

Burleson Family Research Group's New Project

We at the BFRG are very excited about this new project. John Hoyle Burleson has done extensive research and along with the valuable information provided by the Burleson Family Association, John has compiled this into what we believe to be the facts about Aaron Burleson. Here is just the first portion of his research. We want to publish this in different forms of data, first will be the written portion with pictures and documentation. We also want to put this in a DVD format so John can explain it in much more detail.

We want to show only information with documented proof. John will explain some of his theories and give examples of facts that lead him to his conclusions. This will be our position and give you things to think about. We also want to receive feedback and hopefully we can open a dialog for discussion.

If you have comments or questions please e-mail them to bfrginfo@gmail.com and JBURLESON2@carolina.rr.com

The Life and Travels of Aaron Burleson

John Hoyle Burleson 2012

There have been many theories and some facts that have surfaced in the last 150 years about Aaron Burlison whose Will was probated in Washington County North Carolina in 1782. Some of these stories are: He was born in Buncombe Co. NC and he died in Tennessee. These two stories can't be true because the County of Buncombe was not created until 10 years after Aaron's death and the State of Tennessee was not created until 1796. From old documents and published articles we now know that Aaron was born in New Jersey and died in Sullivan County North Carolina. Aaron is known as Aaron II by most researchers. The II is a modern designation to distinguish this Aaron from his father Aaron from Wales. The trouble with this theory is that there is not the first document or a first hand source that indicates that there was ever an Aaron Burleson from Wales or anywhere else that was old enough to be the father of Aaron Burleson of the Washington Co NC Will. If that document exist it has not come to light yet. We just do not know the father of Aaron Burleson. But there is some new information today and thanks to the Burleson Family Association much information has been gathered and preserved in the Bulletin. Thanks to Mary Keller and Helen Burleson Kelso the Editors and the many researchers that have contributed their research, a good history of Aaron's life can be presented.

Lunenburg Co. Virginia

Aaron is mentioned in Lunenburg County Virginia records in 1746, he must have been born 21 years prior to that or at least about 1725. Aaron's son Thomas is shown as a chain bearer in Aaron's 1766 Mecklenburg County, North Carolina land entry. North Carolina law required a chain bearer to be at least 14 years of age making his birth prior to 1752. Aaron Burleson JR is thought to have been the oldest son which would make his birth about 1746-48.

Thomas Jones in 1742 was granted several thousands acres of land on Slate River. Slate River is a tributary of the James River and is completely inside of the county of Buckingham VA. today. The Slate River is about half way between Richmond to the east, and Lynchburg to the west. It is also located about 45 miles east of the south fork of the Little Otter River where Aaron obtain a Kings Grant in 1749. Thomas Jones had at least five sons and at least one daughter, looking at the birth years of Thomas's children 1715 thru 1735, these years match the period that Aaron was born, making Aaron the same age as the Jones siblings.

Thomas Jones of Virginia was born about 1690. Jones did not leave a Will but instead he gave all of his children land as they became of age. Years later this practice would produce a lawsuit between two of his sons, William Jones and John Jones as they began to deed land to their adult sons.

The 1793 (William) Jones vs. (John) Jones case was begun in Prince Edward County Court and would finish in the Richmond Court of Appeals in 1798. In the 1793 hearings depositions were taken and presented. One deposition was by Thomas Jones Jr. a younger brother where he swears:

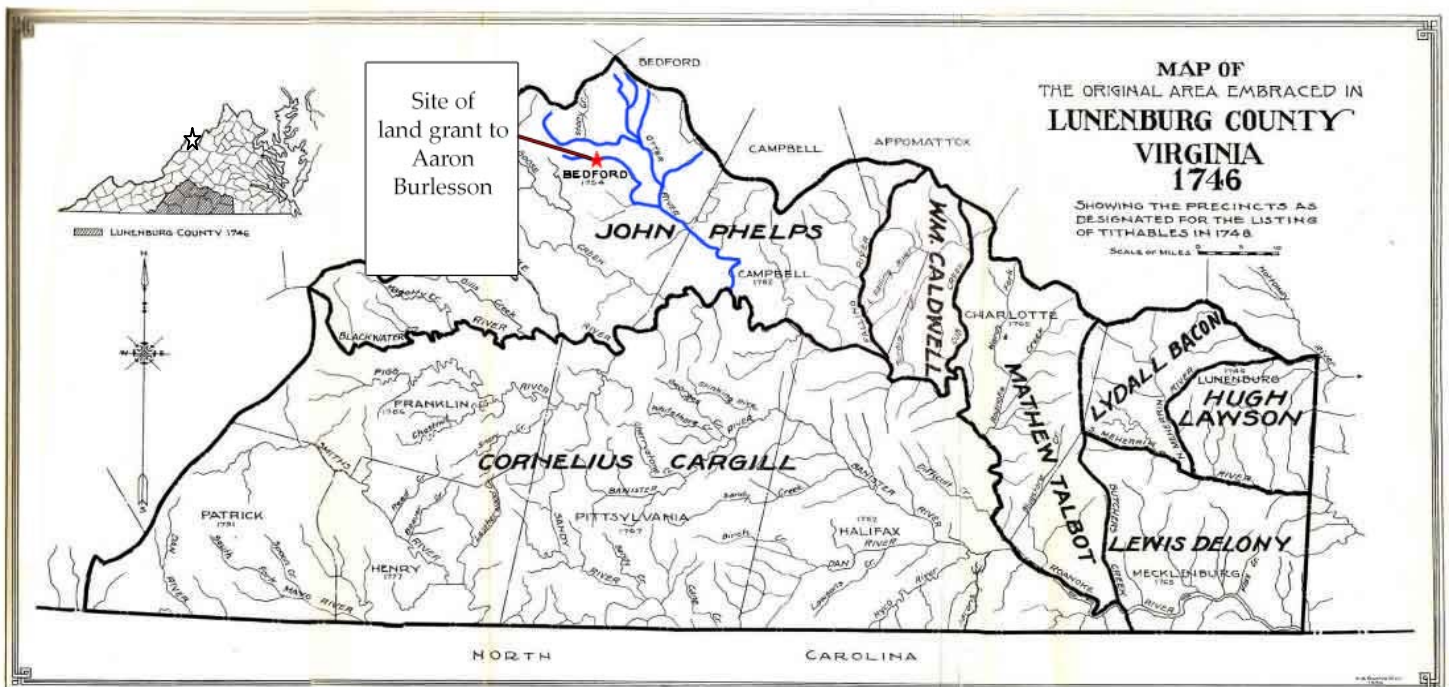
"Deposition of Thomas Jones, at the house of William Jones in Buckingham Co., Feb. 3, 1794: His 'father Thomas Jones did agree to give Aaron Burleson a certain tract of land lying on both sides of Slate River the quantity of acres not known by me but my brother John Jones did purchase said tract of land of the said Burleson and paid him his price in full for it and for which land my father Thomas Jones and my brother William Jones did make my brother John Jones a right to and this deponant further saith that the said tract of land lies in the bounds of the concluding [inclusive] patern [patent]."

The gift to Aaron Burlison was not part of the disputed land but the affidavit was to show how Thomas Jones Sr. had disposed of his land to his children. There can be no doubt that Aaron Burlison married a daughter of Thomas Jones Sr. therefore Aaron Burlison was receiving his wife's share of the Thomas Jones inheritance.

The question; Is this Aaron Burlison with a Jones wife the same man that appears on Sandy Run Creek in Mecklenburg County in 1766? The answer can be found by studying other documents and following the Aaron Burlison's connection to the Clark family.

1749 - Aaron Burlison obtained a Kings Grant on the South Fork of the Little Otter River. This land is approximately where the town of Bedford Virginia now sits in the shadow of the Peaks of the Otter Mountain and is gentle rolling hills and clear mountain fed streams.

Aaron Burlison disappears from written records after his sale of his land in Lunenburg County prior to 1755 until he purchased two tracks of land in Cumberland County, North Carolina in 1761. He is said by a Cumberland/Moore County historian to have been on Dunham Creek by 1760.



Washington County, Tennessee
PROBATE - Tipton County, Tennessee

Inez McClellan
Associate Editor

Mrs. Louise S. PAYNE, 3609 W. Potter Dr., Glendale, AZ - 85308, sent the following will. Washington County, Tennessee. Will Book 1, p.2
The last will and testament of Aaron BURLESON.

