
14th Annual
Burleson
Family Reunion

“Happenings”

October 8, 2009

October, 18th is time for our annual Burleson Family Reunion. It is always the third Sunday in October. We will be honoring Thurman Burleson as an inductee into the Wall of Honor. Make plans to attend and invite all your relatives to come. We are sure they will find it interesting, and the food is always great.

This year we are delighted to announce that Sally Burleson Martin has accepted the position as Burleson Family Archives Curator. Along with help from her husband, Robert, they are preparing to set up our Burleson Family Archives at the Lena Burleson Farm House. This will be a place to store items of family history, such as documents, memorabilia, for all to enjoy. Suggestions of items needed are: Family Bibles, (photo copies of the family pages) Obituaries, (past and current), Military Records and Awards, We need everyone to think about what they can donate, so all future generations can benefit.

Sally's Burleson line is, Spurgeon and Zula Burleson, Jonah and Ella Burleson, Jonathon and Margaret Burleson, Lee and Elizabeth Burleson, Isaac Burleson Jr. and Isaac Burleson Sr.



Robert and Sally Martin

Daddy's Childhood Memories

(Memories of C. Spurgeon Burleson as told to his daughter, Sally)

My first home was 6 miles west of Albemarle on a farm in the Canton Rd/Bloomington area. Our family farmed about 100 acres with mules---raised cotton, corn, wheat, and oats.

Pa sold Raleigh products and was usually gone Mon-Fri. Pa managed the farm. Ma (Ella) and the children worked the farm. When the well went dry in the summer, Ma washed clothes down by the spring. My brothers and I kept the fire going under the black wash pot. Brady left in



C. Spurgeon and Zula Harkey Burleson

1916 or 1917 to go to War (WWI). I can clearly remember November 11, 1918, the day the war ended. Church bells were ringing and car horns were blowing and it was a very happy time.

In 1922 politics changed and Pa was voted "Keeper of the Stanly County Home" I was 11 years old. It was a blessing. We moved to the County Home which was a brick building with steam heat, indoor plumbing and many conveniences.



Jonah Burleson April 6, 1924 Selling Raleigh Products

The county home had many nice things: telephone, electricity. It was lucky that Pa got the County Home because our family had some rough times before that. The County Home had a large farm to tend. Pat did the tractor farming. I was not old enough to run the tractor but all of us helped on the farm. We raised wheat, oats, and maybe barley. Sunday afternoon, friends would come to visit the folks who lived at the home and there was always somebody to play with.

After Pat married and left home and I was older, I ran the tractor on the county farm. It took me 2 1/2 days to plow one field with the tractor. We also had some good mules to use on the farm. Ma (Ella) did the cooking and the cleaning, but no longer had to help in the fields. Ma was used to cooking for a large family so she did very well at the County Home. Most everyone remembers Ma making biscuits and churning butter and preparing good country meals.

Pa bought a 70 acre farm (the old Doc Parker place). Pa, my brothers, and I cleared some of the timber and cut the logs at a saw mill that was set up on the property. Pa used the logs to build a house---years before leaving the county home. I remembered using a crosscut saw and "snaking" the logs to the saw mill. I would often get off the school bus in the afternoons at the property where I kept a change of clothes so I could work clearing timber until nearly dark.

In 1929, the family moved in the house that had been built on Old Salibury Rd. After several years, the house caught fire and burned up. A Herlocker family nearby took our family in until another house was built.

My schooling began at Bloomington School where I went until the 7th grade (1922). I walked 2 miles to school and I can remember stopping at U.S. Burleson's store sometimes for red stick candy.

After we moved to the County Home, I went to Harwood School for 1 yr and walked 1/2 mile to school. I finished at New London High School---graduated in 1930. I rode a school bus to New London and took part in all sports but baseball was favorite. (Daddy always loved baseball and knew all the stats, teams, players, etc). I played basketball my senior year at New London and the team won the county championship that year.

Music at the home in Bloomington/Canton Rd.

The family had an organ which Pa played and maybe Elva played some too. Brady played fiddle and Hobart played the guitar and everybody sang. Those were hard times but good times also.

Church

The family attended Canton Baptist Church when we lived in that area. We would go to church in a horse drawn wagon---using straw bales and quilts to sit on. When we moved to the County Home we went to Kendall's Baptist Church.