

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 This is the third part in a series that we hope will tell the Life and Travels of Aaron Burleson

The Life and Travels of Aaron Burleson

John Hoyle Burleson 2012

PART THREE

The Burleson and Clark families moves from Rocky River to the Broad River

On Feb 21 1766 Henry Clark was granted 180 acres on the west side of Broad River in Mecklenburg Co. NC with Nathaniel Clark as chain bearer, followed on Aug 26 1766 by Aaron Burleson. He entered land on both sides of Sandy Run Creek in Mecklenburg County N.C. Chain Bearers were Daniel Shipman and Thomas Burleson. Sandy Run is a branch on the east side of the Broad River. The Broad River runs from north to the south and Henry's land was about 15 miles to the south of Aaron's on Thickitty Creek. By 1767 Reydias Clark and Ichabod Clark had joined their brother Henry on Thickitty Creek.

In 1768 the new North Carolina county of Tryon was created and Henry Clark was appointed a Justice of the Peace. In 1769 Riderias Clark and Nathaniel Clark served on a Jury. In July 1770 Aaron Burleson, Ridearis Clark and Nathaniel Clark, serve together on the same Tryon Co. Grand Jury panel. Later that year an unknown **Georg Bulison** also is empanelled on a Tryon Co. jury.

Henry Clark and Abraham Kuykendall came into court and produced his Excellency's commission appointing them each a Captain of Militia of this Province in April 1770.

Aaron's time on Sandy Run Creek of the Broad River from 1766 to 1774 was spent on clearing new ground and planting crops. In the winter months he was also a hunter and adventurer known as a "Long Hunter" according to his son Joseph in his 1819 published interview with Anne Newport Royals. A Long Hunter would travel hundreds of miles across the Blue Ridge into Indian territory for deer skins and to barter with the Indians. Joseph stated "He (father) settled on the Watauga (River)-----allured in the first place by the prospect of game"---- "This settlement was made about the year 1774 or 1775."

Henry Clark starts to sell his several tracks of land on the Broad River in 1770 and Aaron Burleson starts to sell his Broad River property in 1771 and 1772.

Across the Blue Ridge to the Watauga Settlement

Both Henry Clark and Aaron Burleson have relocated across the Blue Ridge in the Watauga settlements by 1774. Clark settled near Fort Patrick Henry on the Holston River that is formed by the junction of the North Fork of the Holston and the Watauga River where Aaron had settled. I can not say exactly where Aaron settled because he never applied for a Grant but he must have been close to Jacob Womack's Fort that is 20 miles from Ft. Patrick Henry. On the 1778 tax list from Washington Co. NC, Clark is living in Wm. Beans tax district (Ft. Patrick Henry) and Aaron is in Jacob Womack's tax district (Womacks Fort). On Nov. 4 1778 Aaron paid for a Survey of 200 acres on Lick Creek in Washington Co. NC. At this time there was only one county, Washington, west of the Blue Ridge but in 1779 a new county of Sullivan was created. The Lick Creek property remained in Washington Co. but the Holston and Watauga settlements, where Aaron and Clark lived, was now in Sullivan Co. North Carolina.

Nov. 16, 1781 - Aaron Burleson writes his Will naming 13 children. He states "I give and bequeath to my beloved wife all of my real and personal estate..." Aaron Burleson's Will was witnessed by three men. First was Patrick Sheilds a kinsman of Jacob Womack. Sheilds and Jacob's father Richard, had jointly owned land in Lunenburg Co. Second witness was Thomas Williams. Williams is also on the William Bean's District tax list of 1778. The third witness was **Henry Clark, Aaron Burleson's life long friend.**

Henry Clark bought 260 acres in Rutherford County NC on Knob Creek on Sept. 01, 1781 but he did not move there to live until after Feb. 1782, the month he received a discharge from a tour of service against the Tories in eastern North Carolina.

