

Burleson Family Research Group

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Susan And Mike Taylor Speak At The Dedication Ceremony For Isaac Burleson Jr.



Good afternoon, it is wonderful to see everyone here today. We are the Burleson Family; there are a lot of us, we live all over Stanly County, through-out NC, and the southeast. Probably many other places in our country as well. As we pause today to honor one of our ancestors, Isaac Burleson Jr., shortly my husband Michael will tell you something about the time of Isaac Burleson Jr. But I want to talk with you, very briefly because I know it is chilly today a bit about what it means in this day and time to be a Burleson. Now one of our Burleson family is Steve Higon, he is the assistant District Attorney here in Stanly County and he works with me a lot in court. And just a moment ago I said now I hope I don't get tongue tied and not remember what I was going to say, and he said well this is a different group from what we usually talk to, but I am sure you will remember your remarks.

I want to thank each of you who came out and each of those who took part in making this day possible. Some folks did the difficult work of moving the stone and setting it up. Some folks arranged for the marker, some folks did the research so we would know more about our family. Some folks provided the refreshments today and the wonderful place to put this marker to teach us more about of family. Thank you each one for all you

have done, how many folks here have participated in some way arranging this day, this day of dedication to Isaac Burleson. (Applause)

Most all of us here today are Burleson descendants, I descend from Isaac Jr, Billie, Absalom, and his daughter Sarah Ann Burleson Sides. The closes connection there for me I suppose is Sarah Ann Burleson Sides. She is the grandmother of my mother. Like so many families in the early part of this century, Sarah Ann, as widow, lived with her son, my grandfather Jasper Sides, and while my grandfather and his wife, Emma Sides worked to provide for their large family, his mother Sarah Ann Burleson Sides took care of the home, my mother and her sister have such wonderful memories of Sarah Ann Burleson Sides. She was a person who was a lot of fun to be with, she was great story teller, a wonderful cook, and she made a delightful home for her son, her daughter-in law, and their children, and all the cousins, nieces and nephews that seem to congregate there. I think that hospitality is a hallmark of what it means to be a Burleson. I think that as a family that we believe in reaching out to other people and encouraging them and showing them warmth and showing them love as other human beings. We know also that the Burleson Family is known for its hard work and service to its fellow man. I am Proud to be a Burleson. I

know that each of you are also proud to be a Burleson or happen to be married to one. And with that I am going to turn this over to my better half my husband Michael Taylor. Michael practices law here in Albemarle is a true historian. My husband has written the history of Stanly County for the Historic Property Commission and he has been very active in historical research though out Stanly County in many ways. He has enjoyed doing this project very much though, learning something about my family and our son's ancestry here in Stanly County. I hope you will enjoy hearing what he has to say and I know that he has enjoyed very much bring this to you. Thank you so much for letting me participate in a great day of dedication of a marker to our ancestor Isaac Burleson Jr.

As Susan said, I am person who loves history and I am married into the Burleson Family so I have spent some time, not as much as many of you, spent some time learning about the Burleson's. When I first meet my wife now it getting close to thirty years ago, I was amazed to learn that her family had always lived, for more than 200 years, right in the same place where she grew up in Stanly County. On a early trip to visit her family, back before we got married, I believe it was in the spring or summer of 1976, he mother said you have to meet Miss Lena, so Susan took me to meet Miss Lena and she hoped in our car and we went around various places in Stanly County, out in this section and the Millingport area. She pointed out various places where the Burleson Family and other relatives had lived. But you know J.D., I never hear about Isaac back at that time, or Isaac Jr., I heard about Billie, that was about as far back as the knowledge was reported to me went, it may have been known, but that is all that I learned in those early conversations, so I really want to thank J.D. and John H. Burleson and members of the Burleson Family Research Group. For all the tremendous work that you have done in pulling together the pieces of the Mosaic and taking us back a long way and helping us all understand even more about this great family's heritage. Today, previously there was a dedication for Isaac Burleson Sr. a very significant person, a Revolutionary War Patriot. Today we are coming to dedicate this stone to his son and daughter-in-law, Isaac Burleson Jr. and Catherine Cassell Burleson who was his wife; also the site of the Burleson 1 and 2 School Houses.

