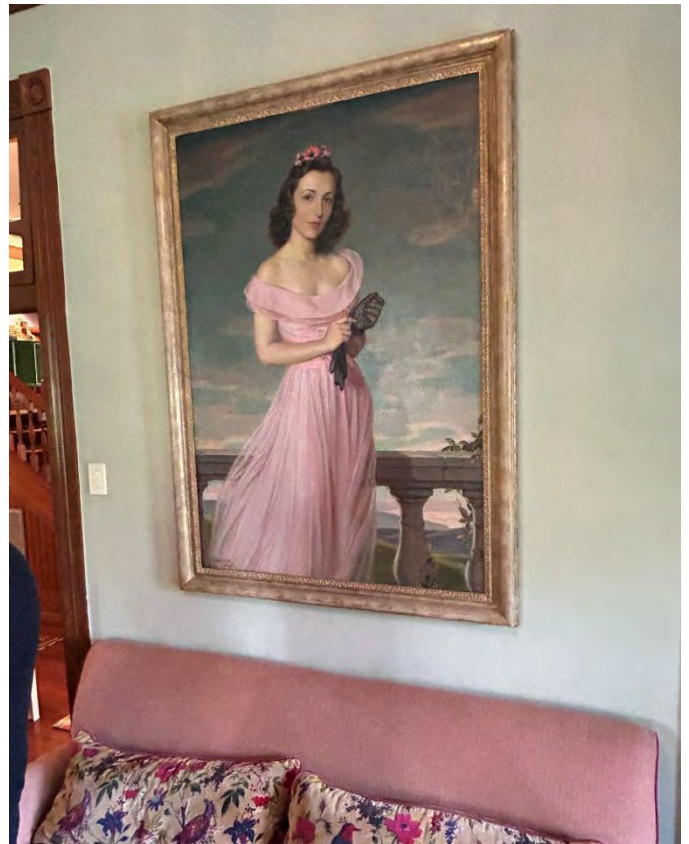


By cocktail hour we were treated to hors d'oeuvres and vino at the beautiful home of Josie Negley Gill Schlather in the King William District of San Antonio. She is a descendant of General Edward Burleson thru Major Edward Burleson and US Postmaster Albert Sydney Burleson.





Josie and Erick co-own their own salsa company called Sierra Diablo.



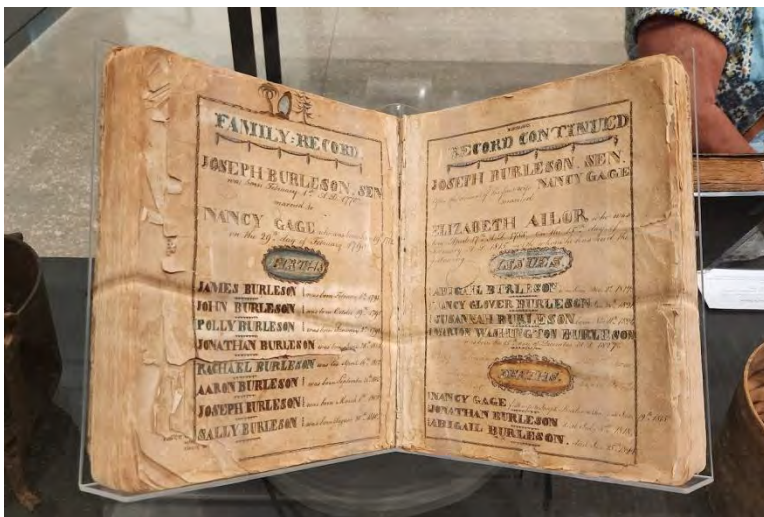




Later that evening about 20 cousins enjoyed dinner at San Antonio's Casa Rio.



We, the BFRG “Remembered the Alamo”

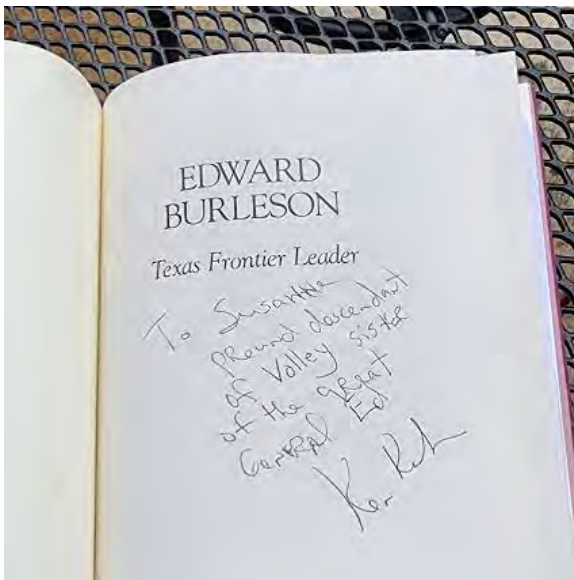
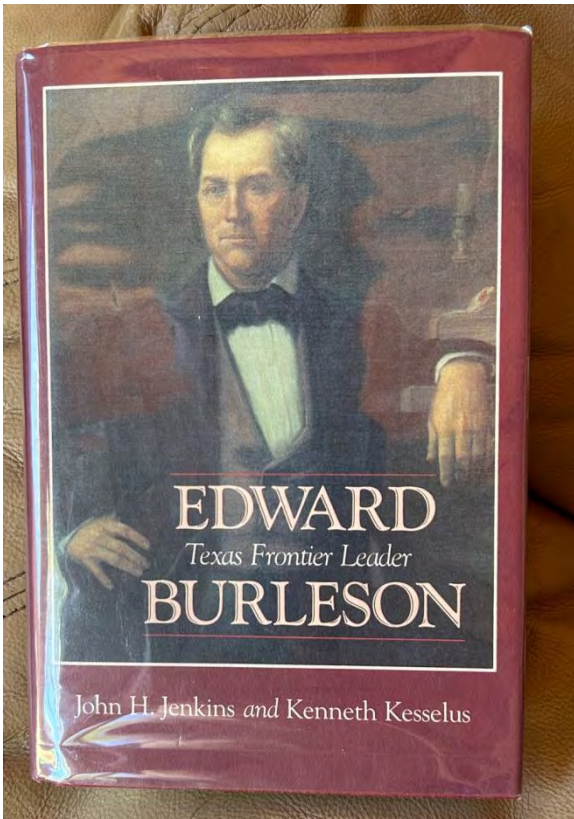


Burleson Family Bible

Joseph Burleson brought this family Bible to Texas in 1827. It contains birth records for the Burleson family dating back to 1770.

Alamo Collection
Donor: Mrs. Elizabeth Burleson Taylor

Day six of the field trip naturally made a stop at the Alamo. Cousin Camilla Mitchell scored us complimentary passes into the special collections area. Part of our focus was to retrieve the best possible images of the additional insert pages in the Joseph Burleson Bible. We also needed best possible image of the Edward Burleson portrait on its walls; Burleson biographer Ken Kessulus hoped for the image for the cover of his re-release of the Jenkins/Kessulus book. In cooperation with the Alamo and Daughters of the Republic of Texas our mission was accomplished.



Our cousins were treated to the usual dramatic portions of the tour AND a personal guided tour of the Phil Collins Alamo Collection with items already selected for the Alamo Exhibit Hall under construction.







Two seasoned guides gave me working papers and maps from the work of Richard L. Curilla. It detailed the locations and movements of the Edward Burleson led Siege at Bexar. In that action, prior to the Alamo conflict, the Texians routed the General Cos led Mexican regulars. Burleson's success was said to have stoked Santa Anna's furor, leading him to intensified violence in the attack on the Alamo. Part of the anger centered on Cos' failure; he was Santa Anna's brother in law. Prior to the Siege on Bexar, Burleson used a sugar mill as his headquarters, land now covered by the Central Catholic High School, 1403 N. St. Mary's of San Antonio. More on the Burleson at Siege of Bexar in another story follows.



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Josephine "Josie" Negley Gill (Schlather),

Descendant of General Edward and Sarah Owen Burleson

Following a thorough review of Burleson materials at the special collections area of the Alamo our Group pushed on to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library housed in the Bexar County Archives. We were greeted there by the Honorable Lucy Adame-Clark, Bexar County Clerk. After the introduction Clark and BFRG researcher Susanne Hollyfield exchanged commemorative coins.



Our afternoon speaker was Josie Negley Gill Schlather, our hostess from the previous evening. Josie ascends to General Edward Burleson and Sarah Owen.

His son was Major Edward Burleson, Jr. married to Emma Kyle



During the Siege of Béxar, Burleson served as the second-in-command to Gen. Austin, and in November 1835 he was elected Major General of Texas Volunteers and took command of the volunteer army besieging San Antonio de Béxar and received the surrender of Mexican general Martín Perfecto de Cos.

D.C. wife and hostess. She was an accomplished poet, socialite author, and playwright. While residing in Washington she was invited by "The Post" to write about social events. She authored the plays, "The Congressman's Secretary" and "The Lobbyist." She wrote "Every Politician's Wife" and "Toughy, Childhood Adventures on a Texas Ranch" and a well known contributor to Comfort Magazine. The University of Texas awards an annual Adele Steiner Prize in poetry in her honor.



Adele's three daughters were part of the busy society circuit in Washington and their lives were avidly chronicled in social columns. Below are the three beauties, Laura Schley Burleson, Lucy Kyle Burleson and Adele Sidney Burleson in that order.



Laura chose Richard Van Wyck Negley as her groom.

The Negleys were blessed with three sons Albert Sydney Burleson Negley who was captured in the Pacific by the Japanese. While being transported by ship to a POW camp, the boat was sunk by a U.S. submarine torpedo. Richard Van Wyck Negley, Jr. also was a WWII casualty. He was a pilot shot down over the Pacific. A third son, William "Bill" Negley survived the war. He entered the San Antonio business scene and took on interests in banking, oil, paint and lumber. For decades the most popular house paint was the Negley brand. Bill was renowned for big game hunting, conservation and philanthropy. His choice for bride was a New Orleans belle, Carolyn Wells Brown.



Carolyn Wells Negley (born Brown),
1919 - 2005

Carolyn Wells Negley (born Brown) was born on November 26 1919, in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, USA.

Carolyn married William Negley in 1942, at age 22 in Texas, United States.

William was born on March 28 1914, in San Antonio, Baxar, Texas, USA.

They had one child.

Carolyn lived at San Antonio, Texas 78209, USA.

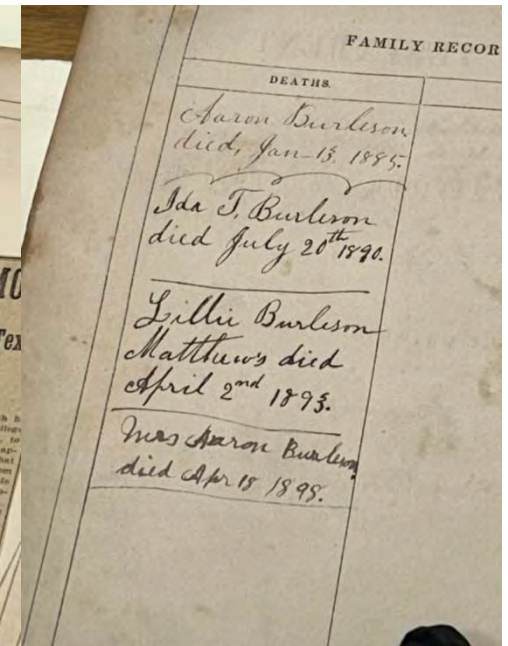
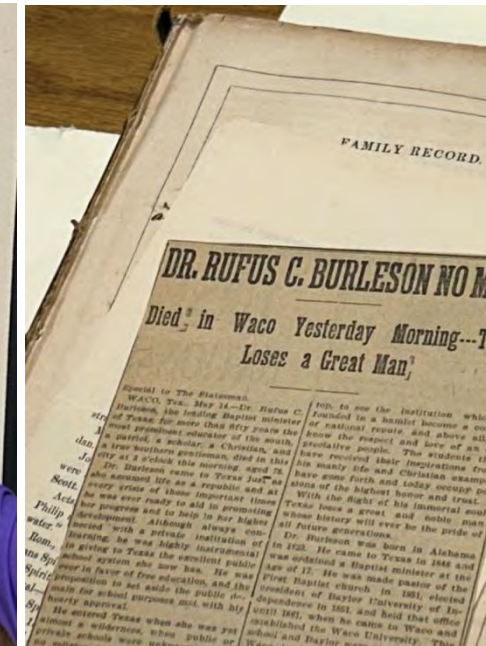
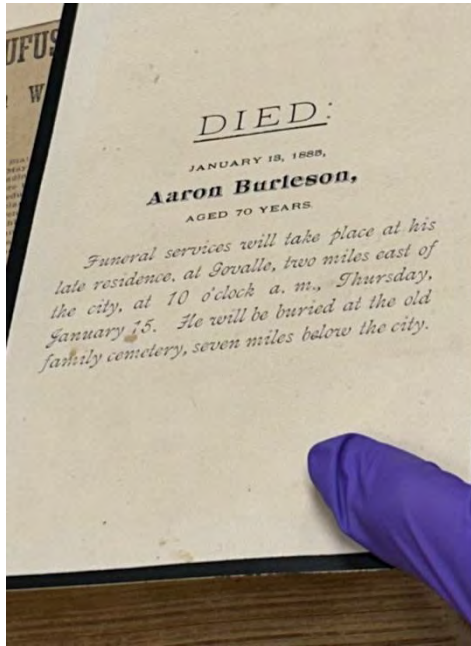
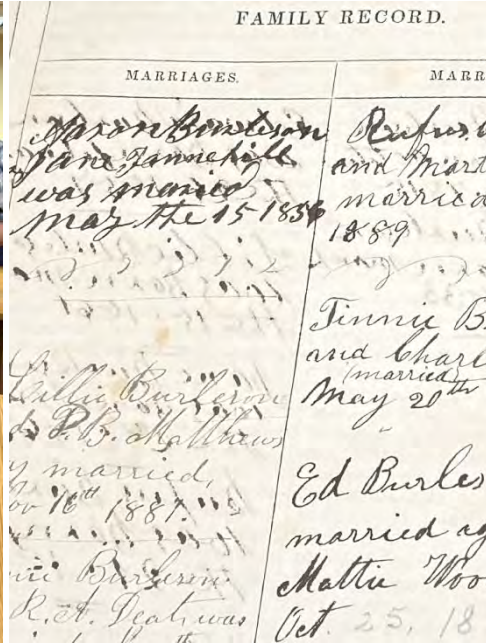
Carolyn passed away on October 1 2005, at age 85 in San Antonio, Baxar, Texas, USA. She was buried in Terrell Hills, Texas.



Bill's daughter is Laura Wells Negley, formerly married to Christopher B. Gill of San Antonio.



After cousin Josie presented her line, we were supposed to vacate the area. However, the DRT staff had sat through the presentation and took a liking to those attending. Martha Fleitus, the director invited us to stay to research the Burleson items she felt we'd like. We attacked the pile vigorously. All the while, a DRT – Burleson bond was forming. The once “don't touch without gloves “; turned into it's yours.” Much more was to come the next day.



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Daughter of the Republic of Texas: Carrie Anne Woolverton



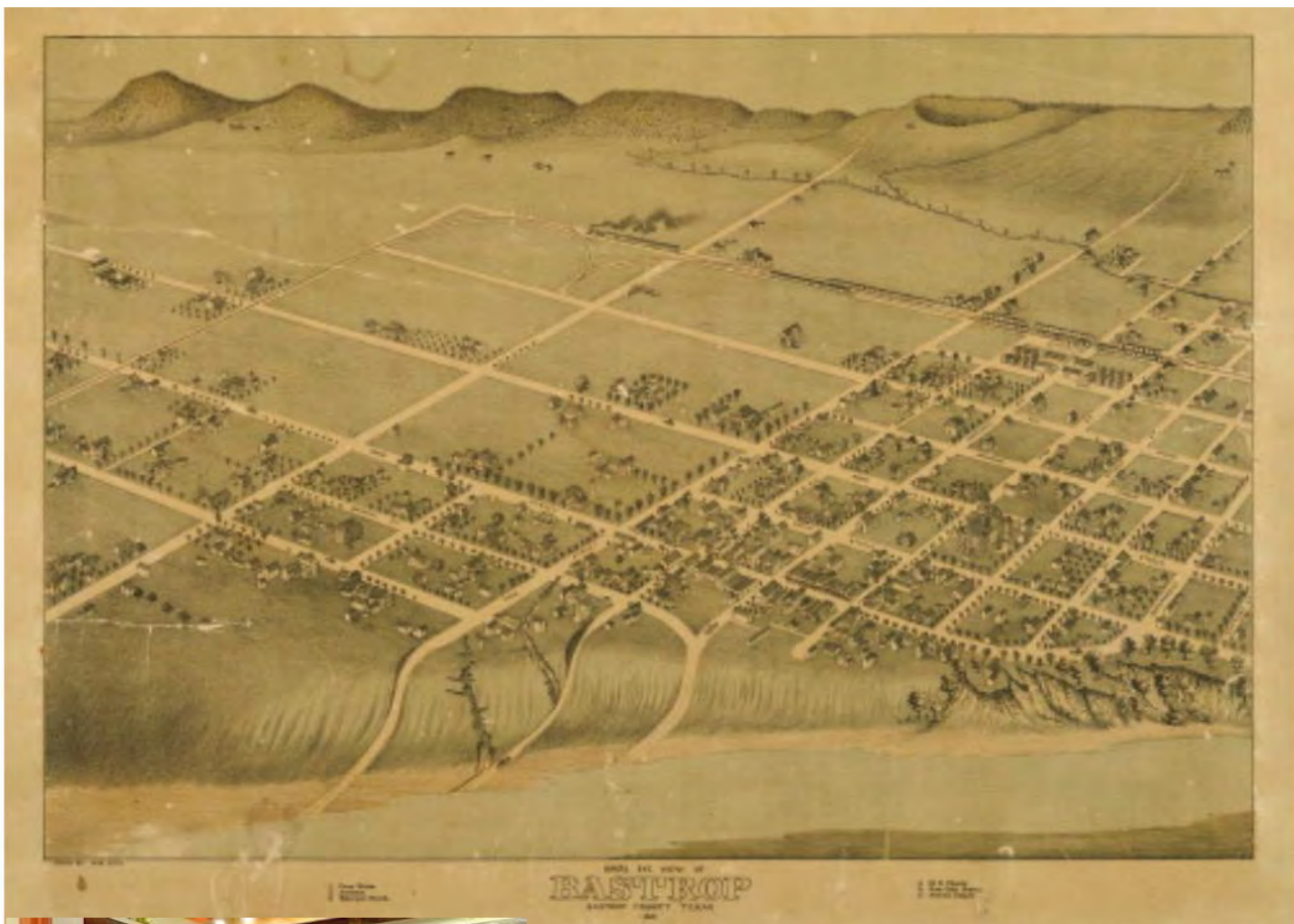
On May 2nd the BFRG held up at San Antonio's Daughters of the Republic of Texas. For two hours we enjoyed the presentation by BFRG's own contributor Carrie Anne Woolverton. Her topic was a comprehensive telling of the Burleson family entry into Texas. Times were turbulent and our family wanted as many did, farmable land in a peaceful circumstance. Only one of those was available. Tensions with the Mexican overlords was already showing and marauding indigenous were prevalent. Old Captain James, Edward, Aaron and Jonathan were up to the task, fending off attackers for two decades. Again, the staff from the DRT found a talk on Burlesons with many Burlesons in attendance too irresistible to stay away. They joined in.



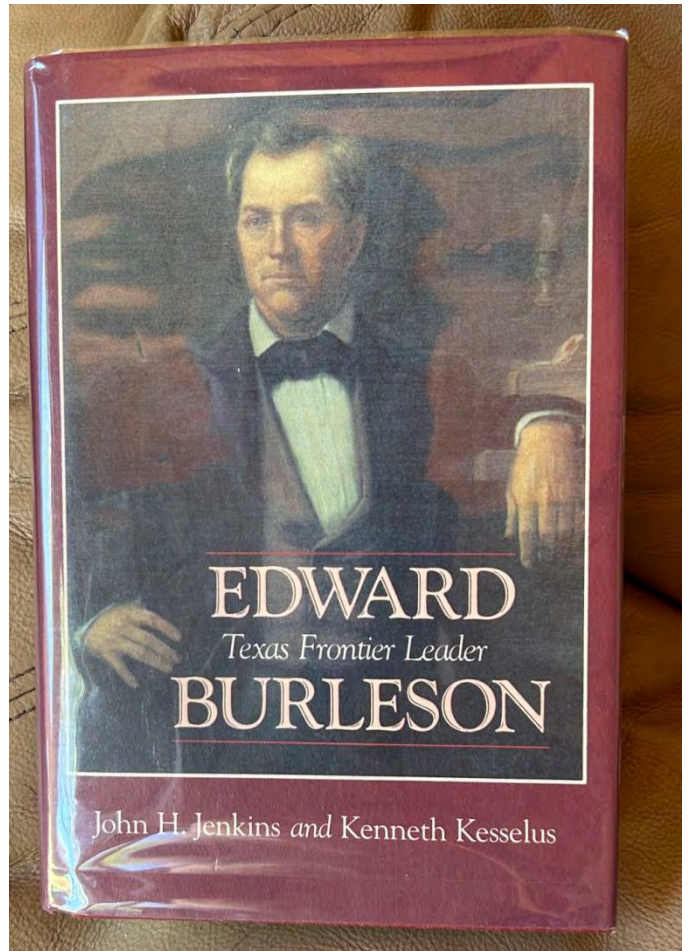
Following Carrie's program, our researchers were invited again to a private reading room and the newer section of the library for a tour. Again Director Martha Stovall Fleitas had prepared a stash of Burleson materials for us. Onward through the papers we dig. When we finished Martha and BFRG came to an accord of epic proportions. From May 2, 2024 forward BFRG papers, documents, photos and even physical items will be stored in the DRT Library vault. Such written materials will also be held digitally behind the firewall at the Asheville, North Carolina Old Buncombe County Museum and BFRGs unlimited digital repository, Burlesonsbigtent. DRT's brand new vault is a climate controlled 28,000 linear storage space. This agreement is a major achievement for our organization and guarantees the safety of all our precious history in a professional museum grade archive. Tell all your kin; a comprehensive storage capability for Burleson and cousins is now in place.