Death of Aaron Burleson

Aaron Burleson's Will is presented to the Washington County, North Carolina Court. The Will was proven by the oath of Thomas Williams, one of the witness, in Jonesboro Washington County NC court and was ordered probated on the 27 day of May, 1782. The Will states: "State of North Carolina Sullivan County, NC". Therefore, Aaron must have been living in Sullivan County not Washington County when the Will was written 16 Nov. 1781. Aaron's son Joseph said his father settled on the Watauga River in 1774, that area would had been in Sullivan Co on May 27th 1782. Aaron was listed in Washington Co. on the 1778 tax list but at that time there was only one county west of the Blue Ridge, on the same tax list he was living in Jacob Womack's tax district and that area would had been in Sullivan Co on May 27th 1782. Aaron wrote his will in 1781 stating "Sullivan Co. NC". On Aug. 6th 1783 Rachel Burleson appeared in court to recognize Azaria Doty's right to the Lick Creek, Washington Co. property, she identified herself as "Rachel Burleson widow and relict of Aaron Burleson....her deceased husband of Sullivan County North Carolina".... I have found no documentation that Aaron Burleson ever lived on the Lick Creek property but instead it is more likely that he lived on the Watauga River, Sullivan Co. NC and was living there when he died.

1783 - Aug. 6 - Rachel Burleson widow and relict of Aaron Burleson of Sullivan Co. NC, came to the Washington Co. NC court and recognized Azaria Doty's ownership of Aaron's Lick Creek property. Another clue that Aaron did not live on the Lick Creek property but instead used the land for speculation is found in this Indenture that states; .Witnesseth...for 100 and 50 pounds specie **paid into the hands of Aaron Burleson in his lifetime** the receipt whereof the said Rachel BURLESON doth hereby acknowledge by Azaria Doty aforesaid before the sealing and delivery thereof and there from the said Rachel BURLESON doth release...

Back Across the Blue Ridge

Sometime after Aug. 1783, Rachel takes her minor children back across the Blue Ridge to Sandy Run Creek, Rutherford County (formerly Tryon in 1774, formerly Mecklenburg in 1766) NC where they left from in 1774. Aaron Burleson Jr. apparently remained in Washington Co. where he had obtained property on Little Limestone Creek. Son Thomas Burleson is already living on Sandy Run Creek where he shows up on the 1782 membership roll of Sandy Run Church along with Abraham Kuykendall and wife Elizabeth Burlison Kuykendall.. The Shipman family, the Gage family and Green family are also on the Church roll. Sandy Run Creek is about 40 miles from Knob Creek where Henry Clark recently had moved his family to in 1782. Aaron and Rachel's minor children grew up in the Sandy Run Creek area until they became of age. Most of Aaron and Rachel's son and daughters would find their brides and husbands from those families in Rutherford Co. NC within a few years.

Conclusion

I humbly offer my history of Aaron Burleson for your review. I think the Jones V Jones document proves that Aaron Burleson of Lunenburg Co. VA had a Jones wife, and the time line and the association with the Clark family of Lunenburg Co, possibly in New Jersey also, back to Rutherford Co NC in 1783 is strong evidence of Aaron's travels.

I am sure that Aaron Burleson of the Washington Co NC Will had a Jones wife in Lunenburg Co VA, but I am not ready to say that Rachel Burleson maiden name was Jones. Her son Joseph's interview with Anne Newport Royal in "Letters From Alabama 1817-1822" cast some doubt. She may have been a second wife. Joseph speaks of himself as being 12 years old when his father died (1782). He also speaks of an older brother "his mothers oldest son, not yet 14 years" left to defend their widowed mother's home. Joseph may have meant, and he would have been correct, that his older brothers Aaron Jr. and Thomas was married and had families of their own and lived else where.