I, Aron BURLESON being in perfect mind and memory considering the uncertainty of life and being desirous of settling my affairs in a regular manner before I depart this life I do hereby give and bequeth all my possessions as followeth viz: first I commit my Soul to God that gave it my body I commit to the dust from whence it came and my worldly estate real and personal I give and bequeth as followeth; first I give and bequeth to my beloved wife all my real and personal estate during her lifetime except three mares which I give, one to my son John, one to my son Jonathan, and one to my son Joseph, and each of said sons a good rifle gun which my widow is to give out of the estate to the three sons when they become of suitable age, and further, I give and bequeth unto my daughter Elizabeth one shilling sterling, and to my son Thomas one shilling sterling, and to my daughter Sarah one shilling sterling, and to my son Aron one shilling sterling, and to my daughter Rachel one shilling sterling, and to my daughter Nancy one shilling sterling, and to my daughters Abigail and Mary and Rhoda each one cow, the whole to be paid by my widow out of my estate and the remainder of all my estate real and personal, I give to my son James at the death of my beloved wife or at her next marriage. In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal this Sixteenth day of November 1781. I do hereby, before sealing of the above last will and testament, constitute and appoint my beloved wife executrix and my son Aaron BURLESON executor of the above will.

Witnesses:

Thomas SHIELDS
Patrick SHIELDS
Henry CLARK

Aaron BURLESON (Seal)

Proven May Sessions 1782.

Permanent white settlement in what is now northeastern Tennessee began in 1769. These settlers formed a government known as the Watauga Association in 1772. The Wataugans asked for and obtained annexation to North Carolina. They were included in Washington County which covered the entire area that is now Tennessee. Being somewhat isolated, the settlers were more or less left to fend for themselves. In 1784, they formed the State of Franklin and elected John SEVIER as governor. Franklin was dissolved in 1788 and the area became known as Washington District. At this time there were seven counties in what later became the State of Tennessee. Washington Co. included the present Carter and Unicoi counties. Sullivan Co. included the present Johnson County. In 1784 North Carolina ceded its western lands to the U.S. government, and the area became a territory in 1790. Aaron BURLESON who made his will in 1781, and his children, were in the midst of all these changes in government.

GENEALOGICAL GLEANINGS FROM THE SOUTH, Vol. II, by Lola Bird EMERY, p.176. Will of Mary SMITH of Tipton County, Tennessee. 14 Mar.1856. To granddaughter Urana BURLESON, to niece Sarah MAS, to grandson Howard HOLSHAUSER. Executor: P.W. WALTON. Witnesses: P.W. WALTON and D.C. SLAUGHTER.

We want to thank the Burleson Family Association for allowing us to publish Aaron's Last Will and Test.

Burleson Family Association
FAMILY GROUP SHEET

Husband's Full Name Joseph Burleson (1770-1849)					Family Records	Census	Tombs/Stone	Church	Bible	Published Source	Vital Record	Deed	Probate	Court/Case Record	Volume	Page	Additional Notes Give exact location or ownership of source material
DATA	DATE	TOWN	COUNTY	STATE													
Birth	1 Feb 1770			NC	X	X	X	X									*Joseph Burleson Bible
Marriage	(1) 29 Feb 1790							X									"
Death	2 Aug 1849		Bastrop	TX			X	X					X	X			Probate Case #216, Bastrop & Minutes Bk. C, p.106
Burial	Old Burleson Cem. near Smithville TX																Will of Aaron, 1781/1782,
FATHER'S Name	Aaron Burleson				X								X				Washington Co., TN
MOTHER'S Maiden Name	Rachel				X							X			I	55	Joseph Burleson Bible
Wife's Maiden Name	(1) Nancy Gage				X			X									Joseph Burleson Bible
DATA	DATE	TOWN	COUNTY	STATE													
Birth	19 June 1772								X								"
Death	19 Jan 1815		Madison	AL					X								"
Burial																	
FATHER'S Name																	
MOTHER'S Maiden Name																	
CENSUS HISTORY: 1790 Rutherford Co. NC, p. 118; 1799 Tax List, Barren Co. KY (LDS Microfilm #7865, p. 2); 1800 Rutherford Co. NC, p. 94; 1819 land records in Lawrence Co. AL (Orphans Court Records, Book A, p. 190 and Book C, p.7); not located in census records for 1810, 1820, 1830; 1840 Tax List, Bastrop Co. TX; land grant in Austin's Colony, October, 1835 (General Land Office, Vol. 10, p.89) CHURCH: Primitive Baptist (see Newman)																	
MILITARY RECORD: War of 1812; Mississippi Militia, Perkins Reg.; Creek War with Gen. Jackson, 1814 (see Royall)																	
OTHER MARRIAGES: (2) Elizabeth Ailor/Aylor, license 25 Jan 1815, Madison Co. AL, Book 1, p. 180 (Bible record states married 15 Feb 1815.) Elizabeth was born 17 April 1788 and died 27 September 1857 (Bible). She is buried in Old Prairie Lea Cemetery; cemetery record shows she died 8 April 1858 (Caldwell County, Texas Cemetery Records). See "References Cited" #20.																	
*Joseph Burleson Bible is preserved in the Alamo Museum, San Antonio, Texas.																	

