

Lena Lowder Burleson

Mrs. Klon Roy Burleson

Is our Third Honoree into the BFRG's Wall of Honor

WALL OF HONOR

P. K. Burleson

Thurman
Burleson

Lena
Burleson



Our Mother, Lena Burluson
By the Children
90TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

It is a pleasant experience for us to share with you some details of our mom's life. The first descriptive phrases that come to mind are bright lady, inquiring mind, strong work ethic, good singer, cook, seamstress, barber, and a person who has always had a deep religious faith. We have much to tell.

Our mom, who is Miss Lena to most people, was born at the Lowder home place off the Concord Road on April 30, 1904, the oldest of seven children. She lived with her aging grandparents from the age of eight and cared for them until their deaths. It was while she lived with these pious and gentle loved ones that she absorbed good reading materials, excelled in school, and developed her sense of history and pride in her heritage. Events and people of the time made deep impressions on her. Fairview School near Millingport was a long walk from her home, but school was a joy.

Mom's great grandfather gave the three acres of land for Friendship Methodist Church. It was there and on Sunday afternoons at home that she joined family members in singing. Her uncles played in the band from the Friendship area, and at one time, Mom could play a piano, organ, strum a guitar, and finger some music on her uncle's fiddle. With her strong alto voice and ability to "play by ear," she has made music an important part of her life.

Mom married Klon Roy Burluson in 1922. She became a member of the Pine Grove Methodist Church after moving to the Burluson Road home where she lives today. In 1928, our dad became ill with Hodgkin's disease. When he died in 1936, mom was left with five children and was expecting her sixth. It was customary then for families faced with deaths of a parent to use the services of an orphanage, but our mom refused. Even when family members asked to take one or more of the children to help out, she was steadfast in wanting to keep her children together.

Mom knew what had to be done on the farm, and with raising chickens and selling eggs, milk, and butter; she faced the future with her strong faith.

At one point, a caring friend in Albemarle who served on the Welfare Board stopped her one day and asked why her name had never appeared on the list for help. She had never even thought of asking for help. Her workday averaged 18 hours. After dark and with the chores done, you could find her making butter, preserving the foods of the season, and making clothes for herself and the children. In fact, she still makes some of her clothes today.

During the war years, she took family members on trips to Washington, D. C. to visit relatives and to carry fresh vegetables and homegrown beef from the farm that had been frozen at the locker plant. She knew the roads well and all the interesting places along the way.

Modern-day lady barbers probably began with our mom. Her patrons were her sons, the neighbors, and nearby relatives. It was a familiar sight to see one of the males draped and perched on a tall stool under a bright light with the scissors and clippers snipping away.

The people of Pine Grove Church were always good to Mom and us, taking extra time to seek us out with smiles and encouragement.

Over the years Mom saw her children grow up. Her sons served in the military. Each child prepared for careers, and although we didn't build six small houses in a circle around her as she once wished, we settled not too far away to remain a close family. Today, the six children have grown to 14 grandchildren and (soon to be) 18 great grandchildren.

Countless people in our area have eaten at her table and shared lively conversations involving current happenings and issues, politics, and farming. You can find her today being visited almost weekly by



someone who needs information about a date, a name, or an event of the past. Many genealogy lists have been completed with her help.

She was ahead of her time with her awareness of events around our country and in foreign places. Her thirst for knowledge has not diminished. Still an avid reader, she enjoys challenging her mind to remember items such as famous people, places, dates, and happenings. She can be heard encouraging the young, chastising the too-proud, nudging the idle, and sharing her love of her church.

Although she may be shorter in stature today, she walks tall in our eyes.

The Children – 4/30/94

(This was an insert in the bulletin on the above date when the people of Pine Grove were kind enough to plan a complete worship service in song to honor Mom on her 90th birthday. We were able to invite family members who lived away and her friends from other churches. It was a special Sunday for our family. Mom was able to live alone in her home until the fall of 1999 when a stroke made it impossible for her to continue. She lived for 16 months at the Lutheran Home where she was visited daily by family members and friends while receiving loving care by the staff. It fascinated us that although Mom was unable to speak but just a few words following her stroke, she could sing the words to many familiar songs. Truly, music was a great part of her life.)



Klon Roy and Lena Lowder Burleson
Wedding December 8, 1922



Front Row Johnny Paul, Hilda Snuggs, Lena, Ruby Greene, Middle Row Carol,
Jack and Klon Del Nunn, Bill Greene, Betty, Ted, Carolyn, and Jay Brice Burleson. 1996



REFLECTIONS

By: Mrs. Lena Lowder Burleson Age 94



On December 8, 1922, at the age of 18, I married into the Burleson family and became a “Burleson for Life”. Blending into the Burleson way-of-life was not difficult because in our community, the majority of the people made their living off the land. Gathering, preparing, and preserving food went on year-round. Neighbors gathered to help neighbors with harvesting crops, clearing new land, cutting wood, making fencepost and pastures, killing hogs, making quilts, fruitcakes, applebutter, hominy and the list goes on.

One Burleson activity that was new to me was foxhunting. Some of the men in the family enjoyed the sport and maintained packs of foxhounds. There were many tales that were told and repeated through the years about the antics of the fox or dogs on those cold evenings by lantern light. My husband even ordered red fox cubs to help stock the woods nearby. We see their healthy offspring even today.

Burleson, like others in our community, furnished timber and helped build community buildings, school gyms and churches. Most of the families could be found in a church on Sunday mornings. They were real neighbors in time of sickness and especially with a death in a family. Serving in the military was a tradition. Burlesons voluntarily joined the ranks especially in WWI and WWII.

Today the Burlesons from our area have multiplied and some have taken the family name far from Stanly County. Most have left the land to make livings in various professions. Some have impressive degrees and titles behind their names and some with honors too numerous to list. And yet, many family traditions have prevailed. Burlesons have always been fond of family gatherings with much good food and visiting. By attending such gatherings, descendants maintain a link to the past and to each other. That is still going on here in Stanly County. As a result, many Burlesons in our area have knowledge of their greater family and have an appreciation of their roots.