Bastrop, Texas, Rich in Burleson History



On the morning of May 3rd we met with former Bastrop mayor, Ken Kessulus. We briefed him on our current projects. We discussed his efforts to republish the book he co-wrote with John Jenkins many years ago. It's been out of print for a long time. Although Jenkins has passed, Ken is anxious to put it out again with additional information. He's agreed for BFRG researchers to correct many old Dr. Rufus Columbus Burleson's erroneous facts as well as oft repeated apocryphal data from the several family associations. Our retrofitted information and Kessulus' work should go to distribution in about six months. Ken regaled the crowd with his many tales of General Edward Burleson, his friend and their struggles.



The following speaker was Lt. Commander Rose Marie Burleson Sewell, USN retired. She led a lively discussion on her African American descendency from Burlesons. Other black Burlesons lines were also reviewed for comparison. We're happy to announce the formation of a new standing committee for research into black Burleson lines, DNA recruitment and location of black Burlesons' unmarked burials.



Smithville, Texas

Holds Burleson Burials AND Unsolved Murders



So, who the heck is Richard Martin? JD, Susanne and I stopped off at a Starbucks to start our day. Drinks in hand we sat at the largest table. A gentleman quickly joined us. He said, “I see you decided to sit at the Liar’s Table.” We all laughed and resumed our forced conversation. The man, later identified as Richard Martin overheard our chatter. He interjected, “You’re all Burleson?” Saying yes, he added, “You know you’re all royalty here.” Asking how, Martin said to look over my shoulder... visible through the window was a huge highway sign reading, “Burleson Lane.” Martin went on to explain he was a real estate appraiser and was keenly aware of area properties, including Burleson land. He added that a Smithville restaurant owner knew even more. He called her to arrange a lunch there to meet her.

Smithville Librarian Judith Bergeron prepared for weeks to select Burleson related items. They were waiting on us as we entered. Bfrgers pored over hundreds of documents and photographs. We took pics galore and Judith loaded us up with Smithville historical pamphlets.

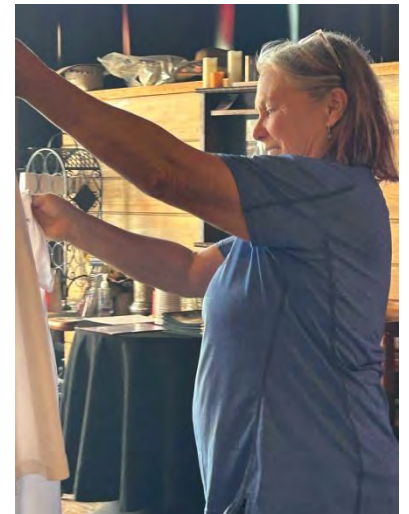






Leroy Behrens of the Smithville Heritage Museum had also worked for weeks personally hand selected Burleson related materials for our inspection. He placed magazines and newspapers in one room, books/photos in another and burials in the third. The courtesy and thoughtfulness was incredible. We pored over the thousands of items. Amy Matlock-Bartlett oversaw the burials, Jimmy Don Russell took charge of books & photos and JD and I held court the rest. Dan Burlison from the Burlison, Tennessee clan joined us with his wife and son attending. Leroy invited another historian, David Herrington to meet with me. We discussed in depth the 1876 shooting where a father-son Gazely pulled guns on Aaron Burleson; Burleson was quicker killing them both. The Gazelys were a popular founding family. Burleson was found to have acted in self defense. A few weeks later two men killed Aaron. The two men were arrested in what the St. Louis Dispatch termed “a murder for hire.” What happened in this violent episode will appear in our next Recollections...stay tuned. Jimmy Don garnished terrific information regarding Murray Burleson. His findings will appear in a separate article in THIS edition. Amy took her findings for future research in Texas cemeteries. Herrington accompanied us to a nearby cemetery many of us had seen before. However, he pointed out the unmarked graves of the assassinated Aaron Burleson and his daughter. Local fathers saw fit to bury Burleson unceremoniously as revenge for his killing of the Gazelys. More on this tale to come.





The restaurateur Richard Martin referred us to was Fat Cat Café. We had a wonderful meal and took time to interview Lisa Huffman, about Burlesons. She indeed, held a wealth of information. From representation of Burlesons on prior land deals, she had souvenir Burleson tee shirts to give us. Once more we were given far too much information to digest at one sitting. Much more of these discoveries are to come soon. By the way, don't order burgers well done...it ticks chefs off.



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Did We Say a Murder Mystery?



The Field Trip researchers from BFRG took recently we were able to gather hundreds of answers; just as many new questions popped up. In Smithville, Texas a 148 year old series of shootings left us curious. The press of the day certainly took sides and told of events in lurid violent terms. Spring time 1876 in Bastrop County saw extraordinary bloodshed and death, even for those times. For an area with a small population, suicides, murders, drug overdoses and the like were happening almost weekly. Local residents called for a firm hand enforcing the law. Aaron Burleson was the choice. He was a descendant of a storied lineage and married into an equally respected Hardeman family. But was his hand a bit too firm? As a lifelong western lawman myself, I've seen cases where the badge is worn too heavy.



Aaron Burleson born 2 November 1843 Bastrop County, Texas to Aaron Burleson 1805-1868 and Marilda "Rilda" Hallmark 1808-1888 was the grandson of Joseph Burleson (Alamo Bible) 1770-1849 and Nancy Gage 1772-1815. The men were of the North Carolina stock that made way through Tennessee to south central Texas. By age 18, this Aaron was anxious to join in the Confederate fight.

Name & Rank: Burleson, Aaron, Pvt.,
 Comm. Off: Ferrell, Stephen C., Capt.,
 Organ: Co.D, Terry's Texas Rangers, 8th Cav. CSA.
 Enlist: Sept.-61 in Travis Cty.
 Disch: Nat.: Texas; Res. Travis Cty.,
 Descrip: Texas.
 Remarks: R&F 137; Wounded, A good flanker, Killed in Bastrop Cty.; Information on this card from roll compiled by John M. Claiborne for the Reunion in Galveston, Feb. 20-82.

He left his home of Smithville, Texas to enter the fight. A town pioneered by families like Burleson and Gazley. The latter progenitor, Thomas Jefferson Gazley established his line with dignity and prestige. His son Thomas, Jr. continued that serving as captain in the local regiment. Both men appear to have served with distinction. After the Civil War they returned to spend their lives back in Smithville, Gazley as a businessman, Burleson as a lawman. In peacetime, Aaron took a bride, the lovely sixteen year old Laura H. Hardeman 1849-1927. Scratching out a farmer's existence for a few years, Burleson took on the duties of a Texas deputy sheriff. Post war Texas was still suffering ruffian unruliness and occasional Indian violence but Aaron was a determined peacekeeper. It didn't take long for citizens to note Burleson was more than a little rough in his treatment of violators. It was said often when he walked or rode through Smithville roads, people made their way indoors where all stayed quiet- even in saloons.



While in the Smithville Heritage Museum, curator Leroy Behrens reintroduced an old acquaintance, fellow historian David Herrington. He's known in the town for expertise chronicling the lives of the pioneer Gazley clan. He had a Burleson story to discuss. Aaron Burleson and Thomas Gazley, Jr. and his son, Tommy had become tangled in "bad blood." There was no clear cause- just bad blood. Some buzz persisted that Burleson, a married man was involved with a love triangle shared by a young Hallmark woman and one of the Gazleys. This opinion is shared by Gazley family historian, Dennis Dewet. In the spring of 1876 Burleson was embroiled in an argument with Tommy Gazley, young Gazley pulled a gun on Burleson who was quicker. Gazley was killed instantly. "Within 30 seconds" the killed man's father Thomas, Jr. rushed while armed to aid his son...Aaron shot him too. Who was the aggressor and what the argument was about was in great dispute. Enough witnesses came forward to convince a judge it was a case of self defense; Burleson was released to continue his duties. Trouble was brewing within the community. Burleson's support was eroding. September 1, 1876, just a few

months after the killings, Aaron Burleson was murdered. Quick arrests of two Austin men named Blackman and Loper were made. Almost immediately, Blackman was released without explanation. Loper was bound over for trial. News accounts across Texas, even reaching the St. Louis Dispatch claimed the two were paid assassins sought out to mete out a revenge killing. BFRG and Gazley expert David Herrington will reopen the case to explore more details.



In 1827, Dr. Thomas Jefferson Gazley arrived and set the pace of development. Near this site he built the first house and established the first store, which served incoming settlers and the friendly Lipan and Tonkawa Indians. He worked as Clerk and Secretary in the Mexican government and was granted a Mexican license to practice medicine. Gazley helped write the Texas Declaration of Independence and the Texas Constitution. During the Texas War for Independence, he fought as a citizen soldier-surgeon in the battles of Gonzales, Concepcion Mission, and San Jacinto. After the war he moved to Harrisburg, practiced Private Law and was elected to the Second Legislature of the Republic of Texas. Upon returning to Smithville in 1846, he established a riverboat landing to service the Kate Ward, which traveled from Matamoros to Austin. Following his death in 1853, he was first buried here in the Gazley Cemetery, and in 1937 he was reinterred in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin.

Evening star

Washington, District of Columbia •

Tue, Apr 4, 1876

Page 4

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

St. Louis, Missouri • Thu, Apr 6, 1876

Page 1

What Came from Whipping a Boy in Texas.

[From the Courier-Journal.]

A terrible shooting affray recently occurred in Bastrop County, Texas, resulting in the killing of Capt. Gazley and son by Aaron Burleson. The day before the killing the Gazleys had stopped Burleson from whipping a young man named Hill. The next morning the Gazleys met Burleson in a crowd, high words ensued, young Gazley fired on Burleson, who then drew his pistol and shot Gazley dead. The father coming to the assistance of his son was also shot dead by Burleson, the shot killing him instantly. The whole thing occurred and the two Gazleys were killed inside of thirty seconds. Burleson gave himself up, public sentiment in that community justifying the killing as an act of self-defense.

WHAT CAME FROM WHIPPING A BOY IN TEXAS.—A terrible shooting affray recently occurred in Bastrop county, Texas, resulting in the killing of a Capt. Gazley and son by Aaron Burleson. The day before the killing the Gazleys had stopped Burleson from whipping a young man named Hill. The next morning the Gazleys met Burleson in a crowd, high words ensued, young Gazley fired on Burleson, who then drew his pistol and shot Gazley dead. The father coming to the assistance of his son was also shot dead by Burleson, the shot killing him instantly. The whole thing occurred and the two Gazleys were killed inside of thirty seconds. Burleson gave himself up, public sentiment in that community justifying the killing as an act of self-defence.—[*Courier-Journal*.]

BASTROP COUNTY.

A Terrible Tragedy—Two Men Killed—Carrying Arms.

ALUM-CREEK, BASTROP CO., TEX., }
April 6, 1876. }

Blk. News—There occurred at Smithville, in this county, a short time ago, one of the bloodiest tragedies it has ever been our lot to record, in which two of our most orderly citizens, Capt. W. H. Gazley and his son Tommy, were both killed by Aaron Burleson.

CAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY.

The affair grew out of a difficulty between Burleson and one of Captain G.'s tenants, in which the Captain interfered to quell the disturbance, when Burleson struck him over the head with a pistol. The Captain went home bleeding and told his family of the circumstances, which so enraged them that they (his brother and sons) armed themselves and accompanied him back to the scene of the difficulty, which was only a few hundred yards off. Justice's court being in session here at the time all parties were arrested. Burleson was fined ten dollars and Captain G. and his son were placed under a peace bond. The difficulty was suppressed for the time, but as Burleson was known to be a very dangerous man it was the general opinion that it was not done with, and so it proved, for a few days afterwards the parties met at the same place, and after a few angry words between Tommy and Burleson the firing commenced, and in less time than it takes to tell it, father and son were both slain. They were both shot in the back, the balls ranging near the heart. The Justice of the Peace made a great mistake in not placing Burleson under a bond also, as he was the aggressor.

WHO IS TO BLAME.

Crime is holding high carnival in this State. Here in Bastrop county, under the very shadow of the capital, there have been ten persons killed in the last few months. Who is to blame for this terrible increase of crime throughout the land? Is it the Executive, judiciary, or who? It seems that the law against carrying deadly weapons, is not enforced as it should be. The very worst men in the land are given permission or deputized by Sheriffs to carry arms; and where such permission was not granted by inferior officers, they have, it is said, gone to the Governor, and have been commissioned or permitted by him to carry arms, under the guise of a deputy or detective.

CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPONS.

The law against carrying fire-arms should be rigidly enforced, and no one allowed to carry them except officers who are duly elected by the people. If not, every one should be allowed to carry them, so as to place the orderly and law-abiding citizens on an equal footing with the bully and desperado. For there have been more men killed in Texas in the last year than she lost during the late war.

Gazlay Family History

Home Search Maps Biographies Origins Photos Sources Cemeteries Contact

Person/Family Tree Ancestors Descendants Descend List Family History

William H. Gazley

DIRECT DESCENDANT OF JOHN GAZLAY (from England c.1715)
William H. Gazley⁵ (Thomas Gazley,⁴ Jonathan Gazlay,³ John Gazlay,² John Gazlay¹)

Parents

Father [Dr. Thomas Jefferson Gazley](#) (13 August 1798 - 31 October 1853)
Mother [Elizabeth Boyce](#) (ca. 1799 - ca. July 1886)

Personal Information

Record Created: 30 May 2011; Last Edited: 3 February 2022

Person ID 2379

Name William H. Gazley

Gender Male

Born ca. 1831 in Texas^{1, 2, 3}

Married 5 August 1852 in Colorado County, Texas to [Margaretta Ann Shepherd](#)⁴

Died 1876 in Smithville, Bastrop County, Texas^{5, 6, 7}

Biography

William served as a captain in the civil war, 33rd Regiment, Texas Cavalry, known as Duff's Partisan Rangers.⁸

William and his son Tom were murdered in the Spring of 1876 (sometime before 25 March). The circumstances are not known, but their killer was identified as Aaron Burleson. Aaron was himself killed the following September.^{5, 6, 7}

4. Texas Marriages, 1837-1973; marriage of William H. Gazly [sic] and Margaret Ann Shepherd, 5 Aug 1852, Colorado County, Texas.
5. The Galveston Daily News, 2 September 1876. Report of shooting of Aaron Burleson, who 'killed Capt. Gazley and son last spring.'
6. Austin Genealogical Society, Austin History Center Newspaper Index, July 26, 1871-Dec 21, 1877; Two articles: Letter says Aaron Burleson killed Tom Gazley-Bastrop 3/23/1876; Bastrop Co aroused over Burlesons murder of Gazley 3/25/1876.

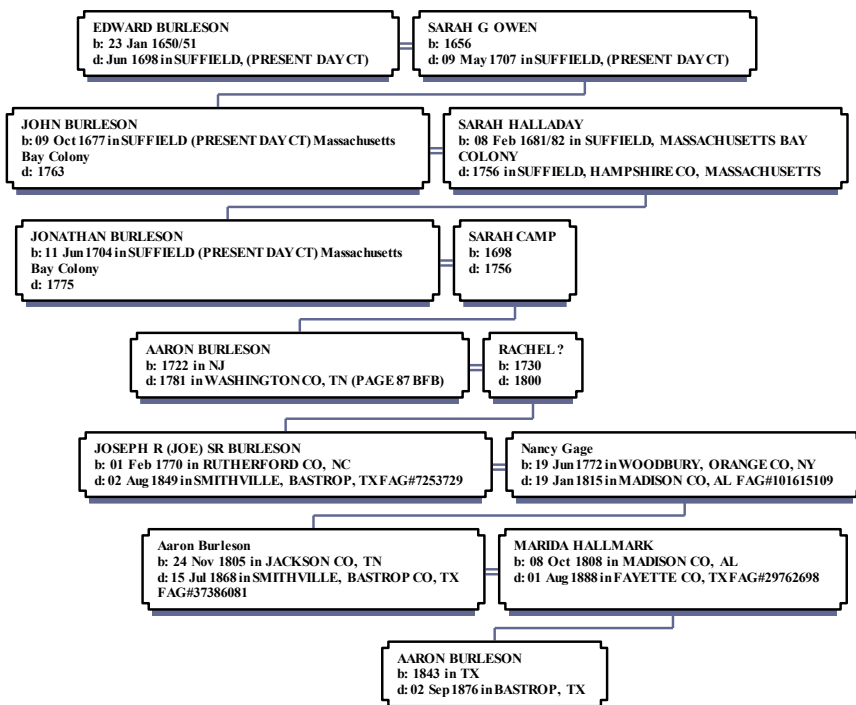
The above record is flawed according to historian David Herrington. Glazay should be spelled Gazley and any notation of William should read Thomas Jefferson Gazley.

Our search begins with a comprehensive gathering of documents and news accounts but we'd like to invite you to tell all you know. Call in your tips to 505-919-9007 or 512-217-0822.



These two unmarked graves are possible burials of Aaron Burleson 1843 – 1876 and unnamed child of Burlesons, age unknown. The two were unceremoniously buried as a sign of spite felt by the Gazley loving town folk. Verification will be a part of the BFRG/Herrington investigation.

Direct Descendants of EDWARD BURLESON



Jim Burleson
BFRG Researcher
Jimburleson8554@gmail.com

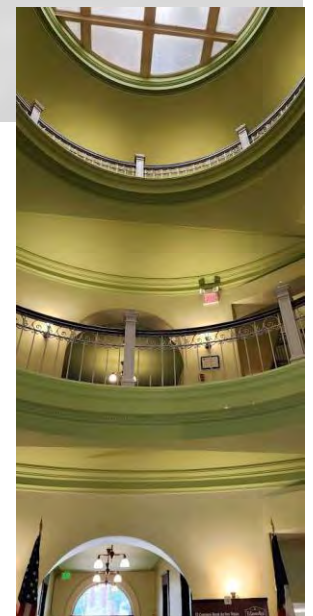
The Charles S. Cock House Museum: San Marcos, Texas



HAYS COUNTY OFFICIALS * 1848 - PRESENT
649 - Hensley / Hensley

SHERIFF	COUNTY JUDGE	COUNTY CLERK	DISTRICT CLERK
1849-1851 J.S. ARBELL (PHOTO)	1848-1857 J.T. WATKINS	1848-1852 H. LITTLE (PHOTO)	
1854-1876 WILLIAM KYLE	1858-1861 J.E. AAR	1857-1862 HENRY T. DAVIS	
1862-1868 S. POLK (PHOTO)	1862-1864 J.E. MOORE	1862-1867 JAMES FORD	
1868-1868 G. H. WOOD	1862-1867 JAMES STEPHEN	1867-1868 G.S. MOORE	
1868-1872 T.B. BRIDGEMAN	1868-1878 J.T. ALEXANDER	1868-1870 W. HURKISON	
1872-1880 H.E. BRADLEY	1878-1878 STEWART TINSLEY	1871-1882 B.H. JENNIS	
1881-1888 J.A. WOOD	1878-1880 J.P. ROBERTSON	1883-1888 ASYL. ROBERTSON	
1889-1891 J. SMITH (PHOTO)	1890-1894 J.V. STEPHENS	1889-1896 J.S.S. DODDNEY	1891-1892 T.P. HASTI (PHOTO)
1892-1892 J.W. KESON (PHOTO)	1895-1899 J.E. K. JOHNS	1897-1897 J.A. W. TRENDR	1901-1894 GUSTAVE CLARK
1903-1910 H.E. TERTRE	1907-1911 J.B. BRIDGES	1907-1910 NANNIE D. BUCKS	1905-1907 CHARLES R. DAVIS
1911-1918 D.W. ALLEN	1911-1912 J.B. WILHELM	1917-1948 L.W. HOPKINS	1908-1920 J.E. DAVIS
1919-1947 M.W. BRON	1928-1935 J.P. JOHNSON	1927-1936 W. LEE DONALDSON	1921-1929 J.E. MORRIS
1948-1967 JAC KUMBY	1935-1938 W. H. THOMPSON	1944-1952 SARAH BUELL	1929-1942 LEO DONALDSON
1968-1979 BARRY KESNER	1943-1946 W. M. HENST FT.	1967-1986 LUDWIG B. CLAYTON	1947-1958 H.C. BRON
1979-2010 ALTON SMITH (PHOTO)	1948-1981 CHAS. FARMER	1987-1988 LUDWIG B. CLAYTON	1979-1978 HAZEL ANN PRINCAN
1981-1988 R. FORD (PHOTO)	1981-1986 G. M. DICKER	1987-1988 RONNIE DANIELLY	1979-1985 W. H. MOORE
1988-1990 PAUL HASTINGS	1987-1988 MARY SMITH	1989	1995 CHAS. A. STAIR
1991	1988-1992 GUYON BAYNS		
	1992-1998 EDWIN BETHBENSON		
	1998-2002 JIM FORTNEY		

McClellan Wood 2017-2019 L12 - 11/17/2018
2019 - 02-20-2019
Aug 1864 - 1865 James White
No Photo - Henry Chestman
J. W. Watkins
A. F. Carr
P.D. Alexander
Stairman of Hensley
HAYS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



In the early morning we met Hays County Historian Linda Coker at the County Court House, San Marco's, Texas. She'd prepared for weeks selected Burleson artifacts for us to review. Linda gave us hundreds of pages of documents, photographs and burial information. We then adjourned to the Museum where she provided attendees a twenty minute DVD on General Edward Burleson. We were allowed to handle one of his rifles and her discussion on San Marcos Burlesons was lively. She accommodated our BFRG researchers complimentary entry too.





We learned of this portrait of Edward Burleson on the DVD produced by the Hays County Historical Commission. It was an image we'd not seen before. The Cock House Museum acquired it from famous western scenery artist, B J Ritchie.

Above you see JD holding the rifle. On the table beside him is a grocery bag full of DVDs titled "Edward Burleson Soldier and Statesman". A copy was provided each BFRG attendee.



Special permission was granted to the BFRG Researchers to handle General Edward's rifle by the Hays Historical Commission. We are forever grateful to them and our host Linda Coker for the extraordinary courtesy shown us.