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FAMILY GROUP - JOSEPH BURLESON (1770-1849) Rita Burleson Brya

FAMILY GROUP - JOSEPH BURLESON (1770-1849)

Rita Burleson Bryan

Continuation of the Family

No.	CHILDREN'S NAMES	SEX	DATA	DATE	TOWN	COUNTY	STATE	
1	James Burleson	M	Birth	6 Feb 1793 (Bible)				
			Marriage	30 Nov 1816/Bk.I,p.286	Madison	AL		
			Mar. #1 Delilah Stringfield	Death	28 Dec 1868	Fayette	TX	
			Mar. #2 Melinda Sevier	Burial				
2	John Burleson	M	Birth	19 Oct 1795 (Bible)				
			Marriage	14 Feb 1814/Bk.I,p.134	Madison	AL		
			Mar. #1 Mary Margaret "Peggy" Pride	Death	13 Apr 1878 (John's Bible)	Lampasas	TX	
			Mar. #2 Sarah McGinnis	Burial				
3	Mary A. "Polly" Burleson	F	Birth	2 Jan 1798 (Bible)				
			Marriage	20 Feb 1815/Bk.I,p.181	Madison	AL		
			Mar. #1 Richard Priest	Death	3 Nov 1867 Probate #592	Gonzales	TX	
			Misspelled Prewett on Mar.License		Burial			
4	Jonathan Burleson	M	Birth	28 June 1801 (Bible)				
			Marriage					
			Mar. #1	Death	5 July 1818 (Bible)			
			Mar. #2	Burial				
5	Rachael Burleson	F	Birth	14 Apr 1803 (Bible)				
			Marriage	21 Sep 1822	Lawrence	AL		
			Mar. #1 Wm.Dandridge Claiborne Jones	Death	19 Feb 1866	Bastrop	TX	
			Mar. #2	Burial	Old Burleson Cemetery	Bastrop	TX	
6	Aaron Burleson	M	Birth	24 Sep 1805 (Bible) [Tombs.24 Nov]				
			Marriage					
			Mar. #1 Marilda Hallmark	Death	15 July 1868 (Tombs.)	Fayette	TX	
			Mar. #2	Burial	Rector Cem. on Buckner Cr. near Cistern			TX
7	Joseph Burleson	M	Birth	4 March 1808 (Bible)				
			Marriage	1 Nov 1827 Bk.I,p.17	Hardeman	TN		
			Mar. #1 Ally Murray Seaton	Death	1891	Naruna	Burnet	TX
			Mar. #2 Sarah	Burial				
8	Sarah Burleson	F	Birth	25 Aug 1810 (Bible)				
			Marriage					
			Mar. #1 Hopson Burleson	Death			TX	
			Mar. #2	Burial				
9	Abigail Burleson	F	Birth	2 Dec 1817 (Bible)				
			Marriage					
			Mar. #1	Death	25 June 1822 (Bible)			
			Mar. #2	Burial				
10	Nancy Glover Burleson	F	Birth	28 Jan 1821 (Bible)				
			Marriage					
			Mar. #1	Death	5 July 1835 (Bible)			
			Mar. #2	Burial				

Continuation of the Family of:

No.	CHILDREN'S NAMES	SEX	DATA	DATE	TOWN	COUNTY	STATE	
11	Susannah Burleson	F	Birth	11 Nov 1824 (Bible)				
			Marriage	24 June 1840 (Bible)				
			Mar. #1	Thomas Monroe Hardeman	Death	4 March 1860		
Mar. #2		Burial	Old Prairie Lea Cemetery, Caldwell			TX		
12	Marion Washington Burleson	F	Birth	15 Dec 1827 (Bible)				
			Marriage					
			Mar. #1	John Fawcett	Death	4 Aug 1856 (Tombs.)	Bastrop	
Mar. #2		Burial	Old Burleson Cem. near Smithville			TX		
?	Peggy Malinda Smith Burleson	F	Birth	25 Oct 1830 (Bible)				
			Marriage					
			Mar. #1		Death			
			Mar. #2		Burial			

