

## Migration

By John H. Burleson

The Burleson migration from Lunenburg County to North Carolina surely began in the early 1750's. The first deed that we have was to Aaron Burleson 1757 on the Savannah River in Georgia at the end of the Great Wagon Road. This Aaron lived out his life in Georgia and left a documented family there.

Next we have another Aaron on Dunham Creek in Cumberland County 1760. But many events happened before 1760 in North Carolina and the 1757 deed in Georgia. I took the book *Sunlight on the Southside* by Landon C. Bell and compared the names to the names in the book *North Carolina Land Grants in South Carolina* by Brent H. Holcomb. The reason I chose Holcomb's book was there are several references to "Burleson Improvements" between Love's and Burleson's fork of Turkey Creek. This property is between Turkey Creek on the Broad River and Fishing Creek on the Catawba River. This area is in York County, South Carolina today. But was once part of Anson County, then Mecklenburg County, then Tryon County, North Carolina. The reference appears several times and does not give us a first name or a date for settlement. But on 22 September 1766, John Miller applied for a warrant for 200 acres including Burleson's Improvements.

By asking for a warrant, which is the second step of three steps in obtaining a grant, proves that the property was never granted to Burleson. Did he die or move again before he asked for a survey and grant? We don't know.

In *Sunlight on the Southside*, 1748 on page 82 we find Aaron Burleson listed. His next door neighbor William Walker and his three sons John, Thomas and James are also listed. All three sons also appear in the *North Carolina Land Grants in South Carolina* book. John owned land on Fishing Creek by 1766, Thomas owned land on Fishing Creek in 1753 and James owned land on Fishing Creek by 1766.

Four names away is the Mobberley family. They established the Mobberley Meeting House on the Broad River just south of Turkey Creek.

On page 84 of the *Sunlight on the Southside* we find Jonathan Burleson, his two next door neighbors were Robert Russell and John Turner. Russell settled on Little River/Antiquorm Creek 1756, and Turner owned land on the Southside of the Catawba River.

For the year 1749 in the *Sunlight on the Southside* on page 101 we find John Burlinson. Three houses away we have John Dennis who settled on Fishing Creek.

For the years 1750 and 1751 we do not have any Burlesons listed in Lunenburg. In the 1752 list Aaron is not listed but his Walker neighbors are, in fact there appears another brother, Phillip. He owns land on Fishing Creek in 1753. Another next door neighbor, William Clark, according to *North Carolina Land Grants in South Carolina* says he

moved to the Tyger River. Their next door neighbor is a William Bowles. I suspect, but it is not proven, that William is a kinsman of Suzie Bowles that the first Fork of Turkey Creek is named for. The middle fork is of course named Burleson Fork.

On page 205 of the *Sunlight on the Southside* we find John Burleson living in Jonathan Burleson's household. Just a couple of houses away we find Robert Russel again as in 1748, plus three new next door neighbors. They are John Williams that settled on the Pacolot River adjoining Twitty's land (Capt. Wm. Twitty was killed in 1775 – one of the Boone party on the Wilderness Trail), William Irvine who settled between Love's Fork and Burleson Fork of Turkey Creek (this is the same description of the Burleson Improvements of Turkey Creek). William Irvine was also a friend of Boone as he moved his family to Boonesboro in 1781. The last neighbor was Christopher Irvine who was granted the Nation's Ford of the Catawba River 1753. Christopher, also a friend of Boone, was in Boonesboro in 1776.

It was not a coincidence that all these people moved from Lunenburg to the Broad River/Turkey Creek area. A phenomenal movement of the population from Lunenburg County happened from 1750 to 1769. A full 80% left the county. In 1752 in John Phelp's District there were a total of 177 names listed, 19 of these appeared later in the *North Carolina Land Grants in South Carolina* book. 13 of the 19 were close neighbors of Aaron, John, or Jonathan. Most of the neighbors settled within twenty miles of the Burleson Improvements on Turkey Creek/ Fishing Creek. Of the six that were not Burleson neighbors, three of them settled on Turkey Creek/Fishing Creek anyway. I think this was by design not chance.

It is sufficient to say that the area was first settled in the early 1750's. As the only road was the Great Wagon Road, the Creeks became the landmarks. The first settlers on a creek had the honor of having the creek named after him. Example: Turkey Creek had several branches, First Fork Suzie Boles Creek, named for Suzie Boles, 1753; Love's Fork, named for James Love, 1754; the middle Fork or Burleson Fork settled ????. I would suggest the years between 1752 and 1755.