Aquarena Springs, Site of General Edward Burleson's One Time Home



Burleson Cabin Postcard

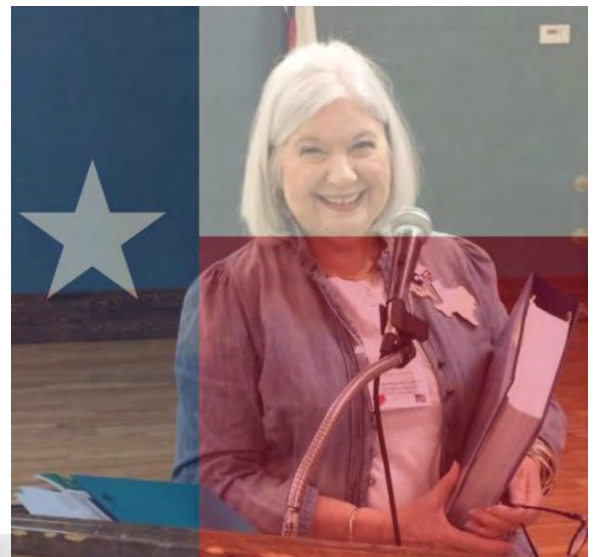




1965



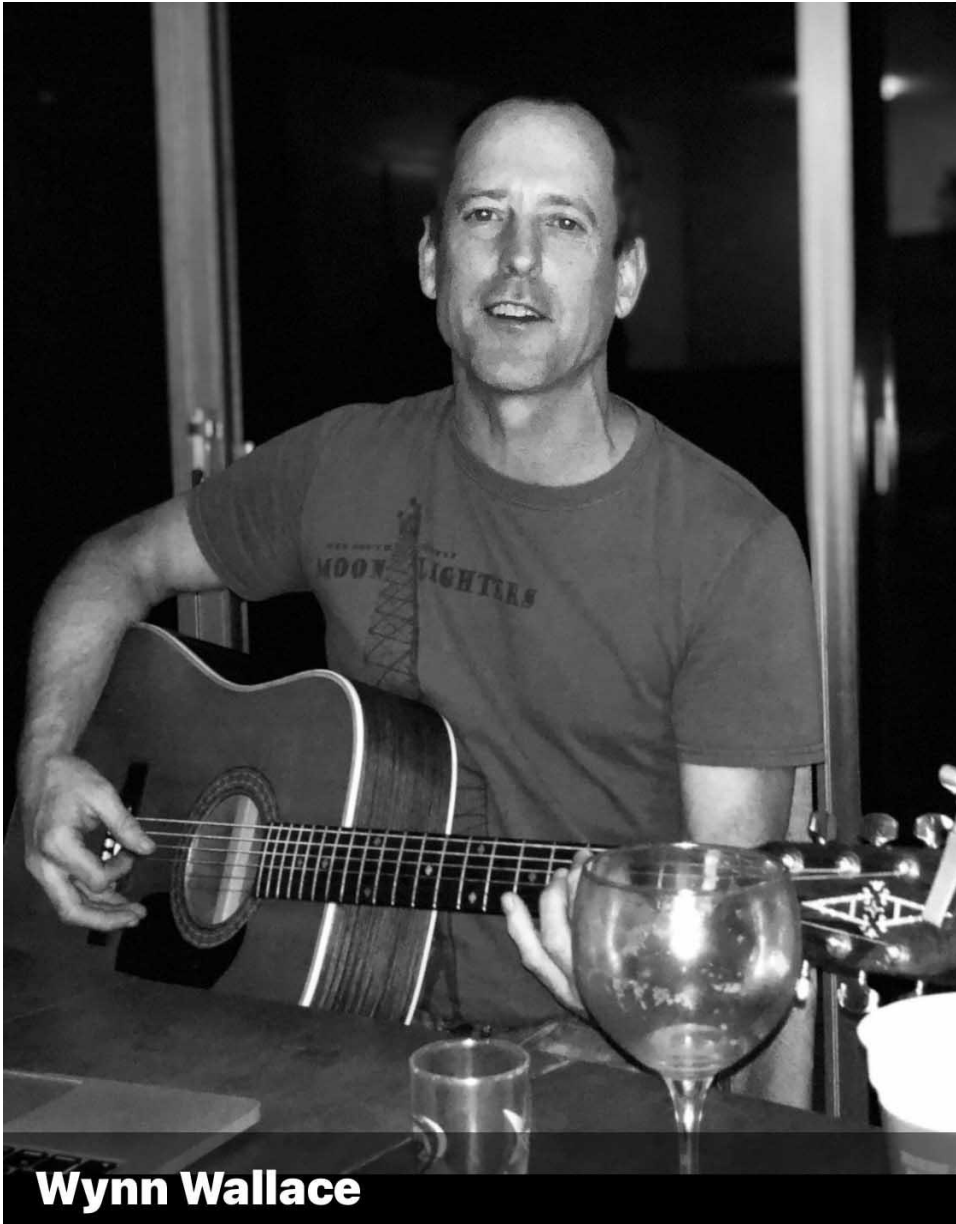
2024



The images on this page are courtesy of Martha Fleitas of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT). We hope to team up with DRT, government, corporate and others to restore Texas hero, General Edward Bureson's Cabin in San Marcos.

Edward Burleson constructed a split wooden cabin with a breezeway divided in the 1800s in the San Marcos area; most of the land once occupied is under the ownership and protection of Texas State University. In Ed's time he built a "crib and rock" mill along the headwaters of the San Marco's River. The rushing waters powered a sawmill/grist mill operation. The dam over 130 years has been repaired, seen two restaurants adjoin it and water recreation efforts occupying the area. The home was destroyed by fire twice over the century and the homestead area is quite overgrown. Members of our FIELD TRIP researchers were undeterred.

The mill area has been designated a historic site by the State of Texas. Cousin Wynn Wallace once owned the tract next door. He guided us to a private access way.



Wynn Wallace

You've seen our gathering place where Edward Burleson once had his dam/mill. It's a beautiful site for the current restaurant, recreation area and nature conservancy. After refreshments our researchers ventured to the higher ground of "Uncle Ned's" property for more daunting exploration. Looking from the comfort of the observation balcony you can see through the rough brush to homestead area.

The Hays County Historical Commission refers to the old home as that of, "General Edward Burleson (1793-1851), officer in Texas War for Independence; vice president of Republic of Texas (1841-1844); leader in frontier defense; state legislator. Built in 1848 of hewn elm and oak logs and roofed with hand rived boards. In ruins by 1917, it was restored in 1932 and again in 1964 with original chimney stones and logs from buildings of the same period." Below you can see 1964 era images of the state of the home before initial restoration. The poor home suffered a more recent fire leaving it as seen today.

To get the current images of the home ruins, it took maneuvering (and a little artful trespassing) through jungle-like brush. The researcher/cousin who completed the deed was Wynn Wallace, an Aaron Burleson descendant. The pictures are brilliant.

General Ed's Cabin: Addendum

In 2004 cousin Tim Gage and his wife Susan visited the Aquerena Springs site of General Edward Burleson's reconstructed cabin. Over its 150+ history, it suffered two burn downs. From previous images you can see how overgrown the ruins are now. Please reflect on the images our cousin was able to save. You can observe a Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) plaque near the doorway and a park bench set outside. This tells us that the home site WAS able to be used for tourists' visits and CAN be again. BFRG is attempting to harness the cooperation of the city of San Marcos, Hays County, DRT, Texas State University and others to bring back a fitting tribute to this great hero of the Texas Republic.

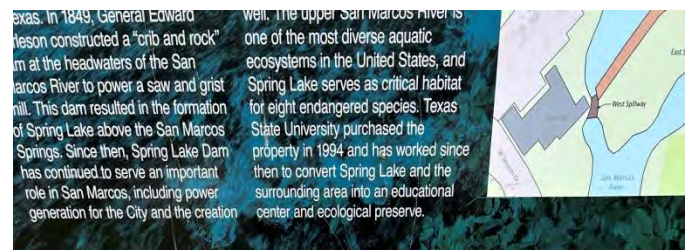
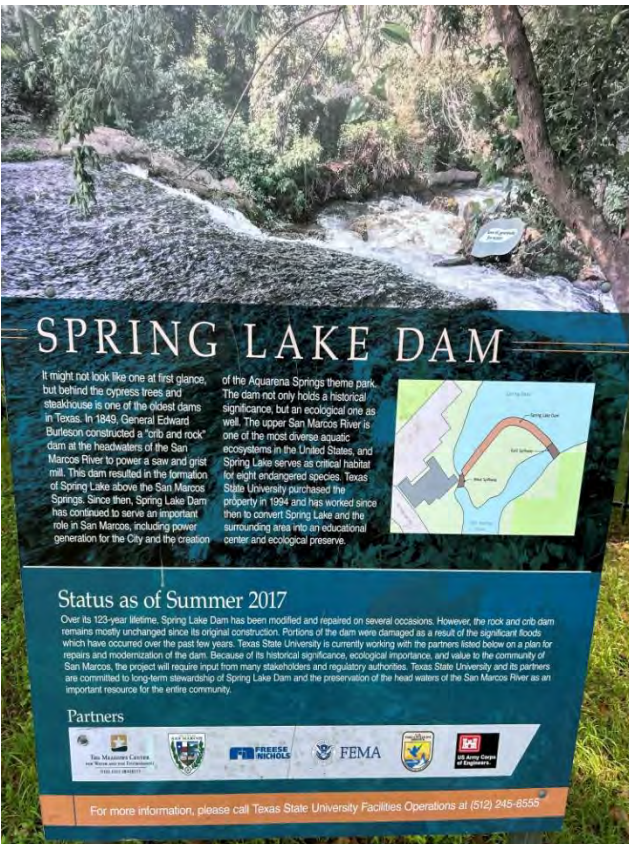




Jim Burleson
BFRG Researcher
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Aquarena Springs Continued

Following the wonderful tour of Cock House we drove to the spillway area of Aquarena Springs currently surrounding a college atmosphere restaurant. The workings of the dam are undisturbed creating a well used water recreation spot for the town.



After refreshments we were off to close in on the Old Ed Burleson cabin site. It is quite overgrown so we met at the observation balcony. Cousin Wynn Wallace knew how to safely approach the ruins as he'd once owned the adjacent property. He signed our banner and we wished him well. You'll soon learn he was successful. BFRG will work with the San Marcos mayor to urge Texas State University to clean and maintain the pathway.



Major Edward Burleson, Jr's Home is Closed



Unfortunately we were only able to see Edward Burleson Jr's home from the road. Despite designated as a historic site the current owner refuses to allow visitors on his property inside or out. He has been known to greet would-be visitors with a shotgun. That was the experience for some of our African American cousins a few years ago. The aforementioned historian says the first image seen in a Google search of the owner is of a mug shot. The historic marker is removed or hidden. Daaaang!



San Marcos Mayor Jane Hughson: Meet the Burlesons



The Honorable Mayor Hughson met us on the evening of May 5th. Her welcoming address included the many positive changes in San Marcos. The family was delighted to hear her remarks noting the importance of the Burleson family in the town's history. She was gracious enough to take our questions at the end. We were specifically pointedly urging the Charles S. Cock House Museum be renamed the Burleson Home Museum or the William Precious "Doc" Burleson House. The city council will rule soon on proposed names. "Doc" once owned the home and his children (our cousins) Julius and Rose Marie Burleson Sewell were born in the home. The mayor took the matter to heart. We also pleaded our case for intensified efforts by the city and Texas State University to clean up and access created at the Old Edward Burleson homesite. Again, Ms. Hughson was receptive. Upon her initial entrance she forewarned us her schedule was tight and would need to leave shortly after her greeting. She was sitting next to me...after twenty minutes with us she leaned over to whisper, "I can't leave this." The mayor was Burleson surrounded for two hours.

Hana Shakoor High, Rose Marie Burleson Sewell and Ronald Martin Collins really got the ball rolling for greater interaction with white and black Burleson cousins. This night was a culmination of their effort. We enjoyed them on other portions of our adventure but they deserve a tip of the hat. Our Arvada, Colorado cousin Johnnie Bratton has also grabbed the baton with and for African American Burlesons. He flew in to his hometown San Marcos. The meal was great and we left with the resolve to clear the murky waters of how we're cousins. Johnnie and Rose are leading a fierce charge to solicit DNA submissions. Deacon Robert Bratton and Linda Burleson are now representing BFRG to gather all record, news clippings, burials, etc. for all Burlesons white or black in San Marcos. They've started with the assistance of Doris Williams, curator of the San Marcos African American and Freedom Colony Museum. Stay tuned for updates. Please enjoy the photographic evidence of a happy evening with Burleson kin.



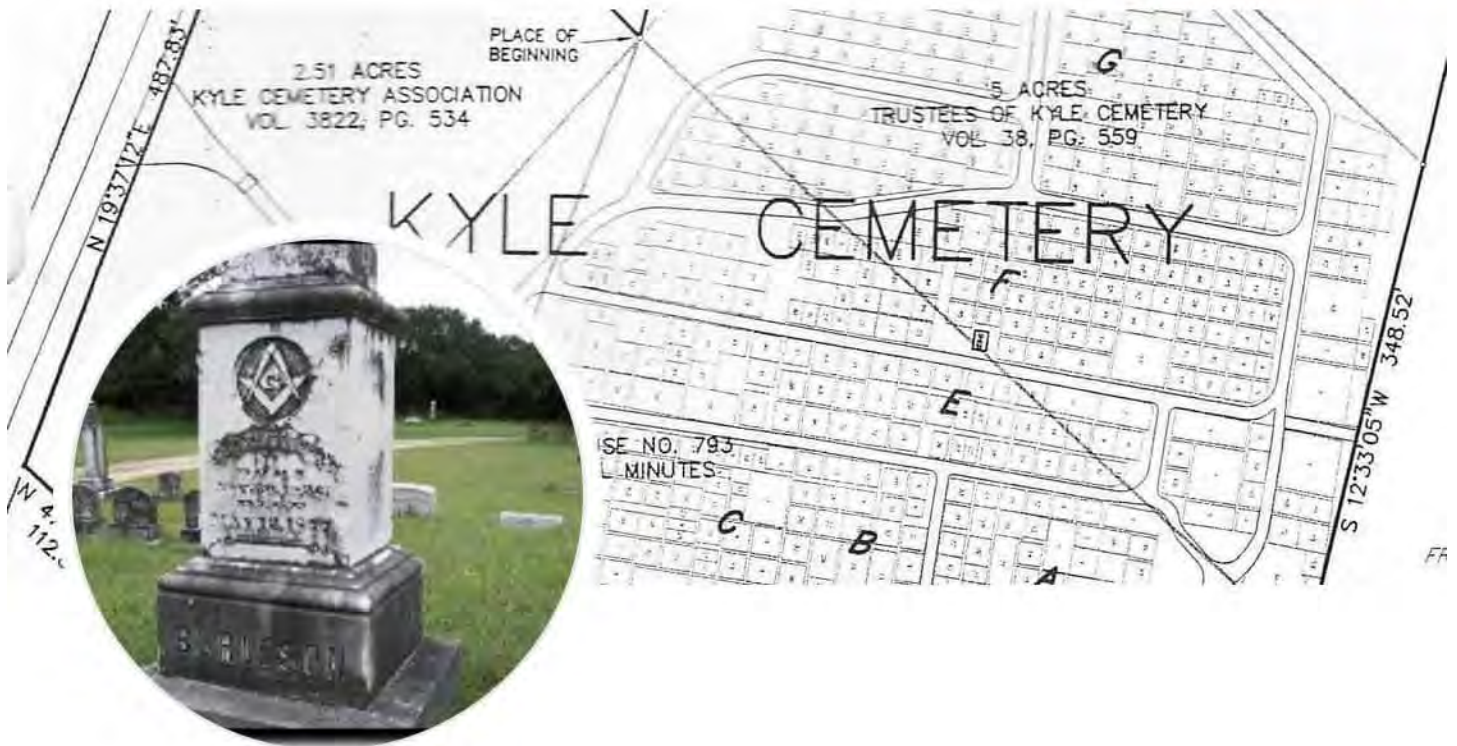


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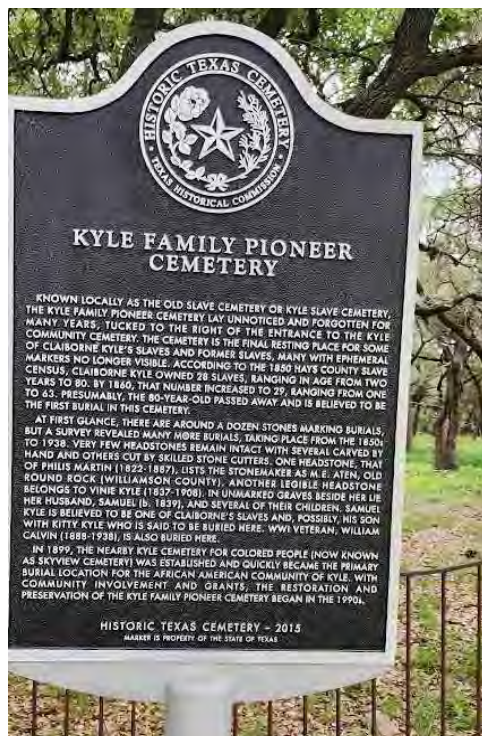


JD Burleson
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bfrginfo@gmail.com

Fresh Visit to Kyle Cemetery

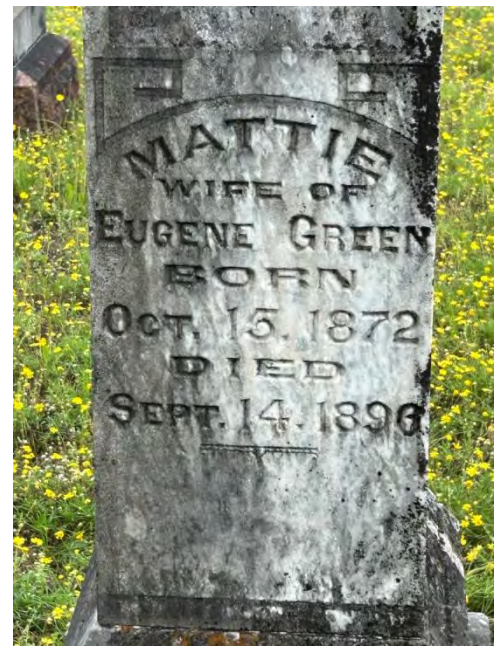


Kyle Cemetery



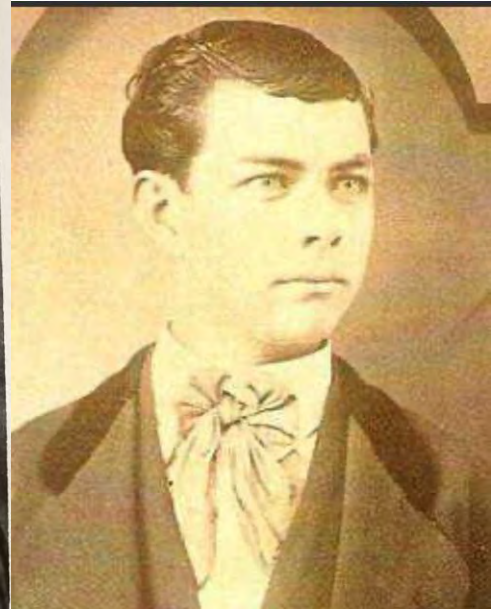
Our BFRG team ventured into Kyle to tour the Cemetery of the same name. Major Edward Burleson, son of General Edward Burleson is buried there with many of his family. His father in law Claiborne Kyle, family and his many slaves lie at rest there. The two distinct sections of black and white are marked with Historical Markers.

As you enter the traditional burial grounds you notice the well kept Kyle area (white) and the "Pioneer"(slave) clear but unmarked. BFRG requested a full grid map of the names for each burial from the local newspaper, a Kyle family owned publication. As that is received, we'll upload the names to the BFRG database and submit to Find a Grave. The 100+ stones there were photographed and will be added to the 2000 or so we've taken this trip. Important Burleson allied names were prevalent here, including Greene, Bee, McCullough and Bugg. Yeah, that Bugg ...the ones from Kent, Virginia that married into Burlesons in the early 1700s. The Buggs also married into the Bacons of Bacon's Rebellion fame.





Of course our BFRG focus was on the Burlesons there. Front and center were Edward Burleson, Jr., Emma Kyle and son James Greene Burleson, the subject of much speculation as relating to several African American Burlesons.



An intriguing story resonates with the locals in Kyle. It's the legend of the Hanging Tree; the identity and motives for the mystery hung cowboy remain unknown. But, the tree's still there.

THE KYLE HANGING TREE & KYLE CEMETERY

[Kyle, Texas](#)



The Kyle Hanging Tree
TE photo, August 2001



The Kyle Hanging Tree

SOMETIME IN THE LATE 1840'S, LONG BEFORE THE TOWN OF Kyle came into existence, some cowboys from the Kyle Ranch were rounding up stray cows, when they discovered a man hanging from a limb of a live oak, about a quarter mile from Colonel Claiborne Kyle's home.

Not knowing the man's identity or why he had been hanged, they cut the body down and buried it beside this tree in an unmarked grave. In 1849, Willie Parks, an orphan boy whom the Kyles had befriended, was also buried near the tree. Later Colonel Kyle donated, as a community cemetery, a 15-acre plot of ground in which lie these graves.

This cemetery also contains the remains of some of the earliest settlers of Hays County, including Colonel John Bunton, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence; Major Edward Burleson, veteran of the Mexican War; and Colonel Kyle's son, Captain Ferguson Kyle, for whom the town of Kyle was named.

The Hanging Tree is located in the Kyle Cemetery, about 200 feet to the right of the entrance. The cemetery is about 2 1/2 miles south-west of Kyle, on the old Austin-San Antonio stage-line road.



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Day Ten: Leaving San Marcos



Before leaving San Marcos for Austin our BFRG team was given just a bit more red carpet. Reference Librarian Sarah Seyl had taken the prior two weeks to personally select photos, documents and books she felt best relevant to our history. All were laid out waiting including some crucial vertical files. They will be most instrumental for background information necessary for our campaign to restore the General Edward Burleson property to visitor-friendly condition. Very important were the archaeological and geological materials. We recorded 500+ pages from this collection alone. Hats off to Ms. Seyl for the preparation with the San Marcos Historic Collection.

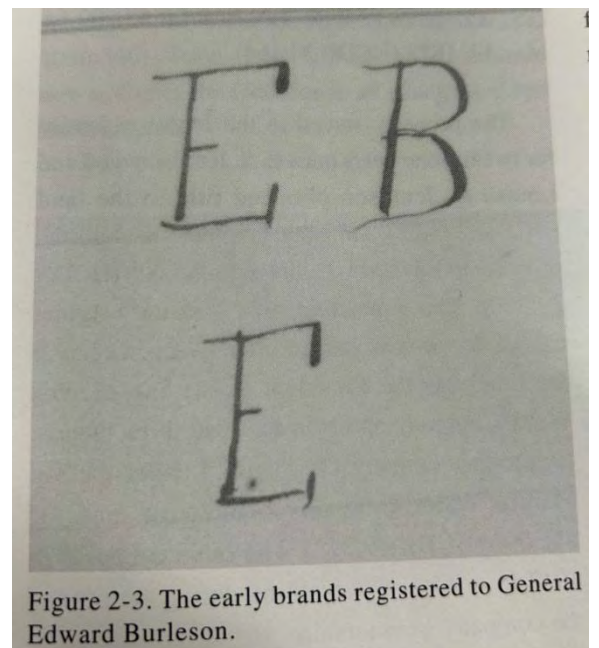


Figure 2-3. The early brands registered to General Edward Burleson.