JOSEPH BURLESON (1770-1849)

Joseph BURLESON, born 1 February 1770,¹ was a young boy when his father, Aaron BURLESON, died in Washington County, Tennessee, in 1782,² and he was to receive a mare and a rifle when he became of suitable age. He had probably been born in North Carolina, but his father's family moved into Tennessee while he was still a child. Joseph was called "the Tennessean" in letters written by Mrs. Ann ROYALL in 1819 during her interviews with him.³

On 29 February 1790 Joseph married Nancy GAGE.¹ They were listed on the 1790 census of Rutherford County, North Carolina,⁴ and were also listed there on the 1800 census.⁵ Joseph BURLESON paid taxes on one horse in Barren County, Kentucky, in 1799⁶ but may not have lived in Barren County for any lengthy period.

Census records for the period of 1810 through 1830 have not been located for Joseph BURLESON, but a scattering of other records indicates that he was moving between Tennessee, Missouri, and Alabama before making his last move into Texas. Joseph was listed as Captain of the 29th Regiment of the State Militia in White County, Tennessee, in 1807.⁷ He was listed as a private in the Mississippi State Militia during the War of 1812,⁸ and was quoted by Mrs. Royall as a former member of General Andrew JACKSON's party against the Creek Indians in 1814.³ One of his interviews with her mentioned that he had experienced the great earthquake of 1811, which occurred in the New Madrid, Missouri, area.

Some of the children of Joseph and Nancy BURLESON married in Madison County, Alabama between 1814 and 1816, and it was in Madison County that Nancy GAGE BURLESON died in 1815.¹ Shortly after his wife's death, Joseph married

Elizabeth AILOR/AYLOR¹ The birthdates of the children of Joseph and Nancy, and the children of Joseph and his second wife, Elizabeth, are all listed in the Joseph BURLESON Family Bible, which has been preserved and is presently displayed in the museum at the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas. The birthdate of Peggy Malinda SMITH BURLESON, 25 October 1830, is listed in the Bible, but no other information is available which would confirm this girl as a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth, and she was not named in the estate records in Bastrop County, Texas, when Joseph died in 1849.⁹ The Bible record also includes an entry for Edward Horse Colt. A newspaper article published in 1928 in the San Antonio Express¹⁰ stated that Joseph BURLESON had owned the fine stallion which had sired the colt which was mentioned in the BURLESON Bible. The colt was owned by General Ed BURLESON.

Joseph BURLESON, JR., a son of Joseph and Nancy, married in 1827 in Hardeman County, Tennessee,¹¹ and his sister, Sarah BURLESON, was living with her husband, Hopson BURLESON, in Tipton County, Tennessee, in 1830.¹² It may be that others of the family of Joseph BURLESON were living in Tennessee about that same time. Colonel James Edmonds SAUNDERS¹³ wrote that Joseph BURLESON kept a public house in Lawrence County, Alabama, and land records show that he had property both in Lawrence County¹⁴ and in Marion County,¹⁵ Alabama, in 1819 and 1821. By 1835 Joseph BURLESON and his family had moved to Texas, where he received a grant of one league as a member of AUSTIN's Colony on 8 October 1835.¹⁶ He located his land on Walnut Creek east of the Colorado River. In 1840, Joseph BURLESON was listed on the tax rolls of Bastrop County.¹⁷

During the battle for independence from Mexico, Joseph BURLESON contributed pork and other supplies to the forces of his nephew, General Edward BURLESON.¹⁸ Joseph BURLESON, SR., died in Bastrop County on 2 August 1849,¹ and was buried in the old BURLESON Cemetery near Smithville.¹⁹ In the same cemetery, sometimes called the FAWCETT Cemetery, are the graves of his daughter, Rachael JONES, his daughter-in-law, Allie SEATON BURLESON, and several grandchildren. According to Mr. NEWMAN²¹ Joseph BURLESON was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church. His estate was probated in Bastrop County, with W. D. C. JONES, husband of his daughter, Rachael, acting as the Administrator.⁹

BFA members known to descend from Joseph BURLESON include #8, #30, #39, #42, #57, #60, #64, #118, #125, #147, #170, #244, #257, and #274. We very much appreciate the information they have shared with us.

For citations, indicated by raised numerals, please see "References Cited."