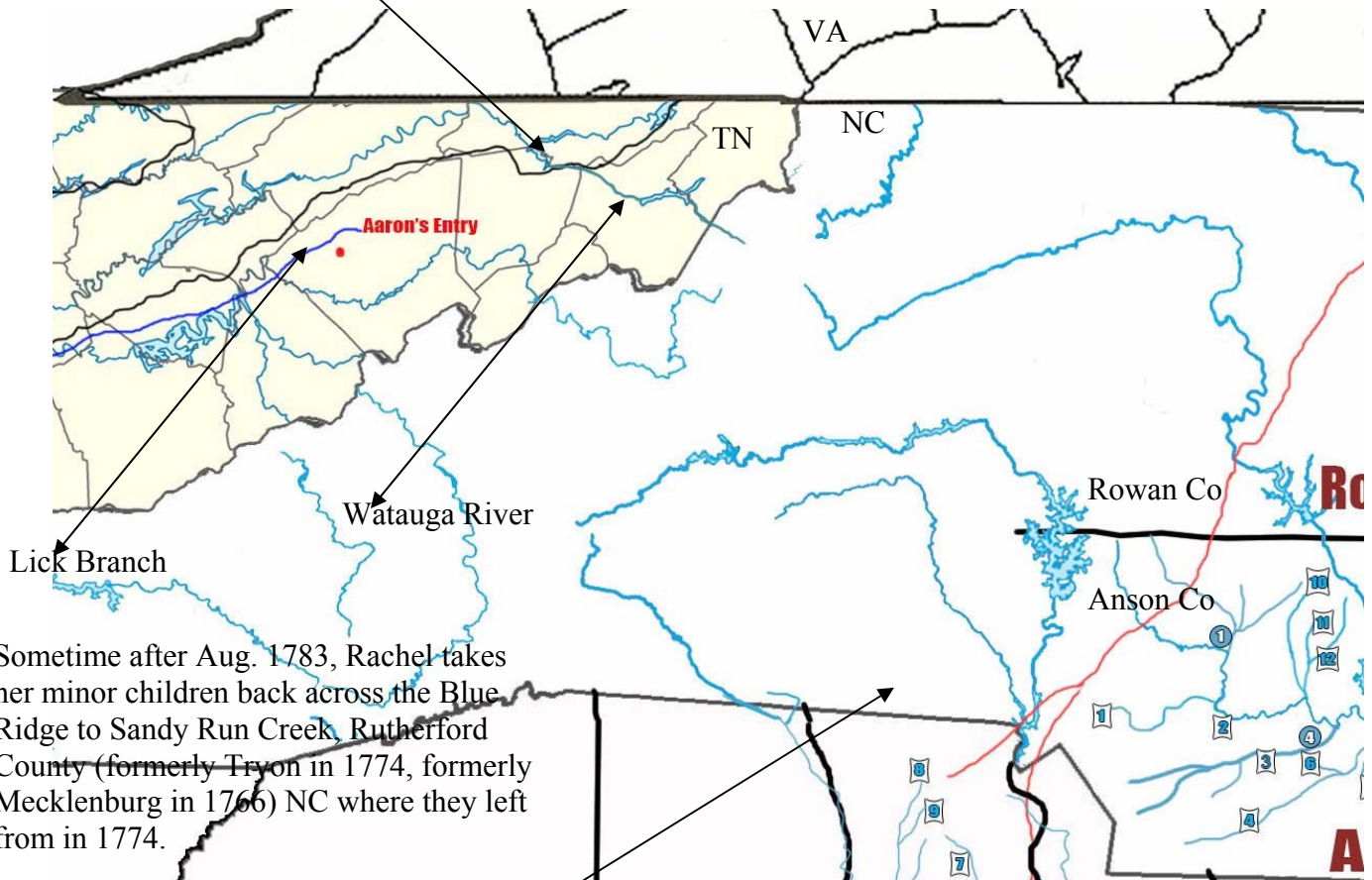
Further studies of the 13 children's birth year needs to be done, only Joseph, James and the "not yet 14 year old" is documented at this time. If Rachel was the only wife she was possibly 18 years old in 1748 as Aaron was the head of his own house hold and paid a Tithe in Lunenburg Co, and if she was the only wife, she would have been 51 years old in 1781 the year of the last child's birth. 33 years is a lot of child bearing years even for that time.

Ms. Royal wrote "This gentleman,(Joseph) for such he is, losing his father at the early age he did, with eight more children, the widow had to struggle with Indians on one side and Tories on the other." This makes a total of 9 children in Rachel's home in 1782. The 14 year old was the oldest son, but there was probably older unmarried sisters at home as old as 18 making the sisters birth in 1764. In these 18 years there was a child born on an average of every 2 years for the last 9 children. The first 4 children born between 1748 and 1764 were born on an average of a child every 4 years for these 16 years. This could suggest that there were two wives. Another consideration is the naming pattern of the children. Aaron Jr and Thomas were the older sons but starting with the 14 year old "her oldest son" the boys names all begins with a J. The youngest four sons John, Joseph, Jonathan and James were constant companions in all of their travels. The bond between these four families could not be broken.

John Hoyle Burleson

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Aaron Burleson on both sides of Sandy Run Creek, a branch on the east side of the Broad River in Mecklenburg Co NC August 26, 1766

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