TWNC - Biography - Burleson, Edward

Window

(Continued from page 1B)

Antonio in the initial days of the revolution.

After Texas became the Republic he returned to his home near Bastrop and was elected to the Senate at the first Congress of the new government.

In 1837 he had been elected Brigadier General of the militia and in 1838 he was appointed colonel of the first Regiment of infantry of the regular army of the Texas Republic.

Another son, David Crockett, was born in 1827 and named for his friend who had perished at the Alamo. (This son was to grow up in San Marcos, was known as Davy Crockett, and lived out his life in "Crocket" and lived out his life in Hays County.) That same eventful year Burleson had been elected to the Second Congress of the state legislature, and 1838-1839 he was a member of the Senate.

However, during these two years, due to Mexico's not truly accepting the actuality of Texas as a Republic in spite of San Jacinto, there were three significant battles in which he was victorious, the Battle of Brandy in February, the fight with Cordova in February, the fight with Cordova near Sabin in March, the Cherokee fight in May, as well as the Cherokee War in East Texas in July of 1839 when he commanded the 1st Regiment, and with the help of Placido's Tonkawas, defeated Chief Bowles, the old friend of Sam Houston.

Also, during the year of 1838 he laid out a town on the banks of the Colorado well above Bastrop that he called Waterloo. He established town lots and issued title to them to several Bastrop residents, a town that was to become Austin under Governor Lamar, the capitol of the state, against the wishes of his old antagonist, Sam Houston.

Though the power of the Cherokees had been broken in far East Texas by Burleson and his Texas regular army, the Comanches continued on the rampage on this frontier. In 1840 he raised volunteers to pursue Indian raiders and, with Placido again an eager ally, participated in the locally famous Battle of Plum Creek.

His popularity and renown grew and though not a political figure, in 1841 his friends proposed his candidacy and he was elected vice president of the Republic when Houston was named President. There followed a stormy time with Austin abandoned as the Capitol and San Antonio again invaded. Burleson was to leave the legislature to once more lead volunteers in preserving the Republic of Texas.

Calendar

(Continued from page 1B)

MAY 3-The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce will have its monthly luncheon at 12 at Aquarena Springs. Guest speaker Rick Gonzales of the San Antonio World Trade Center will talk on networking.

MAY 4-The Brackenridge Club will meet at 4 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Nancy Yartrough.

MAY 4-The lupus and chronic illness support group will meet at 7 p.m. at 303 W. Hopkins, the office of Dr. O. A. Watson. For more information, call 396-3057.

MAY 5-May Fellowship Day sponsored by Church Women United will be held at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. A salad supper at 6:30 will be followed by worship at 7:30. The program, "To Pray Is to Listen," will be led by Laura Ramsay, and music will be provided by Chris Williams. Both men and women are invited to attend both or either one of the sessions.

MAY 6-The American G.I. Forum will serve Mexican breakfasts of Caldo de Rez from 8 to 12 at the Forum Clubhouse. Donation is \$2, and proceeds will benefit scholarship funds. The public and candidates are welcome. For more information call J. Sanchez, 754-0804.

TWNC - Biography - Burleson, Edward

Burleson Carter Payne 2/1/18

Mrs. Sarah M. Owen Celebrates 92nd Birthday



Mrs. Sarah M. Owen was honored with a party on her 92nd birthday Friday, Nov. 14, in the home of her oldest daughter, Mrs. Albert Payne.

All of her children were present. They are as follows: Mrs. Frank Posey, Mrs. C. J. Adare, Mrs. A. G. Coers, Mrs. Edna Boyett, Mr. Alton Owen, and the hostess, Mrs. Payne, all of San Marcos, and Dr. L. H. Owen of Floresville.

The following friends and relatives called during the afternoon and evening: Mrs. L. M. Carter, Mrs. Abbie Porter, Preston Franklin, and Edwin Porter, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Theriot, Wilton and Russel Theriot, C. J. Adare, Fred Boyett, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Jamison, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Filley, Judie Murdoch, Mrs. Jack Perkins, Ginger and Roy Perkins, Chester Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Manford Adare, Nelda May Adare, Mrs. J. C. Gibson, Charles Altenhoff, Mrs. Edward Oliver.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Posey, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bevers, Richard Tiller, John Sunberg, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Payne, Mrs. Alice O'Bannon, Mrs. Walter Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Tom McCarty, Elinor Conrad, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Speck, Rev. and Mrs. A. N. Hinrichsen, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Skags, Mrs. R. M. Schmidt, and Dr. and Mrs. C. Williams, all of San Marcos.


Out of town guests included: Mrs. Pearl Hay, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Cearley, Evans Poston, of San Antonio; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fausch, Campbellton; Mrs. Thekla Black, Jourdanton; Clarence Jennings, Martingale; H. M. Jamison, Gillingland; and Mrs. W. S. Forrester, Victorville, Calif.

Mrs. Owen is the oldest living granddaughter of General Edward Burleson, and was born at the old Burleson homestead at the head of the San Marcos river.

Lake Superior is the largest fresh water lake in the world.

TWNC - Biography - Burleson, Edward

Edward Burleson Bronze Dedication Ceremony



Created/ Sculpted by Lorin Friesen

Thursday, February 27, 2003
3:00 p.m.
City Hall Foyer

TWNC - HISTORY RECORDS BURLESON 1836

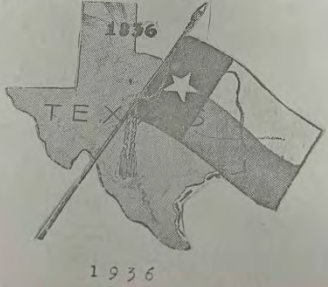
THE SAN MARCOS RECORD

DESCENDANTS OF PIONEERS

who came to Texas before 1846
who now live in Hays County

This history of descendants of pioneers who came to Texas before 1846 and who now live in Hays county, has been compiled by Mrs. E. L. Thomas and Mrs. John Edward Pritchett, members of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. It will be continued in the Record and News each week. Descendants of pioneers of the Republic are requested to co-operate with Mrs. Thomas and Mrs. Pritchett in this work. Please send or phone such information to them at once, so that this history can go forward as an unbroken story.

THE EDITOR



Sponsored by Hays County Centennial Advisory Board
Mrs. W. A. Wyatt, Chairman

TJWC-HS-2022 MARKERS BURLESON HERBERT-2022
BIOGRAPHY

TJWC Biography - Burleson, Edward

Burleson descendants to meet in San Marcos

General Edward Burleson's presence in this area will be commemorated in detail next week when a distinguished group of Burleson descendants converge in San Marcos for a three-day meeting.

The Board of Directors of this family-chartered organization known as the Burleson Family Association chose San Marcos for their 1925 meeting when they last met in South Carolina. Among those who will be present is General Edward Burleson of California. Yes, that is his registered name. He was given the name of Ed Burleson, and you can see why. He's a dear man well into his eighties, the only direct male descendant now carrying the name. This Burleson has been in San Marcos for some time. His present address is 1201 N. Burleson. His grandfather was Joseph Rogers Burleson, a son of the General, who was a Hays County Sheriff in the 1840's.

Others who will attend coming from afar are P.K. Burleson of North Carolina and Esther Burleson Perkins of Burlington, Tennessee. President of the Burleson Family Association is Bill Fisher of Covington, La. These assemblies may include all members of the Association who wish to attend. Those responsible for the San Marcos invitation include relatives from Louisiana and Oklahoma as well as Texas.

A full schedule arranged by Boots Dunn, chairman of the arrangements, will open with a welcoming gathering Friday night at Aqueduct Springs. Saturday afternoon the group will tour all locations around the San Marcos area including the historic presence of General Edward Burleson. This tour from the 1820's when he led volunteers rallied from neighboring settlements in the protection of this frontier, through his leadership in establishing the Texas Republic, and through the time he brought his family to live in the home above the Springs. He had earlier erected the dam for a mill on the approximate site of today's Peppers at the Falls. It was the first business to operate in San Marcos other than a

was the land grant for his heroic role in the Battle of San Jacinto. Burleson sold a portion to John Fitts who then came back from Austin after serving in the settlement known as Springtown.

Fitts built his substantial home and encouraged his daughters and their husbands, and other families from Georgia, to join him and immediately established a school.

There were three school-age children in his family when General Burleson moved here from central Burleson established a mill and an inn. As Burleson established his first saw mill and an inn on the San Marcos River he erected a school building next to his house, the first in the settlement. As the first in the settlement, the first visitors to town, the first to visit the San Marcos Cemetery will see many family graves each identified with flags. Boots will have placed there a day will conclude with a social evening and a morning the Association directors their annual business meeting at Holiday Inn for their respective



General Edward Burleson

Early in 1848 General Burleson as Senator from Bastrop, acceded to the wishes of San Marcos people and presented a bill to the Legislature to create a county, the bill passed and the new county was named for John Coffee Hays, designating San Marcos as the county seat on March 1, 1848.

SMHC

TJWC - Biography - Burleson, Edward

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GEN. EDWARD BURLESON

Edward Burleson, son of Capt. James Burleson and under Andrew Lewis (who was under Andrew Jackson in 1811, settling at Bastrop, where he resided for some time, where he moved to the new county of Hays, building his home, a log cabin, on the bluff above the head of the San Marcos River.

He was associated with Major William B. Lindsey and the Rev. William F. Burleson in the ownership of a large tract of land, on which the town of San Marcos was located and founded. He laid out the town and sold the lots.

Gen. Burleson was, of course, active in the affairs of his state, mostly, as in those of his state, and was a useful citizen in every possible way.

He reared a large family of sons and daughters. Several of his sons were in the Confederate Army; all acquitted themselves nobly.

The eldest son, Edward Burleson, Jr., was a Major in General Henry McCulloch's Brigade during the Civil War, and was also with Capt. Jack Hays in Mexico in 1846.

Gen. Burleson's grandson, Hon. Albert Sidney Burleson, now of Austin, has perhaps gathered more material success than any other of Hays County's descendants. He was a member of Congress from the district, and twenty years postmaster general during the Wilson administration.

Gen. Burleson's great-grandson, now of Austin, has in recent years, become several times a millionaire by the discovery of oil in a large body of his West Texas land.

To Gen. Burleson the people of Hays County, along with all Texas owe a debt that has been, apparently, very slow to recognize. He laid his all on the altar for Texas. He staked his fortune and his life.

By far the most notable of all the first settlers of the county, he should have some sort of memorial erected within his borders.

We had his log cabin house on the bluff above the head of the river, in view of all passers-by on the bluff and past road, and led by our highest and best, which with a few acres of land, could have been purchased and converted into a park for only a few paltry dollars. But no, we were too "shut" and unappreciative.

However, the glory of his achievement, the haste attaching to his name, are in native dignity, we only, are his log.

SMHC

TJWC - Biography - Burleson, Edward

LINDSEY, MERRIMAN, BURLESON MAPPED CITY OF SAN MARCOS FROM MEXICAN LAND GRANTS

By R. Fitzgerald of the Hays County Abstract Co., San Marcos.

A large area of lands including the city of San Marcos and all additions is embraced by the Veramendi and Chambers grants, the earliest, the Veramendi, being dated November 16, 1851, and the Chambers on September 23, 1854. Those, as well as the grant to Juan Vincente Campos were granted by the Government of Coahuila and Texas the one to Campos, dated April 28, 1852, is all in Spanish, covers eleven leagues of land, the field notes of which embrace the entire city and a large part of the surrounding country, some being the most valuable land in Hays County, all of which, being now covered by other locations, is held by title emanating from such other locations.

A few parties holding under the Veramendi, Chambers and other grants adjacent to San Marcos secured deeds from Ortega and with, heirs of Campos, between 1870 and 1880, but the Veramendi and other grants are generally regarded as superior to the Campos Grants and no title is actively asserted at this time under it.

Three men, William Lindsey, Gen. Ed. Burleson and Eli T. Merriman, subsequently became joint owners under the Veramendi Grant of a 640 acre tract of land, purchased on March 1, 1851, to lay out the original town of San Marcos, pursuant to their written agreement of date January 10, 1851. At the time of such laying out of the town tract they divided and partitioned it among themselves, except certain lots donated for public use. This was all witnessed by F. Durham and C. E. Johns and acknowledged before C. Erhard, Clerk of the County Court of Hays County.

It appears that contemporaneously with such division and partition a May or Plat of the property was prepared by Gen. R. Johnson, approved by the parties at interest and placed of record in the deed book of order of the Commissioners Court.

What is commonly called the head of the river' was originally included in a 300 acre tract set apart in the year 1855 in partition among the heirs of General Edward Burleson to his widow, Mrs. Sarah G. Burleson. On October 24, 1857 she sold the tract to Cobles Thompson. The tract was subsequently owned by various persons down to the time of the conveyance to the San Marcos Water Company on August 7, 1900, by Ed J. L. Green, then owner prior to Green Thompson, being prior to Green, Noble and R. S. Johnson.

Adjoining the town of San Marcos on the South near the M. E. & T. Railroad is located the Oil Mill, Compress, Katy Addition (which includes Jordan's, former Rogers, Park), McKies second Addition, the Riverside Addition

We have a number of Spanish Grants in Hays County. Generally these are in leagues, (4828 acres) but nearly the title begins with a Patent issued by the State of Texas. Quite a few Patents were granted as compensation to the soldiers of various men killed while serving under General Sam Houston in the conflict with Mexico. So far as we have observed, they were from other States.

Some three or four miles eastward from San Marcos is situated the Thomas G. McCobee League bounded on the Eastern side by the old San Antonio and Nacogdoches Road. This league (said McCobee an older grant) was issued to McCobee as a member of Millan's Colony, by the Spanish Government on February 19, 1828. He was the father of Mr. A. D. McCobee, who now lives in San Marcos. This was before Hays County was organized and therefore a number of the citizens in early days received patents to various locations in the County among whom we note the following: T. Owens, Jas. W. Bunton, A. D. Porter, and others.

SMHC

Happy Cooks/Happy Cousins

Texas General Land Office



Seal of the Texas General Land Office



Stephen F. Austin State Office Building

Dr. Cheska Burlison, PhD brought her son and mom to meet cousins. She's an marine biochemist currently working at a major pharmaceutical company. She oversees the use of marine products in medicines. Originally from Austin, she was visiting her mother until her duties in Florida call her back.

Having our fill of documents in San Marcos our BFRG team drove to the State Capitol to do some serious work at the Texas State General Land Office, downtown Austin. Before tackling our assignment we paused for healthy refreshments at cousin Brenda DeSimone and husband, Johnnie's café. They had prepared terrific meat and fresh vegetable choices. Brenda, as always, was a gracious host.

Brenda pitched a Burleson specific add on to Find a Grave , administered by BFRG relating to our database.




Cousin Tim Gage explained the geology of the General Edward Burleson old homesite in advance of our search for the most accurate mapping available. BFRG will be leading an effort with Texas State University and the City of San Marcos to clear away foliage and debris there. It is planned that clear access and maintenance be provided.



Cheska's mother, Cindy Burleson attended and showed off her late husband's (Terry Burleson) art work. Cindy, herself, is an accomplished sculptor.



Terry Burleson & Cindy Burleson



Wildlife holds a very special place in our lives and we enjoy spending hours researching and observing it. We hope that our involvement with the outdoors brings to you fond memories of your own observations and experiences and also inspires you in your appreciation of nature.


Terry Burleson

- Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from University of Texas—1971
- Artist for University of Texas—5 years
- paintings used in: Texas Tankers Record Magazine, Alcalde Magazine, Texas Relays Magazine, University of Texas Law School Conference

Cindy Burleson

- Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from University of Texas—1971
- Artist for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department—4 years
- sculptures used as awards and gifts for: Texas Relays, National Governors Conference—1981, University of Texas Law School Conference

Terry Burleson & Cindy Burleson



8727 B Shoal Creek Boulevard • Austin, Texas • 78758



Artists always get ideas a beautiful part of nature's beauty beginning the day or night before. A beautiful scene captures the moment and is then captured in a painting or sculpture. The artist's eye is trained to see the beauty in the world around us.

Water's Edge by Terry Burleson. 11x14 framed print and sculpture. \$60 print, \$100 sculpture.

Hummingbird by Terry Burleson. 11x14 framed print and sculpture. \$60 print, \$100 sculpture.

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Birds of Texas by Terry Burleson. 11x14 framed print and sculpture. \$60 print, \$100 sculpture.

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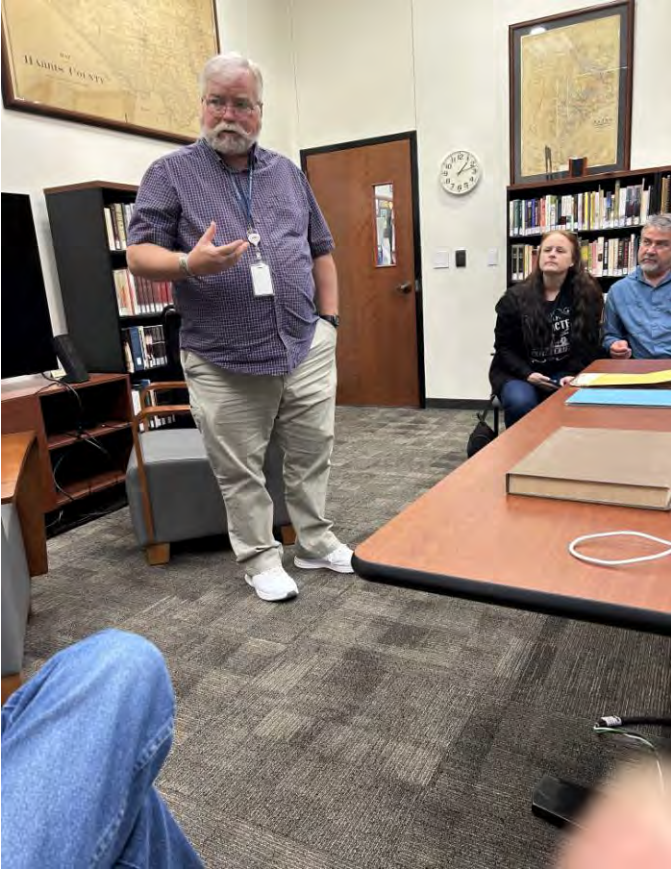
Amy Matlock-Bartlett, her husband David Bartlett, Tim Gage and his wife Susan wrapping up lunch...time for mapping.



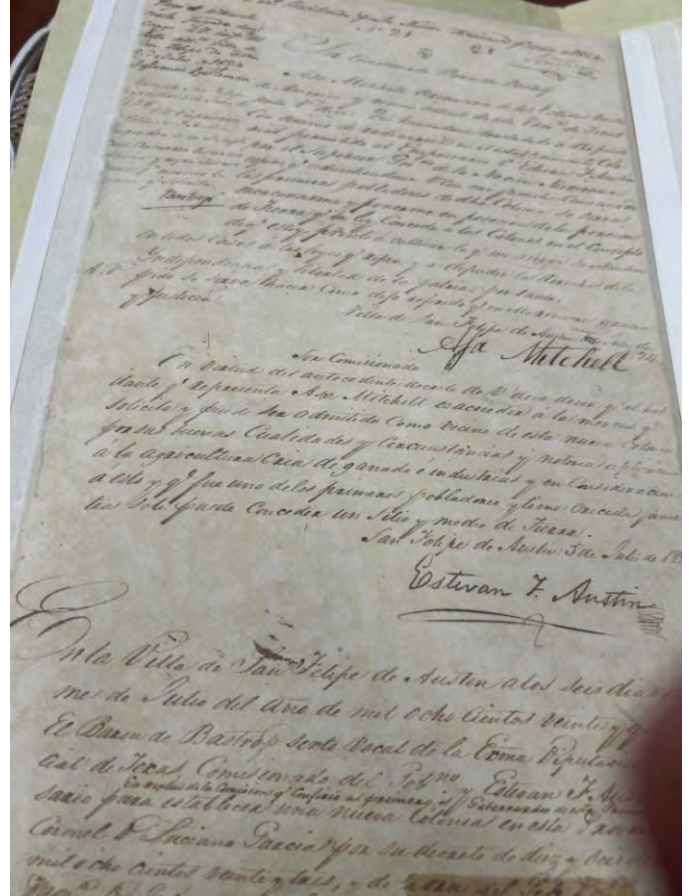
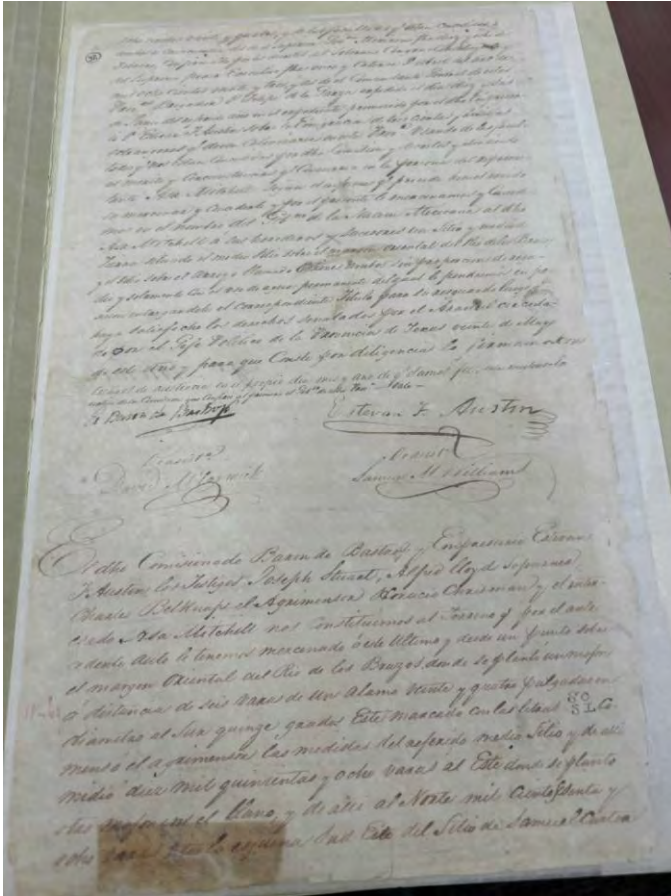
Jim Burleson
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Texas General Land Office: Briefing Before Digging

Chief Archivist Kevin Klaus spent weeks before our arrival to contour his usually generic mapping presentation, to a ready to go into the field Burleson show. All of his digital presentation indicated very precise areas our team intended to search. We were all ears, knowing our prizes lay ahead.