As one of the senior Burlesons, I would encourage each of you to continue the traditions begun by your families. Tell the stories. Learn from each other and instill the pride of family in your children. And remember, our blessings are God given. *Published in Recollections Vol 1, page 6 October 18, 1998*



SNAP subscriber



Photo by JO ANNE EFIRD

Lena Burleson scans a recent issue of the Stanly News and Press at her home on Burleson Road
...she says she can't remember a time when the Albemarle newspaper was not subscribed to and read in her home

SNAP's longest subscriber

By JO ANNE B. EFIRD
SNAP Staff Writer

Lena Burleson remembers when the late Wallace Ivey came to her house on Burleson Road to talk about a subscription to *The Stanly News and Press*.

SNAP records put the date at March 31, 1931.

If that date is correct, Mrs. Burleson says, it must have been a

renewal, or a change of address, because she cannot remember a time in her 92 years of life (come Tuesday) that the SNAP has not been subscribed to and read thoroughly in her home.

"I never remember a day in my life we didn't get the Albemarle paper. We loved to read. We always had it at home when I was growing up."

Today she reads *The SNAP* thor-

oughly and especially likes the community correspondents (she mentions Dorothy Lowder of Millingport and Sylvia Shields of Endy), letters to the editor (especially those from Bill Garland — she wishes he would write more), and Doug Creamer's column on the church page. But she doesn't read just those. "I like it all because it

continued on page 15A

SNAP subscriber

covers all the county," she says.

"I liked the old ones, too, Fred Morgan, Hawkeye, I read them all.

"I love news. I love politics. I vote every time, even in primaries."

The former Lena Lowder, she married Klondike Roy Burleson in 1922. In 1928 he was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease. Eight years later, he died. She was left with five children, the eldest 12, one sick with osteomyelitis, and expecting the sixth.

Her father-in-law, who had built the house for them on 40 acres, wanted her to have it. "The boys have bought more," she says, "but mostly we rent land to farm."

Determined to keep her family together and in their home, she turned to what she had. There were 125 chickens. She began to sell eggs. There were cows. She began to sell milk and butter.

The oldest of seven children, all of whom worked on a farm, she knew the value of hard work. Her children learned that, too, as they worked together to build the family farm. They are J. Brice, who married Betty Russell, Ted, who married Carolyn Hughes, Johnny, who married Carol Westbrook, Ruby who married Bill Green, Hilda who married Leon Snuggs, and Klondike Del, who married Jack Nunn.

They asked for "no welfare, no nothing. We made it selling milk and butter," she says.

In addition, she sewed all their clothes, still sews her own, and cut their hair. Whatever needed to be done, she learned to do and did it.

In 1950 Vernon Huneycutt, who was extension agent, suggested they begin a dairy operation. They made the necessary changes to meet requirements and began to sell Grade A milk to Sealtest, continuing for 22 years.

years.

By that time her sons had become interested in crop farming. They sold the cows except for some beef cows and began what is now a large and successful farming operation growing corn, soybeans, small grains such as wheat, soybeans, and oats, garden crops, "everything," she says, in addition to a beef herd.

Klondike Del lives in Charlotte, the only one of the children that does not live in Stanly County. The sons live in the same community. All work together on the same family farm that kept them together growing up. "the tea," she said, "a gallon."

Anyone who happens by at the noon hours is invited to join them. "Everybody is welcome in my house."

On Thanksgiving and Christmas there are 60 at her table, including 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren, including triplets who will be 1 year old in June. "I cooked the turkey until last year," she said.

She remembers things that happened back to the time she was four years old. "I haven't stopped remembering yet," she says. She remembers the first *McCall's* magazine she ever read. She was about 13. "I almost memorized it, I read it so much," she said.

She remembers World War II, she remembers when the Titanic went down ("that was in our paper"), she remembers when World War I ended.

She loves her native county. "I almost detest whoever said all that bad about Stanly County," she says, referring to the recent article in the *Wall Street Journal*. "I am insulted."

She believes in education and its impact on a community. She feels Pfeiffer College and Stanly Community College have been a godsend to Stanly County by making it possible for people to work and at the same time get an education. Seven in her family have attended Pfeiffer, four at one time, all the while farming. Others began with two years at SCC, transferring their credits to earn a four-year degree. Some are enrolled at SCC right now. And the local schools get her highest praise. "We have good teachers," she says.

She learned to drive when she married and still drives — about 20 miles a week, "anywhere I want to go," in a 1978 Cadillac she inherited from her sister.

"My knees have given out, but my feet work."

She not only appreciates her car, she thinks all the modern appliances are "great." She is on her third dishwasher and had her first refrigerator a General Electric, before World War II. She bought her first washing machine before her youngest child was born.

Hard work, a strong sense of family responsibility, and a deep and abiding faith in God have been the foundation of her life. Brought up in Friendship Methodist Church and a member of Pine Grove Methodist since her marriage, she says, "God's been good to me. We stayed close to the good Lord. Give him the credit."

Remembering Miss Lena Burleson

By Sue Burleson Forrest

All my life, I've only heard good things about Miss Lena Burleson. My grandmother, Lou Burleson, used to tell me how hard Miss Lena worked raising her children alone after her husband died before her sixth child was born.

When I was a little girl, I remember going with my grandfather, Allen Burleson, to Miss Lena's dairy farm to purchase young steer calves to put with our freshened milk cows.

In 1993 when my son, Todd, and his wife, Tonda, moved into their new home on Burleson Road, Miss Lena welcomed them into the neighborhood and brought them a cutting from one of her houseplants. Todd and Tonda still have this plant and it is huge. Tonda told me that she has cut it back two times over the years.

A few years later at Halloween, Miss Lena called Tonda and asked her to bring her two boys by her house to get some candy. She said she was sorry that she forgot to leave her light on for "trick or treat". Miss Lena was a very special lady who took the time to make her neighbors feel welcome.



The Burleson Family Research Group lost one of its Charter Members this year.