REFERENCES CITED

1. Bible of Joseph BURLESON, 1770-1849, preserved in the Alamo Museum, San Antonio, Texas. Photocopy. See Burleson Family Bulletin, Vol. 2, No. 4, pp. 215-222.
2. Will of Aaron BURLESON, dated 16 November 1781, Sullivan County, North Carolina. Probated at May Session, 1782, Washington, County, Tennessee. Recorded in Volume 1, pp. 2,3. See Burleson Family Bulletin, Vol. 1, No. 3, p. 54. Photocopy.
3. Anne Newport Royall, Letters From Alabama 1817-1822, ed. Lucille Griffith (Birmingham: The University of Alabama Press, 1969).
4. 1790 U.S. Census (Free Schedule), Rutherford County, North Carolina; p. 118, National Archives Microfilm M-637, Roll 7.
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9. Joseph BURLESON, Probate Case #216, Bastrop County, Texas.
10. San Antonio Express, San Antonio, Texas, 9 October 1928; p. 14. Photocopy.
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13. Col. James Edmonds Saunders, Early Settlers of Alabama (1899, Rpt. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969) p. 72.
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17. Gifford E. White, The 1840 Census of the Republic of Texas (Austin, Texas: Pemberton Press, 1966) p. 6.
18. Joseph BURLESON, SENR., Voucher #211, Draft #310 A, Payments for Services to the Republic, Republic Records (1836-1845), filed 25 December 1836, Texas State Archives, Austin. Photocopy.
19. Old Burleson Cemetery, Bastrop County, Texas, Austin Colony Chapter, D.A.R., Texas Genealogy Source Material 1653-1956. Abstract from Microfilm.
20. Old Prairie Lea Cemetery, Caldwell County, Texas, Mrs. Arnolia Appling, Mrs. Marjorie Fairchild, Mrs. Vivian Gray, Caldwell County, Texas Cemetery Records, 2nd Ed., 1971. Abstract.
21. J. S. Newman, History of the Primitive Baptists in Texas, Oklahoma and Indian Territory, I (Tioga, Texas: Baptist Trumpet, 1906), pp. 37-38.

OLD FAMILY LETTERS

Mary Cornelius Sweetman

We thank Vice President-Social, W. Richard BURLESON, who arranged with the University of Alabama Press for Burleson Family Association to reprint some very interesting letters written by Anne Newport Royal: Letters From Alabama 1817-1822. Published 1969 (now out of print), edited and annotated by Lucille Griffith, who stated:

"Mrs. Royall was a prominent woman journalist for more than a quarter of a century before her death in 1854, publishing some ten books of travel accounts, one novel, and two successive weekly newspapers in Washington." According to Ms. Griffith, these letters were "ostensibly written to a young lawyer friend 'Matt' in Virginia...are here published with all the imperfections of the 1830 edition." We are indebted to The University of Alabama Press for permitting these letters to be shared, and are pleased to present the first letter in this issue, with others to follow at a later date.

"Moulton [Ala.], March 2d, 1819

Dear Matt,

Since the weather became mild, I frequently ride out through this beautiful country, and find not little to admire and amuse. This town is in the centre of Lawrence County, and it is supposed will be the county seat of justice. It is 20 miles south of the Bluff, in a most enchanting situation. Several very respectable families live here, the town is handsomely laid off, and the country around it is as rich as heart can wish. I have formed an acquaintance here with an elderly Tennessean, the incidents of whose life is a complete novel.

His father was the first white man that made a permanent settlement on the waters of the Holston, now in the bounds of Tennessee. He settled on the Wataga, a creek that empties into the Holston. His name was BURLISON, a native of New Jersey, and moved from thence to North Carolina, and finally to Wataga. He was allured, in the first place by the prospect of game, and, in the second place, by good land, and was soon followed by others; and by their united efforts successfully disputed the hunting grounds with the Indians. The timid deer, assailed on all sides by deadly foes, fled before the white man for shelter amongst the Indians. The adventurous white man pursued the game, but in doing so, he was fiercely opposed by the Indians, who disputed every inch of ground with him, at the mouths of their rifles, until they were fairly compelled to yield. Thus was Tennessee settled. This settlement was made about the year 1774 or 1775.

Mr. BURLISON was so young at this time, that he recollects nothing of the enterprize. He lost his father at twelve years of age, and from that day, to the end of the Creek war, he has been almost constantly with arms in his hands! He is a stout man, about 50 years of age--is honest, affable, and generous as a prince; has experienced every vicissitude of fortune, and endured every species of suffering! Peace and war, sickness and health, poverty, and plenty, has at different times been his lot. He is at this time possessed of an independent fortune, and yet this man, with the manners of a courtier, cannot write his own name! though he reads very well.