Several impresario vintage documents were available for inspection. A few Burleson documents were made into souvenirs for us.



The next portion of the tour found us in the climate controlled map room. The large archive stores thousands of ancient maps in a 60 degree 48 % humidity atmosphere. Our briefing by archivist Lisa Schreiber was interesting and thorough.



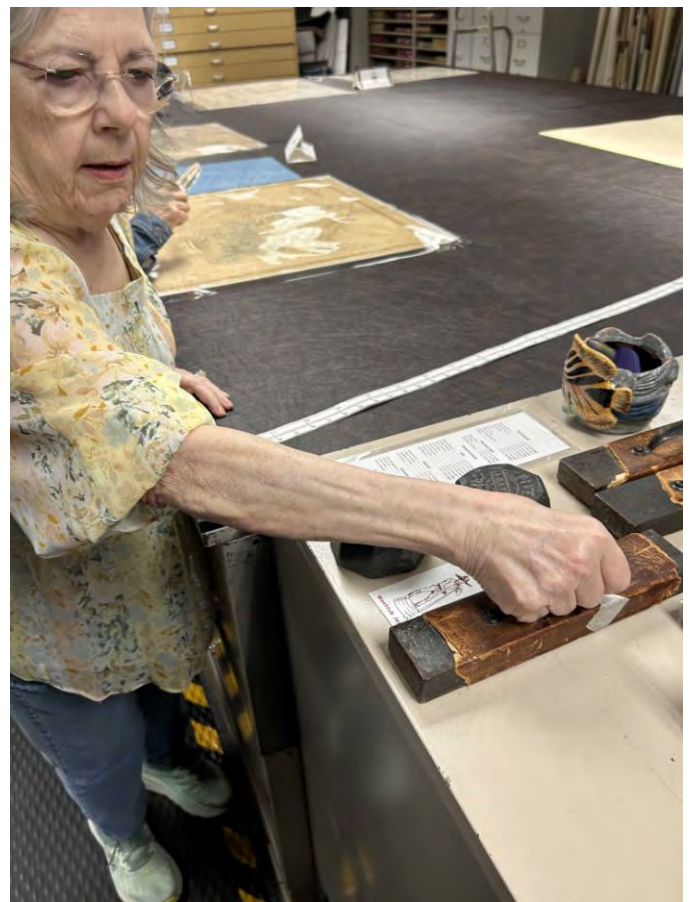
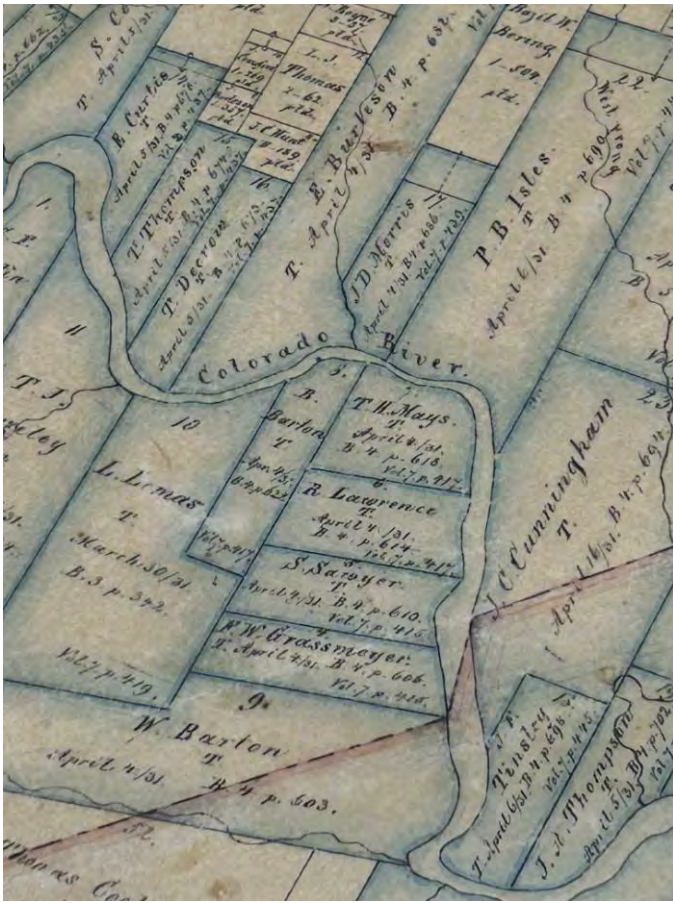
Did you know there are no water pipes or sprinklers protecting the priceless maps from fire? An intricate series of air evacuators line the ceiling. Should an alarm trigger with a minute the doors close, air is quickly extracted to remove the oxygen that might fuel a fire.



The maps we pulled concentrated on those intended as search sites for the impending days.







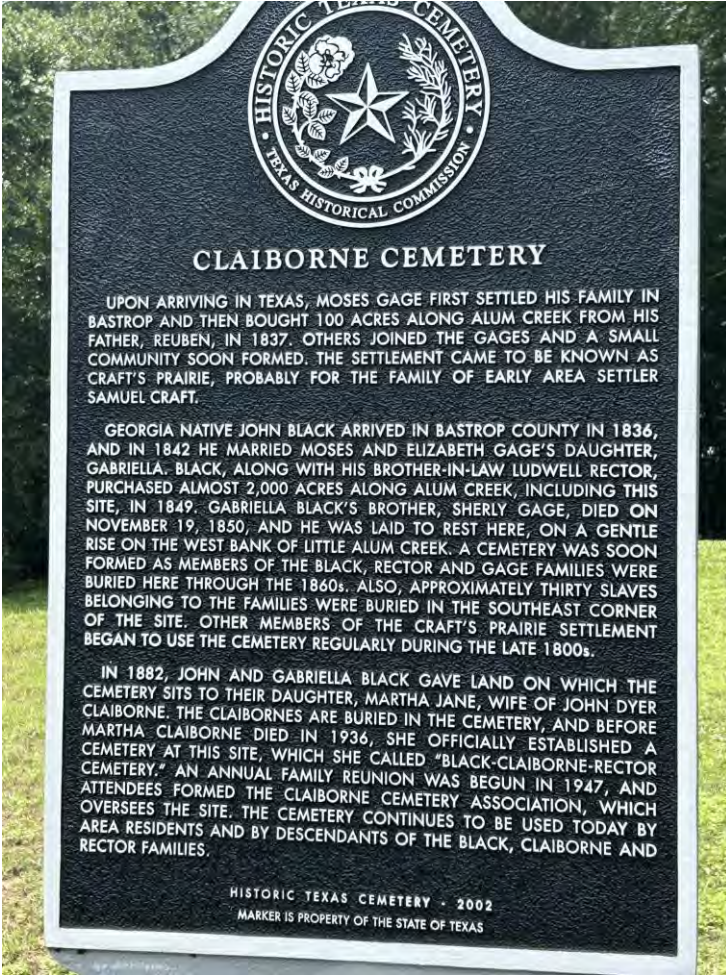
Our cousin/Texas expert Gerry Booth set this all up...heroic.



Time to go, historic markers to find out in the field,
more to propose.



May 7th Continued as a Field Trip: Claiborne Cemetery



Some of the entry errors found on search sites can be attributed to the changing of Cemetery names over time. This one, for example, was once known as Black-Rector. Claiborne, Rector, Burleson and Gage intermarriages populate this tract. The current cemetery historian is Tommy Claiborne, also a Burleson descendant led our group.



Claiborne explained the area began as a cemetery accidentally. A country doctor, complete with the stereotypical horse and buggy drove through carting a dying child. He left the child with neighbors saying this one wasn't going to make it. He drove off for another pressing case. The unnamed child was buried and continues to be referred to simply as the "Traveler." Susan Gage stood near Traveler's burial as other BFRG researchers looked on.

See below if any female line names cross your family tree. The clear mown area is where slaves were buried. This Cemetery is extremely well tended. Claiborne stated the extended family holds regular picnics there where the hat is passed around for monies to provide for the upkeep. He said there's also no shortage of old guys nearby willing to make a few passes on their riding mowers. Two were doing so while we were there.



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Rogers-Hill Cemetery of Travis County :May 7th



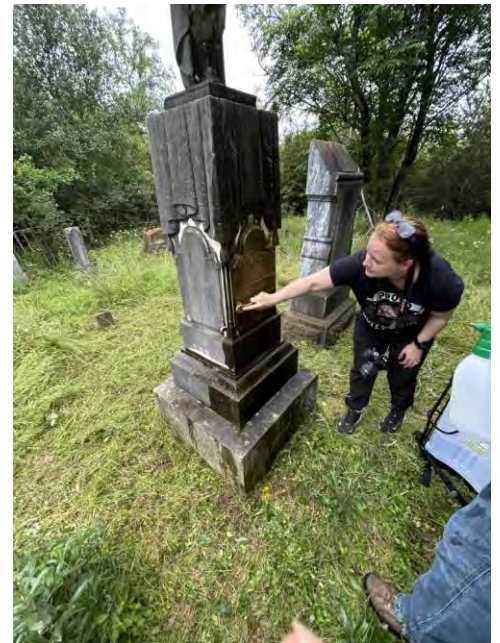
Again, BFRG was putting the “field” in Field Trip in a big way. They all aren't well signed, trimmed with a gate. But this was. The African American section was freshly mown; someone cared here. The pathway to the front and rear sections were accessible. The BFRG will lead an initiative to make current the existent name of each Cemetery AND to correct Burleson and kin listed in incorrect burials. We've found hundreds so far originated by Find a Grave and a variety of family associations. We'll update aging file photos and upload geographical positioning data. None will be Copyrighted. We encourage all cousins to freely use our burial information. We find it unethical to inhibit our own family from researching their own relatives.



Jefferson Warren Burleson and Lena S. Burleson stones are important to Travis/Hays County Burlesons and for participants in the Glasscock DNA Project.



Clean up not only provided us the ability to create clear images but also gave evidence BFRG leaves cemeteries better than we found them. Our crew did well and left with clear plans to revisit for regular maintenance.



The before and after shots were striking.



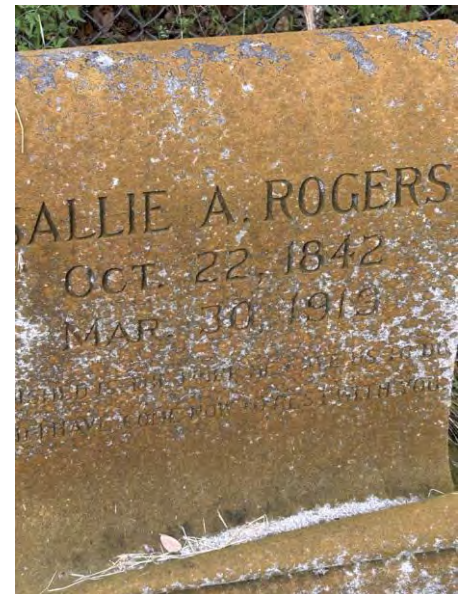
The finished product on Aaron Burleson was a beautiful testament BFRG honors the dead. We tried to photograph and log each burial.



Although freshly mown the “black section “ needs for TLC and they are woefully lacking decent markers. Some only have aluminum funeral home signage. Charlie Burleson was a notable exception; his modern day marker was nice.



Those of you Burlesons who connect to Roger’s would not be disappointed. There were Roger’s aplenty.



Cousin Tim Gage will head our efforts to correct the deceased's location in the proper cemetery. Tim's wife Sue will assist JD in logging in the input.

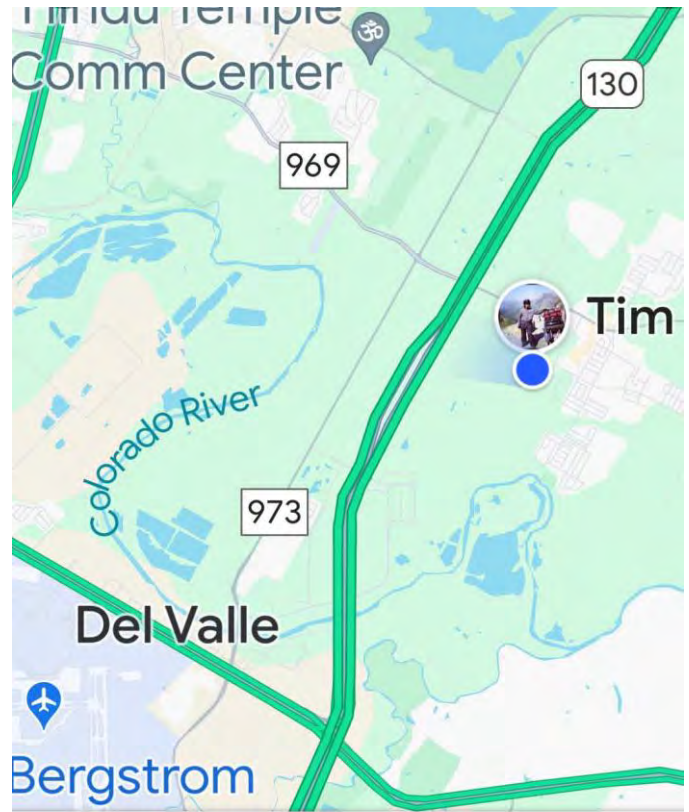


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Old Burleson-Rogers: Lost and Found



Tim Gage

26 ft away · 53% · 1 min ago

(30.2426040,
-97.5949881)



Cousins Graham Gault and Tim Gage organized and led the excursion to the Old Burleson-Rogers cemetery in a field owned by the Colorado River Authority, a subsidiary of Tesla. In the near distance you can see the huge Tesla plant. We found a newer barbed wire fence that divided us from a brand new medical facility. Relatively unscathed, we trudged to the island of trees.



Our first confirmed sight was the corner of chain link. It wasn't too surprising since Graham had scouted the property the day before. Next in view was a headstone just over a small length of fencing.





Graham began clearing John "Shipman" Burleson, Joseph Rogers and Nancy Burleson (Rogers) for photographs. Next came John Tyler Burleson, Andrew Bell Burleson, John Collins Burleson, George Washington Burleson, three more children...the list grew. The geographic location was uploaded and we prepared color high resolution pictures for refreshing BFRG, Find a Grave and other sites. OUR information is free of COPYRIGHT. We encourage all Burleson researchers to use it for your family tree exploration. Tim is heading the charge to clear data errors of other family associations entered in the past. Follow up crews will be redeployed with Tim's coordination with corporate landowners, Texas State Historical Commission and County officials. BFRG is seeking visitor friendly access and regular maintenance. The area seems to have been untouched for decades. The mottled overgrowth formed an igloo shaped cover. Information found at the scene corroborated information critically needed by the Lampasas historian, Jeff Jackson. He was pleased to receive the news. More on that later.









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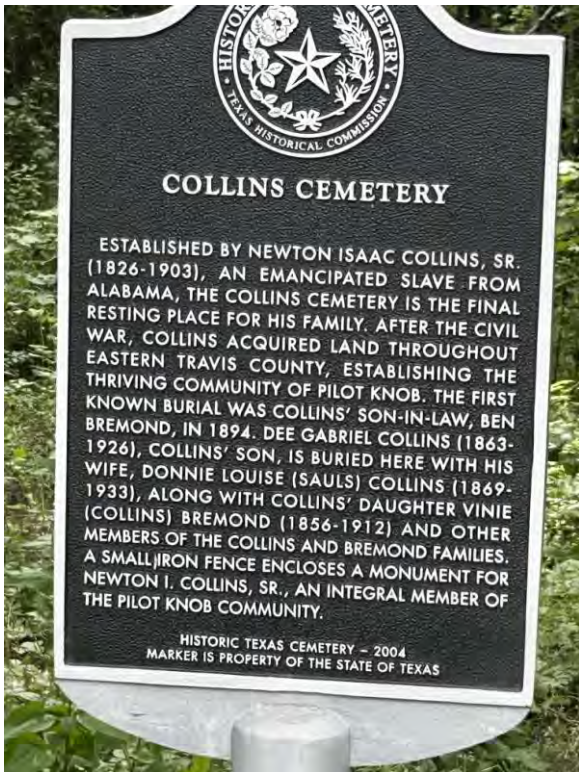


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Newton Isaac Collins Cemetery



A quick drive cross County found us at cousin Ron Collins farm. It was hog sloppin' time. Ron picks up outdated food products from food banks when fit for human consumption time has expired. You guessed it...good enough for the hogs. What you would not guess is Ron also picks up old coffee grounds. No, the hogs won't eat it but they crave wallowing in it. It's the funniest thing ever.





While the hogs played, Ron went on feeding the sheep, daylight's burning.

Ron is a few years ahead of me at Del Valle High School. I attended with two younger sisters and a brother. After graduation from Southwest Teachers State University (now Texas State University- he hates that name), Ron returned to Del Valle as an English and Journalism teacher. He went on to Workforce Solutions until retiring to run the family farm. Ron, the other Collins and I connect as cousins through the Glasscock family. Lena S. Burleson, seen in the Rogers-Hill cemetery earlier, married Lee Haywood Glasscock who descended from George Washington Glasscock, founder of Georgetown, Texas. Glasscock County was also named for him. Please see headstones for Ron's grandparents and ancient cousins.

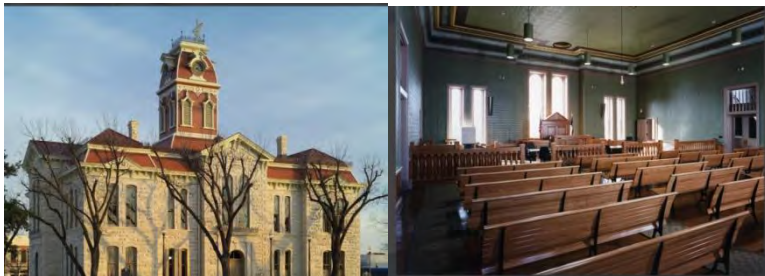


No matter what we do or where we go, Ron's a great cousin to have around. But if you come at hog sloppin' time and he sees you're in field trip-ware...guess what?

What Ever Happened to Burleson, Texas ?



Think this headline is confusing? Just wait. Our BFRG research team paid a visit to present day Lampasas, Texas. A seminal question to settle was this town ever called Burleson. To drill down to the answer we met historian and newspaper (Lampasas Dispatch Record) contributor, Jeff Jackson at the Lampasas County Courthouse.



Jeff confirmed that from the 1830s and prior the Lampasas County area was known only as “Indian Wilderness “. By circa 1833 two white men were known to venture into the land most often used as hunting ground for Tonkawa and Comanche Indians. Those men were Moses Hughes and Hopping John Burleson. As Hughes appeared after the land was already logged as the John Burleson Survey, Jackson and most local historians gave Burleson the title as founder. By 1853 Burleson was bringing in his family members. Former Austin/Bastrop area neighbors followed and everyone concerned called it “Burleson.” In 1854 and ten years later, the newly formed townsite was uniformly referred to in minutes as Burleson. So, YES, this was the FIRST BURLESON, Texas.

Other latecomers to the Texas maps were the more northern city of Burleson , Burleson County and Burleson Creek. March 24th, 1846 the first Texas legislature approved the name of Burleson County in honor of General Edward Burleson; Caldwell is its seat. Much later, in 1881 the railway stop for the Missouri, Kansas and Texas line became the city of Burleson- named for Dr. Rufus Columbus Burleson. 1859 saw the name of Burleson Creek affixed to the waterway flowing from Hanna Springs back at present day Lampasas. In 1856 the Texas legislature established Lampasas a city within Lampasas County from then on. Our meeting with Jeff Jackson at the county courthouse was more appropriate than we knew.



Jackson said the court room we sat in was the scene of the longest lasting, most convoluted fraud case in county history. No part of the series of suits escaped the Burleson touch. He then handed us the 650+ pages of documents he promised... ALL in this handy thumb drive. In it contained the transcripts of three lawsuits alleging land swindles. Colver versus John Burleson, et al ; Burleson

versus Burleson and the combined appeals court testimony. The “et al” referred to is a lengthy list of Burleson descendants, in-laws and neighbors. The most condensed version is that Hopping John Burleson was awarded 1280 acres of land for service during the Texas Revolution. His grant of land was deeded in 1838. By as early as 22 June 1838 Burleson sold the land in entirety to Samuel Colver for \$300. The settlement of Texas didn’t really mature into a solid running entity until 1850. So the deed process wasn’t perfected until then. Soon after the sale of land, Colver took off for California and Oregon, not to be heard from until the 1850s. John Burleson resold the property believing Colver had abandoned the property. Even after selling the land a second time Burleson gifted half the land to descendants and in-laws. Local and even state officials incorrectly identified the land free of impediments to sell. Texas had at the time a statute of limitations indicating occupancy/improvement for three years could exclude prior claims. The testimony of 50+ plaintiffs and as many defendants boggled the trial judge. The court of appeals judge actually refused to read most of the court transcripts feeling it was way too snarled and void of truth on anyone’s part. He declared for Colver who had returned via attorney to claim his purchase. Jackson said the final ruling took until 1870. The larger Burleson clan knew that ruling was likely and began leaving Lampasas in a steady trickle. The pride of the Burleson name was forever tarnished; people stopped even informally calling the town by that name. The conclusion of the appeal s court was that”there were no innocent purchasers.”