Lena Lowder Burleson

April 30, 1904--March 21, 2000

When I first started asking question about my great-grandfather everyone told me to go see "Aunt Lena". My father's first cousin, Calvin Burleson took me to see her one Saturday afternoon. It was a fascinating, informative afternoon that inspired me to search-not only for my great grandfather, but for all my ancestors. She has also spoken at our BFRG Meetings and everyone was as impressed as I was. Lena told us about the first automobile in Stanly County and the first airplane to fly over. She could remember names and dates and she was very helpful in our effort to place all the different Burlesons in the right family.

We spent a Sunday afternoon at the Burleson grave site where her husband, Klon Roy Burleson's ancestors were buried. She told about the different graves and stories about the people's lives. It was very interesting. I visited her several times and she always seemed to have an endless supply of stories. She was the star at our family reunions and we loved her piano playing. I only knew her for a few years, but I am thankful I got the chance to know such a vibrant, interesting woman. She was such a great encouragement to me and I will always be thankful for that.

by J.D. Burleson



One of my favorite memories of Pine Grove is of my Grandmother, Lena Burleson. She was by all means a lover of God and his people. Our church was fortunate to have a husband and wife pastoral family, Curran and Martha Welch. During one Communion Sunday, she shared with Pastor Curran, that being able to come to the altar for Communion, was like touching the hem of Jesus' robe. I always look at Communion so very differently now. I feel that brush from his garment when I step forward for Communion too.

By Cindy Burleson Dry



Lena Burleson

Lena Odessa Lowder Burleson, 95, of 26750 Burleson Road, Albemarle, died Tuesday, March 21, 2000, in the Lutheran Nursing Home in Albemarle.

Her funeral will be at 2 p.m. today in Pine Grove United Methodist Church, where she was a member. The Rev. Curran Welch and The Rev. Martha Welch will officiate and burial will be in the church cemetery.

A business woman, farmer, dairyman and poultry farmer, she was born April 30, 1904, at the Lowder homeplace off the Concord Road, the oldest of seven children. She lived with and cared for her aging grandparents until their deaths. During this time she absorbed good reading materials, excelled in school and developed a sense of history and pride in her heritage. Events and people of the time made a deep impression on her and school, although a long walk, was a joy.

Her great-grandfather gave the three acres of land for Friendship Methodist Church and it was here she joined family members in singing. Her uncles played in the band from the area and at one time, she could play a violin, piano, organ and strum a guitar.

In 1922 she married Klon Roy Burleson and moved to the home on Burleson Road, becoming a member of Pine Grove Methodist Church.

In 1928 her husband became ill with Hodgkins disease. When he died in 1936 she had five children and was expecting her sixth.

Refusing to place any of her children in an orphanage or let family members take one or more of them, she set about to do what she knew to support them, farming. She raised chickens and sold eggs, milk and butter to support her family.

ly.

Her workday averaged 18 hours. After dark and with the chores done, she made butter, preserved the food of the season and made clothes for herself and her children.

She was barber to her sons, the neighbors and nearby relatives.

Over the years her children grew up and her sons served in the military. All settled not too far from her.

"Miss Lena" was ahead of her time with her awareness of events around the country and in foreign places and remained involved in current happenings and issues, politics and farming until well into her 90s.

She is survived by three sons, Jay Brice Burleson, Ted E. Burleson and Johnny P. Burleson, all of Albemarle; three daughters, Ruby B. Greene and Hilda B. Snuggs, both of Albemarle, and Del B. Nunn of Charlotte; 14 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Pine Grove United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 29844 NC Hwy. 24/27 Albemarle, NC 28001.



1943 Mothers Day Washington DC

/R Front Row Hilda, Del, Bernan "Bob" Howard, Barbara Redford, Jennings Backus, Gerald Robinson
Back Row L/R Ruby Greene, Lena Burlson, Margaret Howard, Sarah Lowder Howard, Lake Redford,
Thelmaa Backus, Mary Robinson, Ray Backkus, Nolan Robinson

Waiting on the return of Halley's Comet in 1986.

When I was six years old in the spring of 1910, I remember my grandfather, Eben Lowder, standing with me on the south side of our home for several evenings to watch Halley's Comet. I have a vivid memory of those evenings. From that spot which was on a knoll surrounded by rolling farmland, we had a perfect view of the sky. My grandfather stayed well informed and subscribed to The Concord Tribune and The Albemarle Enterprise where the return of the comet must have been well publicized. Therefore I can remember no fright or hysteria connected with the event such as I have read that some people experienced. The sun had just gone down, and our viewing took place between sunset and dark. We looked to the left of sunset about one-third to one-half the way up from the horizon to overhead. It appeared to be in the same place each day.

The comet did not have a shiny look of a star but had a satiny or soft appearance. It looked to be about the size of a barrel head in the sky. The tail of the comet was not white like a cloud but was creamy looking as if the sun might be shining into it. The tail and the head had a similar color, and it extended horizontally back a couple of hundred yards. Its width was only about two feet. The top of the tail had a smooth rim, but underneath it had a shaggy look almost like the tail of a shepherd dog or the stalks of pampas grass. In places it looked thin and wispy.

I had no idea that as I stood on that knoll seventy -five years ago that I could look forward to watching a repeat appearance next year. I, too, want to share the experience with my family.

Husband: KLON ROY BURLESON

Born: March 31, 1900 in: STANLY CO, NC
Married: December 8, 1922 in: STANLY CO, NC
Died: July 5, 1936 in: PINE GROVE CH CEM STANLY CO, NC
Burial:
Father: RALPH HURLEY BURLESON
Mother: LILLIE BELLE SIDES
Other Spouses:

Wife: LENA ODESSA LOWDER

Born: April 30, 1904 in: STANLY CO, NC
Died: March 21, 2000 in: PINE GROVE CH CEM STANLY CO, NC
Burial:
Father: JONAH HATLEY
Mother: SARAH ELIZABETH LOWDER
Other Spouses:

CHILDREN

1 F	Name: RUBY LOIS BURLESON Born: February 23, 1924 in: STANLY CO, NC Died: December 7, 2004 in: Stanly Gardens of Memory, Albemarle, NC Burial: Married: January 5, 1952 in: STANLY CO NC Spouse: WILLIAM REYNOLDS GREENE
2 M	Name: JAY BRICE BURLESON Born: February 16, 1926 in: STANLY CO NC Died: February 12, 2004 in: PINE GROVE METH CH CEM, STANLY CO, NC Burial: Married: December 24, 1955 in: CHESTERFIELD CO, SC Spouse: BETTY RUTH RUSSELL
3 M	Name: TED EUGENE BURLESON Born: May 5, 1929 in: STANLY CO NC Died: in: Burial: Married: January 5, 1947 in: Spouse: CAROLYN DOUGLAS HUGHES
4 M	Name: JOHNNY PAUL BURLESON Born: May 30, 1931 in: STANLY CO NC Died: in: Burial: Married: June 22, 1957 in: STANLY CO NC Spouse: MARGARET CAROL WESTBROOK
5 F	Name: HILDA ROSE BURLESON Born: December 29, 1933 in: STANLY CO NC Died: in: Burial: Married: June 27, 1953 in: STANLY CO NC Spouse: LEON DEWITT SNUGGS
6 F	Name: KLON DEL BURLESON Born: November 11, 1936 in: STANLY CO NC Died: in: Burial: Married: February 14, 1957 in: STANLY CO NC Spouse: JACK SINCLAIR NUNN

Sunday Afternoon With Lena Burleson

By J.D. Burleson

On a Sunday afternoon in July 1997 a group met at the Lena Burleson's house in Albemarle. She was going to show us Burleson Cemetery #1 near her farm and tell us about the headstones. The group included;

Lena Burleson (wife of Klon Roy)
Johnny Paul Burleson (Lena's son)
John H. Burleson
Karol (my wife) and myself (JD Burleson)
Sheila Breese (our daughter)
Tyler and Adam Breese (Sheila's sons)
Wesley Burleson (our son)
Don and Mary Burleson Eudy
(they take care of the Cemetery)



At Burleson Cemetery #1, Lena (seated) talking with Don and Mary Eudy, my son, Wesley, taking notes. Johnny Paul Burleson checking some of the stones in the distance. My grandson, Tyler Breese, on the left enjoying the afternoon.

From Lena's home we drove about ¼ mile to the old burial place. It was very hot and humid but we had a good time anyway. The rolling hills of the farm were beautiful. Herds of cattle dotted the hills in the distance and the cattle mooing occasionally was the only sound that broke the peace and quiet. It is beautiful country there.

The burial place there is Burleson Cemetery #1 located on 1242 Burleson Road near the old home place of R. Hurley Burleson. It was part of Joshua Hearne's home place. Joshua was Mary Ann Hearne Burleson's father. Isaac Burleson (May 20, 1842 – April 8, 1910) and Mary Ann Hearne Burleson (Feb 15, 1841 – Nov 11, 1897) are both buried here. Joshua Hearne's wife, Nancy Almond Hearne, gave 50 acres of land for the City Hall in Albemarle.

Mary Lou Burleson Eudy loaned me four pictures to copy:

- (1) Isaac Burleson
- (2) Isaac and Mary Ann's family
- (3) Hurley Burleson
- (4) Hurley Burleson's family reunion.

Lena told us several stories about the cemetery and surrounding area. She pointed out the headstone for "C. Tebe Burleson". Lena said this was a terrible loss. Tebe had one child named Thurman, BFA #261. Her husband Brady N. Burleson was in the service when she was expecting her second child. Her doctors assured her it would be safe to have the baby at home. After 30 hours of labor they realized there were complications but it was too late. Both Tebe and the baby died. They are buried together in the same grave.



Here is an interesting update to this story. While visiting with Virginia Burleson (Cecil's Widow) she told me more about Brady Burleson. Brady Burleson is Cecil's brother, and Brady later married, Ceceilia Marie Gotthold, and they had one son, Garth Burleyson. Virginia gave me Garth's address, he lives in Silver Springs, Maryland. I wrote and requested some information on his family and I received a letter from him last week. This is what I added to my computer, GARTH⁵ BURLEYSON (BRADY NASH⁴ BURLESON, JONAH CURDY³, DOVIE, JOSEPH, ISAAC JR., ISAAC SR.) was born June 25, 1927 in Washington, DC. He married CAROLINE MAY WEIMER March 19, 1955 in WASHINGTON, DC, daughter of GALEN WEIMER and MAGDALINE FUNKHOUSER. She was born November 7, 1930 in Washington, DC.

Children of GARTH BURLEYSON and CAROLINE WEIMER are:

2.
 - i. GREGG PAUL⁶ BURLEYSON, b. March 10, 1957, Washington, DC.
 - ii. ERIC TIMOTHY BURLEYSON, b. August 1, 1958, Washington, DC; m. KIRSTEN WEIBLEN, February 28, 2001, ROMNEY, W. VA.
 - iii. DALE STEPHEN BURLEYSON, b. June 26, 1963, Washington, DC; m. MARGARET (MEGAN) FRANCIS BLACK; b. GERMANY.

Generation No. 2

2. GREGG PAUL⁶ BURLEYSON (GARTH⁵, BRADY NASH⁴ BURLESON, JONAH CURDY³) was born March 10, 1957 in Washington, DC. He married JOAN ELIZABETH WILLIAMS June 4, 1983 in SILVER SPRINGS, MD, daughter of DR. WILLIAMS and MARGARET. She was born in Washington, DC. Children of GREGG BURLEYSON and JOAN WILLIAMS are:

- i. SHEILEY CATHRYN⁷ BURLEYSON, b. March 27, 1986, AUGUSTA, GA.
- ii. JENNIFER ROBIN BURLEYSON, b. April 30, 1989, BALTIMORE, MD.

Lena pointed to some oak trees down in a valley. She said there was a gum spring located there. An eagle lived in the group of trees. When it got injured some men came there and caught it. Lena was told it was taken to Washington. Some time later Lena visited Washington. She went to the Museum and saw a large eagle mounted for display. The sign below it read "caught in North Carolina". She believes it is the same eagle.

Lena showed us where Hurley Burleson's home place was. The trees are still standing but the house has long been gone. She told about the slave auctions held there. There was a large rock where the slave would stand while buyers bid on him. Lena said she was told of a time they were auctioning a women, who had a little baby. When the mother was auctioned off the slave buyer did not purchase her baby. They carried the women away screaming, leaving her infant behind. Her screams were heard until she was too far away. Cemetery records posted in BFB page 434 list 6 or 7 slave graves there. One name was "Dan D. Red".