This gentleman, for such he is, losing his father at the early age he did, with eight more children, the widow had to struggle with the Indians on one side, and the Tories on the other. Most of the children were boys, and their father left property sufficient to educate them, and left strict injunctions to that amount; but the revolutionary war coming on, the widow, between the Tories and Indians, was stripped of every thing she had, excepting a valuable brood mare! In order to save this last of her property, she was forced to keep it in the house where she slept every night! But those lawless ruffians, the Tories, gaining intelligence of the fact, proceeded to the house, and forcing the door, took her off. This was the last thing she had. Her situation was now at the highest pitch of human misery. Without a friend, without provision; the Indians in alliance with the British, killing all that fell in their way, she dared not flee in that direction. The Tories, burning and murdering all before them, on the other side, it was but death, and she resolved to meet it in the woods where she was! Meantime her oldest son, not 14, and JOSEPH, (of whom I learned the story,) about 12 years old, would sally forth with gun on shoulder, sometimes alone, but often with others of their own age, to watch the motions of the Indians; and whenever they saw them approach, would hasten to apprise their parents. These little heroes would pass whole days in the woods, at all seasons, almost naked, and without tasting food; for though they saw plenty of game, they were afraid to shoot lest the report of the gun might betray them to the Indians. The two oldest brothers would sometimes take their next eldest brother with them. On this occasion they would wander farther into the forest than usual, and once became so bewildered they lost their course, and wandered about till they were quite spent with fatigue and hunger. The youngest was carrying one of his brother's guns, having none of his own, and seeing a deer jump before him, he levelled the piece at the deer, and killed it; saying, "Indians, or no Indians, he would have something to eat--he might as well die one way as another." The eldest one being alarmed, forced him away, and they concealed themselves in the brushwood to await the result, concluding the Indians, if within hearing, would soon appear. As they lay concealed, the little one who had done the mischief, would often arise up to take a peep at his meat. At length he saw a wolf marching up to it, and pointing it out to his brothers, they bid him be still; but finding he could not be restrained, they all ran together and frightened off the wolf. They then skinned the deer, and kindling a fire, broiled a part of it and swallowed it hastily; and taking what they could carry, once more sought their way home, entirely ignorant of the course. At length night overtook them, and, losing heart, they threw away their venison, and still wandered on, without seeing a human face, and without knowing whither they were going. Late in the night they were overtaken by a hunter, who conducted them home to the no small joy of their mother, who concluded they were killed by the Indians. She had been running through the forest, from the time it grew dark, in a state of distraction. Thus, Mr. BURLISON, and his brothers, spent nine years, guarding the settlements in this perilous manner, suffering every species of misery. He was three years of the time without shoes, and no sort of clothing, but a shirt made of buckskin!

He states that he had become so inured to cold, hunger, danger, and fatigue, that he was a stranger to their opposites. Meantime, their settlement advanced by degrees. Those who survived the fire and sword of the British and the tories, sought their brothers in the wilderness. Their highborn souls fired by their wrongs, glowing with resentment, and inspired by the example of their companions in the wilderness, took courage from despair. Having nothing left but their lives, and disdaining alike British gold and British chains, united with their friends for the common safety. Thus they nurtured a germ, which, in time, hurled destruction on their proud oppressors. Many of these lived to overwhelm their imperious foe with a complete vengeance. ... If it be asked in time to come, how so potent an army of veterans came to be slaughtered by an inferior force, it may be answered, these were the men, and the sons of those men, who, thirty-three years back, nobly resolved never to submit to the British yoke. ...

Mr. BURLISON related many anecdotes of those enterprising men. As they increased in numbers, they extended their settlements, always keeping a party of choice spirits watching the enemy--of these he was one. In one of their excursions they discovered the fertile plains on Cumberland river; now West Tennessee. In one of those exploring expeditions he made two narrow escapes. Coming suddenly upon the Indians one day, he instantly threw himself flat on the ground, in some brush wood, and the Indians passed within a few steps of him. At another time, he and his companions came near perishing with cold. They had travelled several days in a succession of snow and rain; one night, however, when they went to strike their camp, they found their powder wet, and they had to remain in their wet clothes all night, wet to the skin, the snow deep, and the night cold and freezing. Thus was Tennessee settled; and by such men.

