

The Silver Rope
by Sandra Wilson (Sandy) Holcomb



RICHARD "DICK" HARLESON, TERRY ALLEN HARLESON IN LAP KENNETH JOEL & ELTON LEROY HARLESON
RICARDIA "RICKY" DALE HARLESON WILSON FLORA BELLE BURLESON HARLESON



KENNETH JOEL HARLESON

WINCIE ANNE HARLESON STRIETELMEIER

TERRY ALLEN HARLESON

EDITH MARIE BURLESON DANIELS

RICARDIA DALE
HARLESON WILSON

RICHARD G HARLESON

ELTON LEROY HARLESON

RICHARD GROVER & FLORA BELLE BURLESON HARLESON

*RICHARD GROVER
HARLESON*



*FLORA BELLE BURLESON
HARLESON*





Richard in plaid shirt to the left of Flora, and Ken on the right, Leroy and Terry standing, Leroy in dark blue shirt.



Marie in her nurse's uniform (all three girls became nurses), then Mom (Ricky) in red, and Anne in the vest, with Grandma (Flora) sitting down.



Flora Burleson Harleson and Wincie Springer Burleson sitting in front of my sister Deborah Jean Wilson Paulsen (she goes by Jean now), me (Sandy), and Mom (Ricky). I'm going to guess this was around 1972,

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Posted on October 19, 2011

My grandmother had beautiful hair, but very few people knew it. She kept it in a bun at the nape of her neck. If I woke up early enough in the morning, I could watch her brushing it before she went out to do her chores. Sitting in the rocking chair in the front room, already wearing the housedress she'd sewn out of polyester remnants from the mill, she would take out what seemed like hundreds of hairpins, unwind the bun and bring the silver rope around her neck in front of her body. She would start at the bottom and brush just the few inches at the end, then move up a little at a time until she was pulling the hairbrush from her scalp all the way down to where her hair ended at her lowest rib. She became Rapunzel in those moments, locked away in her farmhouse with no prince in sight. Her hair wouldn't be tangled, as it had been pinned up for the entire previous 24 hours, but she never skipped the ritual. It was the only activity I ever saw her engage in that was purely an act of self-care. When she had finished brushing all the way through, she would twirl her hair back into a rope, wind it back into a bun, and put all of the hairpins back in, each seemingly in the exact place from which she'd removed it.

As Grandma grew older, her vision worsened and she started having trouble getting around even inside her own house. When she could no longer care for herself, my aunt and my mother took care of her. Aunt Marie was not married, so she kept watch at night; Daddy drove Mama over in the morning so she could brush Grandma's hair. She also cleaned the house and prepared meals, but I think the brushing was the greatest gift she gave her mother.

When Grandma died, the family worried that the funeral director would make her look wrong. She would look like someone else, someone who wore makeup to the grocery store and went to the beauty parlor. Mama wouldn't allow it. She went to the funeral home and fixed her mother's hair one last time. She drew it around the front of Grandma's body and brushed just the last few inches, then moved up a little bit at a time until she was brushing all the way from the roots to the end. She twisted it into a rope and wound it into a bun, then pinned it with what seemed like hundreds of hairpins so it would stay secure. She didn't cry until she was finished, but then she fell apart. The funeral director told her she was a very brave girl.



Doug and Sandra Wilson Holcomb

We want to Thank Sandy for all her help with this Article about her grandmother (Flora) and most of the pictures shown here

Descendants of FLORA BELLE BURLESON

1. FLORA BELLE¹⁰ BURLESON (*DAVID RUTHERFORD*⁹, *HOWELL*⁸, *WILLIAM (BILLIE)*⁷, *ISAAC JR*⁶, *ISAAC BURLESON*⁵ SR, ?*JOHN*⁴ *BURLESON*, *JONATHAN*³, *JOHN*², *EDWARD*¹) was born 30 Jun 1907 in STANLY CO, NC, and died 20 Nov 1991 in STANLY CO, NC 121450954. She married (1) WADE BURLESON 03 Mar 1923, son of SHEM BURLESON and JANIE BURLESON. He was born 24 Oct 1904, and died 29 Feb 1988 in DAVIDSON CO, NC. She married (2) RICHARD GROVER HARLESON 1933, son of JONAH BURLESON and TELITHA LAMBERT. He was born 02 Jan 1906 in STANLY CO, NC, and died 12 Jul 1985 in STANLY CO, NC 121451514.