One headstone said "Twin sons of K.E. & L.P. Burleson (Kope and Pearl Hahn Burleson) July 5, 1919. The twins infant boys were born without a skull. The babies cried for two whole days. Since the babies could not survive without a skull, the family prayed for their death to come soon to end the poor baby's horrible pain and suffering. They died two days after their birth.

There was one row of gravestones that contained eight small diamond-shaped headstones in



a line. Lena told us an interesting story about the eight stones in a row. When a certain lady found she was expecting a baby she claimed the father of her child was Isaac's son Fred. But he refused to marry the woman and instead married a lady named Lizzie. The mother of the lady who was expecting became very angry when Fred refused to marry her daughter. The angry mother vowed she would have revenge on Fred. She allegedly cast a spell or curse on Fred and Lizzie. She said that none of their children would live as long as she was alive herself. Fred and Lizzie buried eight children in a row until finally the old women who had cursed them died. After her death their next five children lived to old age. It was a very interesting day. The children found some of the old stories fascinating too.



Miss Lena enjoying the piano with her grandchildren, Lindsay and Tyler Lewis



Lena Burleson's Farm House 1951

Millington mystery solved by two reminiscing locals

A spry nonagenarian by the name of Calvin Lefler helped Millington Elementary School solve a 72-year-old mystery recently.

So did his friend, Mrs. Lena Lowder Bureson.

Both live east of Millington and both know a lot about the early days of the school and community.

The puzzle was large and handsome sterling silver loving cup, grown dingy with decades, sitting inside a trophy display case in the school office. The cup contains the engraved words "Stanly Hall" and the dates 1916-17/19-20.

Everyone assumes it is an athletic trophy won by the school. But why a trophy engraved to Stanly Hall left at Millington? Occasional inquiries by the school staff brought little enlightenment. Passing decades made the puzzle more perplexing.

All that ended recently when Lefler learned about the cup and examined it. What he didn't know, Mrs. Lena Bureson did. Together, they cleared up the mystery.

Lefler says the large loving cup is the first trophy given to a county-wide high school championship basketball team in Stanly County. He said Claude Heath, executive of Morrow Brothers & Heath Hardware Company in Albemarle, special ordered the loving cup and paid \$125 for it, donating it for this purpose.

Basketball was just catching on in the county at that time and the county's high schools fielded some rip-roaring teams.

Stanly Hall at Locust being one of most fierce. All games were played on hard-packed outdoor courts. Lefler said there were no indoor gyms in the county to his knowledge, unless you counted the upper floor of the old Badin Theatre, sometimes used as a gym by the Badin School team.

In the "teens" of this century, Millington School was known as Fairview and situated east of the present location. Dan Whitley was one of the early principals, succeeded by George Palmer.

Fairview earned an enviable reputation for its scholastic program, attracting students from outside the county, some of whom boarded at the Joe Sotherly home at Plyler.

Also, its basketball team was considered tops in the county.

"There were some good basketball teams in the county in 1919-1920," Lefler said. "Norwood had a good team. So did



Gathering memories to solve a mystery

Calvin Lefler, left, and Mrs. Lena L. Bureson clear up the mystery of the loving cup as they relive the early days of Millington School, under a picture of the former school building.

the team, along with Dan Lowder, Gilbert Harwood, Arthur Hatley, George Palmer, Ira Lefler and Malas Lefler. He is the only survivor.

Other players and substitutes he remembers from those years include: Lonnie Bureson, Mike Lefler, Claude Harwood, Bob Sides, Alvin Show, Pete Lowder, Grady Lipe, Hurley Harwood and Dewey Hatley.

Mrs. Lena L. Bureson was a member of the first girls' basketball team at Fairview, also serving as an early cheerleader. Girls sewed and made their own uniforms back then, she said.

Lefler remembers that each participating school furnished a referee for half the game. Nobody paid much attention to personal fouls, he said. Often

games had to be called off and delayed because of bad weather. Transportation was hit or miss, depending on who had a vehicle.

He said one end of the outdoor court at Stanly Hall featured a unique goal post—a live oak tree to which was nailed a metal hoop. "It must have been 12 feet from the ground. Lots higher than the regulation height we were used to. But we won, anyway."

Mrs. Annabelle P. Morgan, principal at Millington, recently spent hours cleaning and polishing the old loving cup trophy.

Today, it looks resplendent in its display case, where it will remain as part of the school's heritage and as a venerable artifact in the history of high school basketball in Stanly County.

Lonnie Bureson
Son of Allen Lee
Bureson

Hilda Bureson Snuggs gave us this article about her mother and the early years of Stanly County Schools

Descendants of LENA ODESSA LOWDER

1. LENA ODESSA² LOWDER (*JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born April 30, 1904 in STANLY CO, NC, and died March 21, 2000 in PINE GROVE CH CEM STANLY CO, NC. She married KLON ROY BURLESON December 8, 1922 in STANLY CO, NC, son of RALPH BURLESON and LILLIE SIDES. He was born March 31, 1900 in STANLY CO, NC, and died July 5, 1936 in PINE GROVE CH CEM STANLY CO, NC.

Children of LENA LOWDER and KLON BURLESON are:

2. i. RUBY LOIS³ BURLESON, b. February 23, 1924, STANLY CO, NC; d. December 7, 2004, Stanly Gardens of Memory, Albemarle, NC.
3. ii. JAY BRICE BURLESON, b. February 16, 1926, STANLY CO NC; d. February 12, 2004, PINE GROVE METH CH CEM, STANLY CO, NC.
4. iii. TED EUGENE BURLESON, b. May 5, 1929, STANLY CO NC.
5. iv. JOHNNY PAUL BURLESON, b. May 30, 1931, STANLY CO NC.
6. v. HILDA ROSE BURLESON, b. December 29, 1933, STANLY CO NC.
7. vi. KLON DEL BURLESON, b. November 11, 1936, STANLY CO NC.

