

# *Recollections*

of the  
*Burleson Family Research Group*

Isaac Burleson Sr.'s Grave Site  
Dusty Road, Stanly County, NC



Saturday December 4th, 1999

L/R Alvin and Louise Burleson, JD Burleson, Daniel Burleson, Coolidge Eudy, John and Nancy Woodward Burleson, PK Burleson, Richard Burleson, David Almond, Jeff and Justin Burleson, Claude Burleson, Larry Burleson and Aaron Lorch.

The money donated at our reunion last year was used to pay for the improvements made to Isaac's Grave Site.



This Article ran in the Stanly News and Press  
Sunday March 5, 2000



### **Protecting burial sites**

The Burleson Family Research Group met Dec. 4, 1999, at the burial place of an ancestor, Isaac Burleson, who fought in the American Revolutionary War, to erect a fence around the gravesite in order to protect the headstones from curious animals in the area. His grave is in an ancient family cemetery located on Dale Burris' farm on Dusty Road near the Red Cross community. A large number of people came out to help and when they finished all their hard labor, there was a beautiful fence of black posts with silver chains looping between them surrounding the many graves. The funds for this project were raised at the last Burleson Family Reunion, which is held the third Sunday in October in the DAV Building at Burleson Square on N.C. 24-27 Bypass. The BFRG will meet Monday at 6 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at the library. For more information, call John H. Burleson at 982-0680 or Aaron Lorch at 474-7805.



In one of our monthly meetings, Don and Oleama Burluson met with us and shared the stories listed. We all had a great time, and we want to invite everyone to visit with us.

Don is a Grandson of Absolom. Don's Dad was seventeen when Absolom died. Don shares some stories with us from his fathers past-he said he didn't know if they were true but here they are.

Grandpa Absolom was stationed at Fort Fisher where they built a wall to keep yanks out. While there he was vaccinated for small pox. Days after being vaccinated, when the scab got ripe the Dr. would take a needle and remove the puss and stuff from around the scab and use it to vaccinate others. They could vaccinate 10 men on one scab! His grandpa got foolin' around and knocked his scab off. The Dr. gave him a fit and told him that scab was worth \$100. Grandpa told the Dr. it was over on the door if he wanted it!

The second story is about Red Hill Gold Mine. Absolom and two other men were partners. They would pack a lunch, sweet taters and other stuff and they would dig and dig, sometimes for days at a time, whenever they could spare time away from the farm, but they didn't find a thing. This day, they decided to move over to where some flint rock was. The tunnels were usually only big enough for one person at a time so they would take turns digging. After awhile, Absolom was ready to quit and go home and get the crops planted so he told the others to count him out! All of a sudden the man inside digging said, "What is this?" Absolom did not hesitate to say, "I'm in, I'm in, I'm in!"

One day as Jepatha was walkin' up the road by Ralph's farm, he had a handkerchief around his mouth. He was one who used bad language all the time, and it was a real cold day. Ralph (Don's Dad) asked, "Jep, you got a toothache?" Jep replied, "I've never had a toothache in my life and God yes, they're all goin' to hell!"

Don continued sharing information with us like Nora Almond had named him. He was the last of seven children and was Baby Boy Burluson. When he went on a cruise a few years ago, he had to get three proofs of who he was, including school records and two others to prove that he really was Baby Boy Burluson! His wife Oleama said she had to go to Cabarrus County to get her records because the Dr. that delivered her was drunk! She had to get proof of who she was, too.

Don also said his father had passed down a story from Absolom of how he took part in a mule team convoy that hauled rocks from Granite Quarry to Fort Fisher. These convoys were sometimes 4 to 6 miles long and traveled almost 200 miles. The rocks were put out into the water to keep ships from coming in too close.

Absolom's widow, Sarah Anne, lived with Don's Mom & Dad until she died in 1925. His dad was 35 yrs. old and his mom was 18 when they were married.

John H.  
Alvin, and  
Don Burluson

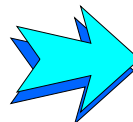


The **Burluson Family Research Group** meets the first Monday of each month, in the Stanly County Library from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Everyone interested is invited to attend these meetings.



Aaron Lorch,  
Kenneth Burluson  
and Blye Burluson  
Lowder

How do you like our newsletter? We would like to hear from you. Send us your comments, suggestions and ideas.



Contact us here

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Our 4th Annual Bureson Family Reunion  
October 17, 1999



**Honored at reunion:** Lois Huneycutt presents a True Daughter certificate to Dallie Mae Bureson as her Honorguard, the 14th NC Reactivated, gives a salute and Daniel Bureson, master of ceremonies, looks on.

### Bureson Family Reunion called a success

The Bureson Family Reunion took place on the third Sunday of October and was directed by Hilda Snuggs and Daniel Bureson.

The program theme was "The Service of the Bureson Family in the War of Northern Aggression" and John Hoyle Bureson gave a presentation.

A covered dish dinner was shared by approximately 100 descendants of Isaac Bureson, Sr., representing the family names of Almond, Harwood, Castle, Rogers and Sides, just to mention a few.

Coinciding with the theme was a special presentation to Dallie Mae Bureson for being a "True Daughter" of a Confederate veteran, Ebin Bureson, who was a

member of Co. K "The Stanly Guards" of the 28th NC, Lane's Brigade in the Army of Northern Virginia.

An Honorguard provided by the 14th NC Reactivated, a seven-man company of Sgts. Mike Long and Tommy Hoglon, escorted Dallie Mae to the front of the stage where she was presented a True Daughter certificate by Lois Huneycutt, president of Albemarle Chapter 1023 United Daughters of the Confederacy. J.D. Bureson, representing the Point Lookout Prisoner of War organization, presented a second

certificate.