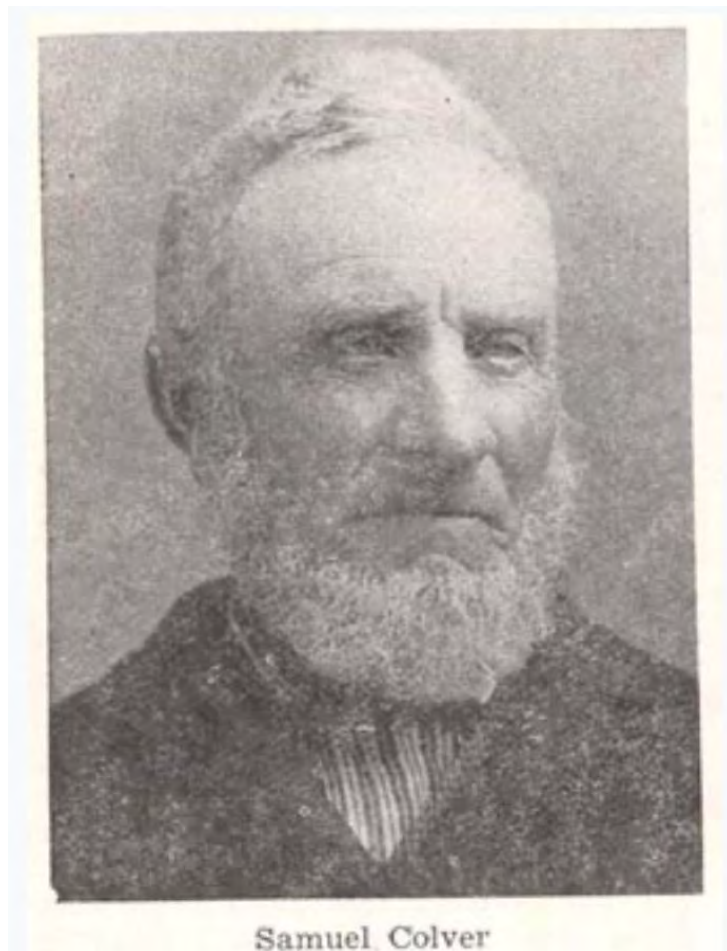


Andrew Bell Burleson

John “Shipman” Burleson had children in Lampasas that were esteemed then reviled. On March 10,1856 Andrew Bell Burleson was first elected chief justice of Lampasas County holding office until 21 September 1857. A few months earlier Andrew Bell Burleson shot Joel Franklin with a shotgun. Badly wounded but alive, Franklin sued that Burleson. Before judgment was announced, Burleson left for Travis County, never to return By 1860 he was a Lt. Col. For Parson’s Cavalry in the Civil War. He was considered ruthless and abusive to subordinates. After the War “Bell” drank himself into nightly stupors. In 1873 he was placed into a lunatic asylum. He died there a year later and is buried in the Old Burleson-Rogers Cemetery, rediscovered by BFRG researchers.

Bell's brother John Tyler Burleson was not without his own issues. Jackson termed John Tyler as "another Burleson trigger man." He shot and killed Clinton Hurley "with a six shooter" October 6, 1861 in Lampasas. Fearing mob violence he fled for parts unknown. John Tyler Burleson returned six years later. He married Mary Rebecca Hill. By that year he'd racked up 16 felony indictments. The new Lampasas sheriff, William Hurley (brother of the murdered Clinton Hurley) arrested Burleson, taking him to the jail in Waco. Not long after, John Tyler escaped heading for Moralis, Mexico. Despite manhunts and several rewards issued by Governor Elisha Pease, Burleson never fell under the control of law enforcement again. Somewhere in the mix, he managed to sire a son who became a prominent Ear, Nose and Throat doctor (John Hill Burleson 1867-1959). John Tyler Burleson met his death in 1871. The circumstances are unknown. He's buried Rogers-Hill Cemetery near Austin.

Individual stories on these Lampasas Burlesons will follow in upcoming Recollections. For now we were happy to confirm... yes Lampasas was the first Burleson, Texas. .



The ultimate winner of all of the law suits was Samuel Colver. His case was presented solely by attorneys; he was never present at trials. Colver was busy at the time pioneering Oregon.



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Looking for History, Geology, Archaeology, Animal Husbandry and Romance? Head out to Mott Creek Ranch, Matador, Texas



In a really long field trip, JD Burleson's last stop was the Mott Creek Ranch of cousin Marisue Burleson (Potts Etheridge). Our entry into Motley County was witnessed only by an occasional longhorn. We turned into the iron gates of Marisue's ten thousand acre tract, once a part of the gigantic Matador Ranch in the Texas panhandle. We were exhilarated to exit our transport, supper was waiting and the sun shone bright across the ranch.



We had primed Marisue with our request to “see everything.” She was ready. Out for display were all sorts of artifacts found on the ranch. Items included military implements/gear from cavalry days, arrow & spearheads from the indigenous in the last millennium and cowboy memorabilia from the last two hundred years. The next table took us back further in time...about 15,000 years to see arrowheads and native tools. Indian life went on for many thousand years on property so their remnants were natural. The cavalry items were from the latter nineteenth century when the U.S. military was hot to rid the land of Indians. Either side had to be poised to escape rapidly...items were left.



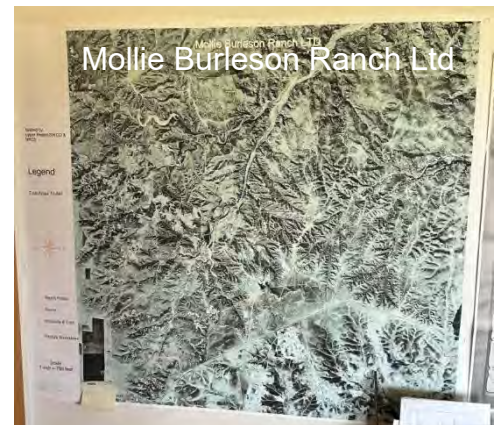
Our quarters would be a very comfy hunter’s cabin close to her home. After hard earned slumber we were awakened by six wild turkeys. The cabin is normally used by private hunters seeking nearby game teaming in the area.



The short walk to Marisue's for breakfast took us past a small corral with storage for wagons. Part of their mix of enterprises aside from private hunts, are chuck wagon bbq's, sand/gravel extraction and of course, cattle.



Meandering through Marisue's home is much like a museum tour. Collector pieces are everywhere; her research materials for genealogy are about as well. The latter got my nose old cop's instincts triggered. Names of Burlisons and others were atop tables. I reminded Marisue any items in "plain view" were fair game. JD had primed me with an old observation of the late W. S. Burlison saying Marisue was an interesting study with four lines leading to Burlison. We found a connection to "Gault", making her cousin to new BFRG researcher Graham Gault of Llano.



Ten thousand acres awaited; the sun was shining and her dogs were poised to escort us about. Marisue loaded us into her four wheel drive.



Rusty Etheridge and Marisue showed off their panoramic views. They make frequent rounds of the ranch paying care to notice any minor changes such as a rock fallen from a ridge or a new noxious weed sprouted. A new term was introduced to me, “Forbes”...a small flowering undesirable weed. Looking far across washes a large rock was noticed off its previous perch.



The large rock having slid down an earthen plateau left a bare scar on the side surface. Such a scar is a “cut bank”, also new to me. From across one plateau to another above a wash, such a new cut was observed. The layers can be dated. Marisue said where thin dark lines are noticeable a few feet below surface are prime grounds for Indian artifacts... Indian women would have cooked there and thrown out the grease. Not far away arrowheads will show. A multitude of the knapping or shavings from rocks made into arrowheads are a sign of work done in a group. Too many arrowheads in a small area, say as big as your yard, is great for the finder but is a sign they were cast offs (factory seconds) unworthy of use. If the tools used for knapping are left behind...they had to leave in a rush.



We went a little farther and came upon the Chimney Creek Dugout. It's a rare example of a sandstone-lined dugout, which includes a fireplace built with a masonic arch built by James Fields in 1900. Fields was actually a stone mason (hence the Masonic arch fireplace) working the Matador ranch, living in the dugout, proving up a survey mistake to be included in the ranch's property. He, his wife and three small children struggled to stay alive...almost starving. His wife had their third child and likely suffered from post partum depression among the hardships of living in the wilderness, and was taken to an insane asylum. Fields took his kids and homesteaded in Carrizozo, NM before heading for other frontiers.

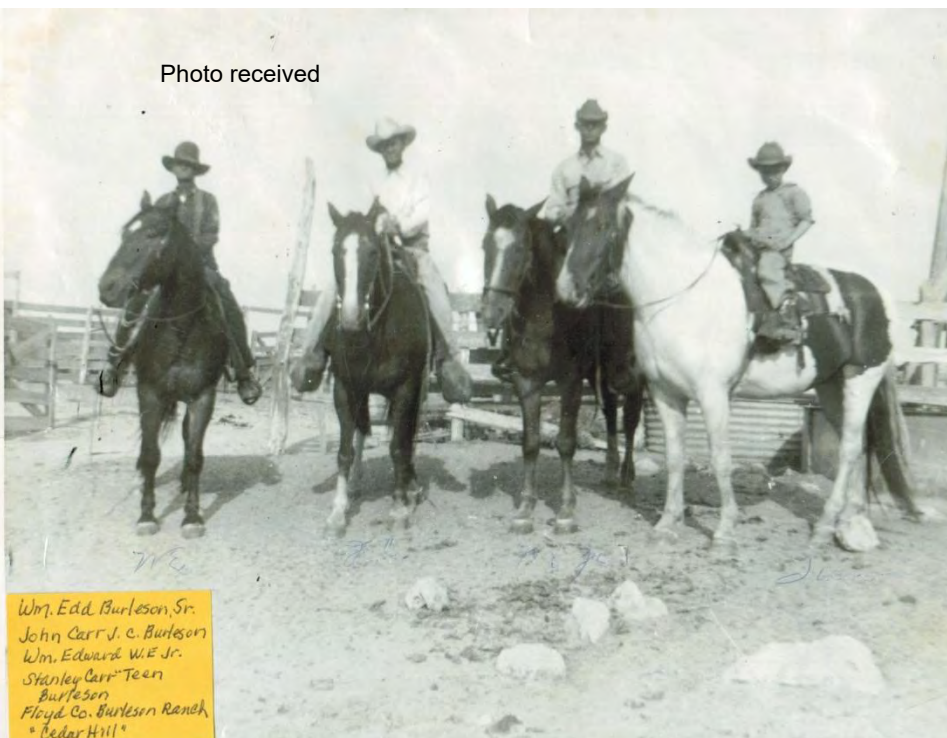


We then reached a steep hill with a straight rock fence near the top. Sheep herders from Santa Fe, New Mexico Territory made the long journey there to hide out from tax collectors and in the short run, predators. Easing our route homeward we came upon a group of bulls belonging to her brother's descendants' herd. They have the adjacent 10,000 acres. A short distance later... Rusty and Marisue's special breed stock. They mix three breeds together in a specific order to create a short horned variety that when slaughtered at four years old produces the leanest beef known. The last bull shown is Marisue's ideal breed.

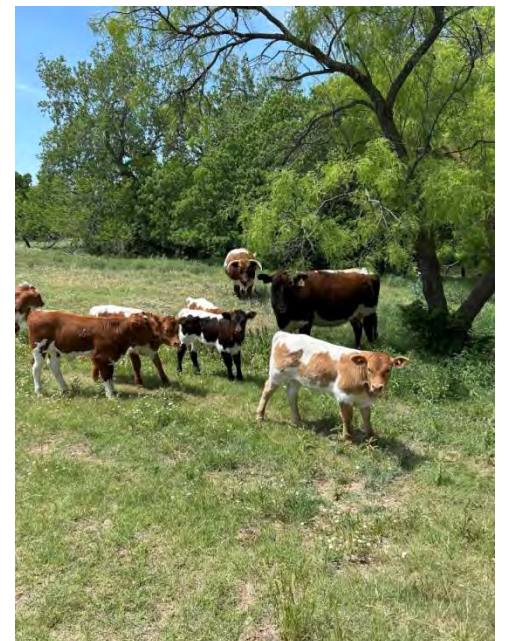


The group of bulls, that Rusty was so proud of, are from the line of William Edward Burleson, Sr. (1863-1955) who left Rocksprings TX with a herd with one spotted Longhorn, and homesteaded at Rock Creek, near Silverton, TX. His son John Carr Burleson (1893-1916) and his son William Edward Jr. (1916-1975) and his son Stanley Carr Burleson and daughter Marisue Burleson kept the line going, always with spots from the first longhorn in 1900. herd. That last bull was raised by my brother Stanley (1937-2023) and is a great sire. I have a great photo of the 4 generations on horseback, I will send Message from Marisue added

Photo received



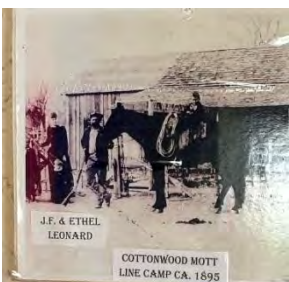
Wm. Edd Burleson, Sr.
John Carr J. C. Burleson
Wm. Edward W.E. Jr.
Stanley Carr Teen
Burleson
Floyd Co. Burleson Ranch
" Cedar Hill "

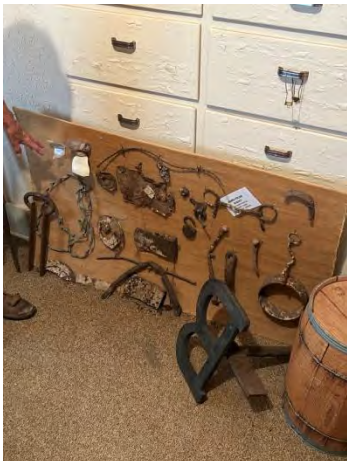


Back at our little hunters cabin, we walked next door to Marisue's museum, the "Cottonwood Mott Line Camp."



The contents of the camp takes you back two generations of Marisue's family artifacts, then 1100 years of native remnants AND all the way back 30 million years ago to see dinosaur bones...ALL collected on her ranch. She's offered state museums items but they've declined saying she's doing so well she should continue with things as they are. Marisue routinely brings in school children for a terrific history/archaeology demonstration. Please take your time reviewing each image; they're remarkable and we don't want you to miss a thing.





J.C. Burleson

TO OLD DUNNY
By ORON TATE

Cowboy, do you see that old dunt horse over there,
With the rubbed out tail and the rough lookin' hair?
Well, that old pony has been here so long,
I think he deserves to be let alone.
He saw the light of day in October 24—
Twenty-three years ago that month, no less and
no more,
And ever since then he has been through the grind,
Doing all kinds of work a cow-hand can find.
He's not of the stock that is rearing to go,
He's been pretty quiet, in fact, sorta slow.
Not a saddle horse either, just a jig of a roo,
But he can lope all day and never get hot.
He's the kind of a pony that you never can tell
Whether he's jes' played out or ain't feelin' quite well.
He don't over step and do things for show,
But he is always ready and willing to go.
When you start dipping cattle or loading a track,
And a reer stops in the chute and you feel out of
luck,
Just ride in on that old pony and give him a shove,
Then you will see why he gets all my love.
He's gentle, he's lay, he's sweet and kind,
But take down your rope and watch him unwind.
He could catch a young deer in a mighty short jump,
And never did offer to ever hang up.
He raised my boys down on ole Big Sandy,
And in packin' them back and forth to school he
was handy.
I'm retirin' him now for a life's work well done,
But I'm wishin' I still could be using him some.
I'll remember that pony as long as I live,
And I'm hankerin' for that ride I know he could give.

Mollie (Barba) Burleson

J.C. Mollie, & Onie (Martin)

Dunny

W.E. Jr. Dragging a calf to fire.



Bruce, Jim, J.C., Joe Edd
Dorn, Anna R., W.E. and Kate
Burleson.



J.C. Ooc & Onie (Martin)



W. E. Jr. 1933-34



J.C. Burleson



J.C. Burleson

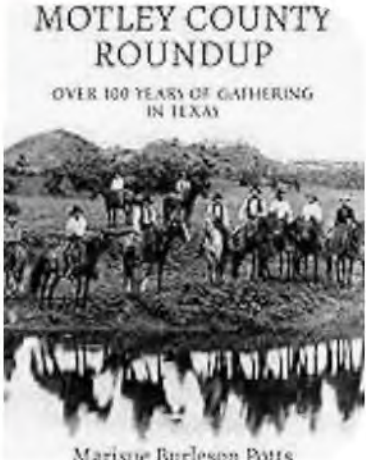
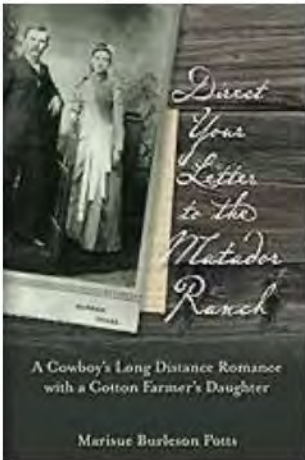
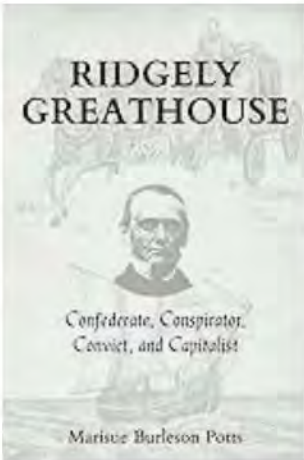
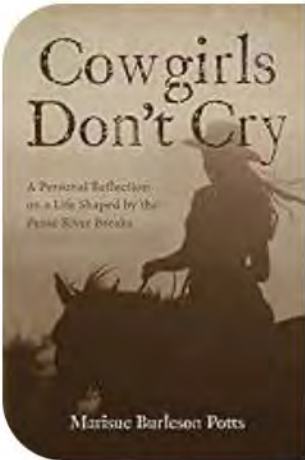


Old Joe Rogers Place, Near Driftwood, Tx.
Ray, George, Mary, Aunt Emma, Uncle Johnnie Rogers.
Joe Edd, Anna (Rogers) Burleson, John Carr Burleson.
Grandfather Joe Rogers
Jodie R. Emma and George McCuistion, Anna Dorn Burleson,
Joe Rogers, Kate Ross Burleson.



We did say history and romance in the title, right? Most of you familiar with Marisue know her as 2012-13 president of the West Texas Historical Association and with the Motley County Museum for 33 years. Marisue's books are based on historical accounts, documents, news articles and research found thru her work at the Museum.

Marisue Burleson Potts: Books



BFRG's TEXAS FIELD TRIP: PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

SUSANNE HOLLYFIELD

MAY 2024

Joining my BFRG research cousins JD and Jim Burleson for a road trip through central Texas was exciting to me for several reasons. Last year's road trip through Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee was our first road trip and yielded so many new cousins and researchers in key places that have since been digging into Burleson history.

As a child, I lived in central Texas, and have not been back there in my adult years over the roads I had known so well. I loved growing up with the multi-cultural openness of San Antonio. Today I still treasure using bright fiesta colors in my garden and in my home.

This was a way to see it again through different eyes. It would be an opportunity to learn more about my ancestors, see industrial and commercial changes in the geography, and work with others to discover and preserve Burleson history.

Driving through San Antonio, I was again thrilled to see the Alamo. I remembered going there in my Brownie uniform and posing for a picture beside the old door. There was a time when the city street ran directly in front of the historical façade, no further from the curb than a home in suburbia. (My mother frequently shopped at Joske's nearby, and we went down that street many times!) Now there is much construction going on to restore and expand the historical site that traffic and pedestrians currently have difficulty making their way. Tourist shops on the other side of the street are being redirected elsewhere as the site expands to include more of the original enclosure as it was in 1836.

The grounds are beautifully kept, and a new museum was added. Our guide commented that as construction progresses around the Alamo, that artifacts, notably cannon balls, are frequently unearthed along with other bits of history.

One of the Alamo Defenders, Dolphin Ward Floyd (6 Mar 1804-6 Mar 1836), was a distant cousin of mine who died there at the Alamo on his 32nd birthday.

He was from Gonzales, Texas, and was a neighbor of the Dickinson family. Almaron Dickinson was also an Alamo Defender. His wife Susannah and baby Angelina were among the few that survived the battle, returning to Gonzales after the defeat.





Susanne Hollyfield and Jim Burleson at Boudro's

On to the river, Casa Rio!

Now another spot for lunch along the busy Riverwalk, I recalled a birthday party for first graders there, decades ago. Twelve first graders, each on the little peddle boats in the river then by the restaurant, all peddling in different directions having the very best time that six-year-olds can! No restrictions! No safety concerns!

I noticed that the site where the Groos National Bank had stood (on left in picture) was now a parking lot. My father was a vice-president of that bank when I was very young. Banks used to be open on Saturdays for a half-day. I remember its big vault and walking through the immense door to a room of many drawers. The bank even printed its own money from 1912 to 1932. Now it is just a parking lot!



JD, Jim, and I (with other researchers in our group) visited the new DRT (Daughters of the Republic of Texas) facility. Martha Fleitas took our Burlesons past several levels of security to the new basement vault where they are completing twenty-nine thousand linear feet of shelf space. To enter, we went through a large vault door. I asked Martha where this door came from and she replied that it came from a bank that had been torn down. Is this the same vault door that was in the Groos National Bank?

This giant repository will hold Burleson research papers and artifacts one day. BFRG papers will be archivally prepared to last years for future researchers.



Jim Burleson and Susanne Hollyfield Cameilla Mitchel
Martha Fleitas Carrie Woolverton and Marth's sister Cynt

The three of us swung out to the Alamo Heights area north of downtown San Antonio. I was nostalgic to see the neighborhood where I grew up. Houses there were rapidly built in the late 40s, making new neighborhoods with new streets and no trees.



306 Irvington



223 Chevy Chase Drive



Woodridge Elementary School

We found ordinary small homes that now were decades old, remodeled several times, with shaded streets that wound around to the elementary school that began my education.

This time I knew that this very land and those who fought for it changed the course of history. Of course, every school child knows their unique San Antonio history. It is all around and is a part of growing up. Later we learn what part our family played in shaping it, how our ancestors moved to Texas and took up the fight for what became our present life. What seemed simple, now we research to understand in a complex way. We are called to preserve that research.

The three of us crisscrossed central Texas every day for a week. I saw the Farm-to-Market 2001 road sign daily as we zoomed by.

I spent summers on my maternal grandparents' four-hundred-acre farm near Buda, Hays County, south of Austin. It was on both sides of FM 2001 that ran between the Austin-San Antonio Highway east towards Lockhart. It roughly paralleled Plum Creek, the little waterway that ran through Granddad's farm. While he tended the dairy, I had free run of the acreage. My favorite spot was along Plum Creek where there was an old well and an old buckboard (flatbed wooden wagon pulled by horses). It had been there for years; it came with the land. There were also mesquite and bois d'arc trees nearby. Crawdads lived in the creek. I used to find old metal parts, bridle rings, sometimes a horseshoe. My grandfather said there were stories about the area. What could have happened here?

The Battle of Plum Creek encompassed a fifteen mile stretch of the creek from Lockhart westward as far as San Marcos. This large swath of decisive conflict included the farm that my grandfather bought one hundred years later, where I played under the tall sunflowers.



Colonel Edward Burleson fought there along with a hundred men he brought to join the others. Through genealogy, I found that he was the brother of my third great-grandmother, Volley Burleson Owen. The rest of the Burleson relationships are on-going! Thanks to the concept of COUSINING, the brainchild of Jim, here we are.