More About FLORA BELLE BURLESON:

Burial: CANTON BAP CH CEM, STANLY CO, NC

Notes for WADE BURLESON: Find A Grave Memorial# 17865054

More About WADE BURLESON:

Burial: MAPLE GROVE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN CEMETERY, DAVIDSON CO, NC

More About WADE BURLESON and FLORA BURLESON: Marriage: 03 Mar 1923

More About RICHARD GROVER HARLESON & FLORA BURLESON:

Burial: CANTON BAP CH CEM, STANLY CO, NC Military service: TSGT US ARMY WWII

More About RICHARD HARLESON and FLORA BURLESON: Marriage: 1933

Children of FLORA BURLESON and WADE BURLESON are:

- i. EDITH MARIE¹¹ BURLESON, b. 05 Sep 1924, STANLY CO, NC; d. 06 Feb 1996, CANTON BAP CH STANLY CO NC; m. (1) SAM STANLEY BIBICH; m. (2) CHARLES WILLIAM DANIELS.

More About SAM STANLEY BIBICH:

KILLED: WWII

- ii. WADE CLINTON BURLESON, b. 26 Jul 1926; d. 05 Dec 1926, CANTON BAP CHURCH STANLY CO NC.

Children of FLORA BURLESON and RICHARD HARLESON are:

- iii. JOYCE JACQUELIN¹¹ HARLESON, b. 03 Dec 1934, STANLY CO, NC; d. 03 Dec 1934, CANTON BAP CH CEM, STANLY CO, NC.

- iv. RICARDIA DALE (RICKY) HARLESON, b. 05 Dec 1935, CUMBERLAND CO, NC; m. ROBERT KENNETH WILSON, 08 Aug 1956, PLYMOUTH CO, MA; b. 03 Aug 1932, CHITTENDAN CO, VT.

More About ROBERT WILSON and RICARDIA HARLESON:

Marriage: 08 Aug 1956, PLYMOUTH CO, MA

- v. ELTON LEROY HARLESON, b. 24 Sep 1937, CUMBERLAND CO, NC; d. 24 Dec 2010, STANLY CO, NC; m. VICKI WHITLEY, 17 May 1980, CHESTERFIELD CO, SC.

More About ELTON LEROY HARLESON:

Burial: CANTON BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY, STANLY CO, NC

Military service: Bet. 1956 - 1960, US Navy

More About ELTON HARLESON and VICKI WHITLEY:

Marriage: 17 May 1980, CHESTERFIELD CO, SC

- vi. RICHARD G. HARLESON, b. 04 Apr 1940, CUMBERLAND CO, NC; m. PATSY KING, 17 Sep 1976, CHESTERFIELD CO, SC.

More About RICHARD HARLESON and PATSY KING: Marriage: 17 Sep 1976, CHESTERFIELD CO, SC

- vii. KENNETH JOEL HARLESON, b. 07 Mar 1942, CUMBERLAND CO, NC; d. 23 Jun 2004; m. OTIS JACQUELINE (JACKIE) COX, 20 Aug 1966, LANCASTER CO, SC; b. 30 Jun 1947, UNION CO, MONROE, NC.

More About KENNETH HARLESON and OTIS COX: Marriage: 20 Aug 1966, LANCASTER CO, SC

- viii. JOHNNIE CLAY HARLESON, b. 18 Jul 1943, CUMBERLAND CO, NC; d. 18 Dec 1943, CANTON BAP CH CEM, STANLY CO, NC.

- ix. TERRY ALLEN SR HARLESON, b. 03 Apr 1945, STANLY CO, NC; m. DORIS (BRENDA) MOODY, 05 Jun 1965, STANLY CO, NC; b. 07 May 1947, MECKLENBURG CO, CHARLOTTE, NC.

More About TERRY HARLESON and DORIS MOODY:

Marriage: 05 Jun 1965, STANLY CO, NC

- x. WINCIE ANN HARLESON, b. 19 Jul 1946, STANLY CO, NC; m. DENNIS GENE BROWN, 16 Mar 1969.

More About DENNIS BROWN and WINCIE HARLESON:

Marriage: 16 Mar 1969

- xi. DOUGLAS RUTHERFORD HARLESON, b. 19 Feb 1951, STANLY CO, NC; d. 23 Feb 1951, CANTON BAP CH, STANLY CO, NC.

- xii. RUTH DARLENE HARLESON, b. 16 Aug 1953, STANLY CO, NC; d. 06 May 1963, STANLY CO, NC 129750459.

More About RUTH DARLENE HARLESON: Burial: CANTON BAP CH CEM, STANLY CO, NC