A group photograph of all in attendance was taken by Little Photography of Locust with an option of individual family photographs to be taken after the presentations.

Family charts and information were supplied by the Bureson Research Group to share and guide descendants toward their relatives of the past and through parts of their lost personal history.

"We feel that this event was a success and a good time was shared by all," a spokesman said.



A special "Thank You" to the  
14th Regt NC Troops Reactivated

### We want to welcome Nancy Gedney Woodward Bureson to our Bureson Family

Nancy Louise Gedney was born in Syracuse NY, on August 31, 1953 to Aleity Mae Casler and Norman John Gedney. Aleity's first husband Kenneth Earl Lovell died in 1950. She had two half brothers, Kenneth Earl Lovell and Richard Duane Lovell. Kenneth was killed in an automobile accident at the age of 19 on May 23 1965. Richard still resides in Syracuse.

Nancy married Dennis Jon Woodard on May 6, 1972. They had 3 children, Eric Steven, Jeffrey Michael, and Sarah Corrine Woodward. Eric married Stacie Price and has one son Kort Gabriel Woodward. Jeffrey married Susan Kindley and they have a daughter Samantha Jane Woodward and second child due in December 2000. Sarah has a wedding planned for October 1, 2000 to Robert Merrill. Nancy and Dennis moved to Concord NC in October 1991. They later separated and were divorced on July 26 1996.

On August 23 1998 Nancy started dating John Hoyle Bureson. They were married April 8, 2000. Also John and Nancy have two additions to their family. Jaclyn Nicole Britt was born May 17, 2000 to Thomas and Terri Britt. Terrie is John daughter. Kort Gabriel Woodward was born August 30, 2000 to Eric and Stacie Woodward. Eric is Nancy's son.

Everyone please make Nancy welcome and we want to thank her for all her hard work with the Bureson Family Research Group. She is our secretary and does a wonderful job keeping up with the minutes at our monthly meetings.



As related by John Hoyle Burleson at our BFRG Meeting March 6, 2000.

### Isaac Burleson Sr.

My Father, Uncles and my Grandmother, Ada Burleson, told all of us grandchildren the story of three Burleson brothers. If I ever heard any names they were forgotten years ago because I failed to write them down.

**The tradition goes something like this:**

One of these brothers got into trouble and was under arrest. The other two broke him out of jail and they all left the county. Of the three brothers, one would go to the Western Mountains, one would go towards the South, and one would settle here in Stanly County on property he had seen once before while traveling to record an earlier land deed. My father, Taft Burleson, said several times that this Burleson lived near what is now Indian Trail, North Carolina. I remember even riding down to look for that area one day when I was six or seven you don't pay too much attention and when you're a teenager you don't listen because you already know more than your parents do. I'm over fifty now and want to write down everything I can for my grandchildren.

Let me quote you from William S. Burleson, founder of the Burleson Association in his 1983 letter to Beulah Way a Great Granddaughter of Isaac Sr. and you decide if it agrees with tradition that was passed down to me.

*The Father of your Isaac Burleson Sr. is not known for sure. Most Burleson historians, past and present, have believed he was the son of John Burleson, who was killed during the American Revolutionary War. According to family tradition, John did leave a family. David Burleson, 1755-1835, is said to be another son of John. He died in Rutherford County, Tennessee and his descendants migrated to Northern Alabama, then to Texas. The estate of Aaron Burleson was probated in Wilkes County, Georgia in December 1783. Since he fits into no other family, We believe he was also son of John and a brother of your Isaac.*



What we do know about Isaac Sr. is this: all Burlesons from Stanly County are descended from one man, Isaac Sr. He did have at least on brother named David that also lived in Stanly County, but he moved to Tennessee along with all his sons in the early 1800's.

Isaac appears in Montgomery County (now Stanly County) on the 1782 tax list as living on Little Bear Creek. The first document we have on Isaac in Stanly is 100 acre land deed on Little Bear Creek filed in 1779.

This was probably his pension for his service in the American Revolution.

Isaac Sr. was married to Martha and they had at least five sons. First is Isaac Jr. who stayed in Stanly County,

Jonathan who moved to Union County, NC, David who moved to Mississippi, Joseph who also stayed in Stanly County, and Thomas who moved to Missouri. They also had at least on daughter, Jane who married William Castle and moved to Mississippi.

We know Isaac Sr. died between 1810 and 1812 and is buried in a cemetery located near Dusty Road in the Lambert Community of Stanly County, NC.

Congratulations to John H. Burleson and Nancy Woodward who were married on April 8, 2000 at the Crystal Wedding Chapel, in Blowing Rock, NC .

### Isaac Burleson JR.

Isaac Jr. purchased land adjoining Isaac Sr.'s on Little Bear Creek. He married Catherine Castle the daughter of Thomas Castle, a Rev. War veteran, and she inherited her fathers land on Little Bear Creek when Thomas Castle left this area to settle in Mississippi. His son William who married Jane Burleson (Isaac Jr.'s sister) and Thomas' daughter Mary Ann who was married to David Burleson all left this area with Thomas Castle to settle in Mississippi also.

## 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

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.

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 R. Burleson, all of Albemarle; three daughters, Ruby H. 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.



A story written by  
Lena Lowder Burleson

### 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 years. 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.



## Volume 3, "Recollections" Is Dedicated to the Honor and Memory of Lena Lowder Burleson

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.

J.D. Burleson