JD, the driver on this trip, is also the BFRG publisher. His Burleson Family tree, amassed over decades, keeps all the cousins organized. He publishes books for Burleson Family Research Group (BFRG) that further chronicle research of Burlesons and allied families.

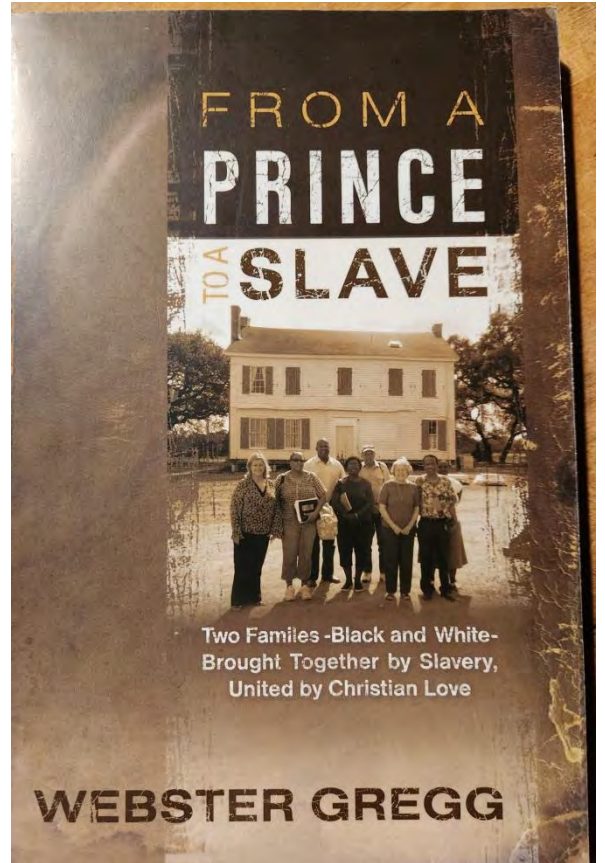
Part of our research has brought us in touch with Burlesons who are Black, a long-term goal of ours.

A few years ago, this idea came to us from Webster Gregg's book, From A Prince to a Slave, along with discovering Joseph Burleson's Bible in the Alamo.



The entries there on the next pages name our Black cousins, and Jim has discovered our modern-day cousins from that list. We have a lot of learning to do, and we have a very positive start. We all came together at several places on this trip. Burlesons on both sides are working to identify cemeteries and ancient graveyards where unknowns are buried, to get those places identified with state markers and honor those who rest there.

Meeting present-day cousins across the country is a heartwarming way to expand the Burleson tree. Cousining on Facebook is consistently growing in membership. Queries and information keep rolling in.



Cousins for diner in San Marcos,

Come join us at BFRG.
Enjoy Cousining with us!



Susanne Hollyfield
BFRG Researcher
hollyfield@whidbey.com

MSGT JOHNNIE BRATTON, SR, USAF (RET)

May 20, 1920, d, September 1986

Chronology of Military Service

Johnnie Bratton, Sr entered the United States Army on August 5, 1942, at age 22. Leaving behind his family in Pittsburg (Camp County), Texas. He went through basic training at Camp Wolters near Mineral Wells, Texas. A site used as a German POW camp during the WWII.

After basic training he was assigned to the Lubbock Army Flying School where he served as a cook until the base closed in 1945. His next assignment was to Luke Field where his status as a cook was unchanged, and he served there until the base was closed in 1946.

A reassignment to Randolph Field (Texas) in November 1946 as a member of the United States Army Air Corps was his next stop. Sergeant Bratton pictured below (center) of photo outside of barracks at the base.



Sergeant Bratton remained in the Army Air Corps until 1947 when the United States Air Force became a separate branch of the Armed Services. Despite the creation of a separate branch, segregation based on skin color continued to be the order of the day in the United States Air Force until July 26, 1948, when President Truman issued Executive Order 9981. Sergeant Bratton left Randolph for Wichita Airfield (Kansas) in January 1951, four months before the birth of Johnnie Bratton, Jr. Sergeant Bratton's Air Force career was one of extensive travel and

separation from the family unit. Separations that were in part because of mandated unaccompanied tours and restrictive housing practices in the United States.

The following chronology of his Air Force assignments are listed to demonstrate the strain of his 27-year military service. At retirement in 1969, MSgt Bratton was 49 years of age.

1952-1953 – Kadena AFB (Japan)

1954 – Amarillo AFB (Texas)

1955-1956 Azores (Portugal) (Reenlisted November 1956)

1957-1960 Lackland AFB (Texas)

1960 (Oct) Thule AFB (autonomous Greenland, Kingdom of Denmark)

1961- 1964 K.I. Sawyer AFB (Michigan) (Strategic Air Command)

1965-1966 Chaumont-Semoutiers Air Base (Chaumont Haute-Marne, France)

1967 Sembach Air Base (Kaiserslautern, Germany)

1968 Luke Air Force Base (Arizona)

1969 Retired (MSgt, United States Air Force)

Decorations and Awards

MSgt Bratton Sr's decorations and awards are maintained with his military service records with his son, Johnnie Bratton, Jr.

Good Conduct Medal w/ 5 loops

This medal is awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity in active service.

National Defense Service Medal

This medal is awarded to service members who served during the Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War and the Global War on Terrorism.

United Nations Service Medal

This medal was awarded to personnel who served directly and to adjacent areas like Japan and Okinawa between 1950-1954.

Korean Service Medal

This medal is presented to personnel who directly supported the U.N.'s military efforts in defense of South Korea between 1950-1954

WWII Victory Medal

This medal was awarded to Sergeant Bratton for his service between 1942 and 1946.

MSGT JOHNNIE BRATTON, JR USAF (RET)

b. May 27, 1951, living:

Chronology of Military Service

The best advice my father gave me dealt with Special Duty Assignments that would give me more control over my career while in service. I never spent much time thinking about that guidance until the effect of my work on others revealed itself to me.

1971- (May 10) Enlisted in the U.S. Air Force

1971 – (May 17) Entered Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB (Texas)

1971 – (Jun 22) Graduated Basic Military Training

1971(Aug) – Graduated Instructor Training Branch. (Military Training Instructor-MTI)

1975(Sep) – Lackland AFB (Texas) 3724th Basic Military Training Squadron (MTI SDA)

1975 (Oct) – Lackland AFB (Texas) 3707th Basic Military Training Squadron (MTI SDA)

1978(Jun)– United States Air Force Academy Preparatory School, USAFA, (Colorado)(MTI-SDA)

1983-1988 – Grand Forks Air Force Base (321st Strategic Missile Wing) (North Dakota)

1989-1990 – Langley Air Force Base 1st Tactical Fighter Wing (Virginia)

1990-1991- King Abdul Azziz Air Base (Tactical Fighter Wing) (Dhahran, KSA)

1992- Retired (MSgt, United States Air Force)

Decorations

Defense Meritorious Service Medal

Meritorious Service Medal

Air Force Commendation w/1 Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award w/2 OLC

AF Good Conduct Medal w/5 Oak Leaf Clusters (OLC)

National Defense Service Medal w/1 Bronze Service Star

AF Longevity Service Award w/4 (OLC)

NCO PME Graduate Ribbon w/1 (OLC)

Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon

Air Force Training Ribbon

Joint Meritorious Unit Award

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

Southwest Asia Service Medal w/Bronze Service Star

Awards (MSgt Bratton, Jr.)

Air Force Military Training Center – Honor Graduate- John Levitow Award Class 77E

Strategic Air Command Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Commandant's Award Class 85-3

Outstanding Young Men of America 1988

Contracting Officer for the United States of America



Outstanding Young Men of America®

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Phone (205) 262-4199

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Johnnie Bratton
616G Sunflake
Grand Forks, ND 58201

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Dear Mr. Bratton,

The Board of Advisors is pleased to inform you that you have been nominated by Judith Kay Teague-Butler, Grand Forks, ND, as an Outstanding Young Man of America for 1989 - an honor that recognizes young men throughout the nation for professional achievement and community service. Your nominator has complimented you greatly.

This tribute brings recognition to yourself, to your profession, and to the organizations which you serve. Upon selection, your biography will be included in the 1989 OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN OF AMERICA awards volume. In addition, you will receive an official Awards Certificate and a news release regarding your selection will be sent to two newspapers of your choice.

In order to meet publication schedules, we urge you to complete, sign, and return your biographical form by the date indicated on it. Although acceptance as an Outstanding Young Man is not contingent on the purchase of the awards volume, copies will be available to those whose biographies appear in it. You will find an order blank included with the biographical form, since most men who are selected do wish to reserve a copy. Our enclosed brochure should answer any further questions you may have about this Outstanding Americans awards program.

On behalf of the entire Board of Advisors, I extend our sincere congratulations. Young men like you represent America's leadership of today as well as its potential for the future.

Sincerely,

Doug Blankenship
Chairman, Advisory Board

DB/bs1



Certificate of Appointment

Under authority vested in the undersigned and in conformance with
Subpart 1.6 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation

JOHNNIE BRATTON, JR.

is appointed

Contracting Officer

for the

United States of America

Subject to the limitations contained in the Federal Acquisition Regulation and to the following:

Authority to Execute Contracts and Modifications thereto is subject to
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and Organization supplements to the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

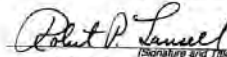
Unless sooner terminated, this appointment is
effective as long as the appointee is assigned to:

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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

(Agency/Department)



ROBERT P. LANSELL, Colonel, USAF
Director of Contracting

28 February 1991

(Date)

TAC 90-18

(NS)

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PERSONNEL AND
READINESS

UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

19 Jan 21

Dear MTI Bratton,

As I prepare to exit my current post, you came to my mind as you often have throughout these many years when I reminisce about my professional journey. While you may not remember me, I most certainly remember you and the impact you had throughout the entirety of my nearly 44-year Department of Defense career that began in green fatigues under your direct charge. Back in April 1977, I was Airman Basic Matthew Donovan, in Flight 393 of the 3707th Basic Military Training Squadron at Lackland AFB, and SSgt John Bratton was the MTI who set me on the path in my life for success beyond what I could have imagined possible. When my staff heard me talking about how I have remembered your counsel and taking your words to heart to the present day, unbeknownst to me, they sought to find out where you were today. With a little help of the Military Training Instructor Association network, here I am, nostalgically putting pen to paper and writing you a letter in the hope you are well and to let you know what an important role you have played in my life.

I was part of a large family from a small New England town with two Air Force veteran parents from the Korean War era as role models. The thought of doing something interesting and exciting (and maybe getting to see the world in the process) seemed an interesting alternative to shoveling endless piles of snow, so I landed on the steps of my local recruiter's office at the tender age of 18. I soon signed on the dotted line, boarded an airplane for the very first time in my life, and headed to a part of the country I had never before seen to start basic training in Flight 393.

Our first introduction to the USAF began under your stern commands with your Smokey the Bear hat that hit our shocked faces like a bucket of cold water. Within a couple of weeks of starting basic training I was in your office, not convinced the military was for me. You patiently listened and told me I could stand on my head for six weeks if I needed to, encouraged me to press on, telling me I'd regret it if I left before finishing what I came there to do. I wisely heeded your advice, even finishing up as an Honor Graduate! The confidence you instilled in all of us—young, green behind the ears trainees who had never been out of their home state, much less to a foreign land like Texas—gave us the courage to become part of something bigger than ourselves. Here was my first exposure to individuals from all races, ethnicities, and walks of life, who bonded as an integrated team, united in common values, purpose, and a desire to serve our nation, that set my life on a continued path to success. Your tough love lessons in followership, discipline, and accountability are summarized simply in the dedication you signed in my BMT yearbook, words that have stayed with me to this day: "Good Luck - Give a Damn!"

After basic training my ASVAB technical scores were strong enough to land me in Ground Radio Technician Training at Keesler AFB, Mississippi, and a follow on as an Electromagnetic Pulse Hardness Assurance Technician at the NORAD Cheyenne Mountain Complex, Colorado. While there, fate intervened yet again while attending my first air show at Peterson AFB, Colorado. When the unmistakable roar of an F-15 Eagle screamed overhead, I looked up without hesitation and said, "I'm going to do that one day." That is a tribute to the powerful Air Force mentorship I benefited from throughout my entire career that began with you, that also included a boss who encouraged me to earn a commission. Somehow, with the confidence you instilled in us in basic training, my determination to persist and succeed (along with a little bit of luck) saw me not only graduate from the Air Force Officer Training School some four years later as a Second Lieutenant, but also to get

slotted in Undergraduate Pilot Training. As I jumped in my car and drove off to flight training at Vance AFB, Oklahoma, I had to pinch myself with disbelief.

The F-15 was my dream aircraft, and I worked hard enough in flight training to somehow make that dream a reality. I followed initial flight training with F-15 upgrade training at Luke AFB, Arizona and my first operational assignment at Holloman AFB, New Mexico, as a newly minted F-15 fighter pilot. There, another lifelong mentor would enter my life, an Air Force F-4 Phantom II Vietnam fighter pilot and former prisoner of war, who I had the privilege of seeing again just last year, after 36 years, on a return visit to Vance as a graduation keynote speaker.

While on active duty as a fighter pilot, I was privileged to command a fighter squadron during 9/11, and hold a variety of operational flying and staff assignments at the wing, Major Command, and joint and combined staff levels. My more than 2,900 flight hours in the F-15C and F-5E Tiger II included combat sorties during Operation Southern Watch, as well as time as an Air Combat Command F-15C Eagle demonstration pilot, performing in air shows for audiences across the country and throughout the Caribbean as an Air Force Ambassador-in-Blue.

My incredible Air Force career took me back to where it all began, when I returned to Maxwell AFB, AL in 2006 to command the Air Force Officer Training School, retiring from the active duty Air Force as a colonel in 2008. After a brief time in the private sector, my roots called me back to the USAF, this time as a government civilian on the Air Staff within the Combat Forces Division, Program Integration Division, and as Director of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Programs, before heading off to Capitol Hill and the honor of serving as a Professional Staff Member and Majority Policy Director for the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services under Senator John McCain.

All of this would be satisfying in itself beyond imagination, but the true pinnacle of a career for which I was infinitely blessed was my appointment as the Under Secretary of the Air Force from August 2017 until March 2020, and as Acting Secretary of the Air Force from June 2019 until October 2019, something I would have never imagined as an Airman Basic. As I depart my current role as the 9th Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, I am most grateful for the push you gave me at the start of it all that led me to increasingly significant opportunities and responsibilities in service to our nation. From my humble New England beginnings to the most senior ranks of the DoD, my unforgettable career has taken me to the deserts of the southwest, the Panhandle of Florida, the Alaskan Frontier, the Middle East, Iceland, South Korea, and all points in between. I just wanted you to know how it all started with *you* and the enormous impact you have had all along the way. And I have no doubt you had the same impact on countless other Airmen throughout your career. I would enjoy hearing from you, and hope you would be proud I "*gave a damn.*"

Sincerely,



Matthew P. Donovan



Defense Meritorious Service Medal presented by General Norman

Schwarzkopf, Commander in
Chief, U.S. Central Command



Johnnie Bratton Jr's line - Johnnie Bratton Sr & Armentha Clennette Burleson, Ida Beatrice Johns and Clennon Bremond Burleson, Julia Cox, and Jerry "Jeremiah Castillo Burleson

GED Match ID XD4140493



Journey to Achieving a Doctorate Degree



Embarking on the arduous yet rewarding path toward earning a Ph.D. was a transformative journey marked by countless challenges, triumphs, and personal growth. This account chronicles a testament to resilience, determination, and the unwavering pursuit of academic excellence. It was the most difficult undertaking I have ever completed as there seemed to be roadblocks at the end of every milestone. It describes my expedition through the complex corridors of academia, specifically focusing on the intricate process of surviving this passage to obtain a Ph.D. This is my story from the initial spark of inspiration to the culmination of years of rigorous scholarship and unexpected detours encountered along this incredible experience. Through introspection and narrative reflection, the profound significance of perseverance and self-discovery in navigating the complexities of doctoral study are revealed. As the narrative unfolds, it becomes evident that the journey to the doctorate is not merely a pursuit of academic credentials, but a profound crusade of personal and intellectual transformation. The success of obtaining this degree often seemed unattainable due to many unexpected setbacks.

It is important to my story to confess that I was a high school dropout, not once, but twice before I earned my high school diploma as a married young lady. This is a difficult acknowledgment to make. After achieving my high school diploma, I strongly desired to go to college, but I waited until my children began public school before I started taking courses. Throughout my educational journey, I achieved a series of milestones that opened new doors and opportunities. After earning a bachelor's degree with a double major in English and special education, I began my teaching career in Vivian, LA. While this was a fulfilling experience, I recognized a significant need in the field of mental health. This realization prompted me to pursue a master's degree in school counseling, working all day and attending night classes to obtain certifications in vocational counseling, special education counseling, and all-level school counseling.

Upon completing my master's degree, I embarked on a 20-year career as a school counselor, effectively utilizing my diverse certifications. The challenges presented by the children I counseled highlighted the necessity for further knowledge, leading me to take additional night classes to become a licensed professional counselor. Early in my school counseling career, I secured professional licensure in Texas. Realizing a demand for counseling supervisors, I also completed the required coursework to supervise counselor interns. Collectively, these accomplishments served as the impetus for the terminal degree.

Beginning the journey towards applying to my doctoral program involved tackling the challenging Graduate Records Exam, aiming for a mastery level of 90% or higher. Initially, I took the exam merely to gauge its content, and it became evident that mathematics posed my sole weakness, a sentiment not unfamiliar given my historical aversion to the subject. Determined to address this shortfall, I devised a strategy centered on undertaking a refresher math course. This proactive approach proved to be instrumental, facilitating my attainment of the necessary proficiency level and satisfying the university's stringent requirements of the GRE score and an excellent GPA.

Upon fulfilling all prerequisites, I enrolled in the Counselor Education and Supervision Ph.D. program at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Balancing a full-time job with a nearly two-hour commute to the university proved to be a formidable challenge. Twice weekly, I transitioned directly from work to evening classes; striving to

make the most of my time, I listened to lectures in the car. During the first semester, I appointed a chair for my doctoral committee, initiating a collaborative effort that yielded a published article in a counseling journal. However, the trajectory altered when my initial chair's contract was not renewed after working with him for four semesters, necessitating the selection of a replacement. Amidst the gradual progress of my dissertation, an unfortunate turn of events unfolded as my chair fell critically ill and subsequently departed the university, eventually passing away. This sequence of events led to the appointment of a third chair, an uncommon occurrence in doctoral programs.

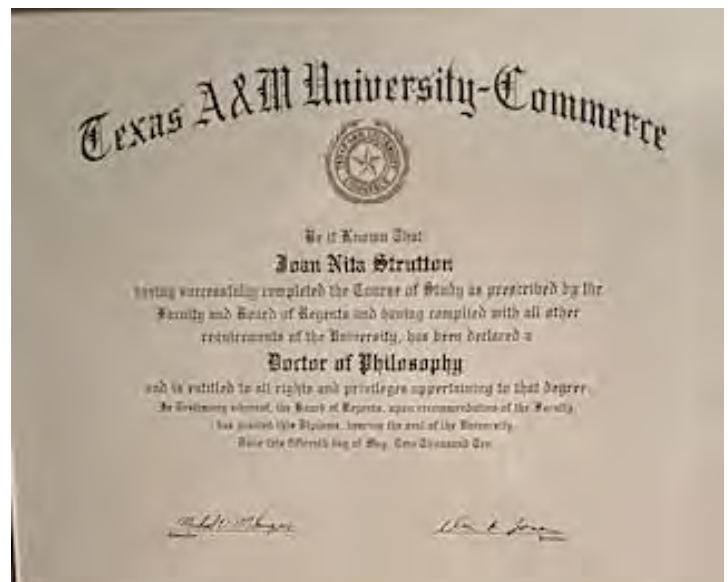
The subsequent challenge I faced was the comprehensive exams, which encompassed testing in my major field of Counselor Education and Supervision, as well as my minor in Secondary and Higher Education. These eight exams spanned three full days of intense testing, requiring the recall of all pertinent references and concepts without the aid of notes or reference materials. Each question demanded comprehensive responses spanning approximately 20 pages, complete with cited references. The anticipation of awaiting the results was nerve-wracking. While I succeeded in all areas except statistics initially (math phobia again), necessitating a retake of that specific portion, the second attempt proved significantly smoother, allowing me to pass with ease. Taking the exam by itself, rather than taking eight at one time, simplified the preparation process immensely. With this hurdle behind me, I eagerly looked forward to embarking on the dissertation phase of my academic journey.

As I approached the dissertation proposal submission to the Institutional Review Board, the individual overseeing the process had also left the university, adding another layer of complication to an already challenging journey. He was not replaced until the following semester causing one course to age out. Consequently, I had to take another course to replace it due to this delay, highlighting the resilience required to navigate unforeseen obstacles and unexpected expenditures in academic pursuits.

After obtaining approval for my study, I initiated the process of drafting the initial three chapters. These chapters were subjected to scrutiny by the entire dissertation committee, necessitating their approval and feedback. The presentation involved a PowerPoint presentation, supplemented by handouts, and an oral delivery. Following the completion of each presentation, the committee granted their approval for the study titled *Grandparents Raising Their Grandchildren: A Comparative Study of Depression*. With the commencement of the research process, I embarked on a journey that proved to be both lengthy and demanding. It entailed countless hours devoted to rigorous reading and writing, marking a significant investment of time and effort.

The subsequent chapters entailed the formulation and implementation of a research strategy. Utilizing Beck's Depression Inventory, I conducted a national internet survey to gather data on depression among both traditional grandparents and grandparents raising grandchildren. However, this endeavor incurred significant costs, as both the survey company and the inventory owner charged excessive fees. Following the collection, analysis, and documentation of results, my dissertation was submitted, and it underwent comprehensive scrutiny by the committee that resulted in their approval.

This ten-year commitment stands as a testament to my determination and strength. It has been the most challenging personal and professional accomplishment I have ever undertaken. Despite numerous trials and setbacks in addition to the expense of it all, I am proud to have completed it and found it to be incredibly worthwhile. I even surprised myself by persevering through to the end. Writing this has been difficult and cathartic because it brought back memories of the obstacles and the sacrifices I faced throughout the process. My story serves as an example for those who may have dropped out of high school or never found the courage to take on such an ambitious challenge. It proves that it can be done. Believe in yourself.