It has been said that Tennessee was an asylum for outlaws and horse thieves. That Tennessee should be exempt from an evil, common to the settling of all our States, I should be happy to know. I would recommend to horse thieves in particular to choose some other asylum in future, as there is not a state in the Union in which they receive less hospitality.

Yours, etc."

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 Ernest H. BURLESON, #172, is the g-g-grandson of Jonathan O. BURLESON (29 May 1799--22 May 188-) and his wife Jemima DUNCAN of Mitchell Co. NC. Jonathan was the son of Thomas BURLESON (1750-1820/30).
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Gwendoleen WILLIAMS, #175, has a double Burleson line. She descends from Hilkiah BURLESON (1790--1855/60) as well as from John BURLESON, (1775--1845), both of Marion Co. AL. Hilkiah and John were sons of David BURLESON (d. 1832 Rutherford Co. TN).
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BURLESON FAMILY BULLETIN

LAND RECORDS

We want to thank the Burleson Family Association for allowing us to publish this Land Record

Aaron BURLISON
Colonial Grant, Lunenburg County, Virginia
15 December 1749
147 Acres on the South F

The copy of this grant was furnished by William S. Burleson, BFA #1, who received it from Sid Dewberry (a non-member) of Riverdale, Georgia.

State Archives
Richmond, Virginia

Aaron BURLISON

George the second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith To all to whom these Presents shall come greeting Know ye that for divers good Causes and Considerations but more especially for and in Consideration of the sum of Fifteen Shillings of good and lawful money for our Use paid to our Receiver General of our Revenues in this our Colony and Dominion of Virginia We have given granted and confirmed and by these Presents for us bur Heirs and Successors do give grant and confirm unto Aaron BURLISON one certain Tract or Parcel of Land containing one hundred and forty seven acres lying and being in the County of Lunenburgh Including both Sides of the South Fork of Little Otter River and bounded as followeth, to wit, Beginning at a white oak on the north side thence north seventy Degrees fifty six Poles crossing the River to a red Oak Thence north twelve Degrees west one hundred and twenty six Poles to a Hiccory Thence north thirty Degrees East fifty-seven Poles to a white oak Thence north twenty-four Degrees west fifty four Poles to a red Oak Thence north eighty-seven Degrees west thirty six Poles crossing the River to a Hiccory Thence South forty-four and an Half Degree West ninety nine Poles crossing a large Branch to a white Oak. Thence South three Degrees East one hundred and forty five Poles to a white Oak and Thence South sixty two Degrees East seventy four Poles to the Beginning. With all woods, underwoods Swamps Marshes Longrounds Meadows Feedings and his due Share of all Veins Mines and Quarries as well discovered and not discovered within the Bounds aforesaid and being Part of the said Quantity of one hundred and forty seven Acres of Land and the Rivers Waters and Water Courses therein contained together with the Privileges of Hunting Hawking Fishing Fowling and all Profits Commodities and Hereditaments whatsoever to the same or any Part thereof belonging or in anywise appertaining to have hold possess and enjoy the said Tract or Parcel of Land and all other the beforegranted Premises and every Part thereof with their and every of their appurtenances unto the said Aaron BURLISON and to his Heirs and assigns forever To the only use and behoof of him the said Aaron BURLISON his Heirs and assigns forever To be held of us our Heirs and successors as of our Mannor of East Greenwich in the County of Kent in free and common Soccage and not in Capite or by Knight's Service Yielding and Paying unto us our Heirs and Successors for every fifty acres of Land and so proportionably for a lesser or greater Quantity than fifty acres the Fee Rent of one Shilling yearly to be paid upon the Feast of Saint Michael the Arch Angel and also cultivating and improving three acres part of every fifty of the Tract above mentioned within three years after the Date of these Presents Provided always that of three years of the said fee Rent shall at any time be in arrear and unpaid of three years next coming after the Date of these presents cultivate and improve three Acres Part of every fifty of the Tract above mentioned then the Estate hereby granted shall cease and be utterly determined and thereafter it shall and may be lawful to and for us our Heirs and Successors to grant the same Land and Premises with the appurtenances unto such other Person or Persons as we our Heirs and Successors shall think fit. In Witness whereof we have caused these our Letters Patent to be made Witness our Trusty and welbeloved Thomas LEE Esq. President of our Council and Commander in Chief of our said Colony and Dominion at Williamsburg under the Seal of our said Colony the fifteenth Day of December One Thousand seven hundred and forty nine In the twenty third year of our Reign.

Thomas LEE P.