Generation No. 2

2. RUBY LOIS³ BURLESON (*LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born February 23, 1924 in STANLY CO, NC, and died December 7, 2004 in Stanly Gardens of Memory, Albemarle, NC. She married WILLIAM REYNOLDS GREENE January 5, 1952 in STANLY CO NC, son of HENRY GREEN and ANNIE REYNOLDS. He was born February 22, 1925 in STANLY CO, NC, and died October 16, 2009 in Stanly Gardens of Memory, Albemarle, NC.

Notes for RUBY LOIS BURLESON:

Ruby Burleson Greene

ALBEMARLE - Mrs. Green, died Tuesday, December 7, 2004 at Stanly Memorial Hospital after a stay at Forest Oakes Nursing Center.

She was born February 23, 1924 in Stanly County, and was the daughter of the late Klon Roy and Lena Lowder Burleson. She was a member of Parkway United Methodist Church and a graduate of Endy High School and worked during WWII at the Pentagon. Returning to Stanly County, she was an executive Secretary at Collins & Aikman Corp. in Norwood for 35 1/2 years before her retirement. She enjoyed flowers and gardening.

She is survived by her devoted husband, William Reynolds (Bill) Greene, a daughter Sherry Greene Lewis and husband Terry of Albemarle, a granddaughter Lindsay Lewis Foley and husband Joey of Charlotte and Georgia and a grandson Tyler Lewis of Raleigh. Four, siblings and spouses, Ted E. Burleson and wife Carolyn, Johnny P. Burleson and wife Carol, Hilda Burleson Snuggs all of Albemarle, and Del Burleson Nunn and husband Jack of Indian Trail. She was preceded in death by her brother Jay Brice Burleson.

The family will receive friends from 12:30 to 1:30 PM at Stanly Funeral Home, Inc. prior to the funeral service at 2:00 PM on Thursday, December 9, 2004 in the Stanly Memorial Chapel. The Rev. David Hatley of Parkway and Rev. Buddy Compton of Pine Grove United Methodist Churches will officiate. Burial will be at Stanly Gardens of Memory. At other times, the family will be at the Lewis Home, 1221 Heritage Drive, Albemarle, NC.

Memorial contributions can be made to Parkway United Methodist church c/o Rev. David Hatley, 28G83C NC 73 Hwy, Albemarle, NC 2800L

Stanly Funeral Home entrusted to serve the Greene family.

Notes for WILLIAM REYNOLDS GREENE:

William Greene

William Reynolds Greene, 84, of 36079 Ridge St., Albemarle died at 9:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, 2009 in his home. His funeral will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 19, in Stanly Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. David Hatley will officiate and burial will be in Stanly Gardens of Memory with Full Military Rites by the Stanly County DAV Ritual Team and Masonic Rites by Albemarle Lodge 703 A. F. & A. M.

Born Feb. 22, 1925 in Stanly County, he was the son of the late Henry Lee Greene and Annie Florence Reynolds Greene. He was educated in Stanly County Schools and was a former owner and operator of Bill Greene's Auto in Albemarle.

He attended Mt. Zion United Methodist Church and was a veteran of the Merchant-Marines and the U.S. Army during World War II, where he earned the rank of Corporal in the Tank Company, 112th Infantry, 28th Infantry Division. He was a member of Albemarle Lodge #703 A.F.&A.M.

In addition he loved farming and spent most of his spare time at his farm in Stanfield. He also loved being with his friends and family. He was a mentor to many kids throughout his life who have since become business owners. He was a good role model and a successful businessman who believed in hard work and honest living.

He was married to the late Ruby Burleson Greene, who preceded him in death in December of 2004. Survivors include a daughter, Sherry Greene Lewis and husband, Terry, of Albemarle; a sister, Betty Lee of Black Mountain; two grandchildren, Lindsay Lewis Foley and husband, Joey, of Albemarle and Tyler Greene Lewis of Albemarle. He is also survived by his companion, Linda Beamon Haithcock, who loved and cared for him. A brother, Lane Greene, and a sister, Helen Greene Eury, preceded him in death. - The family will receive friends at Stanly Funeral Home on Monday from 12:30 p.m. prior to the service.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Stanly County, 960 N. 1st Street, Albemarle, NC 28001. Please share condolences at www.StanlyFuneralHome.com

Child of RUBY BURLESON and WILLIAM GREENE is:

8. i. SHERRY BURLESON⁴ GREENE, b. November 4, 1953, STANLY CO NC.

3. JAY BRICE³ BURLESON (*LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born February 16, 1926 in STANLY CO NC, and died February 12, 2004 in PINE GROVE METH CH CEM, STANLY CO, NC. He married BETTY RUTH RUSSELL December 24, 1955 in CHESTERFIELD CO, SC. She was born October 10, 1935.

Notes for JAY BRICE BURLESON:

Jay Brice Burleson

Mr. Jay Brice Burleson of 26738 Burleson Road, Albemarle, NC, age 77, passed away Thursday, February 12, 2004 at Presbyterian Hospital, Charlotte. Funeral services were Sunday at 2 p.m. at Pine Grove United Methodist Church. Burial followed at Pine Grove United Methodist Cemetery. Officiating ministers were Rev. Buddy Compton, Pastor, and Revs. Curran and Martha Welch.

Mr. Burleson was born February 16, 1926 in Stanly County. He was a dairy and grain farmer, co-owner and retired farmer of Burleson Brothers Farm, co-owner of Burleson Square and co-owner of Tiny Tears Day Care. He was known as Paw Paw Burleson to hundreds of children at Tiny Tears Day Care for 35 years and also the candyman at the Lutheran Home for seven years.

Mr. Burleson was a member of Pine Grove United Methodist Church. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Korean Conflict. He was a life member of the VFW, DAV and AMVET American Legion. He was commander of the DAV for two years and commander of the VFW for two years. Mr. Burleson was President of Veterans Council for 25 years. He received the VFW Commander Award and was grand marshal of the Veterans Parade in 2003. He was also on the committee of Liberty Gardens.

He was on the nominating committee of Union Power co-operative. He received numerous awards: 1983 Voluntary Service Award-100 hours, 1986 Humanitarian Award DAV, 1993 Outstanding Worker of the Year-DAV and 1994 Governors Award for Outstanding Volunteer Services.

