

THE NAME "BURLESON"

The following is a collection of many "Authorities" who have attempted to determine the origin of our name.

From the records of Howard Burleson, Hartsell, Alabama, supplied by his nephew David A. Burleson, Decatur, Alabama:

"A record source in England states that the name was not Welsh or Irish. The earliest of the name sound (Many variations in spelling) is to be found in Durham and York Counties, England, as early as 1419."

"The name is derived from 'Burles' or 'Burlez' from which the adjective 'burly' is derived. The name originated in the mountains of Wales. The name nearly 400 years ago was spelled 'Burleyson'. 'Burles' or 'Burlez' originally meant a mountaineer or a thick heavy strong man."

"It is not the desire to refute the Wales origin altogether, but it is believed that some of the family made their way to Wales with the idea of crossing to Ireland, where it was easier to arrange passage to America."

From the book, "A Brief History of the Burleson Family" by Dr. Solomon S. Burleson;

"There is reason to conclude that our name is of Scandinavian origin. It may fairly be formed from the Danish word 'Burlase', and the common affix son or sen. Taken altogether, and used in a patronymic sense, they plainly signify: 'The children of the heavy timbered hills.' I have been assured by graduates of the University of Upsala and Copenhagen, that the name was plainly Scandinavian, and was in use in their countries at this time (1884)."

From "Domesday Book", Census of William The Conqueror in about 1050 A.D., there is a listing, "Whinehoc de Burlli". Land owner.

From "British Surnames", State of Alabama Archives, Montgomery:
BURLEY - Local name in Hants and Rutland.

p.5 "the terminations and son, so common in English names, are derived from the Norse and 'sonr' , the 'r' being dropped in compounds. The Danish make the last 'sen'."

From "Patronymica Britiannica", State of Alabama Archives, Montgomery:
BURLACE, BORLASE, BURLHS - Parish in St. Wenn County Cornwall.
BURLEIGH, BURLEY - Towns in Counties Northhampt, Rutland, Hants and York.

From "Dictionary of Given Names", State of Alabama Archives, Montgomery:
BURLEIGH - (Teutonic) Dweller at the castle lea.
BURLEY - The but end of a lance.

From "Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames", Birmingham Public Library:
BURLESON - From local "Burleton". A parish in Dorset, six miles from Dorchester.

From "English Ancestral Names", Birmingham Public Library, Birmingham, Ala:
BURLE - Cupboard, One who rules over wine cellar. A 'butler'.

By: Wm. Steven Burleson, Birmingham, Alabama
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