Graham Gault, Our New Cousin From Llano, Texas

What an epic trip you have planned, I'm super excited. I'll be attending the events from April 30th - May 7th. What Hotel is everyone staying at in San Antonio, I may stay there as I live about 1.5 hours away and this is going to be a lot of driving for me. I took off work so I'm good to go for a week of exploring. Thank you very much for helping put this together. I'm interested to see how the Collins relate to the Burlesons, I met Ms Collins (Ron's Mom) about 15 years ago before she died when I went over to that ranch with the farmer that leases the property. I tell people all the time that Austin's big but it's still small.

My apologies for not finishing this sooner, here's the line to Ben T Gault and Nancy L Rogers:

These were my parents, they both passed away separately last year 2023. They were both 68. Mark Edward and Laura Field Gault: Mom and Dad @ Sister's Wedding



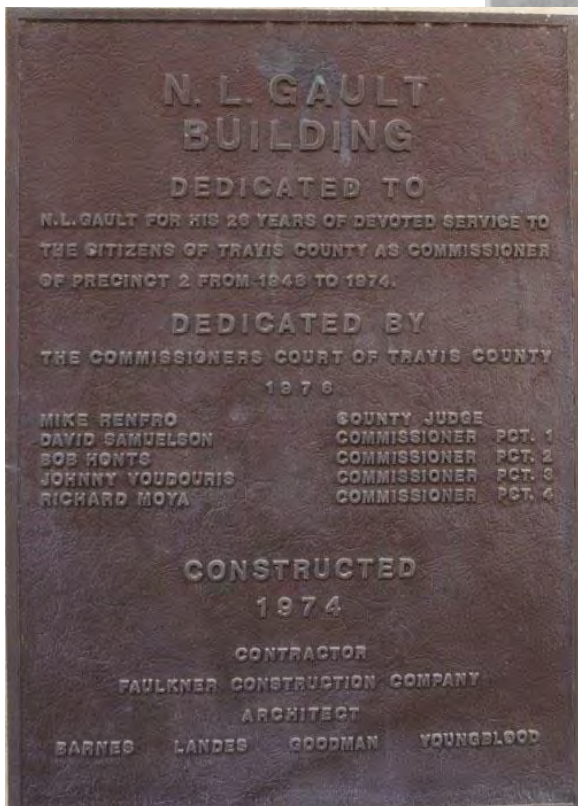
My Dad's parents were Layfayette Pascal and Charlotte Jane Gault:
This picture is at LP and Janes Wedding with LP's Parents Thomas Smith and Mable Mills Gault 1950



This is Thomas Smith and Mable Mills Gault in the 1920s



This is Thomas Smith(2nd from top left) with Father Ben Taylor Gault Jr and Mother Elizabeth Smith(bottom). Top Left next to Thomas Smith is little brother NL Gault, NL was a Travis County Commissioner from 1948-1974. They named one of the court houses after him and named a street in North Austin after him (Gault St.) This picture was 1912-13



This is a younger picture of Thomas Smith Gault with Brother Edward Gault. Sister Effie Gault is in the Middle Row directly in front of Ed. This is McNeil School in what's now North Austin year 1900. Mcneal was one of Travis County's first schools opened in 1880s.



Here is younger Ben Taylor Gault Jr with his brothers around the middle 1880s Ben Taylor Jr is Bottom Middle



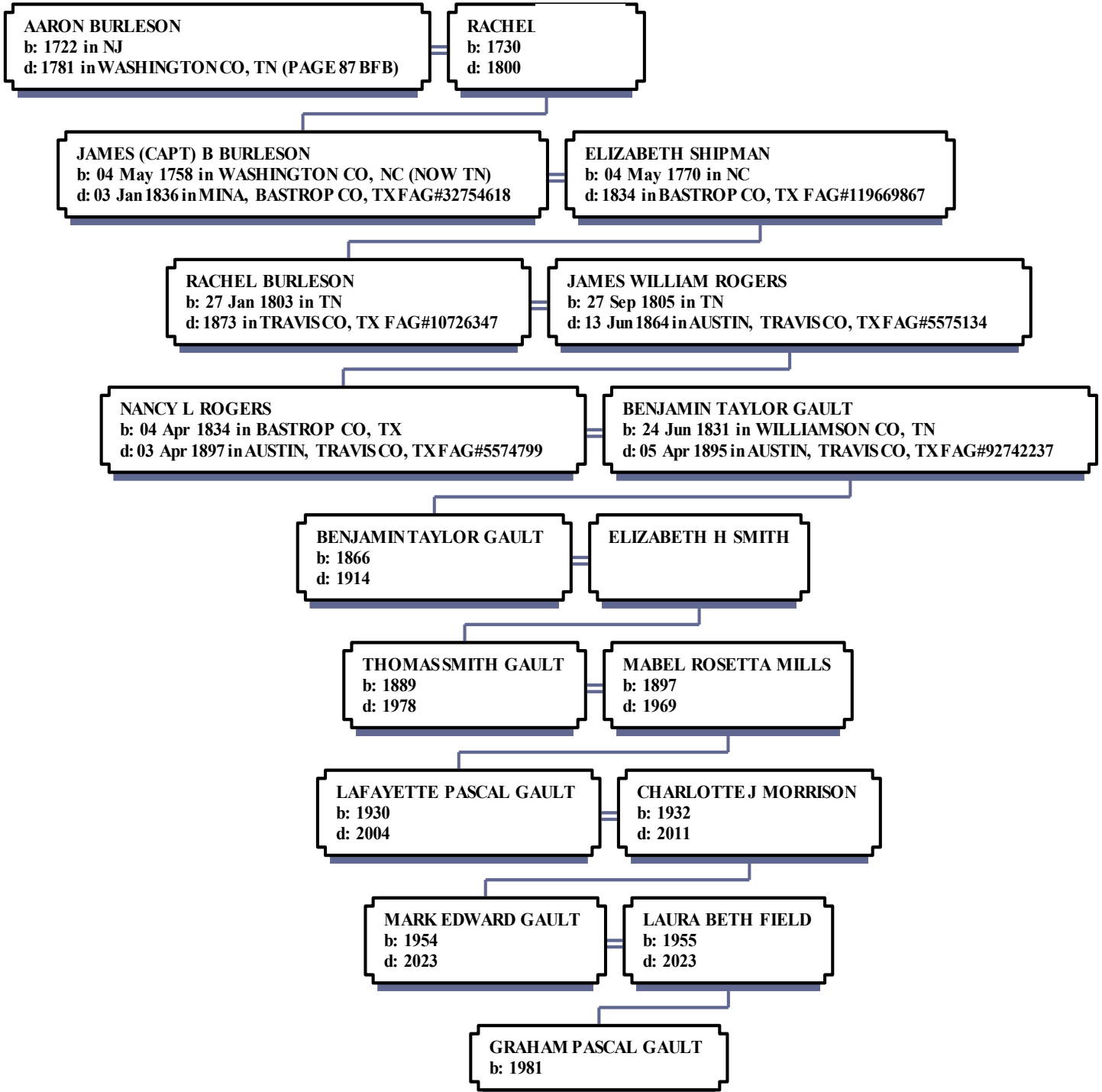
and of course Ben Taylor Gault Sr with Nancy Lanora Rogers



I'm excited to meet everyone, thanks again for putting this together and let me know how I can help out. I'm happy to send higher resolution photos, I own all of these originals except the NL Gault sign and the last one of Ben T and Nancy L Gault.

-Graham Gault

Direct Descendants of AARON BURLESON



Burleson Family Heritage Book Draws Honor

Burleson Family Research Group



THE MAN WHO TAMED CIMARRON

**The Wild and Unruly
Life of Pete Burleson**

David Burleson

Jim Burleson

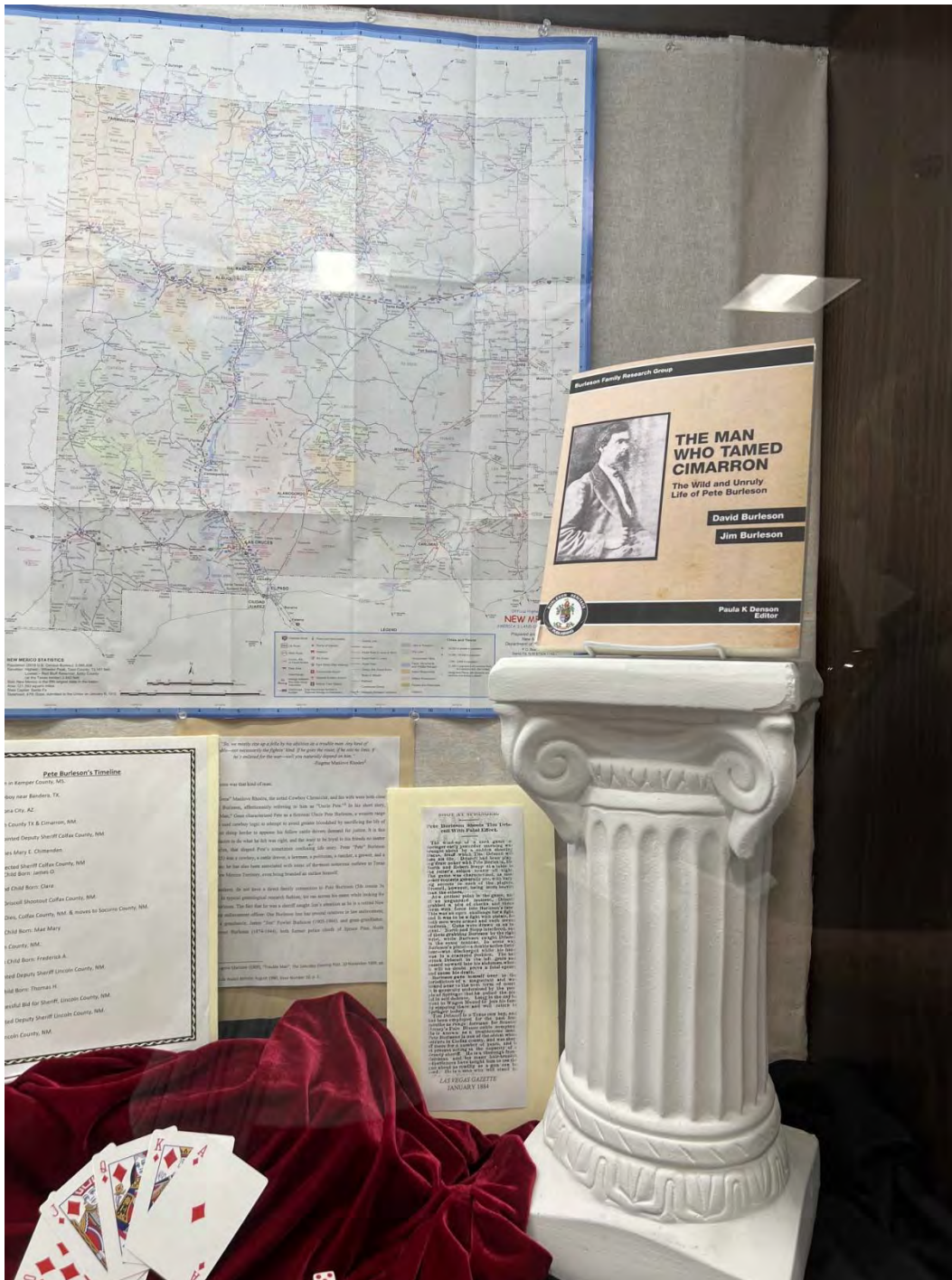


**Paula K Denson
Editor**

The Santa Fe County Genealogical Society of New Mexico recently enjoyed a tour of the State Archives to see its new capabilities and offerings. Following a walk-through the group gathered in the lobby prior to a second tour of the State Library on an upper floor. Two ladies from the Society told me to turn around, another said, "Isn't that you?" Over my shoulder was a glass indexed display of the "Man Who Tamed Cimarron: The Wild and Unruly Life of Pete Burleson." I had no inkling.



The biography was written a few years ago by my brother Dave and me through the Burleson Heritage Publishing, an important arm of the Burleson Family Research Group. Our tour guide was Dena Hunt, Chief Archivist. She said she used her copy of the book often each month as a reference for studying all manner of studies ;"It's an incredibly accurate listing of events in the history of the New Mexico Territory." She chose to honor this book as it chronicled well the development of the Territory and explained the long delay in achieving statehood. She placed a large state map, an old newspaper article telling of a Territorial Governor witnessing Pete Burleson kill a cattle boss Tom Driscoll in self defense, a timeline for Pete Burleson , a description of Pete by noted western writer Eugene Manlove Rhodes and a poker hand of cards. Driscoll played poker with Pete while the governor was an onlooker. Driscoll drew his gun in anger; Pete was faster. Always best to present your case of self defense with a governor as witness.



Pete Burleson was born 4 September 1848 Scott County, Mississippi and died 6 Dec 1925 Lincoln, New Mexico. He was a cattle driver and rancher, western lawman, farmer and pioneer in the Territory and State of New Mexico. He drove cattle from Texas as part of the 1870s I. W. Lacy/ L. G. Coleman cattle drive, settling in northeast New Mexico as a cattle rancher near Cimarron. He was twice elected Sheriff in Colfax County, serving during the bloodiest part of the Colfax County War. That war occurred simultaneously with the more famous Lincoln County War 300 miles south. That conflict involved the Santa Fe Ring, Billy the Kid and Pat Garrett and saw 19 people killed. The Colfax County War involved Sheriff Pete Burleson, his pals notorious gunslinger Clay Allison and David "Davy" John Crockett, grand nephew of Alamo Davy. The same villainous Santa Fe Ring was responsible. In Colfax by comparison TWO HUNDRED people were killed. It was a true pleasure to collaborate on this book with Dave. We are honored.

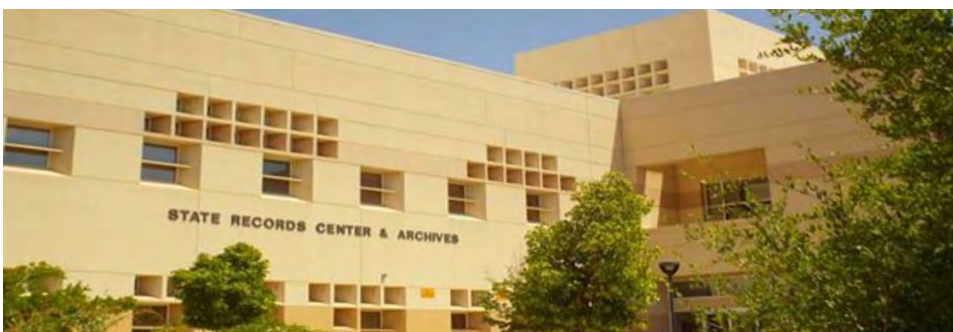


Jim Burleson is a retired New Mexico lawman having served over 25 years in a variety of capacities. He's been a patrolman, detective, supervisor, state academy administrator and police chief, capping his career as cabinet secretary of the New Mexico State Corrections Department. After retiring, Jim was selected as executive director of the New Mexico Sheriffs and Police Association. Like Dave, he is a graduate of New Mexico State University but majored in Police Science (BS). He is pictured with the rifle that "Won the West", a Winchester 1873, one of the models Sheriff Pete carried. There will certainly be more heard about Pete Burleson and Jim hopes you enjoy your introduction to him. Gracias y Adios.



It is gratifying to see your State Archives displaying Dave and my work. Of all the hundreds of thousands of texts there, they chose our book to greet visitors to the facility. Next time you're in Santa Fe do stop in at the State Archives and do take a minute to look left.

Dave Burleson is a retired U.A. Air Force officer, having served 25 years, with 18 of those years abroad. He is also a retired professor of history from Dona Ana Community College of New Mexico State University, where he served as an instructor, department chair, dean, and associate vice president for 16 years. Dave is a graduate of New Mexico State University and Troy University (European Division). He makes his home in Las Cruces, New Mexico.



Dave Burleson
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Jim Burleson
BFRG Researcher
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Major Milestones



Jacqueline “Jacque” Ellaine Burlison, graduated from Stillwater High School, Oklahoma, 17 May 2024 with friends and family attending, including Papa Dave Burlison. After a summer break she will formulate future plans.

Jayna Lynn Bratton Pomona High School Arvada Colorado
Class of 2024



Granddaughter of Johnny Bratton, a cousin we meet in Texas on our BFRG Field Trip in May 2024.

Sheila Forbes Buchanan Obituary

Sheila Buchanan, 74, passed away Friday May 10th, 2024, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Sheila was born April 18th, 1950, to Paul and Elsie Burlison Forbes in Henderson, Vance County NC. Raised the daughter of a Tungsten miner, she was the third of four children. Sheila had countless tales of adventures in the mine camps. In 1959 she lost her baby sister Shirley Faye Forbes, cementing the importance of family in her heart. After graduating Harris High School in 1968, Sheila married Ernest “Laney” Buchanan on August 21, 1970. The next year she welcomed her first son Ernest “Ernie” Buchanan Jr in May. Three years later she welcomed her second son David S. Buchanan in July of 1974. To her the family was complete. Sadly, she lost her mother Elsie Forbes in September 1974. From then on, she strived to be the mother her mother was to them. Countless hours were spent on ball fields with her sons playing ball. Many hours were spent in the mountains pulling galax leaves to generate income so her kids would have milk and ice cream money in school. She often said



she never felt closer to God than she did on that mountain with just her and God pulling leaves. Halloween came one year, and she didn't have the money for costumes so she spent hours creating monster masks out of paper mâché so her kids could enjoy trick or treating like the other kids. The simple things are what made the best memories with her like going to the river to play in the river then catfishing that night. Her biggest heartbreak came in December 1986 when David, her youngest son, became sick. Over the next year and a half, she never left his side through many hospital admissions. July 1987, she had to say goodbye to her daddy. April 3, 1988, half of her heart died when David entered heaven to wait for her there. Joy returned to her heart in December 1994 when her oldest granddaughter Anne Buchanan was born. Her greatest joy was being a Nana. May of 1997 her second granddaughter Lacey Buchanan was born. There was nothing she would not do for the loves of her life if it meant riding a bicycle or playing in a splash pool with them. December 26, 2008, she laid her husband to rest next to David. She thought she had reached the pinnacle of happiness until November 2012, when her great-granddaughter Aubrey was born. Nothing lit up her life than seeing Aubrey. Her later years were spent improving the lives and happiness of the elderly by working at Mitchell County Senior Center.

David had told her that he was going to build her a fancy house when he got big. After David's passing, she said he must have meant her mansion in heaven. May 10th, 2024, at 1:07 pm David had her house complete and came for her. She leaves a void in her family's heart that will never be filled.

Sheila was preceded in death by her parents Paul (1921-1987) and Elsie Burleson Forbes (1926-1974). Sister Shirley Faye Forbes (1951-1959), Brother Wayne Forbes (1946-2009). Son David S. Buchanan (1974-1988). Husband Ernest "Laney" Buchanan (1949-2008)

Left to cherish her memory is son Ernest "Ernie" Buchanan. Granddaughters Anne Buchanan, Lacey Woodard (Nathan), and Sydney Bishop (Dustin). Great granddaughter Aubrey Davis. Brother Gary (Joan) Forbes and sister-like Cousin Lori (Ryan) Sharp. And her faithful companion that never left her side, her dog Toby

Visitation will be Thursday May 16th, 2024, from 6-8pm at Bryan-Lee Funeral Home in Garner, NC. Visitation/ Funeral will be held Saturday May 18th, 2024, from 11-12 in the chapel of Henline-Hughes Funeral Home Bakersville, NC. Burial will follow in Cane Creek Cemetery Bakersville, NC where she can rest beside David

Sheila's B Buchanan Burleson Family Line is, Paul & Elsie Marie Burleson Forbes, Hobert & Edna Wiseman Burleson, Asa & Judie Greene Burleson, Emaline (Emma) Weatherman/ Burleson

Journey to Achieving a Doctorate Degree



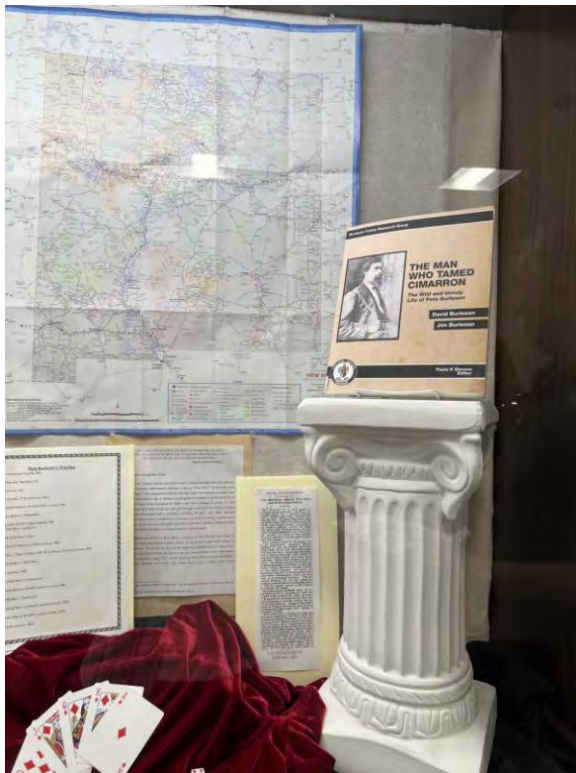
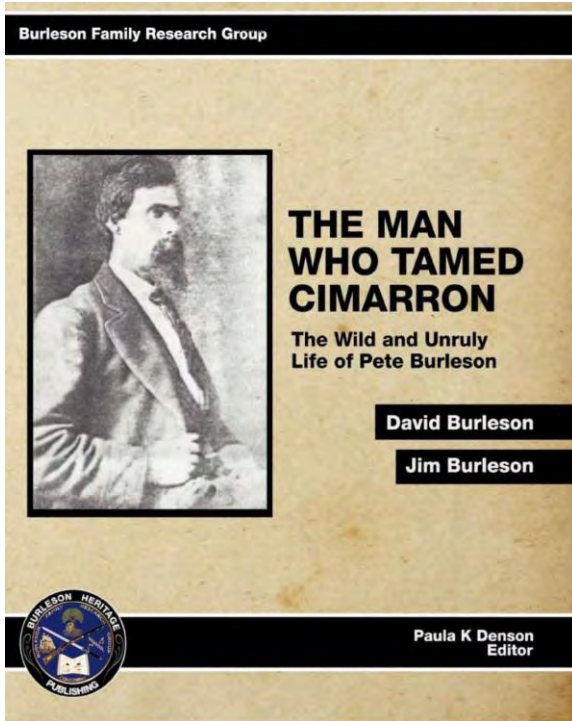
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Read all about her Journey in this issue of Reflections



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Read all about in this issue of Recollections