Mr. Burleson is survived by his wife of 48 years, Betty Russell Burleson of the home; three daughters, Ginger B. Turner and husband, Dent. Wanda B. Furr and husband, Richard, and June B. Russell and husband, Tim, all of Albemarle; two brothers, Ted. E. Burleson and wife, Carolyn, and Johnny P. Burleson and wife, Carol. all of Albemarle: three Sisters, Ruby Green and husband, Bill, of Albemarle, Hilda Snuggs of Albemarle, and her husband was the late Leon Snuggs, and Klondel, Nunn and husband, Jack, of , Charlotte; brother-in-law, Bobby Russell and wife, Loretta, of Siler City; grandchildren, Dent Hall Turner, III, Kyle J. Turner, Ashley F. Carpenter and husband, Brandon, and Nathan L. Furr. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Klondel Roy Burleson and Lena Lowder Burleson.

Active pallbearers were Dent Hall Turner, III, Kyle Jay Turner, Nathan Furr, Brandon Carpenter, George H. Burleson and Ronnie Dry. Honorary pallbearers were the DAV Ritual Team of Stanly County.

Memorials may be made to Pine Grove United Methodist Church Building Fund, 28766 Hwy. 24-27 W.> Albemarle, NC or Stanly County Liberty Gardens and Memorial Park, P.O. Box 190, Albemarle, NC 28002.

Hartsell Funeral Home of Albemarle is in charge.

Children of JAY BURLESON and BETTY RUSSELL are:

9. i. VIRGINIA LYNN (GINGER)⁴ BURLESON, b. May 4, 1957, STANLY CO NC.
 10. ii. WANDA RUTH BURLESON, b. March 30, 1960, STANLY CO NC.
 - iii. JUNE ANNETTE BURLESON, b. July 2, 1961, STANLY CO, NC; m. TIMOTHY PAUL "TIM" RUSSELL, November 7, 1981, STANLY CO, NC; b. January 16, 1961, STANLY CO, NC.
4. TED EUGENE³ BURLESON (*LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born May 5, 1929 in STANLY CO NC. He married CAROLYN DOUGLAS HUGHES January 5, 1947. She was born September 30, 1929.

Children of TED BURLESON and CAROLYN HUGHES are:

- i. GEORGE HUGHES⁴ BURLESON, b. November 6, 1947, STANLY CO NC; m. DARLENE ALMOND HARKEY, October 28, 1995, STANLY CO NC.
11. ii. ANN DOUGLAS BURLESON, b. June 19, 1952, STANLY CO NC.

5. JOHNNY PAUL³ BURLESON (*LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born May 30, 1931 in STANLY CO NC. He married MARGARET CAROL WESTBROOK June 22, 1957 in STANLY CO NC, daughter of PAUL WESTBROOK and CYNTHIA. She was born September 9, 1934.

Children of JOHNNY BURLESON and MARGARET WESTBROOK are:

12. i. CYNTHIA LEE⁴ BURLESON, b. August 8, 1958, STANLY CO NC.
13. ii. ANGELA LENA BURLESON, b. December 31, 1959, STANLY CO NC.

6. HILDA ROSE³ BURLESON (*LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born December 29, 1933 in STANLY CO NC. She married LEON DEWITT SNUGGS June 27, 1953 in STANLY CO NC, son of THOMAS SNUGGS and EVA NEEDHAM. He was born June 17, 1929 in STANLY CO NC, and died December 26, 1978 in STANLY CO NC.

Children of HILDA BURLESON and LEON SNUGGS are:

14. i. LESLIE ROSE⁴ SNUGGS, b. September 12, 1960, STANLY CO NC.
15. ii. LEON DEWITT SNUGGS JR., b. May 8, 1962, EDEN, ROCKINGHAM COUNTY NC.
16. iii. VIRGINIA LYNN SNUGGS, b. April 15, 1965, EDEN, ROCKINGHAM CO NC.

7. KLON³ DEL BURLESON (*LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born November 11, 1936 in STANLY CO NC. She married JACK SINCLAIR NUNN February 14, 1957 in STANLY CO NC. He was born March 8, 1933 in MECKLENBURG CO NC.

Children of KLON DEL BURLESON and JACK NUNN are:

17. i. ROBERT SINCLAIR⁴ NUNN, b. December 22, 1957, STANLY CO NC.
18. ii. JACK EUGENE NUNN, b. July 14, 1960, MECKLENBURG CO NC.
19. iii. KELLY JO NUNN, b. August 19, 1962, MECKLENBURG CO NC.

Generation No. 3

8. SHERRY BURLESON⁴ GREENE (*RUBY LOIS³ BURLESON, LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born November 4, 1953 in STANLY CO NC. She married TERRY JOE LEWIS March 28, 1981 in STANLY CO NC. He was born July 20, 1951 in STANLY CO NC.

Children of SHERRY GREENE and TERRY LEWIS are:

20. i. LINDSAY TRUDELL⁵ LEWIS, b. June 6, 1983.
- ii. TYLER GREENE LEWIS, b. April 28, 1986.

9. VIRGINIA LYNN (GINGER)⁴ BURLESON (*JAY BRICE³, LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born May 4, 1957 in STANLY CO NC. She married DENT HALLJR TURNER December 5, 1976. He was born July 6, 1952 in STANLY CO NC.

Children of VIRGINIA BURLESON and DENT TURNER are:

- i. DENT HALL III⁵ TURNER, b. March 2, 1981.
- ii. KYLE JAY TURNER, b. April 10, 1984.

10. WANDA RUTH⁴ BURLESON (*JAY BRICE³, LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born March 30, 1960 in STANLY CO NC. She married RICHARD LAMAR FURR August 27, 1978 in STANLY CO NC. He was born February 12, 1960 in STANLY CO NC.

Children of WANDA BURLESON and RICHARD FURR are:

21. i. ASHLEY RUTH⁵ FURR, b. October 7, 1980.
- ii. NATHAN LAMAR FURR, b. September 2, 1989.