Who was Isaac Burleson Jr. well if you look on your program, there is a little section about him, I want to recommend that to you, but I want to bring him, just in a few words, bring him alive or paint a picture of what his life was like, to you. He was born in 1784, as you see on the marker, and he past away on a very significant day in American History, July 4, 1863. And I would like for you to just think about what that period of time means. We don't know as much as we would like to know about Isaac Burleson Jr. Those people who do genealogical and family history research will tell you that Stanly County and Montgomery County is on of the most difficult places in the entire United States to do genealogical research, because the Court House of Montgomery County burned before Stanly County was formed in 1841, out of Montgomery County. So a lot of the standard records, deeds, rural record, and other court record, are gone, consumed in the flames. You have to rely on family Bibles, and stray letters, and that sort of thing, and it makes it pretty difficult. But lets think back to what this area was like in 1784, Stanly was part of Montgomery County at that time, and Montgomery County west of the river, which is now Stanly County had less than 3000 people, think about that, that is maybe Locust and Stanfield, about that many people scatter all over the whole county. So it was a very sparsely settled area, it was a frontier area. He was born a son of a Revolutionary War Veteran, he grew up to marry a daughter, Catherine, her father was also a Revolutionary War Veteran, her father went up north and fought with George Washington, and was at the battle of Monmouth, as the information that has turned up. So this was a very remote area, we are not exactly on a main road or on beaten path these days still. But in that time we way off the beaten path. This is where he was born and where he lived out his life. Well you say 1784, that was way back in the time of George Washington, no it was before George Washington got to be President, 1784 was three years before the founders meet in Philadelphia to write the, draft up the Constitution. At the time of his birth, Isaac Burleson Jr's birth the United States was governed by the Articles of Confederation, there was lot of economic and a lot of political turmoil, the American Revolution had only ended the year before, 1783, with the Treaty of Paris. So times were rough, as he grew up so grew up the young republic. I think that is one point that important for you to realize, that the

history of your family, is the history of Stanly County, the history of North Carolina, and also the history of the United States. As the country grew so did the Burleson Family, as he was coming of age, so was our country. When he was 28 years old the War of 1812 broke out, when he was 45 years old a fellow from right near, down in Waxhaw, Andrew Jackson got to be President in 1829. The Mexican War broke out in 1846 when Isaac Jr. was 62 we think of him as entering into his senior years.

I like to think about who is about the same age as me, because I like to remember that I am the class of 68 in college, so was Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, we were all the same class in college that allows us to compare to other people. Well Isaac Burleson Jr. was born the same year as Zachary Taylor, who became our 12th President in 1849. So that gives you an idea about the period. But when he was 76 years old, think about it, that the time you would want things to settle down, and enter into the golden years and a time of peace. That was not a time of peace, that was a time when a storm gathered over the land as they say. In 1860, when Isaac was 76 years old, Abraham Lincoln was elected President and so when he died on July the 4th 1863, his President was Jefferson Davis, just think about that and he died in a time of tragedy, in his own family he lost a least 2 sons, out of 10 children, 8 that are documented. In addition he lost 4 grandsons, just think about that happening in the later years of your life. So after living a good life and being here as a farmer, it is documented he was a farmer. He had to see the last years of his darken by tragedy. His farm in 1856 was listed as 40 acres improved, and 300 acres unimproved. So not a great farm, not a huge farm, but it was a very solid farm here in Stanly County. When I think about Isaac Burleson Jr., I ask myself, what do the records say, we don't know as much about him as we would like too. He was obviously a highly respected person. When the came around to get people, when they wanted to divide Stanly off from Montgomery County, they got him to sign the participation as was mentioned. When they need someone to serve as guardian of his deceased brother's, Joseph, children, he was appointed guardian over his children. When they need someone to stand bond for the Constable of Almond Township, he was one of those who stood good for the Constable's Bond. So as I have thought about Isaac Burleson Jr. I have asked myself, what kind of person was he; I thought well I think he is one of those people that hold the world together. We can't find any record that he went off and served in any war anywhere, he was person who was right here, you have heard it said, they also served that stay at home did the work what was necessary to kept things going, that is the kind of person Isaac Jr. was, he kept thing going, he helped hold the world together, and we are all here because of it in a since, and his wife Catherine. I would like to say that I think that is the kind of people the Burleson's are, they are people that hold the world together keep things going. Hopefully that will help get a small idea about who this person is, Isaac Burleson Jr. and his wife Catherine Cassell. And so today we come to dedicate this stone, thank you for listening. (Applause)