11. ANN DOUGLAS⁴ BURLESON (*TED EUGENE³, LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born June 19, 1952 in STANLY CO NC. She married BILLY LEE PURSER May 29, 1972 in STANLY CO NC. He was born October 23, 1951 in STANLY CO NC.

Children of ANN BURLESON and BILLY PURSER are:

- i. JAMIE LEE⁵ PURSER, b. April 30, 1977.
- ii. NICOLE ELAINE PURSER, b. June 22, 1985.

12. CYNTHIA LEE⁴ BURLESON (*JOHNNY PAUL³, LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born August 8, 1958 in STANLY CO NC. She married RONNIE EUGENE DRY March 3, 1979 in STANLY CO NC. He was born February 25, 1957 in STANLY CO NC.

Children of CYNTHIA BURLESON and RONNIE DRY are:

- i. AMANDA JOY⁵ DRY, b. October 16, 1980.
- ii. TRAVIS LEE DRY, b. August 23, 1982.
- iii. CATHERIN JILL DRY, b. June 5, 1985.

13. ANGELA LENA⁴ BURLESON (*JOHNNY PAUL³, LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born December 31, 1959 in STANLY CO NC. She married ALTON RUDISILL April 7, 1985 in STANLY CO NC. He was born April 15, 1960 in CATAWBA CO NC.

Children of ANGELA BURLESON and ALTON RUDISILL are:

- i. BRADLEY AARON⁵ RUDISILL, b. October 15, 1988, CATAWBA CO NC.
- ii. HUNTER PAUL RUDISILL, b. December 7, 1994, CATAWBA CO NC.

14. LESLIE ROSE⁴ SNUGGS (*HILDA ROSE³ BURLESON, LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born September 12, 1960 in STANLY CO NC. She married ALAN HARWOOD PHILLIPS June 26, 1982 in ROCKINGHAM CO NC, son of JAMES PHILLIPS and ALMA PHILLIPS. He was born November 22, 1959 in STANLY CO NC.

Children of LESLIE SNUGGS and ALAN PHILLIPS are:

- i. GILBERT ALAN⁵ PHILLIPS, b. June 9, 1995.
- ii. SAMUEL JAMES PHILLIPS, b. June 9, 1995.
- iii. PAUL THOMAS PHILLIPS, b. June 9, 1995.

15. LEON DEWITT SNUGGS⁴ JR. (*HILDA ROSE³ BURLESON, LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born May 8, 1962 in EDEN, ROCKINGHAM COUNTY NC. He married BILLIE JEAN SMITH August 18, 1990 in CRIPPLE CREEK, COLORADO.

Children of LEON JR. and BILLIE SMITH are:

- i. LEON DEWITT (WITT)⁵ SNUGGS III, b. June 4, 2000.
- ii. SMITH WILLIAM SNUGGS, b. October 18, 2007, STANLY CO, NC; d. July 1, 2010, STANLY CO, NC.

More About SMITH WILLIAM SNUGGS:

Burial: RANDALL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CEMETERY, NORWOOD, NC

16. VIRGINIA LYNN⁴ SNUGGS (*HILDA ROSE³ BURLESON, LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born April 15, 1965 in EDEN, ROCKINGHAM CO NC. She married MICHAEL WAYNE SLAUGHTER May 31, 1987 in ROCKINGHAM CO NC.

Child of VIRGINIA SNUGGS and MICHAEL SLAUGHTER is:

- i. ADAM MICHAEL⁵ SLAUGHTER, b. January 31, 1999.

17. ROBERT SINCLAIR⁴ NUNN (*KLON³ DEL BURLESON, LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born December 22, 1957 in STANLY CO NC. He married SONYA MARIE COX August 9, 1987 in UNION CO NC. She was born October 3, 1964 in UNION CO NC.

Children of ROBERT NUNN and SONYA COX are:

- i. TAYLOR COX⁵ NUNN, b. June 16, 1989.
- ii. CHANDLER SINCLAIR NUNN, b. October 9, 1992.
- iii. KENNEDY MARIE NUNN, b. August 8, 1997.

18. JACK EUGENE⁴ NUNN (*KLON³ DEL BURLESON, LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born July 14, 1960 in MECKLENBURG CO NC. He married DONNA GAIL YELTON May 15, 1988 in MECKLENBURG CO NC. She was born May 20, 1960.

Children of JACK NUNN and DONNA YELTON are:

- i. TREVOR SINCLAIR⁵ NUNN, b. January 16, 1991, MECKLENBURG CO NC.
- ii. SPENCER LEE NUNN, b. August 26, 1994, MECKLENBURG CO NC.
- iii. CARLEY ANNE NUNN, b. October 29, 2003.

19. KELLY JO⁴ NUNN (*KLON³ DEL BURLESON, LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born August 19, 1962 in MECKLENBURG CO NC. She married DARRELL KEVIN FRIDAY April 12, 1986 in MECKLENBURG CO NC. He was born April 27, 1964.

Children of KELLY NUNN and DARRELL FRIDAY are:

- i. AUSTIN TROY⁵ FRIDAY, b. December 4, 1991, MECKLENBURG CO NC.
- ii. BRENDAN KYLE FRIDAY, b. February 5, 1993, MECKLENBURG CO NC.
- iii. CONNER DEVON FRIDAY, b. October 30, 1996, MECKLENBURG CO NC.

Generation No. 4

20. LINDSAY TRUDELL⁵ LEWIS (*SHERRY BURLESON⁴ GREENE, RUBY LOIS³ BURLESON, LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born June 6, 1983. She married JOEY FOLEY.

Child of LINDSAY LEWIS and JOEY FOLEY is:

- i. CALEB WALTER⁶ FOLEY, b. November 23, 2009.

21. ASHLEY RUTH⁵ FURR (*WANDA RUTH⁴ BURLESON, JAY BRICE³, LENA ODESSA² LOWDER, JONAH¹ HATLEY*) was born October 7, 1980. She married BRANDON CARPENTER.

Children of ASHLEY FURR and BRANDON CARPENTER are:

- i. SAMUEL RYAN⁶ CARPENTER, b. February 14, 2008.
- ii. CHARLIE BRICE CARPENTER.